

Preparing for Successful Mentoring

A preparation checklist for Bulldog mentors

Good mentoring begins before the session. Learn about the student, identify their goals, and prepare an experience suited to their familiarity with Bulldogs.

☐ Confirm the arrangements

- Agree on ringside mentoring, virtual tutoring, or in-ring tutoring; confirm the date, location or link, duration, and contact information.
- Clarify any documentation the student hopes to receive.

☐ Learn about the student

- Ask about breeding, exhibiting, judging, performance, and other dog experience; which breeds have they worked with most closely?
- Ask where they are in their judging education or approval process, and about previous Bulldog seminars, workshops, or mentoring.

☐ Explore their Bulldog knowledge

- Ask: *"What do you already know about Bulldogs, and what would you most like to understand better?"*
- Discuss essential breed features, unfamiliar Standard terminology, and questions about structure or movement. Use the answers to establish a starting point.

☐ Agree on learning goals

- Choose two or three priorities: an introduction, clarification of specific features, or practice evaluating complete dogs.
- Allow time for questions, observation, and discussion.

☐ Prepare materials and examples

- Encourage the student to read the current Bulldog Standard and bring questions. Select relevant handouts, illustrations, photographs, or videos.
- For live tutoring, arrange dogs and owner permission. For ringside mentoring, check the schedule and avoid disrupting judging or exhibitors. For virtual tutoring, check screen sharing and image clarity.

☐ Set expectations and plan the closing review

- Explain the session format. Keep observations respectful and grounded in the Standard.
- Explain that attendance alone does not guarantee a signature; documentation should accurately reflect the session and the mentor's assessment.
- Close by reviewing what became clearer, what needs further study, and the next step.