

The Danish Kennel Club's guidelines for juniorhandling

What is the purpose of juniorhandling?

- Promote collaboration and contact between young people and their dogs
- Establish and develop an interest for dog-related activities for young people
- Establish friendship and team spirit between the youngsters
- Pave the way for learning about different dog breeds, -types, -characteristics, and –temperaments
- Encourage learning about dog welfare and the caring of dogs
- Provide understanding of dog behavior and language
- Secure the future of dog activities, dog breeding and dog welfare
- Motivate future generations of dog lovers to become responsible and conscious dog owners



The judge

- The judge must be an experienced breed judge with knowledge about handling dogs and/or be a handler with great experience within handling dogs and/or juniorhandling.
- The judge must have experience within handling several – preferably many – different breeds and speak either Danish, English, Swedish or Norwegian
- The judge must at all times consider the exhibitors' safety in the ring and treat the exhibitors with respect



Considerations when judging juniorhandling

- During the competition, the handler should be discrete and manage to put the dog in focus. The handler's appearance, both standing and running, should, therefore, not be exaggerated or pull focus from the dog.
- All kind of bad handling of the dog's leash or dropping of hair brushes, shoes or treats should affect the judging negatively, since it distracts and disturbs the image of the equipage.
- The handler must – at all times – make sure that the dog is comfortable and safe.

The competition

- The judge's focus should lie on the handler's knowledge about and abilities to handle the breed, as well as the collaboration and harmony in the handler-dog-equipage
- Throughout the judging, there must be a harmonious and natural partnership between the handler and the dog. They must function as a collaborating unit that exhibit and emit presence and joy.
- The judge should go over the dog as in a normal judging situation.
- Every participant must be judged individually and as a part of a group.
- All juniorhandlers must be treated and judged in a respectful and fair way.
- The judge must only ask the juniorhandlers to swap dogs, if he/she cannot determine the competition in any other way. If there is a swapping of dogs, then the judge must make sure that all dogs can be handled safely by the new handler, and that the dogs in no way shows insecurity or aggression towards other dogs or the new handler. The situation must at all times be under control. If the juniorhandler believe that their dog would not handle a swapping well, he/she can decline swapping their dog. They cannot decline getting another person's dog themselves though.
- It shall not affect negatively in the judgement of a handler, if he/she goes between the dog and the judge (also known as "the golden rule"), as long as it is not an inconvenience for the judge's evaluation of the dog and the handler is not blocking the judge's view of the dog.
- Focus points in the process of judging should be on:
 - Collaboration between handler and dog
 - The handler's joy and natural partnership with the dog
 - Technique
 - Confidence
 - Competences
 - Knowledge
 - Harmony between handler and dog
 - The potential to become a great handler in the breed ring



How does the competition take place?

The juniorhandler competition should reflect the judging in the breed rings as much as possible. The handler should show their dog as it is shown in the breed rings.

Handler-dog-equipage

- The handler must at all times show care and consideration for their dog. The leash must never be too tight and any kind of rough-handling is grounds for both warnings and possibly ejection from the competition. Both the judge and ring personnel is in a position to eject a handler for rough-handling.
- Aside from the individual judging, it is also important to judge the handlers moving around the ring together.
- The handlers should move in a suitable pace for the dog and show consideration towards the other handlers by keeping a safe distance and not be a disturbance at any time.
- The handlers should show consideration and exhibit support and showmanship towards the other contestants throughout the competition.



Knowledge about the dog

- It can be expected that the handler knows the shown dog's breed, age and specifics for a breed typical presentation.
- The handler should do a breed typical presentation of the dog, both in movement and when standing. Stacking the dog in the individual judging should include stacking on table for the smaller breeds.
- The handlers should know how the dog's leash should sit and be held.
- It can be expected that the handler knows about dogs' anatomy, such as number of teeth, the breed's original breeding purpose, or other breed typical characteristics.



Showing the bite

- When showing the dog's bite, the handler should show the teeth/bite by pulling up the dog's muscle, so the judge can see the entire bite.
- The handler can stand in front of the dog or by the dog's side. The handler should never cover for the judge's view of the bite/teeth.
- The handler should show the dog's bite first and afterwards either of the sides. If the judge asks to see the bite, the handler should only show the bite and not the sides.
- The handler should at all times have the leash under control.
- It is the handler's responsibility to show the bite/teeth in accordance with the breed.

The equipage in movement

- The handlers should always show consideration and never overtake each other when moving together
- Movement: Up and down, triangle, circle, movement in group, and up and down in pairs.
- Complicated figures, such as 8, letters, or the like, is to be avoided. The judging should reflect the judging in the breed rings.
- After a movement in the individual judging, the handler should stack in front of the judge, unless the judge says differently. The handler should keep a reasonable distance to the judge, so the judge can see the silhouette of the entire dog.



Appropriate clothings

- The handler and the dog should make out a harmonious unit. The handler should, therefore, wear appropriate, suitable and functional clothing, as well as shoes that fits the ring's base.
- The colours of the handler's clothing should differ and/or contrast the colours of the dog and, thus, its silhouette. All kinds of inappropriate or provocative clothing is highly inadvisable.

