



Effective Breed Mentoring

Help learners see, understand, and prioritize.

Practical teaching principles drawn from judges' feedback on ringside mentoring, seminars, and continuing breed education.

1 Know your standard.

Know its requirements, disqualifications, and stated exceptions. Distinguish the standard from interpretation and personal preference.

3 Set clear priorities.

Identify four to six essentials. Explain how to weigh them when dogs have different combinations of virtues and weaknesses.

5 Teach virtues and differences.

Show what to seek and reward first. Then compare desirable and undesirable features and explain their significance.

7 Make it visual.

Use real dogs, photos, video, and clear diagrams. Memorable analogies should clarify the standard and have their limits explained.

9 Be prepared and present.

Give mentoring focused time. Provide useful reference materials, understand applicable documentation, and let your enthusiasm show.

2 Start with breed type.

Build a clear picture of the correct silhouette, proportions, and defining features. Explain what makes this breed distinctive.

4 Explain the why.

Connect form to purpose and function where supported by evidence. Explain unfamiliar terms in the context of this breed.

6 Ask, listen, then explain.

Invite the learner to choose, compare, and give reasons. Use their answers to check understanding and guide the next explanation.

8 Keep it relevant and respectful.

Focus on qualities judges can evaluate in the ring. Discuss dogs objectively and discreetly; keep breeder criticism and politics out.

10 Keep learning going.

Welcome questions and follow up with photos, videos, and discussion. A single session should open the door to continued learning.

TRY THESE QUESTIONS RINGSIDE

Which dog best shows breed type? What do you see that supports your choice?
Which virtue deserves the most weight here - and why?