



**THE CAT FANCIERS'
ASSOCIATION**

Judging Program Mentor

Guide to the Mentor Program

June 2024

Being asked to be a Mentor for a Judging Program Pre-Applicant is an honor!

Before agreeing to be a Mentor for a Pre-Applicant, reach out to the current Mentor Coordinator to discuss.

*Being a Mentor does not come without a large **time** commitment, **responsibilities**, **guiding** the applicant through various stages of the program, and having an **in-depth knowledge** of the current Judging Program Rules.*

STAY ENGAGED!

Can I be a Mentor?

- You *must* be an Approved Allbreed Judge.
- You cannot mentor *more than three (3)* Pre-Applicants/Applicants at one time.
- Work with the current Judging Program Mentor Coordinator for any questions you may have.
- ✓ Prior to the Mentor assignment, Pre-Applicants should have bred for a minimum of three (3) years. This ensures they are far enough along in the process of becoming a judge.

NOTE: You cannot be assigned as a Training Judge for your Mentee.

Building the Relationship

It is important to **build a strong relationship** with your Mentee. They chose you to guide them along their journey of becoming a CFA Judge. You are their **CHAMPION!**

- Your **years of experience and knowledge** will help guide.
- Applicant has **respect** for you, a trusted confidant.
- Mentor is **not a close friend**; may have in-depth knowledge of the person.
- Mentor can **guide without retribution**; is a teacher.
- Mentor has **respect in the program** and the Mentee respects you.
- Mentor is **sounding board** and provides positive and negative feedback.
- Mentor is a **guide to the rules** and provides guidance on the path forward.

Read , study, and learn the CFA Judging Program Rules so you can be a strong Mentor

- Guide your Mentee **throughout the entire process** up to and including being advanced to Approved Allbreed Judge.
- Provide **sound advice** and guidance throughout each step of the process.
- Know where the Judging Program resource **documents** are located on CFA.org; guide your Mentee to utilize the available resources.

What are some of the responsibilities of a Mentor:

- Assist the Pre-Applicant in **selecting meaningful breed handling experiences** that will enhance their knowledge.
- Assist the Pre-Applicant in selecting breeds for custodial care, agenting, and exhibiting. *Ensure they are the ones showing the cats.*
- Explain to the Pre-Applicant that while showing other breeds (ownership/custodial), they must be the ones caring for, grooming, showing, putting the cat in the judging ring, and watching the judge evaluate the class.
- So much learning is to be gained in breed knowledge and handling from showing other breeds and observing the judging process.

What are some of the responsibilities of a Mentor,

- It is not advised that the Pre-Applicant try to do too many things at once (e.g., clerking, master clerking, and showing multiple cats).
- Being able to watch a judge handle the cat being shown along with its competition is important.
- Make certain the Applicant has **attended a BAOS** within two (2) years of application submission.
- Coordinate and review the required **judging book completion** and make certain it is error free.
- **Review the Pre-Applicant's Judging Program Application**, when complete, prior to submission.
- Judging Program Application must be sent electronically in one file.

What is the best guidance you can provide:

- Direct them to the judging program rules and the application checklist. (see section 2 of the J.P. Rules)
- Review the time requirements for Breeders:
 - **Pre-Applicant/Associate Judge** - Actively breeding for five (5) years and:
 - Scorecard A**. Granding 10 cats (six (6) of their own breeding).
 - Scorecard B**. Accumulation of 15 points from exhibiting NW, DW, RW, BW, DM or GC/GP.
 - **Judges from other associations** have different requirements that are outlined in the J.P. Rules.
- Have the Pre-Applicant complete the requirements that take the longest first, for example:
 - **Joining a CFA Club** and being active.
 - Working on your **primary breed and actively showing**.
 - **Attend a clerking school** and become a licensed Clerk; becoming a Master Clerk, even better!
 - **Take time** to complete the requirements, don't pile on everything at once.

Additional Guidance on Being a Good Mentor

- Once the Pre-Applicant is accepted into the Judging Program:
 - Discuss with the Trainee shows and judges for them to train with. Have them discuss the suggestions with their assigned File Administrator.
 - The Judging Program may reach out to the Mentor in cases where the Trainees needs guidance; advice is provided from the Mentor perspective.

Additional Guidance on Being a Good Mentor, cont.

- Stay engaged; have monthly check points.
- Be the biggest cheerleader; check off the boxes of the application!
- Be a sounding board; listen and provide guidance.
- Keep their eye on the prize; discuss our experiences as a judge.
- Evaluate cats together; discuss good attributes and attributes that can be improved.

Where can you locate all this information?

- If you are interested in being a Mentor, contact the current Judging Program Mentor Coordinator.
- Remember, the time commitment can be years. The Applicants are counting on you!

Resources:

Visit cfa.org and search **Judging Program Rules**

HAPPY MENTORING!