



THRC Newsletter

August—September 2005

Message from the President

Dear Club Members,

I have heard that many of you were impressed by the list that was printed in the last newsletter with "50 Hints to Help You Get Ready for Master." I had people who have been working and judging dogs for many years tell me that the list had them scratching their heads. I hope this was helpful to all of you, as we are always searching for great information like this to provide you with new ideas in training your dogs.

I would like to thank all of the people who came out and helped

for the work day. It was really a lot of fun. The grain bin was cleaned and organized for the fall test. Some pond clean up was done and repairs were made to the duck pin, as well as some painting at the white house. Thanks again for all your help.

In the last newsletter, Jim Branning gave you a brief outline of the Judge's Seminar. I would like to bring two additional items mentioned at the seminar to your attention. First is in regards to a question that was asked about special accommodations on your entry form. The presenter said any special requests should be brought to the attention of the AKC. Handlers should not put the hunt test secretary and chairman in a problematic situation by asking for certain judges or to be put with other people they would like to be with. Certain accommodations may be made if people are traveling together.

The other item is in regards to the new evaluation form. The new



"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

-- Will Rogers

evaluation form will be used by judges and a copy can be found on page two of this newsletter.

Hope to see you at the next THRC event that we are having in conjunction with the AKC's Responsible Dog Ownership Day on September 17th. The Board of Directors will hold the 2006 election of offices on that day.

Happy Training!

Sam



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Hunt Test Terms

Attrition is a term we often hear, especially when working a dog at the transition level or when working with a sensitive dog. We also use it with dogs who are more advanced in their training, but it depends on the particular situation as well as the dog's training background. Basically *attrition* means that you get your dog to do what you want him to by stopping the dog when he is wrong and repeating the command—without punishment—until your dog gets it right. It may take several times, but patience and understanding are key to working these problems out. The dog eventually gives in, that is, if he understands what you want in the first place. If you do not get the response that you want, you may need to go back and simplify and make sure the dog has a solid training foundation for the level you are working at. *Attrition* is used often with dogs at the transition level because the dog is continually learning new things and may not totally understand the particular command you have given.

By using *attrition*, you are giving the dog the benefit of the doubt just in case there is confusion on his part. What if you have a dog that truly did not understand the com-

mand and he made the wrong choice? If you stop the dog, correct with the e-collar, and give the command again, thinking that the dog should "know" this by now, could lead to all sorts of problems. For example, it could cause the dog to stop trying or shut down for fear of making a mistake and being corrected/punished again, or possibly cause the dog to panic and make bad decisions. *Attrition* is a good tool for instilling confidence in a dog young in his training. We do not want to use pressure for confusion. At Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club we are fortunate to have several professional dog trainers who are excellent at reading dogs, analyzing the situation, and deciding whether to use *attrition* or to use pressure. When in doubt, ask these highly trained professionals.



AKC Evaluation Form

AKC RETRIEVER HUNTING TEST EVALUATION FORM

Dog Name: _____ Dog #: _____

Test Level: (circle one) JR SR MR

DOGS ABILITIES	Marking Series 1	Marking Series 2	Marking Series 3	Marking Series 4	AVERAGE	Blind Series 1	Blind Series 2	Blind Series 3	Blind Series 4	AVERAGE	Average Score All Series
Marking (Memory)											
Style											
Perseverance Courage Hunting											
Trainability Steadiness Control Response & Delivery											
Note: A dog must receive a separate independent average score of five (5.0) or higher in each ability related to Marking and a separate, independent average score of five (5.0) or higher in each ability related to Blinds.					TOTAL SCORES						
Note: If at any time, a dog is graded zero (0) by two Judges for the same ability, the dog cannot receive a Qualifying score and the handler must be so informed by the Marshall.					Divided by 4 for OVERALL AVERAGE (must be 7.0 or higher)						

THRC Elections

At the FUN DAY that is being hosted in conjunction with the "AKC's Responsible Dog Ownership Day", the 2005 election of officers will be held. There is one vacancy and five up for re-election.



Bob Hughes has submitted the following amendments to the by-laws. Therefore the amendments will be up for the general membership to vote on, as required by the AKC.

(Continued on page 4)

Which End of the Dog Wags the Tail?

The various hunt test programs have been a fantastic success, beyond even the dreams of the founders. There are NAHRA, UKC, CKC, and AKC programs. All are slightly different but have more in common than not.

The “White Coat” trials are the very sophisticated big brothers of the hunt test. They are incredibly competitive. There is no place for a novice to start. There is no place for an older dog with little training. The stakes carrying championship points are so very competitive that it is essential to be able to follow the sun and train all year or be able to afford a professional trainer who does so. To earn the title of Field Champion or Amateur Field Champion is an incredible accomplishment in a very competitive environment. Those dogs who excel at the traditional field trails are to be admired for they are grand animals.

And, where does that leave the rest of us? Running hunt tests. At the hunt test the level can be selected based upon the dog and handler skills. Because the dogs are being judged

against a standard instead of each other, it is OK if all the dogs do a good job on a particular test. Different judges put up different kinds of tests, but that works because the dogs are not competing with each other. The old dog can run for years, the inexperienced handler can gain experience. The chances of running more than one series are good. The chances of earning a ribbon are certainly better than the typical 4:80 found in the traditional trials. And, with hard work a title can be earned. Not a championship title to go on the dog’s pedigree, but a title that recognizes a certain level of talent and trainability as an obedience title does.

So, what’s wrong with this perfect scene? It’s changing; that’s what’s wrong.

The AKC, in an effort to standardize judging, has mandated clinic attendance every three years. But, the clinics are all given by one person – an AKC representative who believes that there are too many dogs titled at all levels and spends the day detailing

numerous ways to fail dogs. The clinic concept is great, only if there is an exchange of opinion among experienced judges, and this is lacking in the current clinic format.

Do we want the AKC hunt test program to be as parsimonious with ribbons as a traditional trial? Do we want to have to have very highly trained and talented dogs in order to qualify? Do we want to need professional trainers and handlers in order to qualify? I think not.

What can be done? Write letters to the AKC. Go to the clinics and speak up. Pay attention to whom your club hires to judge. Encourage those competitive types to run traditional trials. And, get other ideas from everyone who feels as you do. Our hunt test program will change into something we do not want if we do nothing.

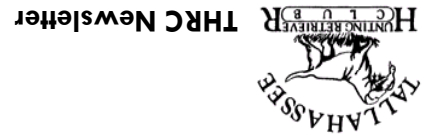


Dog Days of Summer

We have heard Lyme disease mentioned here in our local news with the diagnosis of FSU football quarterback, Wyatt Sexton. And in national news, Daryl Hall, one part of the singing duo of Hall and Oates was diagnosed with Lyme disease as well. While we protect our dogs from ticks with products such as Frontline Plus and Advantage, we need to remember to check ourselves as well for ticks. One hint that I have heard

works wonderfully if you do find ticks is mint mouthwash. You can spray this on the dogs, on yourself, in the dogs’ crates and the ticks will die instantly. It also kills and repels mosquitoes and flies as well. Listerine or any mint mouthwash works about the same. I hope this will help keep the bugs from biting this summer.





THRC Elections (Continued)

Sample Ballot below:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Corey Butler	___	___
Wayne Dodson	___	___
Sam Ferguson	___	___
Bill Pedersen	___	___
Fred Rigsby	___	___

Amendments

By adding to Section 1. Directors and Officers the following:

I. No officer or director can be an officer or director of any local retriever performing club.

Yes ___ No ___

J. Any board member that fails to attend at least 50% of the board meetings in a fiscal year shall no longer be a board member.

Yes ___ No ___

By changing the fiscal year of the club from January 1 each year to December 31 of each year so that the new amended section shall read as follows:

Article V, Section 1. Club year. The fiscal year of the Club shall be from July 1 through June 30 of each year hereafter.

Yes ___ No ___

Article V. Section 2 to read as follows: The annual meeting of the Club for the election of directors shall be by October of each year hereafter.

Yes ___ No ___

CERF WEBSITE

Interested in learning more about CANINE EYE REGISTRATION FOUNDATION? Check out this website...
<http://www.vmdb.org/news.html>