

## NAVHDA Monthly Judge & Apprentice Update

April 2019

General comments per phone conversations since the 2019 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis:

1. "I can do it my way! The Judge's Workshop notes are only suggestions. If it's not in the Aims booklet it is not a rule and I can do it my way.

One of the points of emphasis of a NAVHDA Workshop is to try and provide consistent guidelines, policies and /or procedures to ensure that all NAVHDA tests are conducted in a fair and consistent manner where ever a NAVHDA sanctioned test is held.

a. Judges are to alternate the reading of the test scores at the end of the day. This presents to the public the concept of a team approach to the evaluation and scoring of their dog. If an apprentice is allowed to handle a team they should be allowed to read the scores. This is part of their learning process.

b. No Judge or Apprentice can "step out" and not judge a particular dog/handler team and then return and continue judging that day. A judge or apprentice may ask within the team to be allowed to not handle a particular handler for any number of reasons: the handler is a hunting partner; the judge sold the handler the dog; a previously reported adverse incident.

c. Stop to Flush. UPT/UT **NO** shot at these levels is to be called for. Wild flush birds are NOT to be shot at these levels. On the back of your score cards you can note the positive behavior of the dog that does stop to a wild flush (steady to wing). Only at the Invitational level are wild flush birds shot if the dog is aware of the flush and a safe shot is available.

Questions /comments received via email:

1. What constitutes a "resend" in a UPT duck search that will allow the firing of a second shot?

a. See the 2019 Workshop Notes pages 13-14.

b. YES a second or additional shots are now allowed without a retrieve of the original dead duck. This is a developmental test, a stepping stone for both the dog and handler. There will definitely be an appropriate reduction in desire, cooperation and obedience scores if additional shots are fired without a retrieve.

c. The reason this email was sent to me was the "time frame". This topic has been discussed at two consecutive Workshops. Each Workshop provided overwhelming positive support for this change from that which is currently written in the latest Aims book. In the past this change would have to have been presented at three consecutive Workshops prior to implementation. The Executive Council has voted to allow the Judging and Testing Committee along with the consent of EC to allow some judging changes prior to the three year Workshop rotation. Additional shots are now allowed during the UPT duck search without an initial retrieve.

Chip Bonde

Director of Judge Development

