



Behaviour/Temperament

By Yvonne Bekkers (FCI-The Netherlands)
International Rottweiler Specialist Judge (FCI)



yvonnebekkers1976@gmail.com

www.Facebook.com/KabukiCartoons

Behaviour/Temperament

In the FCI/ADRK breed standard, it states:

Behaviour/Temperament

Good-natured, placid in basic disposition and fond of children, very devoted, obedient, biddable and eager to work. His appearance is natural and rustic, his behaviour self-assured, steady and fearless. He reacts to his surroundings with great alertness.

In my experiences in the ring, overall the dogs that I encounter are well-behaved. Just a couple of times have I had to disqualify or degrade a dog for being aggressive or for being very insecure.

Those dogs have no place in the show ring. Sometimes the handler tells me, "This kind of behavior I have never seen before." The only thing I can hope is that it is the truth, because dogs with that kind of behavior have no place in our society. Our breed does not benefit from dogs like that because the media reports can only harm our breed.

There are already countries who have banned or restricted our breed. There are also countries who prohibit importing of Rottweilers (see <https://petolog.com/articles/banned-dogs/> for more information).



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FCI regulations for show judges

Not only is the behaviour and temperament of our Rottweiler recorded, there are rules and regulations for judges. As an FCI judge, there are many rules that I must obey. The full document with all the regulations is on the FCI website (<http://www.fci.be/en/Show-Judges-44.html>).

Here are some examples:

- Prepare for each show by studying the FCI Standard
- Always be thorough and careful in the work
- Judge according to the FCI standard
- Obey the FCI Show Judge's Code of Commitment to the welfare of purebred dogs

In this document, there are also regulations about the judge's behavior. For example:

- A judge should never be late for his judging appointment or leave the show grounds before he has completely fulfilled the duties that were assigned to him.

- Under no circumstances can a judge solicit appointments to judge.
- A judge is not permitted to consult the catalogue of the show before or during his judging.
- In the ring, a judge must behave properly and examine all dogs indiscriminately. He should be soberly and properly dressed, in accordance with the duty to be fulfilled, and should always be correct and urbane.
- A judge cannot smoke, drink alcohol or use his mobile phone in the ring while judging.
- A judge is not allowed to travel to the shows where he is judging with those exhibitors who are showing under him at those events. Under no circumstances should a judge socialize or stay with the exhibitors who will be showing under him. A judge may do so only AFTER his judging appointment is completed.



If I, as a judge, do not obey these rules, it can result in penalties. Some examples:

- Any judge violating, in any way, the FCI show regulations and/or the national ones as well as the FCI regulations for show judges falls under the jurisdiction of his FCI National Organization (NO), which has to penalize the judge in question if the violation has been proven. The FCI NOs are obliged to pass a rule which enforces them to penalize any misconduct or any violation from their judges.
- It must be guaranteed that the judge in question shall be heard, either verbally or in writing. The judge must be given the right to appeal against the decision. No person having been involved in imposing the penalty may be a member of the authority where the appeal is made.

The FCI NO should foresee the following penalty options:

- Settle the case without penalization
- Issue a warning with or without threatening to ban the judge from judging
- Banning the person to judge for a certain period of time
- Cancellation as a judge
- Refusal or withdrawal of the permission(s) to judge abroad.
- After becoming legally effective, the FCI has to be informed about the decision by its FCI NO.
- If a judge has been penalized it will state so on the official website of the FCI (<http://www.fci-judge.org/FciJudge/>).

On this website, it lists all FCI judges by name and the breeds that they are allowed to judge. It also states what kind of penalty a judge has received, if applicable.

Regulations for exhibitors at shows

As you can see, there are many rules and regulations for the Rottweiler as well as for the judges. You can only wonder why there are no rules and regulations for the exhibitors as well.

I have been a judge since 2008 and have had the pleasure to judge in 16 different countries with a total of 39 judgments. The experiences are overall wonderful and I'm honored that I'm being asked. But sometimes the judging will be overshadowed by incidents in the ring, around the ring, or even after the judging on social media. I know that I am not the only judge who has to deal with this and I understand when people are disappointed if they do not win. When people get personal, rude and even aggressive, then I draw the line. You can talk to me and ask me why your dog did not get the result you were hoping for, but stay polite! The same goes for the people around the ring. Even if you do not agree, there is no need to use all kinds of nasty words or even call out threats.

The behavior is not only directed at the judge. Sometimes the handlers in the ring will have a go at each other-screaming, yelling, walking the dogs very close together, passing other dogs while running in line, and so on.

Regulations for exhibitors around the show

There are some subjects I want to address just because I find them funny. It has to do with ethics. When I am invited to judge and the club makes a public announcement I will have a lot of new "friends." I will receive many emails and private

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messages. People send me photos of their dog, asking me what I think of the dog. They send me photos of a dog along with the full pedigree and titles and state that they "hope for a good result."

One incident made a big impression on me. After a show, I received a death threat from an anonymous person. After some investigation, I found out that the person was not even at the show and did not have a dog entered. Nor was there a dog of this person's breeding at the show!

Respect

When I'm in the ring judging, I do my best to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible, especially new handlers. I will shake hands and help out if I can. I will show respect to everyone, even if some handlers think that I'm the enemy. I know that not everyone agrees with my judging and I can understand that. I hope that everyone at the show will get what I am looking for in a dog and that they respect me as I explain them in the ring. Even if we are not "friends", your dog can win! When I'm inside the ring, I try to find the dog who is closest to the FCI breed standard. I will do my best to find all the good and less good things in the dog, but I'm still human and yes, sometimes I may miss something.

Some people seem to forget that it's just a dog show—they are supposed to be fun. But with all the money going around in the dog world (not only with the Rottweiler), people treat showing as a business. That's fine, but you can still be polite towards other handlers, the organization, and the judge.



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On a positive note

When you are reading this article, you may wonder, "Why the hell do you want to be a judge? Well, that's easy. The things I wrote about above are incidental.



Most of the time I have a wonderful time. All the beautiful and unique dogs that I get to see all over the world, all the people I get to meet, all exhibitors that are polite, all the information about other countries' rules and regulations, all the lovely time I get to spend in a foreign country, all the explaining and reassuring I get to do in and around the ring with new handlers and not to forget all the things I learn myself every time I judge is what makes judging so much fun for me. I feel blessed and honored!

Until we meet again
Yvonne

YVONNE BEKKERS
FCI ROTTWEILER CONFORMATION JUDGE

YVONNE BEKKERS | FLUENT IN ENGLISH, DUTCH & GERMAN
YVONNEBEKKERS1976@GMAIL.COM | WWW.VANBERINISHOFKE.NL

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