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VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL
(919-816-4225)

American Kennel Club
Judging Operations Department
P.O. Box 37924
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627

Re: Provisional Judge Mr. Norman B. Kenney's
Failure to Following AKC Rules and Procedures and
Yelling at Exhibitor and Spectators at the
Mt. Palomar Kennel Club Show, July 31, 2004

Dear AKC Headquarters:

I. INTRODUCTION

This letter is an official complaint against Judge Norman B. Kenney, due to his behavior at the above-referenced show. Judge Kenney violated AKC rules and procedures by: (i) failing to properly judge Winners and Reserve Winners classes; (ii) failing to properly measure a dog; (iii) examining the entries in a rough manner; (iv) being in a rush and failing to spend sufficient time examining the dogs; and (v) losing control of himself by yelling at exhibitors and spectators during his judging. I ask that the AKC promptly investigate these incidents and suspend Judge Kenney for an appropriate period.

II. DISCUSSION

A. JUDGE KENNEY FAILED TO PROPERLY JUDGE WINNERS AND RESERVE WINNERS CLASSES

Judge Kenney failed to judge Reserve Winners class for dogs. Pete Atchley showed Bowery Kizz Zee Girlz in the Bred-By Exhibitor Dogs class. His dog was second to Diane Turner's Pacific As You Like It. Ms. Turner took her dog into Winners Dog class against Kasey Mando's Spirit Valleys Girl Watcher. After a short go-around, Judge Kenney pointed to Ms. Turner's dog saying "**Winners Dog**," then looked at Ms. Mando's dog and said "**Reserve**" without calling in Bowery Kizz Zee Girlz. Mr. Atchley was standing by the entrance and said, "*don't you want me back in for Reserve?*" Judge Kenney rudely said, "**No, I already gave her Reserve**" [pointing to Ms. Mando]. Judge Kenney failed to mark his book before awarding Reserve Winners Dog and failed to bring in the second place class dog to Winners Dog for Reserve Winners Dog class, both of which violated AKC rules and procedures.

Judge Kenney also failed to judge Reserve Winners class for bitches. In a two-bitch Bred-By Exhibitor bitch class, Ellen Wade's Harmony Farms Antique White was first and Ms. Turner's Pacific Costa Brava was second. No other bitches showed, since Judge Kenney disqualified the Open bitch

[see infra]. Ms. Wade took her first place bitch in the Winners Bitch class, and Judge Kenney awarded her Winners Bitch. Forgetting about Reserve Winners class, he told the ring steward to bring in his Best of Breed entries. When Ms. Turner asked about her second place bitch coming in for Reserve Winners class, Judge Kenney just handed her the Reserve Winners ribbon and dismissed her, without bringing the bitch into the ring. Just as before, Judge Kenney failed to mark his book before awarding Reserve Winners Bitch and failed to bring in the second place class bitch to Winners Bitch for Reserve Winners Bitch class, which violated AKC rules and procedures. Since Judge Kenney failed to judge Winners and Reserve Winners as two separate classes, he violated the AKC's rules and procedures,¹ and the AKC should reprimand Judge Kenney for his failures.

B. JUDGE KENNEY FAILED TO FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURES WHEN MEASURING A DOG

I entered Von Henry's Miss B. Having ("Missy") in Open Bitch class at the Mt. Palomar Kennel Club show before she finished.² I only brought her to this show to hold the points for my friends. Carol Betzer, who does not show dogs, took Missy in the ring, since I was busy with my specials bitch. Judge Kenney had her go around, and Ms. Betzer put Missy on the table. Judge Kenney went to the ring steward's table to re-read the breed standard, then said that he wanted to measure her.³

I approached the ring steward and asked for a handler change. I have never seen or heard of a judge refusing a handler change when the judge calls for the measurement of a dog, and an inexperienced person is handling the dog for another person. In response to the request for a handler change, Judge Kenney sternly responded "**NO.**"

Although Judge Kenney had the discretion to deny my request, judges typically permit handler changes until the final go around, especially in this situation. He had no legitimate reason to deny this handler substitution for such a critical event as measuring a dog. The whole purpose of measuring a dog is to get a correct measurement – not an incorrect one because an inexperienced handler is on the dog. I explained that Missy was my bitch, she did not know the handler, the handler was inexperienced, and Missy would relax with me handling her during the measuring procedure. She was nervous and anxious by then. Judge Kenney yelled, "**I SAID NO!**"

Knowing that the rules require that a struggling dog be excused rather than measured, I asked for Missy to be excused. He yelled again, "**SHE WON'T BE EXCUSED UNTIL I MEASURE HER OUT. NOW CLOSE YOUR MOUTH AND GET AWAY FROM THIS RING!**"

Stepping back, dumbfounded at his unprofessional and hostile response, I handed my specials bitch to Ms. Mando to show in Best of Breed. Judge Kenney then approached Ms. Mando and Ms.

¹ The AKC Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges provides in the section entitled "Judging The Dogs":

"Winners and Reserve Winners Classes ... Winners and Reserve Winners are two separate classes. Unless the Winner comes from a class of one, the judge's book must be marked and the ribbon and trophies presented to the Winner before judging Reserve Winners.

The Guidelines also provide in the section entitled "Judge's Checklist":

"In judging Winners, always double-check armbands. After the ribbon has been awarded, excuse the winning dog. Call into the ring the dog that placed second to the dog awarded Winners, judging Reserve as a separate class."

² Missy finished on July 16, 2004, at the Malibu Kennel Club show in Oxnard, California.

³ Two judges had measured Missy before the Mt. Palomar show, since she is just 12 inches – the lower end of the height standard for PRTs. Judge Wyoma Clouss measured her "OUT" at the Tacoma Kennel Club show on June 6, 2004, in Puyallup, Washington, because Missy was struggling to avoid the wicket. Judge Loraine Boutwell measured Missy "IN" at the Umpqua Kennel Club show on June 12, 2004, in Roseburg, Oregon, when Missy was standing tall and relaxed.

Turner, who were outside the ring and yelled, ***“IF YOU PEOPLE DON’T LIKE YOUR BREED STANDARD, THEN CHANGE IT, BUT RIGHT NOW THE HEIGHT LIMIT IS 12 INCHES TO 15 INCHES SO YOU ALL HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT UNTIL YOU CHANGE IT!”***⁴

Ms. Mando, astonished since she had neither done nor said anything, responded, *“I didn’t personally make the standard and I didn’t say anything, so why are you yelling at me?”*

Upon hearing this, I thought Judge Kenney may have misunderstood and thought I had complained about his measuring Missy. To clear this with him, I approached the ring and explained, *“I am not complaining about you wicketing my bitch, I know the height limit is 12 inches and she has been measured in before at 12 inches. I am just concerned that she does not know the handler and the handler doesn’t know anything about handling or measuring dogs, so I want to handle my bitch because she is scared.”*

In response, he yelled, ***“I SAID FOR YOU TO SHUT YOUR MOUTH. NOW YOU GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW BEFORE YOU GET IN TROUBLE!”*** Flabbergasted by his continued hostility and refusal to listen, I stepped back several feet from the ring again. The ring steward returned from the superintendent’s table and gave the wicket to Judge Kenney. I walked closer to the ring steward’s table to get a better view, but Mrs. Betzer was between Judge Kenney and myself, so I could not see if he set the wicket’s legs properly or used a metal tape measure to calibrate the wicket, as the AKC rules and procedures require. Mrs. Betzer, who knows little about dog shows and nothing about measuring a dog, thinks that he did use a metal tape.⁵

Missy was struggling like a mule, because she was petrified at two strangers standing over her with what probably appeared to be a weapon of some sort. Mrs. Betzer told the judge that she did not know what to do. Judge Kenney then put his hands on Missy and set her up for the handler, in direct opposition to the AKC rules about measuring dogs. He then told Ms. Betzer to hold her still, so that he could measure her. He put she held Missy’s rear with her left hand and Missy’s head with her right hand. Judge Kenney appeared to be touching Missy during this process, which is against the rules.⁶ Missy struggled because she was very frightened, and Judge Kenney should have excused her instead of continuing to try to measure her, as the rules require.⁷

Judge Kenney lifted the wicket up in the air and came down from the top and not from the rear, as the procedure requires. He placed the wicket on the middle of Missy’s back and not on the highest point of her shoulders, where the rules require. Missy is a 12 inches tall, but there appeared to be approximately 1 to 2 inches of space between the wicket and Missy’s back.⁸ Judge Kenney failed to

⁴ Judge Kenney has made negative remarks about the Parson Russell Terrier breed standard at other shows. One poster on the PRT Forum recounts a show she attended where Judge Kenney Made some comment about how he thought that it was *‘stupid’* that our breed standard DQ’s dogs for missing teeth. He said about the rule, *“Yeah, well it’s a stupid rule. I’ve never judged a dog with no teeth so it obviously isn’t a problem.”* Attachment B.

⁵ Section 11 of the Breed Judges Book provides, in the section entitled “Measurements”, that:

“After setting the wicket, verify the height with a metal tape measure ...

⁶ Section 11 of the Breed Judges Book provides, in pertinent part, that:

“The handler is to set the dog to the judge’s specification. At no time should you try to set the dog ...

⁷ Section 11 of the Breed Judges Book provides, in the section entitled “Dogs that Resist Measurement, that:

“Dogs of measurable breeds should be trained to be measured. Any dog you are unable to measure must be excused ...

⁸ Another exhibitor, Ms. Turner, reports:

“As to the measuring issue, based on what I saw, I do not think that he had the wicket set correctly. When this judge wicketed [Missy], there was quite a large space between the wicket and the dog. I know that Annette’s bitch is on the small side, but I do believe that she is within the standard. We all know that any dog that is very close to the size limit could possibly measure out on any given day. But if the wicket is set incorrectly, it’s almost certain. However, since no

put the wicket on the highest point of the shoulder, as Mrs. Betzer confirmed to me afterwards.⁹ He then disqualified Missy for being too short. After witnessing this travesty of justice, I asked Judge Kenney if I could see the wicket and check the measurement (since I own the bitch). Judge Kenney yelled, ***“I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE AND IF YOU DON’T LEAVE RIGHT NOW, I’M GOING TO WRITE YOU UP!”***¹⁰

Judge Kenney did not follow the rules on proper measurement of a dog.¹¹ The AKC should reprimand him for his failure and instruct him on the proper procedure for measuring dogs.

C. JUDGE KENNEY EXAMINED THE ENTRIES IN A ROUGH MANNER AND FAILED TO GIVE EACH ENTRY ADEQUATE TIME FOR A PROPER EXAMINATION

Ms. Turner reports that Judge Kenney appeared to be in a hurry, did not really go over the dogs thoroughly, and was rough in examining the entries. He looked at the head, checked the teeth by cranking the mouth all the way open instead of looking at the teeth from the side, and spanned the dogs roughly. When he spanned Ms. Turner’s two entries, he dropped both of their fronts down on the table instead of setting them down gently. Ms. Turner concludes that overall Judge Kenney’s “procedure and attitude were both very poor.”¹²

D. OTHER REPORTED INCIDENTS OF JUDGE KENNEY’S MISCONDUCT AT OTHER SHOWS

I posted the facts of this incident in the Judges Critiques section of a PRT forum in which I regularly participate.¹³ Attachments A-D are four responsive forum posts that describe other incidents of misconduct by Judge Kenney, which are summarized below:

- Judge Kenney once told a junior handler who had been Best Junior the previous day that she did a better job than the girl he placed first, but he did not think that she should win two days in a row because she ‘might get a big head’.¹⁴

one got to look at the wicket, we’ll never know for sure, will we?” Post of “pacific” (Diane Turner) dated August 4, 2004, 08:29AM. Attachment D.

⁹ See infra fn. 12.

¹⁰ I violated none of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. Judge Kenney exceeded his authority in preventing me from showing my special just because I asked him for a handler change on Missy and to see the wicket that he used to measure her.

¹¹ In the Fall 2003 Judges Newsletter, Dorothy Macdonald and Jodi Engel wrote an article entitled, True Measurement or Wicket Tyranny. The authors explain the key points of measuring a dog at a show:

“Dogs that resist measurement should be excused. ...

“Never should the wicket be placed on a struggling dog. if the dog is not standing in a natural position DON’T MEASURE. Note: The dog should ... be standing at ease. ...

“The wicket legs must be set at the proper length, verified with a metal tape measure ... (This obviously means that all judges who judge a measurable breed should have a metal tape measure in their possession) ...

“Next place the wicket on the highest point on the dog’s shoulder blades. Finding the highest point of the shoulder blades can be a challenge ...

“Good skills and good sportsmanship should prevail with respect to the issue of measurement.” Judges Newsletter, Fall 2003, Vol. 5, No. 23, p. 2. Underlining added; capitals in original.

¹² Post of “pacific” (Diane Turner) dated August 4, 2004, 08:29AM. Attachment D.

¹³ From August 1, when I submitted my post to the forum, until August 4, the post had 40 replies – several of which recounted other negative incidents involving Judge Kenney.

¹⁴ Posted by “Julie Dalbey,” dated Aug. 2, 2004, 07:08 AM. Attachment A.

- Kari Streicher of Willowbrook Terriers and Border Collies reports in a posting on the PRT Forum that Judge Kenney failed to properly judge Winners and Reserve winners at a show she recently attended. She considered filing a complaint about his behavior at that show, but was afraid it would be perceived as coming from a “sore loser.”¹⁵
- Ms. Streicher reports that Judge Kenney failed to properly measure two bitch puppies at the show she recently attended. He put the wicket on Ms. Streicher’s bitch puppy’s back, and Ms. Streicher had to move her bitch back so that the wicket was on her shoulders. When he measured the second puppy bitch, Judge Kenney failed to calibrate the wicket and show the wicket to the puppy bitch’s handler. He then dropped the wicket on that puppy bitch’s shoulder blades, causing her to invert her back and wiggle. The handler struggled to regain control of the puppy, and Judge Kenney said, ***“SET YOUR DOG!”***¹⁶

III. JUDGE KENNEY VIOLATED THE AKC STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The AKC has formulated standards of conduct for judges to follow, which are set forth in the Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges.¹⁷ Judge Kenney acted inappropriately toward spectators and exhibitors and failed to following procedures in the following ways:

- He did not follow proper procedure for judging Winners and Reserve Winners classes for both dogs and bitches.¹⁸
- He did not follow proper procedure for measuring a dog.¹⁹
- He did not have a “thorough knowledge of AKC Rules and Policies” as the Guidelines require.²⁰
- He repeatedly yelled at and was rude to exhibitors and spectators.²¹

¹⁵ Ms. Streicher states:

“I went out of the ring to get my puppy for WD and I barely got in the ring and he gave WD to the other dog. He then called in my Open dog for Reserve. I told Beth to take his number and walk him in and Kenney said, ***“Don’t worry about it, you (pointing at me with my puppy) get Reserve”***. I don’t feel that he judges the dogs fairly as he barely spent any time on any of them.” Post of “Kari4004,” dated August 3, 2004, 11:44 PM. Attachment B.

¹⁶ According to Ms. Streicher, the puppy bitch eventually measured in after the handler regained control of her, no thanks to Judge Kenney. Post of “Kari4004,” dated August 3, 2004, 11:44 PM. Attachment B.

¹⁷ The Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges provides, in the section entitled “Your Responsibilities as a Judge,” that:

”As a judge, you must meet the following key criteria:

“Procedure You must demonstrate sound judging procedure and ring control, along with a thorough knowledge of AKC Rules and Policies. Good procedure is essential. Without it, no judge can inspire the confidence of exhibitors and spectators. ...

“Judging The Dogs

“You Are in Charge As the judge, you have full authority over all persons in the ring ... With this authority comes the responsibility to be thoughtful and considerate ...

“You should avoid theatrical movements or making inappropriate comments to ringside. Be polite, but generally limit your conversation with exhibitors to instructions on positioning or gaiting the dogs....

“Change of Exhibitors A change of exhibitor is permitted at your discretion up until the time all dogs in the class have been individually examined and individually gaited. After that, no change of exhibitor is allowed.” (Bold face in original.)

¹⁸ See *supra* Sections II.A.

¹⁹ See *supra* Sections II.B.

²⁰ See *supra* Sections II.A and II.B.

²¹ Ms. Turner reports that she has never seen a judge be so “incredibly rude to both exhibitors and spectators.” In addition, she thinks that, knowing that he has been around judging for a long time and is fully licensed for many breeds, it is “even sadder to think that an experienced judge would behave this way.” Post of “pacific” (Diane Turner) dated August 4, 2004, 08:29AM. Attachment D.

- He failed to maintain ring control (in that he did not control himself).
- He failed to be polite, as the Guidelines require.²²
- He prevented me from showing my specials bitch, Ch Blossom Valley Caliopi,²³ in Best of Breed without justification. I had to hand her off to another person she barely knew. He had no authority to order me away from the ring, since I was not creating a disturbance and was not violating any AKC rules – he was!

IV. CONCLUSION

The AKC cannot permit a judge to so blatantly abuse exhibitors and spectators and ignore established rules and procedures. The AKC would not permit an exhibitor to behave in the manner Judge Kenney behaved. The AKC should discipline Judge Kenney for his willful misconduct. Everyone at ringside, both exhibitors and spectators, were astounded at Judge Kenney's behavior at this show. Everyone that was exhibiting a PRT as well as many who were merely watching said that they would never show a dog to him in the future.

Many people are waiting to hear how the AKC responds to this letter. If the AKC does nothing, then many people will respond with their wallets. The bottom line is money. All of my friends and other people who have had similar experiences with Judge Kenney intend to boycott shows where he gets assignments judging their breeds. Most people have multiple breeds. The word is spreading on Judge Kenney's arrogant and hostile treatment of exhibitors and his failure to follow the rules.

I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Annette Gilliam, Esq.

cc: Mr. Norman B. Kenney
Mt. Palomar Kennel Club Show Committee
Parson Russell Terrier Association of America, Judge's Committee

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²² In addition, as Ms. Streicher reports in Attachment C, a Doberman friend of hers showed to Judge Kenney one time and refuses to show to him again. Ms. Streicher concludes, after recounting in Attachment B several incidents of Judge Kenney's misconduct at a show she attended, that he has a nasty attitude and poor behavior in the ring. Post of "Kari4004" Aug 4 2004, 12:08 AM. Attachment C.

²³ Caliopi was #1 PRT bitch in January, #2 bitch in February and March, #1 bitch in April, #3 bitch in May, and #4 bitch in June.

Posted by: Julie Dalbey Aug 2 2004, 07:08 AM

Ah yes, Norm Kenny, a charming fellow.....NOT!

I showed my just 6 month old plus a couple of days Kuvasz bitch to him last summer. In Kuvasz it is a DQ to be under 24 inches in bitches. My bitch was a 1/4 of an inch under that, I knew it when I went into the ring however I did not want to break the points (which in Kuvasz are sort of like hen's teeth) so I showed her anyway. I did so not expecting to get points on my bitch, just the experience for her in the ring. The first couple of days the judges did not measure her, but they didn't use her either which was just fine with me.

On the Norm Kenney day I brought her in for her single dog class and took her around the ring. When I stacked her he said he was going to wicket her. I said fine. She stood like a rock for him and she measured under. He was perfectly polite the entire time, but smarmy. It was like he was getting off on the whole power trip of it all.

In speaking to other people at that show he apparently booted dogs out of the ring in damn near every breed he judged. He also told a Jr Handler who had been Best Junior the previous day that "you did a better job then this other girl, but since you won it yesterday I don't think you should win it today...you might get a big head".

He is a real piece of work and I would not show to him if they held a dog show with him judging in my front yard. This is in spite of the fact that he was not nasty to me directly, but just based on what I saw in other breeds and heard from many other people. Annette if you did not report his behavior to the rep, you should. As to rest of us, do not give this judge an entry. We need to remember to vote with our pocket books more. If he is on a panel then I will enter all the shows but the one where he is the judge, period.

Posted by: Kari4004 Aug 3 2004, 11:44 PM

Annette and all thinking of showing to Judge Norman Kenney,

Thank you for bringing up this topic. I, too will tell you of my experience with Judge Norm Kenney that happened a few weeks ago to a friend of mine and me.

Beth and I were taking out 2 pups for their first show in Stormville, NY. These pups were just 6 months old. Another friend of mine that breeds Standard Poodles showed up with her husband for support, so they were "witnesses".

I first went in with my 8 month old male pup(only dog in class) he walked 5 steps then Kenney said, "Put him on the table". He spent 2 seconds on him, cranking his mouth open and then told me to do a down and back. He handed me the 1st place ribbon before I got a chance to free stack. OK, well he WAS the only dog in the ring. I had an Open dog that went in with another dog. He gave the same "quick over" that he did with my puppy. Made some comment about how he thought that it was 'stupid' that our breed standard DQ's dogs for missing teeth. I said, "I believe that they allow 4 missing teeth." (Personally, I don't know because I don't have this issue with any of my dogs) He says, "Yeah, well it's a stupid rule. I've never judged a dog with no teeth so it obviously isn't a problem." I went on to do my down & back, a little puzzled as to the conversation I had just had with the judge. He gave the 1st to the other dog. Now, I went out of the ring to get my puppy for WD and I barely got in the ring and he gave WD to the other dog. He then called in my Open dog for Reserve. I told Beth to take his number and walk him in and Kenney said, "Don't worry about it, you(pointing at me with my puppy)get Reserve". I don't feel that he judges the dogs fairly as he barely spent any time on any of them.

Now we go in with the girls.....

Beth and I are in the class together with one other person. We go around and as we get to the table, Kenney says to me, "Put your dog on the table." I set her up and he steps back and says, "Gee, she looks mighty small." I didn't say anything because I didn't know what to say. He calls for the wicket. When the wicket arrived, he measured it and showed me the measurement. I agreed that it was set at 12". He put it on her back and I moved her over so that it was on her withers. She still measured under, so I said, "Thank you." (As I say to ALL judges when I leave the ring) as he told me that I was excused. I stood outside the ring to route on Beth with her pup who is bigger than mine so I knew she wouldn't have a problem. I stood with my Poodle friend who was amazed that he even wicketed a puppy at all. He looks over at Beth and says, "Your next, on the table". She sets her pup nicely and is standing still until he takes the wicket(doesn't show her the measurement, I guess he felt that since he showed it to me that it was OK with her)and DROPS it on the pups shoulder blades. Well ,of course the puppy inverted her back and started to move around. Beth has her with both hands between her front and back legs. Kenney says, "SET YOUR DOG!" Beth set her up again and he "placed" the wicket on her withers and it is off the table by at least 1/4" meaning that her pup is at least 12 1/4" tall. Kenney looks at Beth and says, "JUST BARELY, NOW GET IN LINE." She ended up getting Reserve out of 2 bitches. Like after all that, either of us would expect to get anything anyway.

I've thought about making a complaint but didn't want to look like a "sore loser" because my pup was too small. She is just 6 months old and will most likely be tall enough when she hits full height. Beth and I just wanted to get the girls in the ring for some experience. That was not what we were looking for. It's a good thing Beth's pup is very stable and not much bothers her. That could've ruined her for a long time about going on the table and standing quietly. Beth and I will make a complaint if others will. My Poodle friend will do that same as a spectator. I told our handling teacher when we went to the next class and she said that complaining doesn't really go far, but if this judge is provisional and we have many complaints every time he judges PRT's, maybe we will be heard. Just a thought!

I am interested in hearing about others' experience with this judge. He hasn't had the opportunity to judge too many PRT classes. THANK GOD!!!

Kari Streicher
Willowbrook Terriers & Border Collies

Posted by: Kari4004 Aug 4 2004, 12:08 AM

Now that I have read all the posts about Judge Norm Kenney, I must add that

he is ONLY a PROVISIONAL for PRT's and maybe a few other breeds, but is far from a first time judge. A woman in my handling class has been showing and breeding Dobi's for a long time and she has been judged by him in the past ONCE! She refuses to enter a show where he is the judge. So we are not just making up stuff about this PROVISIONAL JUDGE. I'm afraid that he REALLY is a nasty man!

Kari Streicher
Willowbrook Terriers & Border Collies

ATTACHMENT D.²⁷

Posted by: pacific Aug 4 2004, 08:29 AM

I would like to comment since I was present and showing when all of this took place.. I think that Annette's description of the events is an accurate one. However, there are a couple of things that were not mentioned. I agree that the judge did appear to be in a hurry. He did not really go over the dogs thoroughly, but was rather rough with what he did do. He looked at the head, checked the teeth (cranked the mouth all the way open instead of looking from the side), attempted to span the dogs and that was about it. When he spanned my two dogs, he dropped both of their fronts down on the table instead of setting them down. Since Annette was not actually in the ring, perhaps she did not realize how rough he was on the dogs. Also, after he awarded Winner's Bitch, he had the steward start bringing in the specials without having my second place bitch come back in for reserve. When I asked about it, he just handed me the reserve ribbon.

All in all, his procedure and attitude were both very poor. I have never seen a judge be so incredibly rude to both exhibitors and spectators. As to the measuring issue, based on what I saw, I do not think that he had the wicket set correctly. When this judge wicketed the bitch, there was quite a large space between the wicket and the dog. I know that Annette's bitch is on the small side, but I do believe that she is within the standard. We all know that any dog that is very close to the size limit could possibly measure out on any given day. But if the wicket is set incorrectly, it's almost certain. However, since no one got to look at the wicket, we'll never know for sure, will we????.

Also, Although he may be provisional for PRTs, he has been around judging for a long time and I am fairly sure that he is fully licensed for many breeds. It's even sadder to think that an experienced judge would behave this way.

Diane Turner

²⁷

Id.