

Swedish clinical data on performed operations related to BOAS. Examples from AGRIA breed statistics

As a basis for further actions including the possibility of central registration, a survey has been sent to all clinics that have performed such operations since 2014 in Sweden. The result will give an actual estimate of

- a) Number and type of clinics performing the operations
- b) Number of dogs, by breed and year
- c) Sex, age and weight
- d) SKK registered or not
- e) Indications and symptoms
- f) Type of operation
- g) Follow up of result

Data from the Danish Veterinary University clinic

Professor Thomas Eriksen from the Danish Veterinary University clinic made an evaluation of all the journals of **English Bulldogs**, **French Bulldogs** and **Pugs** in 2012. The hospital journals comprised 735 dogs from the three breeds and 70 of them had gone through surgery for BOAS (10 %). After removal of the patients referred to the university clinic specifically for BOAS, the number was 31 (4 %).

Main points of the education of championship show judges in the NKU

Swedish Kennel Club (as of 2014)

Text edited and compiled by RSW

BASIC EDUCATION

To be accepted to participate in the 5½-day **Judge's Course** the following requirements are obligatory:

- Valid membership in a club affiliated to the Swedish Kennel Club (SwKC).
 - Qualified as ring steward with several assignments at Ch. ship shows.
 - Passed the theoretical test of the *Anatomy of the dog* and *The judging system and assessments of the dog*.
 - Several years experience of breeding pedigree dogs.
 - Good knowledge in cynology and experience in dogs.
- Personal qualities**
- Ability to express oneself clearly in speech as well as in writing.
 - Knowledge in different languages (particular in Swedish and English).
 - Ability to concentrate and to make decisions under pressure.
 - Integrity.

Prep Course

Every other year the SwKC arranges a prep course for the theoretical tests. This course is not compulsory, but recommended.

Theoretical Test

Every other year a test in *Anatomy of the dog* and *The judging system and assessment's of the dog* is arranged by the SwKC on 5–7 places around Sweden.

Application for the 5½-day Judge's Course

The application form consists of questions regards the applicants' background and experience in dogs, the breed/s wished to judge. Initially a maximum of 5 breeds are allowed.

Considerations by affiliated- and breed clubs will be added to the application.

Interview

When above requirements are fulfilled and approved by the clubs concerned, the applicant is called to an interview with the SwKCs Judges Committee together with representatives of the instructors of the course. They decide whether to call the applicant to the Judge's Course or not.

The number of participants per course is about 15–16, the course is usually held every second year.

The Judge's Course

Four instructors (all authorized judges) head the 5½-day course on the subjects: judging technique, breed standards, show regulations, practical judging, and psychology/pedagogy, code of ethics and the *Breed Specific Instructions* (BSI) re. exaggerations in pedigree dogs.

The main part of the course consists of practical judging under the supervision of instructors. The participants are being assessed during the whole week.

On the last day of the course an **examination in practical judging** takes place, where the examiners form an opinion of the person's suitability to be a judge, knowledge of judging and of the breed standard/s in question.

The participants are being informed of the result, passed or not passed, after the examination. If passed the applicant is to continue the education as a Learner to become a Student Judge.

Service in two phases – as Learner and as Student.

The service is carried out at Championship Shows, in any of the Nordic countries, in the ring with the regular judge of the breed. The officiating judge must have been licensed to judge at a minimum of five years, and have judged the breed in question at least five times at Ch. Ship shows before being qualified to have a Learner/Student in the ring.

- **The first phase** is for the Learner, who is allowed to ask the judge questions about the ring procedure. The Learner is usually not asked to write critiques at this stage but might be asked to give opinion of the dog's quality and thoughts on placing. A Learner has to have 3 approved services on each specific breed, under different judges to be able to go on to the next phase.
- **The second phase** is a more independent service. The Student does his own judging of the breed with written critiques and a grading for each dog as well as placing's in each class (of course without making it official in the ring to the officiating judge, the exhibitors or audience). The Student has to have 2 approved services on each specific breed under different judges to be eligible for authorization to judge the breed.

If the student has chosen more than one breed (maximum 5 breeds) in the Basic education, the two phases has to be completed for each breed.

Authorization

When the two phases are completed on a breed, the SwKCs Judge's Committee decides on authorization.

Regards continued education for additional breeds, Seminars, Judges Conferences etc.

See SwKCs complete regulation on Show Judges education.

Danish Kennel Club

Text compiled by HFP

To enter the education, a person has to be appointed by a breed club. Membership of the Danish Kennel Club (DKC) and the breed club is mandatory. Persons between 18 and 55 years can apply to enter the education. The DKC board of show judges must recommend an applicant for approval by the DKC board.

Theoretical part:

The judge course must be completed covering the following topics:

- Anatomy, motion and health
- Standards
- Handling and assessment of dogs
- Rules and regulation of dog shows
- Written critiques
- Ethical considerations
- Practical aspects of the Show Judge's work

Practical part:

Trainee phase

The trainee follows a judge and is allowed to ask the judge questions about the ring procedure etc. The trainee is usually not asked to write critiques at this stage but might be asked to give opinion of the dog's quality and thoughts on placing. A trainee has to have two approved services on each specific breed, under different Nordic judges, to be able to proceed to the next phase.

Aspirant phase

This phase is a more independent service. The aspirant does his/her own judging of the breed with written critiques and a grading for each dog independent of the official judge. The aspirant's evaluations are handed to the secretary before the judge decides the final grading. The aspirant has to have 2 approved services on each specific breed under different judges to be eligible for authorization to judge the breed.

Authorization

When the two phases are completed on a breed, the DKC board of show judges decides on authorization.

Further education

If a judge wishes to be authorized for additional breeds, he/she has to complete one trainee and one aspirant service under two different judges. In addition, the Danish Kennel Club arrange courses and seminars for show judges on relevant topics.

Suggested additional education for championship show judges regards BOAS affected breeds:

1. **Education for judges/breeders on BOAS** with an initial working paper in the form of a compendium called *NKUs Educational Illustrated Breed Standard re BOAS and exaggerated type in English Bulldogs/French bulldogs/ Pugs*. The compendium should be produced “breed by breed” and compiled by a group within the NKU WG (not yet appointed) in co-operation with the country of origin and breed clubs in the NKU countries. Before compendiums are published they have also to be approved by the country of origin. The compendiums would have extended illustrations on breed features re. the BOAS issue (See the suggested format: [Norwichterrier Compendium](#)). Text should be in English and the final comments connected to all standard captions should be approved by the Standards Commissions in all the Nordic countries as well as by the Commissions in the country of origin. Translations to other languages to be executed and financed by any country that so chooses. Budget for the production and logistics must be decided after the NKU AU approves the proposals. Finished and approved Compendiums suggested to be published on DogWellNet.com and NKU website as well as on any KC website.
2. **Organizers of dog shows** might be interested to have views on the following idea how to reach judges from countries not yet familiar with the Nordic KCs awareness of health and welfare in brachycephalic dogs. Its suggested that judges invited to judge a brachycephalic breed **must** at the time of signing the judging appointment also sign an agreement that they make themself familiar with the BSI program and will judge according to it. By signing this agreement the judge is aware that neglecting these recommendations and not respecting and judging according to them might render sanctions, which might affect further invitations.
3. **Judges Conferences** to be organized breed-by-breed and to be open for approved judges and students/learners from all the Nordic countries. Conferences to be organized by the NKU Kennel Clubs in co-operation with the breed club. Precise plans for the execution of the conferences can be made after the NKU AU approves of the proposed conferences.
- 4 **Changes in breed standards** - although several standards for brachycephalic breeds have been thoroughly revised very recently it is proposed that the Standards Commissions within the NKU countries together study the standards of all the brachycephalic breeds and in case of suggestions to revise, to consult the country of origin of said breed for any further actions. See [Enclosures 11a](#) and [11b](#).

Proposed judges conferences

Brainstorming/ideas to be discussed:

WHERE: Conference initially (i.e. the first for each breed) to take place in the country and place where most nr of the dogs are to be found in each breed and where a breed club can provide major assistance to all the practicalities concerning the dogs.

PURPOSE: BOAS related conference, in the three pilot breeds; Bulldogs, French bulldogs and Pugs, one conference per breed.

PANEL: The panel of expertise should consist of persons with many years of experience: an all-round judge, a veterinarian, a breeder, a breed club official, more...

FOR WHOM: From the NKU countries; show judges, students and learners in the pilot breeds. Education to be held in English? **Nr of participants will depend on premises and budget.**

SYNOPSIS: The format of the conferences should be identical, with no differences between organizing KCs. But of course adapted to the differences in the pilot breeds.

Week-end conference:

Friday:

15.00 Check in. 18.30 Early dinner. 20.00 Gathering for information on procedure.

Saturday:

7.00 Breakfast.

9.00 **Theory:** Breed history and up-date on current health situation re. BOAS. Review of the Illustrated Breed Compendium. Current BSI on the pilot breeds. Power point illustrating the throat defects with a narrow palate etc. A sound track to illustrate audial how a really bad and restricted breathing sounds.

12.00 Lunch

13.00 **Practical** by viewing some 30 dogs, representing good and bad type, in groups of 5-7 people with one group leader. Open discussions and questions. Summary: Divide the 30 dogs into 3 groups according to excellent; acceptable; not acceptable. The accepted animals should also fit the breed standard requirement.

15.30-18.00 Discussions on the correct- or not placing of the 30 dogs. Each of the expertise party to give their opinion.

19.30 Dinner

Sunday:

7.00 Breakfast.

9.00 **Practical:** 20-30 new dogs, to be examined blindfolded & hands-on regards chest, neck, shoulders and stifle. Each participant to examine 3 dogs and to write a critique on each of them, according to what has felt. Heads to be examined and a critique written, group by group. The groups to view movement and breathing.

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Summoning of the three different checks; blind hands-on, heads and movement- breathing.

Discussions: Are results eye-opening; no real problem; guide to grading's; a risk to dismiss genetic variety; risk to loose breed type? Summary -as a recommendation?

15.00 Coffee and check out.