

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

As was the case last year, I was pumped to get to head south to Grand American this week to get away from the snow and frigid temps that Michigan is dealing with currently. Likewise, I already have the weekends of Winter Classic and Southeastern Treeing Walker Days circled as times where I can come out of hibernation and thaw out a little in the southern states. Let's hope that the weather down there doesn't disappoint me.

Traveling to the major events is not only one of my favorite parts of this job, but it is the most informative and beneficial in many ways. There are only so many phone calls and emails a person can take in a day and talking face to face with the hunters that frequent our hunts and shows is the most effective way to check the pulse of the competition scene. I was pleased with the feedback from the events from 2020 and the enthusiasm for some of the prospective events coming up on our 2021 schedule. As always, I have an open line to discuss all things coonhounds so don't hesitate to get in touch with me to discuss what all is going on out there.

I'm Going to Withdraw

While most conversations at major coonhound events are thoroughly enjoyable, you can count on there being some gossip from the events the night before. One topic of discussion you will hear from time to time, happens when a dog comes in with a big score, and a handler from that cast that had withdrawn draws suspicion to the score. Let's talk about this a little bit.

First off, I want to say, there is no way that UKC or the event coordinators can be on every cast. That is the reason we have the nite hunt honor rules in place, and we strive to place a dependable judge on each cast. Aside from the precautions we put into place, it is imperative for the hunters to have some hand in policing themselves and holding each other accountable. Just one honest person on a cast can make a big difference in protecting the integrity of a hunt. The problem is, if that person is sitting in the hotel room for the last 45 minutes of the hunt, it isn't going to do anyone any good.

I know that there are exceptions to any rule. I don't expect someone who is experiencing health issues for their dog or themselves to stick around, or for a person who has a hound getting way too close to a highway that has withdrawn to hike back into the woods to find the cast and tag along. What I do encourage is for a person who is down a couple hundred points to stick around and be a part of that cast they were assigned to, even if you decide to keep your hound on a leash or in the truck. You came all this way and paid your entry fee to participate in the event, might as well hang around. You're always just one mistake from being right back in the game.

Another way to keep folks from falsifying their card and tweaking their score is to make sure to fill out the far-right column on the scorecard if you absolutely have to withdraw and leave the cast. Having the information recorded as far as time

used and scores at the time of withdraw is the most important evidence an official has when trying to determine if foul play is used. Help us out.

Falsifying Event Reports

This requires no explanation. If you do it, you will be barred, period. Sooner or later, you will slip up or someone will step up and do the right thing and turn you in. Not only do you chance losing your opportunity to compete in the events that you enjoy, but you are really tarnishing your credibility and respectability with your peers. You win some you lose some, but integrity and reputation go a long way in this sport. Not to mention the comfort of a clear conscious when your head hits the pillow each night.

Move the Dog Up?

Q: It is a three-dog cast, and all three hounds are declared treed, A for 125, B for 75 and C for 50. As we get to the tree, we realize that Dog A and B have left and are back to running and Dog C is the only hound left on the tree. Does Dog C move up to 125 on that tree?

A: In the case described above, Dog C would remain at 50 tree points to be scored. Dog C was the third dog to be treed in on this tree and it should not be awarded for something it did not do. This has been hashed out many times in the column in the past, but I think it bears repeating if there are questions about it. The only way a dog can move up on a tree is if the dog is determined to be on a split tree. In the situation presented above, the judge could not reasonably determine that the three dogs were split from his vantage point, so they would be considered to be on the same tree when declared treed, until proven otherwise by arriving to the tree in question.

I just want to be clear, if you got to the tree and Dog C was on a separate tree, split from the one Dog A and B were treeing on, at that point Dog C would move up to 125 tree points. Just remember, unless it is a situation where a dog that was originally thought to be with the other dogs is found to be split treed, no dogs are to move up on a tree.



Attention!

The following person's Nite Hunt Director and Nite Hunt Judging privileges have been suspended until the date listed.

Timmy Murrell • Booneville, Kentucky
Indefinite

Violations to these privileges should be reported to the United Kennel Club.

Rev. 6/4/18