



## International Workshop

### “A Dog Loving Society: Best Practices and Perspectives”

Vilnius, Lithuania

6 March 2017

#### Judges Continuing Education: Canadian Style

Kim Leblanc, Canada

The first keynote speaker, **Kim Leblanc**, gave an introduction to judges' continuing education requirements in Canada. Due to the size of the country and related logistics problems, the larger part of judges' education takes place in larger cities. Education (seminars, workshops, breed study groups, individual reading, etc.) is an integral part of being able to apply as a judge. The American Kennel Club (AKC) has developed educational videos covering all dog breeds. The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) encourages judges to visit prominent kennels to get a close up view of different breeds. Anyone applying for a judge must have a mentor, an all-breed judge and be “a long-time student”. A special training program Judges 101 has been developed by CKC. There are several educational opportunities each year in Canada. Training received outside the country is also recognized, provided it is documented. Education also includes ring-side mentoring and participation in herding trials, field trials and other events. There are also opportunities to attend online breed seminars.

Exams which aim at checking knowledge of both breed and procedural issues, form an inseparable part of education. One must take an exam every time when applying for a new breed. It takes at least 12 years to become an all-breed judge. All judges must prove their ongoing education (participation in live conferences, online seminars, writing articles, etc.) every five years. If a judge does not meet the requirements for the 5 year ongoing education required by CKC the license of the judge is suspended until the judge meets the requisite requirements.

