



# TRAINING DAY FOR DOG JUDGES 02/24

>> KWALITEIT in KEURRAPPORTEN en KWALIFICATIES <<  
– Quality in Judges Reports & Qualifications –

## ADVANTAGES OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

transferred to dog shows |  
club activities | dog breeding

© OLAF KNAUBER 2024 | Marketing Communications Economist, Co-Breeder + FCI Judge

PART 1: Scientific principles of communications  
PART 2: Effective judges reports + qualifications



>< IN MEMORIAM FRANS GERRITSEN | VELOCITY GREYHOUNDS | NL ><

Without an open-minded mind, you can never be a great success.  
Get inspired.

# WHY TO BE OPEN-MINDED

Find answers, solve problems and get inspired.

## Open-Minded

- Open to new ideas and experiences
- Passionate about their own beliefs but considerate of others
- Empathetic towards others' feelings

## Close-Minded

- Not receptive to other ideas; only their own
- Rigid thinking and a refusal to consider other beliefs
- Insensitive towards others' feelings

## CLEAR BENEFITS

- >> Gain insights
- >> Have new experiences
- >> Achieve personal growth
- >> Feel more optimistic
- >> Learn new things – by pushing your boundaries & keeping your mind fresh



© Verywell / Alex Dos Diaz; Source: Kendra Cherry, psychosocial rehabilitation specialist, psychology educator and author: Self-Improvement – How to be open-minded and Why it matters: [www.verywellmind.com/be-more-open-minded-4690673](https://www.verywellmind.com/be-more-open-minded-4690673)


# Communication

**#1 and most important key**  
to living a happy, successful, rewarding life


**KEY TO LIFE, LEADERSHIP & DREAMS**

+


**FOR HAVING A GREAT TIME  
AT DOG SHOWS**



**Thoughts, Ideas,  
Goals, Concerns,  
Problems, Needs,  
Dreams**



**Thoughts, Ideas,  
Goals, Concerns,  
Problems, Needs,  
Dreams**



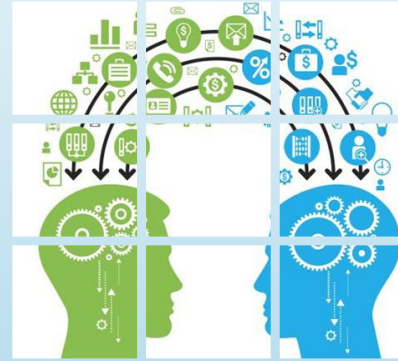
**Exchange of information** (ideas, thoughts, goals, intentions, ideals, concepts, feelings)  
– **from one person to another** – using language and signs – with the aim  
of fully understanding each other's thoughts, points of view and intentions.



# Learning from experience

40 years ago – Happy Hunter’s Anthos & me:  
From “never ever come to a dog show again!”  
– to be the first Show Greyhound in history  
awarded “Bundessieger – Best of Breed”.

Message | Facts | Emotions >> Sender > Channel >> Receiver



# Subject matter | Empathy | Emotions



effective communication



key to success

# Empathy >> Satisfaction

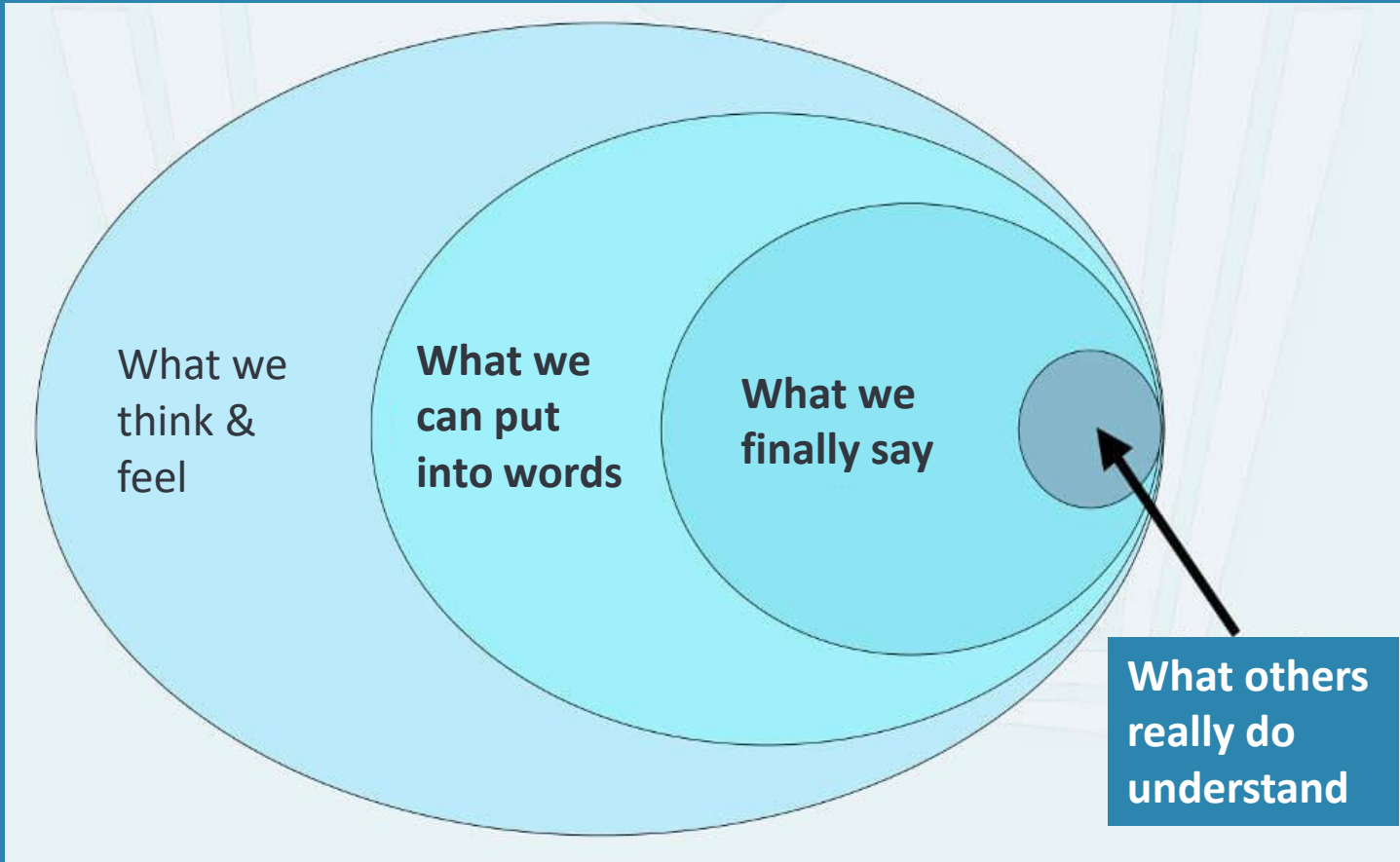


- **Seeing** with the eyes of another,
- **Listening** with the ears of another,
- **Feeling** with the heart of another.

Quote by Alfred Adler

← Source: [www.scorenomics.com](http://www.scorenomics.com)





# Always 2 sides in communication

→ what I want to say  
**vs.** what is received by the other

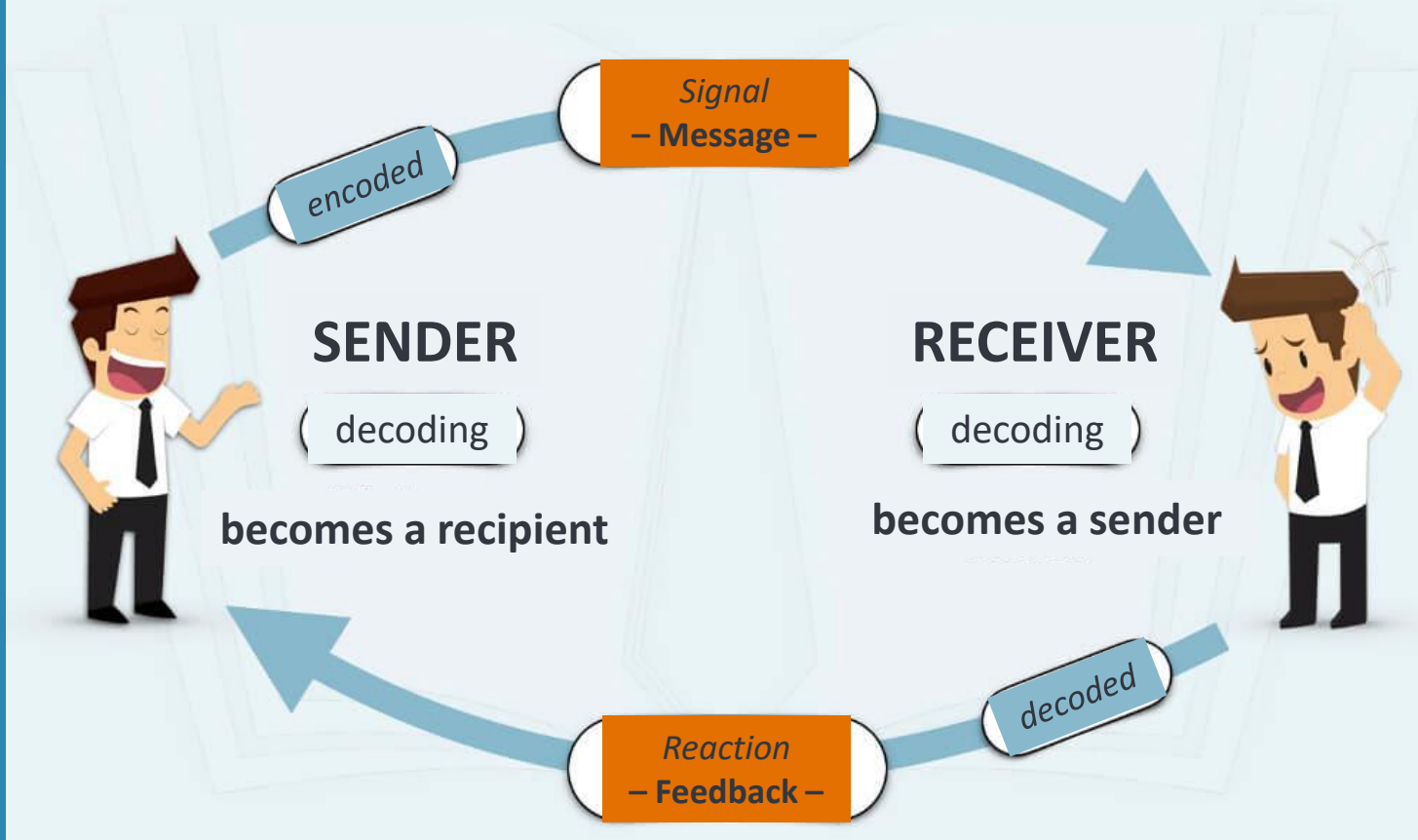
→ what the recipient understands  
**vs.** what has been meant actually



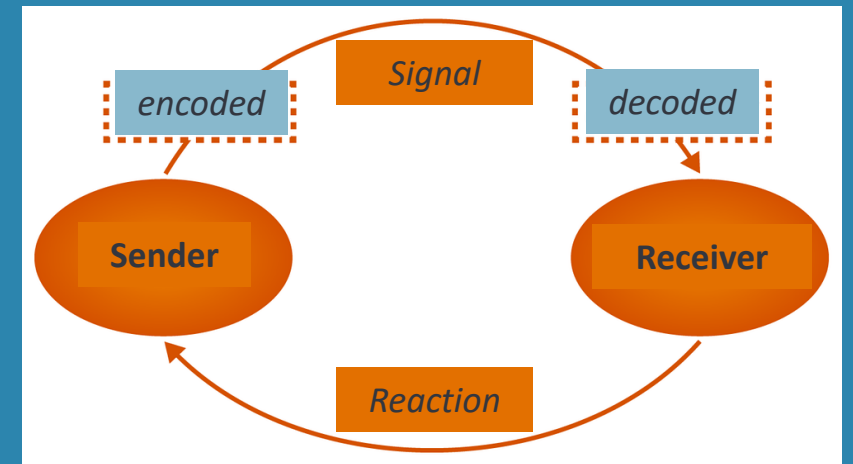
>> **Change of Perspective**  
>> **pay attention to feedback!\***

**\* Feedback as a statement in words – and/or physical signs**  
>> body language, gestures, facial expression >> bewilderment of the other person

# SENDER – RECEIVER – MODEL



# Sender – Receiver encoding & decoding signals



by Claude E. Shannon / Warren Weaver >> Shannon/Weaver-Model

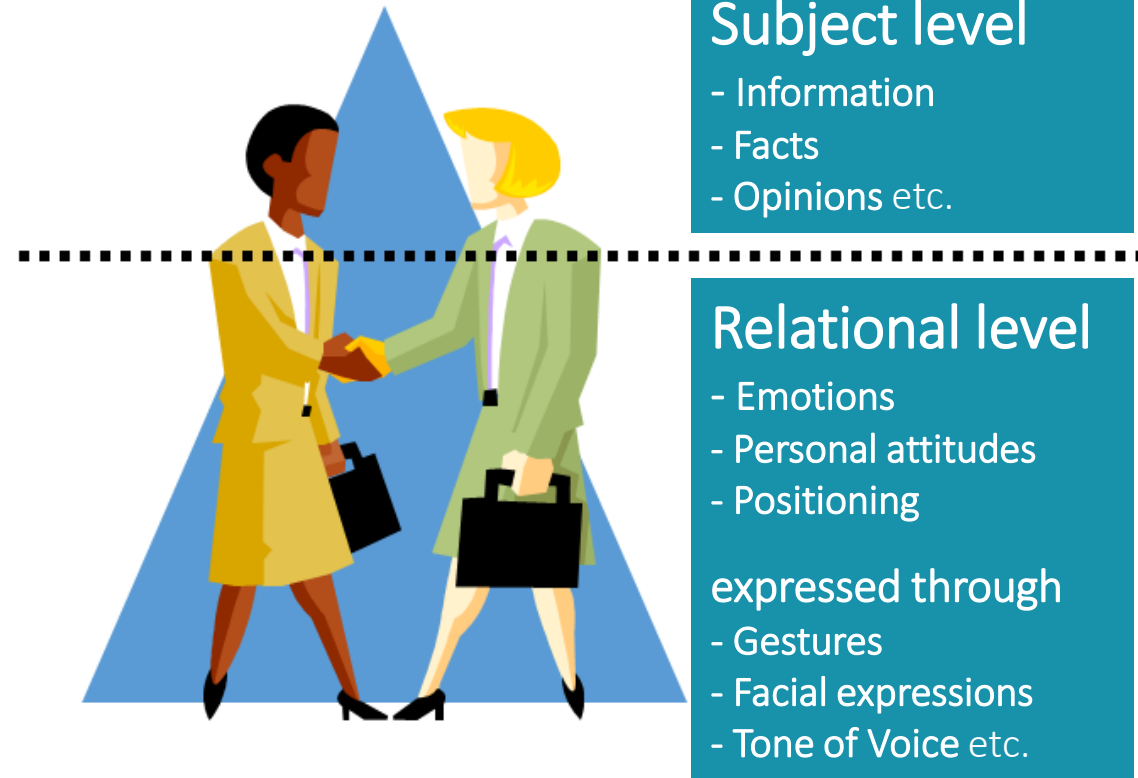
# Different forms of communication

- ++ verbal communication
    - in words and writing–
  - + nonverbal communication
    - body language, attitude, gestures, facial expressions –
  - + paraverbal communication –
    - Intonation, articulation, tone of voice, vocal pitch
- IN A WRITTEN TEXT:  
subtle information  
*<< between the lines >>*

## The 2-level communication model

by Paul Watzlawick

**Communication is also and always about relationship aspects**



# 4-side model

## Square of communication

- >> A transferred information always conveys 4 messages
- >> Interpretation of the message needed on 4 different levels – for both Sender & Receiver –

### >> Subject level >>

Data, facts, circumstances

### >> Self-disclosure >>

Emotions, values, opinions

### >> Relationship note >>

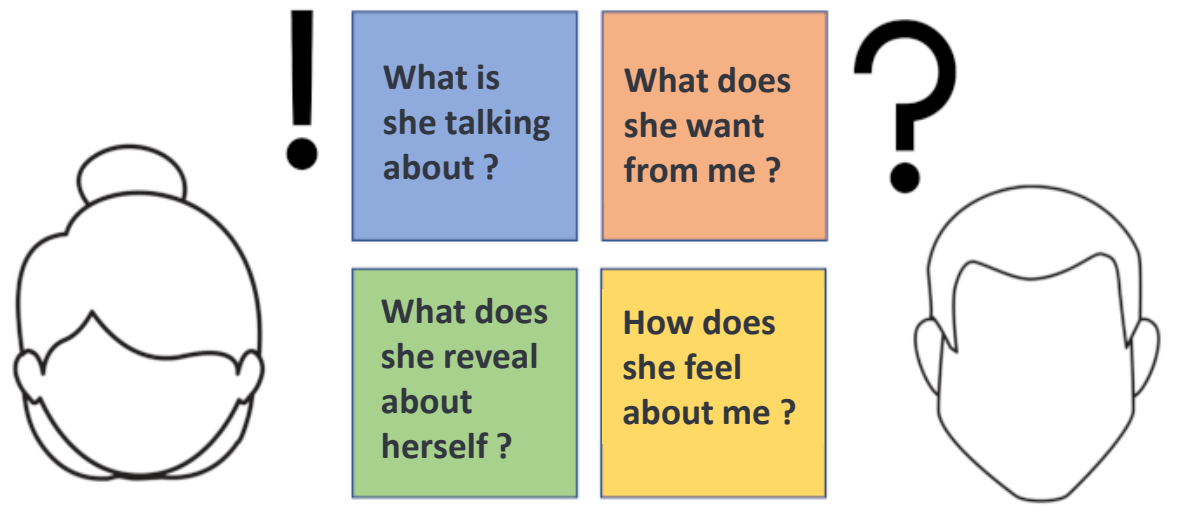
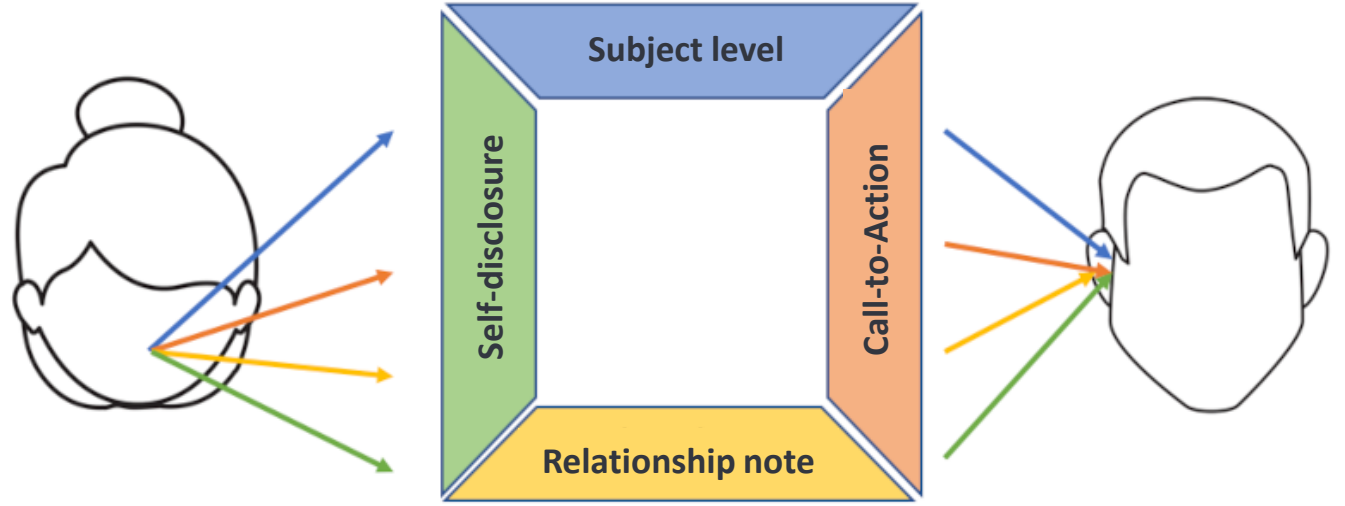
Appreciation, respected, rejected

### >> Call-to-Action >>

Request, reaction, proposal

# 4 sides of a message

communication model by Schulz von Thun



# Four levels of communication

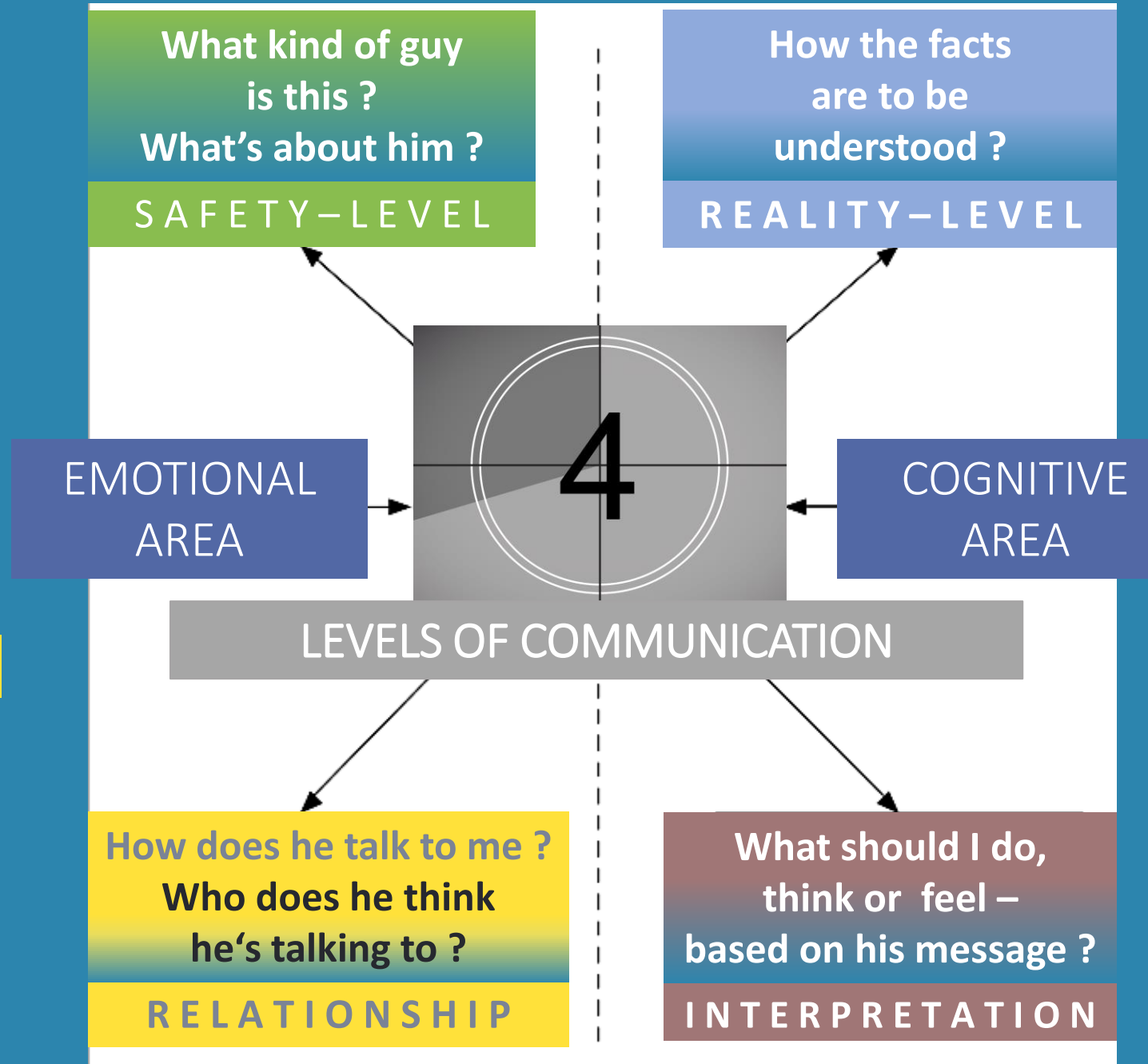
> Subject level | Reality-Level <  
Data, facts, circumstances

> Self-disclosure | Safety-Level <  
Emotions, values, opinions

> Relationship note | Relationship <  
Appreciation, respected, rejected

> Call-to-Action | Interpretation <  
Request, reaction, proposal

Source: Dr. Schwan & Partner, Innsbruck | schwanconsult.com

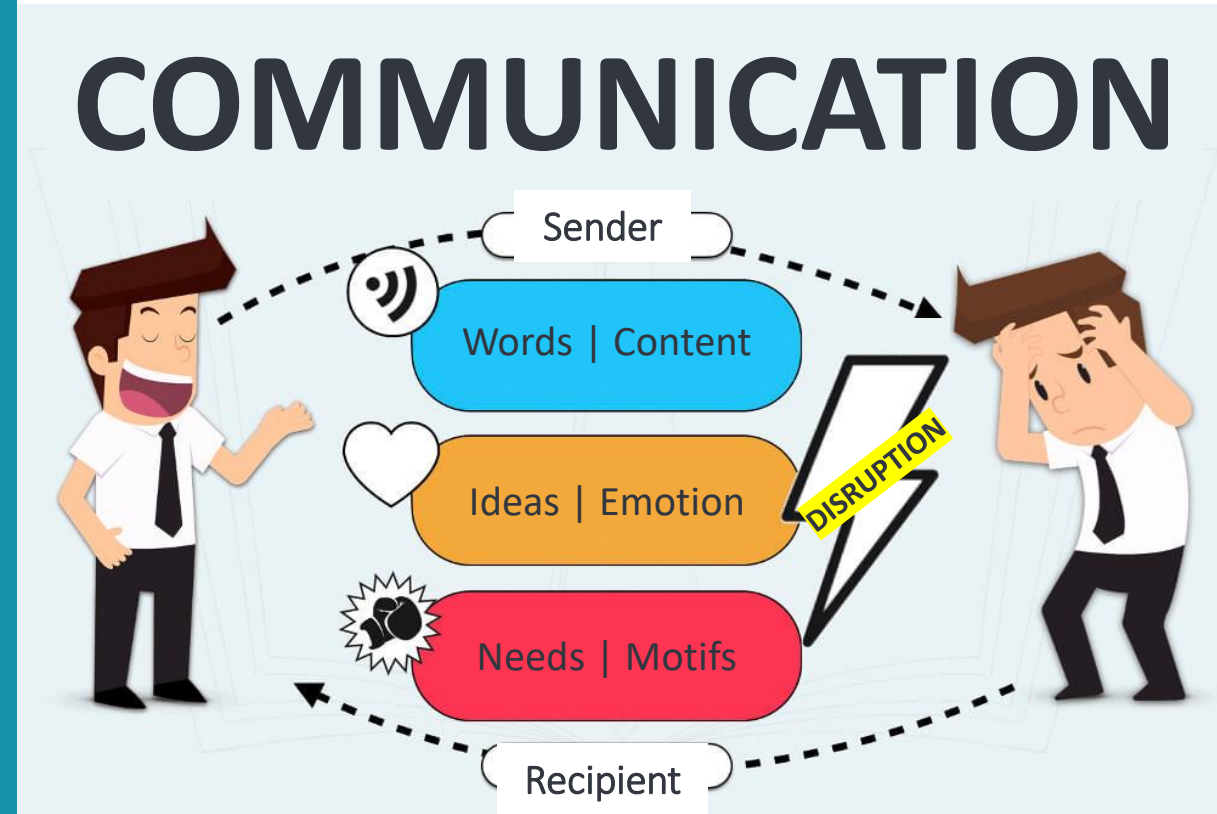


# Influential factors

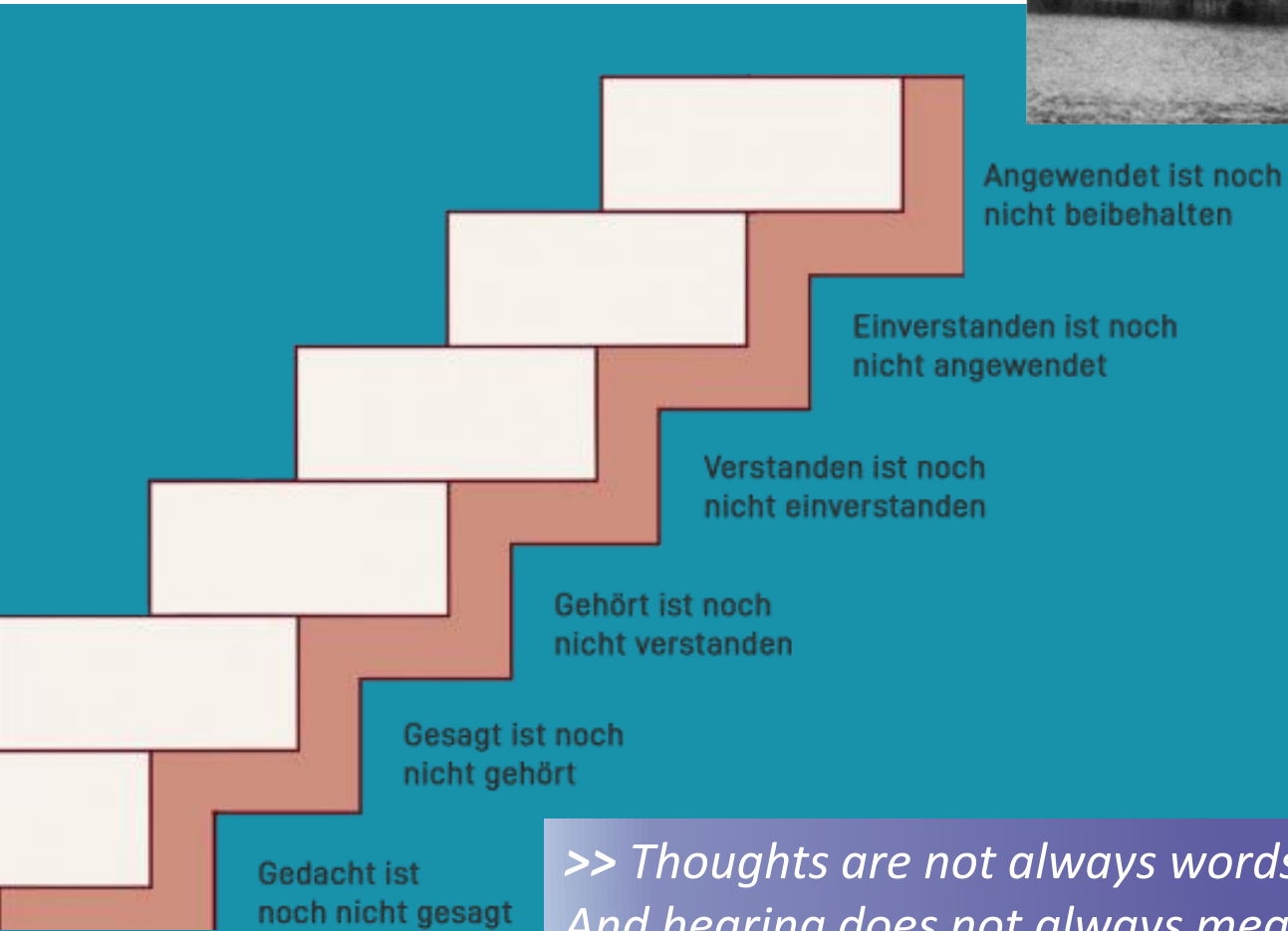
- >> Context / Mood
- >> Personal attitude
- >> Expectations
- >> general understanding
- >> cultural background
- >> Language comprehension
- >> Environment

# Involved factors

>> Sender >> Information > | | Media >> Recipient



# Sender-Recipient-Model vs. Error culture in communications

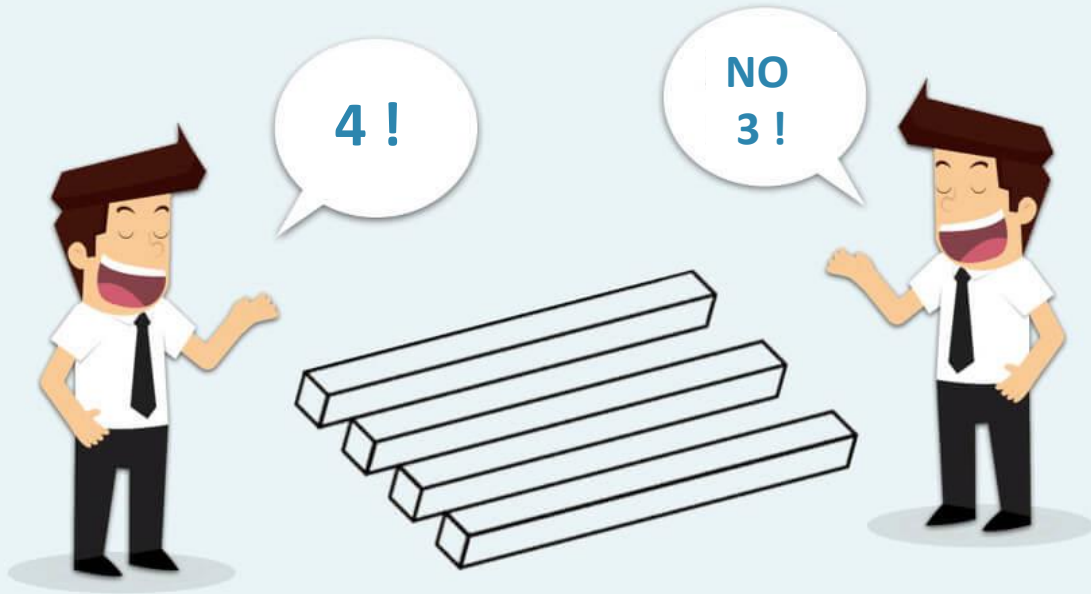


*>> Thoughts are not always words. What's said is not always heard. And hearing does not always mean understanding. Understood doesn't always mean agreed. Agreed does not always mean applied. And applied does not always mean maintained. <<*



What we hear is often just **an opinion**, not a fact.

What we see is **a perspective**, not the truth.



## Causes of conflict

- X unclear statements  
ambiguous messages
- X wrong interpretation
- X emotionally charged
- X different opinions
- X different perspectives
- X external noise
- X lack of attention
- X intercultural differences



# Iceberg model by Sigmund Freud



**Subject level**

– aware –

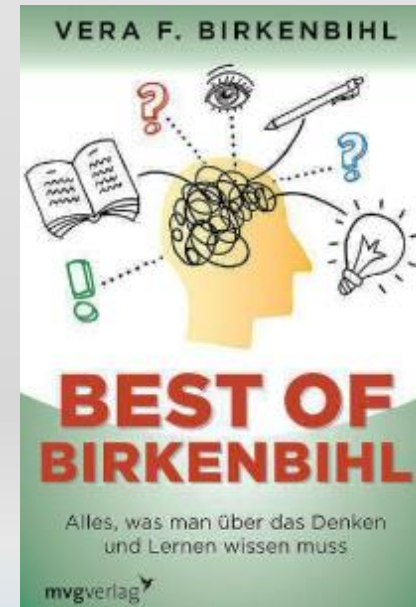
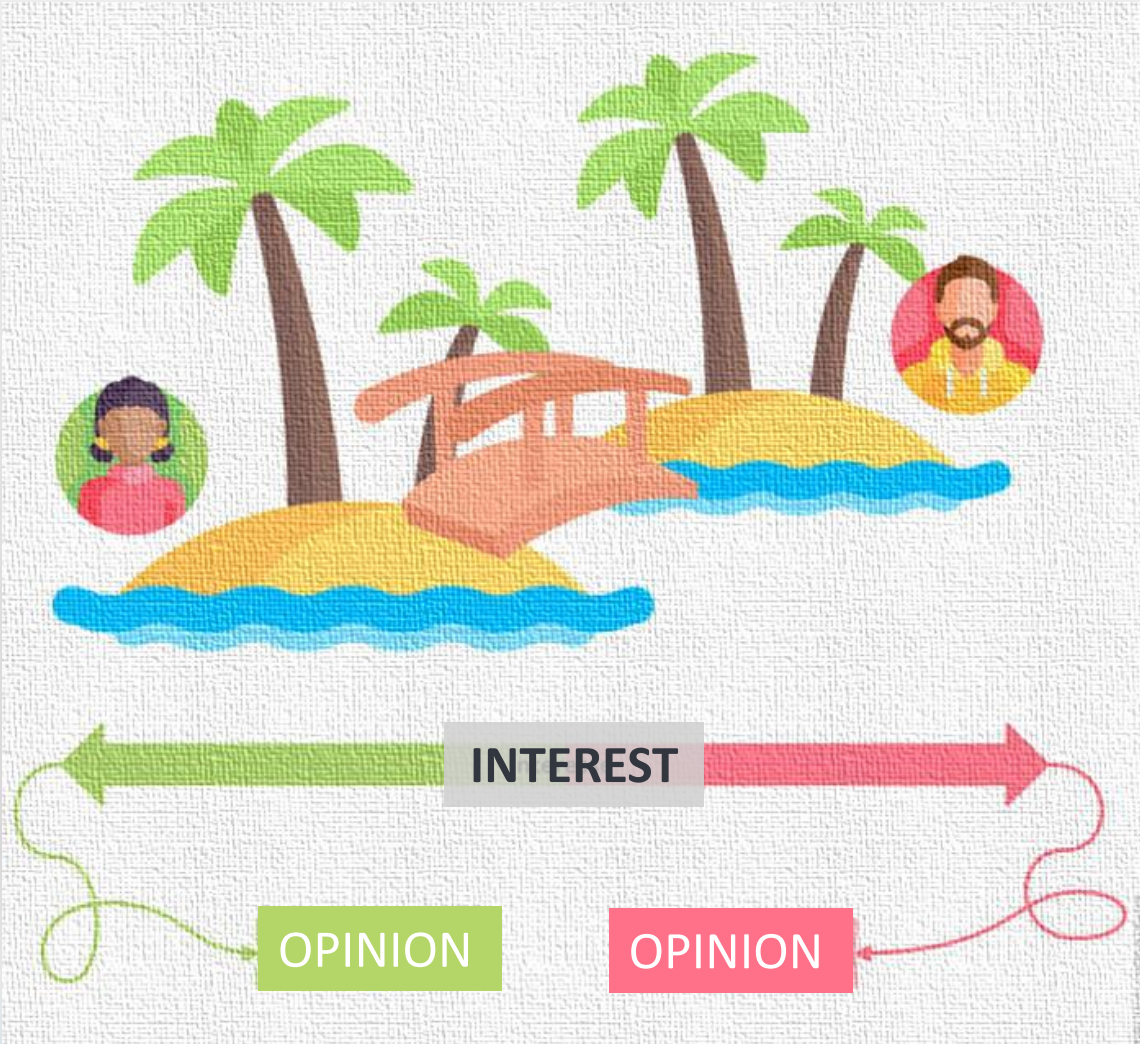
– preconscious –

**Relationship level**

– unconscious –

# Communicative Interaction | Island model

by Vera F. Birkenbihl, famous management trainer & expert author (1946 – 2011)



## Building bridges through affection

- Every human is always surrounded by his own world – his own island
- **Our own island always feels best – per se**
  - >> individual opinions
  - >> understanding of the world
  - >> experiences & interests
  - >> education | cultural learning
  - >> differences in socialization

**> Get a professional attitude by building bridges to other islands**

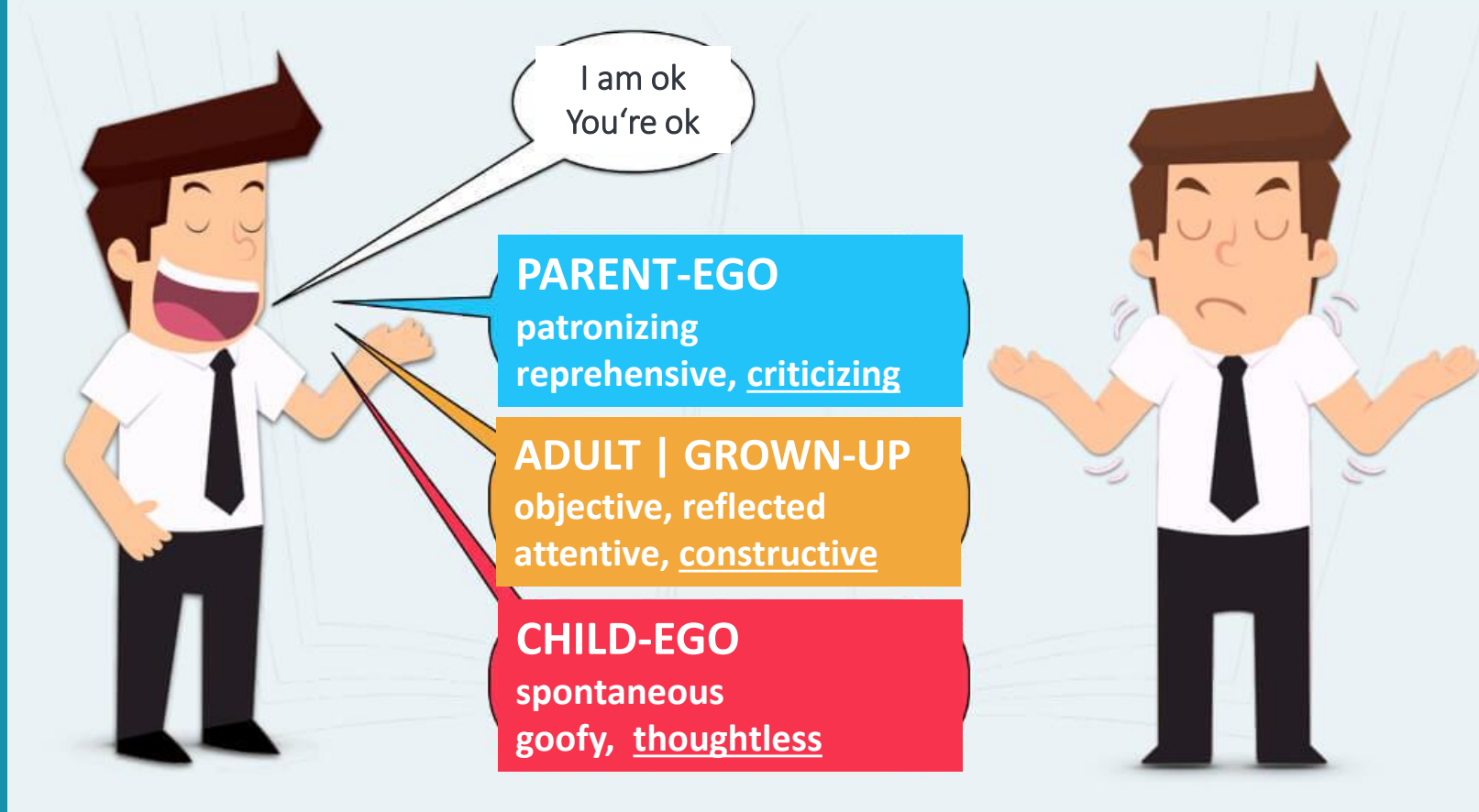
Source: [koru.one/wie-robinson-crusoe-nicht-mehr-alone-ist/](https://koru.one/wie-robinson-crusoe-nicht-mehr-alone-ist/)

# 3 Ego states

transformation  
of information –

the character  
always influences  
the behavior &  
how we communicate

# TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS



# Quality of communication

symmetrisch



komplementär



= 5. Axiom by Paul Watzlawick

Communicating  
at eye level

– symmetrical –

vs.

Conversation partners  
of unequal positioning

– complementary –

by cultural | Institutionally defined roles

>> “Parent-I-Know-It-All”  
vs. Child-Ego  
= Communication style of judges?



# Communication on equal footing | << on eye level >>

>> neither the parent-ego  
>> nor the child-ego

Ideal Case

>> **Adult-Self !**

**NO > MANSPLAINING <**



(English man + explaining)  
2020 New York Times – Word of the Year list

Self-proclaimed experts with the habit of being able to express one's own opinion anytime and anywhere.

Instructing others even when they don't really understand anything themselves.



Photo: German Dog of the Year – final 2023 © VDH – German Kennel Club

Dialogue  
on an equal footing

- >> **Attitude / Respect**
- >> **Welcoming & understandable**
- >> **Uncomplicated language**  
not too much technical jargon
- >> **In order to change our perspective,  
we need to get moving**  
– especially internally –

Asking questions where we don't usually do it.  
Let us be surprised by answers. Be brave  
enough to turn our world upside down.

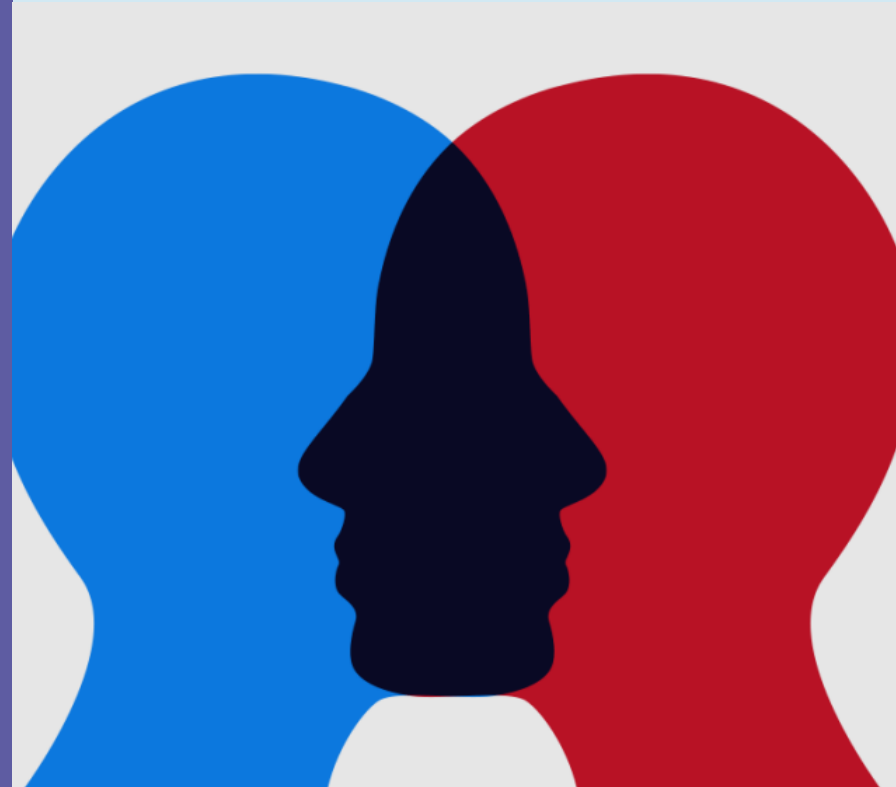
**From the new perspective,  
we have the better view in the end!**

Source: Communication – **How to Succeed in a Dialogue at Eye Level?**,  
Anne-Lena Leidenberger, 21.07.2021, Zeit Online – Zeit Wissen No. 04/21

# Natural authority – acting as a mentor | acting as a coach

## The power of natural authority

- > Unique abilities, experiences & characteristics that stand out from the crowd
- > In connection with one's own values and beliefs
- >>> Attributes for a feeling of natural authority



- **Helpful for inspiring and positively influencing others**
- >> **authentic & meaningful**
- > Willingness to accept individual strengths + limitations
- > Commitment to continuous personal growth and lifelong learning
- > Deep Sense of Empathy + Compassion for others
- > Striving for excellence in your own field of expertise

# Provide & accept **Constructive Criticism**

Imagine if I told you  
that you are not perfect.

Of course, you know that  
nobody is perfect. – But  
**it's still difficult to accept.**

And now think about  
how much preparation you  
put into it – like getting ready  
to compete at a dog show.



Easy to remember

# 5 FINGERS METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

specific

target-oriented

respectful

realistic

motivating





# How to formulate constructive criticism

Honest, critical feedback does not have a negative impact on interpersonal relationship – but can even improve them!

Justin Rosenstein, ASANA Co-Founder  
asana.com – A smarter way to work –

compare constructive criticism at work –

Source: Dr. Sven Sebastian – [drsvensebastian.de/post/konstruktive-kritik](https://drsvensebastian.de/post/konstruktive-kritik)



#1

## DESCRIBE YOUR PERSONAL PERCEPTION – NO FAULT JUDGING

Avoid phrases or generalizing. Be logical and fair and explain well. Differentiate “faults” and “failings”.

## REMAIN OBJECTIVE

Don't criticise the individual, but a described situation or deviation from the ideal. Go for qualities, be honest and qualify failings as well as faults.

#5

## BE SPECIFIC – NOT TOO GENERAL

The judged dog | the performance in the ring is not bad in general but there is still a certain point that needs to be optimized.

## SPEAK OPENLY ABOUT POINTS

...the exhibitor or participant can work on – or getting optimized in the future. Motivate and inspire!

#9

## DO NOT CRITICIZE WHEN BEING UNGRY OR UPSET

It's better to wait and see before you seek a conversation. Always give honest+objectiv feedback.

#3

## FORMULATE CLEARLY AND PRECISELY

...so that the other party can understand without too much interpretation. Choose your words wisely.

## SHOW UNDERSTANDING

...for your counterpart and don't judge too hard other's mistakes or personal failures. Be always fair!

#4

## DO NOT INTERPRETATE AND DO NOT ASSUME

Refer to something | a specific point | behaviour or action that you have observed in the ring.

#6

## SHARE CRITICISM POSITIVELY

...with statements form a personal point of view and statements like “I suggest...” or “I would wish for...”

#8

## GIVE TIPS THAT HELP – INSPIRE !

Always consider that your criticism while judging is primarily intended to help the recipient to develop – while sharing the same passion.

#10

#2





# DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

**Constructive  
Criticism**  
VS  
**Destructive  
Criticism**

**Damage of self-esteem**

**conscious | deliberate attack**

**voicing criticism in public**

**over-critical | unneeded | unspecific**

# DO GOOD AND TALK ABOUT IT!

Criticize correctly  
with „I“-statements

Expressing an opinion about the situation without personally criticizing  
I-messages begin with "I think...", "I believe...", "From my point of view..."

- >> A position from your own point of view – doesn't feel like an attack
- >> Thoughts or opinions are shared – not objective facts
- >> Can help overcome instinctive defensiveness / justifications

# DO GOOD AND TALK ABOUT IT!

confusing | negative impact  
the Sandwich Method



When starting with positive feedback – then constructive criticism – and finally end it with another positive note – as a filling of a Sandwich...

Popular – but not effective! Give feedback instead, as specific as possible!

- >> **Distracts from constructive criticism, makes understanding more difficult**
- >> **Complicates discussion about developing specific points – IT'S CONFUSING**

DO GOOD AND  
TALK ABOUT IT!

Constructive Feedback  
Give actionable criticism



>> **The principle of hope!**

Ideas & concrete steps to develop – clear feedback as a mentor / coach!

>> Whenever concrete suggestions for improvement are missing:

**Constructive criticism gets destructive!** Give something to work on.

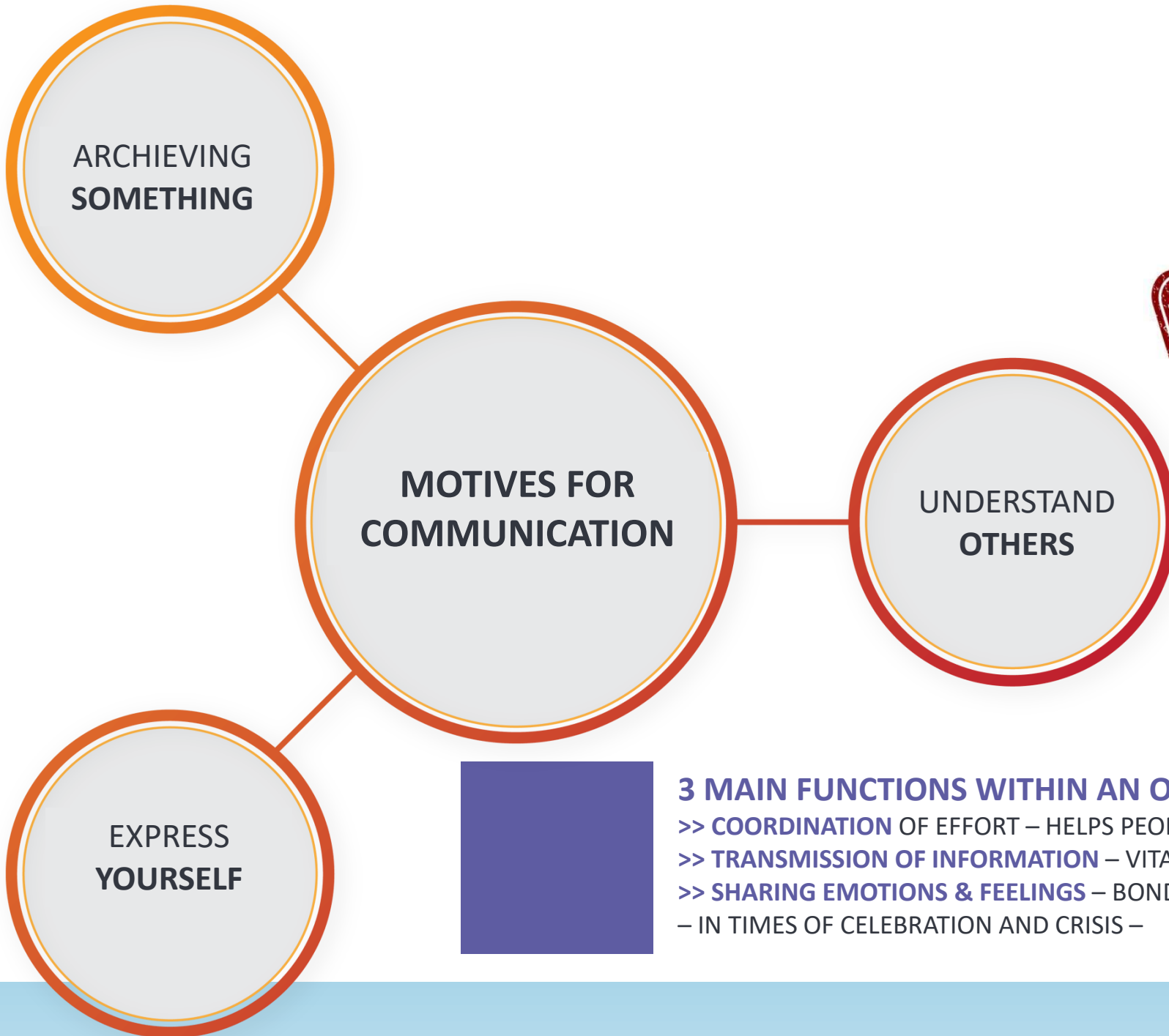
>> Constructive criticism improves team collaboration | team spirit at the club!

# key elements of effective communication

Abstract >> Conclusions



key to success



### 3 MAIN FUNCTIONS WITHIN AN ORGANIZATION

- >> **COORDINATION OF EFFORT** – HELPS PEOPLE WORK TOWARDS THE SAME GOALS
- >> **TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION** – VITAL PART OF THE COMMUNICATION PROCESS
- >> **SHARING EMOTIONS & FEELINGS** – BONDS TEAMS AND UNITES PEOPLE – IN TIMES OF CELEBRATION AND CRISIS –



# Key Elements of Effective Communication

**Empathy &  
Shift perspective**

**Listen &  
remain authentic**

**Clarity of statements  
| thoughtful wording**

**non-verbale  
communication**

**Be approachable  
& ask questions**

**Respect for  
each-other**

**Take time |  
appropriate medium**

**ENCOURAGE &  
GIVE SUPPORT!**



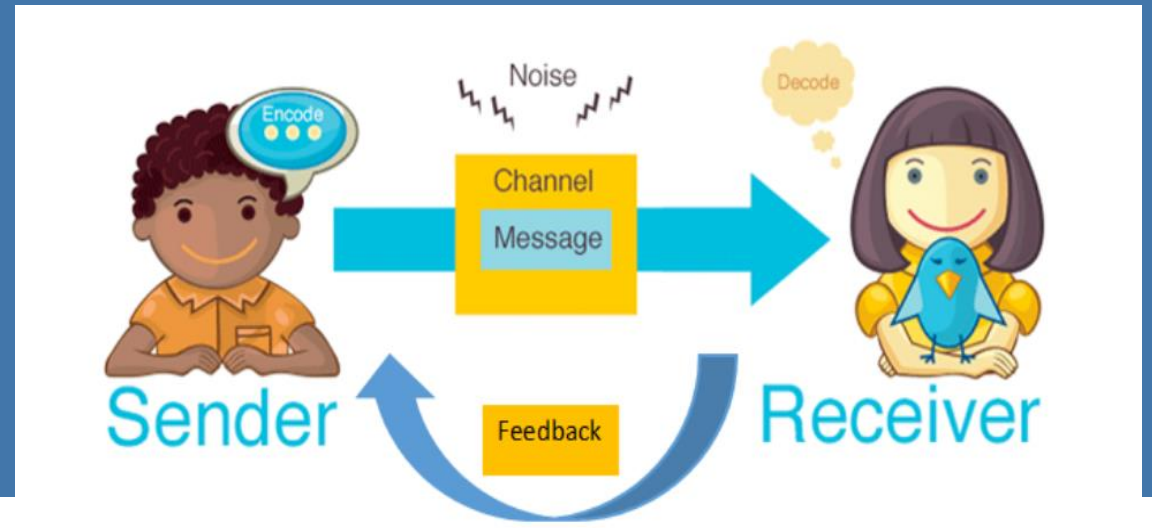
# Encourage & give support

>> INSPIRE! <<

We use communication to give love.  
We use communication to give affection.

When we choose to encourage others,  
we are using communication to give  
people the social support they need  
to develop and succeed.

We can transform an ordinary moment  
into an extraordinary one by what we say  
and share with other people, no matter  
what our role is.



That is the power of encouragement.  
– Create Momentum –

What we say and do can make an impact,  
not only in the moment, but as a source  
of support for years to come.

In my opinion, that's the true mission  
of all dog show judges!



# Conversion for judges reports & qualifications – P A R T 2 –



# TRAINING DAY FOR DOG JUDGES 02/24

>> KWALITEIT in KEURRAPPORTEN en KWALIFICATIES <<  
– Quality in Judges Reports & Qualifications –

## ADVANTAGES OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

transferred to dog shows |  
club activities | dog breeding

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PART 2 Effective judges' reports + qualifications



# The way forward

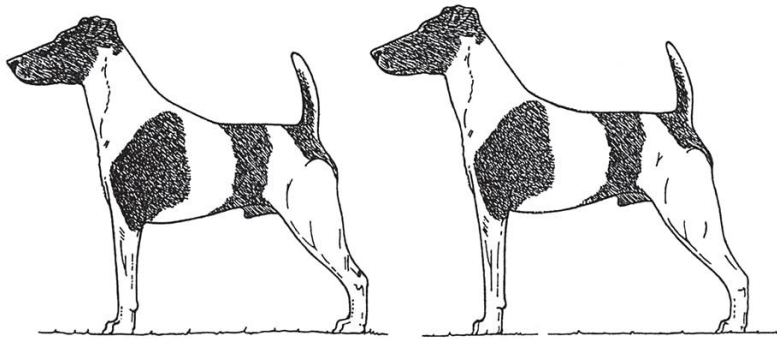
No one knows everything. But together, we know a whole lot.

(Simon Sinek)

Get inspired.

# AN EYE FOR A DOG

Illustrated Guide to Judging Purebred Dogs



Written and Illustrated by  
Robert W. Cole

DO YOU HAVE AN EYE FOR A DOG ?

=

## THE VISUAL METHOD TO ASSESSING DOGS

How to identify the fine differences  
that separates a dog that is quite good  
from a dog that is outstanding ?

Contribute an opinion to the list of merit  
and make your final decisions.

>> Communicate your opinion in a meaningful  
judges' report + matching qualification



# Our perception of the World

Neuroscientists find brain activity patterns that encode our beliefs and affect how we interpret the world around us.

We interpret sensory input **based on expectations and past experiences.**

CREDIT: CHRISTINE DANILOFF, MIT | ANNE TRAFTON MIT  
OFFICE 2019 – MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



**DESIGN THINKING**



**Events**

**Patterns**

**Systemic structures**

**Mental models**

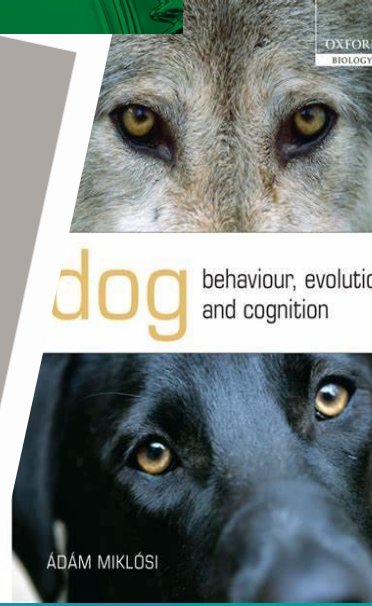
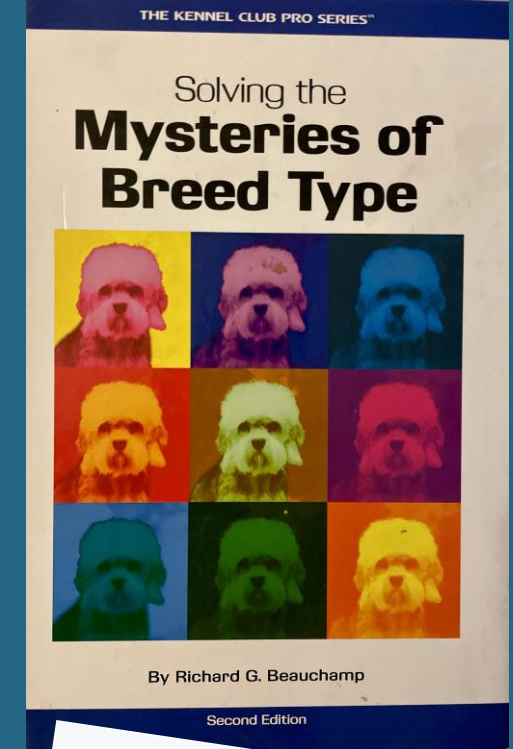
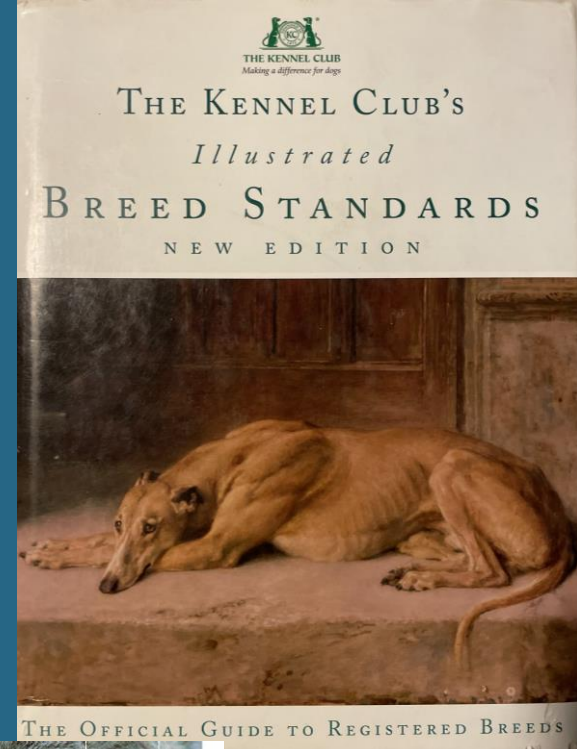
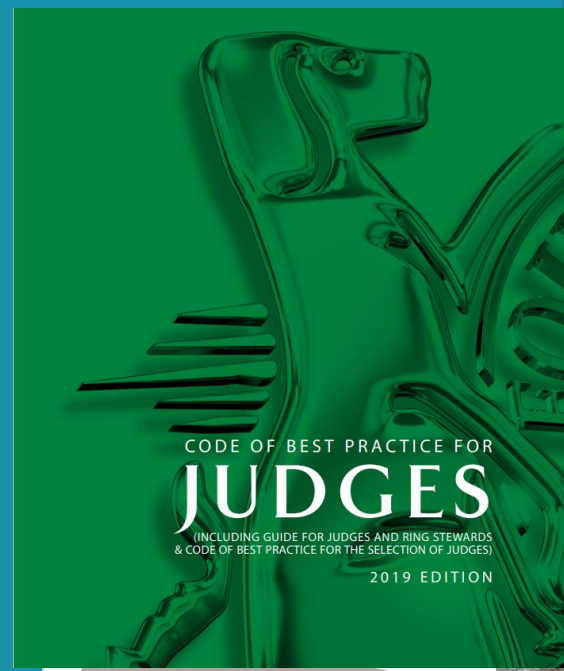
# A question of perspective?

A wider perspective opens-up a greater choice of actions.

COMPARE AGILE LEADERSHIP MODELS – FOUR LEVELS OF THINKING  
SOURCE : [flowdays.net/en/blog-en/2019/2/25/agile-leadership-a-systemic-perspective](https://flowdays.net/en/blog-en/2019/2/25/agile-leadership-a-systemic-perspective)

# Judging Dog Shows

Judges at The Kennel Club's licensed breed shows are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards, adhering to The Kennel Club's Show Regulations and Judges' Code of Best Practice.



Source: [thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/dog-showing/judging-dog-shows/](http://thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/dog-showing/judging-dog-shows/)



# Subsumption

## Expression of legal argumentation

**Subsumption**  
= fundamental legal  
argumentation process.

Classification of a situation  
under a specific  
legal standard.

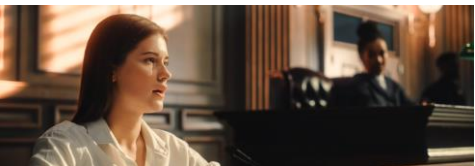
>> Written legal opinion



Transitive  
property

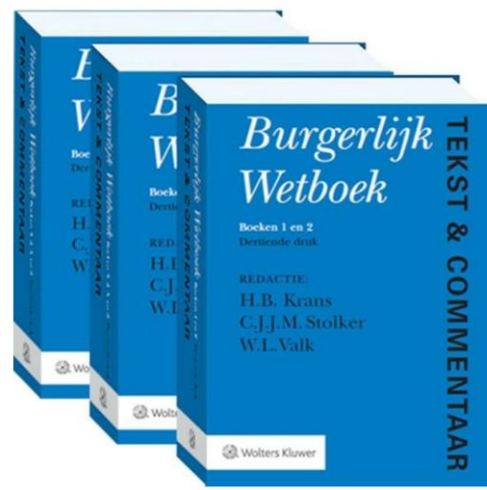
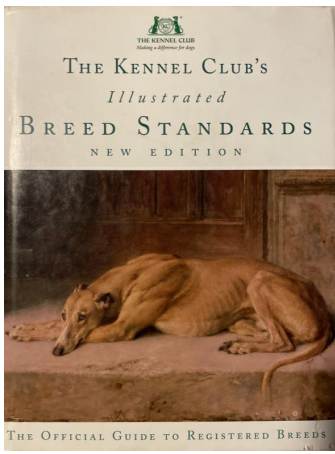
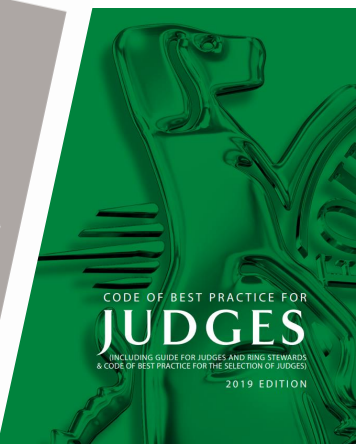
If  $a=b$   
and  $b=c$ ,  
then  $a=c$

of Equality



Evaluation of Dogs  
Standards | Qualifications

Legal subsumption



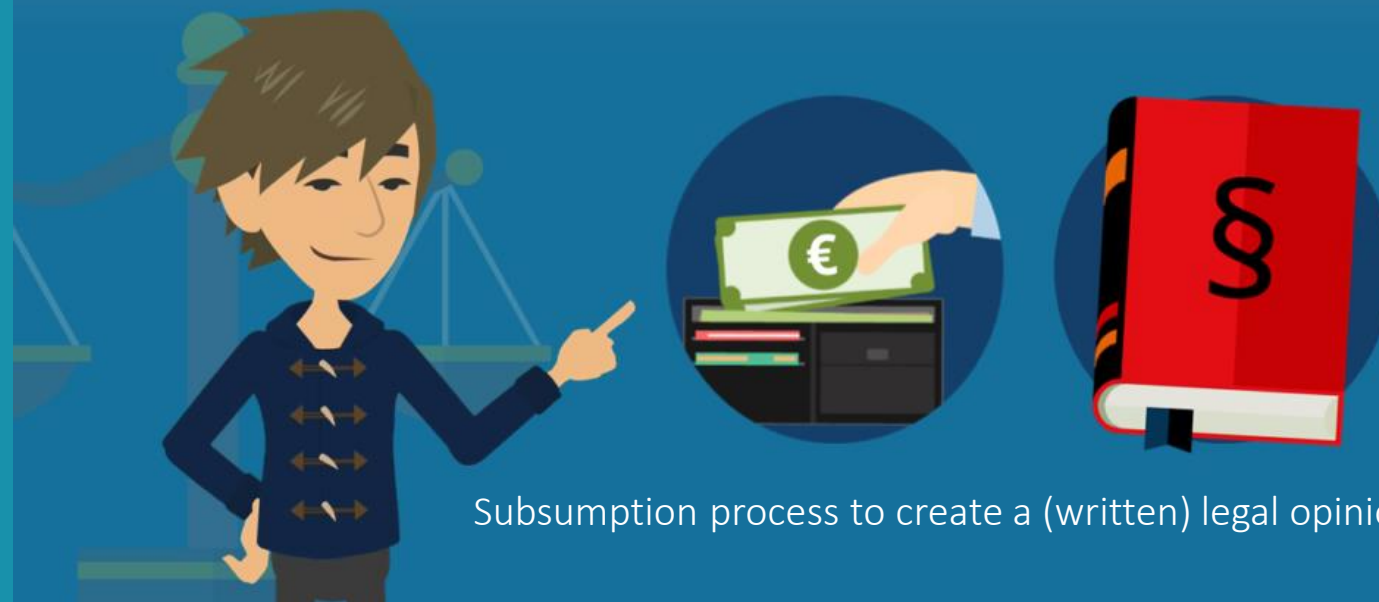
# key elements of judging dogs at dog shows

>> Analogy to legal subsumption

- >> **Similar method of subsumption**
- according to the breed standard
  - according to qualification system

RESULT **judges' report** at dog shows  
vs. (written) **legal opinion** in law

situation – facts of a case – legal text



Subsumption process to create a (written) legal opinion



**We are carefully comparing points and details to the FCI breed standard | FCI qualification system**

- >> **objective comparison of major points** of presented dogs according to breed standards | awards according FCI rules
- >> **FCI standards** | show regulations | **FCI qualification system** are mandatory and should be **used consistently** by all judges





# > What are the major points ? >

– to be compared in a most objective way according to the breed standard? –

How to choose?

# Breed Standard | Greyhound

**ORIGIN:** Great Britain.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD:** 13.10.2010.

**UTILIZATION:** Sighthound.

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** Group 10 Sighthounds.  
Section 3 Short-haired sighthounds.  
Without working trial.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** The experts, although not unanimous, consider that the Greyhound could have had its origins in the Middle East. Drawings of Greyhound-type dogs have been found on walls in Ancient Egyptian tombs, dating as far back as 4000 BC. Though dogs of the type spread through Europe over the years, it was in Britain that they were developed to a standard. The prototype of the so-called sighthounds, or gazehounds, the Greyhound is well known to many people. The coursing hound, which hunts the live hare, is what the racing Greyhound were developed from, only the cheetah tops the Greyhound for speed. One racing Greyhound was clocked at over 45 mph.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** Strongly built, upstanding, of generous proportions, muscular power and symmetrical formation, with long head and neck, clean well laid shoulders, deep chest, capacious body, **slightly** arched loin, powerful quarters, sound legs and feet, and a suppleness of limb, which emphasise in a marked degree its distinctive type and quality.

**BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT:** Possessing remarkable stamina and endurance. Intelligent, gentle, affectionate and even tempered.

**HEAD** Long, moderate width.

**CRANIAL REGION:**

**Skull:** Flat.

**Stop:** Slight.

**FACIAL REGION:**

**Muzzle:** Jaws powerful and well chiselled.

**Jaws / Teeth:** Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

**EYES:** Bright, intelligent, oval and obliquely set. Preferably dark.

**EARS:** Small, rose-shape, of fine texture.

**NECK:** Long and muscular, elegantly arched, well let into shoulders.

**BODY:**

**Back:** Rather long, broad and square.

**Loin:** Powerful, slightly arched.

**Chest:** Deep and capacious, providing adequate heart room. Ribs deep, well sprung and carried well back.

**Underline and belly:** Flanks well cut up.

**TAIL:** Long, set on rather low, strong at root, tapering to point, carried low, slightly curved.

**LIMBS**

**FOREQUARTERS:**

**General appearance:** Elbows, pasterns and toes inclining neither in nor out.

**Shoulder:** Oblique, well set back, muscular without being loaded, narrow and cleanly defined at top.

**Elbow:** Free and well set under shoulders.

**Forearm:** Forelegs long and straight, bone of good substance and quality.

**Metacarpus (Pastern):** Moderate length, slightly sprung.

**Forefeet:** Moderate length, with compact, well knuckled toes and strong pads.

**HINDQUARTERS:**

**General appearance:** Body and hindquarters, features of ample proportions and well coupled, enabling adequate ground to be covered when standing.

**Thigh and lower thigh:** Wide and muscular, showing great propelling power.

**Stifle (Knee):** Well bent.

**Metatarsus (Rear pastern):** **Hocks** well let down, inclining neither in nor out.

**Hind feet:** Moderate length, with compact, well knuckled toes and strong pads.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:** Straight, low reaching, free stride enabling the ground to be covered at great speed. Hindlegs coming well under body giving great propulsion.

**COAT:**

**Hair:** Fine and close.

**Colour:** Black, white, red, blue, fawn, fallow, brindle or any of these colours broken with white.

**SIZE:**

**Ideal height:** Males: 71 – 76 cms.

Females: 68 – 71 cms.

**FAULTS:**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS**

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

**N.B.:**

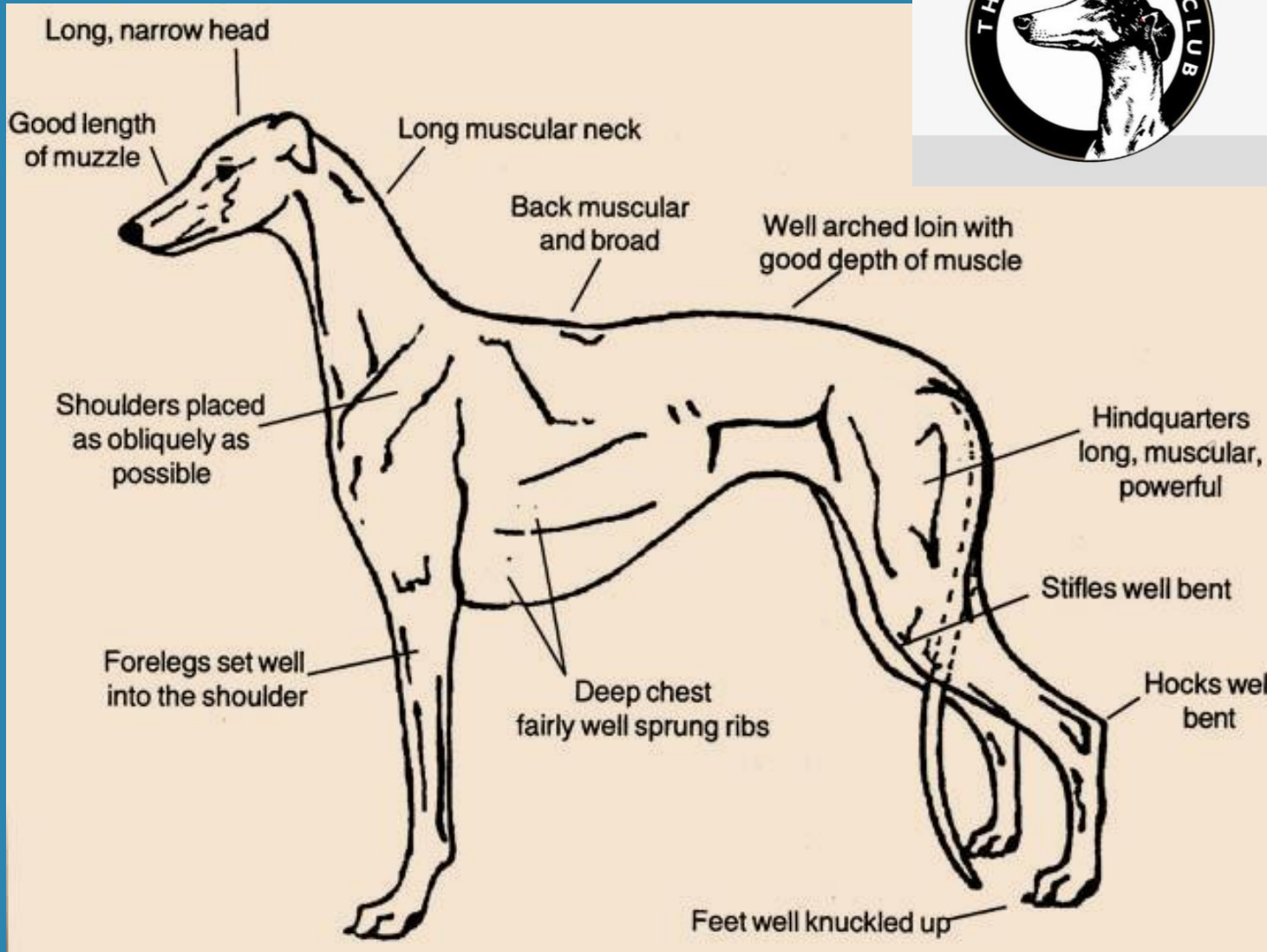
- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.



## What are the unique characteristics of the breed ?

When studying a breed, it is therefore essential that a breeds' particular characteristics are clearly understood.

# Breed-specific points



>> Greyhounds are defined as a **tall**, muscular, smooth-coated, "S-shaped" type of sighthound with a long tail and tough feet. <<

>> **S-shaped type of Sighthound** = distinctive type and quality

>> General Appearance | Type **Strongly built, upstanding, of generous proportions,** muscular power and symmetrical formation...

**Breed's functionality** of a "Sighthound" = **Hunting by Sight**

Breed's typical movement!



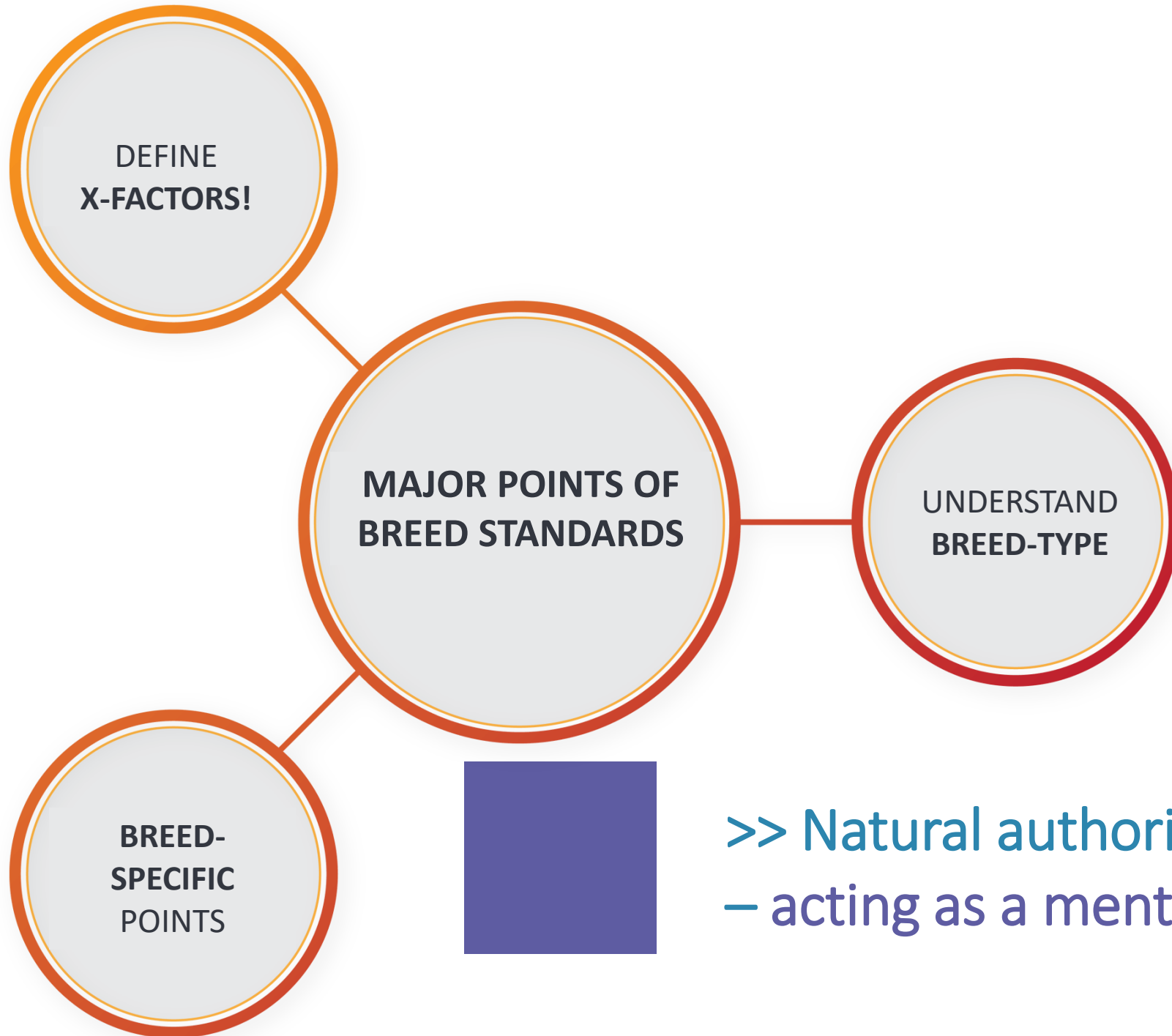
> What if... >

**BREED STANDARDS HAVE BEEN FORMULATED FOR SPECIALISTS !?**

„The original purpose of the breed standard **was a guideline for people who knew about dogs.**”

– *Nigel Aubrey-Jones* – Greyhounds in America, Volume I, A comprehensive record of the breed presented by the Greyhound Club of America, Inc.





>> Natural authority of a judge  
– acting as a mentor | a coach –

# How to evaluate a Dog

## FAULT JUDGING

Any fool can find dog's faults – but it takes a connoisseur to appreciate it's virtues.



“ All great dogs have faults – they just carry them better... “

*so often quoted by Frank Sabella*



## FAULT JUDGING



>> Eliminating participants by excluding individuals

>> Breaking down decions into smaller pieces

## DIFFERENTIATE FAULTS vs. FAILINGS

FAULTS are characteristics standing in the way of a dog's being what the breed was intended to be.

However, we should consider characteristics such as

too large or too small an ear, too light or too dark an eye, or even something such as lack of great showmanship to FAILINGS.

These are areas that a great dog could fall short in AND STILL BE CONSIDERED among THE TOP DOGS in its class.



## EMPHASIZE THE VIRTUES INSTEAD OF SEARCHING FAULTS

>> Mindset of a judge who can actually help a breed progress !

>> Having the ability and desire to help a breed progress !

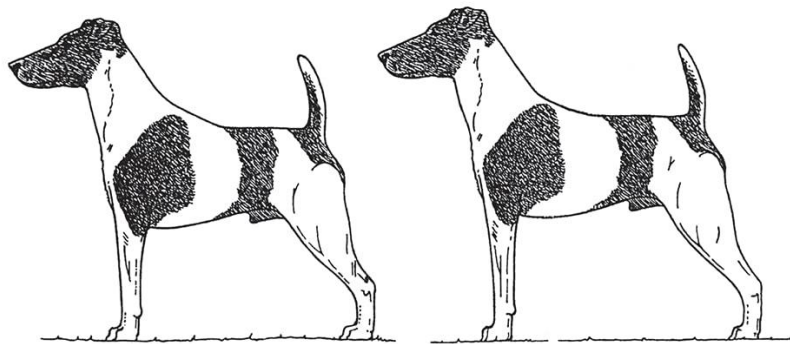
>> Recognizing dogs having outstanding qualities, so that judges will contribute to the breed !

– Source –  
Reposted by Andrew Brace on Daily Dogs | Tony Groenendijk  
**Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type – by Richard G. Beauchamp**  
The Kennel Club Pro Series – AKC

# Understanding Breed Type

## AN EYE FOR A DOG

Illustrated Guide to Judging Purebred Dogs



Written and Illustrated by  
Robert W. Cole

**BREED STANDARDS = BLUEPRINTS OF EACH BREED**

These blueprints – the standards – are held as gospel.

When reading the breed standard  
**in context with history and the original purpose**  
= THE KEY TO UNDERSTAND BREED TYPE

**Keep form and function in mind** when selecting  
for characteristics that define breed type.

**Without type, the breed loses its' identity.**

ASK YOURSELF...

- >> Where was the breed developed ?
- >> What was the breed's original purpose and is this purpose still the same today ?
- >> What kind of body structure, personality and coat did it take to do the original job ?
- >> What breed went into developing this breed ?
- >> What are the key differences of breeds similar ?

SOURCE: „BREED TYPE DEFINES THE BREED” by Dale Hunsburger on akc.org  
[www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeding/breed-type-defines-the-breed/](http://www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeding/breed-type-defines-the-breed/)



# The *X-FACTORS* to Breed Type

SOURCE – developed on **FOUR DEFINITIONS** – by Hayes Blake Hoyt | CONVERSATIONS ON THE BREED, Mr. Frank T. Sabella, in: Greyhounds in America, Volume I, A comprehensive record of the breed (presented by the Greyhound Club of America, Inc.,

## SOUNDNESS & CONDITION

**Ability to do the work,  
the breed was originally bred for.**

Soundness is referring not only to the movement, but to the **WHOLE CONSTRUCTION**, as well as the physical and mental well-being of a dog.

## QUALITY

What do we mean by saying a person has quality?  
It often implies **an aristocrat, someone very special.**

A dog might overwhelm all others by **QUALITY**, characteristic, property or attitude or the quality of a sound.

## OUTLINE & BALANCE

**The outlines** should be **all curves** – no straight lines.  
Nothing should start or end abruptly – “**SYMMETRY**”.

**Overall appropriate proportions**  
in size, weight, and shape of outlines,  
front and rear angulations as well as the dogs’ movement.

## STYLE

It comes nearer than any other breed characteristic to type and is of great importance to the show dog.

**“A manner of conduct or action”**  
– but it’s a gift from heaven!

# My Judges Philosophy

My mission as a breed judge

## FROM MY POINT OF VIEW ...

Judging means – **emphasize the virtues**  
instead of searching for faults.

Therefore, the key to evaluate Sighthounds  
is going for **breed type, the outlines and balance**  
– **standing and moving.**

I strongly believe these points  
are one of the most important characteristics  
a judge should look for,  
as it can only be achieved by **overall soundness.**

**Only a balanced, sound sighthound  
with the correct outline  
can express true breed type!**

**It's the total picture that makes the difference.**



- >> Choose breed type over fault judging
- >> well combined with X-factors
- >> Know the breed-specific points

→ How to combine those points

→ How to communicate them well

- >> **Know your target-audience!**  
Communicate to an expert?  
Communicate with a novice?  
Choose your words accordingly

# Add Value as Mentor | Coach

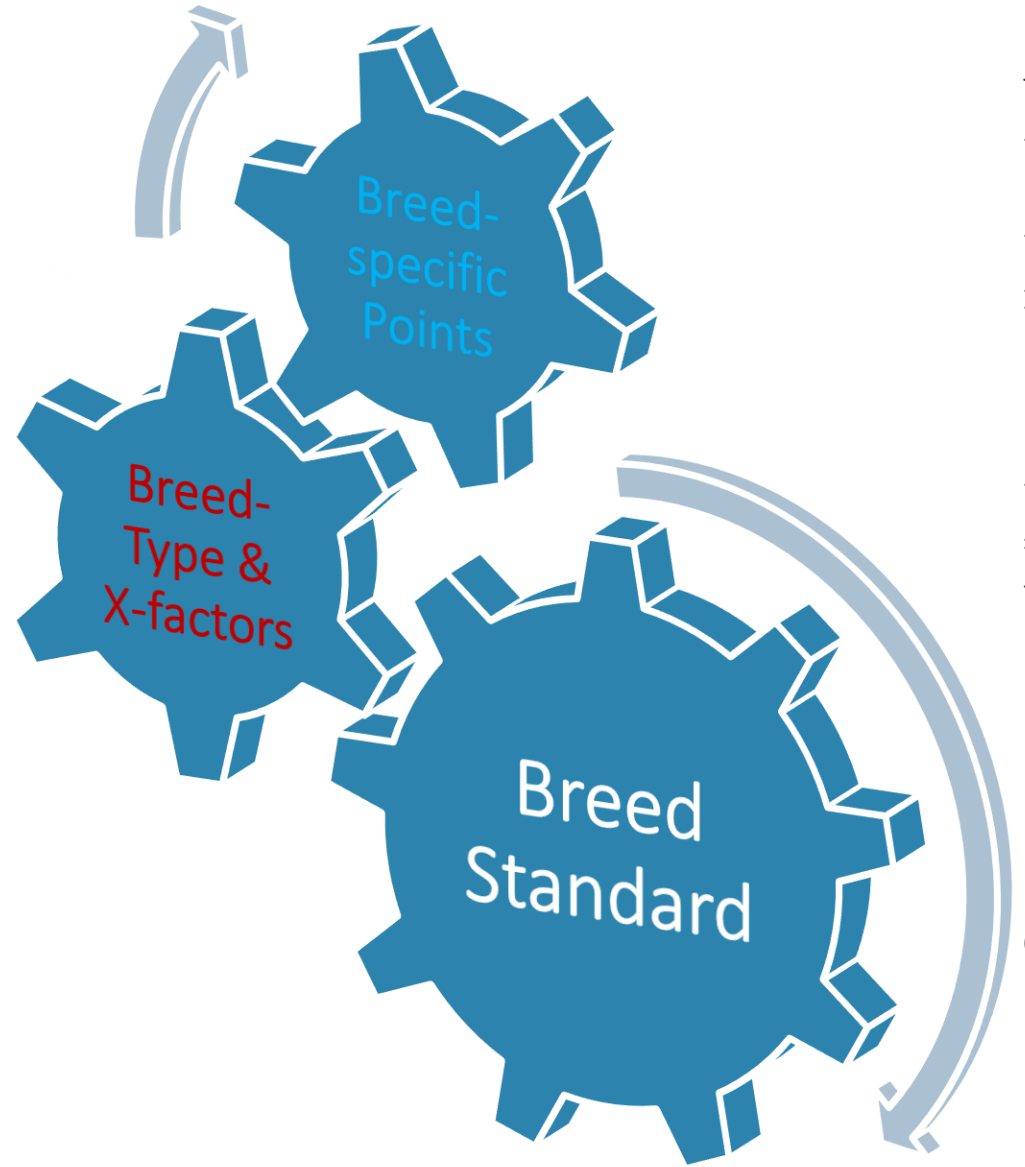
>> just correct according to the standard <<

vs.

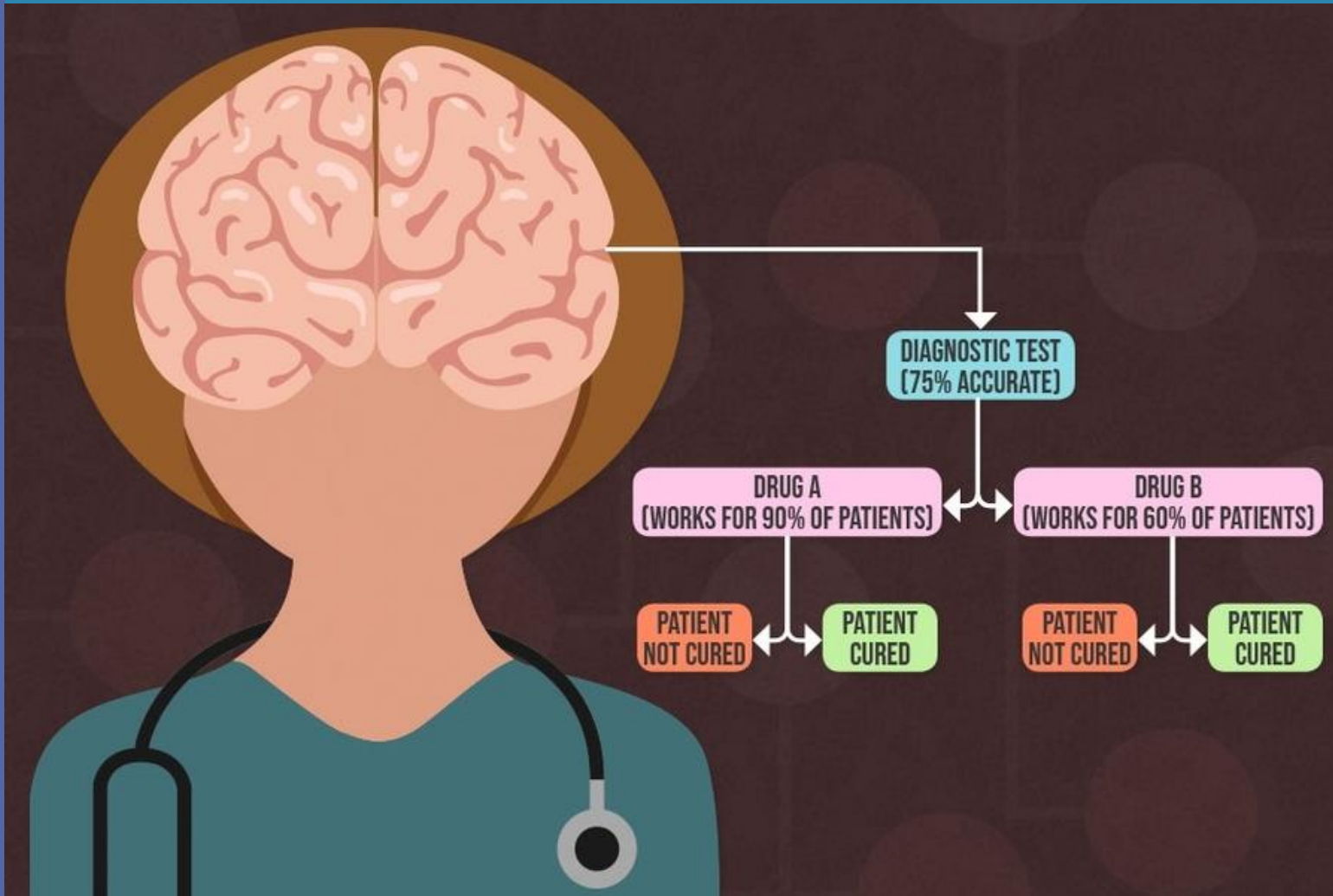
>> **well combined judging & grading criteria** <<  
including breed standard + breed-specific points  
+ relating to breed-type & X-factors



**adding extra value by additional statements**  
= naming consequences out of combined evaluations  
like “that’s the consequence for functionality”



## >> How we make complex decisions



Neuroscientists identify a brain circuit that helps

**BREAK DECISIONS  
DOWN  
INTO SMALLER PIECES**

IMAGE: CHELSEA TURNER, MIT | ANNE TRAFTON, MIT OFFICE 2019





>> well combined judging & grading criteria <<

# Judging under FCI rules | Grading

SOURCE – VDH website | VDH Show Regulations, Qualifications and Evaluations (section 15): [www.vdh.de/fileadmin/media/ausstellungen/en/Ausstellungs-Ordnung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.vdh.de/fileadmin/media/ausstellungen/en/Ausstellungs-Ordnung_EN.pdf)

## EXCELLENT >>

may only be awarded to a dog which comes very close to the ideal standard of the breed, which is presented in excellent condition, displays a harmonious, well-balanced temperament, is of high class and has excellent posture. Its superior characteristics in respect of its breed permit that minor imperfections can be ignored; it must however have the typical features of its sex.

## GOOD >>

is to be awarded to a dog that possesses the main features of its breed. The good points should outweigh the faults so that the dog can be considered a good representative of its breed.

## VERY GOOD >>

may only be awarded to a dog that possesses the typical features of its breed, which has well-balanced proportions and is in correct condition. A few minor faults may be tolerated. This award can only be granted to a dog that shows class.

## SUFFICIENT >>

should be awarded to a dog which corresponds adequately to its breed, without possessing the generally accepted characteristics or whose physical condition leaves a lot to be desired.

>> well combined judging & grading criteria <<

# Judging under FCI rules | Grading

SOURCE – VDH website | VDH Show Regulations, Qualifications and Evaluations (section 15): [www.vdh.de/fileadmin/media/ausstellungen/en/Ausstellungs-Ordnung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.vdh.de/fileadmin/media/ausstellungen/en/Ausstellungs-Ordnung_EN.pdf)

## DISQUALIFIED >>

must be awarded to a dog which does not correspond to the type required by the breed standard; which shows a behavior clearly not in line with its standard or which behaves aggressively; which has testicular abnormalities; which has a jaw anomaly; which shows a color or coat structure that is not according to the breed standard or clearly shows signs of albinism. This qualification shall also be awarded to dogs that correspond so little to a single feature of the breed that their health is threatened. It should furthermore be awarded to dogs that show disqualifying faults in regard to the breed standard. The reason why the dog was rated DISQUALIFIED has to be stated in the judge's report.

Dogs that cannot be awarded one of the above qualifications shall be released from the ring with the rating:

## CANNOT BE JUDGED >>

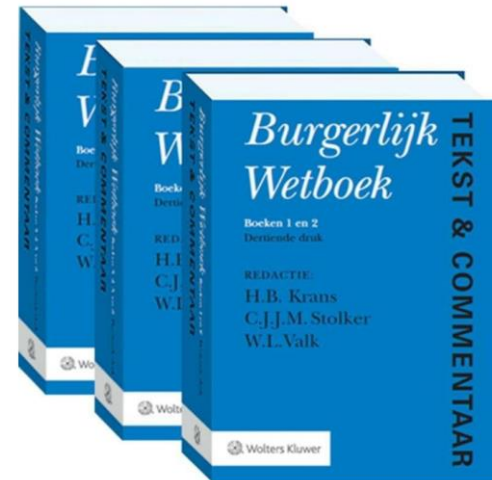
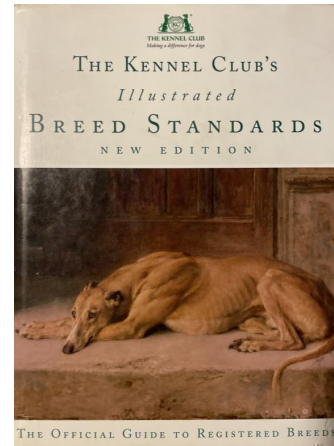
This rating is to be given to any dog which does not move, which is lame, which constantly jumps up and down on its handler or tries to get out of the ring, which makes it impossible to assess the gait and the movement or avoids constantly to be examined by the judge and makes it impossible to inspect teeth, anatomy and structure, tail or testicles. This rating is also to be given if traces of operations or treatment can be observed which seem to indicate that the exhibitor wanted to deceive the judge. The same applies if the judge has ample reason to suspect operations that were intended to correct the original condition or feature (e.g.: eyelid, ear or tail). The reason why the dog was rated CANNOT BE JUDGED has to be stated in the judge's report.

# >> Subsumption method as grading criteria <<



Evaluation of Dogs Standards | Qualifications

Legal subsumption



# Understand Breed Type and Diversity

## ACCURACY

### The Preference Problem

>> **Make accurate decisions!**

What may block accuracy is allowing what we like as individuals – to stand in the way of something else that is equally correct and fully acceptable.

A good deal might be the result of an ability to **appreciating diversity** – but only to a very specific limit **accordingly to breed type** and the history of a breed.

Where exactly does a less favorite dog excelled?

A smart breeder or accurate judge might **combine and appreciate the best of both worlds!**

## LOGICAL & FAIR

### Decision Making

>> **Be logical and fair** in decision making and **explain yourself well!** Differentiate between “faults” and “failings”.

We should be careful to be logical in the manner we weight a particular flaw or flaws (“failings”) against overall quality of a dog.

**Decent breed-type should always be over everything** – as long it’s well combined with “X-factors”.

**Breed progress**, or even breed maintenance is the aim of every serious breeder – and every serious breed judge when **acting as an expert, coach or mentor!**

## HONEST & COURAGEOUS

### Promoting our Breeds

>> **Be honest** with yourself – as a breeder and judge. Always stay **self-critical** and don’t become kennel-blind.

**Stand by what you believe** – be it as a breeder or judge. But always stay openminded and be **ready to learn.**

**Courage is an element of honesty** which represents a large part of character. And it is **character** that **makes an outstanding dog person!**

**Knowledge + sound reasoning** creates critical interdependent relationships that exist between the breed standard, breeders and an honest breed judge.

# Food for Thoughts

## KEY TO SUCCESS

\* **Soundness** = showing signs of breed-specific functionality – according to what the breed was originally bred for. Greyhound = hunting by sight (vs. track racing)

- >> Is really every dog a champion ?
- >> Too mild vs. too severe judging
- >> Breed promoting evaluations
- >> Award qualification best at rare breed vs. popular breed



- >> Fair qualifications = all eggs into the same basket ?
- >> Do we explain enough ? – Explanation of grading as part of the judges' report + coaching in the ring
- >> Easy to follow: Judges report close to official wording combined with conclusions to X-factors & soundness

<< If you want  
to build a ship,  
don't drum up people  
to collect wood  
and don't assign them  
tasks and work...

... but rather  
teach them a long  
for the endless  
immensity of the sea. >>



# IHA Karlsruhe 2023



Quite a successful day for our almost veteran Fionn Clann Sannford "Forduli" under the breed specialist [Olaf Knauber](#) 🇩🇪, with the most wonderful critique ever 😊!!! Thank you so much!

7,5 years old upstanding and powerful male – in the true sense of the word of „generous proportions“, who is very close to the ideal picture of the breed standard. He is covering lots of ground, functional bone structure, noble head and expression – really “headed like a snake”. Strong jaws, scissor bite, small rose-shaped ear, elegantly arched muscular and long neck. Excellent smooth outlines, the powerful loin und the strong rear with excellent angulations stands for a convincing functionality. Typical carriage, efficient long striking movement. At the age of almost 8 years, he is shown in outstanding condition. From my point of view an absolute stand-out of the breed. Congratulations to the breeder and owner.

**1<sup>st</sup> of Excellent (Champion Class), CACIB & Best of Breed**

Thank you very much  
for your attention!

© OLAF KNAUBER 2024 | Marketing Communications Economist, Co-Breeder + FCI Judge



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