



"The Role of Breed Mentoring"

A Facilitated Discussion



Educational Discussion Session to follow the COASC "Spring Fling" Show May 21, 2016, facilitated by Heather Herron.

When: Saturday, May 21, 2016

Where: Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex
400 East Ave., Kitchener, Ontario

Time: After the CKC All Breed Best In Show

Cost: No charge. A donation jar will be present.

Coffee and donuts will be available.

Hosted by the Central Ontario Australian Shepherd Club (COASC)

For more information, email contact@centralontarioasc.com

Outline

The discussion group will begin with a brief overview of my years in the dog world and what my mentors have meant to me personally. In doing so, attendees will become familiar with my years in Australian Shepherds and in the dog world as a whole.

I will then continue with a couple of questions directed to attendees.

1. What is breed mentoring?
2. How important is it to you that a mentor or mentors be available to you?
3. What are the characteristics of a great mentor?

These questions will serve to break the ice as well as elicit and share what attendees are looking for.

Attendees should come prepared with 2 or 3 questions to ask the facilitator during the session. Please do not include the names of other breeders or individual dogs in your questions. To mentor properly, a great mentor will not discuss people or dogs in an ill manner. Also, please do not discuss dogs with severe medical conditions. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions about ring presentation, judging procedures and what a judge may look for, the importance of reading and knowing the breed standards, color issues within the breed, DNA genetic testing, breeding/whelping questions, raising puppies, feeding, supplements, etc.



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About the Facilitator

Heather Herron

ASCA Provisional Breeder Judge

My involvement in purebred dogs began in 1971 when I was 2 years old, with a Golden Retriever called Heather's Wish Come True CDX. She was our foundation. My love for Golden Retrievers was set in stone and we continued in the breed for over 30 years.

I was an accomplished Junior for many years in several breeds. I apprenticed under some of the best in the handling world. Their mentorship and that of Rachel Paige Elliott, Sylvia Donahey Feeney in Golden Retrievers, Pat Morgan in Belgian Tervurens, and J. Frank Baylis and Alison Smith in Aussies, contributed to my success through the years.

For 20 years I worked as a Professional Handler and handled some of the top show dogs in the US and Canada to exceptional wins and finished over 200 Champions.

I was introduced to the Aussie world in 1984, when I was trialing my Belgians in the stock arena. At an ASCA show at Bob Blount's farm I watched the conformation show. I met Bob, Rose Spacuza, Sunday Miles, Robbie Norman, and Ann DeChant and their wonderful dogs. I fell in love with the breed on the spot but there was no room then at our home for an Aussie.

In 1992 we obtained our first Aussie, Cajun, who quickly became AKC Ch. Hallmark Blu By U. We knew then that we'd never live without Aussies. Two years later, Cajun's black tri sister Katie, Hallmark Midnight Sonata, was offered to us. Katie produced the first Aussie litter at Northbay. She was bred to BIS/BISS AKC/ASCA Ch. Windogo's Johnnie Walker Red and out of that cross came our foundation stud dog Pirate, BIS AKC/ASCA/CC Ch. Northbay's Captain Morgan. Our foundation dam was a Pirate daughter Hailee, Ch. Northbay's Treasure Th' Moment, who went on to produce 22 Champions.

25 years later we are working on our 7th generation of Northbay dogs. We've produced the Top Winning Australian Shepherd in the history of the breed in Europe to date, Multiple All-Breed Best In Show winners, an ASCA National Specialty BOB winner, Multiple ASCA Premier Winners, and many other achievements.

I have been a member of ASCA since 1992. I became an ASCA approved judge in 2004 and am a Provisional Breeder Judge. I am getting together my assignments to move up



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to Breeder Judge. The highlights of my judging career are many and I look forward to more exciting assignments.

As an ASCA member I sat on the BOD for an ASCA affiliate club, hosted and served as show secretary for many successful ASCA affiliate shows, and sat for 2 years on the ASCA Conformation Committee. I have held seminars on grooming, handling, and structure. Putting on my mentoring hat, I played a vital part in a successful FaceBook Breeder/Mentor group for 5 years. I will give back to the breed I love until I no longer can. As one of my mentors used to say, "Knowledge is only important if you give it away to someone else".

About COASC

COASC is an affiliate club of the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA). Launched in early 2014, COASC is dedicated to promoting the versatile Australian Shepherd, educating the public, and providing competitive and fun venues for interaction with the breed. The club is located in Ontario. Our members enjoy a variety of activities with their dogs – conformation, herding, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, scent detection, etc.

