

AKC  
**Judges**  
✓ EDUCATION

FALL  
2018



Calling all  
Judge's Education Committees  
and Judge's Workshop Groups

The JEC Symposium is back



The fourth AKC Judges Education Coordinator Symposium, hosted by the AKC Judges Education Department, will be held on Friday, December 14, 2018 in Orlando, FL in conjunction with the AKC National Championship and the Orlando Cluster of Dog Shows.

This informative JEC seminar at the Orange County Convention Center will provide insight into creating an effective Judges Education Committee. Learn how to create or enhance your presentations, make masterful mentors and what tools are needed for your mentors and/or presenters to be successful. Cost for this JEC Symposium is \$25.

Come join us this year to learn NEW ideas, share success stories, and network with your fellow JECs. Hope to see you there!

Click here for the printable registration form: [JEC Symposium](#)

## Paperwork

### Presenting a seminar is only half the job

Attending a breed presentation and hands-on workshop can be one of the most valuable experiences a judge can do in his quest to become approved for a breed. However, unless the presenter or seminar host completes and submits the required paperwork to Judging Operations, the judge will not be able to document that experience on their application. This makes for a very unhappy judge who spent time and money to attend your seminar. Believe me; you don't want that angry mob!



There are three important forms that need to be submitted to Judging Operations after you have presented the seminar/hands-on workshop.

#### 1. The all-important sign-in sheet.

The attendance sheet should include the breed, date, and location of the seminar along with the presenter's name. Each attendee should sign their own name and include their judge's number *if applicable*, and should check the box next to their name once for the seminar and again if attending the hands-on portion of the presentation.

## 2. The Seminar and Hands-On Workshop Report.

To be completed by presenter, includes details on the seminar and workshop such as the number of dogs that were used for the workshop and the length of time the seminar and workshop lasted.

## 3. The Hands-on Workshop worksheet.

Completed by each attendee when evaluating the dogs in the workshop. These worksheets are to be collected at the end of the workshop, signed by the presenter, and submitted to Judging Operations along with the sign-in sheet and seminar/hands-on workshop report. Completion of the worksheet is required in order for the attendee to receive educational credit for the workshop.

While some of this may seem redundant, each form serves a specific function and all are necessary to correctly document seminar and hands-on workshop attendance. First and foremost is the fact that per the *Judging Approval Process*, to be accepted on judging applications, the seminar must meet AKC criteria for credit. The seminar report serves as the certification by the host/presenter that AKC requirements have been met.

If you have any questions regarding the these forms, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Here is the link to the forms on the website: [Seminar Forms](#)



## **Creative Services For Parent Clubs and Judges Workshop Groups**

Did you know the Judges Education Department is able to assist you with the following Creative Services?

We are able to provide a **list of judges** on a particular breed or group which may include the following information: Approved &/or Permit, contact information including email addresses, for the entire U.S. or specific states. The fee for lists is \$25.

If you are preparing a mailing to go out to judges we can provide actual address labels. The fees for labels are as follows: \$25 for the first 5 pages (30 labels per page) then \$2 each additional page.

We are able to design certificates of attendance or flyers/announcements, the cost: \$25 for the first 50 certificates or flyers.

To place your order or if you have any questions please call Kathy Caruana at 919-816-3862.

# MENTORING – A Club's Responsibility

*Sue Vroom, EFR/Education Liaison*

Sharing knowledge and information about your breed is or should be one's passionate priority. Awareness of the importance of functioning in the role of mentor and/or tutor is the first level of education. The next is a recognition of your audience and in targeting what information one is interested in obtaining. A potential puppy buyer is seeking to learn whether the breed is the right fit for family and life style. Additionally, they may be looking for a dog with which to share competitive activities, possibly breeding the puppy at a later point in time and in developing a continuing mentoring relationship with the puppy's breeder. Discussion topics in this case should naturally include breed-specific genealogy, temperamental tendencies, diet, and training tips. Equally important is the potential dog show judge/evaluator interested in obtaining education encompassing a different type of information. The focal point of this tutorial session should center around breed standard directive; description of all phenotypical traits, temperamental tendencies as it would pertain to ring mannerism – in short, the breed's very essence.

There are some breed organizations struggling to understand the necessity of offering breed education programs within their club structure. Not only is it not considered a priority in club duties, it is vocally dismissed by it's officers. Some club representatives have boldly stated that they as a group are disinterested in forming a breed education committee or in designing educational materials of any kind. This type of tunnel vision is an extreme disservice and a blatant oversight of the vital responsibility in the breed they love. In order to ensure the integrity and well-being of future generations in all aspects of breed preservation, education should be given distinct priority.

Parent breed organizations have the benefit of utilizing resources offered within the structure of AKC's ever-developing educational programs. AKC's Canine College breed courses are a valuable and instructive resource for prospective judges. These comprehensive programs are overseen by Leslie Fetzer, AKC's Director of Education who is very hands on with our parent organizations in designing and presenting the educational material available on-line.

The role of JEC within the national club structure is one that carries tremendous responsibility and perhaps at times even a tenuous position among those having differing opinions. A contentious atmosphere is a common pitfall which can only be avoided by keeping ever present the understanding that individual opinions among qualified individuals is to be expected and respected as long as the breed standard is the guiding and overriding resource first and foremost. Oppositional stances to the standard is never to be tolerated in any educational setting. The place for discussions of this sort should be confined to parent club forum.

Those who refuse to recognize the intrinsic importance of sharing knowledge as a valuable tool for breed preservation are missing the point.



## Forecast for future Advanced Judges Institutes

Each year the American Kennel Club and Dog Judges Association of America present an Advanced Judges Institute covering two groups, this year it's the Hound and Toy groups. From time to time we are asked which groups we will be presenting for the following year. Below is what we predict will be the line-up for the next couple of years:

**2019 – Sporting & Non-Sporting**  
**2020 – Working & Terrier**

# GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

Previously, in order to provide consistency and to enhance breed specific judges' education seminars, a template was created as a guideline or as suggestions to help presenters with their seminars, and hands-on presentations. This template was the result of collaboration with Breeders, Breeder Judges, Judges Education Chairs and a Delegate Parent Club Committee Member. Following is the template created from these efforts.

## The Classroom - Presentation

**GOALS:** To help create a clear mental image of correct breed type according to the standard. This mental image is necessary for good judging – sometimes the correct dog may look different from the others. A presenter has to be able to verbalize this mental image in easy to understand terms.

- Clarify the breed standard. What does it call for? Where is the emphasis? Where do you “give” when judging this breed? Or what are you willing to “forgive” and why?
- Reveal what longtime breeders think and value. What are the hard to get virtues that are treasured and what is the drag of the breed? What are the hallmarks of the breed?
- Familiarize the participant with the development of the breed, including its history and purpose and the evolution of breed type. Discuss those features important in a breed relative to its purpose, i.e. a herding dog's ability to be sure footed and swift, or a Bloodhound having enough extra skin to reach the ground in order to detect scent.
- Provide BREED SPECIFIC exam techniques such as bite, mouth, the approach, eyes etc...
- Why do you use your hands the way you do and what specifically are you checking for?
- Answer questions regarding the breed and clear up any confusion regarding the standard, breed type and character. Personality: Aloof, overly friendly? What should you expect as a judge when going over a breed? What is acceptable behavior (for example, Min Pins hardly ever stand still).
- Finally, inspire the prospective judge with the beauty and uniqueness of the breed so that he or she WANTS to judge the breed.

**PACKETS :** The packets serve as an ongoing reference. Packets are handed out at the conclusion of the classroom session to avoid distraction from the speaker. The packet should be designed to reinforce and coincide with the material that was presented in the classroom.

## **Some items for inclusion in the packet:**

- AKC Breed Standard
- Illustrated or Pictorial Standard
- Abbreviated standard such as Snapshots or Two-Minute Standard
- The Breeder's Perspective
- Key articles regarding breed type and judging and any other material selected by the Judges Education Committee.
- Bibliography of educational materials
- National club website information including approved Mentors list.
- List of parent club approved mentors

## HANDS-ON

The intent of the hands-on workshop has long been an opportunity for the student to apply the information gained during the seminar presentation to a live group of dogs. As proper judging is the recognition of desired breed characteristics and awards are to be based on the assimilation of the positive attributes; emphasis in the hands-on workshop must be on the recognition of the positive attributes of the exhibits.

All too often, when attendees of hands-on workshops were asked to provide commentary on all exhibits in the class, their comments would either be generic in nature or focus on the negative points rather than the identification of desired characteristics. This was found to be especially true once beyond the top two or three examples. Following is a modified structure for conducting the hands-on workshop portion of the seminar to better accomplish the goal of recognition of desired breed specific characteristics.

- If the Breed specific examination has not been covered in the classroom it should be done first.
- What is the best way to approach the breed and what are its idiosyncrasies of temperament?
- Why do you use your hands the way you do and what specifically are you checking for?

# Provide BREED SPECIFIC exam techniques such as bite, mouth, the approach, eyes, etc.:

- All dogs should be present at the same time with a handler for each dog if possible.
- Presenter should demonstrate a breed-specific examination for the breed including the proper oral exam.
- The attendees (presenter included) should view the class of dogs in profile as a group for an overall picture of each individual dog and a comparison of all.
- For larger classes – extra dogs should be present to enable the class to be divided into smaller groups.
- Each dog should then be examined individually by all attendees including the presenter. Exam should be breed specific and should take the same approximate time as if judging each entry at an event.
- During examination there should be nothing in the student's hands while examining the exhibits. Any clipboards/forms should be kept to the side to prevent startling any of the exhibits.
- After all dogs have been examined, each dog should be gaited individually permitting all attendees as a group (including the presenter) to observe each dog gaiting from the front, rear and the side. Space permitting, the dogs should be gaited together once as a group.
- Once all dogs have been examined individually by all attendees, and viewed gaiting as a group; each attendee should complete their form indicating their 1st and 2nd place (or BOB & BOS) for the class. Breed specific comments should be provided for the two placements. Comments are to accentuate the positive and must be focused on the recognition of the positive attributes observed. The presenter may permit attendees to examine or re-gait an entry an additional time, but should be kept to a minimum as all should be cognizant of the stress placed upon the dogs in this atmosphere.
- Once all attendees have finished their worksheets, and BEFORE the group discussion on the individual dogs transpires, all dogs and their handlers should be excused from the room.
- After all dogs and handlers have been excused, the presenter should lead a discussion on dogs examined. Attendees should be asked to indicate their placements and what their decisions were based upon. Emphasis must be on the positive attributes and breed specific characteristics of each dog discussed. The presenter should also share how they would have placed the class and their breed specific reasons as to why. While this discussion is taking place, all of the attendees should have completed their worksheets and thus no writing should be taking place.
- At the completion of the discussion, all worksheets are to be collected by the presenter, signed and then submitted to the monitors. Completion of the worksheets is required for the attendee to receive educational credit for the workshop.



# Judges Education Department

If you have some great ideas  
you would like to share,  
please let us know!

Questions or need assistance,  
please feel free to contact  
us by email at  
[judgesed@akc.org](mailto:judgesed@akc.org)  
or call 919-816-3862