

IRISH SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA

GUIDELINES FOR MENTORING

- Use breed specific terminology from the AKC breed standard when making a reference to conformational features.
 - When relevant, in discussing the physical characteristics, relate them to the function and original purpose of the breed.
 - Avoid pointing out generic faults—they are obvious to all.
 - Stress the importance of staying with the “whole picture.”
 - Personal preferences should never override and take precedence over breed standard requirements.
 - If one “gets” the essence of breed type, they will “get” the details of type.
 - Prioritize key features of the breed by how they are referenced in the breed standard.
 - Judges have a small window of time in the show ring to assess important characteristics—they are not building a breeding program.
 - Break down your information in simple terms targeted toward the prioritization of breed characteristics in a 2-minute ring evaluation.
 - Ask judges to visualize the ability to do the job he was bred to do when looking at the dog.
 - Be articulate and knowledgeable about all sections of the standard, applying the priorities as they are stated.
 - Accurate breed-specific hands-on examination technique is important—explain effective ways to go over heads, coats, etc.
 - The Ringside Observation form is filled in by first the judge then your comments written after this portion is complete. Be sure the form is filled out in its entirety.
- ** Keep a record of whom you mentor and sign forms for.**