

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

It is with great pleasure that I write the final advisor column for 2020. The past nine months have been a whirlwind of hardship, animosity, and uncertainty in our country. I hope that all our readers were able to get out and enjoy some time in the woods and maybe even a couple events this summer and fall. I know for me, personally, it was a pleasure to get out of the house, away from the news and social media platforms, and to see old and new friends alike. We can only hope that our world returns to some sense of normalcy and we can enjoy our favorite pastime with no regulations and/or restrictions in 2021.

With a packed October and November, I was searching for topics to write about. Remember, if you have questions or issues regarding rules or procedures, reach out to me at twade@ukcdogs.com. If you have questions, it means others probably do as well and we can get it answered here for everyone to see.

Call Timeout?

On a cast I was recently spectating, a question arose about the new rule pertaining to calling timeout and moving when all dogs are treed or handled. There was some confusion on the cast about the ability to call a timeout when dogs are treed in, so let's talk about that a little bit.

I will start out by saying, a dog being treed in should have no impact on whether the cast opts to call timeout or not. The ability to call timeout is a safety feature in our rules to protect the handlers and/or dogs on the cast. If a situation that is detailed in Rule 7 of our *Official Nite Hunt Honor Rules* pops up and the cast vote determines a timeout is to be called, do it! There are, however, two things that need to be kept in mind. Any dogs treed in before the timeout is called need to be scored. A timeout being called does not delete that tree. Strike points on dogs that have yet to be treed would be deleted. The second thing would be, to score the declared trees before you start the 1-hour clock. Walking to trees would really cut into the hour a handler has to corral their hound, so don't start that 1-hour clock until all trees are scored.

The real question on the cast was geared more towards the cast being able to move with the no leash-lock now in effect. The rule that helps handlers and more importantly guides out in this situation can be found in two different spots, Rule 7(e) and Rule 11(d). As a reference, here is Rule 7(e), *After scoring dog(s) on tree and all remaining dogs are either on leash or declared tree, and cast decides to move to new location after all trees are scored, time out may be called walking to remaining trees with scored dogs on leash. Hunt time shall be back in during shine time of each tree. If dog leaves tree, time shall be called back in and dogs on leash recast.*

To further explain this, I will apply it to the situation on the cast I was spectating. We had a 3-dog cast with a dog treed and handled, and two other dogs treed 8/10 of a mile through the country on land the guide preferred we didn't recast on. After pulling the first dog off the tree, the handler had a decision to make. Does he recut in the section of woods we were hunting, walk a mile towards barking dogs and risk the chance

of not hearing his hound again? Or does he keep the dog on the leash and lose 45 minutes of hunt time for his hound? In this instance, the handler chose Option #3 which was also the choice of the two other handlers and the non-hunting guide who was assigned to the cast. The cast was able to call timeout walking to the treed hounds, gather everyone and their dogs up and move to a fresh spot in hopes of maintaining control of the hunt.

As always, I have a couple points for handlers and judges to keep in mind. 1. If any of the dogs were to leave their tree, time would need to be called in. With other dogs in the cast being treed in, the handler would have the option to recast or remain on the leash. If no other dogs are treed in, handled dogs would need to be released. 2. Hunt time will be called in at each tree to run shine time. You will stop time at the conclusion of each tree's shine time.

This is a rule that may rarely be used, due to the fact that it's not common for all hounds to be treed or handled at the same time with dogs being so split up these days. In some instances, however, this rule could save a cast and more importantly the guide a major headache.

Breaking the Stationary

Q: A dog begins to tree but the handler doesn't declare the dog treed. The judge applies the 5-minute stationary to the dog. At 4 minutes, the dog shuts up. Do you apply the 2 minutes to the dog? If so, if the 5-minutes has expired but before the 2-minutes expire can you tree the dog at that point if he is indeed still treed without being scratched?

A: Anytime a dog quits treeing, after the stationary has been applied, the judge starts a two-minute clock. If the dog does not bark before the two minutes expires, the stationary is lifted with no further action. The scenario you described is certainly one for the handler to consider because it could bite the handler.

Here is why. Using your scenario, the stationary is running. At 4 minutes the dog quits treeing. The two-minute clock is ap-

UKC® Disciplinary Action Committee Report

- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Shawn Watson of Newark, OH, violated the terms of his probation. DAC Action – Suspended indefinitely.
- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Ivan D Gonzalez of Lyme, CT, submitted applications containing false information. DAC Action – Suspended indefinitely.

Rev. 10/28/20

The UKC Notice of Suspension list can be found at www.ukcdogs.com/suspension

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

plied. At 5:10 on the stationary and 1:10 on the two-minute clock, the dog starts treeing again. In this case the two-minutes did not get the dog and therefore the stationary may not be lifted. The only thing left to do is to check the dog. If he is in fact on a tree, the dog is scratched.

Some will think this is not fair but the response to that is; the handler had plenty of time to call him treed when they had the opportunity but chose not to for whatever reason. For this reason, a handler would be well served to not let more than 2.5 minutes run down on the stationary before calling their dog treed.

Happy Holidays!

I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! I hope you all get full bellies and full spirits from time with your loved ones. Happy hunting this season!

