



# AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

## AKC RULES FOR MENTORS

Time and time again we hear many conflicting comments on Mentoring. What many of you don't know is that when it comes to mentors most Parent Clubs' rules are more stringent than AKC's. Here are AKC's rules:

Observer may observe with Parent Club approved mentors or individuals with a minimum of 12 years experience breeding and exhibiting. Approved judges with regular status in the breed for 12 years may also mentor ringside. Observations with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be accepted.

Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting up to the class in which they have an entry. They will not be allowed to participate thereafter except at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club.

As you are aware for the past two years we have been requesting a list of parent club approved mentors from each parent club. These lists will soon be available on the AKC Website. Please send any revisions or updates to Katie Rudolph at [kxr@akc.org](mailto:kxr@akc.org), if you have any questions call 919-816-3593.

## MEANINGFUL MENTORING

by Kitty Steidel  
(Article published in November 2009 Gazette)

Everyone is mentoring. Prospective judges waving papers ringside, papers needed to fill in the blanks for applications. Disseminating information is good, if it is accurate. However, my experience is that Judges Education Committees waste much valuable time arguing about who is qualified to mentor and who is not. AKC's rules are less stringent than Parent Club qualifications. Individuals, who qualify, through Parent Club or AKC

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approbation, are going to mentor. Given this fact, rather than exclude them, Parent Clubs could equip those interested with a plan to mentor efficiently. An outline of what to cover, meaningful mentoring could benefit student, mentor, club, and ultimately your breed.

In organizing the mentor program, the JEC might prepare a one page Mentor Notes. First in the notes is a thank you to mentors for giving their time and expertise. Next give him the specifics. The PBGVCA JEC developed a laminated card: 4"x 8 1/2 ", the card can fit in any business envelope. One side is a color photo of a PBGV along with descriptive words from the standard. The other side a lovely head study and a photo of another PBGV. You have all you need.

Determine the student's experience with the breed. Regardless of his prior experience he should have read the standard. Take an extra copy of your standard with you. Together, refer to the first paragraph of the standard pulling out the most descriptive words. Next to ringside: Discussing each dog is unnecessary. Instead ask general questions as you survey the class: "Which dogs in your opinion have the compact, tousled outline while stacked?" Note the armband numbers of the dogs you would like to go over later and arrange with the handlers. From a distance it is really not the time to discuss details.

Having determined which exhibits approach the rustic, compact overall, next watch how each moves and make a further determination as to whether this dog is balanced or lacking somewhere. Some dogs that did not stack well may surprise you in motion. The overall carriage, especially head and tail, reveals much about the character of the dog. Called the happy breed, which dogs exhibit animation, confidence and exude enthusiasm? You have just established the first important type consideration--overall outline.

In the hands on after the show, consider the details of the head (ear, eye, mustache, beard); the expression-friendly; the coat coarse, the topline-level, the medium tail set - high. Other details that will be discussed: the dark hair is not as profuse as the white; color and markings deceive the eye; the legs appear straight from the front but feet may turn slightly; what shape to the head and oval from the front; the oval eye; the little fan graduating from mustache to corners the eye. Note that the muzzle is shorter than distance from stop to occipital and ear does not reach the nose.

You may not realize it but you have just gone from general to specific; determined the silhouette, the head, the tail, the character and the movement of the PBGV. You have started on your journey of Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type. A wonderful book to further your education is Rick Beauchamp's 2nd Edition by this name. (Bow Tie Publications)

## ONLINE JUDGES STUDY GUIDE FOR ALL BREEDS, by Linda Hurlebaus

The AKC online Judges Study Guide has been changed to reflect enhanced educational opportunities for our judges. To date, this location has included only newly recognized breeds eligible for competition. Our goal is to include several recognized breeds each year in an effort to work hand in hand with the breeds to provide judges with comprehensive education. In 2009, 25 recognized breeds were added.

The newest feature of the Judges Study Guide is a Parent Club link. This link will take the viewer to the Parent club contact and website link provided by your club to the AKC. When a viewer clicks on the website link it will direct them to your homepage. This provides judges with access to information on your website for specialties, seminars, performance events, articles, etc.

The Study Guide link will direct viewers to the online Illustrated Standard or Power Point presentation on your website. Permission will

be requested from the club to add this link. For clubs that do not have these types of presentations online, it is recommended that you consider constructing a Word or PDF presentation with appropriate photos. Newly recognized breeds have this type of presentation and I will work with you to assist in format if necessary. Please take a few minutes to review the AKC Study Guide links for reference.

This is a snapshot of the new format that you will see online:

- [Afghan Hound History | Standard | Study Guide | Parent Club](#)  
The Study Guide link provides access to the Illustrated Standard or Power Point presentation that is available on many breed websites. Efforts continue to provide the judging community with study guides for both new and existing breeds

To view the Judges Study Guide, the following address is provided - <http://www.akc.org/judges/guides/>

You, as Judges Education Coordinators, are the most important people to your breed. The amount of information, or lack of, impacts the future of your breed in more than one direction.

Here are some questions you may have.

### WHY DO WE NEED A STUDY GUIDE?

Education about your breed begins with the JEC. Defining the essence of breed type and conveying that information to the judging community in an easily understood format provides the judge with a strong foundation and future reference for the breed. The study guide can be a useful tool for breeders that strive to produce dogs that meet the standard, assist owners more clearly understand their breed, and new families deciding whether or not the puppy they are buying is of quality.

### WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A STUDY GUIDE AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM AN ILLUSTRATED STANDARD?

The Study Guide should clearly define the essence of breed type and may very well be a part of the illustrated standard. Many parent clubs successfully use this combined format to provide not only the basic educational material but an elaboration of key elements important in the breed standard. However, this is where you have the opportunity to address specifics such as a judge's approach, suggested mouth exam, drags on the breed and other factors to be aware of.

WE DON'T HAVE AN ILLUSTRATED STANDARD OR A POWER POINT PRESENTATION AT THIS TIME OR WE HAVE CHANGES TO OUR EXISTING ONE, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

While it can be a costly and time consuming venture utilizing this type of education if at all possible is beneficial in understanding the breed. Any existing presentations that are linked to our Study Guide will automatically reflect any changes you do. If the FILE name of the presentation changes, please contact me with the update so that your link remains active.

MAY YOU CONTINUE TO SELL YOUR ILLUSTRATED STANDARD BOOKLET AND USE IT AT SEMINARS?

Your detailed educational material can remain for sale and we recommend that the JEC and committee begin to work on a Word or PDF document that touches on the essence of the breed and clearly define the areas of the breed standard that are considered important. Nothing replaces in-depth material however; the lack of any educational material is detrimental to your breed.

WILL THESE STUDY GUIDES REPLACE THE NECESSITY OF JUDGES TO ATTEND OUR SEMINARS?

Absolutely not! We have placed a statement at the top of the page that the educational material on that site will not replace required components on an application. This is intended as an additional reference. Since judges cannot carry booklets/pages for all breeds while on the road, this is an excellent opportunity for them to reference your breed the night before the show if they question a specific point.

Judges Education Coordinators play an extremely important role in the education and presentation of a parent club's approved materials. You're the individual the judging community will often seek out to answer questions and provide materials for your breed. The amount of information, or lack of, impacts the future of your breed in more than one direction.

With the New Year upon us, it is time to begin looking at our responsibility in how our own individual breed is presented to the judging community, owners, breeders, newcomers, and the public. The more clear and concise the information describes the essence of breed type the better the understanding of the breed by the judges, assist breeders breed better dogs, the public explore the versatility of the breed through performance and prospective new owners buy the quality dogs that continue the breed's strong foundation in the future.

For comments or information please contact Linda Hurlebaus at: - [lsh@akc.org](mailto:lsh@akc.org). I look forward to working with you.

## PUBLISHING A SEMINAR

Your seminar will be accepted only if it is sponsored by an AKC Club, Judges Workshop Group or a Federation of Dog Club and presented by a Parent Club or by a Parent Club approved presenter. If your club is planning to put on a seminar held by a Parent Club Presenter it is imperative that authorization is granted by the Parent Club and submitted to AKC for seminar posting. Submit your seminars and written confirmation to Kathy Caruana at [judgesed@akc.org](mailto:judgesed@akc.org). Once the notice is received, it will be published on the AKC Website. The AKC Website is updated within 2-3 days. Forms to post seminars on the Website may be found at: [www.akc.org/about/depts/judges\\_education.cfm](http://www.akc.org/about/depts/judges_education.cfm)

You may email Kathy Caruana at [judgesed@akc.org](mailto:judgesed@akc.org) or fax information to 919-816-4225.

FYI, many requests have come in to publish ringside mentoring, we will not publish “Ringside Mentoring” on its own. Ringside Mentoring will only be published in conjunction with a Seminar or National Specialty.

## ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY JEC’S by John Wade

The Judging Operations Department of the American Kennel Club reserves the right to edit the content and make corrections to any and all articles accepted for publication in either “The Standard” or other publications utilized by the department.

## SHARE WITH US

We welcome your thoughts or other articles for the publication in this E-News or the Standard. If you wish to share your ideas with us, please send to Ines Maldonado at [ixm@akc.org](mailto:ixm@akc.org) or fax to 919-816-4225. The next publication will be released in December 2010.

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