



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Judging Operations Department
PO Box 900062
Raleigh, NC 27675-9062
(919) 816-3570
judgingops@akc.org
www.akc.org
January 2024

Ringside Observation Criterion

A mentor is an individual with whom a prospective judge has established a long term, ongoing relationship. He or she may or may not mentor ringside.

A ringside observation may be completed with individuals whom are a parent club approved mentor, have 12 years' experience exhibiting that breed, or 12 years as an approved judge in that breed. The ringside mentor may become a long term mentor or not. Requirement considerations given for breeds recognized less than 12 years.

A ringside observation may be completed at specialties where formal ringside mentoring is offered or at any AKC conformation event where a major in at least one sex is present and a qualified mentor is available.

CEU credit for individuals applying for additional breeds will be assigned as defined within the Judging Approval Process:

- 1 CEU credit when completed at a Parent Club National Specialty (Up to three observations from one National may be accepted if completed on different sexes/classes and with a unique mentor).
- 1 CEU when completed at any other AKC conformation event where a major in the sex has been entered. (5 CEU maximum).

Ringside Observations must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ **Observer may observe with parent club approved mentor or individual with a minimum of 12 years' experience exhibiting or judging the breed in conformation. Observations with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be accepted.**
(Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting, but should not mentor for classes which they are competing. Mentor should be available for discussion during major entry. Mentors will be asked to document their own experience on the Observation Form when they sign it.)
- ❖ **There must be adequate entries for the breeds observed. Expectation is to observe the entire entry. Totality of entry may be considered if/when major is not present.**
- ❖ **Observer and mentor must properly complete a Ringside Observation Form which must be submitted with the application for that breed.**
- ❖ **Judges may observe at shows where they are judging.**
- ❖ **Judges may mentor ringside at shows where they are judging, but may not in a breed scheduled to judge that day or the following days.**

All additional breed forms available at: <https://www.akc.org/events/judges/conformation/additional-breed-application/>



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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/>



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PO Box 900062
Raleigh, NC 27625-9062
919-816-3589 fax 919-816-4225
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www.akc.org
January 2025

APPRENTICE TRAINING FORM

For In-Ring Apprentice Training to receive CEU credit or use on an additional breed application, this form must be completed, signed by apprentice and mentor judge. Consent of show chair and mentor judge session must be arranged prior to the opening of the show.

Breed exam passed and fee paid to AKC: Yes No Date _____

Please print in black or blue ink.

Apprentice-Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Show Name: _____

Date: _____

Breed Observed: _____

Entry: _____

Apprentice Notes: Overall quality of entry excellent good average poor
Breed Specific comments on entry (Mandatory)

Mentor Notes: Overall quality of entry excellent good average poor
Breed Specific comments on entry (Mandatory)

To be completed by Mentor/Judge (mandatory):

Number of years exhibiting this breed _____ Number of years judging this breed _____ Visiting Judge Yes No
(regular status)

I, _____ verify that the above judge was prepared and conversant in the breed's characteristics and
(please print name)
has completed an AKC apprentice training. My signature on this form does not necessarily indicate my endorsement or recommendation
of the apprentice judge to be approved for this breed.

Mentor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



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RALEIGH, NC 27675-9062
PHONE: (919) 816-3589
FAX: (919) 816-4225
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Mentoring/Tutoring Form

This form should be utilized to document a Long-term Mentor, Tutoring Experience or Kennel Visit (see definitions below). The form must be signed by both the Mentor and Mentee verifying that the experience occurred. Mentor must be approved by the parent club or meet AKC's criteria to be accepted.

Type of Experience:

Long Term Mentor: On-going relationship with qualified individual over time preceding application of the breed. Description below must indicate a long-term experience.

Tutor: At length, in depth discussion on breed to include examination of multiple examples of the breed, discuss breed specific characteristics with a qualified individual.

Kennel Visit: Extended visit at the kennel with a qualified exhibitor/ breeder in that breed, speaking in length on its characteristics, examining many dogs and possibly viewing litters.

Date: ___/___/___

Location: Tutoring/Kennel Visit Experiences only Length of experience(s): i.e., span of time for LT Mentor or hours for Tutoring or Kennel Visit

To be completed by Mentor (Mandatory):

Parent Club Approved Mentor [] yes [] no If NO, number of years exhibiting this breed
AKC Approved Breed Judge [] yes [] no If YES, number of years judging this breed
Breeder/Exhibitor in breed [] yes [] no If YES, number of years in breed

Briefly describe experience:
[]
[]
[]
[]

Mentor/Tutor: Please print full name Breed:

City/State Phone Number Email

Signature Date

Name of Mentee: Judges #:

Signature of Mentee Date

Completed form is to be submitted with the applicable additional breed application to verify experience. To be accepted, must be signed by Mentor and Mentee and include description of experience. Mentor or the Mentee may complete description section prior to signing. Signing indicates experience occurred as described. A separate form must be completed and submitted for each experience.



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HOW TO SCORE YOUR ADDITIONAL BREED APPLICATION

Minimum number of CEU credits required to apply based on the chart below

Number of complete groups currently approved:	Less than 1	Less than 4	4 or more
Minimum Total CEU's Required for Regular Breeds	10	8	6
Minimum Total CEU'S Required for Low Entry Breeds	5	4	3
Maximum number of breeds on permit status	12	18	24

CEU credits may be obtained from the following list of experiences

Component Educational Units (CEU)		Value	Max
1	JEC Seminar and Hands-on Workshop at National	3	6
	JEC Seminar Only at National	2	
	Ringside Observation with mentor at National	1	
	Tutoring session with qualified mentor at National	1	
2	Seminar and Hands-on Workshop in Breed at Advanced Institute	3	5
	Seminar Only at Advanced Institute	2	
	Any other Seminar and Hands-on Workshop in Breed	2	
	Webinar or any other Seminar Only in breed	1	
3	Canine College Breed Course	2	2
4	Long-term Mentor	2	5
	Kennel Visit/Tutoring Session	1	
	Additional Mentor/Kennel Visit or Tutoring Session	1	
5	Ringside Observation w/mentor (major entry present in the classes)	1	5
6	In-Ring Apprentice Training	2	4
	Additional Apprentice Training, different mentor	1	
7	Sweepstakes/Futurity Assignment at National Specialty	2	4
	Sweepstakes/Futurity Assignment with a Specialty Show or Supported Entry for the breed	1	
8	Assignment to judge the breed as a replacement judge or foreign assignment	1	3
9	Judged breed a total of 3X in Group, BIS, Misc., etc.	1	3
10	Attend Performance Event w/breed present (pertains to the purpose of the breed)	1	1
11	Breeding & Exhibiting – Bred or exhibited 4 dogs to CH in breed	2	2
12	Virtual Tutoring with parent club approved mentor or recognized breed expert	1	1

*Virtual Tutoring - only for Low Entry Breeds where Department determines that insufficient educational opportunities exist in the breed



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MEMORANDUM

To: Additional Breed Applicants
From: Judging Operations Department
Subject: Component Educational Units (CEU) –Special Attraction List
Date: November 17, 2017

The [Judging Approval Process](#) effective **January 1, 2018**, provides applicants the opportunity to earn CEU credits for judging a breed three (3) times cumulatively (page 6 - CEU #8).

Provided below is the list of all classes/competitions (including special attractions) which may be submitted for credit under this provision where the applicant has judged an entry or entries in the applied breed:

- ❖ In the Group at an AKC show
- ❖ In Best in Show at an AKC show
- ❖ Sanctioned Matches
- ❖ NOHS Groups or NOHS BIS
- ❖ Best Puppy Groups or BIS
- ❖ Best Bred By Exhibitor Groups or BIS
- ❖ Best Veteran Groups or BIS
- ❖ Best Amateur Owner Handler Groups or BIS
- ❖ Miscellaneous Classes
- ❖ Open Shows
- ❖ Domestic Non-AKC assignment
- ❖ Parent Club Invitational Events (i.e. Top 20)
- ❖ Breeders Stakes

Total of 1 CEU's when an entry in the applied breed is judged 3X; one additional CEU for an additional 3X judged with a maximum number of 3 CEU's available.

Below is a list of Performance Events, where the event pertains to the purpose of the breed, and the breed is present and competing (page 7 – CEU #10)

- ❖ Field Trials
- ❖ Hunt Tests
- ❖ Herding Trials
- ❖ Earth Dog (Terriers and Dachshunds)
- ❖ Lure Coursing

Total of 1 CEU's when breed is present and competed.