

The Judges Education Process

The Basset Fauve de Bretagne will officially join the AKC Hound Group on January 1, 2026. Exhibitors, breeders, and dog show attendees have already started to see Judges Education Seminars, Hands-On Workshops, and Ringside Mentoring at shows. Questions are being asked: *who attends, who presents, and what is the purpose?* I will answer these questions.

It is important for exhibitors and breeders to understand that Judges Education is the National Breed Club's time to TEACH the Standard to the judges. The club has prepared a comprehensive presentation of breed history and a detailed breakdown for interpretation of every section of the standard with photographs. The Judges Education Presentation was approved by the Parent Club Board of Directors prior to dissemination to the public. This helps judges understand exactly how the club wants the breed to be judged and examined. Judges leave the seminar with copies of all club-approved documents. Ringside Mentoring, or one-on-one mentoring, is a more casual setting but is no less serious. Club documents must always be used. These are private discussions between the judges and mentors about the dogs in the ring and how they compare to the standard. Please be respectful and do not eavesdrop or interrupt if you happen upon a mentoring session. A mentor may request to go over your dog after judging. You are not obligated.

- Judges Education is held specifically for JUDGES. Breeders, exhibitors, or spectators are not included at the Judges Education Seminars. You may be invited by the coordinator to participate in the Hands-On portion with a specific dog. Breeder input, while interesting to other breeders, is not appropriate or germane to the standard at that time. It adds discussion time to our program that we don't have. We cannot go over our allotted time!

- Judges must earn CEUs – Continuing Education Credits – to apply for a breed. The Basset Fauve de Bretagne is a “Low Entry Breed.” Five CEUs are required to apply to judge the breed. Credits are earned several ways: by attending a National Club-sponsored seminar, attending ringside mentoring with an approved mentor (with a minimum of four dogs present), or a mentoring session/kennel visit with several dogs to go over with an approved mentor. Each activity is assigned a point value by the AKC.

Who presents? The approved mentors selected by the National Breed Club are presenting the seminars and doing the ringside mentoring. Mentors are individuals who have a strong background in breeding, showing, and judging. They are an asset to the National Club. The mentors take their responsibility to teach the Standard to judges very seriously and will not use their position to promote their own kennel, their dogs, or the dogs of others.

Respectfully,

Claire Wisch Abraham – Mentor, Member of the Basset Fauve de Bretagne of America
AKC Judge #100709

I am an AKC Judge approved for the Sporting Group, the Misc. Group, most of the Toy Group, as well as Basenjis and Otterhounds. I have judged the German Wirehaired Pointer & Lagotto Romagnolo National Specialty and will be judging the American Pointer Club and Irish Setter Club of America National Specialties in 2026/2027. I have judged Parent Club and Regional

Specialties in three groups in the U.S. and Mexico. I have bred and owned German Wirehaired Pointers for 25 years. My GWP, the #1 dog among all breeds in 2012, "Oakley," was also the winner of Westminster Group 1 in 2013. He was the winner of 102 All-Breed BIS and three National Specialty Best of Breeds. He is the top-winning GWP of all time. I also own the top-winning Spinone Italiano of all time with 12 All-Breed BIS. Breeding/owning the winners of nine National Specialties in three breeds is one of my great accomplishments. Dogs from my breeding hold JH, SH, MH, and NAVHDA titles. I am President of Old Dominion Kennel Club and a member of the Chinese Crested Club of America, Basenji Club of America, Spinone Club of America, Pointer Club of America, and American Maltese Association.

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