JUDGE IN THE MIRROR

REFLECTION AND DEDICATION

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THE NETHERLANDS



I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you wanna make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself and then make a change

Lyrics by Siedah Garrett



WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THIS?

Self-reflection is deliberately thinking about your own thoughts, feelings, actions, experiences, and decisions, so that you can:

Understand yourself better

Sense of purpose

Learn from experiences

Improve as a judge



FOR A SHOW JUDGE

For an **FCI dog-show judge**, self-reflection means critically reviewing your own judging

Consider our **observations, interpretation of Standard, ring procedure, fairness, conduct**

Self reflection makes you aware

1

ACCEPT CHANGE

2

UNDERSTAND YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

3

LEARN FROM MISTAKES

4

MAKE BETTER DECISIONS

5

OVERCOME ADVERSITY

INTERNAL PROBLEMS

- ACCOUNTABILITY IN JUDGING
- DECREASING SHOW ENTRIES
- QUALITY OF JUDGING
- HEALTH CONCERNS
- FEWER MASTER BREEDERS
- FEWER STRONG BLOODLINES
- OVERALL DECREASE OF QUALITY

EXTERNAL PROBLEMS

CHANGING SOCIETAL ATTITUDES

ADOPT DON'T SHOP

DESIGNER DOGS

URBANIZATION

RISING COST OF LIVING

WARS

DEDICATION

We prioritize this hobby,

Despite difficulty,

Time pressures,

Expense,

Failure,

Heartbreak,

At times great personal cost

THINGS THAT MOTIVATE

OUR PERSONAL DOGS

THE BREED WE LOVE

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

DOG SHOW COMMUNITY

SUCCESS

SHARING A PASSION

SIMILAR GOALS



EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY

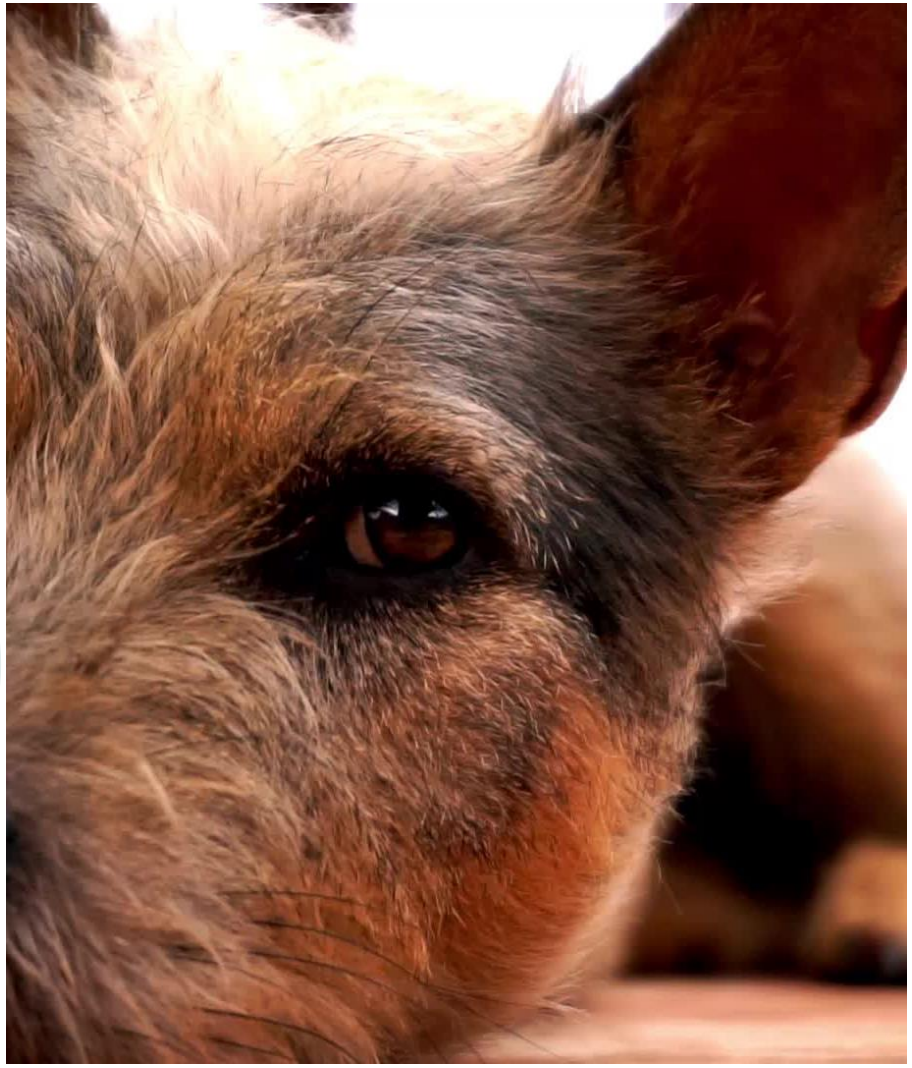
THE BREED DOES NOT REVOLVE AROUND

- ONE BLOODLINE
- ONE STUD DOG
- ONE BREEDER
- ONE KENNEL

THE BREED NEEDS ALL OF US,

ALL THE DOGS AND ALL THE PEOPLE

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY



WHAT IS MY MISSION?

WHAT IS MY IMPACT LONG-TERM?

In my breed

- In my community
- As a judge
- As a mentor
- As a role model
- As a human being



HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE?

Every time we communicate,

we are making a choice:

What I am saying

What I am not saying

What I will object to

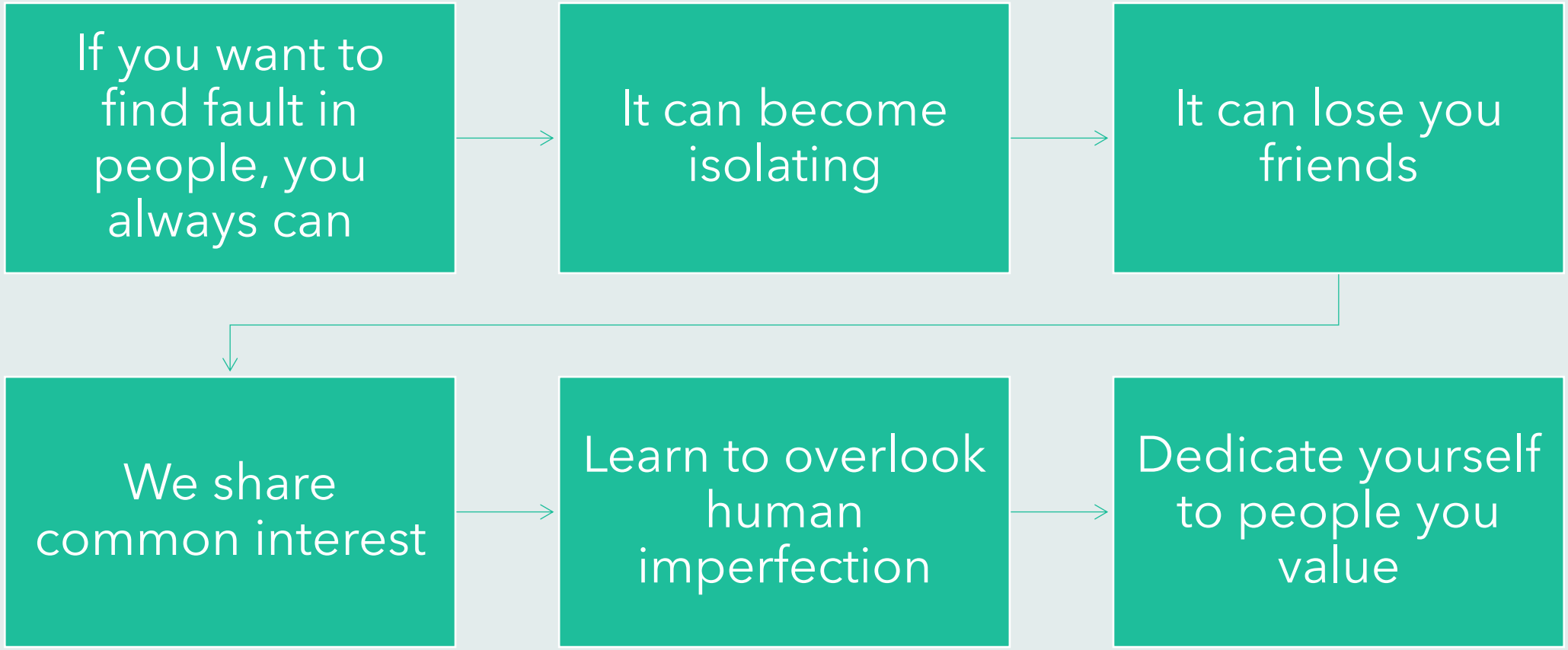
What I will refuse to laugh about

Who I reach out to

Who I support

OUR CHOICES AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY

HUMANS ARE IMPERFECT





HUMAN KINDNESS

Do my actions motivate people and create goodwill?

Do I treat people with kindness?

Do my actions inflame conflict?

Do my actions harm anyone?

It didn’t start with me, but it can stop with me

AVOIDING CONFLICT

01

Misplaced passion can create conflict

02

Fear can create conflict

03

Virtue-signalling can create conflict

04

Know when to stop

05

Don’t feed the dark wolf

DON’T FEED THE DARK WOLF

An old Native American man told his grandson about a battle that continues in every soul.

He said, There is eternal battle inside us, between two wolves.

One is evil and dark. He is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, deception and greed.

The other one is good and light. He is joy, peace, love, hope, kindness and truth.

Grandson thought a while and then asked:

Which one will win?

The old man simply replied, ‘The one you feed.’





JUDGE EDUCATION AND SELF-STUDY

KENNEL CLUB PROCESS IS ONLY THE START

JUDGE IMPROVEMENT AND SELF STUDY

READ!

TRAVEL TO SEE THE BEST DOGS

FOCUS ON STRONG POINTS, NOT FAULTS

LACK OF (BREED-SPECIFIC) VIRTUE IS THE GREATEST FAULT OF ALL

THE MOST TRAGIC MISTAKE:

TO HAVE A GREAT DOG IN THE RING

AND NOT RECOGNIZE IT

ROLE OF FCI JUDGE: FOR BREED

Guardian of breed type

Focus is the dog

Typical, functional

Health and welfare

Feedback and criticism

ROLE OF FCI JUDGE: FOR EXHIBITOR

POLITE AND COURTEOUS

CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS

EQUAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL

OFFER GUIDANCE

ENCOURAGE NEWCOMERS

ROLE OF FCI JUDGE: FOR DOGS

1

SAME PROCEDURE FOR ALL DOGS

2

GENTLE HANDLING

3

RESPECT BREED DIFFERENCES

4

KNOW HOW TO APPROACH

5

KNOW WHEN TO STOP



ROLE OF FCI JUDGE: FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

Judges do not attempt veterinary diagnosis

Describe what we see and give a judgement:

- what looks healthy

- what does not look healthy

Based on knowledge of dogs, knowledge of breed standards

Optimal balance of breed type and soundness

ROLE OF CONFORMATION SHOWS

Not about esthetics

Evaluating breeding stock

Preservation of breeds

Show ring directs future of the breed

FCI Breed Standards define the breeds, reflect function and health



INTEGRITY

Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking

Integrity is using the full scale of qualifications from “Excellent” to “Sufficient”

Judges must recognize quality wherever it appears

Judges cannot please everyone and should not try

Judges meet their own integrity

THE COURAGE TO JUDGE:

Disappoint expectations

Go against trends

Stand alone in decisions

Work under pressure

Make decisions fast

Take responsibility



INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Decisions are immediately public

Judges are always visible and judged

Everyone has a voice

Cameras and livestreaming

Protect yourself personally and professionally

Oversharing can backfire

Avoid online arguments

JUDGES REMAIN IMPARTIAL





FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR FCI JUDGES

The role of the judge may be even more important

Responsibility

Continued Education

Breed preservation

Independence

Integrity

JUDGES NOT ONLY EVALUATE DOGS

JUDGES REPRESENT CREDIBILITY OF THE ENTIRE SYSTEM




THANK YOU!