Remember when you first started showing dogs? Chances are you had a mentor who made an invaluable contribution to the success you enjoy today.

Why not pass that knowledge on to an interested new exhibitor?

While breeders have traditionally played an important role in mentoring their local puppy buyers, many of today’s breeders work full-time jobs or live a long distance from their puppy buyers.

The AKC’s New Exhibitor Mentoring program, developed in conjunction with the Dog Show Superintendents Association, helps connect experienced breeders and fanciers with interested new exhibitors.

Mentors can help guide newcomers through the rules and traditions of dog shows, assess a dog’s potential, and provide one-on-one training, advice, and assistance in everything from grooming, to health care, handling, and even the purchase or eventual breeding of a dog. Many mentor-mentee relationships develop into lifelong friendships!

Mentors are experienced breeders and fanciers who care deeply about their breed and the show events in which their dogs participate. They are volunteers who belong to AKC-affiliated clubs and give back to the dog-show community by sharing their extensive and valuable knowledge with newcomers. For more information about becoming a mentor, visit http://www.akc.org/public_education/mentor.cfm or contact the AKC Public Education department.