

## **DOGS WEST JUNIOR HANDLER COMPETITION DOMESTIC RULES**

### **1. Qualifying Year**

The Dogs West Junior Handler qualifying heats for the Dogs West Junior Handler State Final will be run from 1 July until 30 June each year. All Junior Handlers who have qualified for the State Final are eligible to compete in the State Final that year which **MUST** be held between 1 July and 31 October (on a date at least two weeks prior to the date of the National Final).

### **2. Eligibility of Dog**

Dogs used for Dogs West Junior Handlers competitions must be ANKC Main Registered but do not necessarily need to be entered in the show at which the competition is being held. They must be at least 12 months of age. Bitches in Season are not permitted. As per the ANKC Junior Handler Manual, Neuters may also be used.

### **3. Suitability of the Dog/Breed**

If the Judge or a Dogs West Junior Handler Working Party member feels that a Junior Handler is not able to control the dog that the Junior Handler is competing with, the Judge may excuse the Junior Handler from the ring. If this occurs the Judge **MUST** explain to the Junior Handler, prior to excusing him/her the reasons for being excused (ie the dog was not under appropriate control and could therefore cause a danger to other exhibits and exhibitors).

### **4. Qualifying Heats**

Dogs West qualifying heats may be held at any all breeds championship show in Western Australia. All three age classes **must** be offered. There is no limit as to how many competitions may be held in one year. As per the ANKC Rules **each All Breeds Club MUST** conduct at least one Dogs West Junior Handler heat per year.

### **5. Qualifying of Junior Handlers**

To qualify to compete in the Dogs West Junior Handler State final a competitor must:

- (a) have been given a first or second place at one heat in the appropriate age group

### **6. Award of Placings**

When awarding places the following will occur:

- (a) The Judge will place the Handlers from First to Third.
- (b) The qualifying ribbon will be then offered to the first place getter, if the first place getter has qualified, then it will be offered to the second place getter. If both the first and second place getter have qualified no qualifier will be awarded.

**7. Participation in Heats**

A competitor competing in Dogs West Heats should be eligible to compete in the state final as per the age groups outlines in the ANKC manual.

**8. Number of Times a Handler May Compete.**

There is no limit to how many heats a Junior Handler may compete in and place.

**9. Number of Times A Handler May Qualify**

The Junior Handlers may only qualify once for the Dogs West Junior Handlers State Final but may still continue to compete in the heats.

**10. Breed Being Exhibited**

Once a Junior Handler gained a First Place, with a breed, as included in the ANKC list of breeds for conformation shows, they are then not allowed to compete with that breed again in that competition year.

**11. State Final Participation**

A handler accepting the invitation to compete in the state finals, acknowledge that they should be prepared, if they were to win the State Final, to travel to compete in the National Final in October/November of that year. They should also be prepared that if they were to win the National Final, that they are able to travel internationally to compete at Crufts in the United Kingdom the following March

**12. Double Handling**

Double Handling is not acceptable as it can give an unfair advantage. Any double handling occurring in the ring, noticed by a Dogs West Junior Handler Working Party member or the Judge will result in the handler being asked to leave the ring.

**13. Encouraging Good Ethics**

- a) It is the responsibility of the judge to notify a Dogs West Junior Handler Working Party member if they see or hear of any inappropriate behaviour before, during or after judging.
- b) If a handler regularly handles or trains with a person who is judging a heat, they shall not participate in that heat.

#### **14. Dogs West Junior Handler Co-ordinator**

The responsibilities of the Dogs West Junior Handler Co-ordinator are:

- (a) To arrange Dogs West Junior Handler Heats to be conducted at as many all breeds championship shows in WA as possible;
- (b) To make arrangements for the Dogs West Junior Handler State Final, such as:
  - (i) Liaising with an all breeds club to conduct the Final at their show;
  - (ii) Arranging a suitable judge for the event;
  - (iii) Arranging suitable trophies/awards for the competitors;
  - (iv) Arranging suitable swap dogs;
  - (v) Any other items that may be required for the successful running of the final.
- (c) Arrange fundraising which should help cover:
  - (i) Trophies/awards;
  - (ii) Flights/Accommodation (if necessary) for the Judge;
  - (iii) Flights/Accommodation for the Junior Handler and a chaperone to the National Final;
  - (iv) Excess Baggage costs to fly the Junior Handler's dog of choice with them to the final up to the value of \$250 return;
  - (v) Any other costs that may arise from time to time in relation to the Dogs West Junior Handler Competition.
- (d) Help to arrange, and at times conduct, the Dogs West Junior Handler training as required;
- (e) Other tasks which may arise from time to time in relation to the successful running of the competition.

The Dogs West Junior Handler Co-ordinator may, as required, employ the assistance of other Dogs West members in the running of these events.