

Grooming Practices in the Shetland Sheepdog Ring

It has come to the attention of the Judges Education Committee that our exhibitors are once again using foreign substances in grooming. The AKC rules and regulations forbid this practice and is clear in the handling of these infractions. It is the judging community that can best help us in keeping the Sheltie true to our Standard. The ASSA wants to thank you for your attention to the following issues.

1. Gluing the tail down. A few hairs on the tail are twisted and glued to the feathers so that the dog cannot raise his tail to what may be a higher than desired level. Just lift the tail a few inches when you are checking the length and set to see if foreign substance is used in achieving this.
2. Gluing the ears together. Again, a few hairs from the back side of each ear are twisted together then covered by the longer profuse ruff hair, so that the dog's ear set and expression are improved. When examining ears on the table, check the back of skull and base of the ears to be sure that this ear set is not achieved using foreign substance.
3. Grinding the lower incisors to improve the appearance of a level or slightly undershot bite. When you are checking the sides of the mouth for missing teeth, please check that the teeth align properly for the desired scissors bite.

We are not asking you to be the "grooming police", but believe that the awareness of these new practices may impact the process of awarding placements and championship points. As such, please take a minute to verify that the virtues that you intend to reward are indeed present.

American Shetland Sheepdog Association
Judges Education Committee
Glenda Henson, Chair
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American Shetland Sheepdog Association
Member of the American Kennel Club