

Thank you to Okehampton & DCS for inviting me to judge the YKC handling classes on 30/04/2022

I tried to speak to each handler at the end of each class to offer some feedback & tips for the future (however a few hurried out the ring before I got to them)

I think it's important for judges to explain their placings on the day right down the line – how else will our juniors learn & improve?

#### YKC Handling Class 6 – 11 yrs 3 (1)

1<sup>st</sup> H2 – Texas-Lee Dunstone handling a Norfolk Terrier. Handled her charge very well & followed my feet when I asked for the pattern. Don't forget you are being watched from the moment you enter the ring & the Golden Rule still applies! Very smart young lady – Good luck at Crufts 2023!

2<sup>nd</sup> H3 – Lewis Wilkinson handling a Dachshund. A good effort from this young man. You need to remember to bring a poo bag with you into the class in case of accidents – don't worry, it happens to all of us! Be aware of where your judges' feet are and always start your pattern work from the judges' feet. Shadowing is quite a skill to master so see if you can practice with a friend.

#### YKC Handling Class 12 - 16 yrs 7 (1)

Most handlers in this class need to learn some simple points of the dog & the difference between showing the teeth & bite!

1<sup>st</sup> H7 – Harriet Duffield handling a Bedlington Terrier. A very smart young lady who caught my eye as soon as she entered the ring. Good table work & lovely patterns. Was aware of where I was all the time without being over the top about it. Good luck at Crufts in 2023!

2<sup>nd</sup> H5 – Elayna Mitchell handling a JRT. Another very good young handler and I'm sure could swap places with 1 on another day. Good table work & patterns. Just slightly off with the straight lines & shadowing. Having handled JRT's I do appreciate they can be a little challenging at times!

3<sup>rd</sup> H9 – Nicholas Duffield handling another JRT. Good table work & was aware of where I was most of the time. Straight lines & shadowing need some more practice to give a more polished performance but good effort here today.

#### YKC Handling Class 17 - 24 yrs 7 (0)

What a fabulous class of young handlers. The ones who have come up through the ranks really shone through which always makes it a tough job if you are just starting out. Practice as much as you can – learn the art of shadowing, canine anatomy & the difference between teeth & bite & before long you will be challenging them for that win!

1<sup>st</sup> H15 Paige Edens handling a Dalmatian. Foot perfect from start to finish. Calm & collected through her stand & pattern work. Always aware of my position. Knew her anatomy question without hesitation & listened to my requests during her pattern work. A really talented young handler & one who I would entrust my own dogs to anytime. Well done & good luck at Crufts 2023!

2<sup>nd</sup> H14 Meaylee Lewis handling a flat coat retriever. Another outstanding handler who could change places with 1 easily. Anatomy question was easy for her, showing her dogs teeth/bite was flawless. Patterns & shadowing were performed correctly & the only slight thing I could fault her on was her

dog just fell in slightly around a corner meaning it just wasn't quite as tight as 1 had performed it. Would easily win on another day.

3<sup>rd</sup> H13 Kizzy Porter handling a Labrador. Another super young handler again could change places with 1 & 2 on another day. Good patterns & shadowing. The only thing I picked up on was when asked for an up & down in the final line up she was just a bit too close to me – ideally, I am looking for 3 paces so I can have a good view of the dog without having to step back.

I really was just splitting hairs in this class and you are all shining examples to the younger handlers that are coming through.

Zoe Adey (Rubeusbay)