

BOARD OF DIRECTORS August, 2011

German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Vizslas and Weimaraners — Eligibility for Retriever Hunting Tests.

The Board VOTED to approve a request made by the respective parent clubs to allow the German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla and Weimaraner to enter the Retriever Hunting Test. Titles earned by these breeds in Retriever Hunting Tests will be designated with an “R” to differentiate the title from those earned in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests (example: JHR).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS November 7 - 8, 2011

Revisions to Hunting Test Regulations

The Board VOTED to approve the following minor housecleaning changes to the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests*. Changes underlined: *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds, Spaniels and Retrievers* –

CHAPTER 1, Section 4. Entry Requirements. No Special Inducements.

A Hunting Test giving club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminate between entrants. Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. A junior handler is someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the test.

CHAPTER 1

Section 3. Senior Hunter Title (SH) Dogs that have acquired a Senior Hunter title at an AKC-licensed or member Hunting Test are eligible to enter Junior Hunting Tests. No JH title will be issued.

Section 4. Master Hunter Title (MH) Dogs that have acquired a Master Hunting title at an AKC-licensed or member club Hunting Test are eligible to enter Junior and Senior Hunting Tests. No JH or SH titles will be issued.

Chapter 1, Section 12. Weather. Weather is an important consideration for the hunting test event committee. The safety of participants and animals is of utmost importance. Extreme weather such as lightening, strong winds, heat or cold, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. The hunting test event committee, in consultation with the judges, has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted due to **weather** and at what point the event shall resume.

If a weather delay results in an entrant being unable to participate, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee. If an entire event or part of an event is cancelled due to weather, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee.

Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Board VOTED to approve six modifications to the *Retriever Hunt Test Regulations*. Effective January 1, 2012. New wording underlined:

Chapter 3, Section 6,

Section 6. Honoring. In Senior and Master Tests every dog shall honor in at least one hunting situation involving the retrieve of a marked fall(s) by remaining on the line off-lead while the working dog retrieves, unless otherwise directed or until dismissed by the Judges.

Only one dog at a time may be required to honor the retrieve of the working dog. The honoring dog must be in an area designated by the judges. The specific position (sitting, lying down, etc) of the honoring dog will be determined by the handler provided the honoring dog is positioned to clearly see all the marks without having to reposition itself.

Judges should be careful in establishing the honoring scenario to maintain adequate distance between dogs.

Chapter 3, New Section 18.

New Section 18. Walk Ups. In Senior and Master hunting tests, a walk up is used to test a dog's steadiness. The bird represent a surprise situation therefore gunning stations must be well concealed, utilizing natural cover when possible so that only the bird may be seen when launched. Birds shall be presented at distances ranging from 35 to 45 yards of the dog with no attention getting devices utilized.

As the first bird is thrown in a walk up situation, the handler may give either a verbal or whistle command to steady the dog once the bird is in the air. Judges shall tell handlers in advance of the start of judging when it is appropriate to give the steadying commend or whistle.

There shall be no walk up test situations in Junior level tests.

Chapter 5.

New Section 4. Marking and Memory of Birds.

In Junior, Senior and Master Tests, marking and memory of birds are of primary importance. While dogs may be handled in all three levels of testing, this is undesirable in marking tests and should be utilized only as a last recourse to get a bird out of the field. A dog that goes to the area of the fall, establishes a hunt and finds the bird unaided must be scored appreciably higher than a dog that has to be handled to the bird.

Section 5. Junior Hunting Tests. Dogs shall be tested on a minimum of four single marks, two on land and two on water. No more than two marks may be thrown in a series. Judges in keeping with simulation of realistic but relatively simple hunting situations must remember the use of numerous decoys, islands, points of land, rolling terrain, cover, ditch lines, wind direction, etc. are important factors to consider when designing test scenarios to evaluate Junior dogs as capable hunting companions.

(1) ...

(2) Dogs shall be steady but may be brought to the line on leash with a flat buckle collar. The dog is under judgment when it leaves the holding blind. A Junior dog that is not under control when brought to the line (jumping, strongly tugging, etc) even though it is on a leash shall risk receiving a lower score in trainability including zero in extreme cases. Dogs may be restrained gently with a slipcord looped through the flat buckle collar, or held gently by the flat buckle collar until sent to retrieve.

Section 6. Master Hunting Test. Dogs shall be tested in a minimum of five hunting situations as follows: multiple land marks, multiple water marks, multiple marks on water and land, a land blind and a water blind (at least one that shall be a double blind in any combination). There shall be at least three series. At least one of the series shall include a walk-up. Diversion birds and/or diversion shots such as described in Chapter 3, Section 24, must be used at least once. In Master tests, in at least two multiple marking situation the dog's marking/memory will be tested with at least three (3) falls, before the dogs is sent to retrieve.

During a double set of marks (2 falls) Master judges shall include additional elements of testing i.e. walkup, diversion bird, diversion shot, blind/s etc. in testing the dog's abilities

Chapter 1, Section 3. Making Application. Approval for licensed or member club Hunting Tests may be issued to clubs formed for the improvement of the several breeds of Retrievers or to clubs formed for the improvement of a single Retriever breed.

Retriever Clubs may offer Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests for all AKC registrable eligible breeds, but may not offer more than one of the same category at any event at which Qualifying scores toward titles might be earned.

Judge's Panel Qualifications:

(1) The combined number of points required for the two Judges in any division or level shall be six (6) at that level or higher. Judges accumulate a point for each level judged at the completion of an assignment.

(2) Handling experience - *At the Master test level and each division thereof, one Judge shall have qualified a dog or dogs (5) times at the Master level. At the Senior and Junior test levels and each division thereof, one Judge shall have qualified a dog or dogs four (4) times either at the level being judged or at a higher test level. Monitoring the qualifications of judges is the responsibility of the event-giving club.*

Boykin Spaniels Eligible for Retriever Hunting Tests

Following a motion by Dr. Gavin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman), to permit the Boykin Spaniel to be eligible to participate in the Retriever Hunting Test program, effective December 1, 2011. Titles earned by Boykin Spaniels in Retriever Hunting Tests will be designated with an "R" to differentiate the title from those earned in the Spaniel Hunting Test (example: JHR).