

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

Simply stated, a mentor is a must. You must find a mentor that can educate you to the fullest in order to gain a full knowledge of the wolfhound.

A mentor is a person who has been involved in this breed for many years and has gained, over time, and with much work and dedication, a full knowledge of the wolfhound. A mentor is someone who has “paid their dues”. They have studied the breed through books and personal discussions, attended all-breed dog shows and specialty shows for our breed. They have watched films, attended seminars, viewed slides, showed dogs, visited many kennels, and know many people in the breed with whom they have had extensive discussions of the wolfhound over the years. They probably will have done some breeding. They have learned from their mentors and in turn will pass on that knowledge to you.

Usually your mentor will have “given back” to the community by being involved in IW clubs and worked on shows, in rescue work, and served on the board of IW clubs.

You will “sit at the knee” of a mentor for many years and soak up everything they can give you. You will in turn study the breed on your own and discuss with your mentor all the things you are learning. A mentor helps to guide you in your growing knowledge of the breed—correcting you when you are wrong and pointing out things to consider in your assessment of the breed.

You must have a mentor—many times it will be the breeder of your dog if you get a dog from a respected breeder—but it may not be. Some breeders are good mentors, others are not. Don't be afraid to seek out a mentor other than your breeder. You will need to express a desire to learn more and whether or not you become a personal friend of your mentor, they should always be willing to help you in your desire for more knowledge.

It is difficult to make progress in the breed without a good mentor. You may have more than one mentor over the years—but always the mentor should be somebody that you respect and who has a good reputation in their knowledge of the breed.

Find a mentor and use them!

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