

KC Press Release: Weighing & Measuring Of Dogs

22-Jan-07

At its meeting on 9th January 2007, the General Committee agreed in principle, in line with the Kennel Club's objective of recognising the importance of canine health and welfare, that the mandatory weighing of Miniature Dachshunds as required in Regulation F(1) paragraph 21(k) should cease as soon as possible. At the same time it was also agreed in principle to remove the regulation which demands that Miniature and Toy Poodles and German Spitz must be measured before receiving a class award (F(1) 22 (j)).

The decision on Miniature Dachshunds was taken to remove the perception in the minds of many people that some dogs are deprived of food and/or water prior to competition, in order to meet the maximum weight requirement for Miniatures as outlined in the Dachshund breed standard. The General Committee was concerned to protect the Dachshund and Dachshund exhibitors from adverse criticism. It was also pointed out that it is not custom and practice under Kennel Club Rules, for breed standards to have disqualifying faults and therefore the Dachshund breed standard should be brought into line with other standards by the removal of the effective disqualification of Miniatures over 11 lbs.

However, before introducing the various Regulation amendments and the breed standard change, the Committee decided that Dachshund breed clubs should be informed of the reasons for the planned amendments and advised that these would be finalised unless the breed clubs can provide substantial health or welfare grounds as to why the changes should not be implemented.

As stated above, and as a consequence of the discussion on removing the mandatory weighing of Dachshunds, the Committee has also agreed in principle that the mandatory measuring of Poodles and German Spitz (Mittel) & (Klein) should also cease so as to bring these breeds in line with all others. However, as with the Dachshund situation, it was agreed that the German Spitz breed clubs and the Poodle Breed Council should be contacted and asked for any substantial health or welfare grounds as to why the General Committee's decision should not finally be implemented.

As can be seen from the following planned regulation changes, the Committee is deciding that the weighing and measuring of dogs will no longer be mandatory. This will not however prevent judges from choosing to weigh or measure if they so wish. In such circumstances they would be required to provide the relevant equipment themselves.

The planned breed standard amendment and intended changes to the regulations are given below:

Dachshund Breed Standard

Size

From:

Miniature ideal weight; 4.5kgs (10lbs). It is of the utmost importance that judges should not award prizes to animals over 5.0kgs (11lbs).

To:

Miniature ideal weight; 4.5kgs (10lbs). Desired maximum weight 5kgs (11lbs).

F Regulations

F(1)21 delete paragraphs j and k as follows

F(1)21. Judges & Judging – delete following sub-paragraphs.

j. Before a Poodle (Miniature), Poodle (Toy), German Spitz (Mittel) or German Spitz (Klein) receives a class award at a Show, it must be measured by the Judge with the appropriate measure on a hard level non-slippery surface.

k. Before the judging of each class of Dachshunds (Miniature) each new dog must be weighed by the judge or with the judge observing.

add a new sub-paragraph j.

It is at a judge's discretion if dogs are to be weighed or measured. Judges who wish to do so must provide the appropriate weighing scales or measures.

Re-number existing sub-paragraphs accordingly

F(1)4. Facilities – delete following sub-paragraphs.

e. Certified measures for every class where competition is subject to a height limit specified in the definition of the class and for use by the judge of any breed at a show if required.

For the judging of Poodles (Miniature) and Poodles (Toy), fixed bridge type metal measures of 38cms (15 ins) and 29cms (11.5 ins) respectively.

f. Certified weighing machines of all classes where competition is subject to a weight limit specified in the definition of the class.

Current Regulations will of course remain in force while the representations of the various breed clubs and councils are being submitted and considered by the General Committee.

Date:

22-Jan-07