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# AFA NEWS

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## A.F.A. announces appointments to judging system

A.F.A. is pleased to announce the recent appointments of two Judges and two Judges in Training to its championship show judging system. A.F.A. congratulates these members on their accomplishments.

Seiko Ishihara from Nagoya, Japan, passed the written and practical tests to become an A.F.A.-licensed judge on June 20, 1999. Ishihara is the first person from outside of the United States to obtain an A.F.A. Judges License. She joined the A.F.A. Judges Training Program in November 1998 and has attended every available training seminar and almost every A.F.A.-sanctioned championship ferret show since then. She judged the specialty and championship classes at the Japan Ferret Association's first championship ferret show, which was held in March in Nagoya and was an A.F.A.-sanctioned event. Ishihara is also the president of the Japan Ferret Association.

Mike Orłowski from Harleysville, Pa., passed the written and practical tests to become an A.F.A.-licensed judge on July 31, 1999. Orłowski joined the A.F.A. Judges Training Program in August 1997 and since then has judged specialty classes. He and his wife Denise got their first ferret in 1995 and started attending ferret shows the same year. The Orłowskis opened their home as a ferret rescue and shelter in 1996 and started to breed ferrets on a small scale in 1997. They now have several dozen ferrets in their home, 20 of which are permanent shelter residents and approximately 10 of which are shelter ferrets available for adoption.

Chris Sayne of Pittsburgh, Pa., applied and was accepted into the Judges Training Program in January 1999. Sayne has been an Judge Apprentice in the program and is now eligible to be

promoted to Judge in Training. Sayne got her first ferret in 1996. She did not add again to her ferret family until 1998 and then proceeded to increase her family to 20 ferrets as well as support numerous foster ferrets. Sayne joined the Three Rivers Ferret Club near Pittsburg, Pa., in 1998. She is very active in the club's administration as the current Treasurer/Secretary, Membership Manager, and Mailing List Manager, and she organizes shows and events. Sayne works with her local ferret shelter, the Pennsylvania Ferret Rescue Association of Westmoreland County by volunteering at the shelter and providing foster care for many shelter inhabitants.

Gail Burlaka from Mt. Laurel, N.J., applied to the Judges Training Program in July 1999. She has owned ferrets since 1974 when she adopted two abandoned ferrets from her veterinarian. She volunteers her time as the administrator of the A.F.A. online message board and works with the Shows and Special Events Committee to assist in several areas for the A.F.A. championship ferret shows. Burlaka has bred and shown Afghan Hounds for 17 years, has owned and produced many A.K.C. Champions, and has judged on many levels at A.K.C. dog shows. She now has more than 12 ferrets in her family and has been attending ferret shows for two years.

Any comments of commendation or otherwise concerning members eligible for promotion or new members await-

ing acceptance into the judges program should be sent to the A.F.A. Judges Administrator, 6517 Fish Hatchery Road, Thurmont, MD 21788. E-mail: ferrets@mindspring.com.

Current roster of A.F.A. Judges, Judges in Training, and Judges Apprentices:

### Senior Judges

Georgia Bailey (Virginia)  
Randy Corbin (Maryland)  
Marty Gosnell (Maryland)  
Sally Heber (Maryland)  
Vickie McKimney (Virginia)  
Connie Riggins (Virginia)

### Judges

Ellen Byrne (Maryland)  
Tom DeNitto (New England)  
Dale Diehl (Maryland)  
Seiko Ishihara (Japan)  
Bill Killian (Virginia)  
Mike Orłowski (Pennsylvania)  
Judith Sanders (Virginia)  
Cindy Sooy (Delaware)

### Judges in Training

Regina Hart (Pennsylvania)  
Yutaka Ishida (Japan)  
Mary McCarty (Pennsylvania)  
Pat Musick (Maryland)  
Chris Palaski (Pennsylvania)

### Judges Apprentices

Ann Barzda (New Jersey)  
Gail Burlaka (New Jersey)  
Chris Sayne (Pennsylvania)

## Want to Hire an A.F.A. Judge?

New procedures for using A.F.A. Judges, Judges in Training, and Judges Apprentices at events not sanctioned by the A.F.A. went into effect on April 1, 1999. This policy was published in the Sept./Oct. 1999 issue of the *A.F.R.* (page 11) and is available from the A.F.A. office and at the A.F.A. Web site: <http://www.ferret.org>.