



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

December 7, 2011

To: All Licensed Pointing Breed Hunting Test Clubs

Subject: **New Pointing Breed Hunting Test Advanced Titles**

The Performance Events Department has received inquiries from many owners requesting additional hunt test activities in which they can participate with their dogs. In addition, clubs have consistently expressed concerns about losing participants after they earn their initial titles because many owners lack the time or resources to train for higher level tests. These owners still enjoy getting out in the field and remaining active to the extent that they can.

This past summer all licensed clubs were surveyed regarding the idea of a “numeric” title. (Pass the Junior Hunter test five more times and earn a JH2.) While the majority was in favor, 40% thought “what’s the point?” This reaction is to be expected since the traditional thought regarding the purpose of field events has been to improve the dog and the breed. In the process, the sport provides an enjoyable activity for owners and their dogs. For many hunt test participants the enjoyment of spending time in the field with their dog and other owners is more important than identifying future breeding stock.

The Purpose of the Advanced Hunt Test Title

The creation of the Advanced titles is meant to encourage owners to improve upon the skills of their dog in the field by providing a slightly more difficult test that is not out of reach for the majority of owners thus providing them an incentive to remain active within their club and sport.

The Criteria

Advanced titles may be earned in all three testing levels. After a dog has earned its initial title in a given testing level, it may continue to enter the same test. To receive a qualifying leg toward the Advanced title, the dog must achieve an average score of 8.0 or higher. (Note: The average qualifying score for the initial title is 7.0.) The categories scored at each testing level remain the same. There should be no change in how dogs are scored. Five Advanced qualifying legs are required to earn the Advanced title.

The Process

From a club’s point of view, there is no difference in how an event is conducted. Dogs working toward Advanced titles run in the same classes as those working toward their initial titles. It is not necessary that the Judges know which title a dog is working toward. Event secretaries do not need to do anything different. If a dog receives an average score of 7.0 or greater, it should be submitted on the AKC results form as a passing dog. The dog will be recorded in AKC records as having achieved a qualifying

performance. While the system will accept many passing performances, no title beyond the initial one will be awarded.

The tracking of a dog's Advanced title qualifying legs must be done on an AKC form entitled "Pointing Breed Hunting Test Advanced Title Application Form." The form is attached to this e-mail and may be downloaded from the AKC Pointing Breed Hunt Test website at:

www.akc.org/pdfs/events/hunting_tests/pointing_breeds/PBHT_Advanced_Title_Application.pdf.

It is the owner's responsibility to obtain the information required to complete the form. Note that the event secretary must sign the form verifying that the dog received an average score of 8.0 or higher. Upon achieving five Advanced qualifying legs, the form is submitted to the Performance Events Department.

The Title

Upon verification the title is placed on the dog's record and will appear on a dog's pedigree. The Advanced title is designated by the addition of the letter A at the end of existing titles. (Junior Hunter Advanced [JHA], Senior Hunter Advanced [SHA] and Master Hunter Advanced [MHA]). No title certificate will be issued unless ordered through the use of the application form for a fee of \$20. Ordering a title certificate is at the discretion of the owner. The Advanced title will supersede the initial title earned in the test level. For example, JHA will supersede JH on a dog's pedigree. A title earned in a more advanced level will supersede the Advanced title in a lower level. For example, SH will supersede JHA.

The Advanced title program becomes effective February 1, 2012. Any Advanced title qualifying performance after that date achieved by a dog that has already earned the initial title in a given testing level can be counted toward an Advanced title.

Additional Hunt Tests

There are some areas where Pointing Breed Hunting Tests are routinely full. In response to this and the possibility that the Advanced title program will create additional demand, clubs will be allowed to hold up to six hunting tests per calendar year at their option.

Feedback

The approach to the Advanced titling program is unique in a number of ways. Comments or suggestions should be e-mailed to the Performance Events Department at huntingtest@akc.org.