

Newsletter



2026 AKC/DJAA Advanced Institute Hound/Terrier Breeds

The AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Hound & Terrier breeds will be held in Orlando, FL, at the National Championship Dog Show, from December 8-10, 2026. Hosted by the AKC and DJAA, this four-day institute offers breed seminars and hands-on workshops for both groups. Registration for this event will be coming soon! Any questions can be directed to Judging Operations at judgingops@akc.org



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Greg McCarthy

Education Liaison

This is a reminder that Greg is your resource for guidance in the development of educational materials and the structure of your judges' education committees. For parent clubs who may want to engage with Greg in his capacity as the Education Liaison, he may be contacted via email at Gregory.McCarthy@akc.org

Judges Education Breed Seminars

If you plan to host a breed seminar or present one, start with requesting to post it on the AKC Seminar Page. You must complete and send the Seminar Announcement form to judgesed@akc.org.

After your seminar has been completed, please submit **all required forms** documenting the event. Every page of the packet is essential, specifically the **Workshop Forms**. If an attendee indicates participation in the hands-on workshop, the **Hands-On Workshop Sheet** must be provided to receive credit.

All JECs received these forms in their initial packets; they are also resent via email once a Seminar Announcement Form is submitted.

Judges Education: Ensuring Knowledge, Consistency, and Excellence in the Sport of Purebred Dogs



Judges Education plays a vital role in preserving the integrity and future of purebred dogs. By providing judges with a deeper understanding of breed standards, history, structure, movement, temperament, and purpose, educational programs help ensure that dogs are evaluated fairly and consistently.

While breed standards serve as the foundation for judging, seminars, mentoring, workshops, and hands-on learning opportunities allow judges to gain insight into the unique characteristics that define each breed. This knowledge is especially important as new breeds are recognized and judges expand their approvals.

Well-educated judges help maintain consistency in the ring and support the preservation of breed type by rewarding dogs that best exemplify their standards.

Through ongoing education and collaboration with parent clubs and breed experts, judges continue to strengthen their knowledge and contribute to the advancement of the sport. Judges Education is more than a requirement—it is a commitment to excellence, fairness, and the preservation of purebred dogs for generations to come.

MENTOR LISTS

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting and educating judges, we encourage each Parent Club to review and update its Mentor List on a regular basis.

Maintaining accurate and current mentor information ensures that individuals seeking guidance are connected with knowledgeable and active breed mentors.

Current Mentor Lists and submission guidelines can be found here: [CLICK HERE](#)

Thank you for your continued dedication to preserving, promoting, and supporting your breed through mentorship and education.

IMPORTANT RESOURCE JEC SYMPOSIUM POWERPOINT

This presentation serves as a blueprint for parent clubs to develop and deliver effective educational programs for judges seeking approval to judge their breed. It provides guidance on creating comprehensive, high-quality educational materials and resources. As this is the club's primary opportunity to educate and influence prospective judges, the program should reflect the highest standards of accuracy, professionalism, and breed expertise.

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THIS
RESOURCE](#)**

Discover AKC Judges Education

The AKC website offers a comprehensive collection of Judges Education resources designed to support judges. Within the Judges Education and Resources section, you'll find important policies, educational materials, seminar information, and many of the forms commonly needed throughout the judging approval process.

We encourage Judges Education Coordinators (JECs) and club leaders to regularly visit this resource center to stay informed of current requirements and available tools. Of particular importance is the General Information for Judges Education Coordinators section, which contains guidance and resources specifically tailored to support JEC responsibilities.

Access the Judges' Education and Resources section here:

Conformation Judging Resource Center

Be sure to bookmark this page as a valuable reference for your club's ongoing judges' education efforts.

Information: Judging Resource Center

Conformation: Judging Resource Center

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Rules, Policies & Procedures

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Applications

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Forms, Requests & Lists

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Judges Education and Resources

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General Information for Judges Education Coordinators (JEC)

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Conformation Judges BLOG

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General Information for Judges Education Coordinators (JEC)

The AKC's Judging Operations Department is a great resource in assisting parent clubs through the process of developing an effective Judge's breed education program. Any inquiries or questions, please email judgeted@akc.org. You may also contact, [Mr. Gregory McCarthy](#), AKC Executive Field Representative/Judges Education Liaison, available for advice, direction, and information.

As required in the Board-approved Judging Approval Process, seminars and workshops must meet AKC criteria for credit (see criteria located in the reports and guides link below). Upon completion of seminars and seminars with hands-on workshops the presenter, club or host organization must submit the required forms (see Forms & Guidelines below) to the Judging Operations Department to allow attendees' records to be updated and credited accordingly. To post seminars to the AKC Seminar page, please use the form provided, located under the Introduction link below.

Institutes, seminars and workshops must be accessible to the American Kennel Club staff including the Executive Field Staff.

Reports and Guides

- [Introduction](#)
- [Forms & Guidelines](#)
- [Mentoring & Tutoring](#)
- [Participation Evaluations](#)
- [Seminar Announcement Form](#) (this form allows you to save onto your computer, complete and submit to Judging Operations)

As we begin Summer 2026, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continued dedication to Judges Education. Your commitment to hosting, attending, and supporting educational programs plays a vital role in promoting breed knowledge, preserving the integrity of the AKC breed standards, and advancing excellence within our sport.

We encourage you to keep the AKC Judges Education Department informed of important developments within your breed community. Your expertise, leadership, and ongoing contributions are invaluable to the success of these efforts.

Thank you for your partnership and unwavering commitment to educating current and future judges. We look forward to working together to strengthen Judges Education and support the continued growth of our sport.

Marliese Moody - Manager, Judging Operations