

## JUDGING PROCEDURE - PBGVs

The Kennel Club gives advice but does not lay down any prescribed method to use when judging. How the result is achieved is up to each individual judge who is advised to establish a routine. The following is a suggested routine for judging PBGVs, leading to the placing of exhibits in order as considered best fits the breed standard.

**1. MOVE EXHIBITS ROUND THE RING, PREFERABLY TWICE** This enables PBGVs and exhibitors to settle down and allows the judge to note potentially good and poor exhibits. This view of each hound is useful - but is only a first impression.



**2. INDIVIDUAL EXAMINATION** It is usual for PBGVs to be exhibited on a table. Although optional, most judges and exhibitors prefer this as it allows the judge to view the overall dog in a higher position and at an additional angle to the one given when the PBGV is stacked on the ground in the line-up. However, as the judge, it is your decision and exhibitors will respect this. If you intend using a table, make sure one is available before you start judging.

*View from a distance:* Start your judging by viewing the overall PBGV at a distance. Note **BALANCE, SIZE, BREED TYPE** and **QUALITY**.

*View of front:* Move in front, study **HEAD SHAPE, EARSET** and **LENGTH, EXPRESSION**. Check **EYE** and **NOSE COLOUR**, examine **BITE**. Look at placement of **FOREQUARTERS, FRONT FEET**.

*View of body:* Move to the side, check length of **NECK, SHOULDERS, ELBOWS, RIBCAGE, HEIGHT:LENGTH RATIO, COUPLINGS, TAIL** length and set, **HINDQUARTER** angulation, **HOCKS, FEET, COAT** texture, condition and colour.

*View of rear:* Move to rear. Check alignment of **HINDQUARTERS, MUSCULARITY** of **THIGHS** and entirety of male PBGVs.

*Stand back:* Review overall **BALANCE, SIZE** and **BREED TYPE**.

**3. MOVEMENT** A PBGV depends greatly on movement to carry out its original function as efficient hunter. Judging this aspect is therefore vital. Movement must be viewed from the rear, front and side. It is normal to ask the exhibitor to move the dog over a triangular course. Size and shape of the ring may prevent this, in which case up and back several times allows the judge to move to one side and view all angles. When assessing movement, look for:

*From the rear:* Straight alignment, **FREE MOVEMENT** and **GREAT DRIVE** of **HINDQUARTERS, HOCKS** turning neither in nor out.

*From the front:* Straight alignment of **FOREQUARTERS, REACHING WELL FORWARD**.

*From the side:* **BALANCE, HEAD** carried proudly, level **TOPLINE, MUSCLED LOIN, TAIL** carried sabre-like.



**4. FINAL CHECK** Having examined and moved all exhibits, look at the line up - bearing in mind how you consider each PBGV matches up to the breed standard. If in doubt, re-check any aspect such as eye colour, shoulder placement, tightness of elbows, strength of hindquarters. Unsure of soundness of movement? Move all again, either in turn or together round the ring.



**5. SELECT** Final selection is easier in a large class if reduced to fewer exhibits. Make it clear to exhibitors that you are making a short-cut. Try not to reduce to six, which leaves one exhibit unplaced. A further request to move again may well be delayed until after making any cut.

**6. FINAL PLACINGS** Place in correct order 1-5 left to right - never in reverse order. With your steward's help, place the exhibits facing the majority spectators. A quick visual check ensures placings are as desired. Try not to move exhibits once placed in the line-up as this is unwelcome.

**BE CONFIDENT, ESTABLISH A ROUTINE AND STICK TO IT**