

Early Dog Shows, Part I

The love-hate relationship that exists between the kennel clubs and large segments of the dog fancy community is certainly not new.

Amy Fernandez

Posted: Thu Jun 23 00:00:00 PDT 2005

Effective reform depended on the continued cooperation of show-giving clubs, nor could the rule be enforced at shows outside of Kennel Club jurisdiction. Inexplicably, the Kennel Club continued to record wins from these shows in their official stud book until 1882, which further blurred the lines between official and unsanctioned dog shows and did nothing to discourage participation at these events. Eventually the Kennel Club was forced to add participation at unrecognized shows to its growing list of disqualifying offenses.

"Those of us interested in coats cannot fail to note the significance of a recent happening [...] an objection has been laid against a very prominent exhibitor of toy dogs for trimming a Pomeranian. [...] We do not hesitate to say that if anyone with the necessary experience attended any championship show he would be able to sustain such charges against nine-tenths of the fox terriers benched. This is a sweeping assertion, but few in the know will question it." (The Kennel, 1911-1912.)