



Junior Handling Judging

Following the trial of a standardised Junior Handling Judge's Guide, including over 30 Junior Handlers at 3 Large Shows; We are very pleased to announce that the Guide has now been finalised and will be used by all Junior Handling Judges at Regional Shows in the future.

The Guide works on a points system to determine the order in which the handlers are placed after the individual. It is then up to the Young Handlers to use their skills to gain places throughout the class.

Points are awarded for the following disciplines:

Sex and Age of Dog: It will now be taken into consideration that a Male is stronger and can be more difficult for a Young Handler to control than a Female. The age of the dog will also come into play, with the general rule that an older dog should be at a higher level of Show Training and therefore easier to demonstrate skills with.

Control and Rapport: Each Handler will be awarded points depending on their general control with the dog, their ability to connect to their dog and the tricky job of showing a dog's teeth.

Stand Judging: Once again general control when standing comes into the judging, along with points for the position of front and back legs, viewed from both the side and front and behind. The control during away and back from the judge will also be important.

Movement Judging: During the movement phase of the Individual, the Handler will be scored on lead control, the step sequence during both the walk and gait, whether they are able to maintain the gait without their dog galloping and the overall control when moving.

Questions: We feel that learning about the German Shepherd Dog is an important part of being a Junior Handler, as hopefully they will be the breeders and judges of the future. We have therefore introduced a series of questions aimed at both age groups. These will be published so that there is a chance for every Junior Handler to learn before shows.

Whilst we understand that excess pressure shouldn't be placed on the youngsters, we also believe that only with constructive judging and feedback can they learn and improve.

We look forward to introducing this guide officially at the National Spectacular Show 2016 and hope to see as many Junior Handlers there to take advantage of this progressive and innovative system.