Hunting Retriever Club Inc.

Affiliated with
United Kennel Club
An International Organization

Conceived by Hunters for Hunters

OFFICIAL **UKC/HRC POLICY AND RUNNING RULES** FOR **HUNTING RETRIEVER TESTS**

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

The Preamble of the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. Constitution states its primary purpose to be: "...the betterment of Hunting Retrievers as a whole and to influence the breeding and training of a better and finer Hunting Retriever; to provide hunters and Hunting Retrievers a series of actual Hunting tests in a controlled system and furnish an ongoing educational program for the Hunters, for their training, experience, and sporting competition. Further, it is the purpose of this Association to support and protect the inherent rights of its members to own, hunt, bear arms, to promote the breed and type of dog of their choice and promote complimentary conservation and management of game birds and wildlife species commonly pursued by the members of the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc."

"Conceived by Hunters for Hunters" is both the philosophy and reality of the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. ("HRC")

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Shaded areas indicate Running Rules (Section III). Running Rules definition – The mechanics and standards of evaluating retrievers during a hunt test. The remainder of the rule book is policy and procedural information.

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SECTION I - HRC POLICY

PREAMBLE

The Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. (HRC) and the United Kennel Club® (UKC®) provide a program to develop the hunting retriever to fulfill its intended purpose in life – hunting. The two organizations, working closely together, provide hunters and hunting retrievers a series of actual hunting tests in a controlled environment to work toward the following titles granted by the UKC: Started Hunting Retriever (SHR), Hunting Retriever (HR), Hunting Retriever Champion (HRCH), Grand Hunting Retriever Champion (GRHRCH), Upland Hunter (UH) and Upland Hunting Champion (UHCH).

The Hunting Retriever Club, Inc., and the United Kennel Club provide ongoing educational and training experience for hunters and their retrievers. Except for the International Grand Hunt, a hunting retriever will be able to participate in all tests at each level of competition without being eliminated. The HRC believes in promoting the conservation of waterfowl and upland game birds and providing a continuing commitment to our American members' Second Amendment rights and all of our members' rights to keep and bear arms.

The United Kennel Club and/or the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc., may change rules and policies as deemed necessary.

The Hunting Retriever Club, Inc.'s Board of Directors meeting is held annually during the second week in June. The HRC Board of Directors is comprised of the presidents of each HRC club and the elected Executive Committee Officers. Regular election of the Executive Committee Officers occurs every two years in odd-numbered years.

DEFINITION OF LICENSED HUNTS

Regular licensed hunt: A UKC regular licensed event hosted by an approved UKC/HRC club. All three categories (Started, Seasoned and Finished) must be offered at every regular licensed hunt other than the International Grand Hunt. The three categories will be run simultaneously. These tests range from the Started hunt test, which is the least complex in testing; to the Seasoned hunt test, a slightly more difficult category; to the Finished hunt test, which is considered the most demanding of these three tests. The Finished category requires the hunting retriever to prove ability, skill, natural instinct, tenacity and control.

An HRC club may host a UKC licensed Upland hunt test(s) in one of three ways: a. with its regularly scheduled licensed hunt; b. on a different day as a separate licensed event; or c. on a different day from a separate licensed event, hosting up to four Upland hunts in one day.

UNITED KENNEL CLUB®/ HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB, INC. (UKC®/HRC)

The Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. (HRC) is an international retriever club affiliated with the United Kennel Club (UKC). The UKC assists in the formation of all new clubs, and with the HRC, has standardized all of the rules and regulations for consistency in the program.

The HRC Board of Directors, in conjunction with the UKC, has adopted all rules and regulations for the running of hunting retrievers in true-to-life hunting situations and will amend and expand these rules and regulations as the need arises.

HUNTS

A UKC licensed HRC hunt must be hosted by an approved UKC/HRC club. All three categories, Started, Seasoned, and Finished, must be offered at every hunt other than the International Grand Hunt and the Upland hunt.

There are two types of hunts, which are classified by type of activity. The activity types are regular hunt and Upland hunt. The maximum number of entries at a licensed hunt is based upon the number of judges (flights) per category. The limit must be published on the HRC premium. Although the club may declare a lower number, the maximum number of entries a flight of judges can judge at a licensed hunt shall be:

Started - entries not to exceed 50 dogs per flight.
Seasoned - entries not to exceed 40 dogs per flight.
Finished - entries not to exceed 40 dogs per flight.
Upland - entries not to exceed 30 dogs per flight.

Limiting the number of entries per flight will allow hunting retrievers an opportunity to participate in each of the hunting tests without being eliminated.

There is a collective limit of twelve (12) dogs per handler, per licensed regular hunt and upland hunt. Each club has the option of lowering this limit. The limit must be published on the HRC premium. Each dog is limited to one (1) entry per licensed hunt, with the exception of multi-stake dogs through the Youth Handler Program. A dog participating in a regular hunt (Started, Seasoned, or Finished) may participate in separate Upland hunts on the same day. Any handler handling more than twelve (12) dogs, or more than a club's lower designated limit, will forfeit all championship points for all dogs handled by that handler at that hunt. The handler and the Hunt Secretary are jointly responsible for ensuring that point slips information is correct and complete, and the limits are not exceeded.

A separate entry fee for the Upland test will be determined and collected by the host club. The host club will submit the appropriate per-dog assessment to the UKC and the HRC, just as it does for the other test entries.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

UKC licensed HRC Hunt Tests are open to all breeds listed in the UKC group classification Gun Dog. The following registration classifications are acceptable as noted.

1. UKC permanently registered dogs.
2. UKC Performance Listed (PL) dogs. PL dogs must meet the requirements to be listed as one of the breeds in the Gun Dog group and are required to be spayed or neutered to participate in HRC events only.
3. Non-UKC Registered dogs. No points will be awarded until registration requirements are met. Any non-UKC Registered dog participating will be charged an additional $5.00 fee. This fee is sent to UKC with the UKC Hunt Report.

HRC, Inc. and/or affiliated HRC club officers have the right to refuse the entry of any dog or handler. However, no handler shall be refused entry based upon religion, race, color, national origin, age or sex.

As of the date of the hunt, any non-HRC-member owners of dogs participating at the Seasoned, Finished or Upland levels will be charged an additional $5 fee per entry. The host club retains $2.50 of this fee and $2.50 is sent to HRC, Inc. with the HRC Hunt Report.

YOUTH HANDLER PROGRAM POLICY

The Purpose of the Youth Handler Program was developed to encourage participation in HRC events allowing the entire family to get involved. The Youth Handler Program was designed for the Youth Handler primarily, and not necessarily the chase of championship points for the dog.

Eligibility: The Youth Handler Program is available to children 18 years of age and under. The Youth Handler must be a member of the Hunting Retriever Club, either as a single or family member. The Youth Handler may register within 30 days of participating in the first event to be eligible to receive credit for the event(s) run.

Guidelines: Youth Handlers may enter a dog and shall participate with no assistance in Started, Seasoned, Finished, or Upland categories. If the same dog is run in contention by a handler for championship points, the dog may not be run in the same category by the Youth Handler.

Example: If a dog is run by a handler in Finished for championship points, the Youth Handler may not run the same dog in the Finished category even if there are multiple flights.

Youth Handlers will run the same test as everyone else. All HRC rules will be the same for the Youth Handler in the category entered as a regular handler.

Youth Handler entries will count toward total test entries. Example: If your flight has a maximum of 50 dogs, Youth Handlers will count towards the 50.

Youth Handlers will pay the same entry fee as other

handlers unless otherwise reduced by the club.

UKC will help track participation by each Youth Handler through their HRC membership number.

TEST STANDARD

UKC/HRC clubs will conduct hunting tests consistent with an actual day's hunt afield. In all hunting tests, hunting retrievers in all categories will not compete against each other for placements, but instead will run and be judged against a set test standard.

CLOTHING

Clothing worn in retrieving hunt tests by judges, hunt marshals, gunners and handlers must be full camouflage, in colors suitable for waterfowl hunting including: Upper body: shirt, blouse, coat or jacket. Lower body: shorts, pants, skirt, or waders. Optional Head coverings: hat, visor, netting. **Clothing worn in Upland Hunt Tests by judges, hunt marshals, gunners, handlers, and bird techs must be blaze orange in color suitable for upland hunting, including upper body, vest, jacket, or shirt; optional head covering: hat or visor.** Handlers may have the option of removing their hat to use while handling their dog. Once the hat is removed, handling will be judged.

DISQUALIFICATIONS/DISQUALIFIED FOR FIGHTING, HRC POLICY

Hunting retrievers will be disqualified for fighting or attacking handlers, participants, spectators, judges, UKC/HRC officers, or other dogs.

If a dog is involved with biting a human, the dog (not the handler) will be immediately disqualified and kenneled. Local, state or provincial law enforcement shall be notified, and direction will be taken from them.

Handlers will be asked to leave the test grounds, resulting in disqualification for both the handler and the hunting retriever, if the handler interferes with the test, judges, hunt marshal, gunners, bird boys, UKC/HRC officials, or any other participants.

Physical abuse of a hunting retriever will result in the immediate disqualification of both the handler and the hunting retriever.

Mishandling of firearms will result in immediate disqualification of both the handler and the hunting retriever.

A disqualified handler's other entered dogs may be handled by someone else. All persons at the hunt, including handlers, judges, spectators, club members, visitors, etc., are expected to display good manners, practice gun safety and show sportsmanlike conduct.

Violation of UKC's drug and alcohol policy will result in an immediate disqualification. See UKC Policy of Drinking and Unprescribed Drug Violations for more information.

CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

United Kennel Club maintains all records of championship points and titles. Points are not recorded until the official hunt test reports are received from the club by the Hunting Ops Department at UKC. Phone calls or participant's copies of pass receipts are not official notification of points.

In order to receive UKC championship point recognition and titles, an individual must be in good standing with UKC and all dogs must be permanently registered or Performance Listed with UKC.

See "How Does a Dog Receive Credit for Its Hunt Test Points" for more information on non-UKC (unregistered) dogs' points.

Once championship points have been earned in any category, except Grand, a dog cannot earn additional championship points in a lower category. They may continue to participate in these lower categories if desired. Championship points are earned as follows:

STARTED: Five (5) championship points per UKC licensed hunt are awarded for those dogs who pass all Started hunting retriever tests. Four (4) Started passes are required for the Started Hunting Retriever (SHR) title. Once points are earned in a higher category, the retriever may not return to Started and earn the SHR title.

A maximum of ten (10) championship points towards a higher degree can be earned in this category.

SEASONED: Ten (10) championship points per UKC licensed hunt are awarded for those dogs who pass all Seasoned hunting retriever tests.

A maximum of forty (40) championship points towards a degree can be earned in this category. However, if ten (10) Started championship points were earned, then a maximum of thirty (30) championship points can be earned toward a degree in this category.

FINISHED: Fifteen (15) championship points per UKC licensed hunt are awarded for those dogs who pass all Finished hunting retriever tests.

GRAND: Forty (40) championship points per UKC licensed hunt are awarded for those dogs who pass all Grand hunting retriever tests.

UPLAND HUNT: Ten (10) championship points per UKC licensed hunt are awarded for those dogs who pass all Upland hunt tests.

The Upland hunt test is a separate licensed event and not to be confused with an Upland test that may be included in a Seasoned test, Finished test, or the Upland series of the Grand hunt.

CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

STARTED HUNTING RETRIEVER (SHR)- The Started Hunting Retriever (SHR) title is attained by earning four (4) passes in the Started category. Points/passes earned in a higher category do not count towards this title. A maximum of ten (10) championship points can be earned in the Started category towards a higher

degree. Once points are earned in a higher category, the retriever may not return to Started and earn the SHR title.

HUNTING RETRIEVER (HR) - The Hunting Retriever (HR) title is attained by earning forty (40) championship points.

Points can be earned in Started, Seasoned or Finished. Dogs are not required to earn points in Started and/or Seasoned to earn this title. If only five (5) points are earned in the Started category, then forty (40) points may be earned in the Seasoned and/or Finished categories. If ten (10) points are earned in the Started category, then thirty (30) points may be earned in the Seasoned and/or Finished category.

HUNTING RETRIEVER CHAMPION (HRCH) - The Hunting Retriever Champion (HRCH) title is attained by earning one hundred (100) championship points. Sixty (60) of the one hundred (100) points must be earned from the Finished category. Points can be earned in Started, Seasoned, or Finished. Dogs are not required to earn points in Started and/or Seasoned to earn this title.

A maximum of forty (40) points can be earned in the Seasoned category towards the Hunting Retriever Champion (HRCH) title. But, if ten (10) Started championship points were earned, then a maximum of thirty (30) Seasoned championship points can be earned and combined with the ten (10) Started championship points toward the HRCH title.

GRAND HUNTING RETRIEVER CHAMPION (GRHRCH) - The Grand Hunting Retriever Champion title is attained after the HRCH title by earning two hundred (200) additional points in the Finished, Grand, or Upland categories – of which a maximum of forty (40) points may be earned in Upland – for a total of three hundred (300) points. Eighty (80) of the additional two hundred (200) points, above the HRCH title, must be earned from passing two (2) Grand hunts.

UPLAND HUNTER (UH) - The Upland Hunter (UH) title is attained by earning forty (40) Upland hunter championship points. Upland points count toward the Upland Hunter (UH) title and HRC's point club recognition programs but only a maximum of forty (40) points earned count toward the Grand Hunting Retriever Champion Title.

UPLAND HUNTER CHAMPION (UHCH)- The Upland Hunter Champion (UHCH) title is attained by earning one hundred (100) Upland hunter championship points. Upland points count toward the Upland Hunter Champion (UHCH) title and HRC's point club recognition programs but only a maximum of forty (40) points earned count toward the Grand Hunting Retriever Champion Title.

TITLE CERTIFICATES

The SHR, HR, HRCH, GRHRCH, UH and UHCH

certificates will be automatically mailed by UKC to the registered owner of the dog on file at UKC after they have completed the requirements for these titles. These titles shall be carried as a prefix to the dog's name on the UKC registration certificate and pedigree.

HRC MEMBERS POINTS CLUBS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The point clubs are HRC recognition programs which are administered by the HRC Administrative Coordinator.

Memberships in the HRC point club recognition programs are exclusive to current members of HRC, Inc.

These programs recognize HRC members for their support of Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. through their membership and for owning dogs that achieve 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, 2,500, 3,000, 3,500, 4,000, and 5,000 UKC championship points in the HRC hunt test and Upland hunt programs.

The HRC member-owner of the dog must be a member in good standing with HRC, Inc. for a minimum of 12 months immediately prior to the time that the member's dog earns the qualifying championship points (500 for 500 Club, 1,000 for 1,000 Club, etc.). Continued membership in the point club recognition programs shall be in effect for the term of the individual's HRC, Inc. membership.

HRC recognizes the 100 championship points that UKC recognizes for the retriever's HRCH title, plus all additional points earned in Finished, Grand and Upland hunt tests toward the point club recognition programs.

The Programs consist of the awarding of a specially designed distinctive jacket embroidered with the HRC logo, owner's name & the qualifying retriever's name. Only one jacket will be awarded for each 'qualified' dog. However, additional jackets may be purchased by the owner through the HRC Administrative Coordinator. This is to allow co-owners, spouses, family members, handlers, etc. to participate in the recognition of the accomplishment of the dog.

A Certificate of Accomplishment & Letter of Congratulations will be issued & sent to the 'qualified' dogs announcing their induction into these prestigious Clubs. Ordering instructions for the jacket, good for one (1) year from the date of issue, will be included with the Certificate.

It is the desire of HRC & UKC, due to the significance of the accomplishments of these Hunting Retriever Champions, that the jackets be presented at a ceremony to the recipients at a National HRC event/by their home HRC Club with special ceremony.

Direct questions to HRC Administrative Coordinator Phone: (269) 364-2054 • Email: tcobb@hrc.dog

HOW DOES A DOG RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ITS HUNT TEST POINTS?

Correctly and completely fill out the hunt test entry form when entering the dog in the hunt test.

When a dog passes a licensed hunt, the owner and/or handler should be furnished with a point receipt by the host club. Get the points receipt at the hunt before leaving. Do not lose these receipts. If there is ever a question, the owner/handler will be able to provide proof of the tests passed.

If the dog is not UKC registered prior to the hunt, register the dog within 60 days of the date of the hunt and include a copy of the passed points slip along with the UKC application for registration for the dog. See Non-UKC Registered Dog.

UKC Registered/Performance Listed Dog - The easiest way to make certain a dog receives credit is to make sure the UKC registration/PL number and the UKC registered name of the dog entered is correct on the point slip. If there are any discrepancies, see the hunt test secretary immediately to correct any problems.

Non-UKC Registered Dog - A dog without a UKC registration number that is entered and runs the day of the hunt is considered a non-UKC registered dog. This includes those dogs whose owners have applied for registration but have not been officially notified of UKC registration.

1. Non-UKC registered dogs may be entered in any of the following categories: Started, Seasoned, Finished, or Upland hunter. If the dog is not UKC registered when entering and passing a licensed hunt test, the owner has 60 days to get the dog UKC registered.
2. UKC register the dog within 60 days. If the dog is Single Registered online – a copy of the points receipt(s) may be attached. If mailing the application, attach a copy of the passed points receipt(s) to the completed Application for Single Registration form or Performance Listing Application being sent to UKC.
3. If the dog is not UKC registered within 60 days of an event, the earned points will expire. However, the owner may reinstate the expired points by UKC registering the dog and submitting a fee of $50 along with copies of the expired point receipts to the UKC Hunting Ops Department.
4. If, prior to the hunt, the owner has sent an Application for Single Registration to UKC but has not received their dog's registration papers, do not write "pending" in the area for the registration number on the hunt test entry form.

Once the owner receives the dog's registration papers, make a copy of the passed point receipt. Insert the registration number on the copy of the

point receipt and mail it to: UKC, Attn: Hunting Ops or email huntingops@ukcdogs.com. If the dog has met the 60-day registration requirement, the points will be applied to the dog's record. The owner will be notified if the points are expired.

FORMING A NEW HRC CLUB

Individuals interested in forming a new Hunting Retriever Club should contact the HRC Administrative Coordinator at tcobb@hrc.dog

The HRC Administrative Coordinator will provide you with information and put you in contact with the appropriate field representative for your area. The field representative will evaluate the need and available support for a new club in the region. The field representative will contact HRC to have a new club packet sent out. The area HRC field representative and the area HRC public relations representative will assist in helping to form the new club. An HRC field representative and/or national HRC officer will attend the club's preliminary hunt.

HRC JUDGES REQUIREMENTS, GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Due to the vast geographical growth of HRC, deviations from these guidelines will be considered for new clubs or hardship cases only upon special request and approval of the HRC President and HRC Executive Committee. Any deviations should be directed to the HRC Administrative Coordinator.

Base Requirements for all Judges

1. The individual must be in good standing with the United Kennel Club and must be a current member in good standing with the Hunting Retriever Club. Inc.; and
2. The individual must be an avid Upland game and/or waterfowl hunter; and
3. The individual must be thoroughly knowledgeable of the HRC rulebook; and
4. The individual must be at least eighteen (18) years of age before applying; and
5. The individual must provide proof of successfully completing a state or province certified hunter safety course (each province and state have their own regulations so this may include more than one course, e.g., in Ontario, Canada, CFSC and Hunter Education). This requirement must be met before an applicant can be recommended by their local HRC home club to become a judge, including grandfathered judges; and
6. An individual shall have owned, trained, handled, and passed his/her retriever in the specified category of judging, and be able to provide a copy of a passed point slip earned within the prior 10 years; and
7. The individual must attend a judge's/handler's seminar once every two (2) years; and

8. The individual must pass the required judges' test on odd-numbered years; and
9. The individual agrees to adhere to HRC FIREARM SAFETY POLICY –

SHOTGUNS, GUN SAFETY & HRC FIREARM SAFETY POLICY

All HRC Judges are required to PROVE each firearm used in their Hunt Test.

Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. adopts the policy of the International Hunter Safety Association. HRC strongly recommends that all participants at a HRC, UKC Licensed event have an approved Hunter Safety Course.

Only authorized guns will be allowed in the test area. Authorized guns are those shotguns inspected and found to be in proper working order and approved for use at the test site(s) by a hunt official(s). All shotguns are assumed to be loaded with live ammunition and must be handled accordingly. The handler must hold the shotgun in a safe hunting position. During test simulations the handler must shoulder the shotgun, aim, track, and shoot at the top of the arc of the thrown bird. Mishandling of firearms will result in immediate disqualification of both handler and hunting retriever. If pump or semi-automatic shotguns are used, a plug must be in the magazine, limiting the gun to a total of three shots.

To minimize the possibility of an accidental discharge of a firearm while handling a dog during an UKC/HRC licensed test, handlers should not be given more poppers, or permitted to load more poppers into the shotgun than are required to complete any given segment of a test. More poppers may be provided and/or loaded at the judges' discretion if they are required by the logistics of the test. However, gun safety must be a priority consideration at all times.

Basic Safety Rules- Safe handling of firearms begins with the four basic rules listed below.

An easy way to remember these rules is to ACTT responsibly around firearms. ACTT stands for:

1. Assume every gun to be loaded - Consider any firearm you have not just unloaded to be loaded and treat it accordingly.
2. Control the muzzle – point guns in a safe direction. You must decide what the safest available muzzle direction is and keep your firearm pointed in that direction. Never point a firearm at yourself or others.
3. Trigger Finger – keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire. The natural instinct when picking up a firearm is to put your finger in the trigger guard. DON'T! This could cause an accidental discharge if the gun is loaded.
4. Target – be sure of your target and beyond. Never point your firearm at something you do not intend to shoot. Make sure you positively

identify what you are shooting at and know what lies in front of and beyond it. Do not use telescopic sights as a substitute for binoculars when identifying persons, animals or objects.

Accepting a Firearm: Any time you pick up or are handed a firearm you must VERIFY it is unloaded and safe to handle. Grasp the firearm with both hands, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and VERIFY OR MAKE it safe.

All HRC Judges are required to **PROVE** each firearm used in their Hunt Test.

P

1. Point the firearm in the safest available direction. Normally this is at the ground in a direction away from other people including you. Maintain constant control of the muzzle direction.

R

2. Remove all ammunition. If the firearm is a semi-automatic with a detachable magazine, remove the magazine from the firearm first. Open the action to remove any cartridges from the chamber. Removing the magazine first prevents a semi-automatic from chambering another round if the action closes.

   For virtually all other actions, open the action to remove any cartridges from the chamber(s) first. Remove any detachable magazine and all other cartridges from the firearm.

   If your firearm does not have a removable magazine, it may be necessary to activate a latch button or other device, or work the action several times to remove the ammunition.

   Once all ammunition has been removed, leave the action open and if possible, locked.

O

3. Observe the chamber. Check your firearm's chamber to ensure no ammunition or empty casings are present and if so remove by hand or by working the firearm's action.

V

4. Verify the feeding path. A firearm's feeding path is the route by which ammunition stored in its magazine is moved to the chamber where it will be fired. Only repeating firearms will have a mechanical feeding path. To verify it is free of ammunition, you must work the firearm's action and visually check the feeding mechanism and magazine.

E

5. Examine the bore for rust, excessive oil, or any obstructions. If present, the firearm must not be fired until it is properly cleaned.

Loading Firearms

Follow the steps below to safely load a firearm. Keep in mind that a firearm should not be loaded until you

are able to safely and legally discharge it.

1. Make sure there is no ammunition in the firearm or any obstructions in the barrel. PROVE it safe.
2. Point the firearm in the safest available direction. Know the location of other persons or dogs around you.
3. Determine if the firearm can be loaded with the safety on. If it can, apply the safety.
4. Make sure to use the correct cartridge(s) or shell(s) for the firearm by matching the data stamp on the firearm with the head stamp on the ammunition.
5. Load the firearm. How you do this will be determined by the type of firearm you are using. As a general rule:
   - Single shot firearms: place the ammunition directly in the chamber and then close the action.
   - Lever action firearms having a tubular magazine: make sure the action is closed, load the magazine, and then cycle the action to bring a round from the magazine to the chamber.
   - Firearms with a removable box magazine: load the magazine first and then insert it into the firearm. Close the action to load the chamber.
   - Firearms with a non-removable box magazine: load directly into the magazine and then close the action to load the chamber.
6. If you were not able to do so before, put the safety on.
7. Always keep your safety on until ready to fire your gun. The firearm is now loaded and ready to use. It requires continuous care and attention until unloaded.

During an HRC test, when placing the gun in a gun stand or handing the firearm to an approved designated person, the individual must ensure that the safety is on and the breach is open. It is strongly encouraged that after ensuring the gun is safe that the individual announce “the gun is safe” or “breach open; safety on” or “open and on”.

8. The individual agrees to adhere to HRC Lightning Safety Policy;

HRC LIGHTNING SAFETY POLICY

THE HRC LIGHTNING POLICY WILL BE FOLLOWED AT ALL HRC/UKC LICENSED EVENTS.

The Hunt Chairman, in consultation with the Club’s Hunt Committee, will make the final determination to suspend, continue or resume a Hunt based on the following guidelines:

Be aware of how close lightning is occurring. The flash-to-bang method is the easiest and most convenient way to estimate how far away lightning

is occurring. Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment, and its distance from the observer. To use the flash-to-bang method, count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring. For example, if an individual counts 15 seconds between seeing the flash and hearing the bang, 15 divided by five equals three; therefore, the lightning flash is approximately three miles away.

Lightning awareness should be increased with the first flash of lightning or the first clap of thunder, no matter how far away. This activity must be treated as a wake-up call. The most important aspect to monitor is how far away the lightning is occurring, and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of a safe shelter.

1. As a minimum, HRC, Inc. strongly recommends that by the time a flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds, all individuals should have left the test site and reached a safe structure or location.

Safe structure or location is defined as:

- Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, i.e., a building with plumbing and/or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
- In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle a safe shelter, but the hard metal roof which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE!

2. The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can, and does, strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike.
3. If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of the feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact with the ground because lightning current often enters a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. MINIMIZE YOUR BODY'S SURFACE AREA, AND MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH THE GROUND!

DO NOT LIE FLAT! If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single, tall tree.

4. A person who feels his or her hair stand on end, or skin tingle, should immediately crouch, as described in item 3.
5. Avoid using the telephone, except in emergency situations. People have been struck by lightning while using a land-line telephone. A cellular phone or a portable remote phone is a safe alternative to land-line phones, if the person and the antenna are located within a safe structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.
6. When considering resumption of activity, HRC, Inc. recommends that everyone should ideally wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field.
7. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Lightning strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need emergency help quickly. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes.

HRC JUDGES CODE OF ETHICS

HRC hunt test judges, to the best of their ability, will uphold these high ideals becoming of HRC judges.

a. Be mindful and consistent with the philosophy and purpose of the HRC and its programs and the UKC licensed hunt tests.
b. Portray a neat and appropriate appearance and manner.
c. Refrain from gossip about individuals, dogs, or other judges.
d. Be mindful to be fair in judging the dogs' performances, not the handlers' personalities.
e. Set an example to which future judges and participants will seek to aspire.
f. It is understood and agreed that the judge license may be withdrawn, suspended, revoked or not renewed by HRC, Inc., in its sole discretion and judgment at any time, with or without cause.

BASE REQUIREMENTS/ GUIDELINES FOR APPRENTICE JUDGES

1. Two apprentice judges are allowed per AA licensed judge at a regular hunt. Two apprentice Upland

judges are allowed per AA licensed Upland judge per flight at an Upland hunt.

2. Apprentice judges are to report to the hunt grounds on setup day prior to the hunt to meet with the Hunt Committee, licensed judge, and marshal. All judges should thoroughly go over and select the hunt areas in order to test the hunting retriever in a true-to-life hunting situation.
3. The apprentice judge shall actively participate in the design and setup of the tests with the licensed judge on setup day.
4. On the day of the hunt, the apprentice judge shall actively participate in the handlers' meeting.
5. The apprentice judge shall properly record the dog(s) performance on the judge's sheet.
6. Apprentice judges shall participate in any handler conferences with the licensed judge at the appropriate times after the conclusion of their tests.
7. The apprentice judge agrees to uphold the HRC Judges' Code of Ethics at all times.
8. Failure of the apprentice judge to be present and participate in test setup, to participate in handler conferences after the hunt, or to properly record the performance of the dog(s), will cause the apprenticeship to be void and to not count toward licensing requirements. All areas of the apprentice form must reflect 'yes' by the licensed judge, or the apprenticeship will not count toward licensing requirements.
9. Licensed and apprentice judges are to keep all judge's sheets for a period of one (1) year.
10. No dog in contention for points, either owned or co-owned by a judge or apprentice judge, may be judged by the judge or apprentice. No dog in contention for points, trained by either a judge or an apprentice judge for compensation during the preceding twelve (12) months may be judged by that judge or apprentice. No dog in contention for points, either owned or co-owned by a member of a Judge's or apprentice's immediate family, spouse, co-habitant, stepparent, brother, sister, child or stepchild may be judged by that judge or apprentice.
11. Judges may not judge an immediate family member's dog.

STARTED

A. Procedure to apply for Apprenticing Started Judge

Once the Base Requirements are met, the applicant shall submit their application online using the website listed at the bottom of the form. All applications must include the following:

1. A letter of recommendation by the applicant's home HRC club. This letter must be signed by a current club officer who is not an immediate family member (spouse, co-habitant, parent,

stepparent, brother, sister, child or stepchild).

2. The date of their completed judge's test with pass notification (a current test may be taken online at the HRC website www.hrc.dog).
3. A **copy** of proof of successfully completing a certified Hunter's Safety Course (each province and state have their own regulations so this may include more than one course, e.g., in Ontario, Canada, CFSC and Hunter Education).
4. A **copy** of one (1) of the applicant's passed Started point slips. The dog must have been owned and handled by the applicant and **obtained within the prior 10 years.**
5. Information on the date and location of attendance at an HRC Judge's/Handler's Seminar. If the applicant **has not** attended a seminar within the previous twelve (12) months, the applicant shall have six (6) months from the date the application to apprentice is approved to fulfill this requirement or the approval to continue to apprentice will be denied until the seminar requirement is met.
6. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age and a member in good standing with HRC and UKC.

B. Requirements to become a Licensed Started Judge:

The apprentice must earn three (3) credits. The credits shall be earned by apprenticing two (2) times and attending a HRC Judges/Handlers Seminar. Apprenticeships must be under different AA licensed judges.

C. Requirements to become a Licensed AA Started Judge:

1. A licensed Started judge must judge Started as a licensed judge two (2) times to earn AA (Approved for Apprentice) designation.

D. To maintain Started Judge License, you must:

1. Maintain membership in HRC, Inc. and be in good standing with UKC.
2. Attend an HRC Judges/Handlers Seminar once every two (2) years.
3. Pass a judge's test during odd numbered years.

SEASONED

A. Procedure to apply for Apprenticing Seasoned Judge

A licensed Started judge shall submit their application online using the website listed at the bottom of the form. All applications must include the following:

1. A licensed Started judge must first establish themselves as an AA Started judge and acquire the approval by their regional field representative in order to begin apprenticing in Seasoned.
2. A letter of recommendation by the applicant's home HRC club. This letter must be signed by

a current club officer who is not an immediate family member (spouse, co-habitant, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child or stepchild).

3. A copy of one (1) of the applicant's passed Seasoned point slips. The dog must have been owned and handled by the applicant and **obtained within the prior 10 years.**

B. Requirements to become a Licensed Seasoned Judge:

Earn three (3) credits. The credits may be earned by apprenticing three (3) times or apprenticing two (2) times and attending an additional HRC Judges/ Handlers Seminar. The second Seminar would be in addition to the Seminar attended for original Started eligibility. Apprenticeships must be under different AA licensed judges.

C. Requirements to become a Licensed AA Seasoned Judge:

A licensed Seasoned judge must judge Seasoned as a licensed judge two (2) times to earn AA (Approved for Apprentice) designation.

D. To Maintain Seasoned Judge License you must:

1. Maintain membership in HRC, Inc. and remain in good standing with UKC.
2. Attend an HRC Judge's/Handler's Seminar once every two (2) years.
3. Pass a judge's test during odd-numbered years.

FINISHED

A. Procedure to apply for Apprenticing Finished Judge

A licensed Seasoned judge shall submit their application online using the website listed at the bottom of the form. All applications must include the following:

1. A licensed Seasoned judge must first establish themselves as an AA Seasoned judge and acquire the approval by their regional field representative in order to begin apprenticing in **Finished**.
2. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's home HRC club. This letter must be signed by a current club officer who is not an immediate family member (spouse, co-habitant, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child or stepchild).
3. A **copy** of one (1) of the applicant's passed Finished point slips. The dog must have been owned and handled by the applicant and **obtained within the prior 10 years.**

B. Requirements to become a Licensed Finished Judge:

Earn three (3) credits. The credits may be earned by apprenticing three (3) times or apprenticing two (2) times and attending an additional HRC Judges/ Handlers Seminar. The Seminar would be in addition to those attended for original Started &/or Seasoned

eligibility. Apprenticeships must be under different AA licensed judges.

C. Requirements to become a Licensed AA Finished Judge:

A licensed Finished judge must judge Finished as a licensed judge two (2) times to earn AA (Approved for Apprentice) designation.

D. To Maintain Finished Judge License you must:

1. Maintain membership in HRC, Inc. and be in good standing with UKC.
2. Attend an HRC Judge/Handlers Seminar once every two (2) years.
3. Pass a judge's test during odd-numbered years.

GRANDFATHERED JUDGES

One (1) grandfathered judge is allowed in Started and one (1) in Seasoned for a preliminary regular hunt. Two (2) grandfathered judges are allowed in Upland at a preliminary Upland hunt.

For judges grandfathered in Started:

- **All Base Requirements and a submitted application for regular apprenticing for Started apply, except that the grandfathered judge must only earn one (1) apprentice credit and that credit must be an approved apprenticeship at the preliminary hunt.**
- **In order to achieve AA (Approved for Apprentice) status, if a seminar has not been taken as of the date of the grandfather apprentice assignment, AA status will not be issued until completion of the seminar requirement, which must be within six (6) months of the grandfather assignment.**
- **If a judge that grandfathered in Started desires advancement to Seasoned level and then to a Finished level judge, all standard requirements for each of those specific levels must be fulfilled.**

For judges grandfathered in Seasoned:

- **All Base Requirements and a submitted application for regular apprenticing for Seasoned apply, except that the grandfathered judge must only earn one (1) apprentice credit and that credit must be an approved apprenticeship at the preliminary hunt.**
- **In order to achieve AA status, if a seminar has not been taken as of the date of the grandfather apprentice assignment, AA status will not be issued until completion of the seminar requirement, which must be within six (6) months of the grandfather assignment.**
- **If a judge that grandfathered in Seasoned desires advancement to Finished level, all standard requirements for a Started level judge must be fulfilled.**

AA JUDGES

Only AA (Approved for Apprentice) licensed HRC judges will be approved to be paired with an apprentice judge.

AA judge designation requires a licensed judge to gain additional experience and knowledge at a specific level before accepting a judging assignment with an apprentice judge. A licensed judge is required to judge a specific level two (2) times as a licensed judge to become AA designated, before being allowed to be paired with and teach an apprentice judge at that level.

A judge must acquire AA status at a specific level and obtain the approval of their regional field representative before they may advance to a higher judging level, as approved by the HRC, Inc. Board of Directors at the 2012 National Meeting in Memphis.

The 'AA' requirement does NOT apply to grandfathered judges. (See Grandfathered Judges).

UPLAND JUDGES

A. Procedure to apply for Apprentice Upland Judge

Once the Base Requirements are met, the applicant shall submit their application online using the website listed at the bottom of the form. All applications must include the following:

1. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's home HRC club. This letter must be signed by a current club officer who is not an immediate family member (spouse, co-habitant, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child or stepchild).
2. The date of their completed judge's test with pass notification (a current test may be taken online at the HRC website www.hrc.dog).
3. A **copy** of proof of successfully completing the certified Hunter's Safety Course (each province and state have their own regulations so this may include more than one course, e.g., in Ontario, Canada, CFSC and Hunter Education).
4. A **copy** of one (1) of the applicant's passed Upland point slips. The dog must have been owned and handled by the applicant and **obtained within the prior 10 years.**
5. Information on the date and location of attendance at an HRC Judges/Handlers Seminar. If the applicant **has not** attended a seminar within the previous twelve (12) months, the applicant shall have six (6) months from the date the application to apprentice is approved to fulfill this requirement or the approval to continue to apprentice will be denied until the seminar requirement is met.
6. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age and a member in good standing with HRC and UKC.

B. Requirements to become a Licensed Upland Judge:

The apprentice must earn three (3) credits. The

credits shall be earned by apprenticing two (2) times and attending a HRC Judges/Handlers Seminar. Apprenticeships must be under different AA licensed judges.

C. Requirements to become a Licensed AA Upland Judge:

A licensed Upland judge must judge Upland as a licensed judge two (2) times to earn AA (Approved for Apprentice) designation.

D. To maintain Upland Judge License, you must:

1. Maintain membership in HRC, Inc. and be in good standing with UKC.
2. Attend an HRC Judges/Handlers Seminar once every two (2) years.
3. Pass a judge's test during odd-numbered years.

GRAND JUDGES

Grand judges are selected by the Grand Hunt Committee from the current pool of HRC AA licensed Finished judges.

SEMINARS

All judges are required to attend the HRC Judges/Handlers Seminar once every two (2) years. The 2-year term of the seminar requirement will be extended to Dec. 31, two years from the year of any seminar taken. Note: The required seminar for Started only counts for Started, but does establish the initial seminar requirement. A judge may elect to apprentice twice in Seasoned and/or in Finished and attend an additional seminar as the third credit.

The seminar schedule is published on the HRC website: www.hrc.dog and in the HUNTING RETRIEVER magazine.

JUDGES TESTS

A judge's test is required for all judges in odd-numbered years. The primary purpose of the judge's test is to ensure current and new judges are familiar with new running rules as well as overall knowledge of the HRC Rule Book. The judges test may be taken online and is available at www.hrc.dog. The judge's test is an open book test and will state the criteria for obtaining a passing score and the consequences of failing the test.

LICENSE EXPIRATION or REVOCATION

1. A judge's license will expire if any of the requirements for maintaining the license are not met.
2. The HRC judge's license may be suspended, revoked, or not renewed by Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. in its sole discretion and judgment, at any time, with or without cause.

REINSTATING A JUDGES LICENSE

To reinstate an expired license you must submit a

request for reinstatement form which can be found on the HRC website: www.hrc.dog. The request should include prior judge status, judge # (if known), length of time inactive and reason the license lapsed. Requests are evaluated on a case by case basis based on the length of time the license has been expired. You may be required to attend the HRC Judge's/Handler's Seminar and/or serve additional apprenticeships. HRC will notify the judge as to the status of the request for reinstatement.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. A judge's license will not be denied on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin or sex.
2. No dog in contention for points, owned or co-owned by a judge or apprentice judge may be judged by the judge or apprentice. No dog in contention for points, trained by a judge or apprentice judge for compensation during the preceding twelve (12) months may be judged by that judge or apprentice. No dog in contention for points, owned or co-owned by a member of the judge's or apprentice's immediate family, spouse, co-habitant, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child or stepchild may be judged by that judge or apprentice.
3. Licensed and apprentice judges are to keep all judges' sheets for a period of one (1) year.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES & CONDUCTING HUNTS

1. A regular hunt test must have a minimum of two judges or a maximum of three per flight, per category. At least one of the judges must be licensed for that category. If one judge is an apprentice judge, the licensed judge must be an AA licensed judge at that category. For Upland hunt test, there will be a minimum of two (two licensed or one apprentice plus one AA) judges per flight, or a maximum of three (two apprentice plus one AA) judges for each Upland flight. It should be remembered that the AA licensed judge should guide, train, and assist the apprentice judge in every way possible.
2. All judges should report to the hunt grounds one day prior to the hunt to meet with the Hunt Committee and marshal. They should thoroughly go over and select the hunt areas in order to test the hunting retriever in a true-to-life situation.
3. Judges should utilize club-prepared blinds and equipment and cooperate with the Hunt Committee in preparation for the hunt.
4. Judges should meet with the marshal of the hunt on the day before the hunt to check the list of equipment and ensure that the following materials are on hand:

Shotguns (in good working order),
Bird Flagging,
Boats, Paddles, and Life Preservers,
Duct Tape,
Motor (if needed),
Stools/Chairs,
Decoys and Machete,
Poppers and String,
Duck/Dove/Goose Calls,
Extra Camo Material,
Blind Brush, etc.

5. All bird boy and test hunt blinds should be built, and all tests should be set up one day prior to the hunt. (Omit if different test is being run in the same area that day.)
6. Safety should be the judge's main concern in setting up the most realistic hunting test for the dog and handler. Other things such as convenience, gallery, etc., come second.
7. No judge shall allow a club to incorporate one hunting test category with another (e.g., running Seasoned with Finished.)
8. No judge shall handle a dog if he or she is judging a regular hunt that day. Exceptions: Using the dog as test dog for the category he/she is judging; or an Upland judge running a separate licensed Upland hunt on the same day that he/she is not judging.
9. A judge should bring all materials needed the day of the hunt such as pens, notebook, camouflage clothing, chair, non-alcoholic beverages, raingear, etc.
10. A judge must not be under the influence of alcohol or any unprescribed drugs. (See page 52, UKC Policy on Drinking and Unprescribed Drugs)
11. All judges should be at the hunt grounds a minimum of one hour before starting time on hunt day. They should instruct marshals, bird throwers, and gunners to do the same.
12. Judges should agree prior to the hunt what they consider to be major or minor faults of a dog's performance. They should also agree on points that are outstanding.
13. Before a test begins, it should be decided which judge shall signal for birds and watch for no-birds while the other judge watches the dog for manners, marking, etc.
14. One judge should be designated to inspect each bird delivered for signs of hard-mouth. All birds should be re-inspected before re-birding. The judge should also assure that no birds are lying around the retrieving line, particularly in the Started category.
15. All communications should be worked out with the marshal about receiving order of dogs.
16. Gunners should be assigned positions and instructed as to their duties.

17. All judges should know the bird arrangement for tests, so that a minimum amount of time is spent on re-birding.
18. All bird throwers should be properly instructed on what they are expected to do.
19. A judge should be totally ready to start their test at the official time with the test dog.
20. A complete test description should be given to handlers assembled before each test dog is run.
21. Judges should greet each handler in a friendly and courteous manner and discuss:
    A. If the handler understands the test;
    B. That a loaded shotgun will be used and that it must be handled with care;
    C. That true hunting form should be used (e.g. handlers must shoulder the shotgun, aim, track the thrown bird and shoot it at the top or its arc) for Started, Seasoned, Finished, Upland and Grand; The working handler must be instructed to shoot at all thrown birds. The judges should take into account any gun malfunctions and
    D. Areas where dogs are allowed to be worked while at the point of origin.
22. A judge's disposition can make or break a hunt. Please make every effort to settle down a nervous handler.
23. Judges shall be quick to call "No-Don't Shoot" when flyaways turn toward the gallery or bird throwers. A dog may be judged on a flyaway or given a rerun.
24. Judges should take into consideration the problems facing the first few dogs to run.
25. Judges should keep the flow of the hunt at a good and relaxed pace.
26. Judges should look at a reasonable number of dogs before eliminating any leg of the test. No dog will carry any score on a part of a test that was eliminated.
27. Reruns should be placed at least three (3) dogs down the line instead of being brought back to the line immediately. Judges should also give instructions on the rerun to the marshal.
28. If another dog interferes with a working dog and causes a bad performance, the dog interfered with should be given a rerun.
29. Judges should ask a handler to pick up their dog if that dog has, in the judge's mind, already failed and is creating bad habits or endangering itself.
30. All judges are expected to remain at the hunt site so that test results may be discussed. Judges' notebooks shall be open for review by any handler. Judges are to keep the judges' sheets for one (1) year.
31. All judges should not only pass judgment, but also use good judgment.
32. With the exception of the Grand hunts, judges will

evaluate the same dogs on land and water in all multiple flight hunts.

33. A dog is required to run all tests to earn points. It must do all retrieves on both land and water. If, for any reason, all of the tests cannot be run, for example, lack of daylight, the test is to be run the next day. If the dog cannot run the next day, no points will be given and the club is to refund the entry fee.
34. The reason for limiting the number of entries is to give each dog an opportunity to run all tests even if they failed a portion of a test. However, the Hunt Committee and judges may by unanimous vote permit the use of "call-back" procedures to allow dogs that are still in contention to participate in an event that could not otherwise be completed due to unavoidable situations such as might occur with severe storms. In such situations, the judges will explain the situation to the gallery and handlers, and the Hunt Secretary will explain the reason for using "call-backs" on the UKC hunt report form. Every reasonable effort must be made to provide all dogs with an opportunity to participate after the "call-backs" are completed.
35. Handlers with physical handicaps should advise the Hunt Secretary of their special needs prior to the hunt date. The Hunt Committee and judges will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of the handicapped so they can enjoy and participate in all HRC/UKC licensed hunts and tests.

Examples of appropriate accommodations may be but not limited to:

A. Adequate parking provided as close as possible to the retrieving line for participants with disabilities and their personal assistants.

B. Adequate pathway wide enough for a wheelchair with solid footing provided to and from the retrieving line. Handlers with disabilities will be permitted to use whatever means necessary to get safely to and from the retrieving line. Water tests should have sound footing.

C. Personal assistants will be permitted to aid a handler with disabilities to and from the retrieving line. One personal assistant may assist at the retrieving line as needed based upon the disability.

D. The seat height recommended to be an 18" minimum such as double buckets. Walking aids are permitted. Judges and/or marshals should ask handlers at the handler's meeting if anyone needs special accommodations.

GUIDELINES & POLICIES FOR UKC LICENSED HRC HUNT TESTS

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. (HRC), in affiliation with the United Kennel Club (UKC), provides hunters an arena in which they may train and test their retrievers in true-to-life hunting situations. In addition, those retrievers which have demonstrated both their natural and trained abilities afield are awarded UKC championship points toward the titles of Started Hunting Retriever (SHR), Hunting Retriever (HR), Hunting Retriever Champion (HRCH), Grand Hunting Retriever Champion (GRHRCH), Upland Hunter (UH) and Upland Hunter Champion (UHCH). Through this testing and training program, UKC and HRC will provide a platform on which to base a sound breeding program, and UKC will maintain a registry of working hunting retrievers. The UKC championship degrees will enable you to look at a UKC registered dog's pedigree and immediately determine by the prefix to the dog's name whether that dog and any of its ancestors have earned UKC titles in the HRC Program. It will help hunters to select pups or dogs from bloodlines that have demonstrated true hunting/retrieving abilities.

True-to-life hunting situations are the key ingredient to setting up and judging any HRC/UKC licensed event. It is of paramount importance that judges continually ask themselves, "Would I hunt like this?" Tricky or unrealistic hunt tests are not only counterproductive, but are against the principles by which the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. was formed. The following guidelines are intended to familiarize the judge with the purpose, philosophy, and procedures which are utilized in judging a licensed hunt.

Training of retrievers will not be allowed on the Hunt Test Grounds of any HRC sanctioned event. The use of training aids such as, but not limited to, e-collar, cattle prod, heeling stick, quirt and metallic leads will not be allowed other than in designated areas. Hunt Test Grounds are considered the entire property unless otherwise designated by the host club.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the licensed hunt is to test hunting retrievers afield under actual hunting conditions. Those hunting retrievers that demonstrate desirable hunting abilities will be rewarded with titles and incorporated into a sound breeding program. The other reward of the program is better hunting retrievers afield during hunting seasons across the country, less lost game, and more enjoyable hunting.

PHILOSOPHY

Judges should strive to set up tests and judge hunting retrievers in natural situations, evaluating the retriever on qualities desirable in a hunting retriever.

Although the complexity of the tests will vary from Started to Grand, the underlying philosophy should remain the same: to test the retrievers in hunting tests and to evaluate them as useful hunting companions.

PROCEDURES

Judging is not an exact science as no two dogs are alike and no two tests are identical. A judge must be experienced in both hunting and retrievers. See Licensing Requirements. It is difficult to evaluate a retriever during the short periods the dog is in front of the judge, and it is the average or mediocre retriever that will be the hardest to judge. With this in mind, the judge must fully understand the purpose of the HRC program and evaluate the situation with that consideration.

TESTS

Preplanning is important on the judge's part. The test must be designed, laid out, and executed in such a manner as to enable the judge to evaluate certain hunting qualities; e.g., marking, nose, desire. Merely throwing a few birds in the field and sending a dog out after them will not serve the purpose of the tests and most likely will not allow the judge the opportunity to judge a true hunting retriever. Specific goals and purposes must, therefore, be incorporated into each test, and the test must be carefully planned to demonstrate those qualities. The judge will work with the hunt marshal, test marshals, gunners, and bird throwers to set up a realistic test. The purpose and procedures of each test must be explained to the handlers prior to the testing of their dogs.

Judges must also maintain the realism of the hunt by making sure:

1. All blinds are truly blinds, not just pieces of wood stuck in the field.
2. All bird throwers and support persons are well-hidden while in the field.
3. The gallery and non-working personnel are kept out of the field while a test is being conducted.

Logistics should also play a part in setting up a hunting test. Even though HRC limits the number of retrievers per category, tests spread out all over the hunt grounds can delay the hunt considerably. The efficient use of grounds and personnel will make the hunt run smoothly and give the judge a better opportunity to evaluate each retriever.

ELIGIBILITY

Dogs may participate in any category without being UKC registered. Non-UKC registered dogs participating in any category will have sixty (60) days after passing the test to become UKC registered and have their championship points applied to their record. A fee will be charged by UKC for application of points to a dog's

record if not registered within sixty (60) days.

JUDGES

Judges will provide an explanation of each hunting test objective to the handlers. Judges will "pass" or "fail" a hunting retriever based on its ability rather than the handler's expertise. The judges must follow the hunt test rules and judge's guidelines. Gunners and bird boys shall be placed at the judges' discretion. There will be at least two judges, one of which must be licensed or AA licensed if one is an apprentice judge.

Judges should courteously advise handlers of desirable dress, if necessary.

The judge's decision is final.

In the event, if judges suspect a retriever is injured while running a hunt, they should allow the handler to evaluate the retriever as to its condition to complete the test. If it is determined the retriever can continue, it should be moved back 3 positions and given a rerun.

HANDLERS

The handler shall not have any training aid to intimidate the hunting retriever: i.e., whip, prod, cane, quirt, dummy, weighted or shock collars or other similar equipment at the retrieving line. It is recommended that all handlers take and pass a province or state certified hunter safety course.

SPECTATORS / GALLERY

Reasonable silence, good manners and sportsmanlike conduct are required of all spectators. Any spectator interfering with any test will be directed to leave the hunt grounds. Spectators shall not have on white or light-colored clothing that might interfere with a dog's performance. No dogs that are participating are allowed to watch from the spectator's section.

GUIDELINES
STARTED HUNT TEST

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

This hunt test is for Started hunting retrievers and handlers. It duplicates actual hunting conditions throughout the local area. Judges will look for natural ability rather than trained performance. The Started hunt test is for young or inexperienced hunting retrievers. The Started hunting retriever might not have had the experience of a season of hunting or limited exposure to hunting and/or training. A Started hunting retriever should be able to do a simple dove or waterfowl hunt and retrieve game from land and water.

ELIGIBILITY

A purebred dog of an eligible breed of any age or sex may participate. Any hunting retriever with championship points in either the Seasoned or

Finished categories is not eligible for competition in this category for points. Hunting retrievers may continue to participate in the Started category even though they have earned all championship points available towards the UKC Started Hunting Retriever (SHR) title and/or the UKC Hunting Retriever (HR) Championship titles. No hunting retriever may participate in two different hunt categories per licensed hunt. Bitches in heat will not be allowed on the hunt grounds.

GUIDELINES SEASONED HUNT TEST

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

This hunt test is for Seasoned hunting retrievers and handlers. It duplicates actual hunting conditions throughout the local area. Judges will look for style, natural ability, and evidence that the Seasoned hunting retriever exhibits a reasonable degree of control. These hunting tests have longer retrieves on both water and land than Started tests. The Seasoned hunting retriever must be steady at the line and retrieve to hand. The Seasoned hunting retriever in these hunting tests usually has a couple of seasons of hunting experience and more training.

ELIGIBILITY

Any purebred dog of an eligible breed of any age or sex may participate. This is the next step for hunting retrievers that have earned the maximum championship points in the Started hunt test category. It is not necessary to have earned championship points in the Started hunt test category before participating in the Seasoned hunt test category. Hunting retrievers with championship points earned in the Finished hunt test category may not be entered for points in the Seasoned hunt test category. No hunting retriever may participate in two different hunt tests per licensed hunt. Bitches in heat will not be allowed on the hunt grounds.

GUIDELINES FINISHED HUNT TEST

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

This hunt test is for Finished hunting retrievers and handlers. It duplicates actual hunting conditions found throughout the country. The successful completion of these tests leads to the qualification of a hunting retriever for the title of Hunting Retriever Champion, (HRCH). To pass these hunting tests the Finished hunting retriever must accomplish the tasks required with both style and accuracy. Judges will look for natural ability and a trained performance. The Finished hunting retriever must respond promptly to either voice or whistle commands and remain steady and under control at all times. The Finished hunting retriever should be a pleasure to hunt with under any conditions.

ELIGIBILITY

Any purebred dog of an eligible breed of any age or sex may participate. This is the next step for hunting retrievers that have earned maximum championship points in the Started and/or Seasoned hunt categories. It is not necessary to have earned championship points in any other hunt test category prior to participating in the Finished hunt test category. No hunting retriever may participate in two different hunt tests per licensed hunt. Bitches in heat will not be allowed on the hunt grounds.

GUIDELINES
GRAND HUNT TEST

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

This hunt test is for Hunting Retriever Champion (HRCH). It duplicates actual hunting conditions found throughout the country. The successful completion of two of these Grand tests valued at 40 points each (80 points) along with an accumulation of 120 additional points after earning the Hunting Retriever Champion Title for a total of 300 points, will qualify a Hunting Retriever Champion for the UKC title of Grand Hunting Retriever Champion (GRHRCH).

Additional points may be earned by passing either Upland tests with a maximum of 40 points allowed toward your Grand title, or by continuing to obtain points by running additional Finished tests.

This title is evidence that the hunting retriever has demonstrated versatility and excellence in performing under hunting conditions, ranging from various waterfowl environments found in coastal marshes, inland waterways, flood timber, or western prairies, to Upland game conditions while hunting Upland birds such as pheasant, grouse, chukar, or doves. The Grand hunting retriever is expected to be steady, be under control at all times and demonstrate an eager and prompt response to all commands with style and precision. The Grand Hunting Retriever Champion should represent the best of the breed.

ELIGIBILITY

Any Hunting Retriever Champion (HRCH) is eligible to participate. Bitches in heat will not be allowed on the hunt grounds, except for those who come in-season during the 4th or 5th series at which point they will be allowed to compete and run at the end of the running order. Those dogs will be kept off the hunt test area until time to run.

CONDUCT OF TESTS

All International Grand hunt tests will be conducted by the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. International Grand Hunt Committee at selected host HRC club locations.

JUDGES

The judges will give an explanation of each test objective to each handler. This may be done by

gathering all handlers and issuing instructions before the test commences, or by individually briefing each handler before signaling ready, or by designating this duty to the hunt marshal or Grand committee person. It is the responsibility of the judges to be familiar with the judge's guidelines and Grand test rules and to conform to these standards. The nature of the tests and placement of bird boys and gunners shall be at the sole discretion of the judges. There will be two AA licensed Finished judges per test series. The judge's decision is final.

DESCRIPTION

The semiannual International Grand Hunt will be scheduled for five (5) days, but due to unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather, the tests may take longer to complete. The Grand Hunt Committee will make every effort to have the hunt completed in five (5) days. The Grand Hunt Committee will have the power to vary the number of judges, divide the entry field and run test series simultaneously, and schedule the sequencing of each series accordingly. For Grand Hunts ONLY, handlers are allowed to run an unlimited number of dogs.

THE "GRAND" - POINT SYSTEM

The Grand hunt differs from other HRC events in that total points are awarded by the judges' determination between solid, marginal, or failing work. The number of judges and flights may vary according to the anticipated size of the Grand hunt. The pairing of the judges is at the discretion of the Grand Hunt Committee.

The field will be split into four groups, listed as flights "A-D". The field is split with care taken to attempt to have retrievers of multi-retriever handlers in the same group and those entries separated by a reasonable number of dogs. Retrievers with the same "call-name" are not placed together in the running order. The running order is strictly followed as it appears in the hunt program with only "common sense" deviations made.

Tests 1 through 4 will run simultaneously. Groups "A & B" will start their first series test on one set of land and water tests, while groups "C & D" will start their first series test on the other set of land and water tests. Once each group finishes their first series test, they will switch tests respectively. Group "A" will switch with Group "B", and Group "C" will switch with Group "D" to begin the second series tests.

Once the first two series tests are completed, Groups "A & B" will then switch with Groups "C & D" to complete the remaining two series tests.

During the event, the retrievers are to be judged as they would throughout all regular HRC events. The judges will evaluate the dog's performance based on solid, marginal, or failing work during each Grand

series test. The performance of grading will be directly related to the number values listed below. The number value is only a means for the computer to value the performance given by each judge.

0 = Fail 1 = Marginal Pass 2 = Solid Pass

The retrievers receive points according to the following system, except for test series five (5). The Upland test series is to be judged and scored on a pass or fail system.

Given that all of the first four series tests are run simultaneously, a retriever may receive a marginal score only once from any combined set of judges throughout the event. No retriever that has clearly failed or received a score of zero (0) from any one judge will be carried on to the next series test.

Beginning with the first series test, a retriever must earn a marginal score of one (1) point from each judge for a combined score of two (2) points to advance to the second series test. At the conclusion of the second series, the scores from both the first and second series tests will be combined. Those combined scores from series 1-2 must equal a minimum total score of six (6) points to advance on to the third series test.

At the conclusion of the third series, a retriever must have earned a minimum combined total score of nine (9) from test scores 1-3 to advance to the fourth series test.

At the conclusion of the fourth series, a retriever must receive a minimum total combined score of (13) from all four series tests to advance on to the fifth series.

This score of thirteen (13) must be received with a minimum score of six (6) points from test series 1-2, combined with a minimum score of seven (7) points in test series 3-4. The retriever may also advance with a score of thirteen (13) by combining a score of seven (7) or higher from tests 1-2 with a minimum score of six (6) received in tests 3-4.

Following the conclusion of each series test, the judges briefly confer to discuss their individual judging assignments and then separately mark their scoring sheets. A member of the Grand Hunt Committee will then review these score sheets to make sure they are complete. Next, the Grand Hunt Committee will oversee the input of scores into the Grand hunt computer-scoring program.

The computer program automatically will display an alert error anytime a retriever receives a separation in scores by two points (0, 2). Generally, an error of this type may occur during the transfer of scores from the judges' sheets onto the official scoring sheet. If this occurs, these sheets will then be passed back to the judges for their review and correction.

CALL BACKS AND JUDGES SHEETS REVIEWS

The Grand hunt also differs from all other Hunting Retriever Club events in that there is a required cut

after each test. With the large number of entries and the time constraints of the Grand, it is impossible to have the judges open their judges' sheets and talk in depth with the handlers after each test. Therefore, the handlers of retrievers that do not pass may receive a brief review of their judges' sheets after each test. Members of the Grand Hunt Committee will conduct reviews.

The Grand hunt marshal or a Grand Hunt Committee member will announce callbacks after each test.

Handlers choosing to review their judges' sheets will be able to immediately after the callbacks are announced.

Handlers choosing to review their judges' sheets are to inform the Grand hunt marshal who will prepare a list for review according to the running order number in the program.

Handlers missing their scheduled judges' sheets review must wait until the conclusion of the Grand to review their judges' sheets.

Only the handler may review the judges' sheets.

Reviews are limited to three (3) minutes and will be timed by the Grand hunt marshal.

Handlers are encouraged to consult with the Grand Hunt Committee if there is any doubt why the retriever failed. The possibility of error does exist due to the amount of data that must be transferred from the judges' sheets to the judges' score sheets and then to the computer program.

GUIDELINES
UPLAND HUNT TEST

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

This hunt test is for Upland hunting retrievers and handlers. It duplicates actual hunting conditions throughout the country. The successful completion of these tests leads to the qualification of a hunting retriever for the title of Upland Hunting Retriever Champion (UHCH). To pass these hunting tests the Upland hunting retriever must accomplish the tasks required with both style and accuracy. Judges will look for natural ability and a trained performance. The Upland hunting retriever must respond promptly to either voice or whistle commands and remain steady and under control at all times. The Upland hunting retriever should be a pleasure to hunt with under any conditions.

ELIGIBILITY

A purebred dog of an eligible breed of any age or sex may participate. It is not necessary to have earned championship points in any other regular hunt test category prior to participating in the Upland hunt test category.

Dogs entered in an Upland hunt test may also participate in a regular hunt test on the same date. Bitches in heat will not be allowed on the hunt grounds.

Dogs may participate in this category without being UKC registered. Non-UKC registered dogs participating in the Upland category will have sixty (60) days after passing the test to become UKC registered and have their championship points applied to their record. A fee will be charged by UKC for application of points to a dog's record if not registered within sixty (60) days.

JUDGES

There will be a minimum of two licensed (or one apprentice plus one AA) judges or a maximum of three (two apprentice plus one AA) judges for each Upland test flight of a maximum of a 30-dog field.

FORMAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The Handler of a UKC Registered dog entered in a UKC licensed event has the right to make a formal complaint when a UKC rule or policy has been violated.

The sequence of filing a formal complaint is as follows:

1. All possible effort should be made to resolve the problem at the Club level, with the individuals involved at the time of the event. This is the simplest and best way to deal with a problem since all parties involved are present and the course of events is fresh in everyone's mind.

   The alleged rule violation/problem should be presented to the Hunt Chairperson. That person will assemble any Club officers present and any members of the Hunt Committee whose input they feel is necessary. If there is no Hunt Chairperson for this event, the alleged rule violation/problem should be presented to the Field Representative or the Hunt Secretary.
2. If a situation cannot be resolved with the Hunt Committee and a formal complaint is made, it must be made on a Formal Complaint Form. Formal Complaint Forms are provided with the UKC License and sent to the Club along with the UKC Hunt Report Form and the HRC Hunt Report Form.

   The UKC Formal Complaint Form is a three-part carbon-less form. The first page is to be sent to UKC. The second page is to be retained by the Club for a period of at least one (1) year. The third page is to be retained by the person(s) making the complaint.

   The Handler making the complaint must sign the formal complaint.

   The Hunt Committee will consider no Formal Complaints after a period of 30 minutes has elapsed from the time all categories of hunt test results are given.
3. A meeting of the Hunt Committee and any Club officers must take place as soon as the UKC Formal Complaint Form is filled out by the

individual(s) making the complaint.

After the meeting has been held and a decision reached, the Club must report the results and an explanation of the decision reached on the UKC Formal Complaint Form. The report must be signed by the Club's officers and Hunt Chairperson, and include their phone numbers and the office title they hold. Send the UKC Formal Complaint Form along with the UKC Hunt Report Form to **UKC Hunting Ops Department, 100 E Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584.**

4. Once a Formal Complaint is filed it can only be rescinded by the complainant until midnight the day of the event.
5. UKC will review the results of the meeting, and will either agree or disagree with the Club's decision; however, UKC reserves unto itself, in its sole judgment and discretion, the right to make any corrections it deems necessary.
6. UKC and HRC will not consider the use of any electronic audio or video recording device(s) or recorded materials in the process of reviewing a formal complaint regarding a Judge's decision.
7. The time limit and sequence of these procedures must be strictly followed.

SECTION II - UKC® POLICY

INHERENT RIGHTS & POWERS OF UKC®

(Revised December 18, 2009)

United Kennel Club holds and has reserved to itself certain inherent rights and powers in connection with conducting its business, registering litters, transferring registrations of dogs, licensing events, and awarding titles. These inherent rights and powers include but are not limited to the following:

United Kennel Club has the right to inspect all reports, scorecards and documents related to UKC events. Some, but not all, of the items subject to inspection are:

h. scores;
i. disqualifications of dogs for fighting or other reasons;
j. errors by the recording person; and
k. documentation excluded for any reason. UKC reserves the right to correct any mistakes found during such inspection whether or not the document has the signature of a Judge or Club Officer. UKC reserves the right to itself and in its sole judgment and discretion, to take such actions and impose such sanctions as would:

a. Bar an individual from entering or participating in any way in any UKC licensed event.
b. Bar an individual from transferring or registering any pups or dogs in that person's name (joint or full registration) or to any member of that person's family.
c. Bar an individual from receiving Championship points for any dog registered in that person's name (joint or full registration).

By way of illustration, the following constitute some, but not all, of the situations calling for the above sanctions:

a. Falsification or alteration of a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry® Card or any other UKC document.
b. Falsification or alteration of any reports of wins issued to UKC.
c. Falsification or alteration of receipts issued by UKC Judges.
d. Switching, wrongfully using or attempting to use a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry® Card or any other UKC document.
e. Selling or attempting to sell a dog with false or incorrect UKC Registration Certificate or Pedigree.
f. Intimidating, threatening, or injuring a Judge, Club/Association member or official, event participant or spectator, or UKC representative.

The six illustrations given above are only by way of example and UKC reserves to itself its inherent right and power to impose such sanctions in any other circumstances deemed appropriate by UKC.

Any individual who is found guilty by a court of law of a crime involving dogs will be barred from United Kennel Club for an indefinite period. A person shall be considered guilty in a criminal proceeding if they are convicted by a judge, jury, or if they enter a plea bargain or other arrangement to plea to a lesser offense, or if their case is disposed of by any form of deferred adjudication; a person shall be considered guilty in a civil proceeding if they are held responsible or liable by a judge, jury, or if a compromised settlement is reached between the parties.

UKC® INFORMATION

HOW DO I CHECK MY UKC/HRC HUNT POINTS?

Go to www.ukcdogs.com/points-check to do an online Points Check. Results are immediate. Alternatively, call 269-343-9020; email huntingops@ukcdogs.com. The dog's UKC registration number, the dog's name, and the owner's name will be needed. It is important to keep a copy of the pass receipts from all the hunts for your records. Points will not be credited to a dog until the official UKC Hunt Report has been received at UKC.

HOW TO REGISTER A DOG WITH UKC

Litter Registration - For dogs under one year of age whose sire and dam are both UKC registered. Register your litter online at www.ukcdogs.com/litter-registration. Or download the application and mail to the UKC office.

Non-UKC Sired Litter Registration - For litters out of a non-UKC registered male from an approved registry and a UKC registered female. Only available for select breeds and must be completed before the litter reaches one year of age. Read more and download the appropriate form at www.ukcdogs.com/non-ukc-sired-litter-registration.

Single Registration - Single Registration is a method for purebred dogs of breeds recognized by UKC or currently registered with UKC-acknowledged registries to become UKC registered. Complete this process online at www.ukcdogs.com/single-registration or download the application.

Performance Listing - Please refer to www.ukcdogs.com/performance-listing for rules and regulations for individual UKC Licensed Performance events and breed eligibility requirements. All dogs accepted for Performance Listing (PL) are eligible to compete in UKC Performance Events, but not all breeds are eligible for every event. To participate in HRC events, PL dogs must meet the requirements to be listed as one of the breeds in the Gun Dog group, and are required to be spayed or neutered. The Performance Listing Program does not carry full registration privileges. No litters may be registered from a Performance Listed dog, and no pedigrees will be maintained. The number solely allows dogs to enter UKC events, if eligible, and allows

UKC to maintain the dog's competition history and issue performance titles.

Sole Signatory- This person is the main registrant and individual responsible for signing all UKC Registration Documents pertinent to an individual dog. The Sole Signatory may list up to three Successors. Download the form to do so at www.ukcdogs.com/misc-services

Persons listed as Successors will be listed on the UKC Registration documents as a Registrant, but will not be authorized to sign any UKC registration documents, including but not limited to, transfers, litter registrations, address changes, DNA profiling, and duplicate applications pertaining to said dog. These individuals should be listed in succession. In the event of the death of, incapacitation of, or other circumstances that would require the removal of the listed Sole Signatory, the first successor will become the official Sole Signatory.

REGISTRATION RULES AND POLICIES

For information on UKC Registration Rules and Policies, visit www.ukcdogs.com/registration or contact: **Registration Department, United Kennel Club, 100 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49002 or email registration@ukcdogs.com**

UKC is the trademark of the United Kennel Club. located in Kalamazoo, MI. The use of the initials UKC in association with any other registry would be in violation of the registered trademark. Notify **United Kennel Club, 100 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584**, should you become aware of such a violation.

SENDING WORK TO UKC®

Correspondence receives prompt attention at UKC. You can speed up the process, however, by mailing your correspondence or requests for services to the proper departments (listed below) at **100 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584**.

Litter Department (or complete online at www.ukcdogs.com), **Transfer Department** (for Transfer of Ownerships and inquiries on registration papers), **Duplicate Department, Registration Correspondent** (or email registration@ukcdogs.com).

Email advertisements to ads@ukcdogs.com, articles to huntingretrievermag@ukcdogs.com or mail to: ***HUNTING RETRIEVER Magazine 100 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584.***

Start/renew memberships online at: **shop.ukcdogs.com**

Email Event Applications and Championship points inquiries to: **huntingops@ukcdogs.com or mail to: Hunting Ops Department**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FEES

- All fees must be submitted in U.S. Funds. Out of Country personal checks may be used, however the words "Payable in U.S. Funds" must be included on the check.
- Fees may also be paid by credit card by contacting UKC Hunting Ops.
- It is not recommended to send cash to pay for services.
- A fee of $30 will be charged for checks returned for insufficient funds or accounts closed (bounced checks). The customer is also placed in a "money order only" situation. No other work or services will be performed until the individual makes the check good. All work is blocked, which prohibits further activity until the check is made good.
- It is important to pay all accounts with UKC within 30 days to maintain good standing with United Kennel Club. Outstanding accounts will be turned over to collection.

GUIDELINES TO SCHEDULING & LICENSING HUNTS

200-Mile Radius Between Hunts.
UKC has sole discretion on mileage.
(Effective January 1, 2019)

SCHEDULING UKC EVENTS

"Regular hunt" test dates are assigned by weekend number and will automatically reschedule for the same weekend number each year unless UKC is notified otherwise. A club's scheduled hunt test dates must include Saturday and/or Sunday. In no way should this policy prevent a club from hosting an Upland hunt in conjunction with its regularly scheduled hunt. To determine which club has seniority for a specific date's activity, each club has exclusive, historical activity dates referred to by their weekend number. "Exclusive" means no other club may hold the same activity on the same weekend number within the prescribed 200-mile radius.

Four separate licensed Upland hunts may be held on one day. However, the four Upland hunts must be licensed to one club only. A club can hold only one regular licensed hunt on a given day.

A UKC-licensed HRC hunt may only be hosted by a UKC/HRC licensed club. All three categories, Started, Seasoned, and Finished, must be offered at every hunt other than the International Grand Hunt and the Upland hunt. The three categories will be run simultaneously.

Section 1: National Event Date

No licensed or preliminary hunt (regular or Upland) will be permitted in conjunction or in competition with the annual Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. (HRC) Board

of Directors meeting which is held during the second week of June.

Section 2: Preliminary Hunts

All new clubs must be a UKC/HRC licensed club before a preliminary licensed hunt will be scheduled.

All newly-approved clubs must hold a preliminary licensed hunt within 12 months of establishment. A UKC/HRC field representative must be in attendance at the preliminary licensed hunt. The new club is to contact the appropriate field representative to coordinate the scheduling of the preliminary hunt.

Each club must secure an approved preliminary hunt date with UKC by application and signed by a current club officer. Applications must be received by UKC Hunting Ops no less than sixty (60) days before the hunt date.

The application shall include:

a. Club name
b. Club ID number
c. Date Requested for Hunt
d. Type of Preliminary Hunt Requested (Regular or Upland)
e. Location of Hunt Test
f. Hunt Test Chairperson, address, phone number and email address.
g. Hunt Test Secretary, address, phone number and email address.

UKC will notify the hunt test secretary within five (5) working days of receipt if the application for a hunt date is available or denied. Application fees are waived for a preliminary hunt.

The preliminary hunt weekend date now becomes the club's exclusive weekend.

All preliminary hunts are "preliminary licensed hunts," and UKC championship points are awarded.

A preliminary licensed hunt (regular and/or Upland) may only have one flight per category unless the field representative requests a special exemption for multiple flights from the HRC Executive Committee. The maximum entries per flight for a preliminary licensed hunt are listed below. A club may lower the number of entries per flight but may not exceed these maximums, or the club's designated maximum, published on the premium.

Started - entries not to exceed 50 dogs per flight.
Seasoned - entries not to exceed 40 dogs per flight.
Finished - entries not to exceed 40 dogs per flight.
Upland - entries not to exceed 30 dogs per flight.

HRC per-dog and non-HRC member-owner fees are waived for a preliminary hunt. Clubs must submit the recording fees along with the hunt report to UKC for preliminary licensed hunts, according to Section 10 of this rulebook.

Section 3: Previously Scheduled Date

1. UKC Application for Licensed Event(s) forms are available on UKC and HRC websites. Applications must be received by UKC Hunting Ops no less than sixty (60) days before the hunt date.
2. UKC regular hunt and/or Upland hunt assignment weekend numbers are determined by referencing each club's historical dates for their corresponding activities the previous year. All activities are scheduled according to the assigned weekend number of the year.
3. UKC will strive to schedule clubs for the same weekend every year, but these weekends may vary from year to year.
4. Clubs that share a weekend (i.e. one club on Saturday another on Sunday) will be scheduled the same weekend for the following year. If clubs wish to switch (or alternate each year) the day of that weekend, it is treated as a change of date. Each club will be required to release the weekend in writing in order to make it possible to approve a new date request.
5. Applications received by UKC that have changes made to their scheduled event date, without prior written approval from UKC, will be denied.

   All requests for change to a club's scheduled event date must be sent to UKC in writing no less than sixty (60) days before the hunt date and must be approved by the UKC Hunting Ops Department.
6. Any applications that are received by UKC that have changes made to their scheduled activities without prior written approval from UKC will be denied.
7. Completed applications with appropriate fees must be received by the UKC Hunting Ops Department no less than sixty (60) days before the hunt date. Faxed applications will not hold the club's weekend date.
8. A hunt date is considered canceled if applications and fees are not received by the application deadline. The club will not automatically be scheduled for that weekend and the hunt date may be given away.
9. **Canceling a previously scheduled hunt date:** If a club does not wish to hold their event on their previously scheduled date but wishes to hold this date for the following year, they must notify UKC in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the UKC Application for Licensed Event(s) form deadline date. If that date is not used for a second year, it will no longer be held for that club and may be assigned to another club on a first-come, first-served basis.

Section 4: New Date

UKC strives to avoid conflict with other clubs in the area. If the club should request a date that would conflict with another club's hunt, UKC may suggest an alternate date for the hunt. UKC endeavors to maintain the same weekend number for the licensed club events from year to year. It may vary by a week or so, depending on changes in the calendar.

To schedule a new date for either existing or newly formed clubs, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Once it is determined there are no conflicts in scheduling, the club may verbally request that UKC hold the available date for the activity. The date will be held for that club for five (5) days. Should the club decide to permanently schedule the held date, the club must notify the Hunting Ops Department in writing (signed by one club officer) confirming the held date within the five-day hold period. Should the five-day hold period pass without notification from the club, the held date will be released and become an available date again. Faxed applications will not hold the club's dates.
2. Requests for new dates or verifications of held dates are only approved by written requests and are processed in the order received. UKC will notify the club in writing of their approval.
3. The written request must include
    a. Club name,
    b. Date Requested,
    c. Type of Hunt (Regular or Upland), and
    d. Location of Hunt Test.
4. It is recommended that a club's written request for a new date be received by the Hunting Ops Department no less than six (6) months prior to the desired date.
5. Application for Licensed Event Form(s) are available on UKC and HRC websites.
6. Change of hunt date: The field representative must approve and recommend any date changes for clubs within the region. A change of hunt date must be requested in writing after obtaining approval and recommendation of the field representative and is subject to UKC approval (see Sections 3 and 4 above). When a change or a new date is approved by UKC, that date then becomes the club's scheduled weekend number.

Section 5: UKC Application For Licensed Event

UKC Application for Licensed Events Forms are available on UKC and HRC websites. When clubs submit their application(s), the following steps should be taken:

1. The club secretary should complete the application(s) or forward the application(s)

to the appropriate person responsible for the event.

2. Information provided by the club as required on the application must be accurate and complete. Applications must be signed and received with proper licensing fees at UKC by the deadline. Any incomplete information or applications submitted without licensing fees could delay processing, causing the club to be assessed a late fee or the event to be canceled. Faxed applications will not hold the club's weekend.
3. The application shall list what activities the club will hold. The listed activities on the application will be checked for conflicts.
4. If the club wishes to host additional activities, they should contact the Hunting Ops Department requesting the additional activities.

Section 6: Application Deadline & Fees

1. When applications are not received no less than sixty (60) days before the hunt date, the hunt date is considered canceled. The club will not be scheduled the following year for this date, and the hunt date may be given away.
2. Clubs that submit late applications will be assessed a late fee or the application may be denied at the UKC's discretion. Late fees assessed will be $20 per event.

Proper license fees must be submitted with the application for each hunt date. The license fee for a regular licensed hunt is $35 and for an Upland hunt is $25. Checks or money orders for fees are to be made payable to "United Kennel Club" Foreign checks or money orders must be payable in U.S. funds. Fees may also be paid by credit card by contacting Hunting Ops.

Clubs are encouraged to meet all scheduling deadlines in order for each hunt to be published in the HUNTING RETRIEVER magazine's upcoming events section and at www.ukcdogs.com.

All efforts must be made not to change a hunt date if at all possible.

If a club must cancel its hunt after it has been confirmed, the club must notify UKC and HRC of the cancellation and the reason(s) for doing so.

Section 7: Judges/Judges Approval for Hunt Tests

Judges' licensing, approval for hunt tests, and records are processed by HRC through the HRC Administrative Coordinator.

Clubs are urged to verify all HRC judges with the judge reports on the HRC website www.hrc.dog prior to submitting them for formal approval. The HRC Administrative Coordinator must approve judges prior to the hunt(s) and before distribution or publication of club premium(s). The HRC Judge Assignment Approval Form may be submitted online on the HRC website www.hrc.dog.

A regular hunt test must have a minimum of two judges or a maximum of three per flight per category. At least one of the judges must be licensed for that category. If the second judge is an apprentice judge, the licensed judge must be an AA (Approved for Apprentice) licensed judge at that category. (See AA Judges). Two apprentice judges are allowed per AA licensed judge in a regular hunt test.

For the Upland hunt test, there will be a minimum of two judges or a maximum of three judges for each Upland test flight. At least one of the judges must be licensed. If the second judge is an apprentice judge, the licensed judge must be an AA (Approved for Apprentice) licensed judge. (See AA Judges). Two apprentice judges are allowed per AA licensed judge per flight in an Upland test.

1. The following number of maximum entries per flight of judges shall apply. A club may lower the number of entries per flight, but may not exceed these maximums or the club's designated lower maximums published on their premium.

   Started – entries not to exceed 50 dogs per flight
   Seasoned – entries not to exceed 40 dogs per flight
   Finished – entries not to exceed 40 dogs per flight
   Upland – entries not to exceed 30 dogs per flight
2. The HRC Judge Assignment Approval Form must be received by HRC no less than four (4) weeks before the hunt date. The HRC Judge Assignment Approval Form may be submitted online at www.hrc.dog. Late HRC Judge Assignment Approval Forms may jeopardize the hunt status.
3. A judge will only be approved for the status they hold on record at HRC at the time the approval form is submitted.
4. HRC Administrative Coordinator will notify the hunt chairperson by email of the approval or denial of the submitted judges. Should judges be denied, the club must email the HRC Administrative Coordinator with alternative judge(s).

Section 8: Judging Changes

1. **Replacement Judges.** Judging changes should only be needed in cases of extreme emergencies. Replacement judges must be licensed or an approved apprentice for the appropriate category. Complete current reports of HRC licensed and approved apprentice judges are posted on the HRC website, www.hrc.dog.

   When judge changes are needed, it is imperative that the club is absolutely positive the replacement judge is qualified to judge that category. A judge judging in a category that they are not approved for may result in lost points for those dogs that passed under the unapproved judge.

Replacement judges before the hunt date: Judging changes needed before the actual day of the hunt must be approved by the HRC Administrative Coordinator. Judge Change Requests may be submitted online at www.hrc.dog. HRC will return an email to approve or deny the replacement judge(s).

Replacement judges the day before a hunt: The club should make every effort on changes needed the day before the hunt to submit their Judge Change Request online at www.hrc.dog. HRC will return an email to approve or deny the replacement judge(s).

Replacement judges the day of the hunt: Changes on the day of the hunt cannot be pre-approved. If the club finds they have no alternative but to replace a judge on the day of the hunt, the replacement judge should be chosen according to the following guidelines, and in this order:

a. A judge who is licensed at the same level or higher than the judge that is being replaced,
b. An UKC/HRC field representative,
c. An apprentice judge who is at the same level as the judge who is being replaced,
d. A licensed judge from the next lower level, or
e. An apprentice judge from the next lower level.

These guidelines are to be used only in the event a judge must be replaced the day of the hunt. Any time prior to the day of the hunt, judge changes must be approved by HRC. The HRC Administrative Coordinator must be advised of any "day of" judge changes and the UKC Official Hunt Report Form and the online HRC Completed Event Report must reflect the judges that actually judged the event.

2. **Adding a flight of Judges.** Clubs may add additional flights if entries warrant such action except for a Preliminary hunt which must have special exemption approval from their field representative and the HRC executive committee. The judges for additional flight(s) must be pre-approved by the HRC Administrative Coordinator. Clubs cannot add a flight without pre-approving the judges. The club should submit their online Judge Change Request to www.hrc.dog in order to add a flight.

   The HRC Administrative Coordinator will approve or deny the judges for the added flight(s) by email as quickly as possible. If the judges are not approved, different judges would need to be requested.

3. **Canceling a flight of judges.** Situations may arise whereby the hunt entries do not warrant the holding of more than one flight in the category. If flights are canceled the HRC Administrative

Coordinator should be notified as soon as possible so the premium published on the HRC website is updated.

Section 9: Hunt Premiums

Clubs are responsible for creating their own premiums. A sample premium is available on the HRC website or may be requested from the HRC Administrative Coordinator. Premiums may not be distributed, published or posted until approved by HRC. No partial premiums may be published or posted by a club. Clubs choosing to use any online entry processing service are responsible for ensuring all premium requirements and information are included. Any club accepting anything other than an HRC approved premium for an entry is responsible for obtaining a signature from the handler, owner, or authorized agent, accepting the Release of Liability Statement and the Immunization Statement prior to the person running the dog.

The following information is required to be included within the Premium.

1. "United Kennel Club Licensed Regular Hunt" or "Upland Hunt"; or "Preliminary Licensed Regular Hunt" or "Preliminary Upland Hunt";
2. "This Hunt is held under the Rules & Policies of United Kennel Club and Hunting Retriever Club, Inc.";
3. "Open to all UKC gun dog breeds.";
4. "Twelve (12) dog entry limit per handler." The club may designate a lower limit;
5. "Each dog is limited to one (1) entry per licensed hunt.";
6. "Club name, date of hunt(s), and location of hunt";
7. "Hunt Chairperson, Hunt Committee and Hunt Secretary with address and phone/email";
8. "Judges list by category." Judges that have been approved by HRC must be listed. Premiums must be republished after any judge changes as they occur after initial approval;
9. "Advance entries closing date; entry fee amount and information for submitting payment";
10. "Maximum entry limits are: STARTED: entries not to exceed 50 dogs per flight; SEASONED: entries to not exceed 40 dogs per flight; FINISHED: entries not to exceed 40 dogs per flight; UPLAND: entries to not exceed 30 dogs per flight". Clubs may lower the entry limits.;
11. "Add $5 to entry fee for non-UKC registered dogs." The club may not increase or decrease this fee with exception of Canadian clubs that may convert the fee into a Canadian dollar equivalent.;
12. "Add $5 to the entry fee for each Seasoned, Finished or Upland of non-HRC member owners". This fee never applies to Started entry

owners. The club may not increase or decrease this fee with exception of Canadian clubs who may convert the fee into a Canadian dollar equivalent.;

13. Immunization Statement and Release of Liability Statement will include a minimum of the following: “I certify this dog’s immunization is current and has no known communicable disease e.g. Kennel Cough. FURTHER, I agree not to hold the Landowner(s), HRC, UKC or the Host Club responsible for loss of property, damage or injury incurred during this event. HRC, UKC, the Host Club and the Landowner(s) are NOT responsible for loss, accident or theft, and further assume no responsibility for any damage or injury sustained by the handlers, or to any of their dogs or property and further assume no responsibility for injury to children who are to be under the supervision and control of their parent or guardian. FURTHER, by my signature, I acknowledge and ensure that the handler understands that he/she will have the opportunity to view a test dog run the tests; that he/she has the option of withdrawing this dog from any test the handler in his/her sole discretion deems unsuitable or unsafe; and agree further that by participating in said tests he/she assumes all risk of harm or accident to either the handler or the dog”;
14. “Championship points awarded to UKC registered dogs (and dogs registered with UKC within 60 days of this event). 5 championship points for Started; 10 championship points for Seasoned; 15 championship points for Finished; 5 championship points for Upland; rosette ribbons in all categories”;
15. “Bird/game will be used”; “Camo hunting attire consistent with current HRC policy is required for handlers”. Type of bird/game would be ducks or chukar, etc. Add specific information; e.g., Bring waders for Seasoned/Finished; Bring Upland orange hat and vest, etc.;
16. Additional information to be provided is: “hotels, meals, veterinarian name and phone number, hospital.”; and
17. The statement: “Remember Gun Safety & Sportsmanship”
18. The statement: “Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. encourages the participation of handlers of all ages and abilities. If there are accommodations that would make our event more accessible to you, please contact the club’s Hunt Secretary as soon as possible prior to the hunt so that every effort can be made to host a safe and enjoyable event.”

Section 10: Hunt Paperwork

The UKC official hunt packet will be mailed to the club's Hunt Secretary after the application for licensed event(s) and fees are received by UKC. The packet will contain the following items

a. UKC hunt test category results form (one form is used for each category per day);
b. UKC formal complaint forms;
c. UKC official championship points receipts;
d. HRC Apprentice Judge Evaluation Form (club to make appropriate number copies as needed);
e. HRC Completed Event Report (information is submitted on HRC website www.hrc.dog);
f. HRC membership brochures.

Section 11: Submission of Hunt Reports

UKC hunt report forms are to be received by UKC with proper fees within fifteen (15) working days from the completion of the licensed hunt.

A recording fee payable to UKC of $2 for each dog entered (includes UKC registered and non-UKC registered) and $5 for each non-UKC registered dog entered must accompany the UKC hunt report. Fees are payable by check to United Kennel Club or by credit card by contacting UKC hunting ops.

Late hunt reports or reports without fees will be subject to a penalty charge(s). Currently, the penalty charge is $20 per licensed hunt. UKC will notify the club's officers of any hunt reports over thirty (30) days past due. If the UKC hunt reports are not received within thirty (30) days of that notification date, additional late fees of $20 per month may be charged and the HRC Administrative Coordinator will be notified of the past due hunt report.

All formal complaints made at a licensed event must accompany the UKC hunt report form. Once a formal complaint is filed, it can only be rescinded by the complainant until midnight the day of the event.

HRC Completed Event Report is now an online form available on the HRC website www.hrc.dog. It is a combined report for those formerly known as: HRC hunt report and Judge completed assignment report. This combo-report must be submitted within fifteen (15) working days as directed on the form and will automatically be distributed to the HRC Treasurer and HRC Administrative Coordinator. The appropriate fees of $4 for each dog that passed or failed in the hunt (no scratches or voids) and $2.50 for each non-HRC Member Owner will automatically calculate. Payment can be made by check or by credit card. A section for Judge assignments and Apprentice Evaluation forms is also included in this report.

UKC® POLICY ON DRINKING & UNPRESCRIBED DRUG VIOLATIONS

The use of alcohol and/or unprescribed drugs during UKC licensed events is a violation of UKC rules and policies.

If an Owner/Handler is determined to be under the influence of alcohol or unprescribed drugs while participating at a UKC licensed event by the Club Officer(s), Judge(s) or event officials, they and their dog are to be excused from competition immediately and must leave the hunt grounds. The individual may have someone else handle their other dogs that day if they are already entered. The Owner/Handler may not enter any UKC licensed event for a minimum of six months to a maximum of two years from the date of the violation.

If it is determined by the Officer(s) of the Club that a Judge or apprentice Judge is under the influence of alcohol or unprescribed drugs prior to or while judging, the Judge is to be immediately excused from their duties and must leave the hunt grounds. They will not be allowed to judge any UKC licensed events for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of ten (10) years. If a Judge is drinking or using unprescribed drugs during a licensed event, even if they are not judging, they will not be allowed to judge UKC licensed events for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of ten (10) years.

It is the Club's responsibility to report such rule infractions in writing to UKC and HRC along with the appropriate UKC Hunt Report Form and the HRC Completed Event Report. If a Club is aware of such rule violations and does not report it to UKC and HRC, they place themselves in jeopardy of losing the right to hold UKC licensed events.

A spectator or visitor must leave the hunt grounds if it has been determined they have been drinking during the Hunt or taking unprescribed drugs.

After the conclusion of the hunt test, after all dogs in all categories have completed the tests, the Club may enforce any alcohol policy that the club deems appropriate.

DISQUALIFIED FOR FIGHTING, UKC® POLICY

It is the Club's responsibility to report when "Disqualified for Fighting" has occurred. A written report from the Hunt Chair or a club officer shall be submitted to UKC Hunting Ops detailing the situation involving all incidents having occurred at a hunt of fighting or attacking handlers, participants, spectators, judges, UKC/HRC officers, or other dogs. UKC will notify the owners of dogs "Disqualified for Fighting" after the dog has been Disqualified for Fighting three times within a two-year period. The third time a dog is disqualified for fighting within two years, the dog is barred from participating in UKC events for two years.

When three (3) HRC reports have been received by UKC indicating a dog has been "disqualified for fighting" or attempting to fight within a two-year period:

The reports will be checked to see if the Judge and Hunt Committee and two different officers of the Club have properly certified them. If the reports are properly verified, the registered owner of the dog will be sent a certified letter advising of the dates and the names of the Clubs that have reported their dog "disqualified for fighting," the name of the dog, the registered owner's name and address and the time barred for fighting will be published in HUNTING RETRIEVER magazine. They will be requested to return their UKC Registration Certificate and Pedigree by a specific date (approximately 30 days) so they can be stamped BARRED FOR FIGHTING UNTIL _____. The dog will be barred for two (2) years. At the end of the two (2) year period, the registered owner of the dog can return the Registration Certificate and Pedigree, along with the proper fee, to the UKC Registration Office for the issuance of a new Registration Certificate and Pedigree. All reference to fighting will be removed, and the dog will once again be allowed to enter UKC licensed events.

If the owner of the dog does not send in the UKC Registration Certificate and Pedigree by the deadline indicated in the notification letter, the following actions will be taken.

1. Transfer of ownership will not be allowed.
2. No litter(s) will be registered where the dog is the sire or dam.
3. The dog will be barred from receiving any UKC Championship points. If the UKC Registration Certificate and Pedigree is returned after the notification deadline they will be reviewed on an individual basis as to what action will be taken.

United Kennel Club has the right to inspect all reports, scorecards and documents of UKC events and to review those documents for any reason. Some, but not all, of the items reviewed are A) scores; B) dogs disqualified for fighting; C) errors by the recording person; and D) documentation excluded for any reason. UKC reserves the right to correct any mistakes found.

Even though the report or other documentation might not have on it the signatures of a Judge or Club Officer, UKC reserves the right unto itself to make the necessary adjustments in line with our Inherent Right and Powers.

MISCONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

For current official UKC Misconduct & Guidelines please reference the official UKC website at www.ukcdogs.com.

Disclaimer: Any UKC Rules and or Policies as written in this rulebook are subject to change. Any such changes will be published in the Rule Sections on the UKC website at www.ukcdogs.com.

UKC Policy Regarding Persons Associated with Fighting Dogs:

Any individual or group of individuals known by UKC to promote, support, raise dogs for fighting; knowingly sell, give or trade dogs that will be used in fighting; condone or be associated with the facing off, game testing, rolling or pitting of dogs; or arrested for attending and/or participating in a dog fight, will have the following actions taken against them by United Kennel Club:

1. All dog registration privileges will be revoked for life.
    a. The person(s) will not be permitted to register any litters of puppies.
    b. The person(s) will not be permitted to transfer ownership of any puppies or adult dogs into their name.
2. The person(s) will be barred for life from participating in or entering any UKC licensed events. Their dogs will not be awarded any UKC Championship points or titles even if handled by another person.
3. The person(s) will be barred for life from advertising in any UKC publications.

Anyone aware of any persons currently involved in such activities as are listed above should report them to United Kennel Club.

Forms referred to in this rulebook are available on www.hrc.dog
or may be requested from the
HRC Administrative Coordinator tcobb@hrc.dog.
UKC forms are available at ukcdogs.com

SECTION III - HRC RUNNING RULES

Shaded areas indicate Running Rules.
Running Rules definition – The mechanics and standards of evaluating retrievers during a hunt test.

JUDGING RETRIEVERS - ALL CATEGORIES

Specific guidelines are given for each category (Started, Seasoned, Finished, Grand and Upland hunter), but it is the judge's responsibility to observe each retriever's performance with an impartial and educated eye. It is important that judges keep in mind at all times that they are not judging one dog against another, but instead judging an individual retriever against a set test standard which is clearly defined prior to the beginning of a test.

The following are desirable traits of a true hunting retriever. They will be judged according to the test standard, which will vary between each category.

1. Marking ability and memory
2. Nose
3. Hunting desire
4. Control
5. Hunting style

A retriever can be failed for failure to deliver to hand (to the area of the handler in Started) and for excessive dropping or mouthing of the bird. The retriever should be marked down for repeated dropping or mouthing of the bird, or failure to return promptly to the line with the bird.

The use of electronic/robotic/mechanical decoys is prohibited in the HRC testing program. This includes but is not limited to Mojos, pulsators, spinners, squirters, jerk strings or jerk rigs, etc.

1. MARKING ABILITY AND MEMORY

The judge must score on whether the retriever truly marked and remembered the bird, or if it merely stumbled upon it while wildly running around the field. Also, a retriever that must be handled to a marked fall does not demonstrate marking ability. Serious faults, which would be grounds for failure, would include:

a. Failure to find a bird;
b. Throwing an object to aid the dog; and
c. Excessive handling to marks that the retriever should have seen.

The judge should score a retriever lower for poor marking, repeated handling on marks, leaving the hunt area, and disturbing too much cover.

2. NOSE

A sharply-tuned nose is obviously a desirable characteristic of a hunting retriever; however, it is a difficult attribute to specifically test. Judges should be on constant alert for this trait during all tests. Judges should be careful and not be quick to mark down a lack of nose on a particular test as scenting conditions can vary considerably from test to test.

3. HUNTING DESIRE

Included in this category would be courage, desire,

determination, and perseverance. A test may be failed if a retriever:

a. Stops and gives up hunting;
b. Refuses to enter rough cover, water, ice, mud or any situation involving difficult or unpleasant going, after being commanded to do so, or;
c. Shows no interest in hunting a bird or picking it up.

A retriever should be marked lower for reluctance to enter unfavorable terrain or water, or for hunting in a disinterested, lackadaisical manner.

4. CONTROL

Control covers most of the trainable attributes of a good hunting retriever, including manners, obedience, steadiness, response to directions, and delivery. A retriever must be under some degree of control if it is to be a useful tool in retrieving downed game. At the Started level, a good deal of leeway is granted the retriever, but at the Seasoned, Finished, Grand and Upland hunter levels, control must be considered with increasing importance. Judges must ask themselves if they would spend time in a blind or boat with this retriever.

MANNERS AND OBEDIENCE - Seasoned, Finished, Grand and Upland hunting retrievers should walk quietly at heel off lead, sit quietly in any location designated by the handler, and honor (when required) in a quiet manner **in either a sitting or standing position**. These retrievers should not require frequent and noisy restraints by the handler. Failure may result from:

1. A handler touching the retriever after they signal ready (except at the Started level);
2. A retriever out of control;
3. Breaking; or
4. Excessive noise at the line by the retriever or the handler.

The retriever can be marked down for poor line manners, creeping, and requiring numerous commands at the line to steady.

STEADINESS - Seasoned, Finished and Grand retrievers are required to be steady at the line without physical or excessive verbal restraint. A controlled break (judges must decide distance prior to running the test) will result in a mark down at the Seasoned and Finished levels and a failure at the Grand level. In the event of a controlled break, the retriever must stop and return quickly to the line when directed to do so.

RESPONSE TO DIRECTION- When a handler chooses to direct their retriever with voice, whistle, and/or hand signals, the retriever should respond. Dogs entered in the Grand hunt test will be judged much harder than Upland hunter, Finished or Seasoned, but in all cases, excessive refusals by the retriever can result in failure. The judges must decide in each test what excessive is and judge accordingly.

DELIVERY - A retriever that finds the game but either eats it or runs off with it is sometimes worse than no retriever. A retriever should promptly return to the handler (handler area in Started) with the bird and deliver it in such a manner as not to risk losing it if it were a cripple or damaging the meat. Hard-mouth at any level is grounds for immediate failure; however, a judge must carefully consider the situation, examine the bird, and discuss the matter with the co-judge. In any event, the bird in question must be removed from the pool of usable birds. If the retriever is failed for hard-mouth, it should be done at the time and the handler notified. The bird must then be tagged with the retriever's number and saved until the hunt is over.

5. HUNTING STYLE

This is an open-ended category that includes style, sportsmanship, attitude, and intelligence. These qualities will be more evident in the older retrievers that have hunted a season or two, but nevertheless, are important if we are to breed the best hunting retrievers.

STYLE - Each breed has its own manner afield and retrievers from different parts of the country or world also are characteristically different. The Judge must view the retriever's entire performance before scoring on style.

ATTITUDE AND INTELLIGENCE - This is another attribute that is hard to judge, but will surface in good hunting retrievers, especially the retrievers with some hunting experience. A judge should grade higher a retriever that has learned how to use the wind and hunt the heavy cover, as well as keep its mind on its business.

The above-mentioned attributes should, in most cases, be common to retrievers entered in all categories; however, they will obviously be judged differently depending on the category being judged. There are more specific guidelines pertaining to each category (Started, Seasoned, Finished, Grand and Upland Hunter).

SPORTSMANSHIP

The judge is to assess the retriever not the handler, but there are numerous things that fall under the heading of unsportsmanlike conduct and should result in either failure or a major mark-down. They include but are not limited to:

1. Carrying exposed training equipment to the line (except whistle), or threatening the retriever;
2. Permitting the retriever to preview the test;
3. Deliberate blocking by the handler, so a retriever will not see all birds and falls; and
4. Pointing out the bird throwers and/or gunners to the retriever by the handler prior to birds being thrown
5. Interfering, intimidating, threatening or fighting with the judges are grounds for disqualification.

TEST DOGS

Use of test dogs is required at all UKC/HRC licensed events. This will enable judges to see how smoothly the mechanics of the tests will be executed, will give handlers a view of the test, will cause bird and drag back scent to be on the ground for all dogs, and will verify the usefulness of the test. Test dogs should be at the same level as the test, but may be at a single level higher than the test, provided they are not titled at a level higher than the test; i.e. a retriever with Finished points can be used as test dog for Seasoned as long as they do not have an HRCH title or a retriever with Seasoned points can be used as a test dog for Started as long as they do not have a title. A judge may run his or her appropriately qualified dog as a test dog only in the class and flight they are judging.

GUNNERS

If a designated gunner is used, the individual should: a) be at least 16 years of age; b) have completed a certified Hunter Safety Course; and c) be approved by the judges of the test where the gunner is being used.

HANDLER INSTRUCTIONS

Judges should, while handlers are assembled for the test dog, give instructions in accordance with the information listed under "judges" in each test category; in the Guidelines for Judges & Conducting Hunts, and in Hunt Test Briefings which are available online at www.hrc.dog.

STARTED HUNT TESTS

DESCRIPTION

The Started hunt will have four tests. Two tests will be marked water retrieves. Two tests will be marked land retrieves. The Started hunting retriever can participate in all four tests regardless of whether or not it passes each test.

HUNTING TESTS

The hunting test must duplicate actual hunting conditions. Practical hunting distances must be used in all Started hunting retriever tests. Dead pheasants, pigeons, ducks or other game birds must be used for all hunting tests to gain championship points. Shot flyers shall not be used in the Started class.

HANDLERS

At the retrieving line, voice or whistle commands can be used to steady the hunting retriever. The handler shall not intimidate the hunting retriever at the retrieving line. The hunting retriever is to be released by the handler, or as otherwise directed by the judge. The handler must keep the hunting retriever on lead to and from the retrieving line. A hunting retriever that breaks away and runs into the working area of another hunting retriever may result in disqualification. Handlers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner such that they do not disturb game or the hunt.

HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Hunting equipment such as boats, decoys, duck blinds, calls, etc., will be used in these tests. The Started hunting retriever will be allowed to have a collar, leash or line around its neck to assist in steadiness at the retrieving line.

TEST RULES

I. The maximum land test distance will not exceed seventy-five (75) yards but may be less. The maximum water test distance will not exceed sixty (60) yards but may be less.

II. Hand signals, voice or whistle commands may be utilized by the handler to encourage the Started hunting retriever to perform.

III. The hunting retriever is required to be steady at the retrieving line. The hunting retriever may be hand held at the retrieving line to achieve steadiness. If the hunting retriever is hand held, the handler will not handle the shotgun. The handler may request the gunner to move a distance away to avoid scaring an inexperienced dog.

IV. The bird must be delivered to the immediate area of the handler. It is not necessary to deliver to hand. The judges should define 'immediate area' of each specific test.

V. Testing will consist of only single marks for both land and water.

VI. No double marks, triple marks, or blind retrieves are to be used in the Started hunt test.

VII. Only one bird is allowed per mark.

VIII. The hunting retriever can be cast from the retrieving line a maximum of two (2) times per bird. If the hunting retriever is unproductive after a second attempt, the judge will instruct the handler to pick up the hunting retriever and that the test is failed.

IX. Gunners and bird boys must be inconspicuous and blend in with the local hunting conditions. When bird boys and gunners are hidden, an attention-getting shot or shots may be used or a duck or goose call must be used before the birds are thrown. A shot must be fired when the bird is at the top of its arc.

X. The dog must have a clear view of the fall.

XI. On consecutive singles from the same retrieving line, the line to the falls should not be less than 90 degrees.

XII. Judges should advise the handlers that continuous failure to demonstrate true hunting form and safety with the shotgun could result in failure of the test or disqualification.

IMMEDIATE FAILURE

The hunting retriever shall immediately fail the test if a gunner or bird boy is required to help or assist in any way. A bird unfit for the table resulting from hard-

mouth shall be grounds for failing the test. Failure to pass any hunting test will not prevent a hunting retriever from participating in subsequent tests unless the handler is unsafe in handling a gun. A break results in an immediate failure.

JUDGING STARTED HUNT TESTS

This is a test designed to assess the ability of the dog to follow the flight of the shot bird to the area of the fall, and its ability to go directly to the area of the fall, retrieve the bird and return it to the handler.

The area of the fall shall be left to the judges' discretion in their consideration of the test and cover, based on the terrain and type of game hunted, but the following should be considered:

1. Is there a clear field of vision for the dog to see the mark?
2. Was the dog attentive at the line?
3. Does the dog react to the attention-getting devices?
4. Did the dog proceed directly to the area of the fall?
5. Did the dog hunt the area of the fall?

TEST RULES

I. Hand signals, voice and whistle commands may be utilized by the handler to encourage the Started hunting retriever to perform; however, should excessive handling or noise occur, which in the opinion of the judges would disturb the hunt, then at the judges' discretion, they may declare failure of the test. The dog is being tested for its marking ability, not handling. However, a clean handle is preferable to an extended hunt.

II. The hunting retriever is required to be steady at the retrieving line. The hunting retriever may be hand held at the retrieving line to achieve steadiness. If the Started handler opts to shoot the shotgun, the dog may not be restrained. A controlled break shall not fail a dog, but shall be marked down. The judges should evaluate the dogs' temperament as displayed in its spontaneous behavior in order to assess its suitability as a hunting companion. Hyperactivity, wildness, jumping about, barking, excessive disobedience, lethargy or lack of interest are undesirable.

III. The bird must be delivered to the immediate area of the handler. Delivery to hand is desirable. Consistent failure to deliver or consistent reluctance to deliver can result in failure.

IV. If a Started dog is unproductive after a second attempt, the judge will instruct the handler to pick up their dog and that the test is failed. At this point, the judges may recommend that the dog be assisted in completing the retrieve with the help of the bird boys or gunners.

V. Gunners and bird boys should be inconspicuous

in keeping with the hunting situation. At the discretion of the judges, not more than once in each event the gunners may be visible in order to simulate specific hunting situations, such as dove hunting. It is the intent of these regulations to provide the dog with adequate opportunity to focus its attention on the area of the fall.

SEASONED HUNT TESTS

DESCRIPTION

The Seasoned hunt will have five (5) tests. These five tests shall consist of at least the following: (1) a double-marked land retrieve, (2) a double-marked water retrieve, (3) a walk-up, (4) a blind land retrieve, and (5) a blind water retrieve. Part of the test must include a diversion. **The hunt areas cannot overlap, nor can the retriever be expected to run through one hunt area to proceed directly to the hunt area of another mark.** Failure of a hunting retriever to pass any of the hunting tests will not prevent the hunting retriever from participating in subsequent tests unless the handler is unsafe in handling a gun.

HUNTING TESTS

The hunting test must duplicate actual hunting conditions. Practical hunting distances must be used in all Seasoned hunting retriever tests. Dead pheasants, pigeons, ducks or other game birds must be used for all hunting tests, except for shot flyers or Upland game tests, to gain championship points.

HANDLERS

At the retrieving line, voice or whistle commands may be used to steady the hunting retriever. The handler shall not intimidate the hunting retriever at the retrieving line. The hunting retriever is to be released by the handler or as otherwise directed by the judge.

The handler must keep the hunting retriever on lead to and from the retrieving line. A hunting retriever that breaks away and runs into the working area of another hunting retriever may result in disqualification. Handlers are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner that they do not disturb game or the hunt.

HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Hunting equipment such as boats, decoys, duck blinds, calls, etc., will be used in these tests. The Seasoned hunting retriever will run without a collar, except where prohibited by local ordinances.

TEST RULES

I. The maximum land test distance will not exceed one hundred (100) yards but may be shorter. The maximum water test distance will not exceed seventy-five (75) yards but may be shorter. The land blind retrieve maximum test distance will not exceed sixty (60) yards but may be shorter. The water blind retrieve maximum test distance will not exceed sixty (60) yards but

may be shorter.

II. During all five hunting tests, hand signals, voice or whistle commands may be used by the handler to encourage the Seasoned hunting retriever.

III. The Seasoned hunting retriever is required to be steady at the retrieving line. At the retrieving line the hunting retriever may be touched to steady, but when the handler signals "ready" the hunting retriever should not be touched again.

If a Seasoned hunting retriever leaves the retrieving line before being signaled to do so, it must be stopped and return to heel. Failure to stop and return to heel upon command will be considered an uncontrolled break. Excessive or consistent creeping by a Seasoned hunting retriever will be treated as a controlled break and the retriever must be brought to heel on the judges' command. The judges will give a lower score to the Seasoned hunting retriever for a controlled break.

During hunting tests, the Seasoned hunting retriever may be placed a reasonable distance from the handler at the retrieving line.

IV. The bird must be delivered to hand.

V. Testing will consist of double marks for both land and water. The handler cannot point out either the bird boys' or gunner's location for the Seasoned hunting retriever prior to the bird being thrown.

VI. No Seasoned hunting retriever test will have triple marks.

VII. A diversionary bird can be thrown after the walk-up, blind, or last retrieve of a double mark. If a Seasoned hunting retriever switches to the diversionary bird, it will not fail but will be scored lower by the judge. The hunting retriever shall retrieve the diversionary bird.

VIII. The Seasoned hunting retriever can be cast from the retrieving line a maximum of two (2) times per bird. If a Seasoned hunting retriever is unproductive after a second attempt, the judge will instruct the handler to pick up their hunting retriever and that the test is failed.

IX. Gunners and bird boys must be inconspicuous and blend in with the local hunting conditions. When bird boys and gunners are hidden, an attention-getting shot or shots may be used, or a duck or goose call may be used, before the birds are thrown. A shot must be fired when the bird is at the top of its arc.

X. Blind retrieves should be through easy cover and relatively open water.

XI. Judges should advise the handler, if necessary, that continuous failure to demonstrate true hunting form with the shotgun and safety could

result in failure of the test or disqualification.

IMMEDIATE FAILURE

The Seasoned hunting retriever shall immediately fail the test if a gunner or bird boy is required to help or assist in any way. A bird unfit for the table resulting from hard-mouth shall be grounds for failing the test. Failure to pass any hunting test will not prevent a hunting retriever from participating in subsequent tests unless the handler uses a gun in an unsafe manner. A break results in an immediate failure.

JUDGING SEASONED HUNT TESTS

I. Hand signals, voice, and whistle commands may be utilized by the handler to encourage the Seasoned hunting dog to perform; however, should excessive handling or noise occur which, in the opinion of the judges, would disturb the hunt, the judges may declare failure of the test.

The dog is being tested for its marking ability, not handling. However, a clean handle is preferable to an extended hunt.

II. Controlled breaks, poor obedience and poor manners should be noted and when excessive or repeated, should be cause for failure.

Steadiness should be judged according to the degree that it would interfere with a normal day's hunting. Creeping to an excessive degree puts the dog in the blast cone of the shotgun and can deafen or inadvertently kill it.

III. The judges should periodically inspect birds taken from the handler, especially in the case of a dog suspected of hard-mouth.

IV. The judges should look for the dog that walks obediently to the line, sits obediently and exhibits an attentive attitude.

V. The standards of control and performance on blinds for Seasoned dogs are less than those for Finished or Grand. Less control and more whistle and cast refusals can be accepted for the Seasoned dog as compared to more advanced categories.

Sitting on the whistle is not a necessity, but Seasoned dogs should demonstrate the capability to respond to directional control.

Lining the blind is not required. It is preferable that the dog exhibits the ability to be under control.

Popping (looking to the handler for direction without a signal) shall not be penalized.

VI. The diversionary bird must be thrown as the dog returns from the retrieve. A switch is defined as the dog dropping one bird and picking up the other bird. The purpose of this test is to require the Seasoned dog to demonstrate a reasonable degree of control on the return from a retrieve. The diversionary bird should be thrown where the dog can see it, but not in its return path.

VII. In the event that a hunting retriever is

unproductive after being cast by the handler on a second attempt, the judges must inform the Handler that the dog has failed the test.

VIII. Gunners and bird boys should be inconspicuous in keeping with the hunting situation. At the discretion of the judges (not more than once in each event) the gunners may be visible in order to simulate specific hunting situations, such as dove hunting. It is the intent of these regulations to provide the dog with adequate opportunity to focus its attention on the area of the fall.

IX. Walk-up. A quiet, unobtrusive verbal reminder to "sit" is acceptable as the bird flushes or is shot. Great care must be exercised by the judges that this is not abused to the extent of intimidation.

FINISHED HUNT TESTS

DESCRIPTION

The Finished hunt will have at least four (4) tests. These four tests shall consist of the following: (1) a triple marked water retrieve, (2) a triple marked land retrieve (either or both of the triple marked water retrieves or the triple marked land retrieves must include an honor), (3) a water blind retrieve, and (4) a land blind retrieve. These blinds may or may not be included in one of the required triple marked retrieves. Part of the test must include a diversion as the dog returns to the retrieving line from any retrieve. Failure of a hunting retriever to pass any of the hunting tests will not prevent the dog from participating in a subsequent test unless the handler is unsafe in handling a gun.

HUNTING TESTS

The hunting test must duplicate actual hunting conditions. Practical hunting distances must be used in all Finished hunt tests. Dead pheasants, pigeons, ducks or other game birds must be used for all hunting tests, except for shot flyers, to gain championship points.

HANDLERS

At the retrieving line, voice or whistle commands may be used to steady the hunting retriever. The handler shall not intimidate the hunting retriever at the retrieving line. The hunting retriever is to be released by the handler, or as otherwise directed by the judge. The handler should bring the hunting retriever to and from the retrieving line off lead. Handlers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner such that they do not disturb game or the hunt.

HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Hunting equipment such as boats, decoys, duck blinds, calls, etc., will be used in these tests. The Finished hunting retriever will run without a collar, except where prohibited by local ordinances.

TEST RULES

I. The maximum land test distance will not exceed one hundred-fifty (150) yards but may be shorter. The maximum water test distance will not exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) yards but may be shorter. The blind retrieve maximum test distance will not exceed one hundred (100) yards.

II. During all hunting tests, hand signals, voice or whistle commands may be utilized by the handler to encourage the Finished hunting retriever. The Finished hunting retriever should demonstrate a prompt and precise response to all voice, whistle, and directional commands.

III. The Finished hunting retriever is required to be steady at the retrieving line. At the retrieving line the dog may be touched to steady, but when the handler signals "ready", it may not be touched again. The Finished retriever may be failed for a "controlled break" and may be failed for excessive, consistent creeping. If a Finished retriever leaves the retrieving line before being signaled to do so, it must be stopped and return to heel. Failure to stop and return to heel upon command will be considered an uncontrolled break. During hunting tests, the Finished dog may be placed a reasonable distance from the retrieving line.

IV. The bird must be delivered to hand.

V. Testing will consist of triple marks for both water and land. At the judges' discretion, the Finished hunting retriever may be required to make retrieves in an established sequence. The handler cannot point out either the bird boys' or gunner's locations for the Finished hunting retriever prior to the bird being thrown.

VI. During the hunting tests, a Finished hunting retriever must be required to honor another hunting retriever at or near the retrieving line. When the Finished hunting retriever is honoring, its view of the hunting test cannot be obstructed. A Finished hunting retriever shall not be required to honor during another dog's blind retrieve. **The honor dog will be excused from the test by the judge after the working dog has left the retrieving line on its way to retrieve one of the marks thrown in the test.**

VII. During the test, a diversionary bird will be thrown as the hunting retriever returns to the retrieving line. If the hunting retriever switches to the diversionary bird on the return, it shall fail the test.

VIII. The Finished hunting retriever can be cast from the retrieving line only once. If the Finished hunting retriever is unproductive after the single attempt, the judge will instruct the handler to pick up the hunting retriever and

that the test is failed.

IX. Lining the blind is not required. The Finished hunting retriever should demonstrate the ability to take an initial line toward the blind and a willingness and ability to respond to the commands from the handler. The Finished hunting retriever must stay under control and pick up the bird quickly and efficiently. The judge will not require the retriever to run a predefined route or channel.

X. Gunners and bird boys must be inconspicuous and blend in with the local hunting conditions. When bird boys and gunners are hidden, an attention-getting shot or shots may be used, or a duck or goose call may be used, before the birds are thrown. A shot must be fired when the bird is at the top of its arc.

XI. Judges should advise the handler, if necessary, that continuous failure to demonstrate true hunting form with the shotgun and safety could result in failure of the test or disqualification.

XII. All marks in a Finished test must be seen from the same, stationary line.

IMMEDIATE FAILURE

The hunting retriever shall immediately fail the test if a gunner or bird boy is required to help or assist in any way. A bird unfit for the table resulting from hard-mouth shall be grounds for failing the test. Failure to pass any hunting test will not prevent a hunting retriever from participating in subsequent tests, unless the handler is unsafe in handling a gun. A break results in an immediate failure.

JUDGING FINISHED HUNT TESTS

I. Hand signals, voice, and whistle commands may be utilized by the handler to encourage the Finished hunting retriever to perform; however, should excessive handling or noise occur, which in the opinion of the judges would disturb the hunt, the judges may declare failure of the test.

The dog is being tested for both its marking ability and handling. However, a clean handle is preferable to an extended hunt.

II. Excessive noise or intimidation to prevent a “break” should result in failure. A “controlled break” may result in failure.

III. A judge should periodically inspect birds taken from the handler, especially in the instance of a dog suspected of hard-mouth.

IV. The judge should look for the dog that walks obediently to the line, sits obediently, and exhibits an attentive attitude.

V. The diversionary bird can be thrown as the dog returns from any retrieve. Remember, that when a hazard or diversion of any kind is set out for the dog, it is the recovery that the dog executes that is important.

VI. After a dog leaves the line on a retrieve, he

cannot return and be re-cast.

VII. Imagination in the placement of gunners and bird throwers should be used on the part of the judges. A Finished hunting retriever should be the type of dog that anyone would be proud to hunt with in all conditions, and this should be a factor in test setup.

GRAND HUNT TESTS

HUNTING TESTS

The International Grand Hunt will consist of five (5) series of tests. The five series of tests shall consist of the following: Two (2) land series tests consisting of multiple marked land retrieves. Both land series tests must include a blind retrieve.

There shall also be two (2) water series tests consisting of multiple marked water retrieves. Both water series tests must include a blind retrieve. The required honor and diversion portion of the tests will be placed as determined by the International Grand Committee.

The fifth and final test shall consist of an Upland game and quartering test series. Failure of the hunting retriever to pass any of the five series tests will prevent it from participating in any subsequent series test.

The International Grand Hunt tests must duplicate actual hunting conditions. Practical hunting distances must be used in all Grand hunt tests, as defined under Test Rule #1. Dead pheasants, pigeons, ducks or other game birds must be used for all hunting tests, except for shot flyers and Upland game tests.

HANDLERS

At the retrieving line, voice or whistle commands may be used to steady the hunting retriever. The handler shall not intimidate the hunting retriever at the retrieving line. The hunting retriever is to be released by the handler, or perform as otherwise directed by the judges. The handler should bring the hunting retriever to and from the retrieving line, off lead. Handlers are expected to conduct themselves in a realistic hunting manner and should display true hunting form.

HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Hunting equipment such as boats, numerous decoys, duck blinds and calls will be used in these tests. The Grand retriever will run without a collar, except where prohibited by local ordinances.

TEST RULES

I. The land maximum test distance will not exceed two hundred (200) yards but may be shorter. The water maximum test distance will not exceed one hundred-fifty (150) yards but may be shorter. The blind retrieve maximum test distance for both land and water shall not exceed one hundred-fifty (150) yards.

II. The Grand hunting retriever should demonstrate a prompt and precise response to all voice,

whistle, and directional commands given by the handler. In this hunt category, no unnecessary or excessive signals or commands should be needed to assist in the process of retrieving.

III. The Grand hunting retriever is required to be steady at all times. At the retrieving line, the hunting retriever may not be touched to steady. After signaling "ready", the handler will be able to quietly, and in a non-intimidating manner, continue to talk to the dog. Excessive verbal commands will be judged as lack of control and may be grounds for failure.

IV. The Grand hunting retriever will be failed for a "controlled break" and may be failed for excessive, consistent creeping. During hunting tests, the retriever may be placed a reasonable distance from the retrieving line.

V. Testing will consist of triple marks for both land and water. A quad or delayed quad is permissible in this hunt if it duplicates actual hunting conditions. At the judges' discretion, the order of retrieves will be required in an established sequence. The handler cannot point out either the bird boys or gunner's location for the hunting retriever prior to the birds being thrown.

VI. During the marking tests, the retriever must be required to honor another hunting retriever at or near the retrieving line. When the hunting retriever is honoring, its view of the hunting test cannot be obstructed.

VII. During the test, a diversionary bird will be thrown as the hunting retriever returns from either the last retrieve of the marking series or return from the blind retrieve. If the hunting retriever switches to the diversionary bird, it shall fail the test. Consistent with our rulebook, a switch is defined as dropping one bird and picking up another.

VIII. The hunting retriever can be cast from the retrieving line only once. If the hunting retriever is unproductive after one attempt, the judges will instruct the handler to pick up the hunting retriever and inform the handler that the test is failed.

IX. Gunners and bird boys must be inconspicuous and blend in the local hunting environment. When bird boys and gunners are hidden, an attention-getting shot or shots may be fired, or a duck or goose call may be used before the birds are thrown. A shot must be fired at the bird when it is at the top of its arc.

X. The Upland game test shall consist of a simulated walk-up hunt and a quartering test. A tracking test may be included, but it is not mandatory. Quartering is a mandatory task that must be completed in conjunction with this test. The

hunting retriever must be steady to wing and shot. Honoring of another hunting retriever is required. During this test, the hunting retriever will be required to retrieve and locate game, as the judges shall direct.

XI. Judges should advise the handler, if necessary, that continuous failure to demonstrate true hunting form with the shotgun and safety can result in failure of the test or disqualification.

IMMEDIATE FAILURE

The hunting retriever shall immediately fail the test if a bird boy or gunner is required to assist in any way. A bird unfit for the table resulting from hard-mouth, shall be grounds for failing the test. A controlled break is grounds for immediate failure. Unsafe handling of a firearm is grounds for immediate disqualification.

JUDGING GRAND HUNT TESTS

Guidelines are similar to those for Finished hunting retrievers. The tests should be difficult, but fair, true-to-life situations. Only UKC/HRC Hunting Retriever Champions (HRCH) may participate in the International Grand Hunt.

Marking tests are wide open to the imagination and hunting experiences of the judges. Delayed marks and diversionary birds may be used in any order. If the judges prefer to have the retrieves picked up in a required sequence, this must be made known to the handlers. In addition to the regular marking tests, a single retrieve is encouraged to be set up in conjunction with either or both of the blind retrieves, in keeping with actual hunting situations. It may also be permissible to run a double blind retrieve test.

Extreme care shall be taken on the part of the judges to maintain authenticity in all testing situations, whether it be marking, blind retrieves, combinations, quartering, tracking or walk-up tests.

I. Hand signals, voice and whistle commands may be utilized by the handler to encourage the Grand Champion to perform. However, should excessive handling or noise occur, which in the opinion of the judges, would disturb the hunt, the Judges may declare the test a failure. The dog is being tested for both its marking and handling ability.

II. Excessive noise or intimidation to prevent a “break” should result in failure. A “controlled break” will result in failure.

III. A judge should periodically inspect birds taken from the handler, especially in the instance of a dog suspected of hard-mouth.

IV. The judge should look for the dog that walks obediently to the line, sits obediently and exhibits an attentive attitude.

V. Imagination in the placement of gunners and bird throwers should be used on the part of the judges. The Grand Hunting Retriever should represent the best of the breed and this should

be a factor in the placement and test set-up.

VI. Quartering. The dog hunts in a radius ideally from 10 to 30 yards to the side and in front of the Handler. The live bird is flushed (released or thrown), in full view of the dog. The distance from the bird to the dog should be within scenting distance when the bird is released. The dog is required to be steady to wing and shot. The dog should immediately return to the previous hunting range upon being called and/or whistle commanded by the handler. The handler will shoot the gun (popper), and the gunners may kill the bird. If the dog does not immediately return to the hunting area, the test is failed.

The dog should be eager, hunt all available cover diligently, and be under control. The intent of the quartering test is not to demonstrate running a pattern, but to demonstrate a natural tendency to hunt and be under control.

In the Upland game test, quartering, tracking and walk-up can all be combined at the discretion of the judges.

UPLAND HUNT TESTS

HANDLERS

At the retrieving line, voice or whistle commands may be used to encourage the hunting retriever. The hunting retriever is to be released by the handler, or perform as otherwise directed by the judges. The handler should bring the hunting retriever to and from the retrieving line, off lead. Handlers are expected to conduct themselves in a realistic hunting manner and should display true hunting form.

TEST RULES

The Upland hunt test will be conducted according to the rules already established in this rulebook for the Finished hunting retriever. Plus, the changes or additions to these rules which follow:

I. The Upland game test shall consist of a simulated walk-up hunt, a quartering test, and an optional tracking test. The Upland hunting dog must be steady to wing and shot. Honoring of another dog is required. During this test the dog will be required to locate and retrieve game, as the judges shall direct.

II. Quartering. The dog hunts in a radius ideally 10 to 30 yards to the front of the handler.

In all cases, a natural flush is preferred to the use of traps, pens, cages, or other devices designed to contain and then release birds during the quartering test. However, when conditions exist that prohibit the use of natural flushes (e.g., weather, poor birds, insufficient cover, etc.), such devises may be utilized but must be sufficiently camouflaged. When such devices must be used, the live bird is released (or thrown) in full view of the dog.

The live bird is flushed (thrown or released) in full view of the dog. The distance from the bird to the dog should be within scenting distance when the bird is released. The dog is required to be steady to wing and steady to shot. The dog should immediately return to the previous hunting range upon being called and/or whistle commanded by the handler. The handler must shoot the gun (popper) before the gunners may kill the bird. If the dog does not immediately return to the hunting area, the test is failed.

The dog should be eager to hunt all available cover diligently and be under control. The intent of the quartering test is not to demonstrate running a pattern, but to demonstrate a natural tendency to hunt and be under control.

In the Upland game test, quartering, tracking and walk-up can all be combined at the discretion of the judges.

Walk-up. A quiet, unobtrusive reminder to sit is acceptable as the bird flushes or is shot. Great care must be exercised by the judges that this does not carry over to intimidation.

Each Upland gun dog must be presented with a minimum of two (2) birds to "flush" in the quartering test.

IMMEDIATE FAILURE

The hunting retriever shall immediately fail the test if a gunner or bird boy is required to help or assist in any way. A bird unfit for the table resulting from hard-mouth shall be grounds for failing the test. Failure to pass any hunting test will not prevent a hunting retriever from participating in subsequent tests, unless the handler is unsafe in handling a gun. A break results in an immediate failure.

JUDGING UPLAND HUNT TESTS

I. Walk-up: The judge should look for the dog that walks attentively at heel and does not have to be loudly reminded to stay in position. Remember the hunter is trying to walk up or sneak up on sitting birds to get a flush and a shot. A dog that runs ahead or has to be loudly controlled will most likely scare off the birds before the hunter can get within gun range

   It is not necessary for the dog to sit when the bird is flushed or released, but it should not leave the retrieving line before being commanded to do so. The retrieving line in the walk-up test is the point where the handler and dog are when the bird is flushed.

II. Quartering: The Upland hunting retriever should hunt the available cover on its own, without continual coaxing by the handler. In general, the dog should use its nose to hunt the cover, with eyes attentive, ears erect, and tail up. The dog does not need to run a pattern, but should show a natural ability to hunt the cover and be under control. Hand, voice or

whistle commands are acceptable to begin the dog hunting, change the dog's direction or hunt areas, or keep the dog in gun range. However, a markdown should occur and the test may be failed if the dog is directed by the handler for every change of direction and to every patch of cover.

The Upland hunting dog is expected to flush the bird.

After the flush is made the dog should come to a stop on its own or on the command of the handler. It is not necessary for the dog to sit, but it should come to a stop within a reasonable distance after the flush to allow the handler and gunners a clean and safe shot. A dog that does not stop on the handler's whistle or voice command should be assessed a markdown for a refusal, the severity of which will be determined by the conditions of the test and the individual flush. For example, a dog that is merely repositioning or moving out of heavy cover to mark the fall better, and then stops on its own or on command, should not be marked down. Any subsequent refusals by the dog to stop will place the dog in increasing jeopardy of failure. A controlled break will result if the dog stops after the flush, then leaves before being sent by the handler to retrieve the downed bird or chase a fly-away bird, and then is stopped by the handler. Judges should instruct gunners to let the bird fly off a short distance (i.e. 10 to 20 yards) before shooting and to make every effort not to drop the bird at the dog's feet. A bird dropped a few feet in front of a dog has a much different effect on steadiness than one dropped 10 to 20 yards away, and judges must take this into consideration in making their evaluation.

GLOSSARY OF HRC TERMS

(Revised at 2024 Annual Meeting, RR Reps meeting)

Air - To allow the dog to empty his bowels and bladder.

Area of the Fall - An imaginary area in which a thrown bird has landed. The size of the area of the fall will change with different variables, such as distance to the fall and whether the mark is a memory bird.

Area of the Hunt - An imaginary area encompassing and larger than the Area Of The Fall. The size of the Hunt Area may change with different variables, such as distance to the fall and whether the mark is a memory bird

Attrition - A method of teaching that relies on repeating a concept; the dog learns the lesson by doing it over and over until he does it correctly.

Back - A command that tells the dog to leave the handler's side and go in a straight direction away from the handler.

Big Hunt - When a dog cannot find a mark and runs all over the field disturbing cover.

Bird Tech - The person who throws birds or bumpers during a trial, test or training session; may also be referred to as the gunner.

Birdiness - A desirable quality in a dog that describes a high interest in birds.

Blind - The bird or object (such as a dummy) to be retrieved that is placed at a distance and which is not seen by the dog. (As opposed to a "marked" fall, which is one the dog sees fall to the ground.)

Blind Planter - This is the person who places a bird or bumper at a designated spot for a blind retrieve.

Blind Retrieve - A retrieve of a bird that the dog did not see thrown. The dog is directed to the bird/bumper through the use of hand signals, whistle and/or voice commands.

Blink - When the dog goes by a bird/bumper that it has clearly seen and is supposed to have retrieved and refuses to pick it up after locating it.

Bolt - An escape mechanism a dog attempts when too much pressure is applied and it doesn't understand what's going on, so it decides to "leave" the area by bolting.

Break or breaking - This is when a dog that is being judged (either at the line or during the honor) goes for the bird before the handler has released the working dog (as opposed to the honor dog).

Bumper - A retrieval object; typically plastic or canvas, usually 2 or 3 inches in diameter, used to train the dog.

Cast Refusal - After being commanded to cast, the dog fails to improve his position relative to the bird or the line to the bird. The dog does not respond or respond doesn't correctly to the direction or cast given by the handler.

Channel Blind - A water blind ran in an area that, due to the close proximity of the bank on both sides.

Chain Collar - A strong chain collar with a ring at both ends.

Cheating - When a dog avoids factors enroute to or returning from an item to be retrieved.

Choke Collar - See chain collar.

Cold Blind - Two meanings: 1. Means that the dog has no idea of where the bird is – he didn't see it fall, its location is not part of a "pattern" he recognizes, nor is it at a location he's been to before (a "permanent" blind). 2. A blind retrieve in a hunt test where the bird is not placed until after the doge has retrieved his marked retrieves.

Controlled break - A dog that tries to break but is successfully called back by the handler after a short distance.

Cover - Indicates the various ground covers in-between the starting line and the objects to be retrieved. Can be grass, or any other growth, on land or in the water.

Creep - when a dog moves a short distance in the direction of a mark(s) while they are being thrown and before being sent for the retrieve.

Cue - A voice or gesture from handler to dog used as a reminder. For example "dead bird" indicating a blind or "mark" indicating that a mark is about to be thrown,

Dead Bird - A cue given to the dog on the line by the handler preparing the dog for a blind retrieve.

Delayed Bird - A bird that is shot after one or more birds in a set up have been retrieved by a dog.

Deliver to hand - This is used to describe how the dog should return with the bird. The dog must carry the bird lightly (no chewing), return to the handler and hold the bird until the handler signals the dog to release the bird into the handler's hand.

Diversion - commonly a thrown bird as the dog returns from a retrieve.

Double - Two birds a dog sees thrown for it to retrieve. These objects are not thrown at the same time.

Dragback - Scent trail left by dogs returning to the line with birds from a mark or blind, especially through high cover where the bird's scent is left on vegetation.

Dry shot popper - A shot that is fired without throwing a bird.

E Collar - A tool used by the trainer and worn by the dog that enables the trainer to make an instant correction from a distance through the use of undesirable stimulation.

Entry - The spot at which a dog enters the water on either a blind or mark. If it enters the water at a close angle to shore, it is called an "angle entry."

Establish a hunt - When the dog goes to the area of the fall of the bird and at a point where the dog starts to hunt the bird.

Factors - Elements that can throw a retriever off course on a mark or blind. They include: wind, water, terrain, cover, and diversions.

Flier (Flyer) - A live bird released into flight during a field event and shot for the dog on the line.

Flier (Flyer) Station - A point in the field from which a bird is flighted and shot to be retrieved.

Freezing - When a dog refuses to release a bird to his handler.

Gallery - The spectators at a field trial or hunt test.

Go Bird - The last bird thrown as a mark in a series of thrown birds.

Gunner - A designated shot gunner who shoots the shotgun.

Gun Shy - Fear of loud noises such as gunfire to the extent that a dog is not able to perform its retrieving task or hunt.

Gun Station - See Flier Station

Handle - To direct a dog to a bird/bumper by using whistle, voice and hand signals.

Handler - The person releasing the dog to make a retrieve and directing the actions of the dog.

Handling - Whistle and hand signals that enable the handler to give the dog direction to a specific location on marked and blind retrieves.

Hand Signals - A series of hand/arm motions used to indicate to the dog which way you desire the dog to go.

Hard Mouth - The action said to occur when a dog uses too much mouth force in picking up or holding a bird/bumper that may make the bird unfit for the table.

Head Swinging - When a dog looks away from a mark before being cued to do so by the handler.

Heel Position - Dog is by the handler's side, traditionally the heel position is on the left hand side; but dogs can heel from either side.

Here - This obedience command means to come directly to me.

Hold - maintaining a controlled, steady grip by mouth of the bird/bumper.

Holding Blind - A blind or series of blinds erected prior to the "line" in an effort to keep dogs and handlers available to run the test.

Honoring - Where a dog has to watch another dog run while waiting calmly and quietly (without additional commands) at their handler's side while the other dog takes their turn. The act of sitting quietly and steadily on line while another dog works.

Hot Blind - A blind that has been placed before marks are thrown.

Line Manners - A term used to describe how a dog acts while sitting at the Retrieving Line while under judgment.

Memory Bird – Any object in a multiple mark situation, other than the last item, a dog has seen thrown for it to retrieve. In a multiple mark series.

No Go - Refusal to leave on a retrieve when sent.

Obedience - Comprises a broad spectrum of commands some of which include: Sit, Stay, Kennel, Heel, Down.

Obstacle - See Factor

Pick Up - When the handler calls the dog back to the line before he has completed his series, usually because the dog is failing the test.

Pick Up Dog - A dog used to pick up birds not retrieved by the dog being judged.

Poison Bird - A mark the dog must ignore to successfully complete another retrieve.

Popper - A primed shotgun shell with no powder or shot.

Popping - When a dog is sent for a mark or a blind, runs part of the way, but then turns, and sits or stands, looking at its handler for instruction.

Premium - A notice sent out by the Club holding an event that describes the event details.

Quirt - A short handled horse riding whip.

Recast - Sending a dog for a second time for a retrieve after previously being unsuccessful.

Retrieving Line - The location where you send and receive the dog while it is working.

Run the Bank - on a water retrieve, the dog runs along the bank (shore) before entering the water, or runs around the whole pond, doesn't even get its feet wet.

Series - A group of retrieves, marks and/or blinds.

Shopping - The retriever picks up and drops various bumpers at the pile during yard work, "deciding" which one he wants to pick up.

Single - A single bird a dog sees thrown for it to retrieve.

Steady to Shot - A dog remains steady even after you shoot the gun.

Steady to Wing - A dog remains steady even after the bird flushes.

Stake - Each field event has several levels or stakes of competition.

Sticking - See Freezing

Suction - See Factors

Test Dog - A non-competing dog that is run first to demonstrate the mechanics of the test.

Triple - Three birds a dog sees thrown for it to retrieve. These objects are not thrown at the same time.

Walk Up - A mark or marks that occur while the dog is in motion and under control and progressing forward with the handler.

Whistle Refusal - Failure of a dog to respond to a whistle command.

Winger - A device used to throw birds into the field or water for the use of presenting birds for retrieving.

Winger Blind - A structure, usually camouflaged, from which birds/bumpers to be retrieved are thrown and where gunners and throwers may conceal themselves.

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