

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

Happy New Year everyone! I hope this month's article finds you healthy and warm. As of this writing, I am one of those things, as I have yet to acclimate to these northern winters. With the new year in mind, I was also thinking about resolutions. It seems like every year I make one, but I can never remember what it is. For that reason, I am going to make a resolution that I am sure I will be reminded of often, hunt more and worry less! I'd say that is one that we can all get behind after the whirlwind year we just experienced comes to an end.

Telemetry Clarification

Q: Can I use the Astro 430 with a TT-15 collar since you can't train or tone with the 430 system?

A: While I have never personally used the Garmin Astro 430 system, I am familiar with the Astro 320 system and I believe they share the same features. One of those features is the inability to stimulate or tone the TT-15, TT-15 mini or TT-10 collars. Just to keep this as simple as possible, if your handheld has controlling capabilities, the collar on the dog cannot have the train or tone features or the handheld is to be left in the vehicle per Rule 15. If the handheld does not have the capability to train or tone, like the handheld referred to in the question above, the collar in use does not matter.

When Are Strike Points Available?

Q: Recently I was on a 3-dog cast where we encountered the following scenario and I wanted to know the official interpretation of the rule. Dog A struck for 100, Dog B struck for 75 followed by Dog A and B being treed in that order as well. Dog C is at large. We get to and score the tree and still not a peep from Dog C. As we are about to recast our hounds, Dog C opens, and the handler strikes him. Should he go in for 50 or 100 strike points?

A: In the scenario described above, Dog C would go in for 50 strike points. The tree is scored at that point, but the dogs have yet to be recut to compete for a new set of strike points. If the handler of Dog C would have waited until Dogs A and B were cast, at that point the handler could have secured 100 strike points the next time he heard the hound open.

Hunt Time Expired Treeing but Not Declared Treed

Q: During the last two minutes of hunt time Dogs A, B and C are declared treed. The hunt time expires before Dog D trees. When the cast arrives at the tree all four dogs are at the tree and treeing. The tree is scored as a slick tree. How would you score Dog D on this tree?

A: Any dog that is struck in but not declared treed when hunt time expires is treated as if the dog was trailing when hunt time expired. This remains true even if such a dog is handled at a tree. How the tree is scored has no bearing on how to score Dog D, when hunt time had expired. Rule 5(f) takes precedence and Dog D receives deleted strike points.

It is not uncommon to hear a difference in opinions on how to score the dog in question. That is likely because of Rule 4(h) which states; {Dogs treeing but not declared treed, when Judge arrives, will be assigned 25 tree points on off game or slick tree.

Dogs shut-out on strike on slick tree or off game will receive minus tree points only. Refer to Rule 6(f) for Champion Division casts and off game). Remember, Rule 5(f) take precedence and with good reason as handling it any other way could open up a can of worms in differing scenarios.

For example, let's change the scenario just slightly to this. All dogs are trailing, and no dogs are treeing or declared treed when hunt time expires. Now the hunt is over. Before you can handle the dogs all four are treeing and you handle them on an obvious slick tree. Are you going to score this tree and award them 25 tree points and minus them all? Probably not. The dogs are not eligible for scoring on the tree because the dogs were not declared treed before hunt time expired. The same theory applies to any dog or dogs not declared treed before hunt time expired regardless of any other dog that is eligible for scoring on the same tree.

All Dogs at Tree Scratched and Tree Not Scored

Q: Dogs A and B are the only two dogs declared treed when the five expired. Dogs C and D are out trailing. Prior to the cast arriving a fight breaks out at the tree. The judge cannot determine the aggressor and rules to scratch both dogs for fighting. The two dogs are handled and have been led a short distance away from the tree when Dog C locates and trees on the same tree where Dogs A and B were scratched at. Is this tree eligible for Dog C to score on or is it considered a "previously scored" tree?

A: It is UKC's position that a tree cannot be "previously scored" unless a dog handled at that tree actually had their strike and tree positions scored. In this case that did not happen, therefore, the tree becomes open to any other dog in the cast.

A slightly different scenario might have Dog A and B being the only dogs treed when the five expired. Just prior to the cast arriving at the tree both dogs leave the tree. Again, this tree has not been scored and becomes open to any other dog in the cast, including Dogs A and B.

Use Common Sense

UKC licensed Master of Hounds and Bench Show Judges are the lifeblood of our coonhound program. These folks are out there, weekend after weekend putting in the time and effort to support the clubs and participants and for that, I can't thank them enough.

One thing that continues to concern me is when I get a call the Monday after an event questioning the integrity of a Judge from the weekend's events. I just want to leave all the Judge's reading this a bit of advice, use common sense and your best judgement when accepting entries into a show you are judging. Slow down and think, if I were a participant entering this show, what would I think about this person judging this dog under these circumstances. Sometimes it's better to err on the side of caution and let the person know you'd be more comfortable if they sat the show out, rather than open yourself up for discussion from bystanders or in more severe cases, repercussions from UKC.

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.

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