Mentors are experienced breeders and fanciers who care deeply about their breed and the show events in which they participate. They are volunteers who give back to the dog show community by sharing their extensive and valuable knowledge with individuals of all ages who are new to showing dogs.

A mentor can guide you through rules and traditions of dog shows, assess your dog’s potential, and prepare you for success in the show ring!

Mentors provide one-on-one training, advice, and assistance in everything from grooming, to health care, to showing, and even the purchase or eventual breeding of a dog. Many mentor-mentee relationships develop into lifelong friendships.

Mentors can often be found by joining a local AKC dog club. Or, consider signing up for the AKC’s New Exhibitor Mentoring program online.

For more information or to sign up for a mentor, visit www.akc.org/public_education/mentor.cfm or contact the AKC Public Education department.