

# AKC Judges EDUCATION

JEC Newsletter  
Spring 2018





## ATTENTION

### ALL HOUND AND TOY BREEDS PARENT CLUBS!!!

The American Kennel Club and the Dog Judges Association of America are joining forces once again to present an Advanced Judges Institute for both the Hound Group and Toy Group December 11th - 14th in Orlando, Florida. Held in conjunction with the *AKC National Championship – presented by Royal Canin and the Orlando Cluster Dog Shows*.

*Time is ticking...*

*For those who haven't secured a presenter yet for the Institute, please try to fulfill and submit A.S.A.P. The schedule is almost complete and registration will soon be open. Reminder, now that registration is completed on-line, the scheduled cannot be changed once it is posted.*

## **The Role of a Parent Club**

*By Sue Vroom EFR, Education Liaison*

The role of a parent club in protecting and preserving their breed is multi-faceted. Along with the many duties and responsibilities relative to its regional clubs and individual members, of paramount importance is the guardianship of the breed.

Specific categories may be defined as a) genetic health, b) safety and well-being, and c) education for breeders, prospective owners and judges.

Breed education can pose a significant challenge in the design, organization and distribution of the materials associated with a formalized presentation, both in seminar program content and print copy Illustrated Standard handouts.

The composition of the Judge's Education Committee is a key aspect of a successful program in all respects. Knowledge, objectivity and willingness among committee members and mentors to maintain a unified front yet offer informative individual opinion can be a slippery slope.

The AKC's Judge's Education Dept is a great resource in navigating a parent club through the process of developing an effective Judge's breed education program. Kathy Caruana, Judge's Education Coordinator is the in-house staff member and available for advice, direction and information. Along with my role as field staff member my expanded capacity is that of Education Liaison, a resource to clubs in all aspects of educational programs, materials and committee composition. It is a responsibility taken extremely seriously and one which I enjoy immensely.

In the breakdown of Judge's Education committee responsibilities under the guidance of its Chair, specific areas would be:

1. Organizing the team
2. Determining and defining what judges are needing to know
3. Detailing the Mentors' qualifications and requirements

4. Design of materials – Power Point program, Illustrated Standard, seminar hand out materials
5. Outreach through club websites regarding information on regional mentors and upcoming educational programs

Within the committee, a successful mentor's program is achieved largely through positive on-going communication by the JEC as to the goal expectation of the group, remaining respectful of varying opinions based on a solid background, longevity in the breed, understanding of vital hallmark breed characteristics and integral intent to convey information in an impartial context.

The challenges can at times seem daunting and overwhelming. Teaching one's breed is by nature fueled with a passion for the subject, tempered by the desire to invoke a similar feeling from the student. Realistically, the goal is that the successful takeaway from a mentoring session or presentation by the mentee is a vested interest in continuing education.

Mentors must keep in mind that constructive criticism and input from respected people should be viewed in a positive light when creditable. An effective breed education program is a work in progress.

Building relationships with JECs from various parent clubs is a great way to network and gain insight into your own JE program.

Resources within AKC available to assist with your questions, input, issues, etc. are:

Sue Vroom, Exec Field Representative/AKC Education Liaison

[shv@akc.org](mailto:shv@akc.org) (626) 523-6142

Or: Kathy Caruana, Judge's Education Coordinator [kac1@akc.org](mailto:kac1@akc.org)

**Mark your calendars...**

The American Kennel Club will be holding a

***Judges Education Coordinator's Symposium***

Held in conjunction with the  
AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Hound & Toy Breeds

**Friday December 14, 2018**

**2:45pm – 5:30pm**

*Orange County Convention Center*

*North/South Building*

*9899 International Drive*

*Orlando, Florida*

*Open to all Parent Club and Judges Workshop JECs!*

*Watch your email for more details!*

*The JEC Symposium format will focus on similar topics as in the past.*

*\*Organizing the JE committee*

*\*Developing Mentor's program*

*\*Facing the challenge of teaching – perceptions of partiality, avoiding impropriety, adversity among club members*

*\*What judges are needing to know-effective teaching*

*\*Designing the educational materials-Power Point, Illustrated Standard, seminar hand-outs*

*\*Seminars and Workshops*

*\*AKC forms*



**Use the AKC website to help advertise your next Judge's Education Presentation. Just complete this [form](#) and email it to [Judgesed@akc.org](mailto:Judgesed@akc.org).**

### **CRITERIA: SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS**

*-Revised 5/24/2018*

As required in the Board approved Judging Approval Process, seminars and workshops must meet AKC criteria for credit. In an effort to establish uniformity and clarify requirements, “Seminars” and “Hands-On Workshops” are specifically defined as follows and accreditation on applications for additional breeds will be assigned under the following conditions:

#### **General**

- Judges groups and/or clubs hosting breed-specific institutes, seminars or workshops should request from the parent club an approved presenter.
- The host may secure any individual qualified to present the breed under the condition that the material is consistent with the current AKC-approved breed standard.
- Institutes, seminars and workshops must be accessible to AKC Staff including the Executive Field Staff. Judging Operations Staff will be available as a resource, to promote a positive rapport in the judging community and make periodic presentations as Judging Operations considers appropriate and feasible.
- Sponsoring organization must submit a summary and report of each Seminar and Workshop presented with certification of attendance. Report must document having met each condition outlined below. Failure to provide report will result in the denial of educational credit for attendees.

- Weight/value received on applications for attendance of breed specific seminars and workshops is determined by the Judging Approval Process effective at the time of application for that breed.

### **Seminars**

Educational credit for attendance at a breed specific “Seminar” will be awarded providing its sole purpose is the presentation of information essential to judge that breed and:

- There is a 90 minute or longer presentation that includes history, form and function of the breed, an in- depth consideration of the Standard and a question and answer period.
- The presenter and content are preferably Parent Club approved (see above). Content must be consistent with the currently approved breed standard.
- One or two live dogs are available for illustration.
- Class size should be limited to 40.
- Attendance must be certified and reported to Judging Operations. (see above)

### **Workshops**

Additional credit will be granted for attendance at an accompanying breed-specific hands-on Workshop” providing it is a clinical extension of a seminar, is a 60 minute or longer period, and:

- A discussion of the proper prioritization of breed characteristics and how to properly effect a breed specific examination precedes the hands on.
- There is the occasion to rank exhibits presented and explain placements to mentors.
- Mentor/Participant ratio should not exceed 1:10.
- A minimum of four dogs/bitches per group should be present. Exceptions may be considered on a case- by-case basis with the final determination for acceptance the responsibility of Judging Operations.
- All dogs must be at least six months of age.

- No dog/bitch should be examined by more than 20 individuals per day.
- The welfare of dogs is an utmost consideration. To accommodate larger workshops, it is permissible to divide attendees into two groups, with each examining half of the dogs and observing all dogs gaiting.
- Attendance must be certified and reported to Judging Operations by the presenter. (Following forms must be submitted to Judging Operations: Seminar and Hands-On Workshop Report, Hands-On Workshop Breed Evaluations and Seminar Attendance list).

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**After your presentation, please be sure to send your [paperwork](#) to [judgesed](#) as soon as you are able!**



### **Hands-On Workshop Guidelines**

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.

1. All dogs should be present at the same time with a handler for each dog if possible.
2. Presenter should demonstrate a breed-specific examination for the breed including the proper oral exam.
3. 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.
4. For larger classes – extra dogs should be present to enable the class to be divided into smaller groups.
5. 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.
6. **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.**
7. 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.
8. Once all dogs have been examined individually by all attendees, and viewed gaiting as a group; each attendee should complete their form indicating their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 cognitive of the stress placed upon the dogs in this atmosphere.

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

**GUIDELINES FOR MENTORING**  
***(Sue Vroom, Education Liaison)***

- Use breed specific terminology from the AKC breed standard when making a reference to conformational features.
- When relevant, in discussing the physical characteristics, relate them to the function and original purpose of the breed.
- Avoid pointing out generic faults—they are obvious to all.
- Focus on the essence of breed type virtue – teach what is, rather than what it isn't. Don't encourage fault judging.
- Stress the importance of staying with the “whole picture.”
- Personal preferences must never override and take precedence over breed standard requirements.

- If one “gets” the essence of breed type, they will “get” the details of type.
- Prioritize key features of the breed by how they are referenced in the breed standard.
- Judges have a small window of time in the show ring to assess important characteristics-they are not building a breeding program.
- Break down your information in simple terms targeted toward the prioritization of breed characteristics in a 2-minute ring evaluation.
- Ask judges to visualize the ability to perform the function he was bred for when looking at the dog.
- Be articulate and knowledgeable about all sections of the standard, applying the priorities as they are stated.
- Accurate breed-specific hands-on examination technique is important-demonstrate effective ways to go over heads, coats, identification of hallmark characteristics
- The Ringside Observation form is filled in first by the mentored judge followed by mentor’s comments after the previous section is complete. Be sure the form is filled out in its entirety.
- Take ownership in your breed. When you sign a form for a prospective judge for a ringside observation, tutoring session, long-term mentoring relationship etc., you are verifying that the experience occurred as described. If it did not, do not sign the form. If the individual displayed conceptual challenges and/or difficulties, state it on the form

*\* Keep a record of those you mentor and for whom forms are completed.*

[http://cdn.akc.org/Clubs/Seminar\\_Mentoring\\_Tutoring.pdf](http://cdn.akc.org/Clubs/Seminar_Mentoring_Tutoring.pdf)



**Is your current mentor list posted on the AKC website?**

Not only is it a valuable tool for judges looking for qualified mentors; it is most helpful determining who is a Parent Club approved presenter when Judging Operations is processing judge's applications.

Please check our [online list](#) to see if your breed mentor list is current.

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# One Stop Shop ~

The easiest way to find information regarding Judges Education is to go to:

[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

Click on the **Sports & Events** Tab, a drop down will appear. In the column on the far right, you will see **Judging Resource Center**, click on the title, for this page scroll down,

and select

**Conformation Judges.**

**Everything you need for Judge's Education is located on the  
Conformation: Judging Resource Center page!**

The screenshot shows the American Kennel Club website interface. At the top, the AKC logo and name are on the left. The navigation menu includes links for Event Search, Find a Puppy, Register Your Dog, Shop, Sign In, and a Search bar. Below the navigation menu, there are dropdown menus for BREEDS A-Z, EXPERT ADVICE, PRODUCT & SERVICES, SPORTS & EVENTS, and CLUBS & DELEGATES. A red arrow points to the SPORTS & EVENTS dropdown menu. Below the navigation menu, the website content is organized into three columns. The first column is titled 'GETTING STARTED IN DOG SPORTS' and includes links like 'Intro to Dog Sports' and 'Canine Partners / Enroll Mixed Breed'. The second column is titled 'BROWSE ALL DOG SPORTS' and lists various dog sports such as 'Conformation Dog Shows', 'Performance Sports', and 'Sports for Juniors'. The third column is titled 'RESOURCES FOR DOG SPORT PARTICIPANTS' and lists resources like 'Event Search', 'Downloadable Forms', and 'Judging Resource Center'. A red arrow points to the 'Judging Resource Center' link in this column.

If you would like to share your thoughts and tips please  
feel free to send them to [Judgesed@akc.org](mailto:Judgesed@akc.org)

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