



# AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

AKC Parent Breed Club,

The American Kennel Club has approved Ringside Observations, Mentors, Tutors and Apprentice Training (In-Ring) as components to qualify for additional breed judges. The following are the Criteria:

1. Observer must be approved to judge at least one breed, as this component only applies on Additional Breed applications.
2. Observer may observe with parent club approved mentors or individuals with a minimum of 12 years' experience exhibiting or judging the breed in conformation. Judges approved in the breed for 12 years may also mentor ringside. Observations with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be accepted.
3. Ringside Observations and Apprentice Training require major entries for the breeds observed.
4. Observer and mentor must properly complete an Ringside Observation Form or Apprentice Training Form which must be submitted with the application for that breed. NOTE: Forms will not be accepted without comments. Comments are mandatory.
5. Judges may observe at shows where they are judging.
6. 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. (Keep in mind that walking out of the ring and discussing the breed(s) they have judged should be conducted in a manner that would not be offensive to an exhibitor.

To assist the American Kennel Club, we are asking that each Parent Club provide us with a list of approved mentors. This will assist the Judging Department with requests for individual mentors. Lists are posted on the [Judges Study Guides](#) page of the AKC website. Please include the mentors name, city, state, phone and email.

Please send your approved Mentor List to:

American Kennel Club  
Judging Operations  
PO Box 900062  
Raleigh, NC 27675-9062  
Email: [judgetsed@akc.org](mailto:judgetsed@akc.org)

For any additional question or information contact Judging Operations.

Regards,  
Kathy Caruana  
Judges Education  
[kac1@akc.org](mailto:kac1@akc.org)  
919-816-3862  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)



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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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Judging Operations Department
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judgingops@akc.org
www.akc.org
January 1, 2018

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)

[Multiple horizontal lines for notes]

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 (reg. status) \_\_\_\_\_
Judged Parent Club National [ ] yes [ ] no
Exhibit at this show yes no Mentor email or cell# \_\_\_\_\_

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, but certifies I observed the judging of this breed with this judge, discussing the entries and the breed specific characterisits present through the progression of the classes.

Mentor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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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)

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

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**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: Long Term Mentor, Tutor, Kennel Visit. On-going relationship with qualified individual over time preceding application of the breed. At length, in depth discussion on breed to include examination of multiple examples of breed to discuss breed specific characteristics with a qualified individual. 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.

