

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

It's been a fun couple of months keeping up with everyone's hunting seasons on social media. During the fall season, it is a great time for competitors of the sport to reset, get their dog right, get themselves right, and get back to loving the simple aspects of coon hunting. For me, it has been a successful season. I have a two-year-old Treeing Walker who has turned into a reliable coon hound. He isn't flashy, he isn't overpowering, but he consistently trees coons while making relatively few mistakes. The new project I bought this spring, a nine-month-old Black and Tan, has yet to click into tree mode. He is running tracks, he knows what a coon is, and he will even hit up some, but he isn't locking down just yet. I am being patient and giving him the time he needs. I feel like social media has put everyone in a rush. If your young pup isn't popping them up at six-months-old, you feel like you are getting behind. Just remember, it isn't always how you start, it's how you finish. The completion of this season should do wonders for him.

Regional Qualifying Events

As hard as it is to believe, I have spent the bulk of October working on schedules and locations for the 2022 competition season. One of the main schedules that I have spent my time on is the 2022 RQE Schedule. For the 2022 qualifying season, there has been a notable change that the host clubs have been made aware of, and I will use this space to make the rest of those interested aware as well.

For as long as I can remember, any club hosting a RQE was responsible for holding a qualifying hunt and show on that date. Times have changed at the local club level especially, and event officials are getting harder and harder to come by. On that same way of thinking, there are clubs out there that have one bench show a year and that is at their RQE. The rest of the year and to be frank, even at the RQE, they have little to no interest in hosting a bench show or putting in the effort required to host a successful bench show. This is when you see the qualifying shows with one or two entrants.

For these reasons, starting in 2022, UKC is giving RQE host clubs the option to hold the traditional hunt/show type RQEs, nite hunt only RQEs, or bench show only RQEs. These will still have to be approved but I think this gives clubs the opportunity to host a higher quality event. While I suspect most will elect to move forward with the traditional way of thinking, I figure there will be a handful that make the decision to host the nite hunt only. I will be actively seeking out clubs with a history of hosting successful bench shows to host bench show only RQEs as well.

I think this will end up being a welcomed change to the RQE schedule and we will see a more competitive landscape. Good luck to all those qualifying your dog this year!

Slow it Down

Speaking of being in a rush, that reminds me of a few calls that I received back in the spring. These calls were regarding older hunters, who were loyal members of the club but had gotten up in age, and the members felt they had become a liability in the woods. They are delaying the cast, they are worrying the other competitors, etc. What can be done about this?

The first thing I want to say is, denying anyone's entry based on their age is flat out against the rules. The club's right to refuse entry can be found on Page 7 of the Official Coonhound Rulebook. It states: *The local club management has the right to refuse entry to any dog or handler. However, no handler shall be refused or barred on basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age or gender.* This rule is in place to protect clubs from people who routinely cause major issues at their club and are turning away would be participants from entering events or competing. This isn't a way to get rid of people you may deem as a hindrance to your hunt.

Let's get personal for a second. I'm 31-years-old right now. In thirty, forty, heck even fifty years, I'd like to think I will be able to cast a hound and listen to it trail up, locate, and tree a coon. I hope that if I have Ol' Hank looking alright, I can go down to the local club that I have supported for years upon years and give it one more go to title my hound out. That I can have one last chance to compete and see how the hound that I have put my time into stacks up against the other hounds in the area.

If you happen to get drawn out with a gentleman who doesn't get around as well as he used to, you should enjoy it for what it is. Will you make less trees that night? Maybe. Could your score suffer as a result? Possibly. Might you need to slow down your pace? Sure. But take into consideration that this may be the last hunt that person enters. Be respectful and enjoy the time hunting with a veteran of the sport. You may even learn something.

Credit Where Credit is Undue?

Q: Recently I was on a cast that had a unique situation. It was a three-dog cast and all three were declared treed in the same area. Once we got in there, we found the dogs to be split, two on one tree, and the third dog on a tree 25 feet away. There were a couple limbs that touched but not what I would consider an obvious path for a coon to be able to cross. The tree the two dogs were treed on had a coon, while the tree the third dog was treed on, had a possum 15 feet up. In this situation, would you score the tree as one, or score the tree as a split tree?

A: While answering this question, I want to make it clear that I wasn't there, so I am taking the participants word for it. If the situation occurred exactly as it reads in the question, there is no way I am scoring that as one tree. As a matter of fact, if there is a dog over here with a possum 15 feet above its head, the trees better be growing out of one another to get me to give that dog credit for the coon

Competition: Coonhound Advisor

a tree over.

Too often, I think people think too far into things. Or maybe I am giving too much credit and people are just trying to pull one over on their competition. Regardless, it's hard to imagine anyone plussing the third dog up in this situation. I think about being out on a coon hunt by myself. If I am hunting and my hound is on a tree with a possum and there is a coon one tree over, even if a limb or two touch, I'm not petting my dog up, scratching his belly, and stopping to get him a cheeseburger on the way home. I'm going to correct the hound and send him on his way.

But you are telling me that in a night hunt you want to plus that dog up? You won't find any such rule or interpretation for that matter that supports the idea of plussing that dog up. And while the dog may have "never done that before", there is a first time for everything. Score the dog for what it does, not what you think it was trying to do. Or better yet, what you can get away with.

Lack of Club Participation

As time has passed, I feel like the way of thinking about a club has changed. I hear the stories everyday about how clubs used to be. They took the term "club" in the literal sense. It was more than a meeting place for a hunt or show. It was an extended family. Even if you didn't have a dog ready to compete, you'd be there to help guide, judge, work the kitchen, work field trial/water race, etc. The main

thing is, you were there if they needed you.

Now a days, the lack of club participation has caused some clubs to close their doors. When you think about it, it makes sense. It gets old on the same ol' people doing all the work event after event. For UKC, with the rules we have in place, it is imperative that a club does have a strong core to put on an event. It is important to have people to form a panel if need be. It is important to have human judges in place to judge aspects of the water race and field trials. It is important to have that reliable Bench Show Judge and Master of Hounds in place that isn't going to back out on you last minute. That is why it is important to be there for your club.

Any club that doesn't have the participation available to put on an event in the correct manner probably won't be hosting events for much longer. And it is a heck of a lot easier on a club to shut its doors than it is trying to open back up.

Attention!

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

Darrel Barker • Rockford, IL

Scott Johnson • Monroe, WI

October 19, 2022

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

Rev. 11/4/2021

ATTENTION Coon & Squirrel Clubs!

Your Coon or Squirrel club is eligible for some discounted prices on Squirrel event license fees.* Schedule one Coonhound or Squirrel event, get a squirrel event of equal or lesser value FREE!

This means you can schedule a Coonhound Nite Hunt and be eligible for a free Cur or Feist Squirrel Hunt license or Bench Show license. Speak with anyone from the Hunting Ops Department for more information or to set something up with your club today!

Email huntingops@ukcdogs.com, or call 269-343-9020.

Schedule a Coonhound Nite Hunt and UKC will waive your license fee for one of the following:

Cur Nite Hunt
Cur AM Squirrel Hunt
Feist AM Squirrel Hunt
Cur PM Squirrel Hunt
Feist PM Squirrel Hunt
Feist Bench Show
Cur Bench Show

Schedule a Coonhound Field Trial, Water Race, or Bench Show and UKC will waive your license fee for one of the following:

Feist Bench Show
Cur Bench Show

Schedule a Squirrel Hunt (Cur or Feist) and UKC will waive your license fee for one of the following:

Cur AM Squirrel Hunt
Feist AM Squirrel Hunt
Cur PM Squirrel Hunt
Feist PM Squirrel Hunt
Cur Nite Squirrel Hunt
Feist Bench Show
Cur Bench Show

Schedule a Cur Bench Show and UKC will waive your license fee for a Feist Bench Show, or vice versa.

*UKC will only waive event license fees. Clubs are still responsible for paying proper event recording fees.



►►► MOVING? Don't Miss an Issue!

STEP 1: Let the post office know your new address.

This can be done by stopping at any post office and completing a Change of Address form. Change of Address packets are available free of charge to help you notify friends, relatives and businesses of your new address, or file your change of address on-line at moversguide.usps.com.

STEP 2:

- **Be sure to notify the post office of your new address at least 30 days before you move.**
- **Your magazine will be forwarded free of charge by the Post Office for 30 to 60 days.**

Contact the UKC Media & Communications Department by phone, fax, email or regular mail as soon as possible with your new address. Be sure to include your old address so we can verify your account.

• To update your registration records, please mail, email or fax a completed Official UKC Change of Address Form which can be obtained at www.ukcdogs.com/docs/registration-forms/address-change-form.pdf. You must include your signature. If you send an email, please scan in your form with your signature and include it as an attachment. Please send to the attention of: Change of Address. See contact information below.

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