



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

## Performance Events Department

Date: May 2013

To: Clubs Licensed to Hold Retriever Hunting Tests

Subject: **Labrador and Golden Retrievers Are Eligible to Participate in Spaniel Hunting Tests**

The AKC Board has approved Labrador Retrievers and the Golden Retrievers as eligible to participate in the Spaniel Hunting Test Program effective July 1, 2013. AKC Performance Events are meant to test the skills for which a breed was originally developed. The history of both the Labrador and Golden Retrievers indicates they were developed to be versatile hunting dogs, proficient in both upland and waterfowl hunting. Their upland heritage is still very much in use today as these breeds are commonly used for upland bird hunting.

Titles earned by Labs and Goldens will be designated with a “U” (for Upland) to indicate the title was earned in the Spaniel Hunting Test program. Hunting style descriptions for these breeds will be posted on the AKC website – [www.akc.org/events/hunting\\_tests/spaniels/hunting\\_styles/](http://www.akc.org/events/hunting_tests/spaniels/hunting_styles/) - as soon as they are available. Retriever Clubs can apply to become licensed to hold Spaniel Hunting Tests after July 1, 2014. (One year following the breed’s eligibility to participate.)

Because of the popularity of the retriever breeds and the relatively small size of Spaniel Hunting Tests (the average entry in 2012 was 25 dogs), Spaniel owners are concerned they will have difficulty entering their traditional events. Therefore, if entries are limited to a specific number, Spaniel clubs, at their option, may prioritize entries to the Spaniel breeds. Likewise, once Retriever clubs become licensed to hold Spaniel Hunting Tests, they will be allowed to prioritize entries to the Retriever breeds.

Specifically the following will appear in Chapter 1, Section 4 of the SHT Regulations upon the next reprint -

#### **Section 4. Tests Offered, Entry Requirements.**

**Prioritizing Entries.** If entries are limited to a specific number as stated in the premium, a Spaniel Club may, at its option, prioritize the entries for its Hunting Test to the Spaniel breeds (except the Irish Water Spaniel) plus Airedales. If at the time of closing the limit has not been reached, the Club must accept entries from other eligible breeds up to the event limit. If entries are to be prioritized to the Spaniel breeds (except the Irish Water Spaniel) and Airedales, this must be stated in the premium.

If entries are limited to a specific number as stated in the premium, a Retriever Club may, at its option, prioritize the entries for its Hunting Test to the Retriever breeds plus the Irish Water Spaniel. If at the time of closing the limit has not been reached, the Club must accept entries from other eligible breeds up to the event limit. If entries are to be prioritized to the Retriever breeds and the Irish Water Spaniels, this must be stated in the premium.

All-breed hunting clubs and Airedale clubs may not prioritize their entries (except in the case of a test held in conjunction with a National Specialty Show).

A Spaniel Club is defined by the club having “Spaniel” in its name (except for the Irish Water Spaniel clubs). A Retriever Club is defined by the club having “Retriever” in its name plus the Irish Water Spaniel clubs.

Initially retrievers passing Spaniel hunting tests will not appear on the results posted on the AKC website. This is due to a programming issue. Passing performances are being tracked by hand and title certificates will be issued when the proper number of passes has been achieved. Should owners have questions regarding the number of passes their dog has achieved, please e-mail Karen Reuter, Manager Performance Events Operations, at [KAR@akc.org](mailto:KAR@akc.org).

Comments can be e-mailed to [Huntingtest@akc.org](mailto:Huntingtest@akc.org).