

Chow Chow Examination

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Submitted by Mary Wuest, JEC, Chow Chow Club, Inc.

The Chow Chow Club would like to remind judges that our standard is clear on how to approach a Chow on examination. **"Because of its deep-set eyes, the Chow has limited peripheral vision and is best approached from the front."**

There have been concerns expressed recently by some exhibitors of our breed on the method of the examination on Chows. The concern comes with judges who prefer to begin the examination not with the head but with the withers and examine the dog from the withers to the rump, then returning to the head to examine bite, mouth and head. It is during the return to the head that judges are coming up alongside the body and when reaching the head the Chow is startled and turns immediately to face the judge. **Remember, because of the Chow's limited peripheral vision he cannot see you from the side. It is important that you return in a circle to the front of the dog and then approach the dog again to complete the head exam.**



If a judge prefers to examine the bite and tongue last, please keep one hand on the dog as you move back to the front, so the dog knows you are moving forward. As soon as your hand comes off the dog, the dog assumes you have moved away and are done with the examination.

While there are breeds whose parent club recommend examination to begin with the withers, that is not the case with our breed. [The Chow Chow Club](#) asks that all judges begin the examination with the head, i.e., bite, mouth pigment, head, ears, etc., and then continue the examination with the rest of the body.

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