

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

With frigid temperatures and over a foot of snow on the ground, my hunting days are on halt for the time being which has left me with quite a bit of free time on my hands. Luckily for us hunters, even when times are less than ideal to actually be out running our hounds, we have a wealth of resources available to us to keep us occupied. Of course, we know of the social media platforms where we can keep up with our friends to the south who are in the prime-time weeks of hunting, but there is so much more out there to see. YouTube has recently become a frequent stop for me. Not only do I enjoy the United Kennel Club page with the assortment of videos provided, but there are loads of hunters out there that upload videos from tips and product reviews to full hunting clips that I find very enjoyable. In addition to the videos available to watch, the new wave of podcasts with a focus on hound hunting have helped bridge the gap to the airwaves. I, personally, listen to a handful of the hunting podcasts weekly and enjoy the conversation while riding down the road. The last one I mention will be the oldest and most proven of the bunch, which is print. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading a handful of hunting related books in the past couple weeks, as well as going through my archives of Coonhound Bloodlines and reminiscing on hounds of the past. I just wanted to take the time to thank these content providers who we have the ability to enjoy when actually going out and hunting isn't a viable option.

Once again, I am typing this after Winter Classic and once again we have received information about a ticked off landowner. This year we received word of a grown man on a cast doing doughnuts in a farmer's field. Man, how irresponsible and disrespectful can you be? This person will receive a lengthy vacation from competing in UKC event, but the damage is done with that landowner already. I think this is a perfect spot to drop a write up that I did at this exact time last year. Remember, it only takes one bad apple to ruin the bunch, be courteous!

Be Courteous!

It's no secret that hunting and hound hunting in particular is under attack. Every week you see new bill proposals and legislation pop up in states across the nation trying to impede on our rights as hunters and houndsmen. To further hinder our ability to enjoy our lifestyle, hunting grounds are becoming less readily available and it seems we are constantly fighting negative stereotypes. Why then, would a hunter feed those stereotypes by tossing their garbage out on a landowner's property while hunting?

When a fellow came to the stage Saturday afternoon at the Winter Classic and let us know that he wouldn't be able to guide that night due to someone on his cast throwing out garbage at his hunting spot the previous night my blood pressure must have shot through the roof of the civic center. The landowner was furious with him and he was on the way to clean up the land and he wasn't sure he'd ever be welcomed back, In this situation, you have a guy who went out of his way to

procure land to hunt on and then volunteer that land to allow other hunters the opportunity to hunt their dog and compete in a cast there. Now it's possible that one disrespectful person could have ruined that spot for him for good.

I know I am preaching to the very small minority here. Out of about 750 dogs/handlers, we had one reported incidence that could have stemmed from one person's blatant disrespect. It's beyond me why they couldn't wait to throw their garbage out at the hotel or gas station later that night. But just to make things perfectly clear, it only takes one person to plant a bad seed in someone's mind. It only takes one person to give someone a negative impression that may result in them classifying all hunters in that category. Don't be that one person. Be respectful of your guide and the land you are hunting on, whether it be in a competition or just out pleasure hunting.

Regional Qualifying Events

RQE season is here. Regional Qualifying Events across the south are starting up already and by the time this magazine comes out, we will be in the busiest stretch of months on the calendar. This year, to make the process easier on our qualifiers, we will have the online entry open from now until midnight on September 4th. In addition to that, qualifying receipts will be mailed out to the clubs holding qualifiers and you have the option to mail them in if you would prefer. I would steer you towards online entry or calling in your entry with the issues in mailing that have taken place the past year.

In addition to that, I have made it a point to highlight our RQE winners by posting results on the UKC message forums. I will continue to do so as the results keep rolling in. Also, on the forums, I have a list of upcoming RQEs that I am updating weekly. Regional Qualifying Events are the lifeblood of our most important event and should be treated as such. Good luck this year on getting qualified. I hope to see you make it to Peru!



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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