

## Expectations of NCA Breeder Mentors and Mentees

### *The NCA Breeder Mentor program*

*is intended to provide breeders of any experience level with mentors who can assist in helping them to better understand Newfoundland Dog breeding best practices, to improve their breeding program, and ultimately to strengthen the Newfoundland breed. Each member of the NCA Breeder Mentor program has met requirements that demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and commitment to the breed and to the entirety of dedicated NCA breeders.*



### NCA Breeder Mentors can be expected to:

- follow good mentoring principles outlined in “Resources for Mentors” [[www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/mentorresources.html](http://www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/mentorresources.html)]
- be available on a reasonable timeframe to answer questions, offer guidance, and provide feedback on Newfoundland husbandry and your breeding plans and ideas
- encourage you to commit to NCA Best Breeding Practices [[www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/best.html](http://www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/best.html)], including considerations of:
  - conformation
  - temperament
  - health screenings
  - genetic diversity
  - puppy placement
  - buyer contracts
- help you to understand how to use the [OFA database](#) and other forms of health screening information in guiding your breeding decisions
- provide constructive criticism to help guide your decision-making in choosing what animals you include in your breeding program, including selecting sires, critically evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of a potential dam, and evaluating puppies
- inform you about, and encourage and support the participation of you and your puppy buyers in, NCA and AKC-sanctioned events such as conformation shows, obedience trials, water tests and draft tests

## NCA Breeder Mentees are expected to:

- respect the good mentoring principles outlined in “Resources for Mentors” [[www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/mentorresources.html](http://www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/mentorresources.html)]
- rely on your mentor as a point-of-contact for dialog on Newfoundland husbandry and your breeding plans and ideas
- commit to NCA Best Breeding Practices [[www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/best.html](http://www.newfoundlandbreeder.org/best.html)], including considerations of:
  - conformation
  - temperament
  - health screenings
  - genetic diversity
  - puppy placement
  - buyer contracts
- familiarize yourself with the [OFA database](#) and other forms of health screening information in guiding your breeding decisions
- be open to constructive criticism to help guide your decision-making in choosing what animals you include in your breeding program, including selecting sires, critically evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of a potential dam, and evaluating puppies
- be receptive to information about, and encourage and support the participation of you and your puppy buyers in, NCA and AKC-sanctioned events such as conformation shows, obedience trials, water tests and draft tests

*The nature of the mentor-mentee relationship is highly variable, and differs across different partnerships and over time. Some people establish a highly-formalized agreement, while others have less formal interactions. In seeking to develop a relationship with an NCA breeder mentor, it may be helpful to develop a short list of a few talking points that you would like specific guidance on, and to communicate these to your intended mentor. It may also be helpful to clearly indicate that you are contacting the person as a potential mentor, and to ask them what their preferred modes of mentoring communication will be (phone, email, in-person, etc.).*

For more information visit [www.newfoundlandbreeder.org](http://www.newfoundlandbreeder.org)