

Briefing for dog show judges

Updated 28.4.2025



Welcome to Finland



The Finnish Kennel Club

- The Finnish Kennel Club was established in 1889 (135 000 members)
- There are about 800,000 dogs in Finland (2024) and pedigree dogs account for approx. 70% of this number.
- Finland is home to more than 300 dog breeds and each of them has its own breed association.
- The Finnish Kennel Club registers some 40,000 dogs each year.
- The first dog show was arranged in 1891.
- Shows are extremely popular in Finland.
- About 300 shows / year (45 all breed shows)
- The annual number of dog show entries exceeds 179,000



Dog welfare

- **The health and wellbeing of dogs** is the **primary** concern in all Finnish Kennel Club's rules and activities related to dog breeding
 - Dog shows as well!
- Our rules are in harmony with the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Welfare Decree as well as with other official regulations which apply to the breeding of animals



Welcome to the XXX show

- Total number of dogs: XXXX
- Judges: XX
- Countries: XX
- Rings: XX



Judges - rings

Hall 1

- Ring 1 Timo Tuomari
- Ring 2 XXX
- ...



Finals

- FCI 1 Timo Tuomari
- FCI 2 XXX
- ...

- BIS vet XXX
- BIS breeders group XXX
- BIS XXX
- Time



Finnish show rules

- JUNIOR CLASS from 9 to 18 months
 - INTERMEDIATE CLASS from 15 to 24 months
 - OPEN CLASS 15 months and over
 - WORKING CLASS 15 months and over, working test certificate required
 - CHAMPION CLASS 15 months and over
 - VETERAN CLASS 8 years and over
 - BREEDERS CLASS four dogs from the same breeder or having the same kennel affix; critiques and only placing, HP to those worth it
- Unofficial:
- PUPPY CLASS 5 to 7 months (only in breed specialties), 7 to 9 months; critiques but no grading, only placing, HP to those worth it



Written critique

- Each dog is judged against the **FCI breed standard** and
- Each dog is given a **written critique** and **graded** according to its quality

- A written critique of approximately 20–50 words
- The critique should indicate the reason for the grading



Evaluation of the dog's behaviour

- Attitude to judge
 - can be handled
 - avoids contact
 - aggressive
- General behaviour – if the dog is
 - fearful
 - aggressive towards other dogs
- A report must be filled in about the dog if it is graded with 'disqualified' due to aggressive behaviour in the ring



Placing

- **Excellents and very goods** (if less than four 'excellents' in class) are placed from **1 to 4** in each class
- **After placing** the judge can decide how many '**CC quality**' (CQ) gradings he/she wants to give to the ones graded '**excellent**'



Junior CAC (JCAC) / Veteran CAC (VCAC)

- Junior CAC is awarded in the junior class to the best placed dog and bitch with CQ and which is eligible to receive it
 - three JCACs from three different judges are needed for Finnish Junior Champion title
- Veteran CAC is awarded in the veteran class to the best placed dog and bitch with CQ and which is eligible to receive it
 - three VCACs from three different judges are needed for Finnish Veteran Champion title
- In international shows, the dog and bitch with 'Excellent 1 + CQ' in junior and veteran classes can be awarded with a CACIB-J and CACIB-V
- There are no reserve awards for JCAC, VCAC, CACIB-J and CACIB-V



Best dog / best bitch class and CAC

- All the **CC quality** dogs placed in their own classes take part in the **best dog/bitch class**
- Dogs and bitches are placed from 1 to 4
- **One CAC** to the best placed dog and bitch which is eligible to compete for it
- **One res-CAC** to the next best placed dog and bitch which is eligible to to compete for it



CACIB, NORD CAC and BOB

CACIB and reserve-CACIB

- To the best placed dog and bitch from other than junior or veteran class
- To the next best placed dog and bitch from other than junior or veteran class

NORDIC CAC and reserve-NORDIC CAC

- To the best placed dog and bitch which is not a Nordic Champion
- To the next best placed dog and bitch which is not a Nordic Champion

- **BOB** competition between the Best Dog and the Best Bitch!
 - In Finland also the veteran and the junior can win BOB
- BOB veteran
- BOB junior
- BOB puppy (if puppy classes included in the show)
- BOB breeder's group



Breed specific instructions (BSI)

- Basics for all dogs
 - breathing
 - eyes
 - bite and teeth
 - weight
 - skin and coat
 - movement
 - behaviour
- Special attention points for the listed breeds



Breed specific instructions (BSI) for listed breeds

- The report must be filled in AFTER EACH BSI BREED
 - only after that the judging continues with the next breed
1. It takes only 5 minutes to fill in the report
 2. The report can be filled in also from other than BSI breeds
 3. The report is basically filled in by ticking boxes, all comments about the points to be noted are highly appreciated
 4. Please mark clearly the amount of dogs which had any of the exaggerated characteristics or other points to note (both positive and negative)



Note!

- NOTE! all chalking, spraying, dyeing etc. is strictly forbidden
- Only the veterinary documents written on the Finnish Kennel Club's official form are taken into consideration if the judge so wishes
- The testicles of all male dogs must be checked
- Docked and/or cropped dogs born after 1.1.2001 cannot be shown



Other remarks

- Group finals
 - pre-judging in the collecting rings before going into the main ring
 - in the main ring make a short list of 6 to 8 dogs
- Trainee judges
 - qualified judges who are studying a new breed
 - the judge is expected to teach them by discussing the exhibits
- Travel expenses
 - Reimbursement form (including SSN or DOB) with all required receipts included



Have a nice show day!

- If any questions, just ask your ring steward or show committee!
- Show lunch, place and time
- Treasurer, travel costs
- Transportation
- Dinner time and place
- Other relevant information



Finnish breeds

- There are five domestic breeds in Finland: the Karelian Bear Dog, the Lapponian Herder, the Finnish Hound, the Finnish Lapponian Dog, and our national breed, the Finnish Spitz.
- The breeds constitute an integral part of the Finnish cultural heritage. The Finnish Kennel Club and the breed clubs representing Finnish breeds have an important task: to guarantee that the breeds are preserved and that they are viable also in the future.



Finnish Hound

The Finnish Hound is used almost solely to hunt hares or foxes.



Finnish Spitz

The Finnish Spitz primarily barks at birds up in trees, using its voice to indicate the location of game.



Finnish Laponian Dog

- The Finnish Laponian Dog shares its roots with the Laponian Herder and the Swedish Lapphund.
- It is descended from the long-haired reindeer herding dogs that are common in the fell regions of Lapland.



Lapponian Herder

- The Lapponian Herder serves nowadays mainly as a companion dog and it is also widely used for different canine activities.



Karelian Bear Dog

- The Karelian Bear Dog is mainly used by hunters to corner elk and bear.



Suomen Kennelliitto – Finska Kennelklubben ry.

Valimotie 17-19 | 00380 Helsinki | (09) 887 300 | kennelliitto.fi

