

Companion Events  
**Tracking**



**AKC Judges' Newsletter**  
**May/June 2009**

*Happy Spring!*

Spring has finally sprung in some parts of the country, but others of you are still waiting for the sun to show its face. Here is wishing for a **beautiful** spring tracking season to all!!

**Event Cancellations**

Only an AKC Field Rep, club president, the show chairman or trial secretary can cancel an event. Please call 919-816-3955 for contact information for Conformation, Companion, Performance and AKC Coonhound Events.

To hear a list of cancelled events, you may call 919-816-3950 or 877-252-3229 (toll free).

As weather conditions around the country continue their unpredictable patterns, the number might be worth programming into your cell phone.

**AKC Announces New Program for Mixed Breeds**

Effective October 1, 2009, mixed breed dog owners can list their dogs with the AKC and obtain an ID number. Effective April 1, 2010, these dogs will be allowed to compete in stand alone AKC Agility, Rally and Obedience events that are NOT held in conjunction with a Conformation breed show. **NOTE: This new program does not include entry into tracking tests.**

**2009 National Tracking Invitational**

Where: Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest, Clermont, KY  
[www.bernheim.org](http://www.bernheim.org)

When: Saturday & Sunday, September 19-20, 2009

Watch the website for updates!

[http://www.akc.org/events/tracking/national\\_invitational/2009/](http://www.akc.org/events/tracking/national_invitational/2009/)

### **Tracking Recommendations**

The final recommendations are available on the website:

[http://www.akc.org/events/tracking/2008\\_tracking\\_advisory\\_committee.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/tracking/2008_tracking_advisory_committee.cfm)

Please note that these are only recommendations and have not been approved by the Board at this time.

### **Responsible Dog Ownership Day**

The AKC invites and encourages all dog and pet-related organizations to commemorate AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day by holding a community event that publicly promotes responsible dog ownership anytime during the month of September. For more detailed information, please visit <http://www.akc.org/clubs/rdod/index.cfm>.

### **Questions from the Field**

**Question 1.** A six dog TD test fills with no alternates. The judges do not plot an alternate track the day before the test. The tracklayer for Track # 3 advises you of errors made in track-laying that make the track unusable. Does one of the judges go put in an alternate track at that point and wait for it to age so that the third dog runs it? Or do you allow exhibitor #3 to run T4 - and so on, laying the alternate for exhibitor #6?

Answer: The drawing for tracks on test morning is to determine the running order of each exhibitor; who runs first, second, third and so on. There are a couple of options dependent upon the best use of time and the layout of the tracking area. The judges could run the tracks that are already plotted and one judge would walk an alternate track for the exhibitor who drew the last track. Or upon learning of the situation, one judge would walk an alternate and use it at the appropriate time. Although numbers are assigned to tracks, exhibitors do not draw a track number they draw for run order. (*Tracking Regulations*, Chapter 2, Section 9)

**Question 2.** A handler and his dog approach the start flag. The handler picks up the start article and while allowing the dog to take scent, the dog grabs the article and refuses to release it. The handler tries to pry it out of the dog's mouth. The dog shakes the article and the handler ends up in a tug-of-war with the dog. What do the judges do?

Answer: The dog is "Excused, Out of Control" and the Judges Book is marked accordingly. (*Tracking Regulations*, Chapter 2, Section 2)

**Question 3.** On the day of the test, an exhibitor approaches you and states that another exhibitor is not eligible to be entered in the test. What do you do?

Answer: When the eligibility of a handler or dog is in question, the matter is referred to the Test Committee. If the handler insists on participating regardless of the dog's eligibility, it is the duty of the Secretary to advise the handler that the judges will

judge the dog “under protest” and the dog or handler’s eligibility to participate will be reviewed by the AKC. The judges make a brief notation in their books. It is the responsibility of the Test Secretary to provide factual information in the AKC Test Report. From that point forward, the AKC will take appropriate action. (*Obedience Judges’ Guidelines*, Chapter 2 “Eligibility”)

### **Address Changes**

Please remember that judges are required to update their contact information with the Companion Events Department. If your contact information has changed, please complete the form below and return to this office by August 3, 2009. This will ensure your information is printed correctly in the *Judges Directory* for 2010.

### **AKC Judge Badges**

The AKC is pleased to offer engraved name badges for AKC judges. Judges can choose from 3 different styles and 2 different backgrounds. The cost of \$25.00 includes shipping and handling. Please see the order form below for more information.

### **Regulations**

AKC Clubs can write to the AKC Order Desk and request copies of the Companion Events regulations books for free. The request must be made on official club letterhead.

### **Thank You!**

We’d like to extend a special “Thank You!” to the judges and test workers for all the good things they do for the sport! Their dedication and commitment is very much appreciated.

### **Comments, Questions, or Suggested Topics**

Please feel free to send any comments or suggestions for future topics to [tracking@akc.org](mailto:tracking@akc.org).

If you know of a tracking judge who is not getting the newsletters, please have them contact Lisa Strickland at 919-816-3816 or at [lms2@akc.org](mailto:lms2@akc.org).

**Happy Tracking!!!**



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

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PO Box 900068  
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919-816-3557  
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[tep@akc.org](mailto:tep@akc.org)  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

**TO: ALL OBEDIENCE, RALLY, AND TRACKING JUDGES**

In an effort to update our records and to include the correct information in the printed *Judges Directory* and on the AKC Searchable Judges Directory, we are asking that you complete this form if your contact information has changed. Please be advised that we must limit the publication to **ONE** address only.

It is the responsibility of all judges to notify the appropriate department of any change of address, phone, fax, email. Please remember these changes are important because they affect your judging records.

You may also elect to go Emeritus. Should you elect to go Emeritus, our records will reflect this change and you will not be published in the 2010 *Judges Directory*.

I elect to go Emeritus at this time.

**Please use blue or black ink and print only**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's #

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss)                      Last Name                      First Name                      MI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address (one address only)                      Apt #

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State                      Zip Code

Telephone #'s: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
   Home                      Work                      Fax                      Cell#

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Verify email \_\_\_\_\_

**Which number(s) do you want published?**

Home ( )      Work ( )      Fax ( )      Cell ( )      E-mail ( )      **ALL ( )**

