

# COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

I hope this article finds each of you and your families healthy and safe. 2020 has been a heck of a test for people across our nation thus far. I sincerely hope it has given each of you a chance to sit back and reflect on what the important things in your life are and the opportunity to enjoy those things as often as possible. If your coonhounds and attending licensed coonhound events are part of your life that you deem important, well things are looking up for you now. Currently, we are receiving very few, if any, event cancellation calls while receiving truckloads of event confirmation/rescheduling calls daily. It looks like competition season is about to be in full swing!

## UKC Major Events

**Q:** Has Autumn Oaks been cancelled?

**A:** At the time of this writing, no UKC administered coonhound events have been cancelled. Purina Nationals, which is an invite only event for qualified dogs, was postponed and has since been rescheduled for October 30th and 31st. You can find more information on this event on our website at ukcdogs.com or in the ad located in last month's issue of Coonhound Bloodlines.

There have been no changes for Youth Nationals, Autumn Oaks, the Coonhound World Championship or the UKC Tournament of Champions as of now. If any changes must be made, it will be plastered all over the internet for everyone to see. I would like to take a moment to say thank you for the hard work from the club officials in their efforts to reschedule postponed RQEs. Trying to fit eight months' worth of qualifiers into a five-month window is not an easy task but the clubs have worked together, and I am pleased with how smooth they made this process. Be sure you support these clubs who put a lot of time and effort into getting their RQEs back on the schedule and go get your dogs qualified for the World Championship.

## Leaving Tree During Timeout

**Q:** With the new leash lock/timeout rule now in effect, we ran into a scenario on a recent nite hunt. We were in a three-dog cast and dogs A and B were treed together. On the way to their tree, dog C was declared split treed a good distance right-handed. After scoring dog A and B's tree, the cast decided unanimously to call a time out and move to a new spot while keeping the scored dogs on the leash in route to dog C (in accordance with Rule 11(d)). Halfway to the tree, dog C hushes and the two-minute clock is applied.

My first question is: do we call time back in to run the two? My second question is: if the two-minute clock catches dog C, what do we do with dog C's strike points and the dogs on the leash?

**A:** This is a great question. In the many conversations that I've had regarding the implementation of this rule, this is the first time that this has come up. It just goes to show that sometimes it takes getting out in the woods to get details ironed out.

To answer your first question, UKC's ruling would be to not run hunt time while running the two during this time out situ-

ation. We do not want to penalize dogs A and B by taking away hunt time to run the two while they are stuck on the leash.

The last sentence of Rule 7(e) answers your second question for you. It reads, *If dog leaves tree, time shall be called back in and dogs on leash recast.* I suggest becoming very familiar with Rule 7(e) and 11(d) that will outline the new recasting rules for you. This is especially true if you hunt smaller blocks of timber that may require some maneuvering from the guide.

The situation listed above is a tough break considering you won't have the ability to move spots until all dogs are handled. This is almost a non-issue with the tree power possessed by most hounds today, but I'm glad we got to address it for those who aren't quite as acquainted with the new rules just yet.

## Pleasure Hunters at Your Tree

**Q:** In a four-dog cast last weekend, we had an unfortunate issue with a pleasure hunter and his hounds coming into a tree where three of our dogs were declared treed. I was the judge and ruled that we would call a timeout and score the dogs that were declared treed. One of the cast members insisted that this was interference and time out should be called and all strike and tree points would need to be deleted. Am I on the wrong side of this ruling?

**A:** You were spot on here. The other handler's use of the dreaded "I" word made me cringe. You will not find the word interference in the rulebook and there is a reason for that. If we deleted every point that was caused by "interference", nobody would ever take minus. In competition hunting there are good breaks and there are bad breaks. To win you need to have a few more of the good ones on that given night.

In this situation, you can refer to Rule 7(b) that reads that timeout **may** be used in accordance with the following: If dogs get with another group of dogs. When you hear the other dogs come into the tree and see the handler's lights, you have the ability to stop right there and vote whether to call a timeout. Based on the ruling of the non-hunting judge or the majority of a cast vote with a hunting judge being used, you will have your answer. If three handlers vote to call timeout and one handler votes no, timeout will be called. Even in that situation, keep in mind that all trees that were declared prior to being voted upon still must be scored. Circling or deleting the points is not an option. Those hounds are still liable for any plus or minus points they accrue.

In the situation outlined above, don't start the one hour clock for the handler whose dog is still at large until the final tree is scored, as the cast needs all members there to score the tree and the time it takes to walk to the tree and score it severely cuts into the time the handler may need to wrangle the dog.

## 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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