

Supreme Breeders Club awards to be paid in April

Coon hunters with the foresight to enroll litters, pups and sires in the AKC Supreme Breeders Club and successfully earned titles in 2009 will receive the fruits of their decisions in April. Supreme Breeders Club has from the start been an effort to reward those that go the extra mile to produce quality offspring from their AKC-registered sires and dams and to reward those that train and compete with that offspring in AKC coonhound events. We will publish the list of award winners and the amounts of their awards in the May issue of American Cooner. To those of you that earned awards, we congratulate you. To those that did not but would like to when the 2010 awards are paid next year, give us a call at 1-888-436-4486 and we'll be happy to show you how. Like everything else in the AKC coonhound program, it's simple – enroll your pup, hunt your pup, earn a check.

Coonhound U – An opportunity to give something back to your sport

If I were the parent of a young hunter today, I would be excited about AKC's new youth program. Anything we can do to encourage youth to think about the benefits of education is a win-win situation and will pay big dividends down the road. When we combine the Coonhound U theme with coon hunting we've given you an opportunity to introduce that young hunter at your house or in your club to all the excitement of learning about coon hunting the right way while making it fun and exciting as well.

We are now encouraging clubs to schedule Youth seminars at the AKC events and at the club meetings. Another way to encourage the youth in your club is to schedule a Youth Top 16 annually at the club to encourage month in and month out participation. Here's a Coonhound U suggestion for you: Take a few coins out of the treasury; buy a nice light or something kids will hunt for from one of our sponsors and post the leader board at the club. At the end of the year, hunt the Top 16 in your Youth Club Championship. We'll arrange to have Coonhound U hats, t-shirts and jackets available for the winners at a reasonable cost. For more information on how your club can put Coonhound U to work for your young hunters and show people, see the full story on pages 100 and 101 in the March issue of American Cooner.

Get the kids at your club started now by encouraging them to (1) get their Junior Handler's number and (2), start earning hunt and show wins in order to make the Top 16 in each age division in Nite Hunt competition and the Top 16 in Bench Show competition so they can compete in the Coonhound U Championship next February at the AKC World Championship in Orangeburg, SC. We hope to see your kids there!

Attention clubs and Hunt Directors: Important information about Youth Casts at your club!

Rules governing judges for Nite Hunt casts and Bench Shows.

Parents: No parent of a 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 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.

Parents and club officials, please read all the Coonhound U rules carefully to insure that you give these great young hunters the credit they deserve when they participate in Coonhound U at your club. Pretty soon the kids at your club will be saying, "**Coonhound U Rules!**"

AKC Championship Series – A new way to enjoy your sport!

The AKC Championship Series provides the opportunity for hunters across the United States to hunt for prestigious titles at well-run regional hunts and to win top prizes from the best coon hunting supply companies in our sport.

Each AKC Championship Series event is a World Qualifying Event and features a late round hunt off on Saturday night in which the Championship title is up for grabs as well as the following prizes, worth \$1,700.00 and provided free of charge to the host club by AKC and its sponsors and recognition in American Cooner magazine!

First Place – A Garmin Astro 220 with DC30 collar from Garmin International, a 21-volt belt light from Bright Eyes Light Depot, a Championship trophy from Imperial Trophies and Awards and an embroidered Championship jacket from Black Gold Dog Food,

Second Place – A \$225.00 gift certificate from Valley Creek Supply in Whitesboro, Texas. The winner can spend the gift certificate on anything he wants.

Third Place – A No. 3190 tracking collar in the frequency of your choice from Wildlife Materials, Inc.

Fourth Place – A Tri-tronics bark collar and a Zepp Coon Squaller

Bench Show - The overall Bench Show winner at the championship receives a championship trophy from Imperial Trophies and Awards and an embroidered Championship jacket from Black Gold Dog Food.

The 2010 AKC Championship Series events and the regions they serve:

AKC New England Coonhound Championship – ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT
September 18 – Lyndonville, Vermont

AKC Mid-Atlantic Coonhound Championship – DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA
September 18 – Albion, New York

AKC Coonhound Championship of the Virginias – VA, WV
June 5 – Princeton, West Virginia

AKC Coonhound Championship of the Carolinas – NC, SC
TBA

AKC Deep South Coonhound Championship – AL, FL, GA
March 13 – Gray, Georgia

AKC Midwest Coonhound Championship – IN, OH
May 28 and 29 – Liberty, Indiana

AKC Kentucky/Tennessee Coonhound Championship – KY, TN
September 10 and 11 – Newport, Tennessee

AKC Great Lakes Coonhound Championship – IL, MI, WI
October 8 and 9 – Elizabeth, Illinois

AKC Ozark Coonhound Championship – AR, MO
April 3 – Patterson, Missouri

AKC Mid-South Coonhound Championship – LA, MS
May 8 – Cascilla, Mississippi

AKC Upper Midwest Coonhound Championship – IA, MN
April 30 – May 1 – Preston, Minnesota

AKC Texoma Coonhound Championship – OK, TX
TBA

AKC Badlands Coonhound Championship – ND, SD
June 19 – Canton, South Dakota

AKC Great Plains Coonhound Championship – KS, NE
September 18 – Corning, Kansas

AKC Northwest Coonhound Championship – MT, WY, WA, OR, ID, UT
August 21 – Worland, WY

AKC Southwest Coonhound Championship – AZ, CA, NV, NM, CO
TBA

Watch future issues of American Cooner and the AKC coonhound website at www.akccoohounds.com for locations, deadlines and directions to the events.

We hope to see you at an AKC Championship Series event this year. .

AKC National Championship – Coming up on May 6, 7 and 8 is the 2010 AKC National Championship in Greensburg, Indiana. This year's National Championship is open to the Top 16 from each of the following races: State race, Breed race, Youth race, Black Gold – Gold Medal race and the Top 16 at the AKC Black Gold – Gold Medal Championship. If you have a question about whether or not your hound is qualified, call 1-888-436-4486 and we'll be happy to assist you. You will love the hunting around Greensburg and you may just be the one to take home the coveted AKC All American Cup and a chunk of the \$14,000 purse as the 2010 AKC National Champion. Watch for the ad including the advance entry form found elsewhere in this issue.

AKC – Fun, Fair, and Feasible coonhound events!