

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

It is evident that spring is in the air in southwest Michigan by the vibrant blooms, active wildlife and intolerable allergies. It is unfortunate that two of my favorite seasons, spring coonhound competition season and baseball season, must be accompanied by the pollen that makes life borderline unbearable at times. I know a lot of you are in the same boat as I am and for that, I am sorry. Be sure you keep your Kleenex and eye drops close by and forgive me if you have trouble understanding my plugged mumbling when you call into the office.

Covid-19 really left a mark on UKC licensed events for the months of April and May. We truly appreciate the clubs for making our life easier by calling in their cancellations and working with us on the rescheduling of their events. Trying to fit a year's worth of events into a smaller than usual window has been challenging but seeing the clubs work together to help themselves and UKC out has been refreshing to see. As of this writing, at the beginning of May, things seem to be opening up and we are getting less cancellation calls and more confirmation calls which is encouraging.

Most major events have been rescheduled at this point and we are getting make up dates for more and more RQEs each day. If you have any questions about an event you have plans to attend, the events calendar on our website is the first place I would recommend for you to look. It is being updated hourly during business hours. We also have Major Event and RQE schedules on our website that are being updated twice a week with the newest information we have available.

Wins During the Pandemic

Q: I decided to go to a local event that was happening last weekend and lucked up and won Best Male of Show and my cast as well. After posting my wins on Facebook, I was informed that UKC events were shut down and that my wins would not count towards my championship degrees. Is this accurate?

A: Man, we sure are getting a lot of these calls and I'm not sure where this logic came from. From the beginning, UKC took the stance that each club would have the option to continue holding their events or to cancel/postpone them with no penalty. We also asked that they considered local and state restrictions and mandates. Restrictions varied from state to state, county to county and even city to city.

With that being said, events that clubs decided to continue on with are still official UKC licensed events. All wins achieved at those events will count towards championship degrees as usual. As a matter of fact, most of the wins from this time period should already be credited to the dog at the time of this printing.

With the shortage of events recently, the rules questions have been non-existent the past month and a half. For that reason, I will be dipping into the archives for some refresher courses on some frequently asked questions. As always, stay safe and I hope to see you at an event soon.

April 2016 Issue

Dog Does Not Move Up as Result of Another Dog Leaving Tree

Q: I was on a hunt recently where we had this scenario. Dogs A and B were declared treed, in that order. When we arrived at

the tree, Dog A was seen off the tree about 30 yards just standing there looking at us. The judge minused Dog A 125 but then moved Dog B up to first tree. Was this correct?

A: The only time you move dogs up on tree (tree positions) is if, or when, it becomes obvious you have a split tree situation. Keep in mind that, unless the tree is closed, a judge should never award split tree points unless, or not until, it is obvious, to the judge, 1) at the time the call was taken or 2) when it becomes obvious or evident. That was not the case here. Dog A is considered to have left the tree but it doesn't change the fact that Dog A had first tree, on the tree being scored. Therefore, Dog B cannot be given credit for a first tree. Had Dog A been split treed nearby you would have moved Dog B up to first tree, but not under the scenario described. Dog B should have remained on the scorecard with 75 tree points and scored accordingly. The only way Dog B would have been eligible for first tree is if Dog A would have been minused for leaving before Dog B was declared treed.

July 2010 Issue

Majority Of Cast, or Majority Of Those Present?

Q: This situation came up on a recent cast, and we would like UKC's ruling on it. All four dogs were declared struck. Dogs A, B and C were declared treed, in that order, to the north. Dog D was then declared treed to the south. The handlers of A, B and C went to their dogs, and the handler of dog D went to his. Handlers A, B and C shined their tree without handler D being present. Of those three, two see the coon and one does not. How is the tree scored? From there they all went to handler D's tree and scored it. D.K., Missouri

A: First of all, you don't say whether the cast agreed to shine the tree without the presence of the other handler, or if that handler refused to come over and score their tree. It makes a difference. If handler D refuses to go to the split tree of the dogs declared treed first, then that handler should be scratched for refusing to score the tree in accordance with 6(p). I'm assuming that's not the case.

I'm guessing this situation happens fairly frequently in the essence of saving time. Three handlers agree to go score their tree, then go score the other tree. It's not right, I know, but it is happening. The thing is, in situations without a unanimous decision when only three handlers are present, you have a problem. The tree in the situation above cannot be plussed just because two out of the three handlers present voted that it should be plus. Because in the grand scheme of things, that's only two of the handlers on a four-dog cast. A tree cannot be plussed or minused without a majority of cast vote to do so. The key words are "majority of cast." Notice it's not written "majority of those present."

If handler D refuses to come back and score the first tree, then he is scratched for failing to participate, and you would have a majority vote of two handlers against one and the tree would be plussed. So it does make a difference. The next time you handle a dog in a nite hunt, remember this. You would be crazy to agree to anything other than having the entire cast present for the scoring of every tree. It can and will come back to haunt you.

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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