

## COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

Hello everybody! I hope this article finds you happy and healthy. Hopefully this spring has been a fruitful one for you so far. Hunting the past few weeks in southwest Michigan, after the great thaw, has been excellent albeit a little wet. The standing water that accumulates here is foreign to me with my eastern Tennessee roots. The boot dryer that my wife got me a couple Christmases ago has become invaluable.

This month, I will be rehashing a few different topics that have been written about in the past but are still very relevant today. A couple of them that are more procedural than anything but are absolutely imperative to having a successful event. My offer still stands, if there is something you would like to see detailed and discussed in this column, feel free to reach out via email at [twade@ukcdogs.com](mailto:twade@ukcdogs.com).

### Unwritten Rules and Unethical Practices

Below you will find a list of typical complaints we hear at UKC regarding bench shows. This list was compiled by Allen back in 2018 but I think with the bulk of the year's major event shows on deck, it would be a good refresher to get them back out there for people to read over.

None of them violate any written rule. However, many of them are unacceptable and directly violate ethical standards that should not require a written rule. Especially, when it comes to major shows. UKC greatly appreciates those judges and participants who take it upon themselves to eliminate the bad perceptions that come with some of the following:

- Entering a dog housed by the judge that is registered in the name of their significant other. Unacceptable by all measures!
- Individuals entering dogs in major shows who are "close friends" with the judge.
- Coaching from the sidelines.
- Contacting and schmoozing major event Judges before the event.
- Excessive discipline to dogs during a show. It's a competition; not a training session.
- Individuals judging and showing, on opposite days, at the same major event. Leads to "pick me and I'll pick you" theories and perceptions from the sidelines and other participants.
- Judge traveling to the show with a participant. Heaven forbid that participant wins!
- Judges making negative comments publicly regarding dogs they have judged. Such remarks have a way of getting around. Judges should always be aware of their unbecoming "off the field" comments.
- Dog entered in a show where the judge is the

breeder, previous owner or co-owner opens the door for ridicule and is easily perceived as the judge made a biased selection. Oftentimes leaves participants feeling like their dog did not get a fair shake in the show.

- Event organizers entering dogs in the show gives the impression that a participant is selecting their own judge for personal reasons.
- Judges suggesting to owners they should enter a specific dog in a show they are scheduled to judge. Are you serious?

### Coon Caught in Brush Pile

**Q:** During a recent cast, there were two dogs that had been struck and treed in together. When we get in there to handle the dogs, we find they are in a brush pile. While pulling the dogs out of the brush, one of the hounds bring out a dead coon with it. In this scenario, what points are rewarded?

**A:** Thank you for the question! While examining your situation, two rules pop into mind and this is probably a good spot to highlight those rules. Rule 3(b) is first which reads, *Points will be plussed when; When dog is declared struck and treed and coon is seen other than in tree, dog declared treed to receive strike and tree points. Dogs not declared treed, strike points only.* In this rule we find that with the dogs being struck and treed in, and found in the brush pile, they do have the opportunity to be plussed both ways (strike and tree) in this scenario.

That brings us to the 2nd rule that applies which is Rule 3(c) which states, *Points will be plussed when; If dog(s) catches coon, strike points only.* Ah ha! The kicker. When the dogs are pulled out of the pile with the coon, the only option here is to plus both dogs strike points and delete their tree points. 3(c) takes precedence in this situation.

### Let's Help Out Event Officials

It seems like every year as I'm on the road at events, or working with Field Reps stationed at zone locations, I get the same stories repeatedly about scorecards not being turned in. I know casts don't always go the way we wanted. Dead casts do happen. Next time it happens to you be sure to think about the folks putting on the event and sitting in that clubhouse into the early hours of the morning. If you can't turn the card in, at least have the respect to let someone know that you aren't going to. Those folks are often volunteers working on little to no pay, and even less sleep. Let's be appreciative and help them out. And keep in mind that in a lot of these events, even a dead cast scorecard can end up playing a role in tiebreaker and advancement scenarios.

Another thing that hunters can do to make officials lives easier is to completely fill the scorecard out. Tabulate your scores, make sure you have the signatures you need, and if someone has withdrawn, please take the time to get the far-right column of the card filled out. This column asks for the time and scores at the time of the handler's

withdrawal. It takes no more than 20 seconds to fill out but it sure is handy to have in the case that a question arises about a score or the possible tampering of one. By withdrawing, leaving the cast, and not taking the time to completely fill that section of the card out, you are seriously hindering the ability of event officials and UKC to make sound judgments on cases of possible manipulation.



## **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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