

**Bracco Italiano Club of America
Judges Education Committee**



BICA Approved and Prospective Conformation Certificate Assessment (CCA) Breed Specialists:

In the continued effort to keep the highest standards, we are updating our list of approved mentors and presenters. It is expected that all Breed Specialists be very comfortable with the Standard and knowledge of dog terms in general; not only knowing and understanding the breed specific details of type and function, but being able to articulately elaborate upon them to exhibitors and judges. Owners commit time and money to have their dogs assessed in the BICA CCA Program and rightfully expect their dogs to be evaluated by qualified, knowledgeable individuals.

The BICA Judges Education Committee now requires that a current, approved Mentor, Presenter, or Breed Specialist sponsor any application for becoming a Breed Specialist.

In order to apply to become a BICA approved Breed Specialist, please read, fill out and return all items in this packet. The packet attached to this letter contains:

- Breed Specialist Description
- Breed Specialist Notes
- Breed Specialist Consent Form
- Bracco Italiano Breed Test
- Anatomy Test

Please thoroughly read and complete all forms and return to the BICA Secretary.

Thank you for your willingness to share your knowledge as a part of the Certificate of Conformation Assessment program.

Bracco Italiano Club of America Judges Education

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**Bracco Italiano Club of America
Certificate of Conformation Assessment (CCA) Program**

I. DEFINITIONS

Purpose: To provide knowledgeable and capable Breed Specialists to evaluate dogs as part of the BICA Certificate of Conformation Assessment program.

Breed Specialist: One of three evaluators in a CCA assessment; to provide a non-competitive one-on-one evaluation where dogs are assessed against the standard.

II. DESCRIPTION

Number - There will be an indefinite number of Breed Specialists. It is strongly recommended that representation be as broad as possible in order to meet the need for BICA CCA title opportunities across the country as the club grows.

Resources and materials – Breed Specialists need to be thoroughly familiar with the JEC resources and materials available to them and agree to only judge dogs according to the AKC approved Bracco Italiano breed standard.

Applications – Interested parties should submit an application to the Judges Education Committee (JEC) c/o the club Secretary who will review them and forward them to the rest of the JEC for review and approval. Breed Specialist applications will require sponsorship by a current JEC Mentor, Presenter, or Breed Specialist. It will be the responsibility of that Committee to verify that the Breed Specialists meet the minimum criteria for participation. The application should include the signed Breed Specialist Consent form, a letter of sponsorship, and copy of their completed BICA Bracco Italiano Breed Exam and Canine Anatomy Exam.

Breed Specialists who repeatedly fail to meet the expectations set forth by the JEC are subject to removal from the program by a majority vote of the JEC.

Breed Specialist – BICA member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years, with advanced knowledge of the subject, and meets the requirements below. Bracco Italiano Club of America approved Breed Specialists are required for any Certificate of Conformation Assessment, regardless of the sponsoring organization.

III. DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

All Breed Specialists:

- Must be current members of BICA in good standing and have not received any disciplinary action from the AKC or other national breed club.

- Must feel comfortable with one-on-one discussions and dealing with specific questions regarding conformation of the Bracco Italiano.
- Must agree to evaluate dogs only by the AKC approved breed standard.
- Must be able to speak coherently and describe characteristics in specific terms using a positive style, using correct canine terminology and anatomy.
- Must be able to discuss how various faults could contribute to specific issues related to performance.
- Must agree to abide by the BICA Code of Ethics.
- Must agree to abide by the AKC Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges, when applicable.
- Must follow up on all questions from any participant who needs more specific information either by referring them to other sources or researching the information requested.
- Must be willing to travel within reason when needed to assist CCA Duties.
- Must have significant knowledge regarding canine functional anatomy.
- Must be able to pass a basic test on the Bracco Italiano breed standard and canine anatomy, and accurately discuss and describe these topics if requested.
- Must be free from personal bias with regard to interpretation of the breed standard and assessment of individual exhibits.
- Must be willing to sign a Breed Specialist Consent Form.

Breed Specialist Qualifications:

- Have a minimum of five years membership in the BICA, including actively participating in events with a Bracco Italiano (including conformation shows or field events at a minimum).
- Have attended at least one (1) National Specialty within the past three (3) years in order to have seen dogs from all over the country. This ratio of 1 to 3 National Specialties must be maintained to remain an active BICA Breed Specialist.
- Must attend a seminar presented by an approved JEC Presenter prior to application. This can be completed virtually or as a one on one session with the approved Presenter.
- Application must be sponsored by a current, JEC approved Mentor, Presenter, or Breed Specialist.

IV. GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATORS

Evaluators must be familiar with the whole range of the Bracco Italiano breed, not merely as they appear in the conformation show ring. **Dogs which earn scores of 75 or higher from all three evaluators will qualify for a CCA title.** Scores should be submitted to the Bracco Italiano Club of America. A dog may be evaluated up to three separate times in an attempt to achieve qualifying scores. The dog must receive qualifying scores from all three evaluators at the evaluation to qualify for the title. All three qualifying scores must be obtained at a single evaluation. A dog that does not receive qualifying scores after three attempts will be ineligible to enter any future CCA events.

Dogs primarily used for working or performance purposes may be leaner and more muscular from what is commonly seen at conformation shows, but this is completely

acceptable under the Breed Standard. They will most likely be casually groomed and handled; this is absolutely acceptable and they must not be penalized in the evaluation.

In any case, the evaluator is expected to assess the dog against the Breed Standard, and not in comparison to any other dogs that may be presented at the event. This is not a competition. The question for the evaluator is, “how does this dog compare to the ideal of the breed as described in the Breed Standard?”

Don’t attempt to break the parts into separate scores; score each section as a whole. Outstanding virtue (or outstanding fault) may well affect the entire picture. On the other hand, the absence of either virtue or fault is mediocrity, and should not be scored highly.

Dogs should be evaluated in small groups when possible in order to observe their behavior and temperament in the company of other dogs and people. Each dog should be examined and gaited individually. A simple “down and back” pattern and a circle around to see side gait is preferred to more complicated patterns. Dogs should be observed in a natural stance whenever possible and moved on a loose lead. If necessary, an assistant or “runner” may be used to help gait dogs when the handlers are inexperienced or unable.

Handlers may use bait (food or toys) at the discretion of the evaluator. However, do not allow baiting to interfere with other dogs or with the examination.

V. EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

Three evaluators will be required for each CCA examination: one BICA breed specialist and two AKC judges. The AKC judges must have full or provisional approval to judge the Bracco Italiano. The evaluators may discuss the dogs amongst themselves during the examination process prior to scores being finalized, however this discussion should remain private amongst the evaluators. A consensus amongst the evaluators is not required. Evaluators should be available to answer questions from the dog’s owner regarding their scores after the assessment.

If the three evaluators are using one “ring,” it is recommended that three (or six) dogs enter the ring together. The individual examinations are done with Evaluator A doing Dog 1, Evaluator B doing Dog 2, Evaluator C doing Dog 3. Then all shift to the next dog (A to 2, B to 3, C to 1), and in turn to the next (A to 3, B to 1, C to 2). When the 3 (or 6) dogs have been examined, each can be moved individually while all 3 evaluators observe. The evaluators may also decide upon other procedures which are expedient and which do not ask too much of what may be relatively inexperienced dogs.

The evaluator should assess each dog systematically in order of the score sheet topics, as follows:

1. General appearance: condition, size, substance, and proportion. The Bracco Italiano is first and foremost an elegant, functional hunting dog. The recommended height and weight call for a powerful dog, but never lumbering, nor weedy. Balance and type, especially in the shape and chiseling of the head, are of importance. Oversized and

undersized dogs are to be disqualified if outside the allowed tolerance (check the appropriate box in the disqualification area).

2. Head: includes the shape of the head (skull and muzzle); eyes, ears, teeth, nose, pigmentation, and expression. Dish Face (convergence of the cranio-facial axes), Wall Eye (discoloration or blue of the iris), Split Nose, or black on the mucous membranes are disqualifications.

Mark “Disqualified, head planes/eye/nose/color/etc” in the DQ area, and evaluate the rest of the head under the category for Head.

3. Neck, topline, back, croup, tailset and tail. Outline, strength, breadth, musculature of the area.

4. Body, including forechest, brisket, depth, spring and shape of rib, loin, coupling and tuck-up. Evaluators should use their hands, as well as their eyes, to confirm what is seen.

5. Forequarters: shoulders, upper arms, elbows, legs, pasterns, feet.

6. Hindquarters: thighs, hocks, rear pasterns, feet.

7. Coat and color: Coat character, skin, color.

8. Gait: in profile (side gait), front view and rear view. The Bracco Italiano should have a fast, extended trot with significant reach and drive. This is a hallmark of the breed and should be appreciated even in the conformation ring. The trot should be balanced and fluid. When at a trot the Bracco’s hind foot can step into or beyond the print left by the front foot (over-reach is common at higher speeds). This over-reach is not required, and should not be penalized. Evaluators may also ask for the dog to walk (in addition to trot). “Coming and going” is equally as important as side gait. If the dog is lame, it should be excused. Mark the score sheet “NR – not rated; lame.”

9. Temperament: while this evaluation is not a temperament test, dogs that evidence undesirable temperament by their behavior during the course of the evaluation, in the company of other dogs and people, must be penalized. Indications of fearfulness or belligerence towards other dogs or people in what should be a “normal” situation, must receive some degree of penalty, even to the point of failure if warranted. Any dog that snaps, bites, attacks or attempts to bite or attack any person must be disqualified. Mark zero in Temperament, and also mark “aggressiveness” in the DQ section. Do not complete the evaluation; send the dog out. Any dog that threatens the evaluator or any other person, and any dog that attacks any other dog must be scored zero in temperament and must be dismissed. The dog will be rated “NQ - Not Qualified – failed in temperament.” Any dog which by reason of illness or lameness, that cannot be properly evaluated because of uncontrolled behavior or undue timidity, must be excused. The dog will be marked “NR – Not Rated.”

10. Overall impression: breed type, character, balance, fitness for purpose. How does this dog measure up as a whole: as a potentially useful and practical hunting companion for work over varied terrain, and, very importantly, as a representative Bracco Italiano (does it accord with the appearance and character of the breed)? While this section is assigned a lower point value, it is equally (if not more) important as other sections. The breed type and character evaluated here should reflect attributes already assessed in previous sections.

VI. SCORING

Rate the dog in each category with a score. The categories are weighted based on their relative importance. A score of 0 is considered very poor/unacceptable while the high end of the point range represents near perfection. A dog with a disqualification should receive 0 points in that category.

Sub-total the scores. A Not Rated (NR) dog will have no final score. Not Qualified (NQ) should be marked if the score is insufficient to qualify; also, circle the final score.

Appropriate comments, virtues and faults should be noted for the owner's benefit. Be specific: "poor head" is not nearly as informative as "Kindly expression, good coloration, but wide in skull, and lacks depth in muzzle...." This written assessment is extremely important and is the primary reason many will enter. If time allows, evaluators are also encouraged to discuss their findings with the exhibitors in a positive and cordial manner. Be honest but also be kind. Always mention positive points. Sign all score sheet copies and give all of them to the Event Secretary. The Event Secretary will return to you a copy of each score sheet for your records at the end of the event. Be willing to stay around for a while so that participants may have an opportunity to discuss their dogs with you if they so desire, and also for group photographs.

Scoring Calculations

$(6 \text{ categories} \times 10 \text{ points}) + (2 \text{ categories} \times 15 \text{ points}) + (2 \text{ categories} \times 5 \text{ points}) = 100$
points maximum

The CCA qualifying score is 75 or above.

- Evaluators may use 1/2 point increments. Scoring within each category is from a low score of 0 to high score of 5, 10 or 15 (depending on the relative weight of the category). A 0 score indicates a complete absence of trait or so unsound as to be useless. A high score (ie: 10/10) is as close to ideal as can be expected.
- See below for an example of a 10 point scoring system:
 - 10 Outstanding: as close to ideal as can be expected.
 - 9 Excellent: very high in quality; probably not commonly seen.
 - 8 Very good: obvious general virtue; any flaws are slight.
 - 7 Good: Primarily virtue, although may have minor faults/flaws.
 - 6 Fair: somewhat better than merely acceptable. More merit than fault.

- 5 Acceptable: generally fulfills the basics but may be
(a) overall only slightly more than adequate in quality for that trait; or
(b) may be a balance of both virtues and faults in that category
- 4 Overall more flaws/faults than merit, in that category/trait.
- 3 Very obvious faults or unsoundness; strongly resembles trait of another breed.
- 2 -1 Almost wholly deficient in merit; trait present but seriously incomplete, incorrect, unsound.
- 0 Complete absence of trait; so unsound as to be useless. Possessing a disqualification.

- Indicate any disqualifying faults in both the associated category and the DQ section at the end of the scoring sheet.
- Indicate NR/NQ (see below)
- Add the 10 category scores and enter the Final Score
- If the Final Score is NOT a qualifying score, for any reason, circle the Final Score to so indicate.

Final score 75 – 100* = qualifies toward a CCA

Dogs must earn 3 qualifying scores of 75 or higher under 3 different evaluators (at least two of whom shall be AKC Judges) to earn a CCA.

*A qualifying score for CCA, a dog must have no category scored 0 – 2, and no two categories scored 3 – 4, in addition to the required total score.

NR = Not Rated (can't examine due to misbehavior, unable to evaluate, dog ill or lame, etc.) Excuse the dog. The dog will not be evaluated and will not receive a score. Note reason on score sheet.

NQ = Not Qualified Any of the following:

- Scored 0 – 2 in any category.
- Scored 3 – 4 in any two categories.
- Scored less than 5 in Temperament.
- Total score less than 75.

DQ = Disqualifying fault: Any disqualifying fault under the Breed Standard or under AKC rules (i.e., blind, deaf, changed in appearance by artificial means). The dog may be evaluated and will receive a copy of the score sheet, but must be penalized heavily enough (0 score in the associated category) that the score will not qualify.

A dog that is disqualified or dismissed due to aggression will not be evaluated and will not receive a score. Two such dismissals/disqualifications and the dog will be ineligible to enter any future CCA events.

A dog must be a minimum of 18 months old to be evaluated for a CCA.

**Bracco Italiano Club of America
Judges Education Committee
Breed Specialist Consent Form**



When representing the Bracco Italiano Club of America as a Breed Specialist at BICA approved events, I agree to the following stipulations:

1. I acknowledge that as a “parent club approved” Breed Specialist, I represent the Bracco Italiano Club of America, evaluating dogs in the CCA program, and educating judges, breeders and/or fanciers of the Bracco Italiano under AKC guidelines.
2. I agree to use the AKC approved Bracco Italiano breed standard as the basis for any and all conformation assessments I perform.
3. I will distribute only those written materials approved and supplied by the Bracco Italiano Club of America.
4. My assessment and any subsequent discussion with exhibitors must be free from personal bias with regard to interpretation of the breed standard and assessment of individual exhibits.
5. I will not discuss my assessment of individual dogs in a social setting, and will abide by the BICA Code of Ethics.
6. When applicable, I will abide by the AKC Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

BICA BRACCO ITALIANO BREED EXAM

- 1) **What is the ideal pelvic angulation of the Bracco Italiano?**
 - a) 15°
 - b) 20°
 - c) 30°
 - d) 45°

- 2) **Which two words best describe the head appearance and facial planes?**
 - a) chiseled; divergent
 - b) sculpted; parallel
 - c) wide; divergent
 - d) sculpted; convergent

- 3) **The croup of the Bracco should be how long?**
 - a) 1/4 height at withers
 - b) 1/2 height at withers
 - c) 2/3 height at withers
 - d) 1/3 height at withers

- 4) **The back-skull is _____ the muzzle.**
 - a) longer than
 - b) the same length as
 - c) shorter than

- 5) **Which of the following is not a Bracco color described in the standard?**
 - a) solid white
 - b) liver and white
 - c) orange roan
 - d) brown and white

- 6) **The expression of the Bracco is _____.**
 - a) characterized by solemnity and power.
 - b) alert, intense, and intelligent.
 - c) soft, gentle, and intelligent.
 - d) good-humored and radiating energy.

- 7) **Which of the following best describes the ribs of the Bracco?**
 - a) shallow
 - b) barrel
 - c) forming a keel
 - d) well-sprung

- 8) **How should the ears be set?**
 - a) level with the zygomatic arch
 - b) below the zygomatic arch

- c) the insertion of the ear is less important, as long as they have very little erectile power
- d) above the zygomatic arch

9) The topline of the Bracco:

- a) should not be firm to the touch
- b) is well arched over the loin
- c) is notably lower in the rump than the withers
- d) none of the above

10) When the dog trots, the head is?

- a) parallel to the ground and level with the topline
- b) raised above the topline with the nose held high
- c) scenting the ground
- d) angled with his nose towards the ground

11) A dog that is in hard and lean field condition should _____.

- a) be counseled on appropriate nutrition
- b) not be penalized
- c) be excused from the ring
- d) be preferred

12) The underline of the Bracco _____.

- a) has minimal tuck-up
- b) has a ribcage parallel to the ground, with moderate tuck up in the loin
- c) has a deep ribcage with a marked tuck-up
- d) should show lots of obvious skin folds

13) The neck of the Bracco Italiano should be:

- a) Less than $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the head.
- b) Between $\frac{2}{3}$ and 1 times the length of the head.
- c) Greater than the length of the head.
- d) One half the length of the head.

14) When hunting, the gait is _____.

- a) A fast, jaunty gallop.
- b) An easy, gentle trot.
- c) A lumbering gallop.
- d) An extended and fast trot.

15) Describe the correct length of the ear.

- a) Stretching at least 2 inches beyond the nose.
- b) To the level of the cheek.
- c) To the level of the eye.
- d) Reaching the tip of the nose without being stretched.

16) Which of the following is not a disqualification?

- a) Black pigment inside the mouth.
- b) Tricolor markings.
- c) Down-faced.
- d) Dish-faced.

17) Use one word to describe the skin of the Bracco.

- a) Elastic
- b) Coarse
- c) Taut
- d) Delicate

18) The tail carriage should be _____.

- a) Arched over the back
- b) Tucked or carried low
- c) Horizontal
- d) At least 30° above the topline

19) The feet of the Bracco Italiano are _____.

- a) Small and round
- b) Strong and oval-shaped
- c) Elongated and narrow
- d) Flexible and flat

20) Which of the following does not describe the temperament of the Bracco?

- a) Docile and intelligent.
- b) Tough and adaptable.
- c) Aloof and reserved.
- d) Reliable and friendly.

BREED EXAM ANSWER KEY:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 8. A | 15. D |
| 2. A | 9. D | 16. C |
| 3. D | 10. B | 17. A |
| 4. B | 11. B | 18. C |
| 5. B | 12. A | 19. B |
| 6. C | 13. B | 20. C |
| 7. D | 14. D | |

AKC CANINE ANATOMY EXAM

You will receive a second PDF document containing the AKC Canine Anatomy Exam. This should be completed and returned to the BICA Secretary with the remainder of this document.