



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. September 6, 2026, Sun 9:00 a.m. — Club Trial, Picnic, Annual Summer Meeting, Pet Resorts at The Farm, 6771 Jim Dyke Road, Loudon (NEW LOCATION FOR ETRC)
2. September 15-16, 2026, Tues—Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek MH Only, Caldwell's, Georgetown
3. October 17-18, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Fall Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater
4. February 20, 2027 Sat 6:30 p.m. — Annual awards banquet, meeting, elections

Photo of the Month



Oakie on her way to a water mark! Big Creek's Quackers in the Oaks "Oakie", Lois Luthenauer

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President's Message —

By Alan Bruhin

Greetings, it's hard for me to believe that August is already here! The summer just seems to be flying by. And in typical August fashion, we are dealing with hot temperatures. I know for many that this is the time of year that we slow down on the training regimen to give both our dogs and ourselves a little break. For those who will be running hunt test this fall, be sure to take care when starting back to training.

The East Tennessee Retriever Club will have a busy September with a club test and business meeting on September 6 and a midweek master hunt test on September 15-16. Details for both are included in the newsletter.

The 2026 Master National will be held in Roseburg Oregon starting in early October. For many it's going to be too far of a trip to participate in this year. I would encourage those with a master dog to consider working towards qualifying for the 2027 Master National which will be in South Carolina. Qualifying starts August 1. Your dog will have to pass 6 master test prior to July 31, 2027.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events. As always, if you have any Questions, please feel free to reach out to me or any of our other board members.

Alan Bruhin
wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu

Hunt Test Scenes from our Spring Tests



Left, Marsha Fuzia; Right; ribbon ceremony, April test

Report on the Judge's Seminar



Basic Retriever Hunt Test Judge's Seminar

Sponsored by the East Tennessee Retriever Club

The East Tennessee Retriever Club hosted a basic judges seminar on July 18th in Athens. Sixteen of our members and a four non-members participated in the training session led by AKC Field Representative Jerry Mann. Participants learned about the rules governing running a hunt test, and the basics of test design.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a AKC hunt test judge must attend one of the basic seminars and apprentice judge at a licensed hunting event. In addition to having run a dog at the level or above that they are judging. Also, judges must periodically attend seminars to keep their credentials current. For handlers, learning what judges are looking for is a great way to supplement their knowledge of the rules and regulations governing our sport.

Members attending were: Alan Bruhin, Denise Davis, J. Michael Evans, Michele Fletcher, Marsha Fuzia, Kyle Griffin, Lois Luthenauer, Troy Perry, Zack & Tyra Pry, Haley Shealy, Ryan Troup, June Turner, Lisa Vencille, Luke Wheat, and Dennis Wilcox. Alan, J, Michael, Lois, Haley, Lisa, and Dennis are already judges but our club needs more. Hopefully those who attended this seminar will consider working towards becoming a future judge.

If you have questions about judging, talk to one of those judges who were at the training or one of our other members who currently serve as judges. — including Dianne Clark, Dick Lamping, Luke McCoy, and Lisa Styles.

The club took in \$580.55 from entry fees; expenses were \$1,288 for a net loss of \$706.98.



ETRC Summer Picnic, Business Meeting & Club Trial Sunday, September 6, 2026

Our next event will be the annual summer extravaganza — a club trial beginning at 9:00 in the morning (come around 8:30 if possible for sign-ups) with stakes for Singles Classic (long field-trial style land marks); Junior, Advanced Junior, Senior and Master Hunter; and puppy stakes for Junior (under 6 months) and Senior Puppies under a year.

Following will be a picnic lunch provided by the club, and then a general business meeting where we will discuss upcoming events, items that club members want to bring up, and appoint the nominating committee for next year.

This year, we are having this event at Pet Resorts At The Farm, a 150 acre property with several ponds, in Loudon. The address and instructions on how to get there are below.

This is great practice for upcoming fall hunt tests, both at ETRC and other nearby clubs.

Please RSVP so we will know how many frozen ducks to bring and how much lunch to order. Send your RSVPs to Secretary / Treasurer Karen Edwards at EdwardsKC@gmail.com. Let us know how many dogs you are bringing and their approximate levels, and how many people will be coming. We hope to see you all there!

Look for further details in the September newsletter.



DIRECTIONS TO PET RESORTS AT THE FARM: The address is, 6771 Jim Dyke Road, Loudon, TN. From I75, take exit 72 for TN 72 towards Loudon. In one mile, turn left onto Prospect Church Road, and in 2 miles, continue slight left onto Jim Dyke Road. Pet Resorts is 1.8 miles along on the left. .

First Fall Hunt Test: Midweek Master September 15-16, 2026

Our first hunt test of the fall season is a Master-only hunt test on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 15-16. Entries are limited to 66 dogs. This test will be held at Brian Caldwell's farm in Georgetown, TN — directions and address below.

Entries open: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 7:00:00 PM CT

Workers/Amateur Set Aside open: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 7:00:00 PM CT

Entries Close: Monday, September 07, 2026 11:59:59 PM CT

Judges are Michael and Barbara Reed.

This test will count towards eligibility for next year's national hunt tests.



DIRECTIONS TO BRIAN CALDWELL'S FARM:

The address is 1810 State Highway 58 South, Georgetown, TN, near Cleveland and Decatur and not far from Dayton, TN. If you don't have a GPS, here are some more detailed instructions:

- ◆ From Interstate 75, take exit 49 for TN-30 towards Decatur.
- ◆ Follow TN-30W for 9.3 miles into the stop light in Decatur.
- ◆ Turn left onto TN-58S. Stay on this road for 15 miles and turn left into Brian's property. This is just after going up a hill, so be prepared to turn in a hurry as you approach the hill.

There will be "ETRC" signs at the entrance and the gate will be open.

AKC Unattended Dogs Policy

Below is the text of the new AKC policy, a clarification memo sent out by AKC, and a reprint of AKC's Q & A page on this policy

Policy as Adopted at the July 2026 AKC Board of Directors Meeting

Dogs shall not be left unattended in a vehicle that is fully enclosed or without sufficient ventilation or airflow from the outside environment. A vehicle containing unattended dogs must provide continuous ventilation and conditions reasonably sufficient to protect the dogs from heat-related injury, illness, distress, or death. The presence of fans, air-circulation devices, climate-control systems, temperature-monitoring systems, remote alerts, or other electronic monitoring technology shall not, by itself, establish that a vehicle provides adequate ventilation or a safe environment for unattended dogs.

Leaving dogs unattended in a vehicle that is fully enclosed or without sufficient ventilation is recognized to be conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, the sport of purebred dogs and the American Kennel Club. Accordingly, individuals who engage in conduct which constitutes a violation of this policy may be subject to discipline pursuant to AKC's *Charter and By-laws*.



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB**

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB STATEMENT ON THE UNATTENDED DOGS POLICY

Thank you to those who have taken the time to share their concerns and comments regarding the "Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy" adopted by the Board at its July 2026 meeting. We appreciate the thoughtful feedback and recognize that exhibitors, breeders, handlers, and judges have a strong interest in ensuring that policies affecting the care and welfare of dogs are both practical and effective.

The primary purpose of this policy is to reinforce a fundamental principle: individuals participating in AKC events are responsible for providing a safe environment for dogs in their care. The policy focuses on situations in which dogs are left unattended in vehicles without adequate ventilation or airflow, creating conditions that may place them at risk of heat-related distress, illness, injury, or death.

The policy does not prohibit or discourage the use of modern vehicle cooling and monitoring technologies, nor does it require that one is at a vehicle at all times or ban climate-control systems, temperature-monitoring devices, fans, remote alerts, or similar equipment. Rather, it recognizes that no single device or technology can, by itself, guarantee a safe environment. Mechanical, electrical, cellular, software, and human failures can occur without warning.

Accordingly, the policy emphasizes that the presence of technology or specialized equipment does not relieve an individual of responsibility for the safety and welfare of dogs left in their care. If an unfortunate incident occurs, the existence of monitoring or climate-control equipment alone does not establish that reasonable precautions were taken or that the environment remained safe. The responsibility for ensuring a dog's safety ultimately rests with the individual, regardless of the technology being used. For that reason, the policy provides that the mere pres-

ence of such devices does not automatically demonstrate that a vehicle is safe for unattended dogs under all circumstances.

Further, AKC's policy is consistent with a broader public policy trend across the United States. Many states have enacted laws that prohibit leaving dogs unattended in vehicles under conditions that endanger their health or safety, particularly during periods of extreme heat or cold. While the specific language and enforcement mechanisms vary by jurisdiction, these laws generally reflect the same underlying principle embodied in AKC's policy: individuals are responsible for ensuring that dogs left in vehicles are maintained in safe conditions and are not exposed to unreasonable risks. The Board's action therefore aligns with widely recognized animal welfare standards that place the safety and well-being of dogs above reliance on any particular technology, device, or method of monitoring.

Questions have been raised regarding how "sufficient ventilation" or a "safe environment" will be interpreted. As with many AKC conduct policies, determinations will be based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation. The focus is not on the presence or absence of a particular device, but rather on whether the conditions provided were reasonably sufficient to protect the health and welfare of the dogs involved.

It is also important to note that the policy is directed toward conduct that creates an unreasonable risk to dogs. It is not intended to penalize responsible dog owners who take appropriate measures to safeguard their animals. Instead, it strengthens AKC's ability to address situations where dogs are left in conditions that jeopardize their welfare and, by extension, reflect adversely on the sport and the responsible care of purebred dogs.

The AKC recognizes that vehicle designs, environmental conditions, and available technologies continue to evolve. However, the welfare of dogs must remain the guiding consideration. This policy establishes a clear expectation that individuals are responsible for ensuring that unattended dogs are maintained in conditions that remain safe throughout the entire period they are left in a vehicle. The use of technology may be one factor considered in evaluating those circumstances, but it is not a substitute for responsibility, nor does it excuse conduct that results in an unsafe environment or harm to a dog.

AKC remains committed to promoting responsible dog ownership and protecting the health, safety, and well-being of dogs at all AKC events. We appreciate the continued feedback from the community as we work toward that shared goal.



Frequently Asked Questions: AKC Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy, July 2026

Why did the AKC adopt this new policy?

Following several recent incidents involving dogs left unattended in vehicles, including situations that resulted in serious injury and death, the AKC Board of Directors determined that stronger safeguards were necessary to help prevent future tragedies and reinforce the shared responsibility of exhibitors, handlers, and owners to protect dogs at AKC events.

What does the new Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy require?

Effective immediately, the policy prohibits leaving a dog unattended in a vehicle that is fully enclosed

or does not have adequate ventilation and airflow.

What is considered a vehicle under this policy?

For purposes of this policy, a vehicle includes any enclosed or partially enclosed motorized conveyance used to transport dogs, including passenger cars, SUVs, pickup trucks, vans, minivans, commercial vehicles, trailers being used to house dogs, motorhomes, recreational vehicles (RVs), and similar vehicles. Regardless of the type of vehicle, owners and handlers are responsible for ensuring dogs are not left unattended in conditions that could compromise their safety or wellbeing.

Are fans, air conditioning, temperature monitors, or remote alert systems enough to comply with the policy?

These are all valuable precautions and can play an important role in helping maintain a safe environment for dogs. However, they should not be the only precautions relied upon. Fans, air conditioning, temperature monitors, remote alert systems, and other electronic devices do not, by themselves, make a vehicle safe for an unattended dog. Owners and handlers remain responsible for ensuring dogs are kept in conditions that protect them from heat-related illness, distress, injury, or death. Vehicles should be checked regularly to verify that cooling systems are functioning properly and ventilation is sufficient so that the dogs remain safe and in good condition.

Is the AKC advising that I leave my vehicle unlocked?

No. The AKC is not advising exhibitors, handlers, or owners to leave their vehicles unlocked. The policy does not prescribe how a vehicle should be secured. Rather, it requires that dogs not be left unattended in conditions that could compromise their health or wellbeing. Owners and handlers remain responsible for taking all appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of both their dogs and their vehicles.

Who is responsible for complying with the policy?

Every owner and handler is responsible for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of any dog in their care while attending any AKC event.

When does the new policy take effect?

The Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy is effective immediately.

What happens if someone violates the policy?

Violating the policy is considered conduct prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, the sport of purebred dogs, and the American Kennel Club. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the AKC Charter and Bylaws.

What disciplinary penalties may apply?

The AKC Discipline Guidelines now include a specific offense and penalty structure for violations of the policy. Depending on the severity of the violation and the circumstances involved, penalties may range from a one-year suspension and monetary fines to a lifetime suspension and fines of up to \$10,000.

Why is the AKC adopting this policy when many states already have laws regarding dogs left in vehicles?

State laws vary significantly in how they address dogs left unattended in vehicles, including when intervention is permitted and what constitutes a violation. As the governing body for dog sports, the AKC has a responsibility to establish consistent standards of conduct that apply to all participants, regardless of where an event is held. This policy establishes a clear, uniform standard for exhibitors, handlers, and owners and provides the framework for consistent enforcement through the AKC Discipline Guidelines. It is intended to complement, not replace, applicable state and local laws, and all participants are expected to comply with both.

Will previously resolved disciplinary matters be reopened under this new policy?

No. Disciplinary matters that have already been investigated and resolved under the applicable AKC Rules, Policies, and Discipline Guidelines in effect at the time of the incident will not be reopened.

Does this policy apply only to hot weather?

No. While hot weather significantly increases the risk to dogs, the policy is based on providing safe conditions for dogs at all times. Owners and handlers are responsible for ensuring dogs are not left unattended in conditions that could compromise their health, safety, or wellbeing

What other changes did the Board approve?

The Board approved a related change to the *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events* guidelines. Effective July 29, 2026, an Event Committee hearing will be required whenever a dog is seriously injured or dies in connection with an AKC event, regardless of whether a vehicle is involved.

What is the purpose of requiring an Event Committee hearing?

An Event Committee hearing allows the committee to receive sworn testimony, review the facts surrounding an incident, and ensure cases are handled fairly, consistently, and in accordance with AKC rules.

What is the overall goal of these changes?

These updates strengthen the AKC's commitment to protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of dogs while promoting responsible stewardship and consistent enforcement at every AKC event.



Not Worried

Health Alert

Horrible Hot Summer Weather Advice

This seems to be a particularly miserable summer with high heat and high humidity both, which can push the “feels like” temperatures up well over the hundred degree mark. Field training, and particularly summer Hunt tests, push dogs to their physical limits, making heat stress a severe risk. Limit intense work when the combined temperature (°F) and humidity exceed 140. Cool your dog immediately by wetting their heads, belly, armpits, and paw pads. Use fans, shade, and ensure they drink plenty of fresh water. Some specific suggestions, aimed particularly at hunt tests but applicable as well to training scenarios, are given below.

Pre-Test Preparations

- ◆ Acclimatization: Ensure your dog is conditioned to local weather before attending a test. It takes about 2–3 weeks for a canine to physiologically adapt to warmer climates.
- ◆ Crate Management: Never leave a dog in a parked, unventilated vehicle. Use battery-operated crate fans and utilize reflective insulated covers (e.g., Mendota Pet) or portable kennel shades to keep resting areas as cool as possible.
- ◆ Bluetooth Monitoring: Place a wireless kennel thermometer (available on Amazon) near your dog's crate to monitor ambient temperatures remotely.

Hydration and Nutrition

- ◆ Pre-Hydration: Keep your dog well-hydrated before their run. Consider using veterinary-approved electrolyte solutions (such as K9 Power) in their water a day before the event to support sustained hydration.
- ◆ Cool, Not Icy Water: Offer cool, fresh water in small, frequent intervals rather than letting them guzzle large amounts at once, which can trigger vomiting.
- ◆ Avoid Post-Run Bloat: Do not feed your dog heavy meals immediately before or after strenuous hunt test marks. Wait until their heart rate and breathing have completely returned to normal.

On the Line and During the Test

- ◆ Read the Signs: High-drive hunting dogs often ignore their own physical limits and mask early signs of heat stress. Watch for thick, ropery saliva, excessive panting, bright red gums, tongues wider and longer than normal, or a sudden loss of focus.
- ◆ Minimize Heavy Cover: If possible, try to avoid running in dense, overgrown areas where trapped heat and humidity are higher.
- ◆ Utilize Water Marks: If permitted by the judges and conditions, safely maximize your dog's exposure to water retrieves before land blinds to keep their core temperature down.

Emergency Cooling Procedures

If you notice your dog is overheating, act quickly but safely:

- ◆ Move to Shade: Immediately relocate the dog out of direct sunlight.
- ◆ Soak and Evaporate: Wet the dog thoroughly with cool water. Focus on the head, neck, belly, and inside the thighs where major blood vessels are near the surface. Dunking the head is best if your dog will tolerate that.

- ♦ Alcohol Application: Apply 70% isopropyl rubbing alcohol to the paw pads and exposed skin of the ears to rapidly draw out heat through evaporation.
- ♦ Airflow: Place a portable fan directly on the wet dog to speed up the cooling process.
- ♦ Watch for Shock: Do not pack them in ice, as this can cause blood vessels in the skin to constrict and trap core heat.

ETRC Shirts & Jackets for sale!

We have some new options for ETRC wear! We will still continue to have a wide variety of short sleeved and some long sleeve cotton and performance cloth tee shirts, but have added some cooler weather gear to our lineup.

Pictured at left is a half-zip heavy cotton shirt/jacket for \$35: The ETRC logo will be embroidered in color on the left front pocket area. It is available in all sizes from XS to 4XL. We have ordered a small number of these; 2 in Medium, 4 in Large, 4 Extra Large, and 2 XXL. If you don't see your size, or if you want to make sure to get one of these, let Lois Luthenauer know and we'll see about doing a special order. Price is \$35 each for one of these cozy, warm shirts.



Also available, for special order only, is a lightweight full-zip soft shell waterproof jacket with a standup collar, available in several colors other than purple (see picture at left) The embroidered ETRC logo would be in the left pocket area. Price is \$65, and for an additional \$10 you could get your name embroidered as well. This might make an excellent gift for someone special or a treat for yourself!

In addition to the items shown on this page, we also have a number of short sleeve tees, and a few long sleeved ones, in regular cotton and in the ultra-comfortable performance fabric. These are available in several styles and a number of sizes including some children's sizes. Prices range from \$15 to \$25 depending on style and material.

Our hat lineup includes some in camo and different colors, with the ETRC Logo embroidered on it. Call Lois for more information on availability and current pricing.

With the facilities we are using for hunt tests these days, there are no good places to bring along and set up tables with shirts available for display. However, if you are interested in getting a shirt, contact Lois, tell her what you are looking for and your size(s), and make arrangements for her to bring them to one of our events that you will be attending.

Lois's email is MountainLO717@gmail.com, and her phone number is 865-803-1187.



Youth Program



The Luthenauer Young Handler program was established as a memorial to ETRC member Kevin Luthenauer. The program is supported by generous contributions from family and friends to encourage youth participation in retriever sports. Kids who are interested in applying are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm.

There is no application fee; if the applicant is not already part of a family membership, their membership fee will be paid for by the Luthenauer fund. The program will reimburse AKC Hunt test fees and any fees for other ETRC events such as club trials.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque to keep, and participation awards for everyone in the program.

ETRC Membership Information

Membership for a year is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). New member and renewal forms are available online at <https://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just cut & paste the link, print it off, & send it along with your check to:

Karen Edwards, ETRC Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

Membership includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. There are extra awards for volunteer workers at one of our events! Don't miss out on the opportunity to make friends with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. We are one of the most active Retriever clubs in the country — and have another great year ongoing in 2026 with 4 AKC hunt tests, club trials, picnics, awards, and more.

The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join after November 1 are also paid up for the following year. Join or renew now for 2026!

Newsletter / Facebook / Group Me Info

NEWSLETTER: The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, usually on the 1st of the month. Send us your test results, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs, items and services, death notices, interesting articles, and any brags you care to share, along with pictures! Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late.... Send items to newsletter editor Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com). Newsletters are archived on the club Website, www.etrclub.org.

FACEBOOK: we have an active Facebook page! Either post on it yourself, or send pics and info to our moderator, Alan Bruhin, at wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu.

GroupMe: GroupMe is a free texting app for smartphones and media devices such as the Apple iPad. The app works on both Apple and Android devices and is similar to SMS texting. GroupMe allows members to be aware of both club-sponsored events as well as those run "privately" by individual members who choose to post an announcement on GroupMe. For more info, contact Jim Pearce, at jwp1002@gmail.com.

