FIT FOR FUNCTION
BREED WATCH

THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Listing for Utility Breed Group

- The decisions made by judges in the show ring strongly influence future breeding plans
- Judges must take conformation related health problems and temperament into account when making their decisions as well as breed type
- All show dogs should be Fit for Function: Fit for Life, see www.fitforfunction.org.uk
- Judges should never award prizes to dogs which are visibly suffering from any condition which would adversely affect their health or welfare. For example:
    - Obvious breathing difficulty
    - Significantly over or under weight dogs
    - Lameness, including hopping
    - A discharge from one or both eyes or any signs of discomfort in either eye
    - Obvious skin or ear irritation
    - Inappropriate temperament- refusal to be handled, timidity or aggression
    - Exaggerations that would make the dog unsuited for fulfilling its original purpose
- A judge is expected to make such decisions based on their extensive experience of dogs as owners and breeders – they are not expected to display the knowledge of a veterinary surgeon and should not undertake any extra examination of a dog other than that which they would normally perform in assessing general fitness and breed type.

Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard. The features listed are derived from health surveys, a meeting of Kennel Club Group Judges (Feb 2009), feedback from judges at shows and consultation with individual breed clubs / councils.

Utility

Akita

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Boston Terrier

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Bulldog

It is very important that no awards are made to exhibits that display breathing difficulties, such as shortness of breath when moving under normal conditions and noisy breathing

Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard including current issues. In some breeds, features may be listed which, if exaggerated, might potentially affect the breed in the future.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of Group Judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

Points of concern for special attention by judges

- Overweight
- Pinched nostrils
- Heavy overnose wrinkle (roll)
- Eyes - excessive amounts of loose skin that impinge on the eye (e.g. from nasal folds). Conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g. they turn in or out, or both abnormalities are present).
- Unsound movement
- Lack of tail, inverted or extremely tight tails are undesirable.
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis
- Sore or painful eyes due to damage or poor eyelid conformation

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Canaan Dog

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Chow Chow

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The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of Group Judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

Points of concern for special attention by judges

- Breathing difficulties including noisy breathing (roaring)
- Narrow eyelid opening and small, deep set eyes with consequent eyelid abnormalities (e.g. the eyelids are turned in)
- Unstable hocks
- Excessive coat

- Clear evidence of eyelid surgery or tacking to be a conformational defect

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Dalmatian

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Eurasier

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

French Bulldog

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The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of Group Judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

Points of concern for special attention by judges

- Breathing difficulties
- Pinched nostrils
- Very prominent eyes and incomplete blink
- Irregular bite i.e. overshot, level or wry
- Overly short neck – predisposes to breathing problems
- Screw tail, lack of tail, inverted or tight tail
- Exaggerated top line
- Signs of dermatitis

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

German Spitz (Klein)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

German Spitz (Mittel)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Japanese Akita Inu

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Japanese Shiba Inu

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Japanese Spitz

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Keeshond

Points of concern for special attention by judges

- excessively long coats

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Korean Jindo (Imp)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Lhasa Apso

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Mexican Hairless (Intermediate) (Imp)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Mexican Hairless (Miniature) (Imp)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Mexican Hairless (Standard) (Imp)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Miniature Schnauzer

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Poodle (Miniature)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Poodle (Standard)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Poodle (Toy)

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Schipperke

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Schnauzer

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Shar Pei

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Points of concern for special attention by judges

- Lower lip folding over lower incisors (tight lip)
- Excessive amounts of wrinkling on the head with conformation defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose.
- Signs of dermatitis in skin folds; hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Shih Tzu

Last updated on 23rd March 2012.

Tibetan Spaniel

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Tibetan Terrier

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