



**American
Kennel Club®**

Judging Operations Department
PO Box 900062
Raleigh, NC 27675-9062
(919) 816-3570
judgingops@akc.org
www.akc.org
September 1, 2015

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 experienced with individuals whom are a parent club approved mentor, have judged the National Specialty, have 12 years' experience exhibiting or 12 years as an approved judge in that breed. The ringside mentor may become a long term mentor or not.

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 has been entered.

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 (additional 2 CEU for attending National); 1 additional CEU for additional observation with unique mentor.
- 3 CEU when completed at any other AKC conformation event where a major in the sex has been entered.
- 1 CEU for each additional ringside observation at major entry show. (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. Smaller entries may require more observations.**
(Observations must be at Parent Club National or any show where a major in one sex has been entered.)
- ❖ **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 at shows where they are judging.**

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



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JUDGE'S RINGSIDE OBSERVATION FORM

For Ringside observations to receive CEU credit or use on an additional breed application, this form must be completed by observer, mentor and submitted with application. Complete a separate form for each observation. Keep a copy for your records. All additional breed forms available at: <http://www.akc.org/events/judges/conformation/additional-breed-application/> Please type or print in black or blue ink.

Observer/Judge: _____ Judge # (if applicable): _____

Show Name: _____ Show Date: _____

Breed & Classes Observed: _____ Observed #: _____

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

To be completed by Mentor (mandatory):

Parent Club Approved Mentor yes no Number of years exhibiting this breed _____
Breeder Judge yes no Number of years judging this breed _____
Judged Parent Club National yes no (regular status)
Exhibit at this show yes no

I, _____ verify that the above judge has completed an AKC approved Ring-side observation as indicated above. My signature on this form does not necessarily indicate my endorsement or recommendation of the observing judge.

Mentor Signature: _____ Date: _____



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To: AKC Conformation Judges and Show Superintendents

RE: Apprentice Training

Effective September 1, 2015, 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 prior to first experience:
 - Submit competed breed exam and \$25 fee to Judging Operations. (Exam and fee credited toward future application of same breed.) Should be submitted to Judging Operations allowing sufficient time to receive, grade and send notification prior to first scheduled experience.
 - Receive confirmation of the receipt of the \$25 fee and that exam has been successfully passed.
- Apprentice Trainings submitted with applications that occurred prior to the completion of this requirements will not be accepted for CEU credit.
- Must obtain consent of the Show Chairperson and Mentor Judge prior to the opening of the show.
- Should check-in with and advise the Executive Field Representative in the morning 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 in at least one sex.
- Only one Apprentice Judge in ring at one time.
- 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:** _____



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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:
- Mentor Defined as a long term relationship having numerous experiences in ongoing education in the applicable breed.
 - Tutor Defined as a casual in depth discussion with a breeder/judge or knowledgeable experienced handler in the applicable breed.
 - Kennel Visit Defined as visit to breeder's kennel discussing breed and examining several exhibits.
- Date: ____/____/____

Location: _____ Length of Session: _____
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

Signature of Mentor /Tutor Date

Name of Mentee: _____ Judges#: _____
Please print full name

Signature of Mentee Date

This form must be completed and signed by Mentor and Mentee and submitted with the applicable additional breed application to verify experience. Description of experience may be completed by the Mentor or the Mentee prior to signing. A separate form should be completed and submitted for each Mentor/Tutor experience.