UNITED DOBERMAN CLUB BREED MANUAL PART 5 – CONFORMATION SHOWS

I. PURPOSE

A. The original purpose of Conformation Dog Shows was for the evaluation of breeding stock. The United Doberman Club recognizes that proper structure and temperament are essential components of the Total Doberman. Conformation shows are held so that exhibitors may exhibit breeding stock and have them evaluated against the standard for the breed (Note: Natural tails and natural ears are allowed and not to be judged as a fault. Proper tail and ear set will be judged as with docked and cropped dogs. Natural ears—medium size preferred and with the front edge lying close to the cheeks.)

II. Making Application to Hold a Dog Show

A. Each member club may hold one or more shows each year. Each member club will have first right to apply for approval of the corresponding dates for its show or shows to be held in the next succeeding year. A member club must fill out a UDC Event Authorization form, with the signature of one of its club’s officers, for permission to hold a dog show, stating in the application the day and the exact location where it desires to hold such show. The authorization form must be sent in time to reach the member Club’s Regional Director at least 28 days before the closing date for entries of a local club event, at least 8 weeks before the closing date for entries in a regional event or 6 months before the closing date for entries for a national event (Note: authorization for a national event is through board of directors, not regional director). Follow the procedures as outlined in “Guidelines for Hosting UDC Sanctioned Events”, Chapter 7 of the Administration Manual.

B. Hosting clubs will follow all procedures for obtaining authorization, preparing premium lists and publicize the event, posting entry closing dates and preparing catalogs as described Chapter 7, Rules Applying to UDC Events.

Note: Some of the information in this Part 5 may be a duplication of information presented in UNITED DOBERMAN CLUB ADMINISTRATION MANUAL CHAPTER 7 – RULES FOR HOLDING UDC EVENTS. It is presented here for convenience. In the event of any conflict, the rules in the administration manual will take precedence.

III. Premium Lists and Closing of Entries

A. After a club has been granted permission to hold a show, a premium list must be prepared in either an electronic or printed format. The premium list shall contain, at a minimum:

- A list of the officers of the show giving club.
• Names and addresses of the judges together with their respective judging assignments.
• The exact location of the show, as well as the date and starting time of the show.
• The name and address of the Show Chairman and Show/Trial Secretary, who is to receive the entries.
• The name, address and phone number of show veterinarian
• A list of all trophies and ribbons that will be offered as awards.
• The closing date and time for when entries will be accepted.

Local Club Events: Entries accepted no later than noon, 48 hours prior to event start time. (Example: event start time is 8:00 am on Saturday, entries close at noon on Wednesday)

Regional Club Events: Entries accepted no later than noon, 10 days prior to event start day and time. (Example: event start time is 8:00 am on Saturday, entries close at noon on Wednesday)

National Events: Entries accepted no later than noon, 3 weeks prior to event start day and time. (Example: event judging start time is 8:00 am on Wednesday, entries close at noon on Tuesday, 3 weeks prior)

A copy of the Premium List must be sent to the Administrator of Records and the Conformation Chair.

Please refer to Chapter 7 of the Administration Manual for complete Premium List Details.

IV. ENTRIES

A. All dogs may be entered in any class for which they are eligible based on their age or accomplished titles, i.e. performance, working, champion, etc.

B. Entries must possess a valid registration number permanently assigned to the dog by UDC or the country of origin’s official stud book, for example in the US it would be the American Kennel Club.

C. Conformation Judging Schedule - Insofar as it is practical, the schedule will allow 8 minutes per dog. A Maximum of 60 dogs will be judged in any one day by any one judge. For all shows that have a closing date for entries, a confirmation of each individual entry including total numbers of pre-entries and the approximate start time for the show events shall be sent to each entrant. This schedule shall also be made available on the day of the show. Judges may be consulted about the timing and length of any breaks in the schedule.

D. Moving Up - If, after entries close, a dog completes the requirements for a higher class, that dog may be moved up. Documentation must be presented to the show secretary PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SHOW. It is the responsibility of the handler that all requirements for the new class have been met.
V. **Catalog**

A. Every Show giving club shall provide a printed catalog which shall contain:

- Exact location of the show.
- Date/dates on which the show will be held.
- Show hours (opening and closing).
- List of all officers and members of the Event Committee.
- Names and complete addresses of all judges.
- Name and address of Show/Trial Secretary.
- Name and address of Show Veterinarian.
- The same list of trophy and ribbon awards published in the Premium List.
- Judging Program including the judging start times and entry quantities.
- Names and addresses of all exhibitors.
- Information on all entered dogs containing:
  - Catalog (armband) number
  - Complete registered name of dog
  - UDC registration number
  - AKC or foreign registration number and country (optional)
  - Date of birth
  - Name of breeder(s)
  - Name of Sire
  - Name of Dam
  - Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)

Please refer to Chapter 7 of the Administration Manual for complete catalog details.
VI.  RIBBONS, PRIZES AND TROPHIES

A. All clubs holding dog shows under the rules of The United Doberman Club shall use the following colors for their prize ribbons or rosettes, in the regular classes of The United Doberman Club:

1. First prize—Blue.
2. Second prize—Red.
3. Third prize—Yellow.
5. Winners—Blue and White.
7. Best Adult (Adult Best of Breed*)—Purple and Gold.
8. Best of Opposite Sex to Adult Best of Breed—Red and White.

*Distinction is made in manual descriptions as Best Puppy, Best Youth and Best Adult. On the rosettes Best Adult will read “Adult Best of Breed”.

Please refer to Chapter 7 of the Administration Manual for complete Ribbon Requirements spreadsheet.

VII. TEMPERAMENT TESTS (TT)

A. To receive awards, all dogs entered in a UDC Conformation show must pass an age appropriate UDC Temperament Test (TT) or approved equivalent (DV ZTP or UDC Breed Survey). Once the dog passes a given level of temperament test, it need not take the test again, until there is a change in the dog’s age or classification.

B. Dogs do not need to pass the test to exhibit in their class but they must take the test; only dogs that have passed the corresponding temperament test will be considered eligible for a Challenge Certificate (CC), Winners Dog/Winners Bitch, or for Best or Best of Opposite awards in their division.

C. Puppy and Baby dogs both take the Puppy Temperament Test (PTT). Youth dogs take the Youth Temperament Test (YTT). All Adult dogs, including Veterans, Champions, and Altered dogs take the Adult
Temperament Test (ATT), except Working class dogs may substitute the Sport Temperament Test (STT) if they meet the titling requirements. However, it is optional for clubs to offer the STT.

D. For purposes of temperament testing requirements for UDC conformation shows, evidence of passing the UDC breed survey (BSB or BSA) will be considered the equivalent of passing the ATT. DV ZTP can be substituted for the ATT if the owner submits proof of passing the ZTP.

E. Entrants will be required to present proof of titles or passing temperament test results at the time that they pick up their armbands for competition, before entering the ring. Such proof includes an official entry into the dog’s UDC scorebook or a copy of the temperament testing evaluation form supplied to the handler at the time of the test. The steward will mark the judging critique form accordingly.

VIII. CONFORMATION RATINGS

A. During the conformation show, the judge evaluates the entries and assigns a rating to each entry. The judge must rate the dogs against the standard, not against one another.

B. Ratings in the Baby and Puppy classes will be: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Sufficient (S), Disqualified (DQ), or Cannot Be Judged.

C. Ratings in all Youth and Adult classes will be: Excellent (E), Very Good (VG), Good (G), Sufficient (S), Disqualified (DQ), or Cannot Be Judged.

D. The following is provided as general guidelines for applying Conformation Ratings. These ratings are applied when considering the dog against the standard and the breed population of Dobermans.

- **Excellent** may only be awarded to a dog that comes very close to the ideal standard, which is presented in excellent condition, displays a well-balanced harmonious picture, and is of high overall quality and excellent structure. Its superior characteristics in respect to its breed type permit that minor imperfections can be ignored; it must however display the characteristic features of its gender. (There are no “E” ratings in the Baby and Puppy Classes.)

- **Very Good (Very Promising for Baby and Puppy Classes)** may only be awarded to a dog which possesses the characteristic features of its breed, which has well-balanced proportions and is in correct condition. A few minor faults may be tolerated but none of a structural nature. This award can only be granted to a dog that shows apparent quality.

- **Good** is to be awarded to a dog that possesses the main features of its breed standard however showing a significant fault or numerous lesser undesirable faults.

- **Sufficient** must be awarded to a dog which corresponds adequately to the breed standard, without possessing the generally desired characteristics of the breed or whose physical condition leaves something to be desired.
• **Disqualified** must be awarded to a dog which does not correspond to the type defined by the breed standard; which has a disqualifying fault under the breed standard; which shows a behavior clearly not in line with its standard or which behaves aggressively. This rating is also to be given if it can be observed that the dog has been surgically altered other than as allowed by the standard. The reason why the dog was rated the dog as Disqualified shall be noted in the judge's book. Dogs that cannot be awarded one of the above qualifications shall be released from the ring with the rating:

• **Cannot Be Judged.** This rating is to be given to any dog which does not move, constantly jumps up and down on its handler or tries to get out of the ring, makes it impossible to assess the gait and the movement or avoids constantly to be examined by the judge and makes it impossible to inspect teeth, anatomy and structure, or testicles. The reason why the dog was rated Cannot Be Judged shall be noted in the judge's book.

IX. **CLASS PLACEMENTS AND BEST-OF AWARDS**

A. There will be four class placement awards (1st through 4th) in each class.

B. Dogs must have taken and passed the TT for the class and awarded the highest conformation rating for their class, e.g. VP (Puppy Class) E, or VG (this is for Youth ONLY) in order to be eligible for a “Best of” or “Best opposite” type award for Best Baby, Best Puppy, Best Youth, Best Opposite Youth. 

*Note:* Best Adult can only be awarded to an “E” rated dog that has passed the ATT or equivalent requirement.

X. **CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES (CC) and ALTERED CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES (ACC)**

A. A challenge certificate (CC) or altered challenge certificate (ACC) is an award of excellence conferred by an individual judge upon a dog entered in a UDC conformation event.

B. In order for the dog to be considered for a CC/ACC, the judge must award an excellent (E) rating to the dog, and the dog must have passed the temperament test required for its age. At any given show, a judge may award Challenge Certificates to any dogs that have met the above criteria and he/she feels is of championship quality or, if the entry is sufficiently lacking in championship quality, may choose to award them to none.

C. Babies and Puppies are not eligible for CC awards.

D. Youth dogs may be awarded multiple CCs while exhibited in the Youth division; however, only one of these CCs will count towards the requirements for a UDC Championship.
XI. CONFORMATION CRITIQUES

A. Verbal critiques shall be given to at least the first four placements in each class and each dog awarded a CC. More verbal critiques may be given at the discretion of the judge. Verbal critiques may include reasons for placements and a comparison of the dog to the standard. The timing of the verbal critiques is at the discretion of the judge. CCs are awarded at this time.

B. Each entry will receive a written critique form upon departing the ring or at the time scorebooks are returned to the exhibitor.

C. The critique form will include the entry number, registration number of the dog, and remarks written or dictated by the conformation judge.

D. All dogs that have been awarded a CC will be noted in the scorebook.

XII. HANDLERS

A. Conformation entries may be handled by one or more handlers during the course of a single class, both inside and outside of the show ring.

B. Only one handler may handle the dog at any given time inside the ring, but the handler may hand the dog off to another handler at any time, provided that the handler on the dog is properly identified with the correct armband number.

C. Handlers outside of the ring may encourage the dog but should take care to minimize disruption to other dogs and handlers in the ring.

XIII. CONFORMATION SHOW CLASSES

The UDC offers a variety of different classes for our conformation shows. Mandatory classes MUST be offered at each UDC Conformation show. Optional classes are offered at the discretion of the show giving club. The optional baby class will typically be judged before the regular puppy class. The optional altered classes will typically be judged after the Best Adult has been chosen from the regular adult classes.

MANDATORY CLASSES (Classes will be offered separately for each sex)

A. PUPPY CLASSES

1. Puppies may not be exhibited with ear tapes/bandages.

2. Open to puppies at least 6 months of age and under 12 months of age on the day of the show.
3. Classes may be divided into 6-9 and 9-12 months of age at the discretion of the show giving club.

4. BEST PUPPY/BEST of OPPOSITE SEX PUPPY - The judge will select from the winners of each Puppy class that have a VP rating and successfully PASSED the Puppy Temperament Test. If no VP rated entries have passed the temperament test, the BEST PUPPY/BEST of OPPOSITE SEX PUPPY awards, ribbons/trophies, are withheld for the show.

B. **YOUTH CLASSES**

1. Open to dogs at least 12 months of age and under 24 months of age on the day of the show.

2. Classes may be divided into 12 - 18 and 18 - 24 months of age at the discretion of the show giving club.

3. BEST YOUTH/BEST of OPPOSITE SEX YOUTH - The judge will select from the winners of each Youth class that have successfully passed the Youth Temperament Test. If there are no “E” rated Youth then the highest “VG” rated dogs that have passed the YTT will go in for Best Youth/Best of Opposite Youth. This is for Youth ONLY and does not apply to Best Adult class. If no E or VG rated entries have passed the YTT, the Best Youth/Best of Opposite Youth awards, ribbons/trophies are withheld for the show.

4. Challenge Certificates (CC) - Any dog to be considered for a CC must have received an Excellent rating and passed the UDC Youth Temperament Test. After a dog has been awarded a CC, the next E rated dog (E2, E3 etc.) from the same class may be considered for and awarded a CC until no further CCs are awarded. CC’s will be awarded during the critiques of each class.

C. **ADULT CLASSES** - Dogs 24 months of age (on day of show) and over.

1. Open - Open to any dog 24 months of age and older.

2. Performance - Open to any adult dog that is titled in at least one of the following categories: Agility, Obedience or BH (including OB/ UPr 1,2,3), Search and Rescue, Guide and Assistance, UDC Therapy, or Tracking (including Tr/ FPr 1, 2, 3), or Protection (including Pr/ SPr 1, 2, 3). (Note: Flyball, Rally or Barn Hunt are not considered a performance title for eligibility in this class).

3. Working - Dogs must possess a minimum of a SchH/IPO I, VPG1, SchH A, Ring Brevet to qualify for this class.

4. Challenge Certificates (CC) - Any dog to be considered for a CC must have received an Excellent rating and passed the UDC Adult Temperament Test (or equivalent). After a dog has been awarded a CC, the next E rated dog (E2, E3 etc.) from the same class may be considered for and awarded a CC until no further CCs are awarded. CC’s will be awarded during the critiques of each class.
D. **Winners Class**

1. At the conclusion of the working class for each sex, the steward shall assemble the Winners Class which will consist of the highest placing E-rated dog or bitch (from Adult classes) that has passed the UDC Adult Temperament Test (or equivalent). If the dog/bitch rated E1 has not passed the ATT, the next E rated dog (e.g. E2) from that class will advance to the Winners Class. If, for a given class, there is no E rated dog having passed its temperament test, then there will be no dog from the class to enter into the Winners class. If no E rated entries for the Winners Class have passed the temperament test, the Winners awards, ribbons/trophies, are withheld for the show.

E. **CHAMPION** - The Champion Class is for dogs who:

1. Are UDC Champions.

2. Non-UDC champions (from other registries including AKC) must enter a regular adult class.

3. The judge will place the Champion class and give each dog in the class a conformation rating and critique.

4. The winners of the CH classes, if they have received an excellent rating will be considered for Best Adult and Best Opposite.

F. **VETERAN** – Open to any adult dog that is seven (7) years of age or older

1. Dogs entered into the Veteran class may be spayed or neutered.

2. The judge will place the Veteran class and give each dog in the class a conformation rating and critique.

XIV. **BEST ADULT, BEST OPPOSITE SEX, BEST VETERAN**

A. The Best Adult class will consist of first place winners in both Champion Dog and Champion Bitch classes, Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Best Veteran

B. The judge will award Best Adult (Adult Best of Breed) and Best Opposite Adult.

C. It is possible that the Best Veteran can also win Best Adult or Best Opposite Adult.

XV. **NON-REGULAR CLASSES (OPTIONAL – MAY BE OFFERED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE HOST CLUB)**

A. **BABY** – Open to puppies at least 3 months of age and less than six months of age on the day of the show.
1. Puppies shown in the Baby class are not exhibited with ear tapes/bandages.

2. **BEST BABY** - The judge will select from the winners of each Baby class that have successfully passed the UDC Puppy Temperament Test. If no entries have passed the temperament test, the BEST BABY awards, ribbons/trophies, are withheld for the trial.

3. If a club chooses to offer BABY classes, the class will be judged prior to the regular puppy classes.

B. **ALTERED** - Open to dogs 24 months of age (on the day of show) or older who are spayed or neutered.

   1. Dogs may enter either Altered or Veterans, but not both.

   2. **BEST ALTERED** - The judge will select from the winners of each Altered class that have successfully passed the UDC Adult Temperament Test. If no entries have passed the temperament test, the BEST ALTERED awards, ribbons/trophies, are withheld for the trial.

   3. Altered Challenge Certificates (ACC) - are awarded using the same criteria outlined above for the regular classes.

   4. The Best Altered and Best Opposite Altered will NOT be considered for Best Adult

   5. If a club chooses to offer ALTERED classes, the judging will take place after Best Adult judging.

XVI. **THE UNITED DOBERMAN CLUB CONFORMATION CHAMPION**

A. The United Doberman Club will confer the title of UDC Champion to those dogs that earn a minimum of three UDC conformation challenge certificates under three different judges from regular classes, pass a minimum of the UDC Adult Temperament Test (or approved equivalent), and earn an approved UDC performance title. Only one CC from the youth class can be counted towards the three required. If an altered dog is shown in the veteran’s class, the dog must have earned at least one CC from a regular (unaltered) class. The UDC administrator of records will check that these requirements are met.

B. The United Doberman Club will confer the title of UDC Altered Champion to those altered dogs that earn a minimum of three UDC conformation challenge certificates under three different judges from the Altered class, pass a minimum of the UDC Adult Temperament Test, and earn an approved UDC performance title.

C. To be eligible for an UDC CH title, the dog must be registered with UDC and have an UDC/AWDF scorebook. The owner/handler need not be an UDC member.

See **FLOW CHART** for a convenient one page guide to the structure of UDC Conformation shows.
Dogs entered in a conformation class that have not passed the Temperament Test may continue to exhibit in their applicable class, receive critique, and are eligible for class placement but are not eligible for CCs or "Best of" awards.

*If there are no "E" rated youths, then "VG" are allowed to go in for Best Youth and Best Opposite Youth.

Baby Class 3-6 Months

Puppy Classes Class Division Optional

Youth Classes Class Division Optional

Adult Classes

Veterans Class > 7 Years

Altered Classes

Baby Class 3-6 Months

Puppy Classes Class Division Optional

Youth Classes Class Division Optional

Adult Classes

Veterans Class > 7 Years

Altered Classes

Pass PTT?

Pass PTT?

Pass YTT?

Pass ATT?

Pass ATT?

Pass ATT?

Pass ATT?

Consideration for a CC

Consideration for a CC

Consideration for a CC

Consideration for an ACC

Adult Best of Breed

Best Baby / Best Opposite Baby

Best Puppy / Best Opposite Puppy

Best Youth / Best Opposite Youth

Winners Dog / Winners Bitch

Best Veteran / Best Opposite Veteran

Best Altered

Baby Class and Altered Class are non-regular classes.