

STAND UP FOR THE CHAMPIONS

PART OF A SERIES, COMPARING PATHS TO CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES



INSET: DK-SW-NO-NORD-INTL
CH BLACK LOTUS X-FILE
SILVER FLAME.

LEFT: DK-SW CH PACKICE ALL
THAT AND THEN SOME.

Anne Schierup explains the Nordic Country Championships



Since 2011, a new set of show rules has been implemented in the Nordic countries of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and

Iceland. These rules mainly follow the FCI show regulations, with a few changes. Two big differences in our shows are that dogs are judged as

to whether they are of Champion Quality, and the Best of Breed competition is always a showdown between just two dogs.



ANNE SCHIERUP

About the Author

A veterinary student at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, Anne Schierup has owned malamutes for 10 years and became involved with a pack of Siberian huskies through her partner, Henrik Søeborg. Anne and Henrik have since registered the kennel name Packice and now own five malamutes and 10 Siberians. They work their dogs in harness in the cold season and enjoy mid-distance racing with their mixed malamute-Sibe team, in several countries.

Both Anne and Henrik really enjoy showing their dogs and have done so with a lot of success in both breeds. Henrik serves as a conformation judge for several breeds. Anne and Henrik are also very active in their breed club, the Danish Polardog Club for the Siberian Husky, Greenland Dog, and Alaskan Malamute. Henrik serves as President of the club, while Anne is active on the Magazine and Show Committees.

Anne enjoyed attending the 2010 National in Denver and meeting many AMCA members there. She invites you to visit their kennel online at www.packice.dk.

Dogs or bitches can be entered in one of the following classes:

- Baby class (3-6 months): an unofficial class.
- Puppy class (6-9 months): an unofficial class.
- Junior class (9-18 months): an official class offered at all shows.
- Intermediate class (15-24 months): an official class (not always offered at specialty shows).
- Open class (15 months and up): an official class offered at all shows.
- Working class (15 months and up): an official class offered at all shows (only for breeds that have a national working dog test in the country where the show is held; dogs must have a working title to enter this class).
- Champion class (24 months and up): an official class offered at all shows.
- Veteran class (8 years and up): an official class offered at all shows.

Baby class, if offered, is judged first. The males are judged, then the females. The best male baby and the best female baby then compete, and the title Best Baby of the breed is then awarded to the best of the two.

Next is Puppy class, which is judged like the Baby class, and the title Best Puppy of the breed is awarded.

In both Baby and Puppy class, each dog is first judged separately and awarded the quality prize of Very Promising, Promising, or Less Promising. Only dogs with Very Promising continue to compete for best male/female Baby/Puppy.

Next, all the male classes are judged: Junior, Intermediate, Open, Working, Champion, and Veteran classes.

Each dog is first judged by itself, and awarded the quality prize Excellent, Very Good, Good, Sufficient, or Disqualified (or Cannot Be Judged if, for example, the dog is limping).

Dogs earning an Excellent continue to compete against each other to be placed best in the class. After the judge has placed the best dogs in the class, s/he awards Champion Quality (CK) to all the dogs in the competition that are found to be of champion quality.

After the male classes have been judged, all dogs that have received the CK prize return to the ring for the Best Male competition. The Certificate d'Aptitude au Championat (CAC) is awarded to the best placed dog that is not yet a champion in the country where the show is held. The Certificate d'Aptitude au Championat International de Beauté (CACIB) is awarded to the best male, including the champion dogs (except dogs from the Junior or Veteran class, who are not eligible for the CACIB).

After all the males have been judged, the females are judged in the same way as the males. When the females have been judged, and the best female has been found, we have the final competitions.

The best male Veteran and the best female Veteran meet and compete for the title Best Veteran of the breed.

Finally, the Best Male and the Best Female meet to compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex.

All dogs receive a written critique with the judge's comments on the particular dog's characteristics, in relation to the judge's interpretation of the breed standard.

The biggest differences between the Nordic country show regulations and those of the other FCI countries are, first: the CK, which is used as a "ticket" to the Best Male/Best Female competitions; and second: the fact that we have only two dogs in the Best of Breed competition.

In the Nordic countries, dogs achieve championships a few different ways: there are National, Nordic, and International championships.

National Show Champions

To earn the title of show champion in one of the Nordic countries, the dog must win three CACs in the country in question, under three different judges, and the last CAC must have been won after the dog is 24 months of age.

In Sweden, the dog must pass the Swedish working test, in addition to the three CACs. Sweden also requires one CAC to be won at a specialty show.

If a dog is already a show champion in another FCI country, the requirement is one CAC won in the country in question, after the dog is 24 months of age (plus, in Sweden, the working test).

The Swedish Working Test

- Tests sledding ability
- Dog must be at least 24 months old
- Dog teams pull a weighted sled/pulka
- Teams are generally all one breed
- Dogs are compared to their breed
- Two distances may be run:
 - ★60 km (37.2 miles)
 - ★100+ km (62.1+ miles)
- Dog must achieve "first rank" in one test OR two "second ranks" in the same length test to pass
- Ranks are not placements
- Ranks are determined by the finishing time of the team, compared to the fastest finishing teams for that breed; there are also time limits to determine ranks

Nordic Show Champions

To earn the title of Nordic champion, the dog must have earned national show champion titles in three of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland).

International Show Champions

Rules are set by the FCI for all member countries. To earn the title of International champion, the dog must win four CACIBs in at least three different countries and under at least three different judges.

Between the first and the last CACIB, a minimum of one year and one day must have passed.