

## COONHOUND ADVISOR

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**T**his past weekend was the UKC Tournament of Champions Regions, and I have a couple of rule scenarios that were hot topics over the weekend still fresh on my mind. The first has to do with running multiple times on a dog simultaneously. I remember reading this article just before I started at UKC, back in March of 2018. Let's see what Allen had to say.

### • TIME OVERLAP

**Q:** I have a question regarding the keeping of time on track and tree. Basically, the situation is this. A dog is struck and treed and the cast is walking into the tree. The dog quits barking, and the Judge stops to put the two minutes on the dog. You don't hear that dog again, and no other dogs are barking. My question is, when the two minutes gets the dog, do you put six minutes on the dog's strike or do you subtract the two minutes that got him on the tree and give him four more minutes on strike? I've been hunting and judging for the last 13 years and have never done this and I can't find anything in the rules where it is justified. There are a lot of Judges down here doing it that way. Could you please clear this up?

**A:** When you think about it, this is a pretty good question; simple in design but not hard to argue either way while out on a cast. UKC's position on the topic is this. Except for the hunting time requirement (whether it be 60, 90, or 120 minutes), a dog only has one clock applied to him at any one given time. Either the 15 minutes is on him for failing to hunt, the 6 minutes is on his strike, the two minutes is on his tree barks, or the hour is on him for delaying the cast, etc. I think you get the picture.

At any rate, the hound at any one time is either considered hunting, trailing, treed, lost, etc. All are key aspects of the hunt, and even though they are somewhat interrelated, they are very different at the same time. Because they are each unique situations, the time sequences do not overlap. Don't hold the dog accountable for his strike while he is being held accountable for his tree barks. If the dog is minused his tree points for not meeting the tree requirements, he is at that point only considered struck in on track and must meet those requirements (the six-minute rule) starting at that time.

### • HANDLING A DOG DURING SHINE TIME

**Q:** I recently competed in a nite hunt event and had an issue that resulted in getting scratched for handling my dog. Here was the situation. It was a three-dog cast, and we were heading to Dog A and B's tree. When we arrived at the tree and started the shine time, I realized my dog,

Dog C, was twenty-five yards away in a hole. Since the dog was in a hole, I didn't need to tree my dog and asked the judge if I could handle my dog. He declined my inquiry to handle my dog, and when I handled the dog anyway, I was scratched. Rule 5(a) clearly states that I do not need to tree my dog in a hole. I questioned this call and took it to the Master of Hounds, and he ruled against me. What am I missing?

**A:** Unfortunately for you, I am siding with the judge and Master of Hounds on this one as well. First off, let's address one thing for all the handlers out there: listen to your judge. Deliberately going against what an appointed judge tells you to do is no way to get ahead in a hunt. Most times, those judges have reasons for their calls and that may have been the case here.

You are right. Rule 5(a) does say that a dog does not have to be declared treed in a hole. However, that isn't the issue here. The rule that you are overlooking is Rule 11(c), which states that, "Judge shall give handler permission to handle dog on split tree unless cast is in process of shining a tree." When you say shine time was started, your ability to handle your dog was no longer valid. Upon the completion of shine time, at that point, you could have handled your dog in the hole, after asking the judge, of course. You may not agree with the rule, and I can respect that. There are rules that I don't necessarily like either, but it is the judge, the Master of Hounds, and UKC's job to police the rules in place.

### • SCORING TREES OUT OF ORDER

**Q:** Is there ever a situation where you can score trees out of order?

**A:** While it is possible to score trees out of order, it became much more difficult with the change in leash lock rules in the 2020 rule change. There is only one circumstance where dogs may be scored out of order, and it isn't easy to get there. Again, we will refer to Rule 11(c), specifically the last two sentences. It says, "If all dogs are declared treed and handled AND cast needs to move to new location after scoring all trees, trees may be scored in most convenient order (refer to 7(e) and 11(d) if applicable.) Otherwise, trees must always be scored in the order dogs were declared treed."

So basically, three things need to happen in order to score trees out of order. 1) All dogs must be declared treed. 2) All dogs must be handled. 3) Cast must have a need to move to new location. Any other variation of those things can result in a sticky situation. For example, if all the dogs aren't handled, and you score one dog out of order, another dog could leave the tree and cause a huge issue for all involved. Just stick to Rule 11(c), and you will be alright.