

# Parent Clubs Breed Mentorship

Why it is important

# FBDCCA Requirements to Apply



- Maintain membership in good standing with FBDCCA
- Have been a member of the FBDCCA for at least 10 years
- Be either
  - An approved AKC Judge for French Bulldogs *or*
  - A breeder who has been breeding and exhibiting the breed for at least 12 years and has bred at least 5 champions
- Submit a Mentor Qualification Application form to the FBDCCA's Judges' Education Committee for review.

# Additional FBDCCA Requirements that must be completed to be approved

- Successfully complete a FBDCCA Mentor Guidelines Workshop
- Attend a FBDCCA-sponsored seminar
- Successfully complete a weighing test administered by an AKC Field Representative

# FBDCCA has criteria to ensure that



- The judges get in-depth information about the breed
- Mentors are prepared to answer the applicant's questions
- That the FBDCCA presents a consistent message to the applicants
- To better prepare the mentors in understanding their responsibilities and any restrictions
- To refresh your knowledge about the standard
- So that you can professionally represent the FBDCCA

# Do prospective judges go to parent clubs?

- One parent club compared the applicants for the breed to the list of those who attended parent-club seminars.
- In a five-year period, only about 30% of the judges applying for the breed attended a parent club judges' education seminar.
- Mentors may be the **ONLY** way that the applicants may truly learn about the breed.



# Mentors must be familiar with the AKC judges' approval process

- You can review the process at AKC Conformation Judges Resource Center. You will find these under “Applications.”
  - Carefully review the CEU’s that a prospective judge may use in obtaining the breed. These are found under “Additional Breed Application and Procedures” and New Breed Judge Application and Procedure.”
  - Review the forms entitled “Ringside-Apprentice-Mentor Forms.”

We want the prospective judges to learn - not just “check the boxes” by gathering the minimal number of CEUs (educational units)

- AKC considers anyone with 12 years as an approved judge or 12 years exhibiting the breed as a mentor of the breed.
- Years alone do not give a person an in-depth understanding of the breed.
- Some judges are so eager to advance that they apply for the breed without a thorough understanding of the breed. These people can then go on to teach others.
- Do we want these people to be the primary educators of future judges?

# Types of mentoring sessions

- Ringside mentoring with a major entry
- Kennel visit
- Tutor
- Long-term mentor
- Apprentice Training



# Limitations on club mentors



- The same person may not be used by the prospective judge as a kennel visit, a ringside mentor, and a tutor. If there are multiple experiences, AKC considers this as a long-term mentor.
- Phone tutoring (only available for low entry breeds)

# Ringside Mentor with a major entry

- Depending on the area of the country, it takes between 4-16 French Bulldogs for a major. That means that you are only talking to the prospective judge 10 - 40 minutes, depending on where you are in the country. For example, Louisville would be 25 minutes.
- Would you like people judging your breed who have spent only a half hour to learn the breed? That is not enough time to cover all the points in the standard, much less the nuances of the breed.
- What is the minimum time which should be spent discussing the breed?

# Ringside Mentoring Continued

- You may exhibit on the day you are doing ringside mentoring if
  - The major entry was before you exhibited.
  - You were ringside and mentoring for the entire major entry.
  - The mentors must remove themselves from the mentoring area once the class assembles with their entry.

# Kennel Visit

- Kennel visits must be at your house or kennel.
- AKC no longer considers the examination of a number of dogs at a show as a kennel visit.
- You must speak *in length* about the breed.
- The prospective judge must examine many dogs. This may include litters.
- What is sufficient length?

# Tutor

- This is an *at length* and *in-depth discussion* about the breed.
- This should also involve the examination (including gaiting) of a number of dogs.
- What is sufficient length?
- What are points that you must discuss?

# Long-term Mentor

- This requires an ongoing relationship over time with
  - Numerous sessions in a number of venues.
  - A kennel visit may be included.
- A long-term mentor must have discussed the breed, its history, function and breed characteristics.
- If the standard has been changed since the last interaction, the mentor must discuss in depth the standard changes and the reasons for the changes.

# Apprentice Training

- This in-ring observation must
  - Have a major entry
  - The apprentice must observe the entire entry for a maximum of two hours.
  - The apprentice must have taken the breed test.
  - Be scheduled prior to the opening of the show.
  - Must have the consent of both the judge and the show chair. (some shows will not permit apprentice training.)
- It should never interfere with the judging of the dogs.

# Responsibilities of Apprentice Training Judge

- Experience of the judge
  - Must have been approved to judge the breed for at least 12 years  
OR
  - Be an approved judge with 12 or more years breeding and exhibiting that breed.
- Must discretely comment to the Trainee Judge about his/her thought process as the classes are judged.
- Must discuss the entry together, alone and in confidence, after judging.
- Must certify that the apprentice was prepared and conversant in the breed's characteristics.

# Use the standard

- Have the standard available when mentoring (paper or electronic format).
- Refer to the standard when answering questions, as appropriate.
- You may use your own words - but never contradict the standard.

# Forms

- Be familiar with each form before engaging in the activity that the form documents.
- You must insist that all forms are completed accurately BEFORE signing them.
- Is the time accurately recorded?
- Was the discussion accurately portrayed?
- Were the number of dogs examined and gaited listed correctly?

# You are certifying the accuracy of the form with your signature!!

- The AKC forms hold you responsible.
- For example, you state:
  - I verify that the above judge has completed an AKC approved Ringside observation as indicated above.
  - I verify that the above judge was prepared and conversant in the breed's characteristics and has completed an AKC apprentice training.
  - Signing indicates experience occurred as described.  
(Mentoring/tutoring)

# Make a log of those individuals which you have mentored

- The 2009 AKC policy required that the mentor/tutor maintain a list of people they have mentored/tutored and when. This log is no longer required by AKC. However, The Judges' Education Committee wants to track whether the parent club message is reaching the individuals applying for the breed.
- For this reason, please send at least quarterly to the Judges' Education Committee those individuals which you have mentored/tutored and completed an AKC CEU form.
- This log also assists you to refrain from showing to the individual for six months after your last documented session. AKC recommends this best practice.

# What should you NOT say?

- Never contradict the standard.
- Never express an opinion contrary to the standard. For example, if the standard allows a number of colors, do not say that I would only award one color and that you do not like the other colors.

# The Ethics of mentoring

- Do not offer opinions on the people or their kennels.
- Do not promote individual dogs.
- Do not disparage dogs in competition with your dogs.



# Be positive

- Find positive traits in the dog in question.
- Look for the overall qualities.
- You may, however, answer questions on problematic characteristics. For example, if someone asks you if the topline on a camel-back dog is correct.... Refer them to the standard. Ask them if the highest point of the backline is over the loins. If they cannot “see” the position of the rise, you may help them.



# Be enthusiastic about the breed

- The mentoring experience will be more memorable if you are a cheerleader for the breed and you can convey your appreciation of the breed to the mentee.



# Learn how to prioritize



- It is easy to find fault. A good judge finds the overall best specimen.
- One judge said that “Dog judging is the art of analysing, synthesizing and compromising.”
- Our standard now helps with prioritizing the traits. Make sure that you discuss the hallmarks of the breed.

# Help is available

- The Judge's education committee is here to help you. The committee:
  - Robin Stansell, Chair
  - James Dalton
  - David Johnson
  - Virginia Rowland
  - Patti Sosa



# Learn how to Weigh

- Consult with AKC material in weighing. There are both written instructions and videos on the AKC website.
- Ask a member of the JEC for assistance.
- Ask an AKC Field Representative to give you a demonstration.
- We thank the delegate body for passing a rule requiring better scales.



# How many times can a dog be weighed?

- Only once per event
- Exceptions
  - Sweepstakes because that is only an excusal
  - Concurrent specialties, Group shows and back-to-back are separate events

# Who may call the scales?

- The judge
- An exhibitor in the same class providing no measurement was done previously at the event.
  - At any level: class, winners, breed, group or BIS
  - Made BEFORE the last dog in the class has been examined
  - Request made by armband number(s)

# May an exhibitor be excused before weighing?

- No!
- If the exhibitor leaves the ring without permission, the judge will record that in writing in the judges' book and report the incident to the show chair.
- Leaving without permission is a suspendable offense.

# Call for the scales

- Call the superintendent/show secretary for the scales. If the scales are not portable, it may be necessary to take the dog and exhibitor to the superintendent's office.
- Place the scales on the table.
- Verify to the exhibitor that the scale is correctly calibrated.
  - The superintendent will usually turn on the scale and show you that it is calibrated. This is not sufficient for the exhibitor. The judge must show the calibration to each exhibitor for each weighing.

# Refer to the standard

- Show the standard to the exhibitor.
- Note that there is a DQ for weight in the standard and that you are weighing to ascertain whether the French Bulldog is within the standard.
- Note the exact words of the standard. Does the standard say under 28 pounds, at 28 pounds or over 28 pounds?
- Note that there are no gender differences.

# Instruction to the Exhibitor

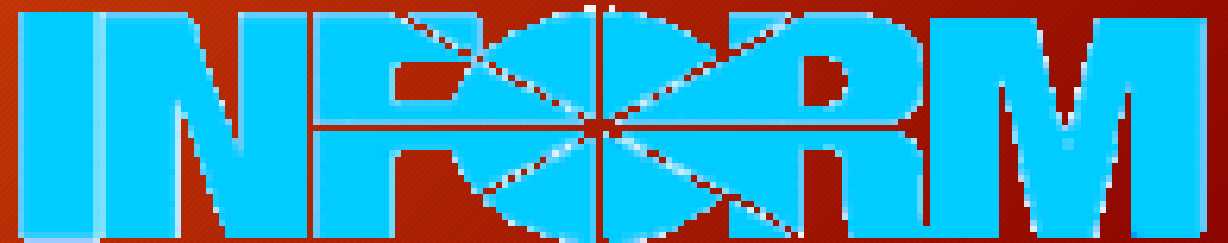
- Judge and Exhibitor should be on opposite sides of the table.
- Exhibitor given the option of placing the dog on the scale with the lead on or off. If the lead is left on, it must be loosely in hand or around the neck. There can be no tension on the lead.
- All parts of the dog must be on the scale.
- Dog may sit or stand on the scale.
- Dog may NOT be touched when the measurement is ascertained.

# Dogs that resist

- Only ONE attempt may be made.
- Dogs resisting the measurement must be excused from the class.
- Judge should mark the book “Excuse, could not weigh” and initial.
- Exhibitors who do not cooperate can be excused with a notation in the judge’s book and may face an event hearing.

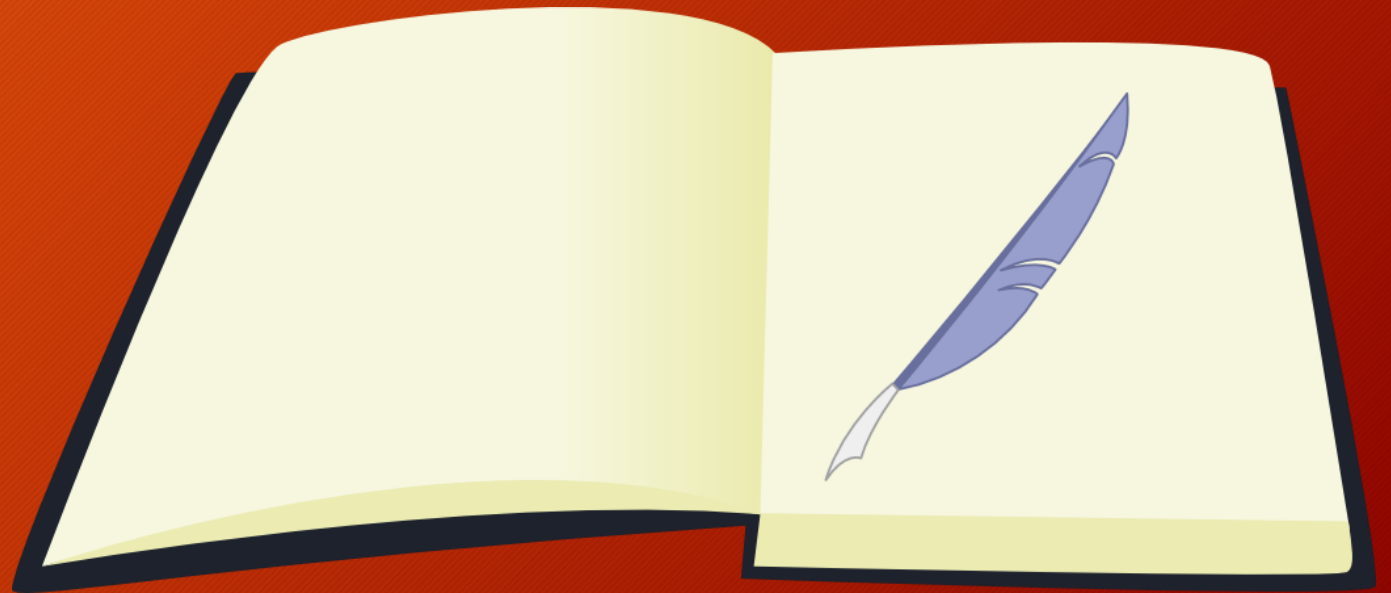
# Inform exhibitor of the results

- Inform the exhibitor that the dog weighed in (continue with judging) or weighed out (DQed from competition).
- The weight of the dog is not to be shared with the complainant or the spectators.
- Ascertainment of the weight is ONLY done by the judge.



# How to mark your book

- DQ - weighed out OR weighed in
- Do NOT record the weight
- Initial



# Things that will result in a failing test

- Not advising what is being weighed
- Not calibrating the scale
- Inadequate instruction such as lead option
- Not advising the exhibitor of the result
- Incorrectly indicating how you would mark the book

