October 2016

To: Clubs Licensed for Earthdog Events

Subject: Allowing Practice Sessions Prior To and/or Following a Test

This is to inform your club of a recent change to the Earthdog Regulations. Effective November 1, 2016 clubs may, at their option, provide practice sessions prior to and/or following a test. Prior to this change, practice sessions were not allowed within 24 hours of the start of a test. This modification is intended to provide additional opportunities to introduce new participants to the sport.

The specific changes are as follows:

Chapter 4, Section 1. Test Area Conditions and Dimensions

Paragraph #8. The dens shall be located to minimize outside distractions. The earth may be dug up to one week prior to the test day or permanent dens may be used. however no dog shall be allowed to enter the earth within 24 hours of the start of the test, except when the den is used for a sanctioned, licensed or member club Earthdog test.

Paragraph #11. Practice sessions. The Test Committee may, at its option, hold practice sessions. only after all actual judging has concluded. Official test tunnels may be used for practice. The practice sessions may be held before and/or after the official hours of the earthdog test but never during a test. The practice sessions must be under the supervision of a Test Committee member, who shall be responsible for the conduct of the practice and the care of the quarry during the practice. In the event of a two test weekend, the actual test den site may not be used for practice following the first test unless the den layout is substantially changed for the second day.

Questions or comments may be emailed to Earthdog@akc.org.