

From: Timothy Thomas [mailto:Timothy.Thomas@akc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Dr Fran Smith
Cc: lrcrectors@googlegroups.com
Subject: RE: Judging concerns:

Dr. Smith,

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter concerning Mrs. Bonnie Linnell Clarke's judging of Labrador Retrievers. I do thank you for writing on behalf of the Labrador Retriever Club and expressing its concerns.

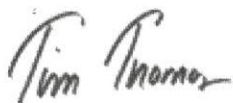
Unfortunately I must inform you that the request to have Ms. Clarke's approval for Labrador Retriever's revoked cannot be accommodated. The power to issue and revoke judge approvals is specifically assigned to the Board of Directors by AKC's Chapter & Bylaws. The procedure in which breeds may be removed is defined by the Board's Judging Approval Process, and one assignment in which a judge may have demonstrated difficulties or a misunderstanding of an aspect such as color would not rise to that level. Be assured, these concerns will be addressed with Mrs. Clarke in accordance AKC rules, regulations and policies.

Yes, judges are obligated to be familiar with the standard of the breeds in which they are approved to judge. It is also feasible Ms. Clarke never had in her ring entries fox-red in color or in her opinion did not believe these exhibits met the definition of fox-red and thus would be considered a Yellow. As a result, she disqualified the entries as to her interpretation they were not Black, Yellow or Chocolate as the standard would require based on that interpretation. As Ms. Clarke has been an approved judge for Labrador Retrievers since 2005 without prior reports of concern, I would offer that a more appropriate action would be to educate to ensure there is total understanding of the allowable colors in the breed. Judging Operations would be happy to assist in any effort to enhance comprehension and understanding by Mrs. Clarke specifically or all judges of the breed.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions with this correspondence. Your letter will also be made a part of Mrs. Clarke's permanent judge's file.

Best regards,



Tim Thomas

VP of Dog Show Judges