

## YES! Mentor Criteria

All YES! Mentors are volunteers. The guiding principles behind all YES! activities are the following. As a Mentor you should always strive to ensure candidates:

- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and achieve satisfaction within their hobby
- Make a positive contribution

The core values of YES! are:

- Dependability
- Reliability
- Compassion
- Loyalty
- Commitment
- Open-mindedness
- Consistency
- Honesty
- Creativity
- Good Humour

YES! is a hobby based activity, it is designed to educate, interest and motivate children into learning about the breeds of domestic cats, their showing and care. YES! is not part of a school, or university curriculum, so it is essential that the young people on our scheme are able to enjoy themselves while learning about their hobby.

It is therefore important that you:

- Are patient and caring
- Are able to support children's learning
- Have imagination and creativity
- Are excellent at communication - including written, verbal and the ability to listen
- Can learn to teach children to carry out activities
- Can work well as part of a team
- Can build relationships with children and their parents
- Have a non-judgmental approach and respect for diversity and can challenge prejudices in others
- Have a professional attitude to work
- Have a strong regard for health and safety – a first aid certificate will be useful
- Can learn to make difficult decisions
- Have the capacity to think on your feet and stay calm in stressful situations
- Can take responsibility for the standard of service you provide
- Are enthusiastic about YES! and interested in promoting the scheme

You do not need to be a judge, but you must like children and be able to work with them on an educational basis. You must have some working knowledge and interest in the following:

- A general interest in cats and their welfare
- Showing/exhibiting at a GCCF show – the basic rules and requirements
- The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF)

- At least one breed of cat or in the case of a Non-Pedigree/Household pet have knowledge of the section and it's criteria

YES! is centred on Evidence Based Learning. There are no examinations for the candidates to pass. YES! is divided into three levels – Novice, Intermediate, Advanced. Our age range is between 8 – 16 years. As a Mentor you would

- Have a series of Mentor's handbooks detailing the candidates course requirements at each level and how to mark their worksheets
- Have a safeguarding booklet detailing our policies for keeping the candidates safe whilst enjoying their hobby
- Have a dedicated Administrator to help and guide you and answer any questions you may have
- Have a badge that will identify you to the candidates (as well as having your a photograph displayed within the candidates area of YES!)

Types of mentor. As a mentor you may be interested in additionally becoming one of the following:

- If you are a GCCF Judge you can also sign up to do Presentations with the candidates where they verbally answer questions on their ability to know how to care for their cat and their knowledge of their breed and the GCCF
- If you are a Judge you can also have a candidate as a Second Steward at a show, working alongside your first steward taking results to the show table and wiping down/cleaning the trolley. If you are a Judge with no first steward, you may still have a candidate working with you at a show as a Second Steward. They will be able to take the results slips to table and wipe down your trolley, but they are not allowed to come into contact with the cats.
- If you are a Show Manager you can have the candidates working alongside you at a show
- If you are keen on photography you can also apply to become one of our official photographers, taking photos of the candidates as they work at a show
- When you have been with us for 6 months or more you may be interested in becoming a Regional Administrator

As a YES! mentor, you will NOT be expected or have permission to do any of the following:

- Keep any record of or on any of the candidates
- Take the candidates out of the show hall without their parents/guardians written permission
- Contact the candidates outside of a show. If the candidates are seeking a second stewarding engagement outside of a show then their parents should contact the judge concerned
- Mentors will not have a candidate assigned to them as the candidates are expected to work with a variety of mentors during their time on the scheme.

## YES! Acceptance Criteria

All Mentors for YES! must adhere to the following standards of behaviour.

At the heart of everything are our CORE values and we reserve the right to remove anyone not complying with the standards of behaviour from the program.

### Additionally

- Mentors must always be respectful to candidates and their parents
- Mentors must always be respectful to Show Managers, Judges, Exhibitors other show/seminar/AGM officials and organisers alongside the general public who are visiting a cat show, seminar or AGM
- Should a candidate make a disclosure which falls under the safeguarding remit, they must follow the guidelines as set out in the YES! safeguarding booklet
- Mentors are expected to be enthusiastic about YES! and actively take steps to promote it
- Two references are required and all references will be taken up
- It is not necessary for you to have worked with children in a professional capacity, as long as you meet our other criteria

Mentors should have an attitude of positivity towards the scheme. Any concerns they may have should be discussed with the Administrators in confidence.