

Coonhounds at the AKC

By Steve Fielder

Exciting changes coming at the AKC. We are listening to the coon hunters of America and are excited to announce the following changes to our coonhound programs for the 2012 year.

World Championship Qualifying

- The first thing to note is the 2012 World Championship year in terms of qualifying will begin March 1, 2011 and end on February 29, 2012. Dogs that have qualified under our present system between January 1, 2011 and April 30, 2011 will be honored.
- There are three (3) ways to qualify for the 2012 AKC World Nite Hunt Championship:
 1. Win a cast with plus points at a World Qualifying Event (WQE). Each club may hold one (1) WQE during the competition year. The WQE may be a one-night or two-night event, club's decision. The WQE must be held on Friday and/or Saturday nights and will be a two-hour hunt. (Note: State Championships are not WQE's unless the club hosting the State Hunt elects to designate the event as their WQE.)
 2. Win a total of 2 casts with plus points. Casts must be won at two (2) separate Black Gold – Gold Medal Events.
 3. Supreme Grand Nite Champions are not required to qualify.

World Hunt Format

- Once dogs are qualified they may enter the 2012 AKC World Coonhound Championship at one of eight (8) Semifinal events.
- Dogs may be entered at Semifinal of owner's choice.
- Semifinal events to be held over two weekends in April of 2012. Four Semifinal events will be held on one weekend followed by four more Semifinal events the following weekend.
- Semifinal events are two-night events.
- Advance entry fee for the dog's first night at the Semifinal event is \$100.
- Dog may hunt either Friday or Saturday night as its first night
- Re-entry fee for Saturday night is \$100.
- Walk-on entry fee is \$150 for first night whether Friday or Saturday. Re-entry for Walk-ons is \$100.
- Dogs winning cast with plus, minus or circle on Friday night do not hunt on Saturday. One cast win required to advance to Finals.
- Dogs losing on Friday night may hunt on Saturday by paying re-entry fee of \$100.

- Dogs losing both nights may enter a Semifinal of their choice the following weekend at the Walk-on rate of \$150.00 for the first night and a re-entry rate of \$100 for the second night.
- Dogs scratched for fighting or handlers scratched for misconduct may not re-enter on Saturday night nor may they re-enter additional Semifinal on following weekend.
- Supreme Grand Nite Champions bypass the Semifinals and go directly to Finals. Advance entry fee is \$100. Walk-on entry fee is \$150.
- Finals to consist of three (3) nights, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and will be held on May 10, 11, and 12 at Grant County Park in Crittenden, Kentucky.
- There will be no cap on the number of dogs that may advance to the Finals from the Semifinals.
- Semifinals will be located to provide easy access for coon hunters from anywhere in the nation. Likely locations are as follows with exact locations to be announced soon. Clubs interested in hosting a Semifinal should call me at 919-345-7542. I will discuss financial details with interested clubs.

Northeast - New York or Pennsylvania

Mid-Atlantic – Virginia

Southeast – South Carolina

North Central – Indiana or Ohio

South Central – Alabama, Mississippi or Tennessee

Northwest – Chatfield, Minnesota

Southwest – Arkansas, Oklahoma or Texas

Far West – Montana, Wyoming

World Show Format

- The AKC World Coonhound Show Championship will be held on Saturday, the last day of the Finals.
- Dogs entering AKC World Coonhound Show Championship must qualify at a World Qualifying Bench Show held in conjunction with the World Qualifying Nite Hunt Event.
- Dogs may also qualify at the annual St. Jude Benefit in Parsons, TN and at the AKC Heartland Classic in Nashua, IA.
- Qualified dogs may advance-enter the AKC World Coonhound Show Championship for the \$30 fee. Walk-on entries for qualified dogs will be accepted at the \$50 fee.
- Dogs qualify for the AKC World Bench Show Championship by winning Best Male or Best Female of Show, Champion Male or Female, Grand Champion Male or Female, or Supreme Grand Champion Male or Female at the WQE show. In other words, dogs making the “Run-off” round at the WQE show are qualified.

AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Series

The 2011 Black Gold – Bench Show Spectacular Series will undergo changes in terms of how the \$10,000.00 award package is distributed and with the addition of the AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Championship.

- The award package for the 2011 AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Series is \$10 thousand dollars.
- The top points-earning Breed winner for each of the six coonhound breeds in the 2011 Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Series competition beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011 will receive a cash award of \$1000 from Black Gold Dog Food.
- The top points earning Youth handler in the 2011 Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Series competition will receive a \$1000 scholarship from Black Gold Dog Food. Youth handlers must have an AKC Junior Handler's number on file to participate in the competition.
- An AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Championship will be held in conjunction with the AKC Black Gold – Gold Medal Championship at a central location in the spring of 2012.
- A \$3000.00 cash purse will be awarded in increments of \$500 each to the six (6) Best of Breed winners at the 2012 Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Championship.
- The top sixteen dogs from each coonhound breed in the 2011 Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular standings, a total of 96 dogs, will be invited to participate in the 2012 Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Championship.
- Youth leaders will participate in the 2012 Coonhound U Championship at the AKC World Championship Finals and will not be invited to the AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Championship on the basis of their youth standing in the AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Series.
- There will be no separate cash award to the overall winner of the Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Championship show. A special "keepsake" award and a winner's jacket are being prepared for the overall winner. The six Best of Breed winners in the show will show for the awards and the title, AKC Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Champion.
- There will be no additional cash prize for the overall or second place winners in the annual Black Gold Bench Show Spectacular Series as in the past.

AKC Celebration of Coonhounds Show

A very special coonhound bench show is planned for the 2011 AKC National Championship in Greensburg, Indiana.

- In celebration of the acceptance of all six coonhound breeds into the world's largest purebred registry a gala bench show event will be held in

conjunction with the 2011 AKC National Championship on May 7, 2011 at the fairgrounds in Greensburg, Indiana.

- In addition to special awards, the Celebration of Coonhounds show will feature five (5) separate coonhound judges, one for each division; Open, Champions, Grand Champions, and Supreme Grand Champions and a Best in Show judge to judge the final 8 dogs selected from each of the four divisions. Judges to be announced soon.
- The overall winner will be the AKC Celebration of Coonhounds show will be crowned the 2011 AKC National Bench Show Champion. The runner up will be the 2011 Reserve National Bench Show Champion.
- The Celebration of Coonhounds Show is open to any AKC registered coonhound and entries will be taken day-of-show. Registrations for non-AKC registered dogs will also be taken on the grounds. Watch for ad in the April issue of American Cooner and online at www.akccoonhounds.org.

We look forward to your comments and appreciate your continued support of fun, fair, and feasible AKC coonhound events.