



American Rottweiler Club

Breed Standard Evaluation (BSE)

ARC BSE Overview

If your Club is planning on holding an ARC Breed Standard Evaluation (BSE) , please contact the ARC Breed Standard Evaluation (BSE) Committee Chair or Assistant Chair for ARC board approval:

ARC BSE Chairperson; Robert Galusha, Chair: robertgalusha@hotmail.com
 Susi Metzner, Assistant Chair: arcassistantsusi@gmail.com

The Breed Standard Evaluation (BSE) is a standards evaluation which certifies that the Rottweiler exhibits and passes a Rottweiler Specific Breed Temperament test, met all mandatory health criteria as outlined by the American Rottweiler Club (ARC), and is free of disqualifying faults under the AKC standard. All outcomes will be documented and certified with the Evaluator/Judge signature. A full critique will be given with results of all testing listed. Results will remain the property of ARC and will be published in the ARK. The original BSE form will be provided to the owner of the dog entered and a copy will remain with the club.

This is not an obedience test, and no formal obedience training is necessary to enter or pass. What is most important is the dog's ability to be leash sure and able to walk in differing situations in control on a leash at the handler's side and to exhibit the correct Rottweiler Temperament.

ARC BSE Outline

Identification

1. The dog must carry permanent identification through microchipping or permanent tattoo.
2. Dog must have an AKC registration certificate with the current owner's name listed.

Health Clearance

All dogs presented for the Breed Standard Evaluation must have passing/acceptable clearances for the following health tests per ARC Mandatory Practices and published on the OFA website:

- Hips: OFA passing hip rating at 24 months or older (Excellent, Good, or Fair)
- Elbows x-rayed at 24 months of age or older and recorded with OFA with results released for public review regardless of pass or failure. It is strongly recommended to breed only normal elbows to normal elbows, or Grade 1 DJD to normal elbows.
- Heart: OFA Normal at 24 months or older
- Eyes: OFA Certification # at 24 months or older (Normal strongly recommended) and eye certification must be dated within 3 years prior to the date of the BSE
- CHIC #
- JLPP: DNA testing for the genetic mutation known to cause Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis & Polyneuropathy (JLPP) must be performed and recorded with OFA. Dogs who are JLPP clear by parentage must show both sire and dam recorded with OFA as clear by DNA test.
- Optional - Dentition: If dog is missing more than one tooth, OFA dentition certificate must be presented showing that the tooth was previously present.

(BSEs without proper documentation will be disqualified. Fees are nonrefundable.)

Measurement Documentation and Critique

Microchip will be scanned, read out loud, and recorded at time of assessment. Dogs will be weighed and measured.

1. A veterinarian issued weight certificate (issued within 30 days of the test) must be presented at time of test. The host club may also opt to provide a scale for dogs to be weighed at time of test.
2. Dog's height, body length, and chest depth and width will be measured with a wicket; chest circumference measured with a seamstress tape; and skull, back skull and muzzle length shall be measured with an ADRK approved standard head measuring device, (Kopfmass), or equivalent.
3. Bite and dentition will be documented. At the judge's discretion, a dog with one missing tooth may be disqualified and entry partially refunded. A dog with one missing tooth may still qualify for an ARC BSE per the AKC Breed Standard but will not qualify for an ADRK BSE per the FCI Breed Standard.
4. Eye color will be measured against an ADRK approved eye color chart or equivalent and color documented.
5. A full critique will be given of the overall structure and movement of the dog using the AKC Rottweiler Breed Standard. The tail on natural-tailed dogs will be critiqued using the FCI Standard for the Rottweiler.

Temperament/Mental Stability Assessment – Rottweiler Breed Specific

1. The initial phase of the temperament test is conducted through the measurement process and dog's temperament throughout the process will be noted.
2. A public safety test will be conducted. This will, at the discretion of the judge, include walking on a leash through a crowd of eight or more people, a crowd closing in on the dog, pass by a neutral dog or neutral dog pass by, handler pause and greet a stranger, encounter bicycle riders, joggers, and cars passing, be secured and left by the handler for a brief period of time, and a sound sensitivity test.
3. Gun sureness test: a starter pistol will be shot to assess aggressive, shy, or neutral reaction.

AKC Official Standard of the Rottweiler – Temperament:

Temperament: The Rottweiler is basically a calm, confident and courageous dog with a self-assured aloofness that does not lend itself to immediate and indiscriminate friendships. A Rottweiler is self-confident and responds quietly and with a wait-and-see attitude to influences in his environment. He has an inherent desire to protect home and family and is an intelligent dog of extreme hardness and adaptability with a strong willingness to work, making him especially suited as a companion, guardian and general all-purpose dog. The behavior of the Rottweiler in the show ring should be controlled, willing and adaptable, trained to submit to examination of mouth, testicles, etc. An aloof or reserved dog should not be penalized, as this reflects the accepted character of the breed. An aggressive or belligerent attitude towards other dogs should not be faulted. A judge shall excuse from the ring any shy Rottweiler. A dog shall be judged fundamentally shy if, refusing to stand for examination, it shrinks away from the judge. A dog that in the opinion of the judge menaces or threatens him/her or exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached or examined by the judge in the normal manner, shall be excused from the ring. A dog that in the opinion of the judge attacks any person in the ring shall be disqualified.

ARC BSE Test Procedure:

All testing shall take place in full view, with measuring being conducted inside of the ring or a designated adjacent area, on a mat, board, concrete, or other flat and firm surface to ensure a thorough and accurate exam.

Evaluator/Judge:

Only preapproved Rottweiler breed Evaluators/Judges from FCI, VDH, or AKC may be used to conduct ARC Breed Standard Evaluations.

Health Testing:

All dogs entered in an ARC Breed Standard Evaluation (BSE) must submit copies of OFA certification at time of entry. Originals must be available for inspection at time of evaluation. A weight certificate, issued within 30 days of the exam, must be presented upon evaluation, unless a scale is provided for dogs to be weighed at the test. All dogs tested must meet the American Rottweiler Club Mandatory Practice's for health testing. All Health Certificates must be published on the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) prior to ARC BSE testing.

Inspection/Evaluation/Critique:

1. Dog will be presented in a fur saver collar on dead ring. A flat collar can be only when properly fitted and allowed by the Evaluator/Judge. Choke or prong collars cannot be used.
2. The tattoo or microchip number shall be read out loud and recorded as part of the measuring and critique.
3. All measurements will be documented while the judge is completing the exam.
 - Weight of the dog will be documented.
 - A wicket will be used to measure dog's height, body length, and chest depth and width.
 - A nylon/cloth seamstress tape will be used to measure the chest circumference.
 - An ADRK approved standard head measuring device, (Kopfmass), or equivalent will be used to measure skull, back skull and muzzle length.
 - Eye color will be assessed against an ADRK approved eye color chart or equivalent.
4. Bite and dentition will be inspected and documented.
5. Dog will free stack while full examination and critique takes place; a second person may bait the dog with toy to assist with attention.
6. Dog will be gaited to assess movement.

Rottweiler Breed Specific Temperament Test:

During the temperament test, which shall include the measurement phase, the Rottweiler evaluated must not show undue fear or aggression with signs of flight or attack. The judge has the authority to evaluate the dog's temperament throughout the totality of the exam. If at any time the judge feels the dog is unfit due to fear or aggression, he/she may terminate the test, and the dog shall not pass. At the judge's discretion a dog may be allowed to retest following a 3 to 6 month waiting period.

The following tests will be conducted, at the discretion of the judge, to establish safe interaction in a group and sensitivity to noise.

- **Exercise 1 – Introduction:** Handler and dog will enter the field, introduce themselves and their dog, and what they are presenting for (BSE). The judge will then direct the handler in the next step of the exam. Dogs should be healed and in control. Temperament of the dog is being assessed through this introductory phase. Objective to measure the dog's reaction to Evaluator/Judge in a non-threatening situation.
- **Exercise 2 - The Group:** The handler with dog on a loose leash will walk through a group of eight or more people. The handler and dog will return to the center of the group where the dog comes to a sit. The group, when instructed by the judge, converges on the dog and handler and remains there until told by the judge to disperse. Dog's temperament is being measured to the reaction to strangers and obedience to remain at the handler's side. The dog should remain seated and show not try to leave the group. During the group converging, the dog will be measured by reaction to sudden visual stimuli, degree of reaction and the ability to remain calm. The Evaluator/Judge may repeat this process.
- **Exercise 3 – Can of rocks rattle:** The handler will walk dog through the center of 2 lines made with people at which time the judge will shake a can of rocks or similar item to assess noise sensitivity and reaction and recovery from a sudden noise. Do not hurry the dog through the test; it is not a time test to see who gets through the fastest. Dogs must be kept on a loose lead throughout the test. During the test, the dog will be measured by reaction to sudden audible stimuli and the degree of reaction. The dog should remain by the side of the handler and its ability to continue to the end of the course. The Evaluator/Judge may repeat this process with the dog moving in the opposite direction, turning around, and returning to the start location.
- **Exercise 4 – The starter pistol:** The handler and dog will walk away from the judge. At a distance of twenty paces, a .22 short blank starter pistol, or its equivalent, will be fired twice within a short interval. The dog shall not show fear or aggression towards the gun shots. During the test, the dog will be measured by reaction to sudden audible stimuli and the degree of reaction. The dog should remain by the side of the handler and its ability to continue to the end of the course.

Should the dog have a reaction, exercises may be varied and repeated at the judge's discretion. If the dog continues to show a strong reaction, the test is stopped, and the dog shall not pass.

- **Exercise 5 – Optional additional assessments:** While walking on leash:
 - **Option 1** - The dog and handler will have a neutral person walk up to greet them, shaking hands. This test is to simulate a typical street situation. The stranger will carry on a conversation with you but will not make overtures to the dog. Objective is to measure the dog's reaction to strangers in a non-threatening situation.
 - **Option 2** - A jogger, bicycle, car, or both will pass by. Dogs must be kept on a loose lead throughout the test. During the test, the dog will be measured by reaction to sudden visual stimuli and the degree of reaction.

If the dog is found free of disqualifying faults according to the AKC Breed Standard, and it passes the Rottweiler Breed Specific temperament test, the dog shall be awarded the title of ARC BSE. If an ADRK judge is performing the evaluation, the dog is found free of disqualifying faults according to the FCI Breed Standard, and it passes the Rottweiler Breed Specific temperament test, the dog may also be awarded an ADRK BSE. The host club must determine this in writing and published in the Premium List when the event is advertised.

The ARC BSE Committee welcomes any questions that you may have regarding the Breed Standard Evaluation. Please contact us to arrange an ARC BSE in your area.