

MENTOR, *musings*



Summer 2025



Doberman Pinscher Club of America
Judges Education Committee
Judges Mentoring Program

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

DPCA JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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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 Vicki Seiler-Cushman, JEC Committee Chair

We are making great strides on the JEC's vision for Pop-Up Seminars. We developed the process and theory, and our wonderful JEC committee and the hard-working Mentor Sub Committee led by Karin Fox has really fine-tuned it with the great help of Erin Cody. Here is the background on the Pop-Ups.

The DPCA Judges Education Committee (JEC) has been concerned about the inconsistent judging of the Doberman Pinscher. Ringside mentoring does not seem to be successful; the missing component is the limited opportunity for a student judge to experience an up-close education on our breed. We wanted to further a student's access to an in-depth education led by our expert mentors and take a deeper dive into our standard to understand what is important to us: the entire picture of our breed. Our goal is to educate and create a more informed judge.

We really would love for our mentors to be involved to help applying judges to get the best education possible, we are the only ones who can really try to make this possible with expert lessons from you! If you can volunteer with dogs or as a presenter, please do. We think you will find it to be a great process and beneficial to all who want to learn from our expert's experience.

There will be an opportunity in October at the Doberman Pinscher Club of Nashville's specialty show in Murfreesboro, TN. Please reach out to Karen Mundy if you can assist in the Pop-Up.

Have a great Summer and STAY COOL!

Vicki

Vicki Seiler Cushman
JEC Committee Chair



Message from Faye Strauss, Mentor Committee & JEC Advisor

I am honored to serve as the advisor to the DPCA JEC Mentor Committee, which is excellently chaired by Karin Fox and supported by a dedicated team including Linda George, Linda Whitney, Mona Fash, Colleen Nicholson, and Elizabeth Barrett. This fantastic group identifies key areas for improvement, crafts detailed plans, and delivers outstanding results.

At this year's Mentor Mid-Year Meeting, Karin introduced our innovative teaching tool, the Pop-Up-Hands-On. Special thanks are due to Erin Cody for organizing the material and to Elizabeth Barrett for creating the PowerPoint presentation, which includes the Seven Key Characteristics you suggested at our annual meeting two years ago.

I had the pleasure of hosting a Pop-Up-Hands-On event at the Pacific NW Extravaganza over Father's Day weekend, held after the second specialty on Saturday in the conformation ring. The previous event judges were invited to share their observations and the qualities they look for. The event included a brief history lesson, instructions on how to examine a Doberman, and explanations of the seven key characteristics. I am grateful to the exhibitors who stayed to present their dogs, as well as the exhibitors, handlers and future judges who attended.

Reflecting on the event, I believe having a Pop-Up coordinator would be highly beneficial. This individual could handle advertising, appoint a photographer to capture the event, ensure all handouts are available, and contact local mentors well in advance for assistance. The on-site organizer should select an assistant. That would have helped me, as I forgot to have attendees sign in to the event. It is simply too much for one person to manage while also showing their dogs. This is a work in progress. The tool is invaluable for educating the fancy and judges, and streamlining the process will make it more effective.

Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome and encouraged.

Have a fun, healthy and rewarding summer. See you at the National.

Faye Strauss
Mentor Committee & JEC Advisor



Message from Karin Fox, Handler/Breeder Subcommittee Chair

For the past several months the Sub-Committee group has been working on putting together a procedure to give guidance and clarity for how to put on Pop-Up Hands-On Seminars. We have received ENORMOUS help from fellow mentor Erin Cody. The Sub-Committee has offered insight and suggestions to assist Erin in this huge task.

During June we held our second annual Mid-Year Mentor Zoom Meeting which was well attended. We showcased the almost complete Pop-Up procedure to the participating mentors. With the help of Elizabeth's Power Point Presentation, we explained the goal of the Pop-Up and gave a brief summary of how a chapter club would go about organizing and hosting a Pop-Up event in conjunction with their specialty show. Also included within the Pop-Up guide are instructions directed at the Mentor for putting on the seminar and helpful tips to give in uniformity in teaching the AKC Doberman Standard and the Seven Key Characteristics. The goal of the Sub-Committee is to have the document completed and turned over to the JEC in time for the National this year.

I want to acknowledge the JEC Sub-Committee whose help has been invaluable in seeing several of our projects through completion; thank you to Elizabeth Barrett, Mona Fasth, Linda George, Colleen Nicholson and Linda Whitney.

Karin Fox
JEC Sub-Committee Chair



Happy 4th of July!



Dog Flags

JUST FOR FUN –

Vicki Seiler-Cushman's bitch Ryder with her grandson Titan.



**Reminder to everyone regarding Judge Mentor Feedback:
No need to fill out the Mentor Feed Back form!**

Mentor Feedback Hotline – 937-971-2133

Just call the phone number and leave a voice message. Please be sure to include the date of the show and the judge's name.

If you prefer to use the Mentor Feedback form, you can go to DPCA.org to the Members Only section to print the Judge Mentor Feedback Forms to carry with you to the shows. Complete the forms as needed and send to any of us on the JEC Committee for review.

Our goal is to give compliments as deserved as well as assisting any Judges our mentors feel may need some clarification on our breed. Ultimately the quality of judging does rely on the participation of our mentors in the educational process.

Thank you for everything you all do for our breed!

Enjoy Your Summer!



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