



USASA Breed Mentor Code of Conduct

As an USASA Mentor and/or Presenter you are regarded as a breed expert, and as such are expected to conduct yourself with dignity and respect for those interested in learning more about our breed and for those whose dogs you are studying.

As in all other aspects of the dog sport, you are expected to behave with good sportsmanship and in a professional manner.

MENTORS SHOULD:

- Commit themselves to the values of honesty, integrity, respect and courtesy.
- Refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their mentoring role.
- Spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of their position as a Mentor, including promoting of one's own kennel or dogs.
- Focus on the merits of the dogs being considered, as related to the breed standard, rather than criticizing and fault finding.
- Refrain from criticizing or commenting on the quality of judging being observed in the ring, and remember that the focus should always be on the dogs, not on the judging.
- Refuse to embarrass the sport, the AKC, USASA, or themselves while taking part in mentoring.
- Respect the AKC and USASA bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Dress and present themselves appropriately.
- Always consider as paramount the welfare of the dogs involved.

EXCELLENT MENTORS:

- Listen more than they talk.
- Do not "teach" movement to judges. They illustrate (point out) correct movement for our breed.
- Know that there is no perfect dog, but every dog has something correct about it. Find what is correct about each exhibit and share that.
- Ask the mentorees questions. What did you think was nice about that dog? What part of that dog was correct to the breed standard? How would you place this class and why?
- Know that judges being mentored may have much more experience and knowledge with a variety of breeds than most mentors. Ask these judges what they need from you.
- Do not try to impress judges with their knowledge...they share their knowledge in an easily understandable and engaging manner.
- Share their passion for the breed.
- Understand that judges can only use the breed standard when judging. Sharing "breeder" preferences or any information that is not contained in the breed standard is not appropriate when mentoring.
- Have a copy of the breed standard on hand at all times.