

**Bracco Italiano Club of America
Judges Education Committee**



BICA Approved and Prospective Mentors and Presenters:

In the continued effort to keep the highest standards, we are updating our list of approved mentors and presenters. It is expected that all Mentors and Presenters be very comfortable with the Standard and knowledge of dog terms in general; not only knowing and understanding the breed specific details of type and function, but being able to articulately elaborate upon them to prospective Bracco Italiano judges. Judges spend time and significant money to attend Parent Club seminars as part of AKC requirements and rightfully expect to be mentored by qualified, knowledgeable individuals who can effectively communicate on the same level.

The BICA Judges Education Committee now requires that a current, approved Mentor sponsor any application for becoming a Mentor, and that a current, approved Presenter sponsor all applications for Presenters.

In order for the Committee to update our list, please read, fill out and return all items in this packet. The packet attached to this letter contains:

- Mentor/Presenter Description
- BICA Mentor/Presenter Notes
- Mentor/Presenter Consent Form
- Bracco Italiano Breed Test
- Anatomy Test

Please thoroughly read and complete all forms and return to the BICA Secretary.

Thank you for your willingness to share your knowledge and educate others about our breed.

Bracco Italiano Club of America Judges Education

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Presenter/Mentor Program

I. DEFINITIONS

Purpose: To provide knowledgeable and capable Presenters and Mentors to execute the JEC programs.

Presenters: To give JEC presentations at BICA National and Regional specialties and seminars/workshops hosted by independent judges' organizations.

Mentors: To act as ringside mentors imparting knowledge about the breed to aspiring and approved conformation judges.

II. DESCRIPTION

Number - There will be an indefinite number of Presenters and Mentors. It is strongly recommended that representation be as broad as possible in order to meet the need for BICA education seminars across the country as the club grows.

Resources and materials – Presenters and Mentors need to be thoroughly familiar with the JEC resources and materials available to them and agree to use the applicable approved materials to meet the needs of their audience.

Applications – Interested parties should submit an application to the JEC c/o the club Secretary who will review them and forward them to the rest of the JEC for review and approval. Presenter applications will require sponsorship by a current, JEC approved Presenter, Mentor applications require sponsorship by a JEC approved Mentor. It will be the responsibility of that Committee to verify that the Presenters and Mentors meet the minimum criteria for participation and are trained in the use of materials available through the JEC.

Presenters and Mentors who repeatedly fail to meet the expectations set forth by the JEC are subject to removal from the program by a majority vote of the JEC.

Presenters – BICA member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years, with advanced knowledge of the subject. Presenters are required for any educational program dealing directly with the Breed Standard or any “parent club approved” judges’ education presentation, regardless of the sponsoring organization.

Mentors – BICA member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years, with significant knowledge of the subject, and meets most of the requirements for a Presenter.

III. DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

All Presenters and Mentors:

- Must be current members of BICA in good standing and have not received any disciplinary action from the AKC or other national breed club.
- Presenters need to feel comfortable speaking before an audience and must be familiar enough with the breed, its history and the AKC breed Standard to speak for two hours or more as may be required in some programs. Mentors need to feel comfortable with one-on-one discussions and dealing with specific questions.
- Must agree to use only BICA presentations, outlines, and handout material approved by the JEC.
- Must be able to speak coherently and describe characteristics in specific terms using a positive style, using correct canine terminology and anatomy.
- Must be able to discuss how various faults could contribute to specific issues related to performance.
- Must agree to abide by the BICA Code of Ethics.
- Must follow up on all questions from any participant who needs more specific information either by referring them to other sources or researching the information requested.
- Must obtain the names and addresses of attendees at presentations or individuals tutored per AKC regulations and guidelines for record keeping.
- Must be willing to travel within reason when needed to assist in Mentor and Presenter duties.
- Must have significant knowledge regarding canine functional anatomy.
- Must be able to pass a basic test on the Bracco Italiano breed standard and canine anatomy, and accurately discuss and describe these topics if requested.
- Must be free from personal bias with regard to interpretation of the breed standard and assessment of individual exhibits.
- Must be willing to sign a Program Presenter/Mentor Consent Form.
- Must be able to coordinate assembly of a small group of Bracchi Italiani for hands-on educational workshops. This group should include both dogs and bitches that represent a broad picture of the breed as a whole, including a variety of ages and colors. The identity of all dogs, owners, and handlers will remain anonymous, including any information on the wins or accomplishments.

Presenter Qualifications:

Presenters of judges' education programs, or any presenter who uses the breed standard as the basis of a presentation, must be eligible as a Presenter by meeting the minimum requirements as follows:

- Have a minimum of five years membership in the BICA, including actively participating in events with a Bracco Italiano (including conformation shows and field events at a minimum).
- Have attended at least one (1) National Specialty within the past three (3) years in order to have seen dogs from all over the country. This ratio of 1 to 3 National Specialties must be maintained to remain an active BICA presenter.
- Must attend a seminar presented by an approved JEC Presenter prior to

application. This can be completed virtually or as a one on one session with the approved Presenter.

- Application must be sponsored by a current, JEC approved Presenter.
- The applicant must complete a practice seminar session for a group of approved Presenters (minimum of 2, this can be completed virtually) in order to receive feedback and enhance their skills prior to being approved to give live sessions.

Mentor Qualifications:

Mentors must be a BICA member in good standing for 5 years with significant knowledge of the subject, and who meets the requirements for a Presenter as described above as well as:

- Application must be sponsored by a current JEC approved Mentor.
- In place of a practice seminar session - the applicant must shadow a current JEC approved Mentor a minimum of 2 times while they provide ringside mentoring of at least one AKC judge with an entry of a minimum of 5 Bracchi Italiani.

IV. NOTE TO MENTORS

Thank you for mentoring for the Bracco Italiano Club of America. Your willingness to mentor is indicative of your desire and determination to assist others in understanding the Bracco Italiano.

Please remember when mentoring that you are to remain absolutely unbiased in your observations of individual dogs. Breeders, owners, and handlers are not to be discussed. The students will come from various dog backgrounds. Ours may be the first or second breed that they are working towards judging, or the student could be a long time judge who knows more about dogs than you do. You are there to help them learn the correct breed type. You must know proper canine terminology in order to effectively communicate. A good book to own and study is Harold Spira's "Canine Terminology." The BICA Presenter/Mentor program is overseen by the AKC which has established the requirements for judging qualifications. Most, if not all, of your students have been to other breed club educational experiences. Finally, breed health issues, personal comments, etc., are not appropriate discussions during mentoring.

V. AKC RULES REGARDING MENTORS

Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting up to the class in which they have an entry. They will be allowed to participate thereafter as this has always been at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club.

Formal observations (Ringside Observation Form) will be allowed with parent club approved mentors at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club. (Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are

exhibiting up to the class in which they have an entry. They will be allowed to participate thereafter as this has always been at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club. Mentors will be asked to document their own experience on the Observation Form when they sign it.)

Individuals engaged in Parent Club mentoring may not exhibit to the judge/applicant for a period of four months after and the mentor may not show to the judge following approval of the breeds for four months after.

Every BICA Mentor should be familiar with and abide by the [AKC Ringside Observations Criterion](#)

VI. RECOMMENDED MENTORING PROCEDURE

Select some dogs to go over after the judging to demonstrate how important the hands-on is.

Consider - Was the judge's observation at a distance accurate? If not, ask the judge to elaborate and discuss any misinterpretations in their assessment.

1. Is the head of appropriate proportions and is there divergence of the cranio-facial planes with chiseling under the eyes? Does the dog have the soft expression typical of the breed? Is there a moderate amount of facial skin and double dewlap?
2. Are the eyes and nose a correct shade for the dog's coat color? Is the coat an acceptable shade of white, orange, or brown?
3. Have the judges check ear length, shape, leather, and set on each dog.
4. When seen in silhouette, is the dog visually balanced? Is there appreciable sexual dimorphism? Can the two-piece topline be appreciated with a slight arch joining to the line of the croup? Have the judges feel each topline, as the sturdy "broken" topline of the Bracco should be felt and not just looked at from a distance. Does the dog have appropriate depth of body and underline?
5. Does the dog have adequate substance and bone? The judge should feel for the appropriate chest structure and spring of rib. Are the points of the shoulder blades well separated, and are the angles of the forequarters correct? Are the feet large and slightly oval?
6. Have the judge discuss the long croup and correct pelvic angulation. Note the effects of hindquarter assembly on movement. While gaiting, the tail should be carried near horizontal regardless of length.
7. Is the trot fast, powerful, fluid, and extended? Discuss the erect head carriage and short, seeking neck during gaiting.

8. Have them feel the smooth, dense coat and elastic skin.
9. Is the temperament typical for the breed?
10. Ask your students to enumerate the distinctive traits of type for the Bracco Italiano.

**Bracco Italiano Club of America
Judges Education Committee
Presenter / Mentor Consent Form**



When representing the Bracco Italiano Club of America as a Program Presenter and/or Mentor at BICA approved events, I agree to the following stipulations:

1. I acknowledge that as a “parent club approved” Presenter or Mentor, I represent the Bracco Italiano Club of America providing programs for the purpose of educating judges, breeders and/or fanciers of the Bracco Italiano under AKC guidelines.
2. I agree to use any or all visual aids in the exact form in which I receive them from the Committee.
3. I agree to follow the written outline, based on the AKC breed standard and supplied by the Judges Education Committee during any such presentations or seminars.
4. I agree to adhere to the use of the AKC approved Bracco Italiano breed standard as the basis for any and all educational information I, or my co-speakers, provide during such programs.
5. I will distribute only those written materials approved and supplied by the Bracco Italiano Club of America.
6. If I utilize dog(s) I own, co-own, or have bred during a presentation, either for demonstration purposes or as part of a hands-on discussion, the participants are not to know that they are my dogs.
7. All dogs that are used for any purpose during a presentation will remain anonymous. I will not acknowledge their owners or handlers by name, registered names of dogs, titles, show wins, or accomplishments.
8. My presentations and discussion must be free from personal bias with regard to interpretation of the breed standard and assessment of individual exhibits.
9. I will obtain a list of names, judging numbers, and email addresses of attendees or persons mentored at the presentation and will forward it to the chairman of the JEC and AKC Judges Education Department, as needed for best record keeping practices.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

BICA BRACCO ITALIANO BREED EXAM

- 1) **What is the ideal pelvic angulation of the Bracco Italiano?**
 - a) 15°
 - b) 20°
 - c) 30°
 - d) 45°

- 2) **Which two words best describe the head appearance and facial planes?**
 - a) chiseled; divergent
 - b) sculpted; parallel
 - c) wide; divergent
 - d) sculpted; convergent

- 3) **The croup of the Bracco should be how long?**
 - a) 1/4 height at withers
 - b) 1/2 height at withers
 - c) 2/3 height at withers
 - d) 1/3 height at withers

- 4) **The back-skull is _____ the muzzle.**
 - a) longer than
 - b) the same length as
 - c) shorter than

- 5) **Which of the following is not a Bracco color described in the standard?**
 - a) solid white
 - b) liver and white
 - c) orange roan
 - d) brown and white

- 6) **The expression of the Bracco is _____.**
 - a) characterized by solemnity and power.
 - b) alert, intense, and intelligent.
 - c) soft, gentle, and intelligent.
 - d) good-humored and radiating energy.

- 7) **Which of the following best describes the ribs of the Bracco?**
 - a) shallow
 - b) barrel
 - c) forming a keel
 - d) well-sprung

- 8) **How should the ears be set?**
 - a) level with the zygomatic arch
 - b) below the zygomatic arch

- c) the insertion of the ear is less important, as long as they have very little erectile power
- d) above the zygomatic arch

9) The topline of the Bracco:

- a) should not be firm to the touch
- b) is well arched over the loin
- c) is notably lower in the rump than the withers
- d) none of the above

10) When the dog trots, the head is?

- a) parallel to the ground and level with the topline
- b) raised above the topline with the nose held high
- c) scenting the ground
- d) angled with his nose towards the ground

11) A dog that is in hard and lean field condition should _____.

- a) be counseled on appropriate nutrition
- b) not be penalized
- c) be excused from the ring
- d) be preferred

12) The underline of the Bracco _____.

- a) has minimal tuck-up
- b) has a ribcage parallel to the ground, with moderate tuck up in the loin
- c) has a deep ribcage with a marked tuck-up
- d) should show lots of obvious skin folds

13) The neck of the Bracco Italiano should be:

- a) Less than $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the head.
- b) Between $\frac{2}{3}$ and 1 times the length of the head.
- c) Greater than the length of the head.
- d) One half the length of the head.

14) When hunting, the gait is _____.

- a) A fast, jaunty gallop.
- b) An easy, gentle trot.
- c) A lumbering gallop.
- d) An extended and fast trot.

15) Describe the correct length of the ear.

- a) Stretching at least 2 inches beyond the nose.
- b) To the level of the cheek.
- c) To the level of the eye.
- d) Reaching the tip of the nose without being stretched.

16) Which of the following is not a disqualification?

- a) Black pigment inside the mouth.
- b) Tricolor markings.
- c) Down-faced.
- d) Dish-faced.

17) Use one word to describe the skin of the Bracco.

- a) Elastic
- b) Coarse
- c) Taut
- d) Delicate

18) The tail carriage should be _____.

- a) Arched over the back
- b) Tucked or carried low
- c) Horizontal
- d) At least 30° above the topline

19) The feet of the Bracco Italiano are _____.

- a) Small and round
- b) Strong and oval-shaped
- c) Elongated and narrow
- d) Flexible and flat

20) Which of the following does not describe the temperament of the Bracco?

- a) Docile and intelligent.
- b) Tough and adaptable.
- c) Aloof and reserved.
- d) Reliable and friendly.

BREED EXAM ANSWER KEY:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 8. A | 15. D |
| 2. A | 9. D | 16. C |
| 3. D | 10. B | 17. A |
| 4. B | 11. B | 18. C |
| 5. B | 12. A | 19. B |
| 6. C | 13. B | 20. C |
| 7. D | 14. D | |

AKC CANINE ANATOMY EXAM

You will receive a second PDF document containing the AKC Canine Anatomy Exam. This should be completed and returned to the BICA Secretary with the remainder of this document.