

WEIGHTY PROBLEMS

Weight is an important aspect of the proper French Bulldog as our standard states that any French Bulldog over 28 pounds is a disqualification. Recently people are posting on social media regarding the weighing of dogs in the ring. The comments, some accurate and others not, address the inadequacies of the superintendents' scales, the expectations and experience of the exhibitors, and the proficiency or lack thereof of the judge. These problems are being addressed as follows:

1. **Equipment.** Scales are not uniform. Some scales have too small a base so that the dog may not comfortably stand on the scale, some have slick surfaces, and some have unstable surfaces. These inferior scales make it very difficult for both judge and exhibitor to use the scales. AKC Delegates that are FBDCA members, especially Cindy Stansell, Gale Golden and Virginia Rowland, raised the issue concerning the inadequacy of some scales. They successfully campaigned for a rule requiring appropriately sized scales. Unfortunately, the deadline for the implementation of the rule has been delayed in order to accommodate the superintendents that may be financially distressed by their loss of income during the pandemic. We continue to urge the AKC to require that minimum bases of non-slip surface be required immediately.
2. **Breed Mentors.** FBDCA Breed Mentors will now be required to receive training and pass a weighing test administered by an AKC Executive Field Representative. This better prepares them in instructing new judging applicants to the breed. This was considered necessary after receiving evidence that some mentors did not thoroughly understand the procedure.
3. **Judges' Education.** Scales are a part of all FBDCA judges' education at specialties. At AKC/DJAA/or ADSJ institutes they are conducted by an AKC field representative.
4. **Judges.** If you believe that a measurement is not being conducted correctly, please contact the AKC Representative immediately. A representative usually accompanies the scales to the ring, but if not, ask for the representative to come to the ring at the first sign of trouble. When in attendance, the AKC representative is solely responsible for addressing a judge's inadequacies in weighing. If the AKC representative is not at the show, please contact me with the particulars of the deviations from correct procedure and the committee will address. If an AKC Representative finds the procedure to be faulty, the judge must undertake retraining and a weighing test administered by an AKC representative *before* he/she may judge another weighable breed. If they fail that test, then all measurable breeds are removed from the breed which they may judge.
5. **Exhibitors.** We are encouraging you to become more familiar with the process. Some comments on social media indicate a theoretical knowledge but not a practical knowledge of the procedure. This has resulted in inaccurate reporting of what transpired in the ring. At the next national we will be offering weighing courses for all exhibitors interested in the process. These mini courses will include a summary of your right to protest, how you can assist the process if your

WEIGHTY PROBLEMS

dog is weighed, and some hands-on to better understand the judge's perspective. In the meantime, please review the following links for weighing dogs:

This link will connect you to a written description of the procedure.

https://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/measuring_weighing.pdf.

A video demonstration of the procedure can be found here:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=akc+measuring+and+weighing+technique&view=detail&mid=3136A92518F8EF21ECB73136A92518F8EF21ECB7&FORM=VIRE&PC=APPL>.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Robin Stansell

FBDCA JEC

allbreeddogs@gmail.com

