

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

Spring is in the air! You can tell by the birds chirping, flowers blooming, and spring training baseball cranking up. At least I hope that is the case when you read this in early March. To be transparent, while I'm writing this in late January, it's quite a different scenario. Birds are indeed chirping but I haven't seen a blade of grass, let alone a flower, in the past few weeks with the landscape in southwest Michigan covered in white. And of course, Major League Baseball is in a lockout, but this isn't the time or place for me to air my grievances on that topic. What I can tell you is that competition season is coming, and it's coming quickly.

Regional Qualifying Events (RQE) are well underway at this point and there will be RQE's across the country from now until the end of August. Grand American, Winter Classic and Southeastern Treeing Walker Days have passed by and it's time to focus on the spring season with breed days, state championships and an April filled with Tournament of Champions competitions. It's hard for me not to look forward to the TOC Regions, with the number of dogs qualified, and not be excited. By the way, while I have your attention, this may be a good last second reminder for some of you. Entries close March 11, so, go to ukcdogs.com and get your qualified dog entered now before you forget!

It seems like as the years go by, I become more aware of the situations in the world around me. Maybe I'm becoming more conscious of my surroundings or maybe it's that as time progresses, social media platforms and news outlets are overcome with "experts" shoving information, ideas and narratives down our throats. There are some very instructive outlets out there though, that have made all of us more aware of the anti-hunting legislation that is being pushed in states across the country. I wish I personally was more knowledgeable about how to fight these proposed bills but unfortunately, I have a ways to go before I become well versed in those politics. It is for that reason I am so thankful for the organizations and associations that are out there fighting on the front lines for the hunters and the hound hunters in particular.

One such organization that I see all over the place

is Sportsmen's Alliance. If you are a hunter but not a member, you need to be. Go to their page on Facebook, Instagram or take a minute to visit their website at sportsmensalliance.org and see all the things they are doing for hunters across our nation that most people have no idea are even happening. You may think this doesn't pertain to you, but it absolutely does. And while you're on the website, go ahead and get a membership for \$35. Remember, if you are nothing more than a number, there is strength in numbers when it comes to protecting our lifestyle.

Win Receipts

As you can see here, UKC recently came out with a new form of win receipt for the Coonhound events. Each club hosting a UKC licensed Coonhound event will get a booklet of win receipts in their next event packet to get them started. The purpose behind this win receipt is for the owner/handler of a hound to better track the location and date of their wins. This receipt **does not** take place of an official event report. UKC maintains that it is a good idea to double check reports at the conclusion of an event and to keep reliable records of your dogs' points and wins to ensure you are entering the correct categories.

We hope that the introduction of these will help those folks who have struggled with record keeping with the new type of event reports. If a club were to forget or misplace their receipts and not have them at the event you are attending, it will have no bearing on the outcome of the event. That is an instance where it might be a good idea to take a picture of the report after it is completely filled out or make note of the club and date in a notebook or in your phone to help you track wins. There are multiple ways to keep track of a dog's wins.

As a club, you will get a booklet to start you out as mentioned above. Once you run out, feel free to reach out

UNITED KENNEL CLUB - WIN RECEIPT



1. Event Type: Coonhound Beagle Cur Feist

2. Event: Hunt #1 Hunt #2 Show Field Trial (CH) Water Race

3. Category: Registered Champion Grand

4. Date of Event: _____ Club ID: _____

5. Club Name: _____

6. Dog Name: _____ UKC #: _____

7. Owner: _____ State: _____

8. Notate Win Specifics: _____

9. Official's Signature: _____

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to the Hunting Ops Department for restocking if necessary. I know that this will require extra time being spent at the desk filling them out for the event officials, but we tried to make the receipt as efficient as possible. Keep in mind, this receipt is for the dog's record keeping purposes. It is still imperative that the event reports get sent in, in a timely manner.

Event Reports With No Entries

As often is the case early in the year, missing reports lists are a top priority for the Hunting Ops team. One thing that we see a lot is clubs that had no entries/winners at an event not sending anything indicating such. It is imperative that a club still sends in the paperwork to let us know if that is the case. If we don't receive anything, to us it could mean the club forgot to send it or that it's floating around in the mail somewhere. Also, feel free to utilize the ability to take a clear picture or scan those reports and email them to huntingops@ukcdogs.com. I can't think of a more efficient way to get things done in a timely manner while avoiding mailing.

Minus a Dog Who Comes by Cast?

Q: Recently I was on a cast and had the following happen: It was a four-dog cast and Dog A struck in around 300 yards to our east for 100. A few minutes afterward, Dog B struck in for 75 to our west. Shortly after Dog B was struck, Dog A ran past the cast, no more than 15-yards away, in route to Dog B. Should Dog A be minused their strike points in this scenario?

A: This question is eerily similar to a question that we have on our Master of Hounds test that is often missed. In the way you describe the situation above, the dog would not be minused its strike points. For clarification, let's go to rule 4(b). The rule reads strike points will be minused, *when a dog quits a track that is being worked and comes in to cast or to tree. Exception:5(b)*

As you can see by reading the rule, there are two requirements for a dog to be minused, one: quit a track that is being worked, two: come in to cast or to tree. In the scenario listed above, the dog more than likely quit the track it was working, or at least that seems to be the case when it came galloping from the area it struck, to the area where the other dog was struck in. That same fact, that the dog was on the run from one area to another, tells me that the dog didn't come into the cast and therefore doesn't meet the second criteria outlined in the Rulebook to be minused.

I think we can agree that it is less than ideal when a struck hound pulls from one track that it is working to go to another but in making and maintaining rules, we have to think beyond surface level. In the instances where the cast isn't standing smack dab between the two struck hounds and they are say, 600-yards away, how could you possibly expect to hold a dog accountable for jumping from one track to another. Imagine trying to judge that. That is why the second criteria of the dog coming into a cast is so important for policing dogs that were to quit tracks. That is not to say a dog that quits its track altogether isn't held

liable for its actions. Rule 4(b) holds a dog accountable for loose barks or leaving a track with the dog's strike points being minused, *if none of the declared struck dogs open within eight minutes.*

Like a lot of nite hunt rules, judgment can and will play a part when enforcing this rule. The Judge will have to make a quick determination on if the dog "came in" to the cast or it didn't. Often times that would seem to be a cut and dry decision. Each situation is different, but it seems like reasonable rationale that coming into the cast and going past the cast are two different things.

Cellular Cameras

With the advancements of technology, there always seems to be some new thing on the market that will prompt calls and/or emails regarding the usage of that item. One such item that seems to be picking up popularity in the coon hunting world is the cellular camera. For those that may not be familiar with cellular cameras, they are trail cameras that have the ability to send pictures and videos to a person's phone in real time. I have a couple myself that I find useful on checking animal movement patterns, and also finding the guilty culprit when our vegetable garden gets raided in the spring.

When using items like this, we are sometimes straddling the line between being resourceful and flat taking advantage. The Rulebook uses the term, Official Nite Hunt Honor Rules, for a reason. There should be a sense of honor in your reputation when you are competing in these events. And often times, if something feels shady, it is.

Keeping tabs on a spot before a hunt, seeing when coons are moving in a particular area wouldn't make me feel that way personally, and some people may disagree. Sitting on the side of the road, 100 yards from a feeder with your cast waiting on a coon to show up, so you can walk in there and cut loose right on top of a hot coon would absolutely make me feel that way. In my opinion, this is no different than cutting loose on a coon crossing the road. These tactics may be a way to get your new pup on a hot track but in a competition to see which dog is the best coondog that night, doing these things really discredit your win and to be frank, your integrity. Use your best judgement and respect the sport you are competing in.



Attention!

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

Darrel Barker • Rockford, IL

Scott Johnson • Monroe, WI

October 19, 2022

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

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