

SHORT GUIDELINE ABOUT THE JUDGING PROCEDURE AT INTERNATIONAL SHOWS IN GERMANY

In order to make your work in the rings easier we would like to give you some important information in advance. We recommend you to study these notes carefully to familiarize yourself with some specific rules valid for this show.

1. According to the decentralized structure of the German Kennel Club (VDH), the breed clubs have more rights to realize their own concepts than in other countries. Some of these might affect your work when judging in the breed rings:
 - Some clubs have decided that for their breeds the highest possible grading in the Junior Class is „Very Good (SG)“ – not „Excellent (V)“ like in most others.
 - Some clubs offer their own CCs/ResCCs in the Junior Classes (JgdCC/Res.JgdCC) in addition to the ones the VDH offers, others don't.
 - The CCs/ResCCs for the clubs' own „German Champion“ titles can be awarded in different ways: Some clubs prefer to award them combined with the CACIB (i.e. only one male and one female per breed can get this CC), others award them in combination with the CC that the VDH offers for the title „German Champion (VDH)“, the „VDH-ChA“, that can be given to all exhibits graded „Excellent (V)“ and placed 1st in the Champion, Working, Intermediate and the Open Class (i.e. up to four males and four females can obtain the VDH-ChAs). **Please ask your ring stewards for the specific rules fixed by their club before you start judging – these rules may be different on each day of your judging.**

We ask for your understanding that as a consequence there might be some amount of paperwork to be done in the ring. You will have to sign your critiques and possibly some tickets (if required by the clubs), plus some lists of results after your judging.

2. Before the start of the judging, the judge will get his „judge's sheets“ – one per class – with the catalogue numbers of the dogs to be judged by him. On these sheets the judge himself has to note down the gradings and the placings, and he has to mark „x“ all titles and/or certificates that he awards. By undersigning all pages, the judge certifies that his notes are correct. They have to be done carefully because **in any case of doubt after the show these notes will be decisive.**
3. Each exhibit gets a written critique dictated by the judge to the ring steward. This critique should include the judge's overall assessment of the dog and its quality, it should cover the main merits and faults of the dog. It should indicate the reason for the grading that the dog gets on that day.
4. In the competitive classes, each dog is first judged individually against the breed standard and graded according to its quality:

„Vorzüglich (V)“	= excellent	in general appearance an excellent specimen whose merits are great and whose faults are minor – a top quality dog
„Sehr Gut (SG)“	= very good	a very good dog whose faults in structure and conformation are not really obvious
„Gut (G)“	= good	a dog showing the main characteristics of its breed but with obvious faults; a dog that should not be used for breeding
„Genügend (Ggd)“	= sufficient	not very typical dog, maybe in bad condition
„Disqualifiziert (Disq)“	= disqualified	untypical dog not showing the characteristics of the breed, or with overly shy /aggressive temperament, or having a disqualifying fault according to the breed standard, or showing a physical or mental condition that obviously affects its health and its soundness.
„Ohne Bewertung“	= cannot be judged	for dogs whose quality cannot be assessed, e.g. due to excessive playfulness, or lameness, etc. However, this does not apply to dogs with untypical temperament (see „disq“)!

5. The classes provided at our shows (first in all males, then in all females) are as follows:

„Jüngstenklasse“	= puppy class	for puppies from 6 to 9 months of age; each exhibit gets a short critique, no grading but placings 1-4; the judge only evaluates it as being „Vielversprechend (vv)“ = very promising, „Versprechend (vsp)“ = promising or „weniger versprechend (wv)“ = less promising.
„Veteranenklasse“	= veteran class	for dogs from 8 years up; critique, no grading but placings 1 – 4; the winner can be awarded the VetCC, the 2 nd placed dog the ResVetCC. The Best Veteran in Breed has to be selected from the best male and the best female veteran and will compete for Best of Breed.
„Ehrenklasse“	= honorary class	for International Champions only; short critique, no grading but placings 1 – 4; no further competition for titles or CCs but the winner competes for Best of Breed.
„Jugendklasse“	= junior class	for dogs from 9 to 18 months of age; each exhibit is graded (as described above) and the first 4 are placed (if graded „V“ or „SG“ only). The CC/Res.CC on offer in this class is called „Junior CC“ (=JgdCC/ResJgdCC). The JgdCC(VDH)/ResJgdCC(VDH) can be awarded to the class winner/the 2 nd placed dog if given the highest possible grading in this class (please see 1.). The Best Youth dog has to be selected from the best male (if awarded the highest possible grading) and the best female Youth dog (if awarded the highest possible grading) and will compete for Best of Breed.
„Zwischenklasse“	= intermediate class	for dogs from 15 to 24 months of age; critique, grading, placing (if „V“ or „SG“) 1 – 4; the „V1“ winner can be awarded the VDH-ChA and will compete for the CACIB, the „V2“ dog may get the ResVDH-ChA. (For Club CCs see 1.)
„Championklasse“	= champion class	for dogs from 15 months of age, bearing an official Winner- or Champion title; same procedure like in the intermediate class.
„Gebrauchshundklasse“	= working class	for dogs min 15 months of age with working trial certificate; same procedure like in the intermediate class.
„Offene Klasse“	= open class	for dogs min 15 months of age; same procedure like in the intermediate class

6. After all the males in the above mentioned classes have been judged, you will have to choose the CACIB winner: The V1 – winners of the Champion, Working, Intermediate and Open Class come back into the ring to compete for the CACIB. After the CACIB winner has been selected, the three remaining dogs compete against the V2 dog out of the CACIB winner's class for the ResCACIB.

The judges are free to award or to withhold titles or certificates, however, if a dog has already been awarded one certificate (e.g. VDH-ChA) in its class, it would certainly not be wise to withhold the other possible ones to the same dog because all titles are regarded as equally valuable.

After all the males have been judged, the females will be judged in exactly the same procedure.

7. For the **Best of Breed** competition up to 6 dogs have to return into the ring: the Best Veteran in Breed, both winners of the honorary classes, the Best Youth dog (if awarded the highest possible grading), and both CACIB winners.

8. At the **main title shows** run every year by the VDH, the „**VDH-Europasieger Show**“ and the „**Bundessieger Show**“, the titles in question („VDH-Europasieger“, „Bundessieger“) are combined with the CACIBs, the Junior titles („VDH-Europa-Jugendsieger“, „Bundes-Jugendsieger“) with the JgdCCs (VDH) and the veteran titles („VDH-Europa-Veteranensieger, Bundes-Veteranen-Sieger) with the VeteranCCs (VDH).

9. A dog that is coming late can still join the class that it has been entered in and take part in the competition even if you have already started judging that class as long as you have **not** started to place the dogs. In this last-mentioned case please judge the late-coming dog later (out of competition) when you have some spare time and give it your critique and a grading – this will certainly be highly appreciated by the exhibitor.