

UKC Cur & Feist Squirrel Event Honor Rules

**Revised January 1, 2006*

*1. Hunting time must be accurately recorded on the front of scorecard so Hunt Master can confirm hunting time. Before beginning a hunt, a time deadline for completion of hunt will be announced and time posted in plain view of all hunters. The time deadline of hunt and return of scorecard to Hunt Master will be indicated on front of all UKC Scorecards. All casts must hunt for two full hours. Dog must tree bark before being declared treed. Cast must consist of two or three dogs. Dogs to be drawn to the fewest casts possible. All dogs, including Champions, to hunt entire hunt unless scratched. Casts are not to be drawn until after entries close at the listed deadline. Those in entry line at deadline time will be entered.

Dogs may be divided into classes in two manners, by weight or breed. When dividing by weight, dogs hunt in

(2) weight classes: 1) all dogs 30 pounds and under; 2) all dogs 31 pounds and over. Weight classes with one entry will be combined with other weight class in same category. When dividing by breed, dogs hunt in (2) breed classes: 1) Curs; 2) Feists. Breed classes with one entry will be combined with other breed class in same category. Unless specifically noted in the advertising or listing of an event, all events will be run by using weight classes. One dog Champion and Grand Champion classes require a non-hunting Judge.

2. POINT SYSTEM:

- (a) No strike points will be awarded.
- (b) 100 points for dog declared treed first; 50 points second; 25 points third.
- (c) Points may be split for tree position when called tree positions cannot be determined.
- (d) If squirrel is caught on the ground, points are received as follows: three dogs 58 1/3 points, two dogs 75 points and one dog 100 points.

3. POINTS WILL BE PLUS:

- (a) When dogs tree and squirrel (excluding ground or flying) is seen: (1) When a non-hunting Judge is used, the Judge has the authority to give the majority of the cast decision the benefit of the doubt, or (2) By a majority of the cast when hunting Judge is used. *Squirrel must be in tree dog is on or in a tree within 15 normal steps of tree dog is on.*
- (b) Only one tree is counted even if more than one squirrel is up tree.
- (c) If dogs split tree and each tree contains a squirrel they are to receive separate tree points regardless of the distance between trees.
- (d) When squirrel is seen timbering from tree to tree and the dog is moving with the squirrel, this applies only if squirrel is seen.

4. POINTS WILL BE MINUS:

- (a) When dog has been declared treed and dog leaves tree. (Dogs must be actively treeing.) If dog returns to tree within the two minutes he will receive the next available position on tree, unless all dogs have been declared treed.
- (b) *When dogs tree and (1) a non-hunting Judge or (2) a majority of the cast when hunting Judge is used, can plainly see no squirrel is there.*
- (c) After a dog is declared treed, at least one of the dogs declared treed must bark at least once every one minute until cast arrives at the tree, or be minused. If no dog barks

in one minute, tree is declared open.

**(d) Dogs treeing but not declared treed, when Judge arrives, will be minused on tree points on slick tree, they receive no points if squirrel is seen or if none of the declared struck dogs open within 10 minutes. Points will be determined by next available position in the case of one dog, or split available tree points in the case of two or more dogs.*

5. POINTS WILL BE CIRCLED:

Points will count neither for nor against dog except when tie is to be broken.

- (a) When game is treed in a hole or nest and not seen.
- (b) When leaves or vines make it impossible to locate a squirrel.
- (c) When Judge orders dogs to be called in because of livestock or nearness to highway, building, etc.

6. DOGS WILL BE SCRATCHED:

- (a) If a dog has a total of 300 minus points, regardless of how many plus points the dog has.
- (b) Fighting or attempting to fight during the authority of the Judge. Dog's name, UKC number and owner's name will be reported to UKC on the Hunt report form. No handler will be allowed to scratch his dog to avoid dog from being scratched for fighting.

When the aggressive dog is known, scratch the aggressor only. If not known, scratch dogs involved. Attempting to fight is defined as follows: when dog(s) are interfering with other dog(s) during the authority of the Judge by aggressive behavior.

- (c) Failing to make any attempt to hunt within any 30 consecutive scorecard minutes, including those containing time out.
- (d) For treeing dog when dog is not treeing. On first offense issue a warning but do not award points based on Rule 1 which states dog must tree bark before being declared treed.
- (e) On second offense if handler calls another handler's dog, the dog is to be scratched.
- (f) If a handler is drinking or using abusive language.
- (g) Bitches smelling strong enough to attract dogs or a dog that is just bad to bother bitches while other dogs pay them no attention.
- (h) For delaying completion of cast for one hour after time out is called in accordance with Rule 7.
- (i) For use of any device used to control or locate dog prior to cast completing hunt time. (Locating device may be used during time outs.)
- (j) If handler hollers at or physically abuses the dog.
- (k) Club must set an overall time limit and cast will be scratched for violation.

(l) For running or molesting stock. (Only one offense.) Feral hogs are not to be treated as stock, but as non-tree game.

(m) Dog(s) hunting over or under advertised hunt time will be scratched.

(n) If handler uses hand signals.

(o) For running non-tree game second offense for open registered dog and first offense for Champions and Grand Champions.

7. TIME OUTS:

Judge, or majority of cast if hunting Judge is used, may call time out in accordance with the following:

(a) When dogs are getting on highway, onto posted land or into a place where there is danger to dogs or hunters.

(b) If new ground must be found to finish cast and more than 15 minutes is required or have to move to new area by vehicle, call time out immediately.

(c) In case of accident or sickness.

(d) If cast becomes lost.

(e) Dog(s) declared treed before time out is called will be scored.

(f) When a dog is injured. (NOTE: If time out is called then time is out, and if dog should tree, it will not count. When time out is called and dog(s) are still loose you have one hour to recover dog(s) or the dog(s) will be scratched and the remainder of the cast may proceed to hunt. Tracking devices may be used during the time outs. **NO TIME IS TO BE CALLED OUT TO SEARCH A TREE OR WHEN DOGS ARE TIED OR TO BE LED AWAY FROM A TREE.** If dog(s) declared treed, 5 minutes of hunting time may be demanded to search tree, or place of refuge, which is not a time out. No plus points will be awarded if squirrel is seen after 5 minutes searching time has elapsed.)

8. JUDGES & HANDLERS:

The handler's duties are to know their dog's voice and nature. Also, to advise Judge of any of the dog's peculiarities before hunt begins and to tell Judge when dog trees. It is the handler's responsibility to check time and score before signing scorecard.

The Judges are picked by the sponsors because they believe them to be honest and capable of keeping score just as it is given to them by handlers. They will show no favors to any dog or hunter and will inform handlers of score and time recorded, if requested. Non-hunting Judge may be assigned to any cast at the discretion of Hunt Master and/or club officials. If hunting Judge scratches his dog he can continue to judge the cast as a hunting Judge, or pass the card to another member of the cast. Remaining cast members, though scratched, retain all voting privileges. Authority of the Judge begins when he is officially designated and receives the scorecard. The authority of the Judge ceases when the scorecard is turned in to the Hunt Master. No trees to be climbed or game to be killed. No molesting holes, dens or nests. Where dogs split up, Judge will go with handler to the dog that trees first. Separate time must be kept on each tree unless all dogs are declared treed together. Permission will be given for other handlers

to go to their dogs on split tree, otherwise cast must remain together unless time out is called. Split trees will only be declared if dogs are outside of a thirty-step radius. After two minutes, first dog's tree may be checked and that dog kept on leash until tree is scored, then he must be turned loose with other dogs. However, if dog(s) are already treed, do not release any dogs. No credit allowed for dog brought to tree. All handlers must stay with Judge at all times unless given permission by Judge to leave. Judge will be first to arrive at tree. Judge must maintain pace attainable by all members of cast. Scorecards to be carried by Judge and must be scored by Judge in plain view of all. If there is a question in the woods, score with a question mark (?) and check with Hunt Master. Situations not questioned and notated at the time Judge's decision is made will not be considered.

One handler to each dog. Any handler unable to complete hunt must pick up his dog. Judge shall give permission for another handler to complete hunt.

9. HUNT MASTER:

Hunt Master will hear each viewpoint and have last say. Remember, handler may state his case plainly, but if unreasonable, his dog may be scratched by Hunt Master. Scorecards must be finished in the woods and no changes later except where a question arises and is noted in the woods. Hunt Master must be at the clubhouse at all times. All scores must be posted after the posted deadline or when all scorecards are in possession of the Hunt Master. Hunt Master and their spouses cannot enter a dog in a UKC Licensed Hunt where he or she is serving as Hunt Master. Their dogs cannot be entered by a handler.

10. SCORECARDS:

Scorecards must be finished in the woods and signed by each handler or his dog will be scratched. A scorecard may be signed still with the right of protest. (Changes can only be made by the Hunt Master.) This rule must be strictly adhered to. Club Secretary must keep scorecards and make them available to contestants or UKC for one year.

11. COMPLAINTS:

In the event that a situation occurs during a UKC Licensed event involving any question concerning the rules of United Kennel Club the handler is to go with the Judge and members of that cast to the Hunt Master as soon as the cast is over and state their case. The Hunt Master will make a decision based upon the statement of the case provided by the handler, Judge and other members of the cast. No complaints will be considered by the Hunt Master after a period of thirty (30) minutes has elapsed from the time that the scorecard has been turned in. If the matter has not been satisfactorily resolved by the decision of the Hunt Master, a Formal Complaint may be made by any owner or handler of a UKC registered dog entered in the UKC Licensed Hunt. If a Formal Complaint is made, request a UKC Formal Complaint form from the Hunt Master and fill it out. It must be turned into the Hunt Master not later than thirty (30) minutes after the posted time of deadline for return of scorecards. This complaint procedure does NOT apply to situations that deal with intimidating, threatening, or injuring a Hunter, Judge, Hunt Master, Club Official or a UKC Representative. Also, this complaint procedure does NOT apply to alleged irregularity or violation of rules of the United Kennel Club that occur other than during a hunt; an example of such irregularity or violation would be an improper registration and/or transfer of ownership and as to this type of irregularity or violation you should directly contact United Kennel Club, Inc., which will thereafter deal with such situations on a case-by-case basis pursuant to its inherent rights and powers.

12. WINNERS:

- (a) A dog must have a total score of plus points before they can receive Championship Points.

(b) Placements to be determined first, by highest succession of cast winners and next, by highest succession of non-cast winners.

13. TIES:

All ties to be broken for UKC points. Dog will win out over other dog: dog that has the least number of minus points; if still a tie, dog that has the most plus first tree points; if still a tie, dog that has the most circled tree points. If still a tie, dogs involved will hunt in one-hour intervals until tie is broken, or flip a coin if all parties agree.

14. GENERAL INFORMATION:

No points, not even circle points, will be awarded when dogs return to tree that had previously been scored, cast may go to tree without dogs being declared treed, if majority of cast agree, when hunting Judges are used. When a dog is declared treed, Judge is not to let anyone go to the tree in less than two minutes unless all dogs have been declared treed. This is a courtesy to other handlers and also to see that a dog will hold his tree. Dog must hold the tree for two minutes, unless all dogs in cast are declared treed. If one dog in cast, or one dog remaining in cast, dog must hold tree for two minutes. Dogs declared treed within hunting time are eligible for scoring. When a dog is declared treed, after two minutes has elapsed no additional dog can be declared treed at that particular tree. When two minutes are up, cast can go directly to tree. Dogs at tree must be leashed. No encouragement or discouragement of any kind to dogs. *No pulling of vines nor any action deemed to be interfering with dog(s) to be done when other dogs are declared treed.*

If dog is declared treed on tree not containing squirrel but containing tree game, points to be deleted. Tree game is defined as any game capable of climbing a tree. Dog should not be minused tree points if he comes back a short distance to meet handler if dog goes back in and trees satisfactorily. Judge should be informed of such peculiarities before hunt. Three spectators per handler will be allowed on all casts. Handler's dog(s) will be scratched for rule violations by their spectators. ALL HUNTERS, JUDGES, AND/OR GUIDES MUST BE DRAWN PUBLICLY FOR THEIR CAST. Owners having multiple entries will have dogs drawn to separate casts if possible.

15. ANY PERSON CAUGHT USING ANY DEVICE USED TO LOCATE, OR CONTROL DOG DURING HUNTING TIME WILL BE BARRED INDEFINITELY FROM REGISTERING DOGS AND PARTICIPATING IN UKC EVENTS. DEVICE MAY BE USED IF DOG(S) WEARING DEVICE IS SCRATCHED AND ALL OTHER DOG(S) ARE RECOVERED FOR RE-CASTING. (FOR TIME OUT PERIODS, SEE RULE 6(h).)

16. ELIGIBILITY. All dogs, excluding coonhounds, registered with United Kennel Club are eligible to participate in the squirrel events.

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