

## MASTIFF CLUB OF AMERICA

# MENTOR GUIDELINES

(DO – DO NOTs)

As MCOA approved Mentors, it is important that your conduct reflects professionalism, integrity and honesty whenever you are representing the MCOA as a club approved Mentor. The following DO – DO NOT list is only a guideline. Your conduct must be above reproach any time you are fulfilling your role as a MCOA approved Mentor.

### DO:

1. Be **POSITIVE** in evaluating a dog.

Your comments and answers to questions should always focus on the overall positive attributes of the dog being observed. If a question is asked about a real or perceived fault of the dog being observed, you can recognize that you would like to see a better (fill in the blank), but immediately draw the judge back to the overall positive attributes of the dog. We are trying to encourage the judges attending our JE program not to fault judge, but to elevate the overall quality of a dog as defined by our breed standard.

2. **STOP MENTORING** when your **DOG IS IN THE RING.**

The AKC prohibits mentors from mentoring when their dog is in the ring. At Specialties you may return to mentoring when your dog is no longer in the ring.

3. **MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE** at **MAJOR and SUPPORTED DOGS SHOWS** when requested.

As an approved mentor, it is important that you are available to provide mentoring at major dog show events and regional supported shows. We often get comments that no mentors were available at a regional supported show or event. Of course, *making yourself available*

assumes that doing so is reasonable and does not incur any additional expenses or hardship on the mentor.

4. Help **RECRUIT NEW MENTORS**. As we expand our JE program, we have a need for more mentors. We are also having an increase in the number of regional supported dog shows, which also increases our need for mentors. This particularly true in regions where we have few to no mentors to support these supported shows.

5. **ISOLATE THE JUDGE** being mentored

Where possible, you should mentor a judge away from other people. Ringside, this may mean moving to a ringside area away from other people. If people try to join you, unless they also are judges and want to be mentored, you should encourage them to stay away. When mentoring, you need to control the information being provided a judge and other opinions/comments can be distracting and even detrimental to your role as a mentor.

6. **ATTEND** the annual **MENTOR/PRESENTER MEETING** at the National Specialty.

Our current mentor/presenter guidelines require that you attend our annual meeting at least once in four years to maintain your approved status. It is important that you as a mentor stay current on the AKC and MCOA approved mentor programs.

7. **MENTOR CLUB MEMBERS** and other Interested Parties.

As a MCOA approved Mentor, you have been trained and designated by the club as a person qualified to mentor others on the Mastiff. As such, you should make yourself available to mentor club members and other interested parties when requested.

## **DO NOT:**

1. Be **SELF SERVING** in your comments.

Your comments and answers to questions should never refer to your dog, kennel, or bloodlines. You should never make negative comments about other dogs, kennels, bloodlines, handlers or breeders.

**2. FAULT JUDGE**

We are encouraging judges to look at the entire dog when doing an evaluation. Never mentor a judge by pointing out a dog's faults. Always mentor by emphasizing the overall positive attributes of a dog. Never dwell on the negatives of a dog. Do not allow others around you make comments about a dog's faults to the judge you are mentoring.

**3. CONDUCT JUDGES EDUCATION SEMINARS without MCOA Board Approval.**

The MCOA has set high standards for its Judges Education program and and wants to ensure that the standards are met at all JE events. In this way, the MCOA can control the training prospective judges are receiving which will lead to better judging in the ring. The MCOA also maintains a list of approved presenters who may be available if the MCOA knows about the event.

**4. LEAVE A JUDGE'S QUESTION UNANSWERED.**

When mentoring you sometimes will be asked a question for which you do not have a clear answer, or be requested to offer an opinion or make a comment with which you are not comfortable. As a mentor, you should refer these situations to someone who can provide the judge with an answer either at the show or soon afterwards. Never left a judge's question unanswered.

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