



# **Dexter Cattle Society**

# **Showing Rules and**

# **Etiquette**

# **2023**

*For Exhibitors, Judges and Show Societies*

This booklet supercedes all previous Dexter Cattle Society showing publications  
Please read all pages that are applicable to the Exhibitors, the Judges and Show Societies

## **The Dexter Cattle Society Breed Standard**

**Pedigree registered Dexter Cattle are judged  
against the Dexter Cattle Society Breed Standard  
as shown on page two of this booklet.**

# THE DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY

## Breed Standard

**The Dexter is a dual purpose breed with both beef and dairy qualities. In judging, both these qualities will be taken into consideration.**

**Colour:** Wholly black, wholly red and wholly dun are of equal merit. A little white will not disqualify but must be limited to:

**Bulls:** a small amount on the organs of generation and in the tassel of the tail. There must be no white forward of the navel or on any other part of the body.

**Cows:** a small amount on the udder and underline, in the tassel of the tail and on the vulva. There must be no white forward of the navel or on any other part of the body.

**Type:** Both types of Dexter, i.e. short legged and non-short legged, are of equal merit. However, extremes of either type are discouraged.

**Head:** Short and broad, tapering gracefully towards a broad muzzle. Jaws wide enough to accommodate well-placed teeth with an even bite. Eyes bright and prominent, with a kind and placid expression.

**Neck:** Deep and thick, but not too short or too long, blending well into the shoulder. Head should be carried above the spine.

**Horns:** Moderately thick, with an inward, upward curve. Removal of horns will not be penalised in the show ring. Polled animals are acceptable, but must be notified in writing.

**Body:** Ample brisket giving plenty of room for the heart and lungs: well sprung ribs: wide across the loin. Quarters thick and deep, broad and full hips, well rounded rump. Straight topline with tail set level with spine.

**Bulls:** Well hung testicles of even size. Four well defined teats, well placed and evenly spaced.

**Cows:** Udder should be well attached with high and wide rear attachment and a strong median suspensory ligament. The four teats should be of medium size, well placed on the udder, hanging plumb and of equal length. All four quarters should be of equal size.

**Legs:** Good width between both front and back legs. Legs should be of moderate length in proportion to body size, squarely placed under the body and perpendicular when viewed from the rear.

**Feet:** Feet should be short toed, deep heeled and level soled. They should not turn inwards or outwards.

**Skin:** Loose and pliable. Hair short and sleek in summer, longer and thicker in winter.

**Size:** **Bulls:** between 42 and 48 inches (106 and 121 cms) at the rump

**Cows:** between 38 and 44 inches (96 and 111 cms) at the rump

# THE DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY

## Rules of Showing - Exhibitors

### Exhibitor

1. When showing an animal in any pedigree Dexter class an exhibitor must be a member of the Dexter Cattle Society. Membership and cattle ownership are shown in the Dexter Cattle Society herdbook or the current online database [www.dextercattle.co.uk](http://www.dextercattle.co.uk)
2. Only M (Pedigree Males), F (Pedigree Females) or BN (birth notified) male animals under 12 months may be shown in Pedigree Dexter Classes.
3. Animals which are exhibited should be to breed standard, in good condition and temperament which enhances the breed. Judges will judge Dexter Cattle as dual purpose and to the Dexter Cattle Society breed standard.
4. An exhibitor is responsible for checking animals before leaving home, for infection or lesions. Failure to check animals can result in being placed at the bottom of the line or disqualification.
5. Cattle not registered or not having the correct registration at the time of being shown, will not be recognised by the office or by other relevant sources
6. An exhibitor must not show any animal which they know has been owned or bred by the judge. If a link is ascertained the judge will not place the animal and the Show Society will call in another judge to do so.
7. If an animal is distressed, unruly or dangerous the judge will ask the steward to remove the animal from the ring.
8. Any pedigree Dexter shown under agricultural show society rules, and not complying with the Dexter Cattle Society rules, will not be included in the Dexter Cattle Society show results, nor be eligible for any Dexter Cattle Society show trophies and points.
9. The only aids allowed in the show ring are the nose clips to control animals or show stick for soothing animal or moving feet. Striking an animal with a stick is not permitted.

**Exhibitors should, at all times,  
adhere to individual show rules and regulations**

# THE DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY

## Etiquette of Showing - Exhibitors

- a. All exhibitors must study the show schedule to check that the animals are entered in the correct classes and comply with all the rules and regulations of the particular show.
- b. Clean white stock coat and clean appropriate footwear is necessary. A tie (preferably Dexter Cattle Society) should be worn.

### Exhibitors Conduct

- c. Exhibitors should at all times, conduct themselves in a responsible and befitting manner. Improper behaviour, inappropriate comments and unacceptable actions may result in the DCS taking measures to resolve incidents brought to their attention. It is not acceptable to smoke or chew whilst in the ring. Please ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.
- d. It is in the exhibitor's best interest to ensure that their animals are prepared to show standard. Dexters in milk are shown with full udders, but should not be overstocked as it may become a welfare issue.
- e. At all times keep the cattle lines tidy. Ensure that cattle are not left unattended and have access to clean bedding, feed and water. Cattle cleanliness and welfare must be paramount at all times. Remember you are responsible for your own animals.
- f. A clean well fitted halter is necessary for each animal.
- g. Be aware of the judge at all times, and when the judge is evaluating your animal please answer clearly any questions the judge may have.
- h. Stand clear from the animal during evaluation without losing control, so that the animal can be judged.
- i. Be aware that in the final line-up before presenting the rosettes, the judge may alter the placings.
- j. Dexters are a dual purpose native breed and, whilst minimal clipping is permissible they should be shown, as far as possible, in a natural state

### New Exhibitors

- k. Please give assistance to all new exhibitors. Showing has its serious side but it must also be fun. Try to communicate this and accept both winning and losing in a gracious sportsmanlike manner.

Here are a few tips for the new exhibitor:

Apply for and study the show schedule and entry form well in advance.

Get every animal used to being haltered and led around.

Leave yourself sufficient time to load your vehicle, travel to the show, set up at the Show and prepare your animals prior to judging commencing.

Remember to take all necessary paperwork or update relevant paperwork.

# THE DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY

## Rules of Showing – Judges

### Judges

1. Judges will judge Dexter cattle as a dual purpose breed and to Dexter Cattle Society breed standard. No personal preference of colour, horns or leg length is allowed to affect judging. Judges will complete their Dexter Cattle Society show results paperwork, **legibly and in full**. Placings from 1st to 5<sup>th</sup> are required and are to be returned to the Society office within 7 days of the actual show.
2. Any judge whose subscription to the Dexter Cattle Society remains unpaid by 1st March shall be automatically removed from the Judges Panel. Guest Invited Judges who are not Society members will not receive any benefits or information from the Society except for mailings pertaining to Judges and mileage expenses for travelling to the annual Judges Development meetings.
3. Judges should accept no more than four show appointments in any one year, with a fifth in an emergency. If invited to judge by a show, the judge will inform the Society Office within 7 days. Judges must not put themselves forward for any showing appointment, to do so may forfeit their appointments for the following year.

### Judges Conduct

4. Judges must at all times conduct themselves in a responsible and befitting manner. Improper behaviour, inappropriate comments and unacceptable action may result in suspension from the judging panel. No Judge, trainee or probationer judge shall at any time criticise or pass comment on a fellow judge's adjudication. Any judge who fails to comply with the Rules of the Dexter Cattle Society may be removed from the Judges Panel.
5. All judges must attend two out of three consecutive Judges Development Meetings.
6. Nominations for trainee judges are only accepted from full members of the Dexter Cattle Society of five or more years standing on the appropriate form. Trainee and probationer judges must withdraw their own cattle entries from shows at which they will be judging.
7. No judge shall have any knowledge of the show catalogue until judging is completed. A judge must not visit the cattle lines prior to judging. If a judge meets a known exhibitor around the showground before judging, he should not engage in conversation beyond the greeting which courtesy demands.

### Judge in the show ring

8. All Dexter cattle will be handled by the judge who will examine the whole animal.
9. An exhibitor must not knowingly show an animal which they know has been owned or bred by the judge. If a link is ascertained, the judge will not place the animal and the Show Society will call in another judge to do so. If the exhibitor shows an animal which they know has been owned or bred by the Judge, show points may be forfeited.
10. If an animal is distressed, unruly or dangerous the judge will ask the steward to remove the animal from the ring.
11. Judges must be aware that a dry cow is not a dry cow until she has ceased any form of milk production. A judge must not try to prove that an animal is not dry by trying to draw milk.
12. If a judge suspects that an animal has been faked in any way he shall refer the matter to the steward who will then proceed according to the Show Society rules.

# THE DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY

## Etiquette of Showing - Judges

- a. Pedigree registered Dexter Cattle are judged against the Dexter Cattle Society Breed Standard as shown on page three of this booklet.
- b. All judges need to be smartly dressed and business-like at all times.
- c. Judges are official representatives of the Society, and are required to conduct themselves appropriately. It is not acceptable to smoke or chew whilst in the ring. Ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.
- d. All Judges should arrive at the show and meet their stewards in good time.
- e. A judge should treat every exhibitor in a professional manner.
- f. In judging groups of two or three, a judge should look for matched animals rather than a group of all one breeding. Although colour is important, breed type and standard should be paramount.
- g. Judges must confine their remarks to constructive comments.
- h. The judge will shake hands with all the exhibitors and personally hand out the rosettes, unless it is requested that a special class sponsor is to do this.
- i. Exhibitors should be addressed with courtesy rather than familiarity.
- j. The judge may briefly explain his decision in the ring to the exhibitors.
- k. The judge to visit the cattle lines after the judging is finished and make sure that he/she talks with every exhibitor available.
- l. Where judges are invited to claim show expenses from the show, they shall at all times be reasonable and pertinent to the appointment.
- m. The judge should inform the Dexter Cattle Society office immediately if the show has cancelled Dexter classes.
- n. Dexters are a dual purpose native breed and should be shown, as far as possible, in a natural state

# THE DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY

## Information for Show Societies & Stewards

**Pedigree registered Dexter Cattle are judged  
against the Dexter Cattle Society Breed Standard  
as shown on page 2 of this booklet**

When showing a pedigree animal in any pedigree Dexter class an exhibitor must be a member of the Dexter Cattle Society. Membership and cattle ownership are shown in the Dexter Cattle Society herdbook or the current online database [www.dextercattle.co.uk](http://www.dextercattle.co.uk)

Pedigree registered Dexter Cattle are judged against the Dexter Cattle Society Breed Standard as shown on page two of this booklet.

The Dexter Cattle Society forwards a Dexter Cattle Society Champion Rosette, a Champion Medal and a best young handler rosette for each show, being judged by a Dexter Judge, to the individual show judge prior to the judge's attendance at the show.

The National Dexter Show does not present a best young handler rosette as there are three special handler competitions for differing age groups.

It is the show society's responsibility to check the eligibility of the animals entered in the various Dexter classes according to its own rules and regulations. In the event of an anomaly the steward or other officials should refer the matter to the exhibitor immediately, in order that any errors may be rectified.

If the show society feels that an exhibitor has deliberately set out to deceive, the matter should be dealt with, according to their own rules and regulations.

Please forward all official correspondence to:

Dexter Cattle Society  
Holme House  
Dale, Ainstable  
Carlisle CA4 9RH

Tel: 01768 870521

[secretary@dextercattle.co.uk](mailto:secretary@dextercattle.co.uk)

[www.dextercattle.co.uk](http://www.dextercattle.co.uk)

For further clarification please contact the  
Society Company Secretary, Mr. A Ryder at the above address

**NOTE TO EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES**

**PLEASE READ THIS BOOKLET IN FULL**

Version 1.2