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## COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

The end of the year is always a whirlwind. I know you all know what I'm talking about. You got unpredictable weather to deal with. You're preparing for the holidays with family and friends. And you are doing all that while trying to work, hunt, and deal with whatever else might pop up. It's safe to say that November and December fly by. And it certainly did this year. It's hard to believe I am preparing for the Grand American and Winter Classic trips already. Although, looking at the Grand American forecast, I am quite ready to head down for a nice long weekend.

This column has been dedicated to 2023 rule and procedural changes for the past four months. If this is your first issue, it would be a good idea to head over to the website and catch up on some past Advisor Columns to make sure you are up to date and ready for what the next months might hold. This month we are going to get back to our standard columns, answering some questions I get from folks who are out in the field competing in the various events. If you have questions pop up, or are at events and routinely hear misinterpreted, misapplied rules, I encourage you to reach out to me at [twade@ukcdogs.com](mailto:twade@ukcdogs.com) so we can feature those questions in this column.

### X-Bred Breed Standards

**Q:** Are you able to show X-Bred Coonhounds in UKC licensed Bench Shows?

**A:** Although X-Bred Coonhounds are eligible to compete in UKC licensed Nite Hunts, Water Races, and Field Trials, they **are not** eligible to compete in UKC licensed Bench Shows. If you look in your Official Coonhound Rulebook, you will find breed standards for the seven recognized coonhound breeds. You will not find any standards for an X-Bred, however. The reason is simple, there are just too many variations of crossing breeds to pinpoint an exact standard to hold the hound to. And I think it is fair to say that a loose breed standard wouldn't exactly be fair when comparing it to a purebred coonhound standard that is very specific to that breed.

For further clarification in the Rulebook, refer to #1 under UKC Coonhound Bench Show Rules, page 43 in your new 2023 Official Coonhound Rulebook. It reads, *Only those dogs permanently registered by UKC may compete in a UKC Licensed Bench Show. All UKC licensed Coonhound Bench Shows must be open to all of the seven coonhound breeds.* I think that covers the issue well and gives us the answer we need.

Entry takers, Bench Show Judges, and all event officials should be familiar with this policy. If for some reason a X-Bred Coonhound slips through the cracks and is showed in a Bench Show, any points the hound earned that day

will be deemed ineligible and will not be applied to the dog's record. UKC maintains that any person competing in an event should be familiar with the entry rules for the event and take some personal responsibility that they are entering their dog correctly. That goes for the next topic too...

### Entering the Correct Class/Division

It can be a pretty empty feeling when you are officiating an event and realize that an entry was entered into the wrong class, division, or category in an event. That can be true regardless of if you put the blame on the entrant or the entry taker. What do I mean? For example, a Registered dog put on a Champion cast or vice versa. Or maybe a Junior Class Registered show entry put into the Puppy Class. These are situations that can be easily avoided if the entrant has up to date proof of dog and owner information. That, and the entrant and entry taker both being attentive and taking their time usually make for a smoothly ran event. If not, well, things can get dicey.

Any win acquired outside of the class or division in which the dog is currently in, is considered an illegitimate win to UKC. That means that any win picked up in an incorrect division, category, or class will not count towards the dog's championship points, or towards programs like the Tournament of Champions, Top Ten, Performance points, etc. The majority of the time the entry takers, Bench Show Judges, and Master of Hounds do a great job making sure that the dog is entered in the correct class. However, everyone makes mistakes. As easy as it is to get frustrated with the event officials, some accountability must be taken by the entrant. Remaining aware of your situation and who you are competing against can go a long way in catching any issues before they get too far gone.

### Separating "Same Owner" Entries

**Q:** We recently had a Nite Hunt at our club that had eight entries. It was a slam event so all dogs were drawn from the same pool. We did, however, have three dogs that shared the same owner. In this instance, were we to put out two 4-dog casts per the Cast Breakdown Form, or make it three casts to ensure that none of the "same owner" dogs drew out together?

**A:** Having more "same owner" entries than the total numbers would equate to per the Cast Breakdown Sheet does not allow for more casts to be created. In the instance listed above, you would stick with the instruction on the Cast Breakdown Form and have two 4-dog casts. In this instance, there would be one of the owner's dogs on one cast, and two on the other cast. The owner would not be permitted to pick and choose which of his dogs would compete in which cast but would have to take the luck of the draw, same as the other entries in the hunt.

If you will open your 2023 Official Coonhound Rulebook to Page 50, you will see the start of the Official Nite Hunt Honor Rules. In the second paragraph, before we

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## Competition: Coonhound Advisor

get to the Deadlines section, you will find the following sentences pertaining to the draw. It reads, *All casts must be drawn publicly. Owners having multiple entries will have dogs drawn to separate casts if possible.* "If possible" can simply be defined by saying, if there are enough entries in the nite hunt to do so following the rules and procedures in place. Hopefully this clears up any questions regarding this matter.



### ATTENTION!

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

**Justin Crockett • Senatobia, MS**

**May 1, 2024**

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



Rev. 10/4/2022

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