

Who Changes a Breed

Exhibitors or Judges?

There has always been a lot of controversy around ring side about who is responsible for changing breed type.

Exhibitors claim they only show dogs that judges will select as winners, while judges claim they can only select the best dog of what has been put in front of them. In one group of people, are they more responsible for changing a breed than another?

We have all seen the big change in the amount of “turn of stifle” apparent in a large number of breeds. Where it has been moved from the hindquarter, which was balanced with the forequarter, to a relative straight shoulder, upright withers and an excessive turn of stifle with a very long second thigh.

In nearly all cases this is incorrect, yet we have all observed this type of animal win major awards. In fact in some breeds this is the only type being shown.

WHY IS THIS SO:

This has been caused by the appointment of “inadequate” judges, many from overseas, selecting “glamorous” dogs. Then local inexperienced judges follow the lead and select the same incorrect type of dogs and the cycle begins.

The breeders who have been showing the correct type of dogs, now get beaten consistently so to maintain their showing interest in showing their chosen breed, they obtain dogs of similar type to that which has been beating them and start showing them.

Now we have the situation where the majority of dogs being shown in a breed have the same faults and this is now accepted as being correct. Good judges are now forced to select these type of dogs “in spite” of their faults and not because of them. Exhibitors seldom understand this and believe the dogs are winning because of the change to the breed.

We now have an “accepted” change to a breed even if only a slight change.

*It is not a simple problem to solve, as it is not simply the judges or simply the exhibitors who are responsible for the changing a breed. In fact it is the whole of the Dog World who **MUST** accept responsibility for changing breeds.*

- *Club Administrators in selecting the inadequate judges for the sake of a large entry, especially selecting All Breeds Judges from overseas who have had far less experience than our own Licensed one and two group Judges.*

- *Controlling Bodies for not training their Aspiring Judges to be more practical judges and understanding the functions of which the breed was established. Too much emphasis is placed on judging theory.*
- *Judges for not being prepared to put more time and work into knowing individual breeds and understanding overall dog structure, before they accept judging appointments for Championship Shows.*
- *Exhibitors for not remembering the prime purpose for dogs shows (that is, to improve the quality of their individual breeds) and not concentrating too much on winning at all costs at the expense of breed type.*
- *Breeders for not concentrating on breeding dogs which are true to breed type and would be able to perform the functions for which the breed was developed.*

There may be other influences, which change breed type.

We as Club Administrators, Controlling Bodies, Judges, Exhibitors and Breeders MUST take responsibility if our individual breeds are to continue to be typical as specified by the Breed Standards and be able to perform the functions for which the breed was established.

This same group of people MUST STOP blaming each other and all work together so our breeds are not changed for the show ring.

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