

American Stockdog Registry Jr. Showmanship

Appearance of the Handler

The handler should appear neat and well groomed. The entire picture of the dog and handler should be one of symmetry and be appealing to the judge.

Attitude of the Handler

The handler must be a good sport in the ring and outside the ring. He/she must exhibit a positive attitude toward other exhibitors as well as the judge. Courtesy to the judge and the other handlers is important. Handlers must be alert and attentive to what is going on in the ring, as well as to their dog, and its behavior. Smoothness and continual control of the dog is mandatory.

Handlers should listen to the judge's directions. If a handler is unable to hear what the judge says for directions, he/she should ask the judge to please repeat what was said.

There should be no help from outside the ring to coach a handler or distract a dog.

Appearance of the Dog

The dog should be well groomed with clean, mat free hair, toenails cut to the proper length, teeth cleaned, and void of fleas and ticks. Its eyes should be clear, and its coat free of tear stains. Its ears should be clean with no excess earwax or dirt. Whiskers and hair on the legs, feet, and ears can be trimmed if it is appropriate.

Show Ring Procedures

Armbands should be worn on the left arm with the number visible to the judge. Judging will begin when the handler and dog enter the ring. The handler should set up (stack) the dog quietly and quickly, ideally leaving three to four feet between them and the dog and handler directly in front of them.

Do not crowd. The judge needs room to walk between dogs if he/she prefers. Keep moving Forward and restacking the dog as the dogs in front are individually gaited and moved to the end of the line. Bait (treats) and/or toys are allowed, and when used properly, capture and hold the dog's attention.

For breeds normally examined on the table at conformation shows, the handler should follow the judge's instructions about when to table the dog. Unless indicated otherwise, the handler should place the dog on the table while the preceding dog is being gaited.

Stack the dog facing the judge, with the front feet approximately one inch away from the edge of table.

During the individual exam, the judge will normally ask the exhibitor to "show the bite" (teeth). To show the bite, gently pull up the lips to reveal the bite of the dog with the mouth closed, keeping the leash out of the way. Premolars may be shown by raising the flews on each side of the dog's mouth.

As the judge begins to examine the dog's front, the handler should move out of the way. The handler needs to adjust his/her position as needed during the exam, while keeping control of the dog. Should a judge disturb the coat, or misplace a foot, the handler should reposition the coat or foot.