

**Border Terrier Club of America
Policies and Procedures Manual**

LETTER TO BE SENT TO FOREIGN BREED JUDGE

Dear

Congratulations on being selected to judge the Border Terrier Club of America National Specialty Show. Following is some information we hope will assist you in becoming familiar with the way classes are judged and awards presented in the United States. If you have any questions before judging commences, there will be a show committee representative available to respond. Once judging begins your ring stewards will be able to help you with judging procedures.

CLASS JUDGING (Dogs without an AKC Championship)

6-9 months Puppy Dogs	6-9 months Puppy Bitches
9-12 months Puppy Dogs	9-12 months Puppy Bitches
12-18 months Dogs	12-18 months Bitches
Novice Dogs	Novice Bitches
American Bred Dogs	American Bred Bitches
Amateur Owner Handler Dogs	Amateur Owner Handler Bitches
Bred-by-Exhibitor Dogs	Bred-by-Exhibitor Bitches
Open Dogs	Open Bitches
WINNERS DOG	WINNERS BITCH
RESERVE WINNERS DOG	RESERVE WINNERS BITCH

All Dog classes will be judged first in the above order. After awards are made in the Open class the first place dog from each class comes back into the ring to compete for WINNERS. All the first place dogs are equally eligible for the Winners award. You may examine each exhibit again and/or ask the handlers to gait them, whatever is necessary for you to make a decision. Once you have decided on the Winners dog, AKC rules require that the dog which was second in the class from which the Winners dog came must be called back into the ring and included in the judging of RESERVE WINNERS dog.

The above procedure is repeated with the Bitch classes.

VETERAN DOG/BITCH classes:

The Veteran classes are also divided by sex. Veteran Dog class is judged first, followed by Veteran Bitch. Veteran classes are for dogs/bitches seven (7) years or older. The first place winners of each of these classes are eligible to compete for Best of Breed. This is the only class that allows for a dog to be spayed or neutered.

WORKING DOG/BITCH classes:

The Working classes are also divided by sex. Working Dog is judged first, followed by Working Bitch. Working classes are for dogs/bitches who have earned an AKC working (earthdog) title. The first place winners of each of these classes are eligible to compete for Best of Breed.

BEST of BREED Class:

Dogs and bitches that have completed their AKC Championship title (referred to as "Specials") make up the bulk of the entries in the Best of Breed class. In addition, the Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, first place winners from the Veteran Dog and Bitch, and Working Dog and Bitch classes return to the ring to compete for Best of Breed. ALL dogs in the ring are equally eligible for the Best of Breed award. You make three awards from this class: Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, and Best of Winners. Best of Opposite Sex is chosen from exhibits in the ring which are opposite in sex to Best of Breed. Best of Winners is chosen between the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. If the Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is chosen Best of Breed, it is automatically Best of Winners. In addition, you may award Judges Awards of Merit.

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JUDGES AWARD OF MERIT: Traditionally at BTCA Specialty shows, these awards may (but are not required to) be given to as many as 10% of the dogs entered in the Best of Breed class. They should not be awarded to the Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex because those dogs have already received top honors. Instead, Judges Awards of Merit should be chosen from the remaining Specials, as well as the Winners Dog/Bitch, Veteran Dog/Bitch and Working Dog/Bitch.

JUDGING ALL CLASSES: AKC rules require that the whole class come into the ring at one time so that you can mark your book as to a dog's presence or absence. Customarily, the entire class is gaited once around the ring when you have completed marking your book. After this initial round, if the class is very large, you may wish to divide it into smaller groups. This approach is especially useful for judging Best of Breed but can be used for any large class. It's a common practice and considered courteous to both the dogs and exhibitors.

One way of managing the Best of Breed class is to ask all the Bitch Specials, Winners Dog and Winners Bitch, Best Veteran Dog and Bitch and Best Working Dog and Bitch to leave the ring, while having all the Dog Specials remain. You may then break the Dog Specials into smaller groups (say 12-15) to be judged. The ring steward will be responsible for keeping track of each group and getting dogs into the ring in the correct order. You can do the same with the Bitch Specials.

As you judge the Specials (or any large class), it may be useful to mark down on paper the armband numbers of dogs you would like to see return for additional judging. The dogs which are no longer needed for further judging should be excused. The Specials which you wish to have recalled are brought back into the ring together with the Winners Dog and Bitch, Veteran Dog and Bitch and Working Dog and Bitch. Any of these exhibits is eligible for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex.

NON-REGULAR CLASSES:

STUD DOG and BROOD BITCH classes: These classes are judged on the merits of the GET ONLY. The conformation of the Stud Dog or Brood Bitch is not considered.

BEST BRED-BY-EXHIBITOR: The winners of both the Bred-by-Exhibitor classes return to the ring, one to be chosen Best.

BEST VETERAN: The winners of the Veteran classes return to the ring, one to be chosen Best.

BEST WORKING: The winners of the Working classes return to the ring, one to be chosen Best.

BEST OTTER HEAD: All dogs (over 6 months of age) entered in any Specialty class are eligible for this class. The rest of the dog's conformation is not to be considered so you may find your Best Otter Head on a dog which has not been presented to you previously. It is sometimes a help to jot down the numbers of dogs with exceptional heads as you are judging the classes but that is a personal option.

We look forward to seeing you at the Specialty and hope that your assignment is enjoyable. If there's anything more we can do to help, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Show Chairman

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