

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A TRAINING CONFERENCE

The following information is provided to enhance the learning experience and to improve the success of candidates at training conferences. This information provides guidance to what information is essential in becoming an ADGA licensed judge. It is expected that each participant studies the relevant sections of the ADGA Guidebook prior to the training conference. Much of that material is provided here as a study guide and you will be expected to be well versed in this information. To succeed at passing the Judges Training Conference, there is no substitute for the experience of working with animals. The scorecards should be “second nature” to be able to apply them accurately in selecting animals for placement. In addition, a strong mental image of the characteristics of the ideal animal should be well in mind.

Guidebook Study

Read and study the ADGA Guidebook beginning with XII. Rules Governing the Conduct of Official Shows (page 89 in the 2021 Guidebook) and ending with the ADGA Scorecards (on page 152) are essential. All sections of the Guidebook from page 89 to page 152 are essential information for candidates at Training Conferences. You should know this information in detail and from memory. There are four sections on the exam including parts and terminology, rules, evaluation of defects and the report of awards Please remember to bring your Guidebook to the Pre-Training Conference and Training Conference. There is also a guidebook you can download on the ADGA website. You can not pass the judges training exam without knowledge from the guidebook.

Judging Classes of Animals

Each class that you are asked to judge at the training conference will consist of four animals. This includes practice classes as well as classes that are scored to determine if you will qualify for a judge’s license. You will be asked to place classes of animals and give reasons both in front of other conference participants and privately in front of a panel of ADGA licensed judges, who will score your reasons. On the day of the exam, you will be asked to place at minimum 8 classes of animals and give oral reasons on two of those classes. Reasons are scored separately on accuracy and presentation, and you must pass both to earn a license. The accuracy and presentations scores are averaged over the two sets to give a final accuracy score and final presentation score. The minimum scores needed to attain or advanced a license can be found in the guidebook on page 130 of the 2021 guidebook. Microphones will not be used to project your voice, so you should be prepared to speak loudly enough to be clearly heard and understood. Class placings will be scored using the Hormel System. There are many resources available on the Internet that will allow you to learn about the Hormel System. You will not be required to know how to use the system to obtain a judge’s license.

Reasons

Reasons are a critical component of the licensing process. The majority of candidates who are unsuccessful at passing a Training Conference cannot give adequate reasons that are correctly formatted and presented. Please pay particular attention to the parts of the Guidebook that address reasons and proper terminology, which you will be expected to use. Also included in these study materials are practice reasons sheets to work with. Practice is critical in developing the skill to deliver strong sets of reasons. You may find it helpful to practice at home, speaking aloud in front of a mirror or

friends or family. Pictures of animals can be used in this practice and can be very helpful to practice terminology and flow of giving reasons but do also practice with live animals. Each candidate gets approximately seven minutes to work a class of animals prior to giving reasons in front of the panel.

Report of Awards

You will be required to know how to complete a Report of Awards. The Guidebook contains directions for completion of the ROA. If you do not have experience completing a Report of Awards and would like a blank copy to practice, you can download it from the ADGA web site (under the "Show" section).

Appropriate Attire

If you are a candidate for a judge's license you are asked to dress professionally throughout the conference. It is recommended that on the final day of the TC when you will be giving oral reasons to the panel, you dress as you would to judge a prestigious show. Your appearance will be scored as a part of your qualification for a judge's license. Jeans or shorts are not appropriate for any part of the conference. Khakis, business casual, or similar is acceptable attire.

Planning and Scheduling

You will be expected to be present for all parts of the Pre Training Conference and Training Conference for which you are registered. The sessions last until about 5 PM each day. Please make your travel arrangements accordingly. Attendance will be taken. The Pre-training conference consists of classroom and animal work from 8 AM to 5 PM. Saturday begins with the written exam, followed by additional classroom work and the afternoon will be practicing giving reasons. Sunday is the animal placement and reasons scoring and typically goes until 5PM, but can go later.

Testing

The written test is closed book and will be administered on the first morning of the conference. The test is timed and usually takes about 2 hours to complete. Be sure to review the standards that must be met to pass this test. If testing accommodations are needed, please contact the training conference chair or chairpersons

Questions

The panel and instructors are there to help you. Please contact the Judges Training Committee Chairs for assistance or with questions.