

Questionnaire statistics and syntheses

Thank you for answering the questionnaire...

The afghan hound congress has been held last week and with your help, I have tried to present the results of my investigations. With your answers, I have tried to draw a portrait of our afghan hound judges in 2003.

In front of the breeders and exhibitors that I represent, the Afghan hound judge has a less palpable role...

What is the part of human in the judge? The part of the technician? And the part of the afghan lover?

I felt it was very important to break this blurred and distorted image of the judge function that causes so many misunderstanding. His function induces just as much admiration as well as lack of understanding and just as much as respect as well as anger. We all want to understand their record, their expectations, their particularities from one country to another and above all their emotional and rational relation with our beloved breed.

I have sent the questionnaire in 22 countries to a reasonable proportion on 2/3 afghan and sighthound specialists and 1/3 multi breeds judges. Some of these judges are considered as good ones or less good for others. The interest is to cover the most representative panel of our afghan hound judges.

I present most of the statistics by grouping these countries in 4 blocks considering each of them for their « dog culture », their strong influence on the afghan hound history and the amount of answers to the questionnaire : UK, Scandinavia (Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark), Continental Europe (All Europe except Scandinavia and UK) and USA-Australia (I had to group them together considering the few answers received and the impossibility to make representative statistics for each of them). When a country has specific or very different results from the average of his block, i give the information in p.s. For instance, I have noted some french answers that are almost opposite to the rest of Europe. Afghan hound judges from 16 countries answered. The most answers came from England (12), France (7), Sweden and USA (5) and Finland (4).

For some questions, if I have to compare the afghan hounds with the other breeds, I always make the difference between the sighthounds and the rest of the breeds.

	Number of questionnaire sent	Number of answers received	%
UK	44	12	27 %
Scandinavia	52	11	21 %
Continental Europe	42	16	38 %
USA	69	5	7 %
Australia	10	2	20 %
Rest of the world	3	1	33 %
total	220	47	21 %

Comment : The questionnaire has been sent twice to the judges (in july and in august).

My wish would be that for a further afghan hound congress, the same questionnaire will be submitted to the exhibitors. They could give their opinion about judges, afghans and themselves. That would be highly interesting to compare both conclusions.

Martial Robin,

Answers to the questionnaire

A - Your personal history

11 - Have you been living with dogs during your childhood? If so, were they pure breed dogs? If so, afghan hounds?

Question 11	Lived with dogs during childhood	If so, pure breed dogs	If so, afghans	comments
UK	92 %	64 %	0 %	33 % lived with german sheppard
Scandinavia	91 %	89 %	45 %	
Europe	100 %	71 %	0 %	18 % lived with other sighthounds
USA -Aust.	86 %	67 %	14 %	
total	94 %	72 %	13 %	

Comments : at least 15 % of our judges have lived with german sheppards, 12 % with other sighthounds than afghans.

12 - What has been your dog world record before becoming a judge?

121) Have you been exhibitor or breeder? In which breeds?

Question 121	Have been exhibiting	Have been breeding	Have been exhibiting afghans	Exhibiting other sighthounds
UK	100 %	67 %	83 %	8 %
Scandinavia	100 %	64 %	27 %	73 %
Europe	100 %	65 %	59 %	47 %
USA - Aust	100 %	100 %	83 %	85 %
total	100 %	70 %	62 %	51 %

Ps :Lower % : 43 % of the french judges have been breeding before judging. You can see that all our judges have been exhibiting before judging.

122) Have you had any responsibilities in pure breed clubs? In which breeds?

Question 122	Yes, responsibilities in a club	In an afghan club	In a sighthound club	In another breed club
UK	75 %	58 %	8 %	25 %
Scandinavia	100 %	18 %	73 %	18 %
Europe	82 %	41 %	53 %	35 %
USA Aust	100 %	100 %	29 %	14 %
Total	87 %	49 %	42 %	26 %

Comment : at that point, you can start to see a difference : the scandinavian judges are much more involved with sighthounds than the rest of the world. English judges are more involved in afghan club and almost not with sighthound clubs.

123) Have you had any responsibilities in local kennel clubs?

Question 123	Yes
UK	75 %
Scandinavia	73 %
Europe	76 %
USA-Aust	100 %
Total	79 %

Comments : almost all the judges seems to be involved in both breed clubs and local kennel clubs responsibilities

13 - Are you still actively involved in breeding or showing dogs? Afghan hounds?

Question 13	Yes, showing	Yes, breeding	Yes, showing afghans	Yes, showing other sighthounds
UK	83 %	58 %	75 %	0 %
Scandinavia	82 %	73 %	9 %	64 %
Europe	47 % (with 14 % for France and 80 % for the rest of Europe)	53 % (with 14 % for France and 70 % for the rest of Europe)	35 % (with 0% for France and 60 for the rest of Europe)	12 %
USA - Aust	43 %	29 %	29 %	14 %
Total	66 %	53 %	43 %	21 %

Comments : 2 judges out of 3 are still actively showing dogs with big differences. The two extremes are the two neighbours : France with only 14 % of judges that are still showing and UK with 83 %. Not one of the french judges are still showing afghans but 75 % of the english judges are... Scandinavian and english judges are equally involved in showing and breeding, but afghans for the UK judges and other sighthounds for the scandinavian ones.

B - Your judge training

21 - What is the normal record to become a judge in your country?

211) For a first license?

Here are a few and representative national kennel clubs rules for the judge records :

	211 - normal record for a first licence	212 - record for extension
UK	For CC level, you must have 7 years experience in the breed both showing and judging, have judged over 100 classes or more at open show level, have three stud book numbers and pass many examinations both written and oral, attend breed seminars etc, then wait to be invited to judge then fill in a kennel club questionnaire and then it goes before their Judges panel for approval!!	The same
Sweden	The requirements are that you have a basic involvement in dogs, as a breeder (for over 10 years) and also that you have your license to steward at official shows. You must apply to get on the course which you do after having passed written tests (genetics, confirmation and show-rules). If you pass, and also are recommended by the breed's club, you are then invited for an interview. If passed and picked out you are invited to spend one week together with the other students. Through this week a lot of hands-on judging is done on many different breeds, including your own. You can start at this level with up to 5 different breeds. If you pass the tests and examination during this week, you are then ready to go forward as a "student judge". You have to do assignments at official shows following a judge at a show. You need to do this until you have a sufficient number of dogs (the actual number varies from breed to breed). You then go forward to the next level which is the "aspiring judge", which means you actually judge and go over dogs at official shows, write critiques (which afterwards are handed over to the official judge). Your critiques and placings are then compared and discussed and you either pass or fail. Eventually you are then passed to go out there and work on your own.	You must finish your basic breeds until you can add new breeds, and there is a limit on how many new breeds you can take on each year.
Finland	At least 25 years of age. Active member of the Breed Club (BC) at least for 10 years. Qualified ring steward and served as ring steward at the shows at least 5 times. Recommendation of the BC. Finnish Kenneclub (FK) test for the BC recommended people (if you pass you go to) FK course for judges (if you pass you go to) BC special education for the breed Judge trainee for at least 4 times BC organizes collegium - if you pass - you are judge for the breed Some explanations FK test for the BC recommended people : Test for the »dog eye«, the shape conception. You have to describe different kind of dogs like a basset hound, azawake and labrador. This is no by breed standard but the overall shape understanding. You can easily fail this... FK courses include the	A qualified judge can extend the breed in that FCI-group where he started, ex. Afghand hound - next the whole group 10. Every time you have to ask the BC to give the special trainin for the breed in question. Then go as trainee at least 2 times, then

	<p>anatomy (all bones, muscular, behaviour etc) and movement of the dog. The basis of the judgement and working as a judge. NB - all this are for the animal DOG. The BC gives you the special education for each breed. A written examination is organized after the courses. If you pass this examination you have to make a written judging of at least 10 dogs, out of which 5 are the same for all candidates. During the FK courses you will have the breed standards for these breeds and they must be judged according to the standard. Of course you have to pass also this examination. You can fail in any of these tests and you have the privilege to start from the very beginning next time. BC gives you the special education in the breed involved. It consists ex. The history of the breed, the utilisation of the breed, the breed characteristics, today's picture of the breed in your country and abroad. After this you have to be judge trainee for at least 4 times. You discuss with the judge who advises you and give you his opinions about the dogs in the ring. You have to be a trainee for a Finnish or Scandinavian judge 3 times. If you feel that you are ready to be a judge for this breed you ask the BC to organize a collegium for you. A collegium consists two collegium-judge (breed judges appointed by the BC), FK nominates the supervisor of the situation. The BC selects the dogs for the collegium, at least 5 dogs (in rarer breeds), usually 10 - 16 dogs. The test is written critics and collegium judges ask you questions about your critics. If you pass (you will know this at the spot) the collegium judges recommend your nomination for a judge for this breed for the FK board.</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS You are Finnish Kennel Club judge for one breed. This is a start and it took about 2 years.</p>	<p>collegium etc.. If you want to extend to the breeds from other FCI groups you have to ask a permission from the FK board and then the proceeding is the same.</p>
France	<p>1- Etre membre de son club de race depuis au moins 5 ans sans interruption, 2- Avoir un affixe depuis au moins 5 ans (ramené à 3 ans depuis 2001), 3- Avoir conduit plusieurs sujets nés avec son affixe et classés au moins Excellent en exposition, 4- Faire une demande écrite à son club avec ses motivations, 5- Etre accepté par le Comité directeur de son club, 6- Effectuer 4 secrétariats de ring, 7- Passer un examen interne au club afin d'évaluer vos connaissances, 8- Effectuer un stage à l'école vétérinaire organisé une fois par an par la Société Centrale Canine et obtenir au moins 13 de moyenne, 9- Ensuite effectuer de 3 à 5 assessorats avec des juges formateurs 10- Une fois que vos assessorats sont terminés, votre club de race vous fait faire un jugement parallèle avec un juge formateur (ce jugement doit avoir lieu avec un minimum de sujets), 11- Si votre jugement est estimé satisfaisant, le club de race adresse votre dossier de juge à la Société Centrale Canine afin que vous soyez nommé « Juge Stagiaire ». 12- Une fois Stagiaire il vous faut effectuer au moins 3 jugements sur un délai supérieur à 2 ans et ce sans réclamation avant de pouvoir prétendre à la qualification</p>	<p>1) Faire une demande écrite au club de la race concernée, 2) Etre accepté par le comité directeur de celui-ci, 3) Une fois accepté par le Comité directeur de la race, celui-ci peut vous faire effectuer de 3 à 5 assessorats, 4) Vous devez effectuer au moins 3 jugements de stagiaire sans réclamation avant que le club de race présente votre dossier à la Société Centrale Canine pour votre Qualification.</p>
Belgium	<p>5 years of breeding activity + General exam from the Belgium kennel club + 10 times ringing steward + then theoretical and practical exam. If passed, then assistant judge for one year + exam. If passed, licenced judge.</p>	<p>Not more than two more breeds a year.</p>
Italy	<p>Introduced by 3 breed judges and the breed club. Then exams and 5 practical examinations at show</p>	
USA	<p>New breed judging applicants may apply up to a maximum of 13 breeds on their first application. The following forms must be completed, signed and returned for processing: Questionnaire, 12-5-4 Form/60 Point System Form, and Synopsis The following criteria are mandatory to apply for initial breed(s): ! Have 12 years documented experience in the sport (documentation may include date of litters, exhibiting and club membership) (documentation must be included in order to process application) ! Have bred and raised 5 or more litters in each breed ! Have bred 4 or more champions in each breed (whether or not owned or handled by the applicant) ! Acted as assigned steward at least 6 times at AKC member or licensed shows ! Completed 6 judging assignments at</p>	<p>Must have completed 6 provisional assignments in the original breed, have been observed by the AKC representatives and given good reports, must have had at least a year elapse between the first application and the second, must be approved by the</p>

	AKC sanctioned matches, specialty matches, sweepstakes and/or futurities (sweepstakes, futurities and specialty matches count as two sanctioned matches (Fun Matches, Junior Showmanship or Obedience assignments are not acceptable) ! Viewed the AKC video of each breed requested ! Met AKC.s occupational eligibility requirements as indicated in Chapter 7, Section 1 ! Successfully completed Anatomy and Procedural .open-book. exams ! New breed judges who wish to judge Junior Showmanship must pass an .open-book. exam and meet the requirements stated on the Criteria Form Litters and co-owned litters must have been whelped and raised on applicant.s premises. The required four champions must be from litters whelped and raised on applicant.s premises.	committee. A breeder who has originally applied for an received approval for one breed , may then apply for one more breed.
Hungary	Training 2 years at different level dog show (club show, national shows, international shows). Then exam. Knowledge of a foreign language	

22 - What has been your own record?

221) For which breed have you been licensed first?

Question 221	Afghan hounds	Other sighthounds	Other hounds	Other breeds
UK	83 %	8 %	0 %	8 %
Scandinavia	50 %	50 %	0 %	10 %
Europe	67 % (14% for France and 70 % for the rest of Europe)	35 % (57 % for France and 20 % for the rest of Europe)	6 %	6 %
USA -Aust	100 %	50 %	17 %	0 %
total	65 %	32 %	2 %	9 %

222) If afghan hounds, which other breeds are you judging?

Question 222	Only afghan hounds	Afghan hounds + other sighthounds	Afghan hounds + sighthounds + other hounds	Afghan hounds + sighthounds + hounds + other breeds
UK	42 %	17 %	25 %	17 %
Scandinavia		60 %	10 %	30 %
Europe		76 %		24 %
USA -Aust		29 %	14 %	57 %
Total	11 %	50 %	11 %	28 %

Comments :

- With these two questions, you can see a clear difference of judging culture from the different parts of the world. English judges are afghan specialists and stays most of their life breeder judges with few connections with the other breeds (almost the half of the judges have not and may never take a second breed to judge). It is the opposite with the scandinavian, european and american judges. They usually start with two or more breeds and they are judging the all group X (sighthounds) very fast.
- The american australian judges are the fastest to extend their licence to all kind of breeds.
- One more time the strongest differences are between France and England (14 % and 83 % are starting with afghans
- Only 11 % of our judges had their first judging licence for a breed out of group X. This proves one more time the strong connection between the sighthounds breeds.

23 -At what age did you become an afghan judge?

Question 23	Between 20 to 30 yo	Between 30 to 40 yo	Between 40 to 50 yo	Between 50 to 60 yo
UK	55 %	36 %	9 %	0 %
Scandinavia	30 %	20 %	50 %	0 %
Europe	24 % (0 %for France and 36% for rest of Eur.)	47 %	18 %	12 % (33 % for France and 0% for rest of Eur.)
USA -Aust			100 %	
Total	32 %	35 %	27 %	5 %

Comments : the majority of the english judges are becoming afghan judges very young (before 30 yo). On the opposite, 33 % of the french judges are becoming afghan judges after 50 yo. The big majority of the scandinavian and american judges are becoming afghan judges between 40 and 50.

24 - According to you, which are the strengths and the weaknesses of the judge training in your country?

25 - which modification would you like to see?

Question 25	Which modification to judge training
UK	58 % of the english judges are satisfied with the system and wish no modifications. Some others ask : - for prospective specialist judges to own more top quality specimen before embarking in judging. - For more hand-on practical trainings - That judges training should be on a group system, not on a single breed system - For more seminars by experts who in turn give their assessments on candidates. Comments : many judges think that it is too long to become a judges, but the paradoxe is that most of them are becoming judges before 30 yo !!
Scandinavia	55 % of the judges don't wish modifications. For the others, - One ask for better basic education (DK) - One regret that the kennel club encourages to extend the licences so easily, without being sure of the true interest in the breed the judge wants to apply for.. Comments : overall, the scandinavian judges seems to be the more « satisfied » judges...
Europe	43 % feels satisfied with the current system. For the others, - most ask for better training for the formative judges with a stronger background (should have been afghan breeder) - One wishes an training organism for the judges that would be independant from the kennel club, because of too much politic. - Some wish that the breed clubs could have more power in nominating the new judges. - Some others wish that the breed clubs could have less power in nominating the new judges - One would like to see a monthly meeting for afghan judges in her country - Some regrets that there is no system to protect from students that have not « dog eye ». comments : the biggest critics for the judges record are coming from the european judges.
USA - Aust	50 % of the judges are satisfied with their rules. - Some of them wish the same rules for handlers and breeders - Some would like to see far fewer judges approved each year - Some regrets that there is no system to protect from students that have not « dog eye ». comments : a few judges are complaining about the fact that there is no system to protect from « no dog eye » student. Actualy, in Finland, the first step before any seminar and exam is the FK test for the BC recommended people : it is a test for the »dog eye«, the shape conception. You have to describe different kind of dogs like a bassset hound, azawake and labrador. This is no by breed standard but the overall shape understanding. You can easily fail this... I am sure that this test could be adapted for many countries.

26 - Have there been some evolutions in your way of judging shortly after getting your licence and today? If so, how would you describe them?

Question 26	Yes	Did not answer
UK	0%	75 %
Scandinavia	60 %	45 %
Europe	64 % (100 % for the french judges and 29 % for the other european judges)	18 %
USA - Aust	50 %	20 % (no answers from Australian judges)
Total	30 %	44 %

Comments : For the judges that answered Yes, they admit :

- 35 % have more global judgments, are judging less on the details
- 29 % have more self insurance
- 14 % think they are more severe
- 14 % think they are less severe
- 7 % are much faster to judge

Not one english judge think that there has been a evolution in his way of judging. The reason can be that they are judging afghan much more rarely than the other judges.

27 - - How often do you read the afghan hound standard ?

Question 27	Everytime before judging	From time to time	Rarely or never
UK	50 %	33 %	17 %
Scandinavia	80 %	20 %	
Europe	35 % (14 % for the french judges 50 % for others)	29 %	35 % (57 for the french judges 20 % for the others)
USA -Aust	100 %		
Total	58 %	24 %	18 %

Comments : here are two opposite answers :

•from a australian judge : « I eat, sleep and breath the afghan standard »

•from a european judge : « I read it only for each modification of the standard »

almost all the scandinavian, american and australian judges admit that they are reading the standard everytime before judging but only 14 % for the french judges. On the opposite about 20 % of the judges admit that they read it rarely or never (the % is higher for the french judges). These judges often says that they don't need to read it because they know the standard by heart !!!

One scandinavian judge said that he knows the standard by heart but still read it very often (and especially everytime before judging) and find something new everytimes. He thinks that the judges who don't need to read it (because they know it by heart)... knows only their own interpretation of the standard, but not the standard itself.

C - The judging rules

31 - Are the different rules, one country compared to another, a source of problems to you as a judge? If so, which ones?

32 - Would you wish a global standardization for these judging rules?

	Question 31 : No, different rules are no source of problems for me	Question 32 : Yes, i wish a standardization of the judging rules
UK	73 %	58 %
Scandinavia	91 %	100 %
Europe	94 %	63 % (100 % for the french judges 33 % for the others)
USA -Aust	86 %	14 %
Total	87 %	63 %

33 - What do you think about the written critics on each dog, in most of the FCI countries?

Question 33	Excellent	Excellent, for a specialty show only	Good, but...	Not good	Without opinion
UK	92 %	8 %			
Scandinavia	20 %	10 %	70 %		
Europe	19 %	6 %	25 %	31 %	19 %
USA - Aust	29 %		29 %	42 %	
Total	39 %	7 %	28 %	17 %	7 %

Comments :

Positive arguments :

- Excellent to justify and educate the exhibitor
- Excellent to remember the dogs before placing them
- Gives the exhibitor value for his money.

Negative arguments

- lost of time
- tend to focus on the faults
- boring and repetitive for the judge
- nightmare if bad steward

Funny situation : english judges loves the written critics which doesn't exist in England. In the countries where the critics are made (scandinavia and Europe), you can see that the judges are less enthousiastic !!! 31 % (the biggest % for them) have a negative opinion on the written critics.

34 - As a judge, which roles and what importance do you give the ring stewards?

The steward seems to be very important for all the judges and even more important abroad. The two main qualities asked from the judges are : effectiveness and discretion. Many judges mentionned the high quality of the australian stewards.

D - Your opinion about judges

41 - According to you, in which countries or parts of the world are the best Afghan hound judges trained? Why?

Question 41	UK	Scandinavia	Europe-FCI	USA	Australia	Other answers °	Did not answer
UK	67 %	11 %	22 %				25 %
Scandinavia		71 %	14 %			14 %	36 %
Europe		25 %	38 %		13 %	25 %	53 %
USA-Aust		33 %		33 %	33 %		0 %
Total	20 %	33 %	20 %	7 %	10 %	10 %	36 %

°Other answers : 10 % of the judges had that same answer : the best judges are trained where are the best breeders that breed the best afghans... because these animals are the material to learn to judge...

comments :

As individual countries (not parts of the world), Finland is mentionned by 13 % of the judges (no finnish judges) and Australia by 10 % of the judges (no australian judges).

- 100 % of the judges that mentionned UK are english
- 50 % of the judges that mentionned Scandinavia are scandinavian
- 33 % of the judges that mentionned Europe are european
- 67 % of the judges that mentionned USA are american.

Most of the european judges have no opinion as they don't know very well the judges training overthere. Most of the judges think their own system is the best, but overall, they all mention Scandinavia and the scandinavian way of training judges seems to be the most efficient.

43 - Do you think that the judge has to justify his judgments? Do you feel you have an educational role?

Question 43	Yes, the judge has to justify his judgments	Yes, the judge has an educational role
UK	64 %	82 %
Scandinavia	91 %	91 %
Europe	75 %	87 %
USA -Aust	85 %	100 %
Total	78 %	89 %

44 - As well as the technical competence, which judging qualities, are the most important (classify in decreasing order):

- integrity in his judgments,
- his neat aspect,
- his ability to be the master of his ring,
- his kindness and respect for the exhibitors

The average grading for all the judges is A-D-C-B. 89 % of the judges answered that question.

- 95 % of the judges are thinking that the integrity in the judgments is more important

- 78 % of the judges have decided for the kindness and respect for the exhibitors as second quality
- 60 % of the judges have put the ability to be master of the ring as third quality
- 69 % of the judges think their neat aspect is the less important.

Logically, their neat aspect is the less important for the judges. But 31 % of the judges are thinking that their neat aspect is more important than their kindness and respect for exhibitors or their ability to be master of the ring !!!

E - Your opinion about afghan hounds

51 - for you, what seems to be the most important in the afghan? (classify in decreasing order):

- the type,
- the movement,
- the overall balance,
- the head,
- the typical breed details (croup, ring at the tail, prominent hipbones, etc.)?

52 - As a judge, which of these faults would devalue an afghan, (classify in decreasing order)?

- a bad coat condition
- a shy dog, with a half carried tail
- a dog missing 1 to 3 premolars (PM1 or PM2)
- a dog poorly presented
- a dog slightly oversized or undersized.
- a wild trimming presenting some traces of scissors or clipping machine.

	Question 51	Question 52	% of answers
UK	A C B E D	B E F (ACD) (A C D with the same number of answers)	67 %
Scandinavia	A C E B D	(BF) A C E D (B F with the same number of answers)	64 %
Europe	(AC) B D E (A C with the same number of answers)	B A C (DF) E (D F with the same number of answers)	82 %
USA -Aust			0 %
Total	A C B E D	B A F (CE) D (C E with the same number of answers)	62 %

Comments about question 52 : all kind of judges think that a shy dog, with a half carried tail would devalue an afghan in their ring. Slightly oversized or undersized dog seems to be more a problem in UK than in Scandinavia or Europe. The wild trimming seems to be a bigger problem for Scandinavian judges than european ones. None of the american and australian judges answered these questions.

53 - Forget your judge suit... As an afghan lover, do you feel close to a particular type (type = family: for instance: Scandinavian, vdOM, English, American, Australian, etc)?

Question 53	English	Scandin.	European	American	Australian	V.D.O.M.	No type	% of answers
UK	37 %	40 %	13 %	13 %				67 %
Scandin.	10 %	50 %					40 %	83 %
Europe	14 %	36 %		7 %	7 %	14 %	21 %	82 %
USA-Aust				50 %	50 %			33 %
Total	18 %	38 %	3 %	9 %	6 %	6 %	20 %	72 %

Comments :

- 74 % of the judges answered that question
- Scandinavian « family » afghans are mentionned first from all the european continent (Scandinavia, UK and rest of Europe)
- There is more english afghan judges that feel closer to the scandinavian type than the typical english type.

54 - Most of the FCI dog shows have a working class, competing for the title. As a judge, are you tempted to favor (argument "the afghan is a hunter") or disfavor (argument "it is a conformation show") them? Would you be favorable for a disappearance of that class?

Question 54	I favor the working class	I disfavor the working class	I don't mind the working class	I wish the working class to disappear
UK	25 %	12 %	50 %	14 %
Scandinavia	9 %	9 %	82 %	9 %

Europe	7 %		93 %	20 %
USA –Aust	50 %		50 %	
Total	17 %	6 %	83 %	14 %

Comment : 74 % of the judges answered that question

One more time UK seems to be very enthusiastic with that working class... and they are the only ones that have not that class. But 20 % of the european judges are favourable to the disappearance of that class.

55 - Right now, in which countries or part of the world do you think you can find the best afghan hounds?

Question 55	UK	Scandinavia	Europe	USA	Australia	Russia
UK	30 %	40 %	10 %	10 %	10 %	
Scandinavia		50 %	10 %		33 %	
Europe		58 %	17 %		17 %	8 %
USA – Aust		50 %		50 %		
Total	10 %	50 %	13 %	7 %	17 %	3 %

Comments :

- As individual country, Finland has been mentionned by 20 % of the judges
- All the parts of the world have mentionned Scandinavia first.

56 - How many times a year do you judge Afghans usually?

57 - In how many countries have you judged Afghans?

	Question 56 : how many times a year do you judge afghans ? (average)	Question 57 : In how many countries have you judged afghans ?(average)
UK	2.45 (from 1 to 3 – one 15)	7.08
Scandinavia	3.64 (from 1 to 6)	8.54
Europe	6.64 (from 2 to 15) (10.42 for the french judges 4 for the rest of Europe)	9.76
USA	15 (from 5 to 20)	7.66
Australia	2.5 (from 1 to 4)	14.5
Total	5.19 (from 1 to 20)	8.90

Comments : the two opposite answers were :

- a european judge, judging 10 times a year in only 2 countries
- a english judge, judging one a year... in 15 countries

One more time you can see huge differences between the judges. French judges have an average of 10.42 assignments a year. The rest of the european judges is very consistent (2.45 for english judges, 3.64 for scandinavian judges and 4 for other europeans than french judges).

F - Your opinion about afghan exhibitors

61 - As a judge, what is your opinion about afghan handling?

611) Is the afghan movement usually shown at the right speed?

612) Is it correct to hold up the tail when stacked?

613) Is the trimming and the coat condition usually correct?

614) Is the muscle and body condition usually correct?

	611 – yes, shown at the right speed	611 – no, too fast	612 – yes, correct with the tail up	612 – not correct with the tail up	613 – yes, trimming correct	613 – no, trimming incorrect	614 – yes, good muscle condition	614 – no, bad muscle condition
UK	8 %	92 %	14 %	86 %	30 %	70 %	22 %	78 %
Scandinav.	9 %	91 %	64 %	36 %	82 %	18 %	46 %	54 %
Europe	31 %	69 %	83 %	17 %	35 %	65 %	41 %	59 %

USA.Aust	14 %	86 %	67 %	33 %	29 %	71 %	50 %	50 %
Total	17 %	83 %	61 %	39 %	44 %	56 %	40 %	60 %

Comment : for question 612, 25 % of the judges have no opinion on the subject. For the other questions, 96 % have an answers.

- 83 % of the judges does not agree with the afghan movement which is shown too fast ! ! ! The paradoxe is that the judges are the only ones that can ask to slow down for a better speed.
- 86 % of the english judges don't think it is correct to hold up the tail when stacked. The rest of the judges think it is correct.
- More than the half of the judges consider the trimming on the afghans incorrect, except the scandinavian judges that think to 82 % that it is correct. Does it mean that the scandinavian exhibitors are better with trimming or that the scandinavian judges don't care with trimming ? Considering the answers to question 52, I guess that scandinavian exhibitors are trimming better their afghans...
- 60 % of overall judges have the feeling that the muscle condition is not good on our afghans. This goes to 78 % for the english judges. Same question : Does it mean that the english afghans are in lesser condition than the rest, or that the english judges are demanding more muscle condition ?

62 - According to you, in which countries or part of the world can you find the best condition and handling on afghans?

Question 62	% of opinions	UK	Scandinavia	Europe	USA	Australia
UK	82 %		11 %	22 %	44 %	22 %
Scandinavia	45 %		40 %		40 %	20 %
Europe	88 %		33 %	7 %	33 %	27 %
USA – Aust.	50 %				67 %	33 %
Total	68 %	0 %	25 %	10 %	40 %	25 %

Comments :

- USA is mentionned first from all parts of the world
- Second position to Australia. Most of the judges that have been invited to judge in Australia mention Australia for best condition and handling.

63 - According to you, in which countries or part of the world, can you find the fairest exhibitors? The less ones? The most disciplined? The less ones?

	% of opinions	UK	Scandinavia	Europe	USA	Australia	Russia
The fairest exhibitors	36 %	17 %	59 %	6 %	6 %	6 %	6 %
The less fair exhibitors	23 %	9 %		81 %		9 %	
The more disciplined	40 %	16 %	37 %	5 %	21 %	21 %	
The less deisciplined	21 %	20 %		80 %			

Comments : considering the few answers to these questions, the statistics are global. The negative opinions about european exhibitors are exclusively coming from the european judges.