

COONHOUND ADVISOR

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The October column is a good time to revert to some old columns that are still very much relevant today. With Autumn Oaks ending and the World Championship Zones and Finals creeping up quickly, there isn't much time to give new, well thought out interpretations. Not that I have many banked up to discuss that haven't been discussed here multiple times before. We do have some new exciting news for people though. I'll start out with that.

Licensed Official Application

For many years the process for applying for a Master of Hounds or Bench Show Judge license has been the same. Request a test, we mail a test, you take the test, and mail it back. It is a drawn-out process that has become even less efficient with mailing issues across the country. Now, that process has changed.

Right now, I'm looking online at the new and improved judge application procedure that can be done in the click of a mouse on your computer, or by touching your screen on your cell phone. Simply go to ukcdogs.com/coonhound-rules-forms or navigate to Coonhound Rules and Forms through the website, and below the EVENT FORMS header, you will see "Licensed Official Application". Through this you can apply for whichever license it is you wish, by filling out some simple questions and submitting.

After you submit the application, it will be emailed to our team for the Program Manager's approval, and a test will be emailed directly to you. The test is great. Allen put a lot of thought and effort into those tests, and it gives well thought out answers and explanations after each question is answered. It not only will test you, but you are bound to learn something along the way.

I hope that this new application procedure will draw more people into getting licensed and make it easier for the clubs out there to find officials when the need arises. If you have any questions about this new application process, please contact us in the Hunting Ops Department.

Three Minute Tree Clock When Hunt Time Expires (July 2014)

Q: If only one dog remains in the hunt that dog must hold its tree for three minutes before the dog may be handled. What about at the end of the hunt? If hunt time expires before the three-minute clock expires may that dog be handled before the three-minute clock expires?

A: Rule 11(a) states; *{Dog must hold the tree for three (3) minutes, unless all dogs in cast are declared treed, on leash, or hunting time has expired.}* The key portion of this rule that pertains to the situation given is "or hunting time expires." As soon as the hunt expires the cast may handle dogs at the tree, regardless of how little time is used on the

three-minute clock. That also includes a cast where only one dog remains in the cast.

Changing Your Mind/Vote at the Tree (April 2016)

Q: The following questions, although slightly different, have the same answer.

Cast A: All dogs were declared treed. The cast starts shining and in quick order one cast member announces that he sees eyes in the tree. All cast members take a look and agree, "Yes, we see it." However, after they had all agreed they saw it, one member throws a bright spot light up there and sees it is a possum instead of what they initially thought were coon eyes. Since they all initially agreed they saw it as a coon, is it considered scored and over with regardless?

Cast B: Three-dog cast. Two dogs are left in the cast toward the end of the hunt. Both dogs fall treed but are split from each other on separate trees. The three members shine Dog A's tree. After a little while, the judge says, "Here-ee is". The second cast member comes over and says, "Yep, I see it."

The third cast member comes over and throws a bright light up there and says, "That's nothing more than a limb, it's not a coon." After taking another look, the second cast member agrees that it is simply a limb and not a coon. Can a cast member change his mind after initially having said he sees it?

A: Most who have hunted in nite hunts for a length of time have seen situations like those described, where at first glance your initial thought was, "Yeah, I see it," and verbally say so. Upon further examination, you realize it's not what you initially thought it was after all. The basic question in either situation is, can a handler change his initial scoring vote after having verbally said something to the affect that he or she saw it?

To be fair in scoring situations properly as they should be scored, like the situations described above, UKC maintains that a tree is not considered to be officially scored until majority of the cast members are satisfied with their vote. This doesn't mean you can vote one way at the tree and then vote another way at the clubhouse. You must obviously make your decision at the tree. If we were to allow plus points on off game or dark spots on tree limbs simply because of initial first reactions or petty technicalities, then something is terribly wrong. 🐾

ATTENTION!

The following person's Nite Hunt Director and Nite Hunt Judging privileges have been suspended until the date listed.

Andrew Ratliff • Winchester, KY • January 1, 2025

Cliff Monroe • Mooresboro, NC • Indefinitely

Chris Simmons • Cramerton, NC • Indefinitely



Violations to these privileges should be reported to the United Kennel Club.

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