

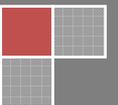
2012



Training Concept

for international cat judges of the
WCF

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WCF/ Judge's Commission
03.01.2012



Training concept for international cat judges of the WCF

1. Introduction

The judge's training with the WCF serves to train professional and socially competent cat judges for the judging of pedigree cats on national and international pedigree cat exhibitions in compliance with the standard. An expanded level of theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the work of a judge in general and specifically on the approved cat breeds shall be acquired during the training.

2. Goal

After passing the exam in the respective category the judge shall be able to:

- ✚ interpret the characteristics and attributes of the breeds described in the breeding standard
- ✚ judge the presented cats according to the standard on the basis of the criterias and characteristics described in the standards
- ✚ make comparative assessments of several cats and account for them
- ✚ answer questions by exhibiting breeders regarding coat colour, genetics, standards etc.
- ✚ write significant judge's reports¹ and account for the decision objectively
- ✚ act appropriately according to his/her role on exhibitions and thereby contribute to the success of this event

3. Requirements

One of the requirements is a perennial experience in breeding

Perennial breeding practise, work experience as steward as well as a passed pre-exam are part of the requirements. Motivation and social competence are also obligatory.

¹ judge's reports have to be written in one of the umbrella group's approved languages (German/English/French/Spanish)



Please refer to the currently valid **Rules for Stewards, Judge´s Pupils and Judges** of the WCF for the complete requirements.

4. Implementation

The training is done according to the effective **WCF Rules** in the judge's pupils personal responsibility. The training is based on the **experience and knowledge** as a breeder as well as the **private study** of theoretical background (question catalogues/breeding standard/rules) and the **knowledge**, which is gained from working as a judge's pupil.

For the training excellent **knowledge of breeding management, cat health and genetics** are presupposed. They have to be documented in the form of a pre-exam.

The **theory transfer** to the practise mainly takes place during the work as judge's pupil. It shall be specifically used for it.

The training is also geared to the **needs of the club**. The exam categories are based on this, too. The whole training is laid out for the status "Allbreed-judge", since the awards BIS and BOA can only be given by judges who have a judge's license for all categories. You have to take exams in 4 categories for this level of qualification. The first exam additionally contains the general questions.

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5. Question Catalogues

a. Question catalogue for pre-exam

The successfully **completed pre-exam** for a judge's pupil precedes the judge's training. The question catalogue for the judge's exam is connected to the question catalogue of the pre-exam. They ideally form a whole with each other. Questions regarding breeding management, genetics, exhibitions, common diseases, colours as well as the question catalogue of the judge's exam and the breeding standard are the **theoretical basis** for the work as a judge.

b. Question Catalogue for the Judge's Exam

The question catalogue for exams to become an international judge of the WCF comprises all WCF-approved breeds (standards) in their adequate category, as well as all other aspects, which are important for the practise as a judge. It is therewith the theoretical basis of the judge's training. The respective judge's exams are based on excerpts from the questions.

The catalogue is updated on a regular basis, and revised respectively. This is done under the aegis of the Judge's Commission. Only they can overrule out-dated versions and pass new versions.

6. Roles and Understanding

a. Judge's Pupil

The judge's pupil understands the judge's training as an **active learning process**, which is based on the already existing individual knowledge (breeder; steward). During this process the individual knowledge gets checked and is increased towards the practise of a judge.

He/she will be supported adequately by the Board of the WCF and by the Judge's Council. For the judge's pupils it specifically means:

-  to be active while building up knowledge, ask questions, use learning situations and train abilities
-  to occupy himself/herself with the offered material and learning situations so that the best, individually possible, learning effect is achieved
-  to control the learning process autonomously
-  to abolish antiquated, wrong knowledge
-  to acquaint oneself with the role as judge and to integrate oneself

b. Judges

Judges play an important role in the training concept. They have the responsibility that the practical knowledge, which they pass on, is correct and understandable.

For judges who accompany judge's pupils it means:

-  to inform oneself about the training status of the judge's pupil and, if necessary, take action
-  to give the judge's pupil the time to learn and to explain actual situations in an understandable and practical way
-  to be available as a mentor on the day of the training
-  to assist the pupil's integration into the judge's council
-  to give a fair, benevolent and meaningful review

The work of a judge's pupil is not equate with the exam situation. The point is to complement knowledge and to close gaps. The training level always has to be considered, especially when giving an evaluation.

c. Committees WCF

Especially the Chairman and the Members of the Judge's Commission support the judge's pupil in all concerns of the training. The Chairman of the Judge's Commission is the first contact person for all questions concerning the training.

d. Clubs

The clubs support the WCF Training Programm for international cat judges according to their possibilities.

- 🌍 By making it possible for judge's pupils to acquire judge's pupil's reports on their exhibitions
- 🌍 By offering the possibility for exams
- 🌍 By also inviting international judges with partial exams

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The clubs have the task to provide the necessary conditions for the work as a judge's pupil and for exams. Ideally they make it possible that judge's pupils are involved in social activities, like e.g. joint dinner. The costs have to be borne by the judge's pupil.

General Aspects

The work as a judge's pupil requires **social competence and communication skills**. Good interaction, especially with the exhibitors, is important. The interaction with all people involved shall be fair, transparent and cherished.

During the work as judge's pupil, as well as during the work as judge, it is recommendable to take a closer look at **rare breeds** on exhibitions and to inform oneself about these breeds by visiting a respective breeder.

In any case the judge's pupil receives **theoretical knowledge about all breeds** during the training. With this knowledge and abilities regarding the interpretation of the standard criteria it is granted that a practical judgement of rare breeds can be made. There is no difference to an already trained, international judge who has to deal with a newly approved breed.

The training shall be seen as **basis**, which shall develop further and improve during the work as a judge. A high degree of **self-motivation and commitment** is essential. The participation in **seminars** is expected.

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Being a judge of the WCF means being a **representative of the roof organization and a role model**. A cooperative collaboration with the Boards of the WCF, the Board of Judges, the clubs and all other members of the cat scene is taken for granted.

Generally a judge's pupil shall be able to express himself/herself in a refined manner. Since the title "International Judge" is acquired, good knowledge of a foreign language of the WCF is expected.

The regulation regarding the foreign language refers to the communication skill.

The **exam process** can be taken from the currently valid **Rules for Stewards, Judge's Pupils and Judges** of the WCF. The judges carrying out the exam are responsible for the exam process. They also ensure that the conditions on the part of the club are met. It is expected that irregularities on part of the club, which are detected during the exam, are clarified.

In case of need, the club can refuse the signature, but has to inform the Chairman of the Judge's Commission.