

Cocker Spaniel Club of Qld Inc

Judging our Championship Speciality Shows

The purpose of the Breed Speciality Show is for exhibitors to present to a peer their dogs, receive a critique if placed, and to learn and understand from the Judge. The offer of an appointment to judge a specialty is an honour for a judge, especially if of long standing in the breed. The Club has always engaged breed specialists to judge our events, and over the years it was documented in AGM minutes and 'known' that this was the intent of the Club. In recent years with the formation of the Qld Gundog Association and the Sporting Spaniel Club in Qld, we are sometimes afforded a breed specialist at these events, but they also are generally judged by gundog specialists.

When judges are approached to be offered consideration for a Judging appointment this is the extract of the offer that is extended to them. The Judges chosen for the Championship Shows are breed specialists, not generic Gundog or Spaniel judges, as there are other Clubs such as the Qld Gundog Association and the Sporting Spaniel Club in Qld etc.

The Club has a list of breed specialists (to which names can be added to by request and approval) which is updated as required, and shared by the sister Clubs. The list has been published on the Club website.

The Club also keeps historical records of the judges who have officiated at our Speciality Shows and these records have recently been transferred to the Club website and the Club Secretary holds a copy of the list which is updated yearly. Bearing in mind we all have the breed, so there will be connections for some people. If we only appoint judges with no connections with any of our 'financial members' we would be excluding judges within our breed who would be disadvantaged and not get to judge for our Club because of 'connections'.

To ensure that Club does not over time move from the intent of the Speciality Shows, and especially given that we have two events each year, the following has been added to the Constitution as a By-Law as at July 2020. **Cocker Spaniel Club of Qld Inc will only appoint Championship Show Judges, from the Breed Specialists list that has been compiled and will continue to be updated by the NCSCA Clubs for Championship Specialty Shows. Respecting the ruling from the NCSCA that no 'A List UK Judges' will be appointed in the Year of a National.**

The extract from the emails sent to Judges when offering the appointment below that the Club uses is listed below:

Our offer for an appointment would include the following, of course, subject to negotiation if required with the exception of 1 and 2:

1. No Group 3 or General Specials judging appointment/s in **any** part of Queensland or Northern NSW (south of the Queensland border to Coffs Harbour basically) in a 12 month period prior to the show date.
2. Written critiques would be required for all placegetters (1st to 3rd in each class)
3. Return flights to Brisbane, with motel accommodation for two nights (NZ judges) one night (AUS judges)
4. Transport to and from the Brisbane airport to the motel accommodation, and meals (either meals at the motel/dog grounds - or a daily meal allowance)

Call for nominations for Judges is done at the AGM each year, where a voting system (show of hands or secret ballot depending on the AGM at the time) is put in place for judges, and then dependant upon the direction given at the meeting, the judge, or the series of judges will be contacted to see if they are able to meet the offer of appointment criteria. As many breed specialists hold more than one group, they often are unable to meet the requirements of not judging in the area.

Process for appointment:

- Club keeps a list of Breed Specialist Judges who can be appointed for Championship Speciality Shows
- Appointments will not be reoffered within a ten-year period.
- It is an honour for a judge to be offered an appointment to judge a breed speciality.
- Call for Nominations at the AGM.
- Voting process in place and then direction given to the Show Secretary how to proceed.
- Show Secretary sends out tentative offer of appointment to see if available, meet criteria etc
- If the direction at the meeting was to contact numerous judges to get availability and reconvene with Executive, this is done and goes back to the next meeting.
- If the direction at the meeting was to contract any available judge from the agreed nominations once available, notify Executive and Committee for approval to contract.
- Variations may occur once contracted (illness, pandemic, weather events etc) and the adopted Club ethos that will be adopted is if a judge is already engaged by agreeing to the appointment, the appointment will be moved to a date in the future. Remembering that it is an honour to be offered to judge a breed speciality show.

There are variations that may and do occur, the Club might be offered a Judge with a sub-contract, the Club might determine to appointment a judge from outside the Aust/NZ Breed Specialist list, using the NCSCA ruling and applying the Club principle that the judge must be a breed specialist. The offer of the appointment criteria will then vary and be determined at the time.

There will be times that the judges will have connections with the members of the Club, and the members will be required to work within the DogsQueensland rules to determine if eligible to exhibit to the judge, or if outside their own ethics they cannot exhibit and refrain from doing so.

The support of the events by members is not only sought by their entries, but also through the myriad of work associated with an event, and if a member is unable to exhibit, it is hope that they can lend their support in other ways.