

ELITE SHED DOG SERIES RESULTS & UPDATES



ELITE SHED DOG SERIES NATIONALS 2021 EVENT RECAP

Written By: Todd Kellam, Vice President

The Rend Lake area near Whittington, Illinois, has an excellent reputation with the sporting dog community as an ideal setting for a wide variety of hunt tests and field trials. I had been to several there myself and always enjoyed the experience. It checks several boxes on the list of what it takes to make for an ideal large event location. It is centrally located, it has bar/restaurant/banquet facility on site, two options for lodging both within a few miles of the running grounds and workable hunt office in the field.

In planning for a larger event to be held April 9 – 11 in 2021, I couldn't help but feel the most important objective would be to be able to run six courses in close enough proximity to each other to enable handlers to park in one location and walk to each course. Two different stops to pre-scout confirmed my theory that we would indeed be able to do that on this venue. Then the work started. The shed dog family responded in an over-whelming show of support. By the entry deadline 103 entries made up of 58 Champions, 36 Working and 9 Youth would participate in the largest shed dog event in the history of the sport.

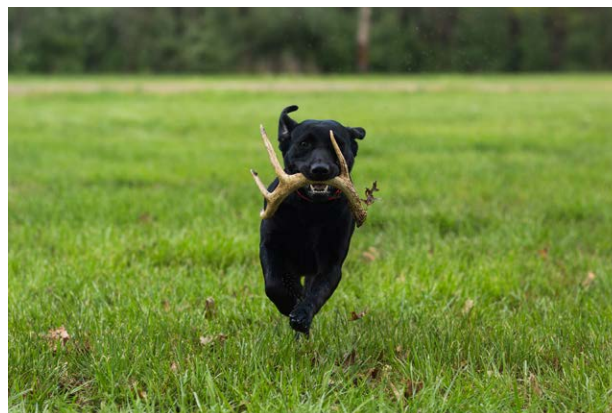
We cannot thank UKC's performance dog nutrition partner Eukanuba enough for their support. Their presence which included rain canopies, seating, back drops, gift bags, and the ginormous Eukanuba blow-up dog was outstanding and appreciated by all. Prize sponsors Eukanuba, Momarsh, Bone Clone, Vortex Optics, OnX, Black Rifle Coffee, Lethal Products, Lucky Duck, Domain Seed, Embrace Pet Insurance, Okie Dog Supply and Mule Clothing all contributed to a prize package worth in excess of \$7k.

UKC Major Event Coordinator Nicole Sedlecky along with UKC's Kristen Wiessner and Keegan Adriance had things organized and looking great by game time. Amy Kuchenbecker and her Youth Scholarship Committee added much in this regard with a fantastic raffle table and well-organized warm-up games. Course set up was a breeze thanks to the help of Norm Henderson, Jason McPherson, Scott Kuchenbecker and Clay McBride. A very competent judging committee that included

Darcy Grieger, Tom Rilea, Jeff Stingel, Jimmy Plackemeier, Billy Crass and Andy McDaniel were ready. All we needed were dogs to the line!

We ran in a variety of weather that was never extreme and for the most part very conducive for dog's to make a good showing. The kids had fun in the mud puddles and everyone appeared to be have a great time running dogs and hanging out around the many shed dog club tents that were scattered around parking lots. It was exactly the atmosphere I had envisioned. The event itself ran very smoothly right to the end when we did experience a small bobble on our part. That was handled as quickly as possible and I want to send my sincere thanks Jeff Rada, Norm Henderson and LeeAnna Thompson for the resulting show of great sportsmanship.

A complete report of dogs that placed will accompany this recap as will the video feature filmed by UKC's Shannon Nardi and her crew. We thank you for your patience as we got everything processed and hope you enjoy this coverage of the 2021 UKC Shed Dog Nationals. 🐾





NCHSD CREE JOINS NCHSD SCUBA STEVE IN AN ELITE CATEGORY

A second dog in the shed dog world now sports the NCHSD title. Congratulations to NCHSD ESD Black Ice's Indian Princess HOF (Cree) and owners Zoey and Jeff Rada of New Auburn, Wisconsin. Those two dogs are certainly a pair to draw to which gives me faith that the UKC National Championship format works when it comes to giving the good dogs a chance to show what they are made of. I believe we have the start of a historical list of National Champions that will really be something to be proud of.

While it is true that we recognize a National Champion in each category at the Nationals, the National Champion title is reserved only for the winner of the Champion category. It is among the highest of honors attainable in this sport. But it IS attainable by anyone who has the dog power and the determination to get it done. The fact that it does not require a dog to be on the road every weekend in order to be recognized makes it achievable to the average person. But not if they have an average dog!

Zoey and Cree are anything but average and we have recognized them often in our reports relevant to the Elite Shed Dog Series. There is not much more I can say about Zoey and Cree myself so I thought maybe we should let Zoey say it? What follows is a short discussion I had with Zoey recently about the Nationals and also what the future holds.

Todd: Had you previously set winning National Champion in the Champion category as a goal? Did you even allow yourself to think that was a possibility?

Zoey: At the last nationals in 2019 we had placed in the top ten so I had set a goal of bettering ourselves and aiming for top 5 this year. Going into day two I knew we were in the running but there were plenty of talented dogs and handlers that could pull off some really strong runs.

Todd: How does it rank amongst your many other accomplishments with Cree?

Zoey: This is definitely one of our top accomplishments along with her being the first ever HOF titled dog. It has been fun to watch her improve throughout the years and keep accomplishing goals we set.

Todd: It had to be special with your parents there and each of them doing well in the event also?

Zoey: As competitive as we are with each other it was really awesome to see them both do well, with my dad taking third in the Champion class and mom winning Working Dog of the Year.

Todd: Do you remember anything specific about any of Cree's runs that was either very impressive or made you nervous?

Zoey: I wasn't really nervous until her last run on Sunday because most of the dogs that were in the running had ran before her already so I knew what kind of times she needed to at least podium. It took us a little bit to find the first one which made me a little nervous because it always feels like you're out there longer than you actually are but after that she picked up the next four fairly quickly. I was relieved when Billy showed us our sub 3-minute time, which was faster than what we were shooting for.

Todd: What's next? Round out the National Championship Slam (keep in mind she previously won the Youth National Championship class) by winning Working National Champion with a Cree puppy?

Zoey: We're not exactly sure what's next for us. Cree has done pretty well at the last few events we've attended and hopefully she'll continue that throughout the year. Sitka and a few of her litter

mates will hopefully start competing in the fall so we're excited to see how they'll do!

Whatever the future holds will not change the fact that we have a new National Champion that we can all be very proud of. Congrats to Zoey and Cree and best of luck in Season 5. 🐾



Zoey and Cree at the 2021 Elite Shed Dog Series Nationals





AND THE SEASON 4 ELITE AWARDS GO TO...

It was a pleasure working on the Season 4 Elite Awards presented by Bone Clone this past year. I would like to personally thank Scott Kuchenbecker from Bone Clone for all of his help and for Bone Clone's involvement since the very beginning. It made me very happy each quarter to recognize some truly deserving people and dogs from our sport. From the start that was my goal and why we modeled the program the way we did last year. Mission accomplished.

The banquet at the National Championship was the perfect opportunity to recognize our year end award winners in front of their peers. It was an evening of fun and fellowship that our shed dog family has become famous for. From a long list of nominees, it is my pleasure to officially recognize our winners. And the Elite Award goes to...

Club Of The Year

With a total of 258 entries the club of the year was awarded to Indiana Shed Hunting Dog Assn of Carlisle, Indiana. Congratulations to Norm and Rusti Henderson and everyone else who helps to put on the excellent events at this location.



Judge Of The Year

In recognition of the time and effort given to our sport by unselfishly agreeing to judge some long days, often in challenging weather, we are happy to announce that Norm Henderson from Carlisle, Indiana, is our judge of the year. Norm had 19 judging assignments and we thank him for his service.



Youth Of The Year

From a total of 55 young handlers that ran dogs in Elite Shed Dog Series events, we had three that tied for the most passes at 20 passes each. In looking more closely we recognize a clear winner in regards to class size and placement percentages. Our congratulations to Parker Lewis of Ohio, our season 4 youth of the year winner.



Working Class Dog Of The Year

I wish we could have tracked placement percentage in this category last season. For I believe the truly impressive thing about our winning team is not the number of passes but the fact that a high percentage of the time they were also making the podium. Our congratulations to CHSD RPM's Let's Start A Riot and owners Cassie Nelson and Zoey Rada of New Auburn, Wisconsin.



Non-Retriever Breed Of The Year

More than holding her own against the "big dogs", our non-retriever breed dog of the year made her presence known on the podium throughout Season 4 for owner Amy Kuchenbecker of Ohio. Congratulations to the English Cocker Spaniel CHSD Blue Clay's Lunar Eclipse.



Retriever Breed Of The Year

In a hotly contested race in Season 4, Maggie beat out some very respectable finalists to claim our retriever breed dog of the year. Congrats to GRCHSD Hoefer's Life Of The Party and owner's Tony Hoefer and Tierney Schneider from Garnavilla, Iowa.



Ambassador Of The Year

Being voted by your peers for doing the most to advance the Elite Shed Dog Series is an honor of the highest form. Our congratulations to Norm Henderson for being named the Ambassador Of The Year for Season 4.



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2021 UKC ELITE SHED DOG NATIONALS

• OFFICIAL RESULTS •

Whittington, Illinois | April 10 & 11, 2021



CHAMPION CLASS - 45 DOGS PASSED



1st/National Champion: NCHSD ESD Black Ice's Indian Princess HOF, Lab, Zoey Rada, Jeff Rada, New Auburn, Wisconsin.



2nd: Rushwind Bailey Mortenson, Lab, Tim Mortenson, Blaine, Minnesota. Handled by Dave Larson.



3rd: ESD3 RPM Tyra's Frozen Shot Of Ammo HOF, Lab, Jeff Rada, Zoey Rada, New Auburn, Wisconsin



4th: GRCHSD Blue Clay Ruth's LIL Dot, Lab, Leeanna Thompson, Jewett, Ohio

WORKING CLASS – 26 DOGS PASSED



1st/National Champion: WSD2 Long Spur's Diamond In The Ruff, Lab, Rusti Henderson, Carlisle, Indiana.



2nd: WSD Blue Clays Your So Full Of It, Lab, Zach Meadows, Normantown, West Virginia.



3rd: WSD2 Flintriver Harper Hold Tight, Lab, Tyler Messer, Burlington, Iowa.



4th: WSD3 Blue Clays Where's Waldo, English Cocker Spaniel, Erin Lewis, Robert Lewis, West Union, Ohio.

YOUTH CLASS – 10 DOGS PASSED



1st/National Champion: WSD2 Flintriver Harper Hold Tight, Lab, Toby Messer.



2nd: ESD2 Tulip Hill Tuff Enuff, Lab, Levi Lewis



3rd: ESD2 Tulip Hill Tuff Enuff, Lab, Parker Lewis



4th: WSD2 Gobblersknob Trumped Card, Lab, Trinity Rilea.

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