

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Allen Gingerich

Rule Proposals Reminder

A membership with any one of the seven UKC Chartered Breed Associations comes with the privilege of having a voice when it comes to the UKC Nite Hunt Honor Rules. All members are reminded that the official voting for any rule changes is just around the corner. The official vote will take place on Friday at Autumn Oaks.

First, however, there will be a meeting scheduled at Autumn Oaks, where two members of each association are invited to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to allow discussion and address any concerns anyone may have before the official vote takes place. After that, each association may choose to further discuss any concerns with their officers or members that were addressed at the meeting before casting their votes on each proposal. It takes a majority vote to pass any one of the proposals on the ballot. Any rule that gets a majority vote to pass will then go in effect on January 1, 2020.

A complete list of proposals that will be voted on can be found in the June issue of Coonhound Bloodlines. They can also be found on the Coonhound Message Forum at www.ukcdogs.com. Get involved and let your voice be heard.

Bench Show Reports Updated

For 2019, UKC had updated and condensed their Bench Show Reports from eight total pages to only two. One of the forms was to note all the male winners and the other for all female winners. This change eliminated 80% of wasted material when it comes to the smaller shows. **Since then we've found a good way to condense the Bench Show Reports even further to just one page.** There's no doubt club officials and judges will like these even better. Some of the confusion with the previous reports should go away with these most recently updated ones. They are very self-explanatory.

At the top of the newest form is where you'll note your Grand and Champion winners. The bottom half of the form is where you'll list all your Registered winners. The nice thing with the registered portion of the reports is there's no need to list the winners in any specific order. Instead, you'll list each winner in any order and then check the box in the next column to note the class or classes that the dog won. Judges need to be sure to mark/indicate the correct age class (Puppy, Junior, or Senior) in that column for each winning dog. If that same dog was also a breed winner or the Best in Show winner, then check those boxes. Simple.

These newer versions will be available soon. Until then, clubs should continue to use the two-page reports they were originally supplied with. After that clubs will start seeing the updated version one-page show reports. These new reports will also be available online that can be printed off at the UKC website at www.ukcdogs.com. They can be found on the website by going to the Coonhounds menu and then clicking on Forms & Rules. We'd encourage all Master of Hounds and Bench Show Judges

to go to this site and print off extra event material copies to keep in your briefcases just in case the club may not have what they need. Most clubs will like the newer reports and it is ok to start using those printed versions if they like.

Dogs Split, Trees Touching, Coon in Each Tree

Q: In a four-dog cast, all dogs are turned loose and struck in. Dogs A and B are declared treed. Shortly after that Dog C is declared treed, and just before the tree is closed, Dog D is also treed in. When we arrive at the tree, Dogs A and B are on one tree and Dogs C and D are ten yards away on a separate tree that leans toward Dogs A and B's tree. It is determined by the hunting judge that the trees would be scored separate until we determined that they touched each other. With the leaves on, it was not possible to actually see that they touched, but it would be a very safe bet to say that they did. While shining the trees we could clearly see that there were two coons, one in each tree. We had a 2-2 vote on how to score the tree. What do you feel would be the correct way to score this situation?

A: In many of these situations, the fact that trees "touch" may not be reason to score two separate trees as one. Always keep in mind that there must be a good avenue for a coon to cross from tree to tree. These are, in fact, coons we are dealing with, not monkeys swinging from branch to branch. As a rule of thumb, I often compare a situation like this to someone hunting a dog on trial. Are you going to pay up for a hound that missed by a tree or two, but a few limbs and leaves are touching?

In the scenario listed above, I would vote to give the dogs the credit they are due and declare them as two separate trees. Plus 'em both up!

To Keep Separate Times or Not When Split Tree is Not Obvious

Q: Dog A is declared treed, followed closely behind by Dog B. They are treed a good distance straight ahead of the cast. The judge in the cast had just announced that three minutes had gone by on the five when Dog C was also declared treed for third tree position and was recorded as such on the scorecard. Meanwhile, Dog D continued to trail elsewhere.

UKC® Disciplinary Action Committee Report

• UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Julie Byas of Lake Charles, Louisiana, failed to comply with a UKC investigation. DAC Action - Suspended until June 19, 2021.

Rev. 7/9/19

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

The five expired for A, B and C. The cast arrived at the tree very shortly after the five had expired and found Dog C to be on a separate tree and not with A and B. The question is, since the judge had noted that three minutes had passed on A and B's tree time when C was declared treed, should Dog C now be required to hold its tree for another three minutes before it may be handled since it was found to be on a separate tree upon arrival?

A: No. A separate time should not be kept in any such scenarios. UKC maintains that only one tree time (five minutes) is kept, regardless of knowing the approximate time into the five when Dog C was declared treed. The only time separate times are kept is in the case where it is obvious that a dog is split, and it is recorded as such on the scorecard when the call is taken. Otherwise, separate tree times are never kept. In this case Dog C should be handled at the same time as Dogs A and B.

