



**American
Kennel Club®**

Judging Operations Department
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judgingops@akc.org
www.akc.org
January 2018

Ringside Observation Criterion

A mentor is an individual with whom a prospective judge has established a long term, ongoing relationship. He or she may or may not mentor ringside.

A ringside observation may be completed with individuals whom are a parent club approved mentor, have 12 years' experience exhibiting that breed, or 12 years as an approved judge in that breed. The ringside mentor may become a long term mentor or not. Requirement considerations given for breeds recognized less than 12 years.

A ringside observation may be completed at specialties where formal ringside mentoring is offered or at any AKC conformation event where a major in at least one sex is present and a qualified mentor is available.

CEU credit for individuals applying for additional breeds will be assigned as defined within the Judging Approval Process:

- 1 CEU credit when completed at a Parent Club National Specialty (Up to three observations from one National may be accepted if completed on different sexes/classes and with a unique mentor).
- 1 CEU when completed at any other AKC conformation event where a major in the sex has been entered. (5 CEU maximum).

Ringside Observations must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ **Observer may observe with parent club approved mentor or individual with a minimum of 12 years' experience exhibiting or judging the breed in conformation. Observations with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be accepted.**
(Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting, but should not mentor for classes which they are competing. Mentor should be available for discussion during major entry. Mentors will be asked to document their own experience on the Observation Form when they sign it.)
- ❖ **There must be adequate entries for the breeds observed. Totality of entry may be considered if/when major is not present.**
- ❖ **Observer and mentor must properly complete a Ringside Observation Form which must be submitted with the application for that breed.**
- ❖ **Judges may observe at shows where they are judging.**
- ❖ **Judges may mentor ringside at shows where they are judging, but may not in a breed scheduled to judge that day or the following days.**

All additional breed forms available at: <https://www.akc.org/events/judges/conformation/additional-breed-application/>



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To: AKC Conformation Judges and Show Superintendents

RE: Apprentice Training

Effective, January 1, 2018 judges may complete Apprentice Training Experiences for breeds they intend to apply for in the future.

Apprentice training involves an applicant (apprentice) observing the judging of a breed in the ring with a mentor judge. The mentor and judge may discuss the entries discretely during the experience. This discussion should not take place in close proximity to the competitors in the class.

Following are the guidelines as defined within AKC's Conformation Judging Approval Process:

Apprentice Training Criterion

- Apprentice must complete prior to first experience:
 - Complete breed exam in AKC Canine College. Upon passing grade you may continue completing other requirements. (Exam and fee credited toward future application of same breed.)
 - Receive confirmation of the receipt of the \$35 fee and that exam has been successfully passed.
- Apprentice Trainings submitted with applications that occurred prior to the completion of this requirement will not be accepted for CEU credit.
- Must obtain consent of the Show Chairperson and Mentor Judge prior to the opening of the show.
- Check-in with the Executive Field Representative in attendance to obtain "Apprentice sticker" and advise of the judge(s) and breed(s) which you have made prior arrangements to apprentice in.
- Mentor Judge should have been approved to judge the breed for at least 12 years or an approved judge with 12 or more years' breeding and/or exhibiting experience in that breed.
- Visiting Judge may act as a mentor judge where appropriate.
- Must be a major entry present in at least one sex. Expectation is to observe the entire entry.
- Only one Apprentice Judge in ring at one time; Apprentice may not be in ring more than two hours.
- May not physically examine any dogs during judging.
- Properly completed Apprentice Training Form must be completed and signed by the Apprentice and Mentor Judge.
- The Mentor and Apprentice Judge shall discuss the entry together, alone and in confidence, after judging. Mentor must certify that the Apprentice was prepared and conversant in the breed's characteristics.
- Copy of completed Apprentice Training form should accompany additional breed application where experience is included for CEU credit.

NOTE: Other than a breed they might judge, judges may observe at a show where they are officiating. Judges may not observe a breed one-day and then judge that breed the following day.

All additional breed forms available at: <https://www.akc.org/events/judges/conformation/additional-breed-application/>



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APPRENTICE TRAINING FORM

For In-Ring Apprentice Training to receive CEU credit or use on an additional breed application, this form must be completed, signed by apprentice and mentor judge. Consent of show chair and mentor judge session must be arranged prior to the opening of the show.

Breed exam passed and fee paid to AKC: Yes No Date _____

Please print in black or blue ink.

Apprentice-Print Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Show Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Breed Observed: _____ **Entry:** _____

Apprentice Notes: Overall quality of entry excellent good average poor
Breed Specific comments on entry (Mandatory)

Mentor Notes: Overall quality of entry excellent good average poor
Breed Specific comments on entry (Mandatory)

To be completed by Mentor/Judge (mandatory):
Number of years exhibiting this breed _____ Number of years judging this breed _____ Visiting Judge Yes No
(regular status)

I, _____ verify that the above judge was prepared and conversant in the breed's characteristics and
(please print name)
has completed an AKC apprentice training. My signature on this form does not necessarily indicate my endorsement or recommendation of the apprentice judge to be approved for this breed.

Mentor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



Mentoring/Tutoring Form

This form should be utilized to document a Long-term Mentor, Tutoring Experience or Kennel Visit (see definitions below). The form must be signed by both the Mentor and Mentee verifying that the experience occurred. Mentor must be approved by the parent club or meet AKC's criteria to be accepted.

- Type of Experience:**
- Long Term Mentor:** On-going relationship with qualified individual over time preceding application of the breed.

 - Tutor:** At length, in depth discussion on breed to include examination of multiple examples of breed to discuss breed specific characteristics with a qualified individual.

 - Kennel Visit:** Extended visit at the kennel with a qualified exhibitor/ breeder in that breed, speaking in length on its characteristics, examining many dogs and possibly viewing litters.

Date: ____/____/____

Location: _____ **Length of Session:** _____
Tutoring/Kennel Visit Experiences only Tutoring/Kennel Visit Experiences only

To be completed by Mentor (Mandatory):

- Parent Club Approved Mentor yes no If NO, number of years exhibiting this breed _____
- AKC Approved Breed Judge yes no If YES, number of years judging this breed _____
- Breeder/Exhibitor in breed yes no If YES, number of years in breed _____

Briefly describe mentoring experience: _____

Mentor/Tutor: _____ **Breed:** _____
Please print full name

City/State _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Mentee: _____ **Judges #:** _____

Signature of Mentee _____ Date _____

Completed form is to be submitted with the applicable additional breed application to verify experience. To be accepted, must be signed by Mentor and Mentee and include description of experience. Mentor or the Mentee may complete description section prior to signing. Signing indicates experience occurred as described. A separate form must be completed and submitted for each experience.