

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

Mentor Application Criteria

All applicants apply to the Judges Education Chairperson using the official form for mentors. Upon receipt the JEC will arrange an interview with the applicant. Following the interview, the application will be forwarded to the USKBTC Board of Governors. Once approved, the new USKBTC Mentor will be added to the list of official USKBTC Mentors on the AKC and USKBTC websites.

USKBTC mentors to be considered should meet and whenever possible exceed the criteria shown below:

- ❖ Member of USKBTC for 15 years and in good standing.
- ❖ Groomed, conditioned, and successfully handled 8 of their own dogs to championship status including at least 5 bred by them. This does not exclude those who co-breed but whose Kerry is shown by the co-breeder/owner.
- ❖ Have been Winners or better at two (2) chapter club and/or National Specialties.
- ❖ Exhibits breed knowledge in communication of the USKBTC Breed Standard.
- ❖ Mentors should be able to show evidence that they understand and apply:
 - ❖ The history of the breed (required by AKC judges)
 - ❖ The original function of the breed (required by AKC judges)
 - ❖ The relationship between the function and important structures of the Kerry Blue Terrier.
 - ❖ Knowledge of the anatomical structure of the dog (required and tested to be AKC Judges)
 - ❖ Displays an understanding of Kerry Blue Terrier Breed Specific Judging procedures.
 - ❖ Knows and applies the “Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges” (red book). This is free from AKC.

- ❖ It is mandatory that mentors attend USKBTC Judge's Education seminars and/or workshops. This information will be listed on the AKC and USKBTC websites.
- ❖ In addition, all mentors should sign a Mentoring Agreement that Indicates the following:
 - ❖ All mentoring requires **confidentiality** between mentors and mentees.
 - ❖ Mentors must be objective at all times and adhere to the Official USKBTC Standard. No mentor should promote his or her own dogs or lines.
- ❖ Agree to honestly complete the written section of the AKC Ringside Observation Form specifying if the observer has an understanding of the breed including details supporting this conclusion.

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club Ringside Mentoring Criteria

Mentoring guidelines for AKC Judges Additional Breed Component

1. The USKBTC strongly suggests that observations be done at Chapter Club and National Specialties where a broad range of dogs and bitches are exhibited, including specials. The entries should represent more than one breeder/kennel. Note: AKC now allows ringside observations at shows with majors. All other observations should be considered tutoring. There are **two** separate forms on the AKC website. The observer/mentee is responsible for bringing these forms to the session.
2. USKBTC encourages receiving ringside observations at National and National Rotating Specialties where there are entries of Kerry Blue Terriers from across the country. Potential observers/mentees should contact a mentor prior to the show if possible.
3. The USKBTC encourages mentees to obtain mentoring with three different individuals.
4. Potential judges should observe and learn under a number of different highly qualified individuals with a broad range of experience as specified by AKC ringside observation requirements

5. Observation forms should be used only at shows with majors that hold, preferably specialties. There is an AKC form for Tutoring and Mentoring. Care should be taken that one-time instructions should be filled out as tutoring. Mentoring consists of a long-term process of instruction which involves multiple opportunities such as observations at majors, kennel visits, hands-on examinations of dogs, workshops and seminars.

Other members, breeders, and judges may also be utilized as breed mentors if they meet the AKC and USKBTC criteria. Observations with mentors not meeting these criteria will not be accepted by the AKC. Official ringside mentoring needs to be accomplished starting with the classes and progressing through best of breed judging. It is preferred that neither the mentor's dogs nor dogs owned by the mentor be discussed at these events. The AKC now allows ringside observations and mentoring when exhibiting, however adequate time should be available for instruction.

Adopted: March 9, 2023