

4/21/2020

NA Testing Policy Revision

The purpose of this communication is to replace and expand on the NAVHDA policy for permitting dogs over 16 months of age to participate in an NA test because of circumstances related to COVID-19. We ask that NA dog owners and test secretaries for 2020 tests pay close attention to the policy and implementation practices outlined below. Thank you.

The original policy was published on March 25 and reiterated on April 6. In summary, it stated that if a dog enrolled in an NA test could not run because of test cancellation or because a handler withdrew due to coronavirus concerns, then that dog would be permitted to run in a later test during the calendar year 2020 even if the dog is over the 16 month age limit. Please note that this original policy only applied to dogs that had already been registered for a test.

The new policy described by the following two points replaces the original policy, and eliminates the requirement that dogs had already been registered for a test:

1. If a dog has not been NA tested and turns 16 months of age between April 1 and August 31, 2020, then the dog is permitted to run beyond 16 months of age any time before December 31, 2020. Test secretaries should note that the 16-month rule is waived because the dog turned 16 months old during this April - August period. The extension of the 16-month rule can be applied only once per dog.
2. There may be cases in which an extension of the 16-month rule is reasonable, but not covered by the conditions described in point 1. If a dog owner believes that this is the case, then NAVHDA asks that the owner submit an extension request by email before July 1 to vicepresident@NAVHDA.org with "NA extension request" in the subject line. The request should include (a) the dog's registered name, registered number, and whelp date and (b) reason for request. A committee of three EC members will then consider and respond promptly to the request by email. If the request is approved, then the email from the EC committee should be submitted to the test secretary before the test date. If you have questions about this process, please either use the above email address or call Bob Hauser at 217-493-8745.

The pandemic has obviously impacted the entire country in many ways, including how we test our dogs. The Executive Council is doing its best to accommodate these testing needs while maintaining the high NAVHDA standards that define us. We sincerely thank and appreciate everyone for their continued support and understanding.