



Rottweiler Club of Vic Inc.

BREED STANDARD EVALUATION (Australia) TRAINING PROGRAM

Part 1 - Anatomical Construction

Identification of The Dog

This is the first point of contact of the mental evaluation of the dog. What is this dog - is it calm, friendly, aloof, nervous, aggressive, boisterous, trained, shut down? Physically checking the dog with a microchip scanner - Is the dog accepting of this or not?

What do we look for? Handler influence on the dog - Powerful, dominant, skilled, unskilled, heavy handed, using food or other treats, aids to try to control the dog's lack of training or management, nerves or social problems.

Weighing the Dog

Observe how the dog is handled and how the dog responds to direction. Once again, we look at the handling and the dog's reactions to this.

Measuring the Dog

Before measuring the dog examine the dog's teeth. If the dog has incomplete dentition, an overshot bite, undershot bite or wry mouth, it is disqualified and the dog cannot participate further in the Breed Standard Evaluation (Australia) (BSE(A)).

Again, we are looking for how the dog is managed/handled by the handler and how the dog responds. What the Judge needs to do is to ensure that they are consistent in their approach and handling with each dog and in their handling and use of the measuring equipment.

Handlers should train their dogs for the BSE(A) for a number of reasons:

1. They are being fair to their dog.
2. They should not place their dog in a stressful situation in full view of those present and have the dog fall apart.
3. They should practise in a comfortable and friendly environment and if they can see their dog cannot make the adaptation/learning to cope with what is being done in the evaluation then they should not present their dog. Learning is a test in itself. There are many dogs that for various reasons should never be entered into a dog show because of their behaviour.

Height

The height of the dog has to be measured at the top of the shoulder/withers. The dog should be measured whilst standing on a level surface, e.g. level concrete, timber platform or floor. The height is measured first. If the dog is over or under size this is considered a fault in accordance with the FCI Breed Standard.

Body length

Height to length ratio:

e.g.: Male	<u>Height</u>	<u>Length</u>
	61cm	68cm
	62cm	69cm
	63cm	70cm
	64cm	71cm
	65cm	72cm

Taking the measured height of the dog and multiplying that measurement by 1.1 will give what should be the correct length to height ratio of 9:10. Taking the measured height of the dog and multiplying that measurement by 1.15 will give the maximum allowable length.

Size and weight

Height at top of shoulder/withers for **Males** is 61 – 68cm

- 61 - 62cm is Small
- 63 - 64cm is Medium height
- 65 - 66cm is Large – correct height
- 67 - 68cm is Very large

Weight: 50kg (approximately)

Height at top of shoulder/withers for **Females** is 56 – 63cm

- 56 – 57cm is Small
- 58 – 59cm is Medium height
- 60 – 61cm is Large – correct height
- 62 – 63cm is Very Large

Weight: 42kg (approximately)

Measuring the Head (in 2 parts)

The **Muzzle** length is measured from the stop to the tip of the nose.

The **Skull** is measured from the Occipital Protuberance (bone at the back of the head) to the stop.

The head measuring gauge must be placed on the nasal bridge. The ZERO point must be placed in line with the corner of the eyes.

The ratio of Muzzle to Skull is about 1 to 1.5, so if these are not correct then they should be mentioned in the Head section of the Critique of the dog. The Head should be held level by the handler so that the occipital protuberance can clearly be seen. The Muzzle should not be any shorter than 40% of the Skull measurement.

Critique

Critiques should be detailed and contain quantified information that has been obtained on the dog being evaluated, e.g. general appearance, age of dog.

The Judge should make reference in the Critique to the factual information, that being the body measurements, i.e. height, length, girth, depth and muzzle length of the dog. The Critique needs to be structured along the lines of the following format:

General appearance, Age, Size, Head (encompassing a minimum of 9 parts of the Head, which are the Cranial Region, Facial Region and dentition).

The **Cranial Region** is the Skull comprising the Occipital Protuberance and the Stop.

The **Facial Region** is the nasal bone, muzzle, lips (colour and fitting), upper jaw (maxilla) and lower jaw (mandible), cheeks – zygomatic arches, eyes, ears.

There are many different aspects to be considered when looking at the overall head of a Rottweiler.

Neck

Body - Back, loins, croup, chest, belly.

Tail

Limbs - Forequarters – Shoulders, upper arm, forearm, pasterns, front feet

Hindquarters – Upper thigh, lower thigh, hocks, hind feet

Movement

Coat (comprised of the hair, colour and placement of markings).

Temperament and Disposition

Comments on the temperament and disposition of the dog should be made at the end of the evaluation and then placed on the Critique because a dog that could be alert and aware of its surroundings may ultimately when placed under pressure be found to be actually nervous, which is a disqualifying fault. A more comprehensive evaluation of temperament would have been made by the end of the evaluation.

Part 2 – Character and Temperament Evaluation

'Refer to identification requirement if the Evaluation process has been split.'

*'If a dog shows/presents any unprovoked aggression towards any person or persons, or attempts to or bites a person, the dog will automatically receive a **FAIL** rating and will take no further part in the BSE(A).'*

Note: This is applicable at any time throughout the Evaluation.'

Close observation needs to be made of the way the dog manages itself and how it is managed by the handler throughout the identification process of scanning its microchip, the weighing, measuring and the Critique.

Dogs that are overtly assisted with handler and double handler help need to be more closely scrutinised than dogs that have been well trained, are self assured and present without all this additional help.

Rationale: The handler and their double handler could be attempting to mask deficiencies in the dog's nervous system/temperament. The BSE(A) is a publicly viewed event and we should be portraying an image of a friendly, well managed Rottweiler to all spectators. If a dog is shy, nervous or aggressive in the measuring or weighing the Judge should cease the evaluation and the handler be offered to **REPRESENT** the dog. If a dog bites or attempts to bite a person, then it must **FAIL**.

The Crowd Test

Part 1

At the Judge's direction the handler and dog on leash are to walk through two (2) parallel rows of people (minimum of 6 persons in each row) and proceed to the end of the rows. The dog and handler will then do an about turn and return in the opposite direction through the two (2) parallel rows of people. The crowd must be positioned sufficiently apart from each other to

allow the dog and handler to walk unimpeded through the two (2) parallel rows. On the return, whilst the dog and handler are walking through the rows, a metal or plastic container containing rocks, marbles or solid objects is to be shaken and/or dropped behind the dog.

*If a dog shows/presents any unprovoked aggression towards any person or persons or attempts to or bites any person the dog will automatically receive a **FAIL** rating and will take no further part in the BSE(A).*

Note: This is applicable at any time throughout the Evaluation.

Part 2

The crowd will form a large loose circle. At the Judge's direction the dog and handler are to proceed through the circle, walking around the people in the form of a figure 8. The Judge can direct the handler. The Judge will then direct the handler to stop, the handler can command the dog to sit. The crowd should be at least 5 metres away from the dog and handler. At the direction of the Judge the crowd will close in at a walking pace towards the dog and handler and gather closely around the dog and handler. The handler will remain stationary and must not encourage or assist the dog, with the dog maintaining a sit position. The crowd is to remain in that position until directed by the Judge to retreat to a distance of 5 metres from the dog and handler again and then at the direction of the Judge the crowd will move towards the handler and dog at a fast walk. Again, the crowd stop, closing in around dog and handler, and remain stationary until directed by the Judge.

The handler can command the dog to sit. Observation needs to be made as to how the dog is managed and how the dog displays itself, i.e., whether it is highly well managed, if it is well under control or if it requires help from the handler.

Note: If the handler heavily reprimands the dog they should be excused.

The dog shall not show signs of aggression or nervousness. Natural curiosity, sniffing etc. is permitted.

The Judge will document the dog's reaction to this pressure situation on the Evaluation form.

Close observation of the dog needs to be made as to whether it goes into an approach avoidance conflict, whether it is stressed by being confined with people around it and shows escape or avoidance behaviour. The dog is then removed from the area.

The Judge needs to note the dog's behaviour on the Evaluation form.

The Gun Test (Reaction to Loud and Sudden Noises)

The dog and handler at the direction of the Judge will walk away from the Judge on a loose leash then at a distance of no less than ten (10) metres a 6mm blank starters pistol will be fired. The dog and handler will continue to walk another 3 to 4 paces and a second gunshot will be fired.

The dog is allowed to be startled by the noise but must quickly recover and must continue heeling with the handler.

The dog is not allowed to show signs of fear or nervousness. The Judge may if deemed necessary, request that more shots be fired.

The dog's reaction to the sudden noise is to be documented on the Evaluation form by the Judge.

These are reactions a dog may show: Indifference, Interest, Shyness.

A dog may mark or look towards where the sound comes from but not show any flight, fear or avoidance behaviours. The gun shots can also become a stimulus attraction to the dog and it may be aroused into an aggression response, e.g., barking. With dogs like this, the dog should be placed further away from where the gun is being fired and have the handler and dog walk towards where the gun is to be fired and then fire two (2) gun shots at a distance of about

twenty (20) paces. If the dog moves toward the gun fire this gives a clear indication that the dog is not gun shy but certainly has no obedience in that situation.

Traffic Test

Part 1

The dog and handler will be required to walk along a set course accompanied by the Judge where they will encounter pedestrian traffic, a person running both towards and past them and a person pushing a pram/pusher, trolley or similar.

Part 2

On completion of Part 1, at the direction of the Judge the dog and handler will walk past a tethered, non-reactive, friendly dog. The tethered dog should be trained and not be boisterous.

What we are looking for:

We are evaluating the dog for its manageability and reactivity to situations that it would encounter daily. We want to see if the dog is aroused by these things, fearful of the situation or calm and confident. We want to see that the dog is self-assured and can follow direction. The handler should not be constantly pulling the dog on the leash or heavily restraining the dog.

What we require is that the dog is under control with the handler and that the dog is non-aggressive towards the tethered dog. It must not show fear towards the tethered dog.

Part 3

The handler is required to tether their dog and then the handler will walk away from the dog's sight. Once the handler is out of sight of the dog, at the direction of the Judge a non-aggressive, trained, friendly dog shall be walked past the tethered dog at a distance of no less than 5 metres.

At the direction of the Judge the handler will return to their dog and bring the dog to the Judge in preparation for the next exercise.

What we are looking to see is that the dog is non-aggressive, that it is under control, that it shows no fearful reaction towards the other dog and shows no stress or anxiety from being left alone by the handler.

Note: The BSE(A) Program defines what equipment a dog must wear to participate in the evaluation. Given that dogs are aware of when they are wearing certain items of equipment, what becomes a stimulus cue signal to an event which is now more likely to occur, placing the dog in equipment such as a harness should be regarded as help to the dog. The dog must be wearing a strong flat leather collar or an appropriate fixed collar which is not on an active ring (a correction type collar on dead link).

The handler should have the capacity to handle the dog because you would expect that the handler/owner in everyday life situations should have the capacity to handle their dog.

Prey Drive

At the direction of the Judge a Helper will present a ball/toy/rag on a rope in front of and no less than 2 metres away from the dog and handler, waving and dragging the object side to side in a sweeping motion on the ground.

The dog should be willing to move forward in prey mode, showing interest and attempting to chase the object. The dog must show some interest and not ignore the item.

At the conclusion of the Evaluation the Judge will give a Summary of the dogs presented.