

THE LOWDOWN

POTOMAC BASSET HOUND CLUB

AUGUST 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1

- ❖ Announcements

Page 2

- ❖ Upcoming Events
- ❖ Handling Class Info

Page 3

- ❖ Mentoring
Prospective Judges
Article

Page 4

- ❖ Mentoring
Prospective Judges
Article (cont'd)

Page 5

- ❖ In Memoriam

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donations for Nationals Basket: If you would like to donate an item(s), please bring them to any PBHC event before the end of September and give them to Devon Merritt. Ideas include regional themed items, dog toys, and treats (nothing too big, please!)

Meeting & Discord: Our next meeting is on September 14th at the Salem Branch Library in Fredericksburg. Gregg Kantak will be presenting a seminar on ring procedure and stewarding after the meeting.

Discord has been popular for members to attend meetings if they cannot make it to the meeting site. If you need information, please contact Devon Merritt for an invite. You need to download the Discord app first and confirm your email with the app. Even if you don't wish to use the voice part of the app, Devon can see your typed comments and read them out during the meeting.

Braggs: Please send all Brags (exact text and any photos) to Kaitlin (Kaitlin.chiarelli@gmail.com) at least one week prior to the end of the month in order for it to be included in that month's edition. With less than one week's notice, it will be included in the following month's newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 31-Aug 1 – Salem Show by
James River KC

August 2-3 – Salem Show by
Roanoke KC

August 4 – Salem Show by New
River Valley KC

August 10 – Handling Class
taught by Richard Jackson

August 24 – SBHC Specialty in
York, PA

September 14 – PBHC Meeting
Salem Church Branch Library in
Fredericksburg, VA

September 21 – BROOD PBHC
Information and Nail Trim Table
at Frying Pan Park in Fairfax, VA

November 1 – PBHC Supported
Entry with Warrenton Kennel
Club in Doswell, VA

November 2 – PBHC Fall
Specialty with Warrenton Kennel
Club in Doswell, VA

November 23 - PBHC Meeting
Salem Church Branch Library
Fredericksburg, VA

HANDLING & GROOMING WORKSHOP

The Potomac Basset Hound Club is excited to offer a Handling & Grooming Workshop!

Come and learn about grooming and presenting your Basset for the conformation ring! Reserve your spot today! This workshop is limited to 10 participants.

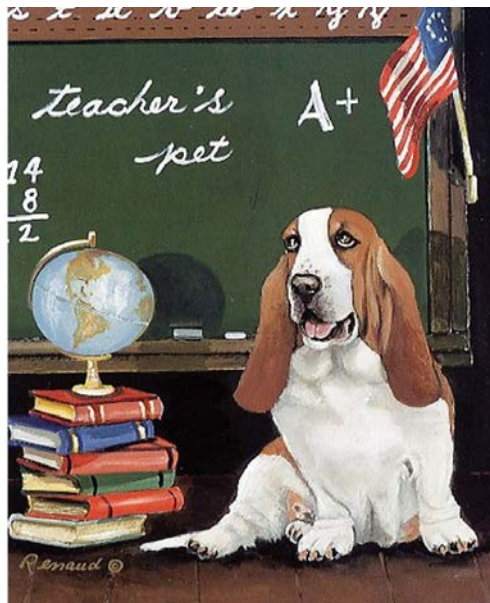
Where: 3271 Woodcreek Drive Charlottesville, VA 22911

When: Saturday, August 10, 2019 from 11:00am until 4:00pm. There will be a short lunch break so please bring your own bagged lunch (a selection of drinks will be provided)

Cost: There is no charge for PBHC members. Non-members are welcome to join us for a fee of \$30.00.

Presenter: Richard Todd Jackson, PBHC President, AKC and International Judge, and Breeder/Owner/Handler of Multiple Breeds to Group and BIS wins.

For more information or to reserve a spot in the workshop, please contact Madeline Wilson at 804-673-8558 or kuuipobassets@yahoo.com.



MENTORING PROSPECTIVE JUDGES

By Gregg G. Kantak

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has a long-recognized mentoring system to assist prospective judges in their on-going education of the breeds they wish to judge. Parent clubs are not the sole source of Mentors for their breed. As such, local clubs with qualified individuals can be a part of this experience. According to AKC, a ringside observation may be completed with individuals who are either a parent club approved mentor or have **12 years' experience** breeding or exhibiting or judging the breed. The ringside mentee may be a long-term mentor/mentee relationship or not.

While the definition of a Mentor presupposes a long-term, on-going relationship, in the Dog Fancy, this can be an individual who invests an hour of their time educating a prospective judge during breed judging. Of course, AKC recognizes that there are many forms of mentoring, from ringside to tutor to long-term. Mentoring may also include a kennel visit. Below is a short description of each of these forms of mentoring and AKC's criteria:

- *A Ringside Observation* may be completed at either Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is offered or at any AKC conformation event, in either case where a **major in at least one sex** is present and a **qualified mentor** is available.
- *Long-Term Mentor*. On-going relationship with qualified individual over time preceding application of the breed.
- *Tutor*. At length, in-depth discussion on the breed to include examination of multiple examples of breed to discuss breed specific characteristics with a qualified individual.
- *Kennel Visit*. Extended visit at the kennel with a qualified exhibitor/breeder, speaking at length of its characteristics, examining many dogs and possibly viewing litters.

Of course, being a mentor is more than simply chatting about Basset Hounds. I have served as a mentor for our breeds to prospective judges and as a mentee in my pursuit of licensing in other breeds. Having been on both sides of the equation, I have recommendations for anyone choosing to Mentor.

Let's first start with the Mentee. When I sit with a breed mentor, I have come prepared. I have read their breed Standard and usually have it with me at the time of mentoring. I have a list of questions specific to their breed. If I am ringside, I know that I will not have my hands on the dogs but should know the visual aspects: gait, tail carriage, breed outline and shape, ear placement, disqualifiers, etc. In essence, I show my mentor that I wish to honor their breed and understand its unique qualities.

Alternatively, when I mentor others in our unique breed, I share my qualifications to mentor. I then ask if there is anything in the Standard they need clarified. Then, I describe the proper way to examine, and ask them to advise of the **positive** aspects of each dog being presented in the classes. NOTE: if your mentee focuses on each dog's *faults*, lead them back to the positive attributes.

You may quiz your mentee along the way. Since we have a very unique breed in its structure, does the Mentee understand a “wrap-around” front? Can you as the mentor adequately describe it? *It is unique to only Bassets and Dachshunds.* Can the mentee distinguish between excess socks and knuckling over (a disqualifying fault)? While coat length and height may be very evident to you, does the Mentee notice an exhibit over 15” or one with a distinctly long coat?

At the end of your session, the prospective judge will have forms for you to sign. Please do not sign a blank form. The mentee should completely fill out the form expressing the hallmarks of the breed compared to the day's exhibits. Read what the mentee has written and discuss anything in their write-up that may need clarification. If you have a feeling that your mentee did not come prepared to your mentor session or may not have a true grasp of our breed following your discussion, you may decline signing the form and suggest additional education through tutoring, a kennel visit or BHCA's judge's education program. Do not feel pressure to sign a mentoring form. Remember, this form becomes part of the judge's file and indicates that *you* found the judge ready to pass judgment on our breed.

As a potential Mentor in Bassets, you will see our breed through your lens... your breeding program. Often, as breeders, we breed to a specific aesthetic. Whether wet or dry, our hounds must conform to our Standard, be able to perform their duties, etc. Be willing to discuss the good, bad and ugly of your own dogs, as well as the positive attributes of others' dogs. Refrain from using your own dogs as examples during ringside mentoring. Having a mentee examine your own breeding stock is best handled through a kennel visit. Your experience will only help AKC judges improve their eye and their judging.

Interested? For those of our members who do meet AKC's 12-years' experience criteria, PBHC would like to maintain a list on its website to assist prospective judges who contact PBHC seeking a local mentor/tutor/kennel visit. If this does interest you, send an email to PBHC President, Richard Jackson, richardtoddjackson@yahoo.com. Occasionally, he gets requests for mentoring and a well-rounded list would be greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

SLICK MICK BY MARTHA HAVRON & DENISE BLAKE

A wonderful 3 Oaks-Barnyard Collaboration (November 2010 – June 2019). Our handsome Fellow, Dearly Loved by this Best Bud Tank, and Pals Denise and Martha, Mickey crossed over the rainbow bridge on June 26, 2019.



TEAGAN LOVED BY SALLY NIST

Teagan, owned and loved by Sally Nist, crossed over the rainbow bridge in June 2019.