

NEW CDCA PROGRAM: CDCA BREED MENTORS APPLICATION, REQUIREMENTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Approved by the Board July 2023

Per AKC "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."

Ringside Observations:

An All Breed Judge who has been licensed for Canaan Dogs for over 12 years may provide Ringside Observation of our breed for a future judge. If you have been in Canaan Dogs for over 12 years, you too can provide Ringside Observation.

Parent Club (i.e., CDCA) Approved Mentors are breed club approved. We do not currently have a system in which CDCA Members may become CDCA Approved Breed Mentors.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentors must be the gold standard among Canaan Dog mentors. CDCA Approved Breed Mentors are essential in the education of Canaan Dog judges (current and future), breeders, and exhibitors. Approval as a CDCA Breed Mentor will ensure both mentees and CDCA members feel confident that the work of the Mentors is in accordance with the AKC Breed Standard and free from politics or personal agendas.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentor Application:

Those wishing to become a CDCA Approved Breed Mentor should submit a letter to the Judges Education Chair (JEC), detailing how they meet the requirements listed below.

The application will be reviewed by the JEC.

Applications for all candidates will be submitted to the CDCA Board, with recommendations on which should be approved and which do not meet requirements.

Applicants will be notified promptly whether they were approved or why they were not approved. Those not approved may reapply after one year.

General Requirements

1. Be a CDCA member in good standing;
2. Have good communication skills;
3. Agree to have all dogs used in Judges Education clean and in good condition;
4. Satisfy Mentor Requirements as below.

Mentor Requirements

1. Be in good standing with AKC;
2. A minimum of twelve (12) years exhibiting in the breed:

Exhibiting in the breed to be defined as

- a) owning a dog ranked in the AKC TopDogs (Breed Points) in seven (7) of those past twelve (12) years (ownership proof to be supplied)
- or
- b) exhibiting at a minimum of ten (10) AKC shows/year in nine (9) of those past twelve (12) years (provide proof of exhibiting via marked catalogs, photos, etc.);
3. Whelped two (2) litters of Canaan Dogs

Note: Only litters that are bred, whelped, raised, and evaluated by the applicant may be included. Litters that are co-owned but not whelped, raised, and evaluated by the applicant are not included;

4. Bred two (2) AKC Champions.
5. Attend at least one CDCA National Specialty every five (5) years. Initial applicants need to have attended one CDCA National Specialty within the past five (5) years of their application;
6. Pass the AKC Canaan Dog Breed Exam via AKC Canine College;
7. Pledge to mentor Canaan Dog judges (current and future), breeders, and exhibitors in a POSITIVE and CONSTRUCTIVE atmosphere utilizing the information in the AKC Canaan Dog Illustrated Standard emphasizing the virtues, strengths and breed specific attributes of Canaan Dogs in accordance with our AKC Breed Standard.

Job Description

A CDCA Approved Breed Mentor must be approved by the Judge Education Chair and the CDCA Board to mentor Canaan Dog judges (current and future), breeders, and exhibitors about all aspects of the Canaan Dog. CDCA Approved Breed Mentors are also permitted to give breed seminars and to act as a tutor.

According to the AKC, a mentor has an “[on]-going relationship with [a] qualified individual over time preceding application of the breed.” A mentoring program is one in which a mentor and prospective judges are paired for the purpose of providing educational experiences. Tutoring is a step below Mentoring as it involves “at length, in depth discussion on [the] breed to include examination of multiple examples of [the] breed to discuss breed specific characteristics with a qualified individual.” It may be a one-time event.

This means that at a National Breed Specialty show or another show with a significant entry of that breed, i.e. a supported show, a mentor and a group of judges are paired up ringside for education and discussion. In addition, seminars may be given as part of Judges Study Clubs or Institutes. Ringside Mentoring may not always happen at seminars.

Expectations Of Mentors

As noted above, the job of a CDCA Approved Breed Mentor is to help educate Canaan Dog judges (current and future), breeders, and exhibitors. This is done in many ways including seminars and ringside mentoring. Part of a CDCA Approved Breed Mentor’s job is to occasionally volunteer to present seminars and to also provide ringside mentoring at National Specialties and Supported Entry Shows if requested.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentors shall submit to the JEC the name and address of all judges with whom they mentor.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentors shall not show an exhibit to a judge they have mentored for at least four (4) months, or until an appropriate amount of time has passed, whichever is longer. “An appropriate amount of time” shall be up to the CDCA Mentor’s good sense and judgment, circumstance of exhibiting and sense of fairness to other exhibitors.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentor Annual Mentor Renewal

The JEC will contact all CDCA Approved Breed Mentors annually on issues covering but not limited to:

1. Deportment as a mentor;
2. Specific problems regarding standard interpretation;
3. Continuing problems that judges have had that have been reported to the committee;
4. Problems would be those brought to the JEC by exhibitors or CDCA members that have been reported, in writing, to the Committee;
5. The JEC will annually contact all listed mentors to determine if they wish to continue to be listed as an CDCA approved mentor.

Mentor Complaints

Complaints against CDCA Approved Breed Mentors must be made in writing and should be sent to the Judge Education Chair. The JEC will review all letters of complaint and submit all letters and any recommended actions to the CDCA Board for review and implementation.

Ringside Mentoring Ethics & Guidelines

Once approved to be a CDCA Approved Breed Mentor, Mentors are expected to follow these guidelines and ethical practices. CDCA Approved Breed Mentors must have strong ethics, and their integrity and devotion to the Canaan Dog must be above reproach. Ringside mentoring will be conducted in accordance with the most current AKC rules and with the highest level of discretion and professionalism. Mentors must always be aware that they are the guardians of the breed and therefore be cognizant of their personal behavior and of keeping the welfare of our breed as their highest priority.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentors shall:

- 1 Honor their commitment to mentor. They shall arrive on time and stay for the entire judging. If a CDCA Approved Breed Mentor must leave a mentoring assignment, they shall ensure that a substitute CDCA Approved Breed Mentor is available.
- 2 Refrain from ringside mentoring at shows when they are exhibiting, unless all other avenues for mentors have been exhausted for that show. Only then should they mentor and only up until the point that their exhibits’ sex is competing. (i.e. if they have a class dog they may mentor during class bitches; if they have a champion entry they may mentor up until the point of BOB competition).
- 3 Recognize that their conduct reflects on the CDCA and the breed, and always maintain good sportsmanship.
- 4 Distribute only CDCA approved materials. (Any additional materials must be submitted to the Judge Education Chair for discussion and approval.)
- 5 Be fully versed and adhere to the approved AKC Canaan Dog Standard without personal preference.
- 6 Bring a copy of the Standard and Canaan Dog Illustrated Standard to the mentoring session.
- 7 Recognize that potential judges will be in all stages of learning when they ask for ringside mentoring. Sometimes they are ready to apply to judge Canaan Dogs and are well versed in the breed. 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. CDCA Approved Breed Mentors will need to tailor their discussion to the level of the aspiring judge.

8 Demonstrate and cultivate accurate breed-specific hands-on examination. This includes effective ways to go over head, front, shoulder placement, rear angulation, coats, and how to identify hallmark characteristics.

9 CDCA Approved Breed Mentors MUST focus on the strengths of the dogs they are observing by pointing out excellent examples of specific Canaan Dog traits.

The AKC discourages judges from fault judging. CDCA Approved Breed Mentors will not focus on pointing out the faults of each dog, but instead will evaluate each dog against the Canaan Dog Breed Standard. They will take time to point out the nuances of breed type by highlighting the strengths of the Canaan Dogs in each class you observe.

10 CDCA Approved Breed Mentors should NOT discuss wins, pedigrees, show records, registered names, titles or boasting of a dog's or their accomplishments.

11 CDCA Approved Breed Mentors must conduct ringside mentoring as if they are a judge seeing the dogs for the first time – what they would think of the dogs and how they would place them, and for what reasons. CDCA Approved Breed Mentors will not second-guess the judge or criticize the judging, as they recognize they cannot see details from ringside the same way the judge does from within,

12 CDCA Approved Breed Mentors will keep their conversations with their mentees at a comfortable level, so they are clear and concise. They will not allow those conversations to become a distraction to the exhibitors in the ring and will show discretion and respect for the exhibitors.

13 If possible, CDCA Approved Breed Mentors will arrange a hands on opportunity after judging. (This is not a requirement for the Ringside Observation, but a good learning experience nonetheless.)

14 CDCA Approved Breed Mentors will not approach an observed judge to berate the judging. If they are concerned about the fitness or education of a judge in a particular situation, they will contact the CDCA Judges Education Chair.

The Ringside Observation form is filled in first by the mentored judge followed by mentor's details after the previous section is complete.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentors will ensure the form is filled out in its entirety. They will keep a record of those they mentor and for whom the forms are completed. Mentees should be asked to email a copy of their forms to the CDCA Approved Breed Mentors as well as to the JEC Chair. This is a great way for the CDCA to keep a working file on judges that have been mentored and are interested in judging the breed.

CDCA Approved Breed Mentors must remember and appreciate that the CDCA has given them their vote of confidence to convey the essence of the Canaan Dog to those they are mentoring. They shall honor and remember that everything that they do and say in this role reflects on the Canaan Dog breed and CDCA. We as the CDCA Membership are relying on the considerable knowledge that the CDCA Approved Breed Mentors have. Expressing that knowledge to those who are eager to learn enables future judges of our breed to know what they are doing when they walk in the ring.

Additional Resources from AKC:

<https://www.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Additional-Breed-Verification-Forms.pdf>

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. 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

From AKC Resources:

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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long Term Mentor:	On-going relationship with qualified individual over time preceding application of the breed.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tutor:	At length, in depth discussion on breed to include examination of multiple examples of breed to discuss breed specific characteristics with a qualified individual.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

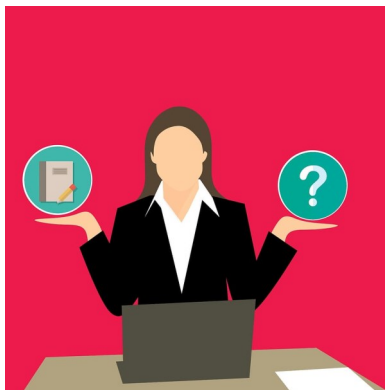
Date: / /

Virtual Tutoring Form

This form should be utilized to document a Virtual Tutoring Experience. One-on-one tutoring session with a parent club approved mentor or recognized expert in the breed. The form must be signed by both the Mentor and Mentee verifying that the experience occurred.

Type of Experience: <i>click all that apply</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Live Dogs	Review and discussion of the presentation with Live Dogs. Describe experience below, include number of dogs.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational Material:	Review and discussion of parent club educational material. Describe experience below, include type of material discussed.

Date: / /



CDCA Breed Mentors: Application

CDCA Approved Breed Mentor Application:

Those wishing to become a CDCA Approved Breed Mentor should submit the below to the Judges Education Chair (JEC), detailing how they meet the requirements listed below. Applicants are encouraged to use additional space to expand upon the requirement questions below.

The application will be reviewed by the JEC.

Applications for all candidates will be submitted to the CDCA Board, with recommendations on which should be approved and which do not meet requirements.

Applicants will be notified promptly whether they were approved or why they were not approved. Those not approved may reapply after one year.

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Kennel Name: _____
 Phone(s): _____
 Email: _____
 Year Joined CDCA: _____

In making this application, I confirm that I am: a CDCA member in good standing; have good communication skills; agree to have all dogs used in Judges Education clean and in good condition; and that my application will demonstrate that I satisfy Mentor Requirements as below.

Mentor Requirements

1. In signing this application, I agree that I am in good standing with AKC
2. A minimum of twelve (12) years exhibiting in the breed:
 Exhibiting in the breed to be defined as
 a) owning a dog ranked in the AKC TopDogs (Breed Points) in seven (7) of those past twelve (12) years (ownership proof to be supplied)
or
 b) exhibiting at a minimum of ten (10) AKC shows/year in nine (9) of those past twelve (12) years (provide proof of exhibiting via marked catalogs, photos, etc.);

List how you fulfill the 12 years exhibiting requirement and attach documentation as needed:

3. Whelped two (2) litters of Canaan Dogs

Note: Only litters that are bred, whelped, raised, and evaluated by the applicant may be included. Litters that are co-owned but not whelped, raised, and evaluated by the applicant are not included;

List at least two (2) litters of Canaan Dogs bred, whelped, raised, and evaluated directly by you.

4. Bred two (2) AKC Champions.

List at least two (2) AKC Champion Canaan Dogs you bred.

5. Attend at least one CDCA National Specialty every five (5) years. Initial applicants need to have attended one CDCA National Specialty within the past five (5) years of their application;
List the last CDCA National Specialty you attended.

6. Pass the AKC Canaan Dog Breed Exam via AKC Canine College;
Attach proof of passing the AKC Canine College AKC Canaan Dog Breed Exam

7. **By signing this application,** I pledge to mentor Canaan Dog judges (current and future), breeders, and exhibitors in a POSITIVE and CONSTRUCTIVE atmosphere utilizing the information in the AKC Canaan Dog Illustrated Standard emphasizing the virtues, strengths and breed specific attributes of Canaan Dogs in accordance with our AKC Breed Standard.

Signature(s) : _____
Date: _____

Submit application to the CDCA Judges Education Coordinator - judges-education@cdca.org.

