

# The Best Mentor Ever

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According to Oxford Languages, a Mentor is “an experienced and trusted adviser”. That’s my mom.

My passion has always been dogs and so is my mom’s. She grew up with dogs and competed in shows, junior showmanship, and hunted with her dad and his Chesapeake Bay retrievers. With all of her experience with dogs, I know I can trust her with teaching me about dogs.

I was too young to remember, but I have seen a photo of my dad holding me at a dog show in Hawaii when my mom’s dog Diesel won a Group 1<sup>st</sup>. As my awareness grew, my mom’s Chesapeake Blair became my best friend. My mom had already put a championship and hunt test titles on her, so she thought Blair was the perfect dog for me to learn how to do these activities with.

Since my mom showed dogs, I wanted to show dogs too. My mom entered me in PeeWee class for my first dog show with Blair and I loved it. I also wanted to do hunt tests like she did, so she taught me how to run Blair on retrieves and entered her in a hunt test for me, which I also loved.

A good mentor teaches you many things and supports your dreams. My mentor taught me how to feed dogs to get them at the right weight. She taught me to feed them high quality food to keep them healthy and looking their best. We have Chesapeakes and she taught me how to groom each of their special coats. For example, Nash needs a harsh coat shampoo, but my mom always says that “Perfect coats are wash and wear”, so Eve only needs a wooden bristle brush to fluff out her fur.

Since I like to do both hunt tests and dog shows, my mom has bought me the right equipment and taught me how to use it the right way. She provided stacking blocks, show leads, and bait for shows. For hunt tests, I needed bumpers, a winger, and whistles. Blair was already trained so she knew what to do in the field and in the ring. When I got my puppy Eve, my mom taught me how to train her

the right way from the start. I had to teach her to stack and gait for shows, and to retrieve both on land and in the water.

My mom also supports my dreams by driving me to shows and tests, classes, and special training grounds for retrievers. She has taught me the right kind of clothes to wear, like beautiful suits and shoes I can run in for shows, and camo outfits and boots for retriever training and tests. She also taught me to always say “thank you” to the judge, and to congratulate the winners. A good mentor thinks of everything.

As a result of my mom’s teachings, I started winning ribbons and putting titles on my own dog, Eve. That made me feel so happy and proud! I knew I could trust my mom to guide me in the right direction. A good mentor can’t be just anybody, a good mentor is like my mom. Now that I am older, I enjoy helping her out with the dogs and their activities. She has helped me learn so much that I can help her out more. I am excited to spend more time learning and being around the best mentor in the world!





Best of Breed with Eve's brother Marshall



Hunt test with my mom's dog Blair



It started here!