

So, You Want To Be A Mentor?

The role of ringside mentors and seminar presenters is to assist judges in learning to identify breed characteristics and reward the essence of our breed...

What is a Bichon? What makes a Bichon the dog it is? What is underneath the coat of this breed of illusion? What are the important aspects as breeders and representatives of the BFCA that we want to stress and share? We all must teach and address the same aspects otherwise the judges will be left confused.

We must provide a unified front for both our vision and our knowledge. We must always represent the written standard and teach to same.

There are many aspects to teaching. Respect, being one of the most important. We never sacrifice one dog for another. We NEVER promote our own dogs, nor do we bash dogs owned by others.

The mentor must be able to talk, observe, and teach what we see in the ring and the points that are of the utmost importance to the breeders. We must make sure that judges can identify the breed characteristics and their order of importance. A question usually asked in seminars is what is the most important aspect of this breed? Again, we all must be on the same page when speaking about our breed. Is it the merry and jovial temperament, the basic silhouette? What are the current dregs of our breed right now? Long and low is a huge problem.

This is a learning experience for all of us... "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, drink deep or taste not the Pyrean Springs." With this in mind are you willing to attend Zoom mentor meetings? Are you willing to attend a mentor meeting at the National Specialty? Are you willing to listen and learn and share knowledge?

Mentor Qualifications:

1. Member in good standing in the BFCA;
2. Breeder of Merit and/or have actively bred Bichons for more than 12 years and/or bred and finished at least six (6) champions in your name as breeder and owner;
3. Teaching ability – would you be willing to do impromptu "hands-on" discussions with those judges looking to apply for the breed at a show or your home? Can you do them on-site at a show? Can you do a virtual teaching session? Can you do a kennel visit? (These are options that perspective judges have to learn about your breed)
4. Attend at least one (1) seminar and/or mentor meeting at a BFCA National every three (3) years.
5. Take and pass a basic dog anatomy/terminology test which specifically is geared towards and from the Bichon Standard.
6. NEVER sign a blank mentor form. Any type of mentor form MUST be completed by the mentee before the mentor will agree to endorse same. A copy of all mentor forms must be copied and provided to the Breed Mentor Coordinator.
7. Either a Mentor Coordinator or the Judge's Education Committee must approve your application.

BFCA Approved Breed Mentor Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ (provide best number to call you)

Email _____

How long have you been a member of BFCA? _____

Briefly list how you have been actively involved with Bichon Frise (i.e. conformation, performance events, breeder, owner handler, exhibitor, etc.)? Include length of time.

List all dog related clubs of which you are a member:

How many Bichon litters have you bred? _____

How many AKC Champions have you produced in your litter(s)? _____

List the registered names of four champions from your litter(s):

Are you currently or have you served in any Bichon Frise Club volunteer capacity? Y N

If yes, please list a few of the most recent and include the year:

Have you attended any BFCA Judge's Education Seminars? Y N If yes, where and what year?

Have you handled exhibit dogs in the seminar? Y N

Are you interested in presenting the BFCA Judge's Education Seminar slide presentation at a Specialty or in conjunction with other Judge's Education Seminar Groups? Y N

How far are you willing to travel to mentor perspective judges or present a seminar? _____

What experience have you had in conducting education/training classes or public speaking? _____

Are you available to conduct ringside mentoring at local All-Breed Shows and Bichon Specialties? Y N

Please include any knowledge or other experience you feel would benefit the BFCA Judges Education program and potential judges:

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Thank you for showing interest in the BFCA Approved Breed Mentor program.

Mail or scan/email application to:
BFCA Judges Education Coordinator

**Continue on back of pages if you need more room to elaborate on answers.*

BFCA – Mentor Breed Test

What are the five (5) elements of breed type?:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

T or F - Structural faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the Bichon:

T or F - If a structural fault is not mentioned in our standard are we are to ignore it:

T or F - Our standard has two (2) breed Disqualifications:

T or F . - Timber and bone are synonyms for “substance”:

Which is the correct response regarding “substance”?

- A -Bichon should be coarse bone throughout.
- B. Bichon should be fine bone throughout.
- C. Bichon should be medium bone throughout.

T or F -a Bichon should be compact.

Which is the correct response to height?

- A. Dogs should be between 9 ½ to 11 inches and bitches between 9 to 10 ½ inches
- B. Dogs should be between 9:1/2 to 11 ½ inches and bitches between 9 ½ to 11 inches
- C. Dogs and bitches are to be between 9 ½ to 11 ½ inches

T or F - Over 11 ½ inches is a DQ? _____ Under 9 ½ inches is a DQ? _____

If you have a dog that is in size, but of poor quality and one that is pushing 11 ½ or more, but is far superior which one should you put up? (provide response)

T or F - If adult exhibits are clearly over 12” or under 9”, but are still better quality I put them up?

Which is the correct response as to eye shape?

- A. Round
- B. Oval
- C. Both A & B

Which is a fault as to eyes?

- A. Overly large
- B. Bulging Eyes
- C. Both A & B

Which is correct as to eye color(s)?

- A. Black
- B. Dark Brown
- C. Both A & B

Halos can be which color(s)?

- A. Black
- B. Dark Brown
- C. Both A & B

Eye rims can be which color(s)?

- A. Black
- B. Dark Brown
- C. Both A & B

T or F : Broken or absence of pigment on the eye rims is a fault?

T or F : Light eyes are a serious fault?

T or F : Ears are to be set slightly higher than eye level?

T or F : Ears are to be set forward on the skull?

The skull is:

- A. Rounded
- B. Slightly Rounded
- C. Flat

The stop is:

- A. Slightly accentuated
- B. Prominent
- C. Slightly sloping

A properly balanced head is as follows:

- A. 3 parts muzzle to 5 parts skull
- B. equal muzzle to skull
- C. 4 parts muzzle to 5 parts skull

The equilateral triangle is determined by measuring from:

- A. Inside corners of the eye to the nose
- B. Outside corners of the eye to the nose
- C. Neither A or B are correct

This nose color(s) is/are:

- A. Black
- B. Dark Brown
- C. Both A & B are correct

Correct bite for the Bichon is:

- A. Level
- B. Scissors
- C. Both A & B are correct

T or F : Undershot or overshot bites are acceptable?

T or F : Missing teeth are to be faulted?

T or F : The Bichon is a square breed?

T or F : The Bichon should be higher on leg?

T or F : The Bichon should be approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ or 25% longer than tall.

T or F : The body depth of a Bichon should be measured from the withers to the elbows?

T or F : The length of a Bichon should be measured from the fore chest to the buttocks?

The topline of a Bichon is a follows:

- A. Has a slight muscular arch over the loin
- B. Level
- C. Both A & B are correct

The chest should be _____ to allow free and unrestricted movement?

- A. Narrow
- B. Well Developed
- C. Moderately Developed

At a minimum the chest should extend:

- A. Just above the elbow
- B. Just below the elbow
- C. Just to the elbow

A Bichon should have a _____ muscular loin?

- A. Short
- B. Long
- C. Moderate

T or F : The fore chest is well pronounced and protrudes slight forward of the point of the shoulder?
A low tail set is acceptable? Yes or No

A tail which droops behind is to be _____ penalized?

- A. Severely penalized
- B. Ignored
- C. simply penalized.

T or F : A corkscrew tail is a very serious fault?

T or F : The shoulder blade, upper arm, and forearm are approximately equal in length?

The shoulders are laid back to somewhat near?

- A. 30%
- B. 45%
- C. 40 %

T or F : Front legs should be straight?

T or F.: Front pasterns slope slightly forward from the vertical?

Bichon pads can be what color(s):

- A. Black
- B. Dark Brown
- C. Flesh
- D. Both A & B

Hindquarters are to be _____ angulated with muscular thighs, and spaced _____ wide?

- A. well; wide
- B. well; moderately wide
- C. slightly; moderately wide

The upper and lower thigh are _____ in length?

- A. Nearly equal
- B. Equal

Which are not acceptable?

- A. Cow hocks
- B. Sickie hocks
- C. Open hocks
- D. All of the above

T or F : A wiry coat is desirable?

T or F : A lack of undercoat is acceptable?

Coats that are limp, silky, or lie down are _____ faults?

- A. Serious
- B. Very serious

The undercoat should be _____ and _____.

- A. Soft; dense
- B. Hard; dense
- C. Soft; open

A lack of undercoat is a _____ fault?

- A. Serious
- B. Very Serious

T or F : The outercoat is a coarser and curlier texture?

T or F : The coat can be cut short to create an overly trimmed and squared off appearance?

T or F : The longer head hair is trimmed to create an overall rounded impression?

The color is white, but can have what other colors around the ears and/or body?

- A. Buff and cream
- B. Buff, cream, and apricot
- C. Cream and apricot
- D. Apricot and buff

As to adults, color in excess of _____% is a fault?

- A. 10%
- B. 20%
- C. 30%

T or F : Movement at a trot is free, precise, and effortless?

T or F : In profile the forelegs and hind legs extend equally?

T or F : It is not necessary for the topline to remain steady while gaiting?

- T or F : When speed increases there is a very slight convergence of legs toward the center line?
- T or F : When moving away the hindquarters should be wide?
- T or F : When moving away the hocks should be close?
- T or F : when moving away the foot pads can be seen?

Guidelines for Mentoring

Do's and Don'ts

Do's:

- Use breed-specific terminology from the breed standard.
- Discuss any physical characteristics related to functionality when appropriate.
- Prioritize characteristics as referenced and stated in the standard.
- Remember that Judges are not building a breeding program – they are evaluating breeding stock relative to salient phenotypical characteristics.
- Information should be directed toward a judge's effective execution of a 2-minute show ring evaluation.
- Discuss typical temperament quirks/tendencies that may affect ring performance and/or examination.

Don'ts:

- NEVER discuss personal preferences or make inappropriate comments about individual dogs or breeders!
- Do Not make statements contradictory to the breed standard. Stay away from personal bias.
- Do Not dwell on generic faults – they are obvious.
- Do Not refer to different “types” – allowance for variations in “style” is expected and acceptable, however, there is only one correct type.
- Do Not discuss individual breeding programs/pedigrees. It has no relevance. Stick to discussing positive essential characteristics.