

**REGULATIONS FOR BASSET HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA HUNTING TEST
FOR SCENT HOUNDS
Effective October 1, 2005**

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Chapter 1

General Regulations

The word "dog" or "hound" whenever used in these Regulations includes both sexes.
Scent Hounds include Basset Hounds, Beagles, Dachshunds and Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen (PBGV)

Section 1. Eligibility of Clubs to Hold Hunting Tests. The Board of Directors of the Basset Hound Club of America (BHCA) may, at its discretion grant permission to hold Hunting Tests, such Hunting Tests shall be governed by such Rules and Regulations determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Permission to hold Hunting Test. Written request to hold a Hunting Test will be submitted to the Hunting Test Committee Chairman at least 3 months in advance of the date of the test. The request will state the date and location for the test, the Test Chairman and Test Secretary.

Section 3. Entry Requirements. A Hunting Test may offer Stakes for Solo, Brace and/or Two-coupled Pack for which qualifying scores for titles of Hunting Hound (HH), Senior Hunting Hound (SHH), Master Hunting Hound (MHH) and or Master Hunting Excellent (MHE) might be earned.

Hunting Tests shall be open to all AKC registerable Scent Hounds of six months of age or older on the first day of the Hunt Test. Spayed or neutered hounds are eligible for entry in Hunting Tests. A hound with an AKC Limited Registration or valid ILP number shall be eligible to be entered in the Hunting Test.

Section 4. BHCA Publications. All Hunting Test Committees are required to have available copies of the latest editions of the BHCA Hunting Test Regulations.

Section 5. Hunting Test Secretary. The premium list for Hunting Test shall designate the Hunting Test Secretary as receiving entries. The Hunting Test Secretary must be a member of BHCA.

Section 6. Hunting Test Committee. The Hunting Test Committee shall be comprised of at least five members and may include the Hunting Test Secretary, but the Hunting Test Secretary shall not be designated as the Hunting Test Committee Chairman. The Hunting Test Committee will have complete responsibility for the planning and conducting of the event. A majority of the Hunting Test Committee must be present during the Hunting Test. In the event of absence of Hunting Test Committee Members the Chairman or an officiating officer shall appointed sufficient Committee Members in order to insure compliance with this Section.

The Hunting Test Committee and Hunting Test Secretary shall be held responsible for compliance with all the applicable Rules and Regulations for Hunting Tests, except those coming under the sole jurisdiction of the Judges, and must provide themselves with copies of the latest editions of the books listed in Section 6 (BHCA Publications).

The Hunting Test Committee of Hunting Test shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the running of the Hunting Test, except a matter coming within the jurisdiction of the Judges.

Section 7. Advertising. A Hunting Test may not be advertised until notification of approval from the BHCA Hunting Test Committee Chairman is received.

Section 8. Premium Lists. A premium list must be provided for Hunting Tests. The premium list for a Hunting Test shall be printed (any printing or copying process is acceptable).

The following information shall be included in the premium list for a Hunting Test: club, location and date of Test, names and addresses of officers of BHCA, entry fee, stakes offered, names and addresses of judges together with their assignments, name address and telephone number of Hunting Test Secretary, date and time of closing and drawing of entries, and the official BHCA entry form. Premium lists shall also specify type of game (rabbit and/or hare) to be used and entry limitations if any.

Section 9. Closing and Drawing of Entries. Entry Limitations, Running Order. Entries for a Hunting Test may close at any time prior to the Hunting Test including the day of the test.

Each entry form must be completed in full, including any BHCA Hunting Test titles already earned. The Stake is Solo, Brace or Two-coupled Pack. The Test is Hunting Hound (HH), Senior Hunting Hound (SHH), Master Hunting Hound (MHH) or Master Hunter Excellent (MHE). Both Stake and Test must be specified for each hound entered followed by a "Q" or "NQ". The "Q" indicates a hound testing for a qualifying score and "NQ" indicates the hound is not testing for a qualifying score.

Hunting Test entries shall not be accepted after the closing time and date specified in the premium list. If the Hunting Test does not meet entry limitations stated in the premium list, the Hunting Test Secretary may accept entries until the test fills or until the draw for stake running order stated in the premium list. Entries received after the closing of limited entry tests will be considered drawn in the order in which they are received by the Hunting Secretary.

If a club anticipates an entry in excess of its facilities for a Hunting Test a numerical limit maybe imposed on entries in any or all Stakes. Prominent announcement of the limits listing the number of braces, number of solo and number of two-coupled pack entries or equivalency must appear on the title or cover page of the premium list for the Hunting Test with a statement that entries in one or more specified entry categories will automatically close when a certain limit or limits have been reached, even though the official closing date for entries has not arrived.

The premium list will state at what time the drawing will commence for running order. The order of running shall be decided by lot at the draw. The stakes shall run in solo, brace and two-coupled pack order.

Owners determine which hounds are braced or packed together. Braces and Two-coupled packs must be entered as a complete unit. All hounds in the unit will receive a score. Hounds in brace or two-coupled pack may have the same or different owners. Each hound does not have to have a separate handler. If more than one handler, one must be designated as handler in charge, so the Judges know who is in control of the Brace or Pack.

A hound may be entered in more than one stake per Hunting Test. Only the score for the stake indicated with a "Q" on the entry form will be considered for title qualifying. A multiple entered hound can test for one qualifying score at each Hunting Test. The "Q" "NQ" designation may be changed up until the time of the draw.

Section 10. Bitches in Season. Bitches in season shall not be eligible for any Hunting Test and shall not be allowed on the grounds. Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming in season may be refunded in full. The policy on refunds will be in the premium list. If the bitch was entered as part of a brace or two-coupled pack another hound may be substituted prior to the draw. Appropriate veterinary certification may be required prior to refunding or substitution.

Section 11. Judges Eligibility. Anyone in good standing with the BHCA may be approved to judge a Hunting Test. Judges may enter hounds in any stakes, but may not Judge their own entry.

No person acting in the capacity of Hunting Test Secretary may judge at the event for which that person is acting as Hunting Test Secretary.

A Judge may not judge any entry that he or any member of his family has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, trained or handled the dog within one year of the starting date of the Hunting Test.

For purpose of this Section, the words "any member of his family" shall include a spouse, a sibling, a parent or a child, whether natural or adopted, of the Judge in question, but shall not extend to other blood or legal relationships.

All Stakes must be judged by at least two judges but not more than three judges.

Section 12. Judges' Responsibility. It is strongly recommended that clubs select as Judges individuals with broad and extensive background and experience in handling and working with Scent Hounds in the field.

A Judge of a Hunting Test shall be familiar with all Rules, Regulations and Procedures pertaining to the type of Test being conducted. Judges shall be responsible for judging in compliance with the Rules and Regulations.

Section 13. Ribbons and Rosettes. A Hunting Test shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes. Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and green in color, and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the logo of BHCA, the words "Basset Hound Club of America Hunting Test Qualifying Score".

Date and name of club sponsoring the test may also be on the ribbons or rosettes. All ribbons or rosettes shall be offered for outright award.

Section 14. Submission of Records. At the conclusion of the judging of each Test, Hunting Test Secretary shall provide, for the Judges' signatures, a judging sheet of the Test judged showing full particulars of all dogs, scores and "Q" or "NQ". At the conclusion of the Test, the Hunting Test Secretary shall certify to the Judges' signatures on each judging sheet and shall certify to the number of entries in the Test.

The judging sheets together with all entry forms and a full report of the Test, shall be sent to The BHCA Hunting Test Committee Chairman no later than ten days after the conclusion of the Test.

The Hunting Test report shall contain a list of all members of the Hunting Test Committee who were present, the names and complete addresses of all the Judges, and the name and address of the Hunting Test Secretary.

Chapter 2

Qualifying Scores, Awarding of Titles

Section 1. Qualifying Score. One Qualifying score at each level is required for the issuance of the titles Hunting Hound, Senior Hunting Hound and Master Hunting Hound.

The five (5) categories of ability in Solo, Brace and Two-coupled Pack must be graded on a scale of 0 to 10. To receive a Qualifying score in Solo, Brace or Two-coupled Pack, a hound must acquire a minimum of not less than 5 on each of the categories of abilities listed on the Score Card, with an overall average score of not less than 6.

BHCA Hunting Test Titles are not recognized by AKC. They can be used in advertising but not on AKC entry forms.

Section 2. Hunting Hound Title (HH). In order to be recorded as a Hunting Hound a hound must have a record of having earned a Qualifying score in any Stake (Solo, Brace or Two-coupled Pack) at a BHCA Hunting Test.

Upon completion of the requirements a BHCA Hunting Hound (HH) certificate will be issued to the owner and the hound shall be recorded as a Hunting Hound in BHCA database record by the suffix title HH.

A hound that has been recorded as a Hunting Hound is ineligible to enter Stakes to qualify as a HH.

Section 3. Senior Hunting Hound (SHH). In order to be recorded as a Senior Hunting Hound a hound must have a record of having earned a Qualifying score in any Stake other than that for which the hound qualified for the Hunting Hound title.

Upon completion of these requirements, a BHCA Senior Hunting Hound (SHH) certificate will be issued to the owner, and the hound should be identified as a Senior Hunting Hound in BHCA records by the suffix title SHH, which title shall supersede the Hunting Hound title previously earned.

A hound that has been recorded as a Senior Hunting Hound is ineligible to enter Stakes to qualify as a HH or SHH.

Section 4. Master Hunting Hound (MHH). In order to be recorded as a Master Hunting Hound (MHH), a hound

must have a record of having earned a Qualifying score in a Stake other than that for which he was awarded the Hunting Hound or Senior Hunting Hound titles. In other words a Master Hunting Hound will have received a Qualifying score in each of the three stakes Solo, Brace and Two-coupled Pack.

Upon completion of these requirements a BHCA Master Hunting Hound (MHH) certificate will be issued to the owner and the hound will be identified as a Master Hunting Hound in BHCA records by the suffix title MHH which shall supersede the BHCA Hunting Test title previously earned.

A hound that has been recorded as a Master Hunting Hound may continue to enter Hunting Tests as a Master Hunting Hound only, but no further Master Hunting Hound certificates will be issued.

Section 5. Master Hunter Excellent (MHE). In order to be recorded as a Master Hunter Excellent (MHE) a hound must have a record of having earned a Qualifying score as a Master Hunting Hound, and that hound must also be pointed at an AKC licensed conformation show.

A hound that has been recorded as a Master Hunter Excellent may continue to enter Hunting Tests as a Master Hunter Excellent only, no further certificates will be issued.

Chapter 3

Instructions For Hunting Test Committees.

The Hunting Test Regulations have been formulated in such a manner that the officials of a Hunting Test have latitude in the conduct of a Test. This is desirable to allow for variations in conditions that are peculiar to various parts of the country. The Regulations are not intended to be restrictive, either to Officials or Judges.

The objectives of the Regulations are twofold: First, greater uniformity in the conduct of Hunting Tests, and second greater uniformity in evaluating the hunting abilities and characteristics of Scent Hounds at those Hunting Tests.

In order that Hunting Tests may be conducted as uniformly as practicable, standardization of objectives is essential and therefore, all Judges, Guns, Entrants and Officials who have a part in conducting Hunting Tests must be familiar with and be governed as far as possible by the following Regulations:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of Hunting Tests for Scent Hounds is to afford an opportunity for a person to demonstrate a hound's ability to perform in a manner consistent with the demands of actual hunting conditions. Testing in this manner is to gauge the hound's natural hunting ability and desirable qualities that indicate ability to be effective and efficient in the pursuit of quarry.

Section 2. Grounds. Hunting Tests should be held at locations that have ample game. Ideal grounds should be open enough so that the hound(s) can be seen while on game. Entry for hunt tests may be limited due to amount of game and grounds (size, workability etc.). The grounds should be located such that the hounds will not be in danger of highways or other such hazards. A hunt test does not have to be held at an area where rabbit husbandry is practiced. Too much game can make a hunt test difficult to judge "hunting" ability.

Section 3. Quarry. The premium list will state the quarry as being rabbit or hare. Trailing game other than that stated in the premium list shall not be considered a demerit in scoring the hound. They should be caught and released to hunt proper quarry if they still have time left in their test.

No Hunting Test may be run on released game unless the game has been released prior to the first day of the Hunting Test.

Section 4. Time. After ten minutes of hunting the handler(s) may ask the Judges for the assistance of the gallery in finding game, after a total of thirty minutes if no game has been produced the entry will be picked up. If the hound(s) are on game before the end of their time the judges will leave them down until they have completed their evaluation of the hound(s).

No hounds shall be put down earlier than 30 minutes before official sunrise, nor after 30 minutes following official sunset. The Hunting Test Committee and the judges shall be responsible for enforcement of this Procedure.

If unforeseen circumstances make it impossible to complete the judging of a Hunting Test on the last day applied for and approved by BHCA, the Hunting Test Committee may continue the judging on one or two days immediately following the last date approved. The Hunting Test Secretary's report to BHCA shall include a report of the circumstances requiring the extension and a list of stakes judged on each additional day.

Section 5. Guns. The Official Gun must be familiar with all the requirements of this section.

The gun should be a .32 caliber starter pistol not capable of firing a projectile. Promiscuous firing on the grounds is prohibited. All shooting shall be done by an Official Gun only, and the Judges shall have complete authority over all shooting. They may require a change of Official Gun at any time, and may bar from future shooting any Official Gun who does not abide strictly by safe gunning rules.

The Official Gun must always keep himself in the correct position for safety of dogs and persons. One of the Judges may be designated as Official Gun.

In a test, one shot is fired from within normal gunshot range of the hound(s) being tested, after the hound(s) has given signs of being on game and on command of the judges.

Section 6. Marshals. The Hunting Test Committee shall appoint one or more Marshals. It shall be the duty of one Marshal to assist the judges and to carry out their instructions, including regulating and controlling the gallery and seeing to it that the gallery is kept separate from and behind the judges and that no one in the gallery talks to the Judges while the hounds are down. Other Marshals shall see to it that hounds are ready when called and assist the Hunting Test Committee in all other matters necessary for the smooth and expeditious running of the Test.

Section 7. Gallery. No person shall make any remarks nor give any information which might affect the actions of the persons handling the hounds or the running of the hounds unless information is specifically requested by the judges. Any person so offending may be expelled from the running grounds on orders from the Judges and points of merit shall not be allowed any hound whose handler acts upon such information. Judges must be informed of any such misconduct before the close of the running of the hound(s) in which it occurs and their decision shall be final.

Hounds in the Gallery must be kept quiet when hounds are being judged. A disruptive hound may be ordered from the field until required for judging.

Section 8. Handlers. Handlers knowledgeable in field work will be allowed for owners wishing to have their hounds participate when the owners themselves are not able to handle. When hounds are cast, a handler may speak or whistle to his hound or work it any way he may deem proper, if not contrary to these Procedures, unless otherwise instructed by the Judges. Hounds must show reasonable obedience to their handler's commands.

Hounds in a brace or two-coupled pack must be marked in a way the judges can easily identify each hound in the brace or two-coupled pack. The club giving the test shall be responsible for providing identification materials.

Suggested identification methods:

- a) Hounds can be painted with an identifying number on both sides with a durable paint, the figures to be at least 3 1/2 inches high and clearly visible.
- b) Hounds can wear clearly visible collars of different colors.
- c) Hounds may be identified by coat color only if very distinct, i.e., brace - one tri and one red; pack - one tri, one red blanket, one open red and one black.
- d) Any other acceptable method that will not interfere or cause distraction to the hounds or judges.
- e) Collar bells are permitted.
- f) Locator devices are allowed.

The judges score cards will have this unique identifier in addition to the hound's name.

No owner or handler shall have any right to question or refuse to follow the Judges' orders.

Owners and handlers must keep themselves informed as to the running order and progress of the judging and must be ready within hailing distance when their hounds are called by the Marshal on instructions from the Judges.

Walkie-Talkies or 2-way radios may be used by the Marshal to enhance the communication effort.

Section 9. Severe Training or Correction. The Hunting Test Committee and the Judges shall not permit severe training, correcting or disciplining of hounds on any part of the grounds. The Committee shall investigate any reports of such conduct or of any other conduct prejudicial to the best interests of pure-bred dogs or BHCA Hunting Tests. Any person who conducts himself in a manner prejudicial to the best interests of the sport shall be dealt with promptly, during the Test if possible. A person may be prohibited from participation in the balance of the hunt test and any hunt tests to be held in the future. The hunt test committee will write a complete report. The person, whose conduct results in removal from test privileges may appeal to the BHCA Board for reinstatement.

Section 10. Scorecards and Control Sheets. The Hunting Test Committee shall supply each Judge with an evaluation form (score card) for every dog entered under that judge.

The Hunting Test Secretary shall have charge of the Control Sheet and shall be responsible for receiving the completed score cards and completing and posting scores to the Control Sheet.

The score cards are given to the Secretary after the completion of each run. The score cards will be delivered by a Marshal to the Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for calculating the scores.

The Secretary adds the scores in each category and divides the total in each category by the number of Judges. This figure is the "Official Score" in each category. Then the categories are added to each other and this total is divided by 5 to arrive at the "Official Average."

In order to receive a "Qualifying Score", a hound must have an "Official Score" of 5 or above in each category. In addition, the average of all categories must be at least 6.

The Control Sheet shall be available for public inspection.

Chapter 4

Test Requirements and Instructions for Judges

The evaluation of a dog's abilities can never be precise; it is not an exact science. However, the primary purpose of the Scent Hound is to hunt, find and circle game to the hunter so that a kill can be made, as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Whether a hound accomplishes its primary purpose is determined by its possession of a unique set of natural abilities.

A judge must keep in mind the fact that he is estimating numerically, a defined set of categories of hunting ability and not judging a hound in relation to the performances or merits of the other hounds entered. Extreme caution must be exercised to avoid scoring on the basis of personal preferences as to color, speed or any other characteristic that leads itself to subjective opinion. A hound's hunting abilities are scored against the established Standard.

The Judge observes and records how and to what degree the hunting abilities of the hound have met or fallen short of the established standard.

In evaluating a hound's hunting abilities in a Test, the Judge must assign a numerical score from 0 to 10 that reflects his estimation of each hunting ability.

There will always be occasions when some aspect of an ability is viewed differently and when Judges might not agree on a specific numerical value. Judges grade independently of each other but must agree on having seen enough of a hound's performance to score him in all categories.

A Judge's responsibility is to determine through the evaluation of hunting abilities whether or not a hound demonstrates a sufficient level of abilities and, is entitled to official BHCA recognition of those abilities by the awarding of Hunting Hound (HH), Senior Hunting Hound (SHH) or Master Hunting Hound (MHH) titles.

Section 1. General Requirements and Instructions.

(a) A Judge who has started to judge a Hunting Test may not handle a hound in another Test until the Test that he

is judging has been fully completed.

(b) The judges of any Hunting Test shall not rank hounds in the order of their relative numerical scores. Hounds shall not be run-off in order to separate scores.

(c) Decision not to award a Qualifying score must be the consensus of the judges.

(d) If a hound, while under judgment at Hunting Test, attacks another hound, and the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that the attack was without reasonable cause, that hound cannot receive a Qualifying score in the Test. The offending hound must be reported to BHCA Hunt Test Chairman. Such a hound will be ineligible to continue testing after the attack and will be ineligible to test in future Hunting Tests. Owner may appeal this ineligibility to the BHCA board.

Section 2. Time Requirements. Each entry will be allowed thirty minutes to produce game, if no game is produced the hounds shall be ordered up and the next stake put down. Hounds shall be cast to search for game. If a hounds has not produced game in approximately 10 minutes, the handler may ask the judges for the assistance of the gallery in producing game. Once on game the Judges will watch the hounds until they are satisfied they can score the hounds in all categories. At any point, judges at their discretion may request that the hounds be recast.

Section 3. Standard and Test Requirements: The judges of a stake must score the hound on the basis of the following categories of hunting ability.

(1) Ability to Find. The Ability to find is evidenced by an aptitude to recognize promising cover and eagerness to explore it regardless of hazards or discomfort. The hound(s) should search in an industrious manner. The hound(s) should remain within control distance of the handler, and be obedient to commands. Hounds not responding reasonably to handler or hounds not searching should be severely penalized.

(2) Use of Voice. The proper use of voice is proclaiming all finds and denoting all progress by giving tongue, yet keeping silent when not in contact with scent that can be progressed. For Brace and Two-coupled pack true tongue is honest claiming that running mates can depend on. Judges will give the benefit of the doubt to the hound(s) unless game being pursued is viewed by the judges. Improper use of voice should be severely penalized.

(3) Line Ability. Line ability is shown by a proficiency for keeping control of the trail while making the best possible progress.

Game should be pursued rather than merely followed, and actions should indicate a determined effort to make progress in the surest most sensible manner by adjusting speed to correspond to conditions and circumstances.

Actions should be positive and controlled, portraying sound judgment and skill. No hound can be too fast provided the trail is clearly and accurately followed, keeping consistent control of the trail while making the best possible progress.

An accurate trailing hound will show a marked tendency to follow the trail with a minimum of weaving on and off, and will display an aptness to turn with the trail and to determine direction of game travel in a positive manner.

At a check, hound should work industriously, first close to where the loss occurred, then gradually and thoroughly extending the search further a-field to regain or recover the line. Hounds deliberately leaving a check to start another line, or which gives up trying to recover the original line, should be severely penalized.

(4) Adaptability. Adaptability means being able to adjust quickly to changes in scenting conditions in varying terrain. An adaptable hound will pursue its quarry as fast as conditions permit or as slowly as conditions demand. At a loss it will work close and then, if necessary, move out gradually to recover the line.

For brace and two-couple pack adaptability also means:

(a) Being able to work harmoniously with running mates.

(b) The ability to be self-reliant and to refrain from becoming upset or influenced by the actions of faulty hounds.

(c) To display proper degree of independence. The hound that concentrates on running its game with no undue concern for its running mates except to hark to them when they proclaim a find or progress by tonguing. Tailing or watching other hounds, is indication of lack of sufficient independence. Ignoring other hounds completely and refusing to hark to or move up with running mate is indication of too much independence.

(d) To show the ability to work harmoniously with other hounds by doing as much of the work as possible in an honest, efficient manner, yet being aware of and honoring the accomplishments of running mates without jealousy or disruption of the chase.

5 Determination. Determination is that quality which causes a hound to succeed against severe odds. A determined hound has a purpose in mind and will overcome, through sheer perseverance, many obstacles that often frustrate less determined hounds. Determination and patience are closely related qualities and are generally found in the same hound. Determination keeps a hound at its work as long as there is a possibility of achievement and quite often long after its body has passed the peak of its endurance. Determination is desire in its most intense form. A determined hound shows a willingness to stay with any problem encountered as long as there is a possibility of achieving success in a workmanlike manner, rather than taking a chance of making the recovery more quickly through guess work or gambling. Patience keeps a hound from bounding off and leaving work undone, and causes it to apply itself to the surest and safest methods in difficult situations.

6 Gun Shyness. Hound(s) must be tested for gun-shyness and gun fire shall be from a .32 caliber starter pistol not capable of firing a projectile. This test is a pass/no pass scoring. A hound that is working may display momentary interest or startle at the gun fire but should then continue to work as before. A hound that quits as a result of the gun fire will not pass the Hunting Test.

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