

**An important technical
update meeting for show judges.
Don't miss it!**

**BOLOGNA
JUNE 2nd, 2026
ITALY**



**WDS 2026
BOLOGNA | ITALY**



**4th
FCI WORLD CONGRESS
FOR
SHOW JUDGES**

INTRODUCTION

4th FCI World Congress for Dog Show Judges 2026

ENCI and the FCI General Committee, is pleased to welcome all FCI licensed judges from around the world to the 4th **FCI World Workshop for Dog Show Judges**, to be held in Bologna, Italy, on June 2nd, 2026, at the prestigious **Bologna Fiera Congress Center**.

This event represents a milestone in the continuing education of dog show judges, offering an exceptional opportunity for exchange, critical reflection, and technical updates. More than **400 judges from all five continents** are expected to take part in this one-day program dedicated to the development of **Cynophilia 5.0** – a modern, ethical, and harmonized approach to dog show judging across the world.

Renowned international experts will take part as speakers, sharing insights on topics of major relevance, such as:

- The role of the judge in safeguarding animal welfare.
- The balance between type and health in modern breed standards: Evolution, Harmonization and Future Prospects.
- The scientific and functional interpretation of canine movement: between Function, Morphology and Spectacle.
- Ethical use of qualifications in judging and their meaning in different systems: Evaluation, Responsibility and Perception of Judgment
- Transparency and impartiality: managing conflicts of interest in the ring.

Judges attending this official FCI workshop will receive a certificate of participation with academic value, signed by the FCI President. Participation is considered a valuable component of continuing professional education for judges worldwide.

As stated in the FCI rules, participation in international workshops is strongly recommended for all judges authorized to officiate at FCI shows, to ensure alignment with global standards and maintain the highest level of expertise and ethical conduct in the ring.

We warmly invite you to take part in this extraordinary event and join us in **Bologna**, a historic city in the heart of Italy, to celebrate knowledge, ethics, and the future of the dog show.

Let us shape the future of our profession, together.



For full program, registration details and updates, visit: **www.wds2026.it**

A fascinating journey into CYNOPHILIA 5.0

A day of dialogue, inspiration, and global perspective.

Experts from around the world gather to actively promote animal welfare and build a shared canine language across continents.

CYNOPHILIA 5.0 is evolution, responsibility, and collective culture.

**A unique opportunity to discuss the present and future of our job.
We look forward to seeing you!**

TUESDAY June 2th , 2026

ACCREDITATION



08.00 – 09.00

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR



Claudio De Giuliani – ENCI International Judge –
Member of the ENCI Judges Committee.

OPENING CEREMONY



09.00 – 09.30

President of FCI – TAMÁS JAKKEL

A welcome message to judges from around the world and a reflection on the shared responsibility in protecting dog breeds.

Chairman of the FCI Judges Committee – LAURENT PICHARD

The Judge of the Future: Balancing Technical Knowledge, Integrity, and Openness to Dialogue with Breeders.



TOPIC 1

Animal Welfare and Ethical Judging



09.30 – 11.45



Moderator: **Alberto Vergara** – ENCI International Judge – Member of the CTC (Central Technical Commission of ENCI) – Full Professor in Food Inspection of Animal Origin – Department of Veterinary Medicine – University of Teramo.



Speakers:

NAME	JOB TITLE	NCO
Jesus Andres Villalobos Diaz	<i>International Judge. Chairman of the FCI Scientific Committee. Veterinarian (DVM). Professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).</i>	Federación Canófila Mexicana
Axel Dubois	<i>Royal Canin Representative. Coordinator of the “PROactive” educational program in collaboration with the FCI.</i>	
Hideward Hoenderken	<i>International Judge. Veterinary Surgeon specialized in Veterinary Dentistry.</i>	Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch Gebied in Nederland
Niksa Lemo	<i>International Judge – Univeristy professor and board-certified veterinary dermatologist (ECVD).</i>	Croatian Kennel Club

A session that weaves together science, ethics, and responsibility. The judge stands as a key figure in protecting animal welfare through careful decisions aligned with breed standards.

TOPIC 2

Breed Standards: Evolution, Harmonization, and Future Perspectives



11.45 – 13.15



Moderator: **Pietro Paolo Condò** – ENCI International Judge – Member of the ENCI Judges Committee – President of Club Cani Compagnia.



Speakers:

NAME	JOB TITLE	NCO
Jorge Nallem	<i>International Judge – Chairman of the FCI Standard Committee.</i>	Kennel Club Uruguayo
Tamas Jakkel	<i>International Judge – President of FCI.</i>	Magyar Ebtenyésztők Országos Egyesületeinek Szövetsége
Peter Friedrich	<i>International Judge – President of the VDH (Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen) and Member of the FCI Standards Commission.</i>	Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen
Petru Muntean	<i>International Judge – Member of the FCI Standards Commission.</i>	Asociatia Chinologica Romana

A session comparing visions and approaches to the definition of the standard: between history, function, selection, and judging.



LUNCH TIME
13.15 - 14.00

TOPIC 3

Movement: Between Function, Morphology, and the Pursuit of Show Appeal



14.00 – 16.00



Moderator: **Massimo Inzoli** – ENCI International Judge – Member of the ENCI Judges Committee – Vice President of Gruppo Cinofilo di Caltanissetta.



Speakers:

NAME	JOB TITLE	NCO
Adrian Landarte	<i>International Judge – President of the FCI Americas & Caribbean Section and Member of the FCI General Committee.</i>	Kennel Club Uruguayo
Alexander Balzer	<i>President of Société Centrale Canine (SCC).</i>	Société Centrale Canine pour l'Amélioration des Races de Chiens en France
Louis Donald	<i>International Judge – Author of numerous books. His latest work, The Definitive German Shepherd, has achieved remarkable success.</i>	Australian National Kennel Council
Martin Fischer	<i>German zoologist, evolutionary biologist, and expert in locomotion. Professor of Zoology and Evolution at the University of Jena, Germany. He is the author of the renowned book on canine movement: Dogs in Motion.</i>	

A technical and reflective session exploring the balance between form and function, between scientific tradition and judging practice.

TOPIC 4

Qualifications: Evaluation, Responsibility, and Perception of Judging



16.00 – 17.30



Moderator: **Francesco Cochetti** – ENCI International Judge – Member of the ENCI Judges Committee – Vice President of the FCI Judges Committee – President of the Kennel Club Roma.



Speakers:

NAME	JOB TITLE	NCO
Laurent Pichard	<i>International Judge – Chairman of the FCI Judges Committee.</i>	Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft
Ilaria Biondi de Ciabatti	<i>International Judge – President of the Kennel Club Peruano.</i>	Kennel Club Peruano
Gopi Krishnan	<i>International Judge – President of the Malaysian Kennel Association.</i>	Malaysian Kennel Association
Carla Molinari	<i>International Judge – President of the Clube Português de Canicultura.</i>	Clube Português de Canicultura
Fabio Moreira Amorim	<i>International Judge – President of the Confederação Brasileira de Cinofilia.</i>	Confederação Brasileira de Cinofilia

A session dedicated to redefining the meaning of qualifications, strengthening the authority of judging, and providing participants with an opportunity to reflect on the language and purpose of evaluation in dog shows.

TOPIC 5

The Code of Ethics: Principles, Conflict of Interest, and Integrity of Judging



17.30 – 19.00



Moderator: **Maria Ceccarelli** - ENCI International Judge – Member of the Board of Directors of ENCI – President Gruppo Cinofilo Partenopeo.



Speakers:

NAME	JOB TITLE	NCO
Kimmo Mustonen	<i>International Judge – President of the Suomen Kennelliitto - Finska Kennelklubben.</i>	Suomen Kennelliitto - Finska Kennelklubben
Ozan Belkis	<i>International Judge – President of the Köpek Irklari ve Kinoloji Federasyonu.</i>	Köpek Irklari ve Kinoloji Federasyonu
Vija Kluciece	<i>International Judge – President of the Latvijas Kinologiska Federacija.</i>	Latvijas Kinologiska Federacija
Augusto Benedicto Santos III	<i>International Judge – President of the Philippine Canine Club.</i>	Philippine Canine Club

A session with a strong ethical focus, designed to strengthen the credibility of the judge's role and prevent any form of direct or indirect influence within the context of show judging.

CLOSING CEREMONY



19.00 – 19.30 | **Q&A Session**

Participants are invited to share questions, comments, or reflections on the day's topics. Speakers will offer brief answers and closing remarks for future discussion.

CLOSING INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS



19.30



Tamás Jakkel – President of FCI.

Dino Muto – President of ENCI.

At the end of the workshop, both will share reflections on the future of dog judging, the importance of continuous education, and the central role of judges in the harmonious development of canine breeds.





www.wds2026.it