

GUIDELINES FOR MENTORING

- Have a copy of the breed standard on hand. You are ringside mentoring JUDGES, not breeders. All comments must relate to the breed standard. Any item that is not contained in the breed standard should not be discussed.
- Use breed specific terminology from the AKC breed standard when making a reference to conformational features.
- When relevant, in discussing the physical characteristics, relate them to the function and original purpose of the breed.
- Avoid pointing out generic faults—they are obvious to all.
- Focus on virtues and positive attributes, do not mentor by solely pointing out faults.
- Keep in mind others nearby may catch parts of your discussion, including the owners of the exhibits you are discussing.
- Stress the importance of staying with the "whole picture."
- Personal preferences must never override and take precedence over breed standard requirements. They have no purpose in ringside mentoring
- If one "gets" the essence of breed type, they will "get" the details of type.
- Prioritize key features of the breed by how they are referenced in the breed standard.
- Judges have a small window of time in the show ring to assess important characteristics—they are not building a breeding program.
- Break down your information in simple terms targeted toward the prioritization of breed characteristics in a 2-minute ring evaluation.
- Ask judges to visualize the ability to perform the function he was bred for when looking at the dog.
- Be articulate and knowledgeable about all sections of the standard, applying the priorities as they are stated.
- Accurate breed-specific hands-on examination technique is important - explain effective ways to go over heads, coats, etc.
- The Ringside Observation form is filled in first by the mentored judge followed by mentor's comments after the previous section is complete. Be sure the form is filled out in its entirety.
- Take ownership in your breed. When you sign a form for a prospective judge for a ringside observation, tutoring session, long term mentoring relationship, etc.; you are verifying that the experience occurred as described. If it did not, do not sign the form. If the individual displayed conceptual challenges and difficulties — state it on the form.

Keep a record of whom you mentor and sign forms for.

MENTOR AGREEMENT

The parent club's responsibility to educate those that seek information and knowledge on their breed from a qualified teacher/mentor is a venture not to be regarded lightly. In the interest of a cohesive and impartial educational program, an agreement between the parent club known as the American Toy Fox Terrier Club and the participating club members listed as parent club approved mentors of this organization is as follows and agreed upon:

- A parent club member who is in good standing for a minimum of eight years, and who has bred and raised on their premises 4 or more AKC registered Toy Fox Terrier litters, and has bred, owned and/or handled 6 or more Toy Fox Terriers to their AKC Championships **OR** is known to have significant background and knowledge of our breed and whom the Board determines would be a good mentor for the breed.
- Have attended a minimum of three ATFTC National Specialties.
- Adherence to all club rules and Code of Conduct set forth by the parent club in all areas of conduct and breeding practices and has demonstrated the ability to be a positive and productive ambassador of the breed.
- To be knowledgeable and respectful at all times of the current AKC approved breed standard.
- Take and pass the AKC Judge's Institute Toy Fox Terrier Breed Standard test.
- All mentoring sessions shall be conducted in a fair and impartial manner with restraint from promoting individual breeding programs and/or promotion of individual dogs or bias toward other breeding programs.
- It is understood that various styles exist in the breed and would be appropriate to discuss, however, presented in an unbiased and educational form.
- Provide dogs for educational programs and workshops when requested and available.
- Availability to present club approved programs and workshops whenever available and necessary.
- Participation in National Specialty Judge's Education formal mentoring ringside sessions and workshops when available.
- At least two attendances at a parent club approved Judge's Education program.
- Fill out AKC mentoring/ringside observation forms and sign at the completion of the mentoring session.
- Keep appropriate records of mentoring sessions and provide reports of mentoring sessions to the Judge's Education Chairman or AKC if requested.
- Any infraction of the agreed upon conditions as is known, proven and brought to the attention of the Judge's Education committee shall result in removal from the Mentor program.

Mentor

Judge's Education Chairman

Date