

# SA COUNCIL OF CAT JUDGES

## JUDGES TRAINING MANUAL

(Amended February 2020)

### 1. Selection of Candidates

#### 1.1 Criteria for eligibility.

In order to eligible for candidacy a person must:

1.1.1 Be over the age of 21 years at commencement of course.

1.1.2 Be a paid up member of at least one of the recognised clubs affiliated to SACC.

1.1.3 Have completed at least 8 satisfactory stewarding assignments at recognised cat shows.

1.2 A new judge should be a credit to the existing Panel and great care should be taken in the initial choice.

1.3 Candidates with breeding experience are preferable.

1.4 Promising stewards may be invited, open invitations may be extended requiring the submission of CV's or any suitable method of recruitment may be used. This is at the discretion of the training Panel.

### 2. The Interview

2.1 This constitutes an essential part of selection.

2.2 A suggestion is that Panel appoints a suitable Selection Board of 3 members to conduct the interview.

2.3 The whole Panel may be present and question the candidates after the Selection Board has completed its questions.

2.4 The candidate's responses are discussed by the whole Panel and a two-thirds majority is needed for the candidate to be accepted.

2.5 Results of the interview to be given to the candidates within 24 hours.

2.6 The successful candidates must take and pass the Ishihara Test for colour-blindness. Cost of this test to be borne by the candidate.

### 3. Course convener and instructors.

3.1 Panel selects 2 or 3 judges to be chosen for their experience in breeding, ability to teach and a wide knowledge of the breed/s under discussion.

3.2 A Course Convener is chosen to co-ordinate the lectures; liaise with examiners for the written exam and co-ordinate the Practical Exam.

## 4. Course Structure

4.1 Except as otherwise provided, the phases and sequence of each judge's course shall be as follows:

- 4.1.1 Practical study and tests
- 4.1.2 Written exams (includes supplementary exams, if required)
- 4.1.3 Practical training
- 4.1.4 Practical exams (includes supplementary exams, if required)
- 4.1.5 Student judges may be required to submit assignments for the course under study, as may be decided by their relevant panels
- 4.1.6 Once the practical exam in each course or module has been successfully completed, the Panel must inform Judges Council, the SACR and all SACC Show Managers, as to which breeds the new judges are now qualified to judge.

4.2 The entire judge's course covers the following sections:

### 4.2.1. Persians, Longhairs and Exotics

### 4.2.2. Medium Hair Breeds

### 4.2.3. Foreigns

This course is divided into four Modules.

- Each Panel will do an analysis to determine which foreign breeds are most often shown in their area.
- Based on the numbers of foreign breeds' cats shown, a training course is designed by the Panel's tutors.
- Each Panel shall inform Judges Council of the design of their Foreign Breeds Course and approximate time frames.

NOTE: Longhair versions of a breed are not counted as a separate breed.

#### 4.2.3.1 Module One

- The first Module will be made up of the breeds which are shown in the greatest numbers in the particular region.
- Number of breeds for study: A minimum of 7 breeds. Maximum number of breeds to be decided by tutors.

#### 4.2.3.2 Module Two

- Made up of the remaining group of foreign breeds which are shown locally. This module may also include breeds regularly shown elsewhere in South Africa.
- Number of breeds for study: minimum of 8 breeds. Maximum number of breeds to be decided on by tutors.

#### 4.2.3.3 Module Three

- Made up of breeds that are not found in the particular region, but elsewhere in South Africa.

- Training to be as follows:
  - i. Theory: learn the SOP and write the theoretical exam.
  - ii. Study of cats: via PowerPoint presentations and photographs.
  - iii. Tutors may ask students to write show reports on photographs of their breeds as part of the tests the tutors set.
  - iv. Tutors may require students to complete assignments based on one or more of these breeds.
  - v. Practical workshop/ seminar: Students shall visit another region to attend a workshop where as many as possible of these breeds are present. The workshop may be arranged with the cooperation of the local judge's panel.

**NOTE:** This module is therefore excluded from the requirements of paragraph 4.1.3 and 4.1.4.

Once these requirements have been met, a student will be considered as having completed this Module successfully.

This would mean a student will be considered a fully qualified foreign breeds' judge.

#### **4.2.3.4 Module Four**

- Remaining breeds that are no longer being shown / bred in South Africa (as identified by SACCJ from time to time).
- No written exam or practical exam will be required.
- In the event that these breeds should re-appear, a workshop should be arranged to train/ refresh all panel members.

#### **4.2.4 Siamese and Balinese, Orientals and Mediumhair Orientals.**

#### **4.2.5 Basic Genetics**

This is to be done in conjunction with an appropriate course, or as and when required. This is to be an open book test (no written exams required). The genetics overview will be determined by each Panel.

## **5. Examinations**

### **5.1 Examination Protocol**

- 5.1.1 A minimum of four weeks' notice be given to examiners setting an exam.
- 5.1.2 Every exam paper be moderated and checked by another qualified member of the same panel.
- 5.1.3 A maximum turnaround time of three weeks is set from time of receiving to time of results being posted.

### **5.2 Written Examination**

- 5.2.1 Consists of a paper to be set and marked by a Panel other than the Teaching Panel. The mark allocation of the paper is to be no less than 150 marks, and not more than 200 marks; and will be based on the content covered in the specific training course.

- 5.2.2 The paper shall be based on the Standard of Points and those Show Rules pertaining to Judges and Judging.
- 5.2.3 A pass mark of 75% is required and two attempts are permitted. Failure of both attempts precludes completion of this section of the course.

### **5.3. Probation / Practical Training**

- 5.3.1 Probation / Practical Training will be undertaken by successful candidates at a Championship show.
- 5.3.2 A minimum of 40 cats are to be assessed at a minimum of 3 shows.
- 5.3.3 Practical training should be undertaken under as many judges as is practically possible.
- 5.3.4 The Candidate Judge will accompany the Official Judge assessing the cats as required, and will write a report on each cat assessed.
- 5.3.5 On completion of a judging assignment, the Officiating Judge must hand a report to the Course Convener assessing the candidate judge's performance.
- 5.3.6 On successful completion of the minimum requirement of practical training, the Candidate Judge may elect to do further practical training, or the Panel may require the Candidate Judge to continue the practical training until all parties are satisfied that the he/she is ready to take the practical exam.

### **5.4 Practical Examination**

- 5.4.1 A minimum of 12 cats to be judged in various classes with nominated Specials according to the examiner/s instructions.
- 5.4.2 The examining judges will judge the cats, placing them in their classes and selecting a Best on Show. A full report is written on each cat. The Judges Report and placings are used to assess the candidates judging.
- 5.4.3 The candidates may not use their Standard of Points or any other notes during the practical examination.
- 5.4.4 If there are fewer than 3 candidates, the practical examination may be held at a Championship Show.
- 5.4.5 A pass mark of 85% is required.
- 5.4.6 Where a candidate fails the practical exam twice, the training Panel may, at its discretion, allow one further attempt. In order to qualify for the third practical exam, the candidate must have attained at least 75% on the second attempt. This third attempt must be undertaken within a period of six months from the date of the last practical exam.

## **6. Re-instatement of judges**

- 6.1 A judge who has resigned from judging for a period longer than one calendar year, or who has taken leave of absence for a period of more than one calendar year, may apply for re-instatement subject to them completing a satisfactory probation judging assignment, according to the following stipulations:
  - 6.1.1 A judge qualified to judge only one section of Siamese/Orientals, Persians/Exotics or Medium Hairs, shall be required to probation on at least 12 cats in the relevant section.

- 6.1.2 A judge qualified to judge only the Foreign Section shall be required to probation on at least 16 cats.
- 6.1.3 A judge qualified to judge a combination of any of these sections but not all breeds shall be required to probation on at least 16 cats.
- 6.1.4 A judge qualified to judge all breeds shall be required to probation on at least 20 cats.

## **7. Application for membership from another association**

- 7.1 A judge from another judges' association applying for membership to any SACC judges panel, shall be subjected to the following minimum requirements before being accepted:
  - 7.1.1 Written confirmation from the relevant judges' association that the applicant has qualified in the relevant sections.
  - 7.1.2 A minimum 2 years' judging experience in the relevant sections that he/she is qualified to judge in.
  - 7.1.3 If the applicant is an All Breeds judge, a minimum length of training 6 (six) years for All Breeds status plus 1 (one) year post qualification year of experience.

Where the above requirements have been not met, the applicant shall be required to probation on at least 12 cats across all the relevant sections he/she is qualified to judge before being accepted for membership.

- 7.2 Where a judge has not qualified in all the relevant breeds, the applicant will be required to complete his/her judge's training as per Sections 4 and 5 above, for the sections not qualified in, at the time of the application.

## **8. Recommendation for newly qualified judges**

It is recommended that a newly qualified judge should not judge for another Association, unless a period of at least one year has elapsed from the time that such judge has been released to judge that section.