



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

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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/>