



YORKSHIRE TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA JUDGES MENTORING GUIDELINES

There are currently only two mentor events considered by AKC when a judge is applying for a breed:

Ringside Mentoring: Ringside mentoring is only accepted by Parent Club approved mentors at National or Regional Specialties, and only where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club.

Individuals engaged in Parent Club mentoring may not exhibit to the judge/applicant for a period of four (4) months after the mentoring took place, and the mentor may not show to the judge following approval of the breeds for four months after the mentoring took place.

Ongoing Mentoring: The YTCA would like to recommend this as possibly the best way to be certain a judge actually understands a breed. Some of the ways that ongoing mentoring can be a valuable tool for judges seeking to learn about a breed include kennel visits, especially with a litter that the prospective judge can observe as they grow. Discovering a breeder's criteria for evaluating puppies as show prospects can help the judge in prioritizing virtues in the show ring. Ongoing mentoring can include discussions between breeders at dog shows as well – differing viewpoints are a good way to encourage a prospective judge to be inclusive when interpreting a standard rather than looking for faults.

RINGSIDE OBSERVATIONS

1. Be familiar with AKC's rules for official ringside observations (at the end of this document) AND bring a copy of the AKC's Mentoring/Tutoring form).
 - a. You cannot mentor after you have shown that day. This rule does not apply at specialty shows where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club.
 - b. Be prepared to fill out your section of the AKC observation form fully, including comments about the mentoring session and the aspiring judge's knowledge of the breed.
2. Honor your Commitment to mentor. You must be there for the entire judging – do not go off and talk to your friends during the judging without finding a substitute mentor.
3. Be fully versed in the AKC standard and bring a copy or other visual aids with you to the mentoring session. You may want to develop your own "Mentor Package" that you can take to shows with you that includes the Breed Standard, some good illustrations or diagrams.
4. Talk about how you would evaluate a dog against the breed standard. Discuss what you perceive are current problems in the breed. The aspiring judge needs to know the nuances of the breed type – they need to know what movement faults are. Spend the majority of the time on specifics to breed type (e.g. head, color, body proportion, and temperament). If you have a personal opinion, feel free to express it, but let the judge know that it is your personal opinion.
5. Provide your ringside opinion on how you would place dogs, or discuss the order with the aspiring judge. This is where they learn how a breeder prioritizes virtues and faults.
6. If possible, ask some of the exhibitors if the person you are mentoring can go over their dog and discuss in more detail after the judging. (This is not a requirement for the ringside observation, but a good learning experience nonetheless.)

7. View the judging being observed as a judge would see it on that day who is seeing these dogs for the first time – what you would think of the dogs and how you would place them, and for what reasons. It's really important to give the reasons for your placements.

Don't try to second-guess the judge or criticize the judging – you are not seeing things from ringside the same way the judge does, but both you and the person learning have the same view of the dogs, so give your perspective from your mutual viewpoint.

8. Don't go into breeding issues or history of a particular dog or exhibitor. Don't go into health issues, breeder personality issues, or anything other than if you were a judge seeing these dogs for the first time that day.
9. Potential judges will be in all stages of learning when they ask for ringside mentoring. Sometimes they're just about ready to apply to judge the breed and are pretty well versed. Others may never apply for the breed, but are approved to judge Best in Show and want to know more in case they ever get one in the BIS ring. Or they may just be starting to learn and have never even been to a seminar. You need to tailor your discussion to the level of the aspiring judge. You can gauge that level pretty quickly, and then take them to the next level.
10. Being an YTCA Breed Mentor does NOT license you to go up to judges after they've judged, berate their judging, and tell them you are an YTCA Breed Mentor. If you are concerned about the quality of a particular judge in a particular situation, contact the YTCA Judges Education Chair.
11. Mentoring takes time out of your day. Only volunteer to do this if you are willing to take the time to mentor, either at the shows or at home.
12. As an YTCA approved breed mentor, the YTCA has given you their vote of confidence that you can convey the essence of our breed to the people you are mentoring. Remember that everything you do and say in this role reflects on the YTCA.

We are relying on the considerable knowledge that you already have – just express it to someone who is eager to learn – it is your responsibility to make sure that future judges of our breed know what they're doing when they walk in the ring.

AKC's RINGSIDE OBSERVATIONS CRITERIA

- A mentor is an individual with whom a prospective judge has established a long term, ongoing relationship with. He or she may or may not mentor ringside.
- A ringside observation may be experienced with an applicant's long term mentor or a designated ringside mentor. The ringside mentor may become a long term mentor or not. Three Ringside Observations will be needed to satisfy this component.
- Host clubs are not obligated to provide space or resources. Permission and signature of Show Chair is required on Ringside Observation Form.
- Judges may receive on component toward the Additional Breed Requirements for Ringside Observations which meet the following criterion:
Observer must have achieved regular status in at least one breed. This component only applies on Additional Breed applications. New Breed Provisional Judges may observe ringside, however.
- Observer may observe with parent club approved mentors or breeders with a minimum of twelve (12) years experience breeding, exhibiting, or judging the breed in conformation. Observations

with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be accepted. Mentors will not be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting except at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club (this is as it has always been). 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. Smaller entries may require more observations.
- Observations are to include Dogs, Bitches, and Intersex. Two entries of fifty (50) plus dogs observed may satisfy this requirement; whereas three (3) observations of seven or eight dogs meet the requirement but do not accomplish the greater objective. Sincere effort in the other three components will be expected.
- Observer and mentor must properly complete an Observation Form which must be submitted with the application for that breed.
- A minimum of three (3) ringside observations for each breed requested including at least two (2) majors.
- As stated above, the observation of fewer large entries may satisfy this requirement. A "Large" entry means fifty (50) or more. Three (3) "Majors" may satisfy the requirement but are not "Large" entries. A large entry of Specials may be considered in lieu of a major entry.
- Judges may observe at shows where they are judging.
- All additional breed forms are available at: www.akc.org/judges/conformation/index.cfm

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