



Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia

Characteristics of a Successful Judge

To be a successful judge, either at a show or in a judging contest, it is important to develop the following characteristics:

- A desire to know thoroughly what you are judging.
- A clear knowledge of the ideal or standard type of each breed of horse and an ability to recognize desirable and undesirable conformational characteristics.
- A quick and accurate ability to observe and critically evaluate.
- The ability to form a mental image of many individual animals and to rank them by making comparisons.
- Reasoning power that takes into account practical considerations.
- The ability to reach a definite decision based on sound judgment.
- Extreme honesty and sincerity to avoid bias or prejudice. Decisions should always be based on knowledge and judgment.
- Steady nerves and confidence in your ability to make close, independent decisions based entirely on the merits of the animal before you on the day. Students in practice and in contests should always work independently. A good philosophy for all judging is to do the best work possible at the time and to have no regrets about the results or accomplishments. Every contest is a chance to learn and grow in your skills.

- The ability to evaluate and rank the individual animal according to its appearance on the day of judging, regardless of its rank at a previous show, its breeding and its owners.
- Sound knowledge acquired through practice and experience to give effective reasons for decisions.
- A pleasant and even temperament. Good judges, however, do not fraternize with exhibitors or friends along the ringside.
- Firmness to stand by and defend your placings without being offensive or in any way implying that your decisions are infallible.