

Dog Breeding: To Mentor or Not to Mentor?

A young dog fancier asks if it's really all the "new" dog people's fault...

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While we have spent a great deal of ink discussing things that can go wrong in such relationships, at their heart mentorships are one of the most rewarding relationships any two breeders can have. The opportunities for learning are infinite for both parties and their effect on the breeds in question is incalculable.

The truth is, the key to a successful mentorship is no different than the key to any other relationship. Respecting the opinions of others, knowing when to let go, trusting one another these are all values we were supposed to have learned in kindergarten. Basic business sense, the ability to design and evaluate fair and honest agreements and a willingness to see the larger picture are all skills that breeders, whether new or old, should possess. All of these tools and an eye to balance mentorships can offer both experienced and new breeders alike incredible advantages, not to mention benefiting their specific breed.

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