

Conducting Oral Exams - Prepared by the CDJA

The preparation of this CDJA guide to the conduct of oral exams in breeds approved by the Canadian Kennel Club was inspired by a similar guide published by the American Kennel Club (http://images.akc.org/pdf/events/conformation/Oral_exams.pdf). To paraphrase the introduction to that guide:

"The proficient judge alters his or her examination technique from breed to breed based on the priorities defined by the breed standards. To do so requires interpretation of the standard's attempt to convey to the judge. Close inspection of a breed's standard will determine the appropriate oral exam to conduct when judging that breed, which is an essential component of the breed-specific exam."

Oral exams can be generally divided into four (4) categories which individually or in combination will constitute the correct oral exam for a breed.

Front – checking the front

Side – checking the front and sides

Open – involves opening the mouth to count teeth or check pigment. Always used in combination with a “bite” or “teeth” exam, depending on the breed

Thumb – Thumb exam is used for smaller, short muzzled breeds that call for an undershot jaw

Front

This exam is proper when the standard only refers to the alignment of the bite (scissors, level, undershot or overshot) as a preference, fault or disqualification. This procedure also complies with the examination procedure required by the CKC in those cases where a standard does not mention teeth or mouth (e.g. Irish Wolfhound) or where the standard includes language that references all teeth in a general way (e.g. Teeth – white, sound and strong or even and set squarely).

This requires the judge to separate the front of the lips to display the meshing of the incisors and canines or ask the exhibitor to “Show the bite, please.”

Side

This exam is required for any breed whose standard references missing teeth or dentition. This includes any disqualification for missing teeth **other than M3s** or any reference to full dentition or a full complement of teeth as a preference or fault due to a lack thereof.

This requires the judge to separate the front of the lips to display the meshing of the incisors and canines AND the flews on each side of the mouth, so the judge may observe the pre-molars and molars on the upper and lower jaw for each or ask the exhibitor to “Show the teeth, please”.

Open

Required for any breed that includes a standard disqualification (DQ) for pigmentation or missing teeth **that requires checking the M3s**. Opening the mouth is not required if the M3s are excluded from the disqualification by the standard (e.g. Leonbergers). It is used in combination with the bite and/or teeth exam depending on the language of the standard.

Breed standards that include a DQ for pigmentation of the mouth but do not reference missing teeth or full dentition would require examining the “bite” and then opening the mouth to check for the pigment of the mouth and/or tongue. An example would be the Chinese Shar-Pei, whose standard calls for a scissors bite but also states that the tongue, roof of mouth, gums and flews should be solid bluish-black except in dilute colours which have solid lavender pigmentation.

Breeds for which the standard includes a DQ for missing teeth will require that the front and sides be displayed and may include opening the mouth so the judge can effectively observe the molars.

Thumb

Involves the judge running the flat of his or her thumb outside of the top lip OR inside the lips of the dog to feel for the proper alignment of the jaw. This procedure is appropriate in smaller, undershot breeds with short muzzles. This is the preferred means to conduct the oral exam for these breeds, as it is not necessary to open the mouth. It is recommended that the thumb exam be conducted at the end of the individual examination. Examples of where this procedure may be used would be the English Toy Spaniel, Pug, and Pekingese.

Please keep in mind that Conformation Show Rule 4.4.1 calls for dentition to be displayed by the exhibitor but allows the judge to proceed if the dentition is not automatically displayed by the exhibitor. In practice, the exhibitor should be asked to “show the bite” or “show the teeth” depending on the requirements of the breed standard. The exhibitor may additionally be asked to “open the mouth” when necessary to complete the oral exam. In breeds where this is appropriate, the judge will personally conduct a thumb exam.

Conducting Individual Exams - Prepared by the CDJA

The preparation of this CDJA guide to the conduct of examinations in breeds approved by the Canadian Kennel Club was inspired by a similar guide published by the American Kennel Club (https://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/table_breeds.pdf).

"The appropriate place to individually examine dogs during breed judging."

Table Breeds (T)

Designated table breeds must be examined on an examination table. When re-examining them, they must be placed back on the table. No other breeds may be examined or otherwise considered during judging on an examination table. This does not apply to breeds that are eligible or required to be judged on the ramp during breed judging, when judging these breeds in the Group and/or Best in Show.

Ramp Breeds (R)

Designated ramp breeds must be examined on a ramp during breed, group and Best in Show judging.

Ramp Optional (RO)

Breeds designated as Ramp Optional may either be judged on the ramp or on the ground.

All Other Breeds (G)

Breeds not designated as either table or ramp breeds may only be examined on the ground.

Group One - Sporting Dogs

Breed	Front	Side	Open	Thumb	DQ	Exam
Barbet	F				DQ	G
Braque Français (Gascogne)	F					G
Braque Français (Pyrenees)	F					G
Griffon (Wire-Haired Pointing)	F	S			DQ	G
Logotto Romagnolo	F				DQ	G
Pointer	F					G
Pointer (German Long-Haired)						G
Pointer (German Short-Haired)	F	S				G
Pointer (German Wire-Haired)	F					G
Pudelpointer	F					G
Retriever (Chesapeake Bay)	F				DQ	G
Retriever (Curly-Coated)	F					G
Retriever (Flat-Coated)	F					G
Retriever (Golden)	F	S			DQ	G
Retriever (Labrador)	F					G
Retriever (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling)	F	S			DQ	G
Setter (English)	F	S				G
Setter (Gordon)	F					G
Setter (Irish)	F					G
Setter (Irish Red & White)	F					G
Spaniel (American Cocker)	F					T
Spaniel (American Water)	F					G
Spaniel (Blue Picardy)	F					G
Spaniel (Brittany)	F					G
Spaniel (Clumber)	F					RO
Spaniel (English Cocker)	F					T
Spaniel (English Springer)	F					RO
Spaniel (Field)	F					G
Spaniel (French)	F	S	O		DQ	G
Spaniel (Irish Water)	F					G
Spaniel (Sussex)	F					RO
Spaniel (Welsh Springer)	F					G
Spinone Italiano	F				DQ	G
Vizsla (Smooth)	F					G
Vizsla (Wire-Haired)	F				DQ	G
Weimaraner	F	S				G
Braque d'Auvergne	F	S	O		DQ	G
Kleiner Münsterländer	F	S			DQ	G

Note: G = Ground, T = Table, R = Ramp, RO = Ramp Optional

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

Print Date: January 7, 2025

Group Two - Hounds

Breed	Front	Side	Open	Thumb	DQ	Exam
Afghan Hound	F					G
Basenji	F					T
Basset Hound	F					R
Beagle	F					T
Bloodhound	F					G
Borzoï	F	S				G
Coonhound (Black & Tan)	F					G
Dachshunds (Miniature & Standard - all coat types)	F					T
Deerhound (Scottish)	F					G
Drever	F					T
Finnish Spitz	F	S				G
Foxhound (American)	F					G
Foxhound (English)	F				DQ	G
Greyhound	F					G
Harrier	F					G
Ibizan Hound	F	S				G
Irish Wolfhound	F					G
Norrbottenspets	F					G
Norwegian Elkhound	F					G
Norwegian Lundehund	F					G
Otterhound	F					G
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen	F					T
Pharoah Hound	F					G
Rhodesian Ridgeback	F					G
Saluki	F					G
Shikoku	F				DQ	G
Whippet	F				DQ	RO
Azawakh	F	S			DQ	G
Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen	F					RO
Viringo - Small - Hairless	F					T
Viringo - Small - Coated	F	S			DQ	
Viringo - Medium - Hairless	F					G
Viringo - Medium - Coated	F	S	O		DQ	
Viringo - Large - Hairless	F					G
Viringo - Large - Coated	F	S	O		DQ	

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Effective Date:

July 1, 2024

Print Date:

January 7, 2025

Group Three - Working Dogs

Breed	Front	Side	Open	Thumb	DQ	Exam
Akita	F				DQ	G
Alaskan Malamute	F					G
Bernese Mountain Dog	F	S				G
Black Russian Terrier	F	S	O		DQ	G
Boxer	F	S				G
Bullmastiff	F					G
Canaan Dog	F	S				G
Canadian Eskimo Dog	F				DQ	G
Doberman Pinscher	F	S	O		DQ	G
Entelbucher Mountain Dog	F					G
Eurasier	F	S	O		DQ	G
Great Dane	F	S				G
Great Pyrenees	F					G
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog	F	S			DQ	G
Greenland Dog	F					G
Hovawart	F	S	O		DQ	G
Karelian Bear Dog	F	S			DQ	G
Komondor	F					G
Kuvasz	F	S			DQ	G
Leonberger	F	S			DQ	G
Mastiff	F					G
Neapolitan Mastiff	F	S			DQ	G
Newfoudland	F					G
Portuguese Water Dog	F				DQ	G
Rottweiler	F	S	O		DQ	G
Saint Bernard	F					G
Samoyed	F					G
Schnauzer (Giant)	F	S			DQ	G
Schnauzer (Standard)	F	S				G
Siberian Husky	F	S				G
Tibetan Mastiff	F				DQ	G
Anotalian Shepherd	F	S				G
Cane Corso	F				DQ	G
Dogue De Bordeaux	F				DQ	G
Yukutian Laika	F	S			DQ	G

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Group Four - Terrier

Breed	Front	Side	Open	Thumb	DQ	Exam
Airedale Terrier	F					G
American Staffordshire Terrier	F					G
Australian Terrier	F					T
Bedlington Terrier	F	S				T
Border Terrier	F					T
Bull Terrier	F	S				G
Bull Terrier (Miniature)	F	S				TO/RO
Cairn Terrier	F					T
Cesky Terrier	F	S				T
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	F					T
Fox Terrier (Smooth)	F				DQ	T
Fox Terrier (Wire)	F					T
Glen of Imaal Terrier	F					T
Irish Terrier	F				DQ	TO/RO
Kerry Blue Terrier	F					RO
Lakeland Terrier	F				DQ	T
Manchester Terrier	F					T
Norfolk Terrier	F					T
Norwich Terrier	F					T
Rat Terrier	F					T
Schnauzer (Miniature)	F					T
Scottish Terrier	F					T
Sealyham Terrier	F					T
Skye Terrier	F					T
Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier	F					RO
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	F					RO
Welsh Terrier	F				DQ	T
West Highland White Terrier	F	S				T
Parson Russell Terrier	F					T
Russell Terrier	F				DQ	T

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Group Five - Toys

Breed	Front	Side	Open	Thumb	DQ	Exam
Affenpinscher	F					T
American Eskimo Dog (Toy)	F	S				T
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	F					T
Chihuahua (Long & Short Coat)	F					T
Chinese Crested Dog	Hairless	F				T
	Powderpuff	F	S			T
English Toy Spaniel				T		T
Griffon (Brussels)				T	DQ	T
Havanese	F	S			DQ	T
Italian Greyhound	F	S				T
Japanese Chin				T		T
Maltese	F					T
Miniature Pinscher	F					T
Papillon	F					T
Pekingese				T		T
Pomeranian	F					T
Poodle (Toy)	F	S				T
Pug				T	DQ	T
Silky Terrier	F					T
Toy Fox Terrier	F				DQ	T
Toy Manchester Terrier	F					T
Xoloitzcuintli (Toy)	Hairless	F				T
	Coated	F	S			T
Yorkshire Terrier	F					T
Biewer Terrier	F					T
Coton de Tulear	F	S			DQ	T
Ruskiy Toy	F				DQ	T

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Group Six - Non-Sporting Dogs

Breed		Front	Side	Open	Thumb	DQ	Exam
American Eskimo Dog (Miniature & Standard)		F	S				T
Bichon Frise		F	S				T
Boston Terrier		F					T
Bulldog		F					R
Chinese Shar-Pei		F		O		DQ	R
Chow Chow		F		O		DQ	R
Dalmatian		F				DQ	G
French Bulldog		F				DQ	T
German Pinscher		F					G
Japanese Spitz		F					T
Keeshond		F					RO
Lhasa Apso		F	S				T
Lowchen		F					T
Poodle (Miniature & Standard)		F	S				T
Schipperke		F				DQ	T
Shiba Inu		F	S			DQ	T
Shih Tzu		F				DQ	T
Tibetan Spaniel		F	S				T
Tibetan Terrier		F					T
Xoloitzcuintli (Miniature)	Hairless	F					T
	Coated	F	S				T
Xoloitzcuintli (Standard)	Hairless	F					G
	Coated	F	S				G
Akita (Japanese)		F	S				G

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January 7, 2025

Group Seven - Herding Dogs

Breed	Front	Side	Open	Thumb	DQ	Exam
Australian Cattle Dog	F				DQ	G
Australian Kelpie	F					G
Australian Shepherd	F	S			DQ	G
Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog	F					G
Bearder Collie	F	S				G
Belgian Shepherd Dog	F	S				G
Berger Picard	F	S	O		DQ	G
Berger des Pyrenees	F	S			DQ	T
Bouvier des Flandres	F					G
Briard	F					G
Collie (Rough & Smooth)	F					G
Finnish Lapphund	F				DQ	G
German Shepherd Dog	F	S				G
Iceland Sheepdog	F	S				G
Mudi	F	S			DQ	T
Norwegian Buhund	F					G
Old English Sheepdog	F					G
Polish Lowland Sheepdog	F					RO
Portuguese Sheepdog	F				DQ	G
Puli	F					T
Schapendoes	F					G
Shetland Sheepdog	F	S				T
Spanish Water Dog	F				DQ	G
Swedish Vallhund	F					T
Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)	F					T
Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)	F					T
Appenzeller Sennenhund	F	S			DQ	G
Beauceron	F	S	O		DQ	G
Bergamasco Shepherd Dog	F	S			DQ	G
Border Collie	F					G
Miniature American Shepherd	F	S			DQ	T
Pumi	F	S			DQ	T

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Effective Date:

July 1, 2024

Print Date:

January 7, 2025