



E-NEWS FOR JEC'S

APRIL 2015

NEW BREEDS ENTERING AKC GROUPS

On July 1, 2014 two new breeds became eligible for regular competition, the Wirehaired Vizsla accepted into the Sporting Group and the Coton de Tulear accepted into the Non-Sporting Group. In 2015 seven new breeds in total will become eligible to compete in the regular classes; as of January the Bergamasco and Spanish Water Dogs were eligible for competition in the Herding Group; the Cirneco dell'Etna in the Hound Group and the Boerboel in the Working Group. Effective July 1, 2015, the Lagotto Ramagnolo will be accepted into the Sporting Group and the Berger Picard and Miniature American Shepherd will be accepted into the Herding Group. With new breeds brings new members and new Judges Education Coordinators; we would like to welcome everyone to AKC. Reminder, the Judges Education Department is here to assist and provide the resources you may need. On the AKC Website, a page you should bookmark (your favorite) is the [Conformation Judging Resource Center](#) – under the Judge's Education section, you will find seminar information, mentor lists, study guides, exams and much more. In addition, Mrs. Sue Vroom one of our Executive Field

Representative is the new Education Liaison; Sue works with clubs and assists with various items. Read more on our new Education Liaison below.

AKC'S NEW EDUCATION LIAISON SUE VROOM, EXECUTIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

A breed club's parent organization has many duties and responsibilities relative to its regional clubs and individual membership. The role of guardian to the breed they love in the areas of genetic health concerns and rescue programs is of paramount importance. An equal priority is that of educator/mentor to those seeking information about the breed. Designing, organizing and distributing educational materials can pose a significant challenge to the club members who have taken on this responsibility.

Historically, it has been a focus at the AKC to act as a resource to their member and licensed clubs in assisting them with their events, activities and various committee functions. AKC's Education Liaison is the specific go-to person for assistance in website postings of a parent club's breed education information. One of my professional duties is to work with clubs in this capacity.



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Many of you are already familiar with Sue and know that through the years she has worn various hats within the sport. For those whose paths she has not yet crossed, let us introduce her.

Sue has been an active participant in dogs and dog shows most of her life. If asked the question, the area of specific interest to Sue is the educational aspect of the sport. Sue has served as JEC of her own parent club and is an approved presenter in several others. Sue understands the challenges the JEC title carries with it and the seemingly never-ending pursuit of getting it right and attempting to please everyone. It's a lofty goal few obtain, which in many cases is through no fault of their own. It is the nature of the beast. What a Judge's Ed committee does have control over is the quality of the material and programs that are presented to the fancy who have an interest in your breed; whether owners, breeders, prospective buyers or judges wanting to learn.

Sue has worked with many clubs in assisting them with the design of their material and organizing their mentors' committee....not because she projects herself as an expert in that breed, but because she has proven herself effective in guiding JECs along the rocky path of education and educational materials.

AKC has wonderful resources to help the clubs make their JE material readily accessible. The AKC website has been newly re-formatted and is quite user-friendly. It offers links to your club and to your educational information; specifically study guides, illustrated standards, etc. Study guides are a valuable tool for new judges learning about your breed as well as approved judges wanting to review and stay current. If you don't presently have anything available on-line, and are interested in seeking assistance with this, please contact Sue

If you are a new parent club or even an established one interested in organizing or up-grading the quality of your Judges' Education/Mentor committees, programs, educational material, consider attending the JEC Symposium this December in Orlando, held in conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship and the AKC Advanced Judging Institute. It offers great take-away information for all JECs and their clubs in providing many ideas for breed education. Specific details may be obtained on the AKC website as the date draws closer.

If you wish to contact Sue, she is available via email at shv@akc.org.



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AKC ADVANCED JUDGES INSTITUTES

As you may or may not know, for the last three years the AKC Judging Operations Department has co-hosted its Advanced Judges Institute with the DJAA. In 2015 the Advanced Judges Institute will be held in conjunction with AKC/Eukanuaba National Championship in Orlando, FL the two groups covered will be Sporting and Toy.

We will be contacting all parent club presidents and judges' education coordinators for the Sporting and Toy breeds will be contacted to coordinate the presentation for your breed. Please be advised you are the point of contact for your club, therefore, we seek your assistance in providing us with a Club Approved Presenter. This is a prominent part of having a successful seminar.

Reminder, your presenter will need to articulate a 90 minute seminar; we encourage the use of any audiovisual presentations. In addition, there will be a one hour hands-on workshop following the breed presentation for which we suggest having 6-8 dogs available.

This year we will be offering breed specific education in approximately 51 breeds. There is a tremendous amount

of ground to cover, and you have a tremendous effect on the organization and eventual success of the Institute. If you are contacted, please respond as soon as you have a presenter or list of individuals that may serve as a presenter. We also ask that you advise us if you are having any difficulties. This is a fantastic opportunity for the parent club to be directly involved with the education of prospective judges for its breed.

We look forward to working with you.

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND RINGSIDE MENTORING, By Sue Vroom, AKC Exec Field Rep/Education Liaison

When a judge is working on additional breed approval, among the various educational options to reference on an application, there is significant value in attending seminars and workshops at parent club specialties. The opportunity to observe multiple entries of quality and be immersed in discussion with breed experts at a single venue is the most beneficial learning experience available. If one elects to participate in the entire gamut of activities offered by the show-giving parent club, it is extremely advantageous to attend the Judge's Education seminar, hands-on workshop and finally, a ringside observation of the



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class judging surrounded by mentors with impressive records and background. The ringside mentoring discussion is naturally focused on the information presented at the seminar and the opportunity to apply that to live dog examples.

The subject matter in breed education seminars is centered on objective material. It is an arbitrary schematic blueprint of the ideal and description of type detail. In actually applying that knowledge as an evaluator it becomes by nature, a more subjective assessment. There is some allowance for self-appointed priority yet still remain within the perimeter of the breed standard. If the seminar presenter is sufficiently competent and the material is cohesively organized to target key components geared specifically toward a judge's in-ring evaluation, an attendee completes the course with a reasonable grasp on the subject.

The true test of the hands-on and ringside observation exercise is to apply that knowledge with the ability to identify essential phenol-typical traits and to recognize type virtue over more generic consideration. The ideal outcome is to demonstrate proficiency of exhibit placement within the classes in

descending order of merit. Experienced judges are very aware that the standard of perfection outlined in the seminar classroom is normally not what is present in the ring. Learning how to recognize and prioritize key characteristics of the breed is the successful result of a well-designed JE seminar and workshop program with the assistance of mentors who have the ability to temper bias with productive information.

Always keep in mind that the educational take-away from the ringside observation is not in the assessment and outcome of that particular day's officiating judge's sorting decisions and opinions. It is in the candid discussion of the entry as a whole with knowledgeable breed mentors and in so doing, gaining a proficient understanding of the breed's essence. Don't get caught up in the day's judging by taking on that judge's priorities as your own regardless, over and above the opportunity to focus solely on the classes of dogs and group discussion. That would be to miss the whole point. The ultimate goal is to gain an adequate comfort level in assigning correct priority when making decisions in the show ring drawing on one's own depth of knowledge.



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2015 JEC SYMPOSIUM

So far we have had two very successful judges' education symposiums. Our first was held in conjunction with the Advanced Terrier Institute in December 2012, approximately 60 attendees. We were immediately questioned when was the next. In 2013 we had over 50 JEC members in attendance; a great panel which comprised of an Executive Field Representative, a judge and a Judges Education Coordinator.

After taking a year off in 2014, we are planning our third JEC Symposium this year in-conjunction with 2015 AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Sporting and Toy breeds. Now is the time to plan to attend the 2015 JEC SYMPOSIUM in Orlando, FL. This informative JEC seminar will provide insight into creating an effective Judges Education Committee, creating a powerful presentation and more!

Stay tune for more details and be sure to spread the word.

SHARE WITH US

We welcome your thoughts or other articles for the publication in this E-News or the judges' newsletter "The Standard". If you wish to share your ideas with us, please send them to Ines Maldonado at ixm@akc.org or fax to 919-816-4225. The next publication of the JEC News will be released in the Fall of 2015 and "The Standard" is published quarterly. Remember, we are here to support you, so please feel free to call with questions or concerns.

Enjoy your Spring and Summer. Next issue will be in the Fall.



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