

Interpreting the Standard

(Continued from page 1)

hearing the dog-judge students' reasons, a committee of three senior judges would place the dogs and give the correct reasons for their placings. This went on very well until the evening when the three senior judges were still unable to agree, when I left for home toward one o'clock in the morning.

In summary, a Standard is a "word picture" of a perfect example of a breed, advanced by the breed's parent club under approving supervision of the AKC. It is a continuing bulls-eye for the target of breed quality. Its interpretation involves creating a mental image from these words, and comparing breed examples with this image and with each other, using the image as a gauge. Such interpretation and application is best accomplished by practice upon representative examples of a breed at every opportunity. Keeping the original functions of a breed in mind, as having helped to produce the Standard—whether or not particular entries are the interpretation on a practical basis.