

## Step into the Fray

How many of us in the dog world really work for the overall picture and try to do the best for the complete World of Dogs? There are a lot of us out there working and working very hard, but just how many do this unselfishly and in a comprehensive manner? How often do we let our personal dislikes of so and so put just a small brake on what could be a good idea just because so and so may benefit? How many think if this was done, or if that was not done, someone else may benefit better than I may? Worse still, if those practices were introduced or other practices rescinded, I may suffer and not be as successful as I could be?

Is there any thought given that a compromise should be made for the general overall benefit of all the members, be it a Breed Club, a Group Club, an All Breeds Club or a Governing Council, or perhaps the general exhibitors and the hard working show committees some of whom don't even show?

I could come up with quite a few examples of all of the above and sometimes I have been as guilty as the next person, so I think everyone out there could fall into one or all of the above categories, and we haven't realized it. Some of the rules made recently in some of the Controls have had to be rescinded because due thought was not given as to whether these regulations could work successfully or not, and whether or not these were for the general well being of the majority. I'm not saying the movers and seconders forwarded these motions out of spite, selfishness, or just plain lack of thought, far from it. Sometimes these motions are put forwarded too quickly, just because some persuasive person has got into the ear of a receptive, honest, hardworking person who has not paused to mull through all pros and cons, sometimes their lack of experience has contributed to this a well. The most important thing to do is always be able to stand back and see that we should look at the overall picture, and be prepared to undo things. It's no disgrace to admit that one has made an unworkable decision. All State Controls have done this over the years, some of these reversals have been done by the proposers, some have had to wait for a new regime to get things done, and then the new regime has done the same thing all over again, such is human nature. I have spent my life looking for the perfect dog and I will spend the rest of my life looking for the perfect form of giving the best and most suitable set of regulations for all the exhibitors, show administrators, judges, stewards, show representatives, and I think my search will be as fruitless as looking for the perfect dog.

It would be easy to nominate some of these inadequacies in rules and regulations, but I would be falling into the same category as all of the above. Just because I find fault in a rule does that make it "good" or "bad" for everyone else? The rules and regulations that perhaps irk me may not irk another, so work must be done to see what would improve the lot of the majority, and we all know how silent this percentage can be!

Some of the weaknesses of a few of the newer rules, were not realized until some of this "silent" majority gave voice. Hopefully, these new rules may be aborted, but we perhaps need to put some others in place and a lot more open forum needs to be allowed before our elected representatives vote on really important issues. Being bogged down in red tape is not wise either, otherwise nothing will be done and after all, we elected these people to act on our behalf, but that does not open the doors for a dictatorship to take over. What's good for twelve, fifteen or twenty men and women may not be what is good for the fifty, seventy, or hundreds of the other members. We are not God, or even a Pope, and we all have many human failings, I know I would be one of the worst offenders for leaping into anything first and thinking later. Oops! what have I done? We are all guilty of this and once we acknowledge this, we are half way there to improve our vision.

We can't make the world perfect, and we can't even make the canine world the same way, but we can all try. We can begin by putting aside our own little prejudices, jealousies and personalities, and begin to see the overall picture. Why stop so and so from performing or getting a few "brownie" points because that person is not liked by the person concerned? We all have our personality hang-ups, and sometimes we don't know why, but give ourselves some breathing time before making these decisions, and we may even find out we were right all along or we could be wrong. Never be too much of an important, pumped up person to admit a mistake nor one who will always say "I told You so". Just try to get your own "brownie" points by giving generously, non discriminatory and being unbiased of your talents and time, and we all should benefit in our wonderful world of dogs.

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## They love their dogs in Japan!

I had the pleasure of being invited to judge in Yokohama, Japan earlier this year. What an experience! The people in Japan are very professional and I judged some of the best dogs I had ever seen. They treat their judges like royalty. It was cold both days, approximately 8 Degrees Celsius and I judged outside. The exhibitors were well prepared for the cold weather and had heating for the dogs in their tents etc. Some exhibitors also had dryers on hand, which were powered by generators. The entry fee is expensive, 8000 YEN (US\$65) per entry. The quality overall was good and the dogs were well presented. Their handlers were some of the best I had seen also.

The judging system in Japan is similar to that in the United States. However, they have the Best King and Best Queen in each breed, which are judged separately and they never meet for Best of Breed. 3 finalists are chosen from each sex at Group and In Show. My Best King in Show was a white Toy Poodle, who moved with purpose and owned the ring. My best Queen In Show was a Giant Schnauzer, she was outstanding and took my breath away. They then met for BIS and I gave it to the Giant Schnauzer.

I visited some kennels and their dogs are in GREAT condition, happy and well cared for. Some people may think that there is not a lot of room for exercising dogs in Japan but this certainly was not the case in my observations. One home I visited had several dogs inside lying around on leather lounge suites. Oh what a life!

Dachshunds are everywhere. I saw a Miniature Longhaired Dachshund running through the streets of Japan with his woolies on, having the best time. Dachshunds are big in numbers at the shows too. I saw a few Kaninchens, which are smaller than the normal Miniature Dachshund and longer on leg.

One breed, that I found to be consistent in quality and type in numbers, was American Cocker Spaniels. One exhibitor had several dogs entered and each of them was outstanding.

Oh, the food was GREAT too!

**Eric Soti**



## OFFENBURG : 15-16 MÄRCH 2003

2443 entrees

Best In Show Judge : K. Gendrung



Left  
BEST IN SHOW  
Briard  
Bingo de la Cruche d'Argile

Right  
RUNNER UP TO BIS  
Maltese  
Giramondo Dell'Antica Storis



Photos by Roberto