

# Scottish Terrier Club of America

## Mentor Application Criteria

### Criteria for Scottish Terrier Club of America Mentors:

All applicants should 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 STCA Board of Directors. Once approved, the new STCA Mentor will be added to the list of official STCA Mentors on the AKC and STCA websites.

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

1. Member of STCA for 15 years and in good standing.
2. Groomed, conditioned, and successfully handled 15 of their own dogs to championship status.
3. Have been Winners or better at two (2) Regional and/or National Specialties.
4. Exhibits breed knowledge in communication of the STCA Breed Standard.
5. 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 Scottish Terrier.
  - ❖ Knowledge of the anatomical structure of the dog (required and tested to be AKC Judges)
6. Displays a understanding of Scottish Terrier Breed Specific Judging procedures:
  - ❖ Is a judge of the breed in good standing or
  - ❖ Has judged two (2) Scottish Terrier Specialties; may include Sweepstakes. These Specialties provide potential mentors with unique experiences of comparing and contrasting Scottish Terriers from a variety of breeders in the allotted time (around 2 minutes), that is pertinent to mentoring. Also generally speaking, specialty invitations to judge are

extended to knowledgeable individuals in the breed. These assignments will be listed.

- ❖ Knows and applies the “Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges” (red book). This is free from AKC.
7. It is strongly suggested mentors attend STCA Judge’s Education seminars and/or workshops. This information will be listed on the AKC and STCA websites.
  8. 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 STCA Standard. No mentor should promote his or her own dogs or lines.
  9. 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.

## **Scottish Terrier Club of America Ringside Mentoring Criteria**

### **Mentoring guidelines for AKC Judges Additional Breed Component**

- ❖ The STCA strongly suggests that observations be done at Regional and National Specialties where a broad range of dogs and bitches are exhibited. Note: New 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/mentoring is responsible for bringing these to the session.
- ❖ STCA encourages receiving ringside observations at National and National Rotating Specialties where there are entries of Scottish Terriers from across the country.
- ❖ Potential observers/mentees should contact a mentor prior to the show if possible.
- ❖ The STCA encourages mentees to obtain mentoring with three different individuals.

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Observation forms should be used only at majors preferably specialties. There is a new 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/or STCA 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.