

ALL-BREED, JUDGE CATHY DAUGHERTY

First I would like to thank the club for inviting me. I had a wonderful time in spite of the weather. It was great to see a regional club so active and having a lot of fun in the process.

When I judge my first “cut” is always based on proper outline. In order to have proper outline, the center of gravity has to be in the right place. Your illustrated standard has a great drawing of this under Structure and Proportion. I am referring to the drawing showing an off square dog where you can clearly see that “feet are under the ears”. If the center of gravity is not in the right spot, the dog cannot have proper outline or underline and look like what it is supposed to be. One of the most important statements in your standard tells us that the dog appears square. There is some give and take there because your standard also states that the dog is actually slightly (there is that darn word – different things to different people) longer than tall. Your breed is a perimeter and alert breed similar in many ways to some of the European tending breeds who work a perimeter or act as a fence.

In all placements, I looked for correct outline and underline as well as large, well-muscled dogs with sturdy bone. I also looked for dogs that could hold their outline and underline while at a trot without losing their level top lines. I looked for dogs that could work that perimeter all day.

Some deal breakers were kinky tails (I consider this a major fault) as well as coats that were dull and too curly.

As a breed, you need to work on fronts. On the other hand, I feel that side gait is much more important and judged accordingly.

I found that there was more quality in dogs than in bitches. In my experience this goes back and forth and some years the bitches as a whole are exceptional while in others the dogs. I found temperaments to be fabulous – kudos to all of you. Bites were generally good with full dentition.

Again, thank you for having me and good luck in the future with your wonderful breed.

Cathy Daugherty