

COONHOUND U

Do you have what it takes to graduate?



Youth participation in the sport of competitive Nite Hunting and Bench Shows is vital to the future existence of our sport. We at AKC are intensely interested in providing fun, fair, and feasible events for the young hunters and show enthusiasts that are interested in coonhounds and coonhound activities.

It is in that spirit we are proud to announce the 2010 AKC Coonhound Youth Program, an exciting program built upon an educational theme. We call it "Coonhound U." Parents and youth participants alike know that education is the key to success whatever the career path we choose. The same applies in competitive coon hunting. Young hunters want to be successful in the sport of coon hunting and we at AKC are prepared to assist them in doing just that.

Coonhound U - Curriculum

1. AKC licensed Nite Hunt competition - AKC rules provide that Youth casts may be held at any AKC-licensed Nite Hunt event provided a minimum of two youths under the ages of 18 years enter. An adult non-hunting judge must judge the cast.
2. AKC licensed Youth Event competition – AKC licenses special "Youth Only" events where coon hunting kids may compete without the pressure of hunting against adults.*
3. AKC licensed State Youth Championship competition – AKC licenses special Youth State Championship events where Champions are crowned in Nite Hunt and Bench Show competition. These events are AKC World Qualifying Events and the bench shows are Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Signature Series Events.
4. A series of special Youth seminars at major events throughout the year where Youth hunters can learn from the experts in the sports of Nite Hunting and Bench Showing. Attendees will receive special award certificates for attending the seminars.

* Special Opportunity for Clubs! Clubs scheduling AKC Youth events with entry fees set at "no fee" for all youth events that day and night may do so absolutely free. If there is no entry fee AKC will waive the \$25 event fee and the \$3 per dog fee!

Coonhound U – Graduation Requirements

Receive your Coonhound U Official Diploma by winning three casts with plus points in AKC licensed coonhound Nite Hunt competition or earning 4 Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Points while in AKC licensed Bench Show competition during the calendar year. Youth cast and show wins are posted to the AKC Youth Leader Board at www.akccoonhounds.org. Youth Hunters "**Graduate with Honors**" by making the Top 16 nationally in their age group in the 2010 AKC Youth Nite Hunt race or in the Top 16 in the AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Youth Show race, each of which begins January 01, 2010 and finishes December 31, 2010. Special awards await each member of the respective Top 16's. [

****Note: This is a Sponsorship Opportunity!]**

Successfully compete against the other Top 16 graduates by winning the 2010 AKC "Junior" or "Senior" Coonhound U Championship, held in February 2011 on Friday and Saturday nights at the AKC World Coonhound Championship or in the AKC Coonhound U Bench Show Championship held on Saturday at the AKC World Bench Show Championship in February of 2011. The Coonhound U Champions from each division, two in the Hunt division and one in the Show division, will graduate at the top of their own Coonhound U Class of 2010 and will receive additional special awards and national recognition online and in American Cooner magazine! [****Note: This is a Sponsorship Opportunity!]**

Coonhound U – Rules of the game

1. Youth participants must have an AKC Junior Handler's Number. The number must be entered on the Official Nite Hunt Report when the Youth handler wins a cast or earns points in AKC Black Gold Gold Medal Bench Show Spectacular competition. Sign up for the Junior Handler's number at www.akccoonthounds.org or call toll free 1-888-436-4486.
2. Casts won by Junior Handlers will be recorded in the National Youth Hunt and Show races and will appear online at www.akccoonthounds.org and in print in American Cooner magazine each month. Nite Hunt cast wins or Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular point show wins will also be recorded in the AKC State and Breed races for the winning dog handed by the Youth handler.
3. Cast wins by Junior Handlers in the "12 and under" division that are not earned with plus points will not be recorded for the dog in the State and Breed races. They will be recorded in the Youth races only. Only plus point cast wins will be recorded in the State and Breed races.
4. Rules governing judges for Nite Hunt casts and Bench Shows. Parents: No parent of a Junior (Youth) Handler may judge his or her son or daughter in an AKC Youth Cast or in an AKC-licensed Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Bench Show where their child is participating. Dog Owners: No owner of a dog being handled by a Junior (Youth) Handler in an AKC Youth Cast or in an AKC-licensed Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Bench Show, may participate as a Nite Hunt judge in their dog's cast or as the Bench Show judge in the show in which their dog is entered.
5. Youth casts at Major events: No Youth Casts will be held at the following events:
 - a. AKC Black Gold – Gold Medal events including the Black Gold – Gold Medal Championship.
 - b. AKC World Championship
 - c. AKC National Championship
 - d. AKC State Championships (other than AKC Youth Championships)
 - e. Any AKC event featuring a "run-off" of the top winners. In case of hunt where a "run-off" is required, the club shall provide a special award for the high-scoring Youth cast winner. Our first concern is for the safety of the Youth handlers. We believe it not in the best interest of the Youth handlers to have them participating in late-hour run-offs.)
6. The Top 16 Youth handlers on the Youth Nite Hunt leader board will not be invited to the AKC National Championship. Instead, the Top 16 Youth Handlers from each age division will be invited to the AKC Coonhound U Championship to be held each February in conjunction with the AKC World Championship. The 2010 Top 16 from each age group will participate in February of 2011.

The AKC Coonhound U Championship will be held on Friday and Saturday nights at the AKC World Championship. The high scoring Youth handler in his or her respective division's Final Four will be declared the AKC Coonhound U Youth Hunt Champion for the Year. The winner of the Final Four in the remaining age division will be declared the AKC Coonhound U Reserve Hunt Champion for the Year.

7. The Top 16 Youth Handlers in the Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Series for the year will be invited to participate in the AKC Coonhound U Bench Show Championship to be held at intermission at the AKC World Coonhound Bench Show Championship in February of the following year. The 2010 Top 16 will participate in February of 2011.

8. The overall leaders in the AKC Youth Nite Hunt and Youth Bench Show races will receive special recognition as the "AKC Coonhound U Nite Hunt Leader of the Year" and the "AKC Coonhound U Bench Show Handler of the Year."

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**** Attention Vendors!** The Coonhound U program is an excellent opportunity to showcase your products while promoting the both the future of the sport and for your coon hunting-related business. Call Steve Fielder at 919-816-3910 to discuss how your company can play an important part in the Coonhound U program for coonhound kids. You'll be glad you did!

AKC Youth World Championship – Summer of 2010

The 2010 AKC Youth World Championship will be held on July 2nd and 3rd at the High Oaks Coon Club in Newport, Tennessee. The Youth World Championship is open to any Youth handler that has not reached his 18th birthday on January 1st of the competition year which runs from January 1st to December 31st. The AKC Youth World Championship does not require qualification. Wins earned at the AKC Youth World Championship will not be recorded in the National Youth, State, or Breed races. Wins with plus points at the AKC Youth World Championship will be recorded toward the winning dog's next Nite Hunt title. Show wins will be recorded toward the dog's next Bench Show title. We invite all eligible Youth to make plans now to join us for a great weekend at the AKC Youth World Championship in Newport, Tennessee!