

MENTOR. *musings*



Summer 2020



Doberman Pinscher Club of America
Judges Education Committee
Judges Mentoring Program

Artwork Courtesy of Leslie Hall....Thank you, Leslie!

DPCA JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Faye Strauss

Judges Education Committee Chair
sherluckmm@msn.com

Pam DeHetre

Mentor Committee Chair
pamdehetre@peoplepc.com

Vicki Seiler-Cushman

Mentor Committee Co-Chair
seilerva@yahoo.com

Mary Ann Hollis

Newsletter Editor
maryann@imperiadobermans.com

DPCA MENTOR MUSINGS

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DPCA JUDGES EDUCATION MENTOR COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

“To provide a superior, best-in-class education to AKC judges, both new and licensed. To prepare future judges by teaching the AKC Doberman Pinscher standard to advance their knowledge on judging the Doberman. To promote an intellectual environment built on past knowledge and a commitment of non-bias opinions on education and feedback. To commit to life-long learning using the power of information provided by the DPCA and other educational opportunities on the breed. By pursuing these objectives with vision and integrity, the DPCA Mentors seek to engage and stimulate the best effort to all whom they are teaching.”

Message from Faye Strauss, JEC Committee Chair

I hope you are surviving the pandemic. These are very strange times. No dog shows, the national canceled, who could have imagined this in January.

Breeders, handlers and mentors have risen to the occasion with unique conformation events. I saw a Facebook show on the Doberman standard using live dogs, presented by Linda George, Dillan Kip and Ashley Claggett. The Claggett's are holding monthly virtual dog shows on line. I am sure there are many other events I wasn't aware of. I commend these efforts.

The JEC also has plans to stay in touch during these extraordinary times.

The mentor committee is holding our annual mentor meeting as a Zoom conference. This will give us an opportunity to hear from you. Many of you have not been able to attend the national, but now you can be a part of this on line meeting. We will host our annual meeting over the internet, from your home, on your computer or your phone. Pam DeHetre and Vicki Cushman are planning a fun, educational encounter. Stay tuned for meeting information.

With the cancelation of the national, we will not be having our annual JEC seminar. We will instead have a one-and-a-half-hour seminar hosted by the AKC Judges department. We were hoping to have it as close to the national format as possible, without the labs featuring live dogs. However, the AKC cannot accommodate our format so I will be presenting for our committee. As we are not having the national, we encourage you to attend this internet session from your computer or phone. This is your opportunity to hear what we tell the judges. Stay tuned for details on the seminar once we get a date and time.

Please enjoy this edition of the Mentor Musings. Thank you to Mary Ann Hollis for taking the editor position. And thank you to Alisa Brotherhood for being our first editor.

Also, we want to welcome Michelle Kramer as our statistician. She will be making a spread sheet of judges who are provisional and judges we are watching.

We are always interested in your feedback and suggestions.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you at the Zoom mentor meeting and at the shows.

Faye Strauss, JEC Chair

Message from Pam DeHetre, Mentor Committee Chair

Hello to all of our mentors,

Hopefully all of you are well and surviving life at home! We are all hoping that dog shows will start again soon.

It has been a strange few months without dog shows however we did finally have time to catch up on bookwork etc. The AKC has been hosting breed webinars everyday which have been quite interesting.

When the shows start again please watch permit judges and send a report, both favorable and maybe not so favorable to anyone on our committee. We would like to send a happy note to those who do a good job as well as a note offering help to the others. We are all in this for great judging and your help is needed.

Question for this newsletter is the same as in the last issue -

If you had only one conformation part of the current dogs in the ring that you would want to improve — what is it and for additional information why that particular part? Everyone please respond!

If anyone of you is interested in becoming a presenter please contact me.

Since the National has been cancelled the Mentor Committee is exploring the possibility of having an online Mentor Meeting. Please respond if you would attend - yes or no and preference of afternoon or evening to me - pamdehetre@peoplepc.com

Ideas for subjects to discuss are welcome.

Thank you.

Remember to not give a mentee your personal opinion. Always mentor according to the standard.

Best to everyone through these trying times. Best wishes to all to stay safe and healthy!!

Pam DeHetre, Mentor Chair

Living in a COVID Virtual World by Vicki Seiler-Cushman

Virtual Tutoring

One-on-one tutoring session with a parent club approved mentor or recognized expert in the breed utilizing Skype, Zoom, Facetime or similar medium. Experience may include a review and discussion of parent club education materials and/or live dogs. Experience must be at least one-hour in length. – **1 CEU.**

The AKC announced in May that it is possible to conduct a virtual Mentor meeting on breeds other than low entry ones until December. This allows Doberman Mentors to teach via the following platforms mentioned above. The best way to do this is by either sending the materials in advance (The DPCA presentation) or if you are really savvy on the computer, share your screen with your mentee. You should have the jump drive provided from the national or you can obtain the presentation on the Mentor Website.

You can use live dogs in your session, or you can send pictures that both of you can review and judge together. It works well to send images of dogs with good balance, fronts, tail carriage, heads and so on. There are many images you can choose from in the mentor materials or ones that you can share from nationals and other good examples of your choice. You should not use images of dogs currently being shown.

The mentoring session must last at least one hour and also you should provide time for lots of questions. You will need to complete/sign the form for a Mentoring/tutor session and snail mail or copy and send via the internet. This will be worth one CEU to the judge.

Please stay safe and I hope to see everyone soon!

Vicki Seiler-Cushman, Mentor Committee Co-Chair

Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants

The AKC supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges clubs to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club/cluster should be published in the premium, show catalog, club website and posted on signage/flyers at their event.

General Practices

1. Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with guidelines in effect at the time of the event. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should provide masks if desired for officials, judges and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch). Consider hiring bathroom attendants to maintain maximum cleanliness.
6. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station(s) to be delivered as well.
7. Avoid shaking hands, hugging, or other physical contact.
8. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
9. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
10. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.) Clubs and facilities may consider not providing chairs.

11. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
12. Vendors should follow retail guidelines for the area.
13. Parking – Park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible. If there is a parking fee, ask exhibitors to bring exact change.
14. Indoor show sites should work with facilities to have as many entrance/exits points open as possible. Hand sanitizer should be available at every entrance to the site and at multiple locations within the site.
15. Parking/unloading staff should wear masks and sanitize their hands following the assistance of each individual.

Event Practices

1. Opening Date – In order to provide clubs flexibility during times of uncertainty, clubs may specify a date in the premium when entries will start to be accepted. The “opening date” should be selected to allow time for mailed entries.
2. Site Set-up - The size and layout of a site will determine the opportunities available to clubs.
 - Separate the rings if possible, otherwise set-up buffers within rings along adjoining sides to provide separation.
 - If individual rings are not possible, avoid placing gates, stewards and judges' tables next to those in neighboring rings.
 - Consider two gates per ring, one for dogs entering and one for dogs exiting.
 - Stewards should be responsible for finding the dog in the catalog if the exhibitor does not know the armband number and for handing out armbands. Stewards should not hand their catalog to exhibitors for review. Stewards should sanitize their hands frequently and consider wearing a face mask and gloves.
 - For outdoor shows consider marking off areas near the rings for exhibitors to set-up personal pop-up tents. This can also be done for areas near the buildings holding indoor events.
 - Create a ready ring area outside the show ring for exhibitors showing the breed being judged.
 - Clubs should consider not providing chairs. Private chairs should not be placed in higher traffic areas.

3. Scheduling – With the efforts to make shows safer, the event may take longer. Modified scheduling may assist with congestion and provide a better experience for exhibitors. If using a superintendent, work with them to create a schedule that assists with the situation.
 - Consider published judging segments shorter than one hour.
 - If possible, schedule groups to start following the completion of the respective breeds. This allows exhibitors the option to leave for the day.
 - As per AKC rules, Groups and Best in Show are optional for group and all-breed shows.
 - Some shows may consider implementing entry limits.
4. Exhibitors
 - Prepare to be self-sufficient: bring sanitizer, bring a generator for electricity, bring personal use masks.
 - Know the armband numbers for your entries before going to the ring.
 - Do not congregate at the ring or ring gate.
 - While showing your dog, maintain social distances with other exhibitors.
5. Grooming
 - Recommend grooming beside the exhibitor's vehicle including the use of pop-up tents should weather conditions warrant.
 - Design the layout of grooming areas and spaces to comply with the social distancing guidelines in place at the time. Marking off individual grooming spaces is encouraged.
 - Prohibit the use of forced air dryers in indoor grooming areas.
6. Judging is where the ability to socially distance becomes challenging. Taking care to protect the parties will require a concerted effort between the judge, steward and exhibitors.
 - Judges should consider wearing face masks if otherwise not required.
 - All classes should be called in catalog order to provide order and efficiency.
 - Judges must practice ring awareness, be conscious of spacing, and take appropriate measures to avoid crowding of exhibitors.

- Judges are to have the exhibitor display the oral exam and may personally examine the mouth ONLY if absolutely necessary. By the nature of the procedure, judges must conduct thumb exams.
 - Judges should sanitize hands after examining each entry. Re-examining of dogs should be minimized.
 - Judges are encouraged to personally pull ribbons for placements. Coupled with frequent hand sanitizing, this will help mitigate contact exposure.
 - Equipment used to measure and/or weigh dogs must be sanitized before and after each use.
 - Clubs should consider providing boxed lunches for judges and volunteers.
7. Photographers should consider using a process where a photo of the judge is added to the photo of the dog.
- Consider taking photos of each judge in the morning as though they were standing for an award photo.
 - Take win photos without judges.
 - Digitally insert the judge with the wins to finalize the photo.
 - Consider not using trophy presenters.

Temporary Changes to Help Clubs

1. Event Application Late Fees – Event application late fees are waived through the end of October. This provides clubs more flexibility in planning or rescheduling their events.
2. For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply Event Application fees to the club's next event of the same type.
3. Assignment Conflicts for Conformation Judges – The 30 days/200-mile conflict distance policy for assignments has been suspended for shows held in 2020.
4. The same day exhibiting restriction for judges assigned only NOHS Groups and/or NOHS BIS has been waived for shows held in 2020. This will provide clubs greater flexibility and more options in the panel assignments.
5. Juniors that have turned 18 on or after March 1 may compete until Oct 31.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event. The conformation field reps will assist as always in an advisory capacity.

MENTOR HIGHLIGHT – Sharon Marinelli



In 1981, my first Doberman, Ceasar, found me. It was love and I never looked back. Along with my many co-breeders I have bred Top 20 conformation and obedience dogs and am the breeder of 16 ROMs. I also bred and own “Sybyl”, Int'l/UDC Ch Am GCH Sharjets Starr Catcher CD RE RATO BSB-E2 CGCA ROM, the 2nd recipient of the Ryan Award.

I began mentoring for the Judges Education after the Lancaster National in 2015. In between, Prior to that I judged sweeps and futurities. Being part of the Mentoring program has introduced me to many lovely people along the way. I am very glad that I accepted the challenge and have been able to be part of this very important program. I have mentored several people who have become judges, including Joyce Dandridge and Jerry Berkowitz. I hope they are doing a good job.

Mentoring is important, but beyond mentoring judges we need to mentor upcoming breeders and people who would like to exhibit.

MENTOR HIGHLIGHT – Colleen Nicholson



I went to my first dog show at age 19. I watched Dobermans and I was hooked! I soon got my first show Doberman and thus started my “Passion”. I finished my male and some of his littermates, then began showing other breeds. I have finished many Champions in all 7 groups.

My Love for Dobermans has always had this Special place in my heart. Early on when I was showing, I spent my spare time ring side gathering Breeding Knowledge from many of our Past Great Breeders. I watched, listen and learned from them, and then began breeding under “Kelview Dobermans”. I have been very successful to have produce and handled quality Champions who have gone on to win Winners Dog, Reserve Winners Bitch, Winners Bitch, Best of Breed, Best Puppy, Best in Sweeps, Grand Prize Futurity at the National and TOP 20 Stats.

As a Breeder, Owner, Handler, I have be fortunate to be at the end of the lead on some beautiful dogs for Fantastic wins in USA and Canada. I still love Breeding, Raising and Handling puppies who will become producers to help carry on our Standard.

I have been a member of DPCA since 1982. I have helped work on the video of How to Judge a Doberman Pinscher and having my dogs participate in it was a great honor. I have made a You Tube video on how to post your Doberman puppy’s ears. I have had the privilege of Judging our TOP 20, have judged Specialty Sweepstakes, and look forward to judging our National Futurity one year.

My Giving back to DPCA is Directing the Breed Handling Seminar at our National since 2018. I love helping other Owner Handlers to achieve their dreams!

Kelview Dobermans

Colleen Nicholson/Cindy Kelso
1816 Hunter Dr.
Mechancisburg, PA 17050
717-215-6854

MENTOR FEEDBACK

Cherie Holmes

1. What do you consider the major conformation problems in the breed?

The main breed problems are shoulder and upper arms are not long and equal lengths.

2. What do you think should be the most important thing we should be teaching prospective judges?

We need to emphasize the total picture, and that includes temperament. But don't reward the balanced generic dog that has no angles. The standard calls for big angles, in a square package.

3. What suggestions can you offer to other mentors on mentoring or a mentoring story?

Faye and I just watched an experienced judge do a terrible job. When we approached him to discuss/ask why he chose as he did, he became very defensive. We were very nice, just asked him what he thought he saw in the dogs, and he overrode us with his defensive attitude. He had just given majors to a dog and bitch that should never have won points let alone a major. I don't know how this man will ever do a better job, and I am at a loss as to how we could have handled it any more delicately...

Vicki Harris

1. What do you consider the major conformation problems in the breed?

Dobermans are way over-angled in the rear and straight in the front.

2. What do you think should be the most important thing we should be teaching prospective judges?

Balance.

3. What suggestions can you offer to other mentors on mentoring or a mentoring story?

Judge the dog as a whole, not by the faults.

Jeff Brucker

1. What do you consider the major conformation problems in the breed?

Overall balance, the front and the rear angulation not matching, head (you rarely see a blunt wedge or even one close to it), tail sets. The tail is a continuation of the spine and it should be at approximately two o'clock, not straight up in the air.

2. What do you think should be the most important thing we should be teaching prospective judges?

When they are judging they need to understand that judging is a work in progress. You get as close as you can to the standard. Always know that no matter how long you are judging there is always more to learn. That's the interesting thing about judging, you never know it all.

3. Suggestions to other mentors on mentoring or a mentoring story.

Stick to the standard and the history of the breed. Try to keep your personal prejudice out of the conversation. The function of the mentor is to interpret the standard and to be familiar with the history. It is advisable that you read the standard as near to the time you are mentoring as possible.

I hope you are doing well in these scary times.

Jeff Brucker