

## Bearded Collie Club of America

### Breed & Judges' Education Committee Annual Report

July 2025 – June 2026

#### Committee Overview

The Breed & Judges' Education Committee is dedicated to promoting a thorough understanding of the Bearded Collie through high-quality educational opportunities for current and prospective judges. Our mission is to foster knowledgeable, confident judges who can recognize and reward the characteristics that define our breed, helping to preserve the Bearded Collie as envisioned by its standard.

Throughout the year, the committee supported judges through educational programming, mentoring opportunities, and ongoing communication while maintaining and strengthening the BCCA's mentor network.

#### Educational Programs

The committee hosted and participated in three in-person educational programs during the committee year:

- \* November 2025 – BCCA National Specialty: Presented an in-depth Judges' Education program in conjunction with the National Specialty, providing a comprehensive review of breed type, structure, movement, temperament as well as demonstrations
- \* December 2025 – AKC Dog Judges Association of America (DJAA) Advanced Institute – Orlando, Florida: Bearded Collies were selected as a featured breed for this prestigious educational program. More than 25 judges attended the session, and the presentation received perfect evaluation scores of 5.0 in every category, reflecting the quality of the program and the outstanding breed representatives who made the hands-on learning experience possible.
- \* April 2026 – National Capital Bearded Collie Club Specialty – Timonium, Maryland: The committee offered in-person ringside mentoring in conjunction with the specialty show(s). Four prospective judges participated, receiving individualized mentoring while observing quality exhibits in competition.

#### Breed Mentor Program

The committee continued to strengthen the BCCA Parent Club Breed Mentor Program throughout the year. One application for AKC Parent Club-approved Breed Mentor status was reviewed and approved, expanding the network of experienced mentors available to prospective judges.

In addition, the committee completed a comprehensive review of the Breed Mentor roster to confirm each mentor's continued interest and availability to serve. The committee also refined the Breed Mentor Guidelines and participation requirements to encourage broader participation in educational experiences while maintaining the high standards expected of BCCA-approved mentors.

## Judges Development

Supporting the development of knowledgeable Bearded Collie judges remains a primary focus of the committee. Through educational programming, mentoring, and outreach, we continue to cultivate judges with a sound understanding of our breed and its unique characteristics.

During the 2025–2026 committee year, nine new judges were approved to judge Bearded Collies, expanding the pool of qualified judges available to clubs and exhibitors across the country. The committee is encouraged by this continued progress and remains committed to providing educational experiences that prepare judges to evaluate Bearded Collies with confidence, consistency, and a deep appreciation for the breed.

## Appreciation

The committee extends its sincere appreciation to the breeders, exhibitors, mentors, presenters, and judges who generously volunteered their time, expertise, and dogs throughout the year. The success of our educational efforts depends on the willingness of our membership to share their knowledge and to mentor new judges. We are grateful for your continued support and dedication.

## Looking Ahead

As we look to the coming year, the committee remains committed to expanding educational opportunities, supporting prospective judges through meaningful mentorship, maintaining current and relevant educational resources, and promoting consistent evaluation of the Bearded Collie in accordance with the AKC Breed Standard.

Every educational program, mentoring opportunity, and conversation with a prospective judge represents an investment in the future of our breed. By working together to educate, inspire, and support those entrusted with evaluating Bearded Collies, we help ensure that our breed's hallmark type, soundness, movement, temperament, and character will continue to be recognized and preserved for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey, Laura, Nicole, & Sharon