

Twenty Things to Annoy Scottie Exhibitors

Ring Procedures

1. **Staring Scots In the Eyes**. Judges who try to stare a Scottie down. Short legged terriers do not like to be eyeball to eyeball with anyone -- including judges.
2. **Loose Lead Advocates**. Judges who insist that Scotties be walked on loose leads like Cairns. On the other hand, they should not be strung up till their feet are barely on the ground.
3. **Heat and Sun**. Judges who keep Scotties out in the hot sun until they "melt". Black Scotties can not tolerate long periods in the sun.
4. **Gaiting**. Judges who make these short-legged dogs (and their handlers) go around and around one more time. Remember, Scottie legs are short. The Scottie's movement is uniquely its own and does not converge to single tracking. Scotties should also not prance.
5. **Sparring**. Judges who fear sparring (e.g. bring them out to spar and panic when things get feisty) or who fear exhibitors (e.g. exhibitors throw their dog at other dogs to get them up). Avoid having two dogs look at each other in line. There is no space for handlers/dogs to maneuver or pull their dogs back if necessary. Judges who believe spare only "male-dogs." Spar Scotties in small batches and practice gender equity. Let them look at each other and you will see them pull into themselves -- a wondrous sight indeed
6. **Move'n and More Move'n**. Judges who move and move and move the dogs and then picking the dog with the worst movement to win.

Decision Criteria

7. **Thumbs Down to Tails Down**. Judges who put up a Scottie who has its tail at half mast -- even when other things about the dog are nice-- to winner's dog or bitch. Scotties are a tails up breed (not 1 o'clock).
8. **Color Freaks**. Judges who disregard wheaten or brindle Scotties because everyone knows that the "true" color for a Scottie is black.
9. **Fault Judging**. Judges who fault (e.g. This dog has a gay tail) or merit (e.g. This one has the tiniest ears I've ever seen) judge at the exclusion of judging the entire dog.

Judging Style

10. **Heavy-Handed or Cutsy Judges**. These are small, hardy dogs. But they are NOT working dogs. Go over them adequately and correctly -- not roughly. Similarly, judges who are "ga-ga-cutsy." These little dogs are hardy, independent but sensitive (Their owners are even more so). They are not as powerful as a working dog nor as delicate as toy breeds.
11. **Inattention**. Judges who turn their back on exhibitors or who stare at the floor when an exhibitors gait their dogs. If you ask for the dog to be gaited, watch it move. Judges who are more interested in talking to their judge friend in the next ring than in judging their own breeds.

12. **Do As I Say.** Judges who insist on giving you handling lessons in the ring. Yes some folks need them but in ring is not the time to stop, stake their dog, tell them how they are making their dog look sway backed.
13. **Use Young Dogs to Get Another Dog to Show.** Judges who use a young dog as bait to get an older dog to show. If the young dog shows the best, move it up to winners.
14. **Reverse Ordering.** Judges who pull dogs out in reverse order. Dashing an exhibitor's hopes leaves a bad feeling.
15. **Slapping Hands.** Judges who slap an exhibitor's hand for using bait or for holding a tail up. If you want dogs shown a specific way, tell the exhibitors in advance.

Communication Issue

16. **Critical and Vocal.** Judges who criticizes the dog (e.g. "My that tail is gay," "It would be a nice dog if it had undercoat") or the handler without being asked. Say something nice or nothing at all. Criticism while a dog is on the table, unnerves even the most experienced exhibitor.
17. **Perceived Favoritism.** Judges who call handlers by their first name (particularly when the handler is placed in first) and everyone else "Sir" or "Madame." Judges who only put up handlers or owners. Judges who are giant killers. Judge the dogs on the day -- not their handler or their record.
18. **Negative Body Language.** When moving or comparing dogs, judges who grimace, make faces, or shake their head in the negative. Concentration is one thing. Overly displaying disgust is another.
19. **Hand Signs.** Judges who "point" to their winners and get upset when the exhibitor hasn't "heard" their hand signs. The exhibit is focusing first on his dog and second on the judge. Verbalize your choices.
20. **Gushing, Complaining, & Apologizing.** Judges who "gush" over a dog (e.g. "I just loved your dog.") after giving the dog a second or worse in the class. Say nothing and let your placements speak for you. Judges who insist on verbally defending their placements -- even when not asked. This is not a problem if it relates to denying a ribbon, disqualifying a dog, or excusing a dog. Judges who apologize for what they've done (e.g. I probably made a mistake giving your dog only reserve). Keep it to yourself and learn from it.

And of course...

Judges who don't put up the exhibitor's diehard to Winner or BOB.

EXHIBITORS DO LIKE ...

- 1) **C**onsistency -- Be consistent so I know what to bring (or not to come at all). Judges who pride themselves on being unpredictable, become predictable.
- 2) **A**ttention -- Exhibitors want to feel that the judge spends his/her full two minutes evaluating their dog. Acting bored, hurrying, turning away, all are behaviors that discourage new exhibitors and annoy experienced exhibitors.
- 3) **K**nowledge -- Judges who have specific knowledge of the breed.
- 4) **E**nthusiasm -- Exhibitors enjoy judges who look like they are having fun. A kindly greeting when a dog is being examined is beneficial -- even for old timers in the ring.