



**American  
Kennel Club®**

Judging Operations Department  
PO Box 900062  
Raleigh, NC 27675-9062  
(919) 816-3570  
[judgingops@akc.org](mailto:judgingops@akc.org)  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)  
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## **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.**

All additional breed forms available at: <https://www.akc.org/events/judges/conformation/additional-breed-application/>

