

ABI's Beginner Guide to Ring Stewarding

Before Show

Make sure your supplies are ready: ribbons, rosettes, a few extra rubber bands, as well as the show records books. Go to your ring, and double check everything is set up. Organize the ribbons and your show record books. We mark the books for the judges so that they may pay full attention to their judging assignment.

Make sure there is an exam table in the ring for when the judge is doing small breeds.

Scope out the ring. If you are outside, check for gopher holes, uneven areas, trash and other objects. Try to take care of anything that could cause problems with exhibitors or their dogs. Make sure to alert the judge to anything you find. Next, do some studying. Check out what breeds will be in your rings

Know Your Classes

3-6 Months Baby Puppy

6-9 Months Junior Puppy

9-12 Months Junior Puppy

12-18 Months

Novice

Bred By

Owner Handler

Canadian Bred

Open

Veteran (7+ years)

Neutered/Spay (cannot move on to BOB)

Judge's Arrival

Introduce yourself to your judge. Ask where the judge would like the exhibitors to line up inside the ring.

Ask where the judge where they want the table set-up, if necessary. Will handler changes be allowed? Until what point? Often times, the rule is that handler changes are perfectly acceptable until the judge has individually gone over the dog. Past this point, many judges do not allow the swap. If a handler does come late, try not to disrupt the judge or the other competitors with the switch. Find out if the judge wants dogs in catalog order- some don't care, some do. Many will want catalog order until the BOB ring. The preference then is for male specials first, then females specials, Winners Dog & Winners Bitch.

If say there are only males showing you can draw a line through the Best Of Winners (BOW) spot so you know you don't need to fill it in, or same if no 3-6 Months Baby Puppies.

Showtime

Call out the name of the class, followed by the armband numbers. "6-9 Month Puppy Dog, armband numbers 112 & 135" Note any absences in the show records books – so say 6-9 Month Jr Puppy Dog #112 did not pick up his armband it is marked ABS for absent beside the armband number.

Make sure the exhibitors line up where the judge wants them in the ring, and then continue checking people in ready for the next class to enter the ring.

During the class, lay out the ribbons that the judge will need to award to that class.

When the judge has completed the class, mark the show record's book.

Call in the Next Class. Repeat.

Make sure you know the order of classes as listed above. Try to keep track of the 2nd place dogs from the classes, in case they need to be called back into the ring for Reserve Winners. Never forget Reserve! It happens a lot more often than it should.

Try to anticipate the judge's needs. Water is usually appreciated and if a bathroom break is required.

Call for clean-up in the ring as often as needed. Make sure to return to the ring early after lunch break so that you can check in before the next ring time. I usually show up about 5 minutes before the ring time, depending on the number of entries.

The Show Record's Book:

I check off each dog when they enter the ring. When a dog is announced as absent, I write a big "ABS" beside the armband numbers.

Once the class is judged, I write the placement to the left of the armband number.

If a dog is excused write EX in the placement column.

Once Winners is judged, I fill out the correct armband numbers for both Winners & Reserve Winners.

Please be sure to double check your armband numbers as your information in the show records books is how the points are calculated so they must be accurate.

Do not let exhibitors leave the ring until you have written down all the placements so that we may award points properly.

Big No-Nos:

Do not criticize the judging! Always be respectful.

Never say the name of a dog, the dog's owner's name, or the kennel name. The judge is not supposed to know!

Do not sway the judge's opinion in any way, you are there to help find a breed standard for a judge or a specific spot within the breed standard but you are *never* to sway a judges opinion.

Hints

Rude and/or unorganized exhibitors will always happen, and much more so in some breeds. (Ask any judge/handler/steward.) If you are a brand-new steward, try to maintain your cool at all times & ask for assistance if needed.

If someone starts complaining to you about the rings, the judging, the show grounds, whatever- Let them know politely that the club would love their input on how to improve the show and direct them to Robert or Rita.