

9. EE CAVY JUDGES' SEMINAR – SINS (CH)

17. – 19. MARCH 2017



On Friday evening, the 17th. Judges' seminar was officially opened by all attending judges sitting down to a delicious supper in the hotel at 8pm.

The restaurant was soon buzzing with conversations and discussions being picked up again where left off a year earlier.

This time 33 judges from 12 different countries had been registered for the seminar.



On SATURDAY the program ran as follows and started with:

Jan Schop [NL] did a presentation on "Judging on Points"



But, before he could start, we had a short, surprise visit from the EE General President, Gion Gross, who had dropped in to convey the very best wishes from the EE Executive and to wish all of us a very productive seminar.

This presentation on how to judge on points was very well received and urgently needed to achieve a far more even and uniform judgement amongst EE judges from all affiliated countries. Far too often in the past have we been met by huge differences and discrepancies in the allocation and deduction of points at European shows between the officiating judges.

Jan urged judges to adhere to the following points at future EE judging engagements:

- * Give as many written comments as possible in every position
- * Find balance between “good” and “bad” elements on the exhibit and award points accordingly; e.g. a Dalmation with a slightly uneven blaze, but with very solidly coloured cheeks –take a whole point off for the blaze, but upgrade to taking only half a point off, because of the outstanding cheeks.
- * Don’t penalise an exhibit twice in 2 positions for the same fault; e.g. take off 1 – 2 points for Type and Shape in position 1 and then another 1 – 2 points for Condition & Presentation in position 7. The exhibit is not in good health / condition, which is also affecting its shape and type.

Jan had produced a comment card for an imaginary exhibit including lots of comments in every position and asked all the attendees to award points on the basis of the comments made. This brought the following points to light:

~ the difference in interpretation in certain countries of certain wording; e.g. where ‘Very Good’ is regarded in some countries as just that, other countries see it as not very good at all. Another example was that scoring 93 points (VG) with an exhibit at the show was regarded very satisfactory in some countries whereas it was considered a bad result in other countries.

~ Ear / Pad / Eye colour resorts under ‘Topcolour’

~ there was an unresolved discussion about the English translation of the German words ‘Vorzüglich’ and ‘Hervorragend’

Finally, Jan judged 5 cavies and gave out his comments for all to hear on each and every position and then asked the participants to allocate points to each position, based on his comments. To begin the range of points allocated was quite great, but the gaps narrowed as more cavies were judged.

It was decided that to maintain a points deduction for specific words used in the comments of every position, as follows: ‘Vorzüglich’ [Excellent] = 0 points deduction / ‘Hervorragend’ [Outstanding] = ½ point deduction / ‘Sehr Gut’ [Very Good] = 1 point deduction. These words should therefore also be used in the commentary in every position to underline the points deduction.

There was a discussion with regard to in which position the presence of guard hairs should be penalised: position 3 (Coat) or position 7 (Condition & Presentation). The jury is still out and the matter will be discussed in the ESKC meeting in Hungary, May 2017.

Jan was thanked for his extensive presentation. Much had been gained by it and, I am sure, with the above in mind, the judgment at future EE shows should be far more uniform.



After a well-deserved coffee break with the most delicious cakes, Evelyn van Vliet started her presentation on the smooth Roan.

This presentation started with some background information, including the history and origins on the gene and the breed. After this, the original UK (country of origin) and current standards were compared with the current EE standard as regards the points' allocation for the 'Roaned' and 'Solid coloured' body parts. How to breed and more importantly 'How NOT to breed Roans' was the next topic to be followed by what a perfectly marked Roan looks like and what Faults and Disqualifications we mostly come across.

The presentation was followed by the practical session, in which each participant judged 4 cavies and filled in ready made comments cards with full comments in each position and allocation of points. All comments cards were gathered in and Tina, Melanie's friend, input all results per position from everyone into the computer for further discussion and comparison on Sunday morning.



The day was completed by another great supper and desert and very lively conversations. Most participants relocated to the wine bar across the road to sample some of Switzerland's outstanding wines and continuing their conversations.

On SUNDAY morning, the seminar continued at 8.15 am and the program ran as follows:

First item was the comparison and discussion of all points' allocations on each position of the Roans judged on the previous day. The results were, bar the odd hiatus here and there, much more even and therefore satisfactory. Where there were differences of 1½ - 2 points or more, participants who had given the low score as well as those that had given the much higher score, were asked to air their reasons why. Another topic for discussion that arose from Saturday's practical session was the nature of the Roans present: were they Black Roans with too many red hairs or were they mixed Roans with not enough red hairs. A discussion about Brindle and Tricolour Roans ensued on what they should look like: do they have brindled head and feet or solid ones? This topic will be placed on the agenda of the next ESKC meeting.

MELANIE POLLINELLI presented the Dalmation



Melanie followed the EE standard positions to present the Dalmation cavy. Positions 1 – 2 - 3 – 7 are according to the general description of the EE standard.

Position 4 describes the Head Markings, which consist of a white blaze set on a solid coloured head to give a well balanced appearance. It starts between the ears and reaches the nose without taking in the eyes. There were lots of photos to show correct, faulty and disqualifiable blazes as well as solid coloured cheeks and some with lesser or more roaning.

The legs and feet were tackled next with photos of unpigmented claws and toes with white hairs.

Body markings were very well displayed with lots of images of correct spotting and its distribution, spinal bars, incorrect and uneven spotting.

Eyecolour was discussed next and questions asked about the blue ring that is sometimes seen in some Dalmatians. This was also put on the agenda of the next ESKC meeting.

The presentation was concluded with all Dalmation-specific faults and disqualification.

As per usual the Dalmation presentation was followed by a practical judging session. All judges handled 4 cavies and, again, filled in their comment cards and awarded points.



All points per position were input by Tina again and as the practical session was concluded quite swiftly, it allowed us extra time to discuss all the exhibits and points awarded. It was wonderful to see that the participating judges were even closer this time and the results therefore even more uniform. For sure, a huge leap forward! Still outstanding is “how to penalise the white spot under the chin” (quasi a continuation of the blaze).



The seminar was concluded by deciding what breeds would be presented and discussed at the 2018 seminar. They are Self Goldens in PE and DE – Self Reds - Californians.

A huge “Thank You” goes to Melanie Pollinelli who organised and ran the entire seminar virtually on her own and without the help of Simon Zehnder, Tina and Selina would have been hard pushed to make everything as perfect as it was. Not forgetting all the ladies, who produced the very delicious cakes for our coffee breaks.



Future seminars:

10. EE- Cavy Judges' seminar – Denmark / Date: 16. – 18. March 2018

Topics: Discussing the marked breeds: Californians and Selfs PE Golden – DE Golden - Red

**11. EE- Cavy Judges' seminar – / Date: 15. - 17. March 2019
Slovakia has been approached and is looking into possibilities, venues and hotels.**

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

A heartfelt “Thank you” also to all authors and presenters , who were responsible for putting together and presenting the excellent presentations, as well as all interpreters for their translations into 2 EE languages,

CONCLUSION:

A fantastic seminar amongst like-minded European cavy judges, who are getting closer and closer to uniform judgements.

“Until we meet again at the Breedspecific European Show in Austria

15. – 17. December 2017”.

