

American Lhasa Apso Club

Instructions to Critique Judges

The American Lhasa Apso Club approved recordation with AKC FSS® for region-of-origin Lhasa Apsos or dogs descended from region-of-origin Lhasa Apsos that do not have full three-generation pedigrees from an AKC recognized registry. The goal of recording recently imported region-of-origin Lhasa Apsos is to increase genetic diversity while maintaining the integrity of the AKC studbook. The overall impression must be that these are Lhasa Apsos. Bearing in mind that they are the product of both human and natural selection and viability, these dogs do not have to be show quality Lhasa Apsos.

You have been selected to be a Critique Judge because of your experience and knowledge of the Lhasa Apso. Your ability to make a reasonable and accurate assessment of the dog/s presented to you is essential to the recordation process.

Your primary task is to determine, to the best of your ability, if the dogs you are critiquing are purebred Lhasa Apsos or if they are not pure bred Lhasa Apsos. You may ask questions of the owner and use any and all information available to enable you to make the determination whether or not, in your assessment, the dog in front of you is a Lhasa Apso.

Dogs are to be critiqued according to the AKC Lhasa Apso standard and your practical knowledge of the breed. Purebred status is determined the "old fashioned way" through visual observation, background information and documentation on the dog.

Measurements can be taken as a team. The dog's owner can assist with the measuring process. Simple tools are all that is required. A yardstick or tape measure is good for height and length. A portable bathroom scale is adequate for weight. The place to measure length and height are shown on the critique form.

Judges may ask the handler to exhibit the dog however they see fit. Most judges have the dog stacked and moved much like it is done at a dog show. Judges write their comments while the dog is being critiqued. Photographs may be taken at the same time or at another time that is more convenient.

The critique process is not a dog show where judges compare the merits of one dog against another and rate them accordingly. Judges are to compare each dog to the standard. Please do not make comparisons of the subject dogs with other dogs at the critique. This is a common practice at dog shows to justify placements but it is not appropriate in ALAC critiques.

Comments need not be lengthy. If judges do not consider the dog to be a pure bred Lhasa Apso, an explanation must be given. Additional space on the back of the critique form is available for lengthier commentaries. The judge's rating of individual dogs should be based on the over all quality of the dog. Judges should check the box, which best fits, their opinion of the dog.

The most important question is at the bottom of the critique form. Judges must check the box that indicates whether or not they consider the dog to be a PURE-BRED LHASA APSO. This question does not relate to the quality of the dog – that was answered in the rating section. Even if the judge rates the Lhasa Apsos as "poor", it can still be a pure bred Lhasa Apso and the box indicating "yes" must be checked. If the judge does not consider the dog to be a pure bred Lhasa Apso, perhaps a crossbred, check "no". This question is the "bottom line" and the reason you are being asked to critique this Lhasa Apso.

ALAC thanks you for your help in this vital function.

Evaluation Categories:

Excellent: Applicant is of sufficient quality for the show ring and could be competitive. Applicant displays typical features of the breed with some exceptional features.

Very Good: Applicant may have faults but overall there is no doubt the applicant is a Lhasa Apso. The individual may not be competitive in the show ring but would not look entirely out of place. Applicant displays typical features of the breed.

Good: Applicant may have a number of faults but overall the individual display typical features of the breed. There is no doubt the applicant is a Lhasa Apso.

Fair: Applicant may have a number of faults, is of lesser quality than the previous ratings. There is no doubt the applicant is a Lhasa Apso.

Poor: Applicant may have a number of obvious faults and is of lesser quality than the previous ratings, but still is a Lhasa Apso.

Unacceptable: Applicant bears no resemblance to a Lhasa Apso.