

NAVHDA Monthly Judge & Apprentice Update

July 2019

Physical Attributes

Quote from the Aims 8/18 edition page 10 Physical Attributes

While physical attributes may affect performance, they are **NOT** considered in awarding prizes. As indicated in the scoring systems described on pages 13, 18 and 28, prize classifications are based solely on performance.

If a dog's temperament is left blank on the front of a NAVHDA scorecard (neither normal, sensitive or shy are circled) a statement must be added under the Comments section. If the comment is something similar to: Aggressive. Dog tried to bite judge, unable to evaluate teeth, this notation does NOT by itself disqualify the dog from being awarded a prize. **I agree with this.**

Duck Search (Please read and discuss this topic with other judges. This will be a topic for general discussion at the 2020 Judges Workshop in Maine)

A Utility dog does an excellent duck search for approximately 9 ½ minutes and catches the duck. It then takes approximately another 9 minutes for the dog to return the now dead duck to the handler. Many commands were given by the handler to encourage the dog to retrieve the duck to the handler. The judging team thought it was an exceptional duck search, expanding through heavy cover and at a great distance. The desire and stamina were judged to be exceptional. The questions concerned the eventual retrieve to hand, the length of time it took and the number of commands necessary to complete the retrieve to hand.

The question asked of me was it possible to award the dog a 4 in duck search while scoring the cooperation and obedience each 2 or lower?

Not having seen the search here are my thoughts. The traditional way is to award a 3 in duck search and eliminate the dog from a possible prize one score based on the retrieve of the duck (the 9 minutes it took and the number of commands). The retrieve of the duck is one of the requirements of the duck search if the dog either catches the duck or the duck is shot. The duck search has two parts to be scored if the duck is caught or shot, the duck search itself and the retrieve. Most events in a UT test are a single event. I have always been told that our job as judges is to "paint a picture" of the dog's performance that day with our scoring of the events. If the team wanted to award an overall 4 in the duck search with a 2 in cooperation and a 2 in obedience for the duck search I can accept that under one condition. The low scores in cooperation and obedience earned in the duck search due to the retrieve must carry down with major influence in the overall determination of both the cooperation and obedience scores at the end of the day. Either one or both of these scores should ultimately be no higher than a 2. This will remove the dog in question from a prize one category because of the cooperation and or obedience during the retrieve portion of the duck search. This will still paint the picture of a dog with a great desire to search for the duck. It may paint a picture of a dog that may need additional obedience /retrieve training to achieve a prize one. There are 13 different opportunities to evaluate obedience on the UT scorecard. The overall nose, desire, cooperation and obedience scores are not a strict numerical

average. This might be a case where, to paint the correct picture of the dog's performance that day, a particular performance in one aspect of the test needs to carry major weight in determining an overall score for a particular category.

An interested party reviewing the scores for a UT dog only sees the consensus score for each event, not the horizontal components of nose, desire, stamina, cooperation and obedience that lead to the overall duck search score. In the case above what is the correct picture of the dog's performance? If the dog has a 4 in duck search desire, a 4 in field search desire, a 4 in pointing desire, all primary scores, the dog is likely to have earned a 4 over all in desire at the end of the day. If a consensus 3 is awarded for the duck search with an overall 4 in desire at the end of the day this indicates another problem occurred during the duck search, not a desire issue.

This should make for some interesting discussions over the summer and fall. To be continued at the 2020 Judges Workshop.

In my opinion a dog that takes 9 minutes to get back to the handler with a duck in his mouth is a problem. On my card that dog would not receive a 4 in duck search and would be severely penalized in cooperation and obedience.

UPT and UT Retrieves

UPT (Aims 8/18 pg. 17)

"For the UPT retrieve the dog should bring the bird within reach of the handler to receive a (4), it does not have to bring the bird to the hand. Although, in order to receive a passing score (1), the dog must bring the bird within a reasonable distance and easily accessible to the handler."

UT (Aims 8/18 pg. 24)

"Upon arrival at the handler's position, the dog should sit or stand quietly close to the handler until commanded to release the duck to hand."

UT (Aims 8/18 pg. 26)

"On command, the dog should go quickly to the fallen bird, pick it up, return directly to the handler and the wait calmly until told to release the bird to hand."

I have always been taught and now teach that the retrieve score is broken down into three components
1) Desire, to leave the handler and go to the bird. 2) Cooperation, to pick up the bird, often times out of site of the handler and return to the handler. 3) Obedience, the delivery to hand in the immediate vicinity/ sphere of influence of the handler.

I received a number of questions this past month on retrieving issues. The first one was easy to answer. The UPT dog does NOT have to stand next to the handler and wait until told to release the bird to receive a 4! See the first citation above. **Yes, certainly.**

The second one is a judgement call. I was not there and did not see what transpired so I'm just writing this for discussion purposes. After the shot the UT dog waits to be commanded to retrieve, runs full speed to the bird, immediately scoops up the bird and returns immediately to handler, tail wagging and stops short of handler (how far?) and waits to be commanded to release the bird. The handler reaches

forward, says out and the dog releases the bird to hand. This was not a drive by nor a tug of war for the bird. It was not a classic swing and finish presentation of the bird nor the also classic sit facing the handler and lifting the head to present the bird to the handler. Was the original scenario a 4 retrieve? Did the dog perform 75% of the task?

As you state it depends how far. Reaching down in front to receive the bird would be fine, steps would not be fine.

The thread on retrieving questions lead to the next topic. At the last two Judges Workshops this topic has been discussed and I thought this might supply food for thought while you are vacationing at the beach, poolside or out on the lake fishing, or even training this summer with your NAVHDA friends. This will be discussed at the Judges workshop in Portland, Maine January 2020.

My opinion is that this does not need to be discussed at the workshop, we already did that. I would suggest that this goes out in your communication as a reminder. "This is what we decided and this is how it will be judged". Much the same as we did with the suitcase lead issue.

In the Judges Workshop Notes from 2018 on pages 12-13 and in the 2019 Workshop Notes on pages 18-19 you will see a discussion on leaving live game versus dead game and how these behaviors affect the desire score of a dog in NAVHDA testing. Historically in the Judges Handbook edition 6/1990 "Give a zero in the appropriate area for any dog that turns away or blinks a bird. This includes backing away from a point, moving away from and obviously scented bird, leaving a found shot bird or turning away from a sighted duck. These are crimes of the highest order. When averaging the overall Desire to Work score with one of these zeros included, see that it never totals more than a non-qualifying 1."

The Judges Handbook edition 6/2006 page 17 states "If the dog voluntary leaves a live duck shortly after sighting it, the desire score should be reduced to zero. The overall desire score cannot be averaged higher than a non-qualifying 1."

At the 2018 and 2019 Judges Workshops the general consensus of the vast majority of those judges present was if the dog leaves live game it is a desire issue and is a candidate for an overall non qualifying 1 in desire. Leaving dead game is an obedience / cooperation issue and should be scored appropriately for that event. I look forward to this continuing discussion at 2020 Judges Workshop in Maine.

Again, my opinion on continuing this discussion would be beating the proverbial horse. Remind the Judges in attendance what was decided and move on.

Enjoy your summer.

Chip Bonde

The information below was supplied by Andy Doak, NAVHDA Director of Promotions.

NAVHDA Sponsors and Conservation Partners:

Our NAVHDA Sponsors are an integral part of the success of our organization and have been for many years. It is important to remember to give our sponsors the recognition they deserve and are owed as part of our sponsor and conservation partnership agreements. You as Judges are the face of representing the sponsors at every NAVHDA test or local chapter event, and it is the Senior Judge and the judging team's responsibility to make sure the sponsors and conservation partners are recognized. As a reminder, please follow these guidelines when mentioning our sponsors. Some historical information is also included and may be of help to you in understanding how our sponsors support NAVHDA.

- Our Sponsors and Conservation Partners are to be mentioned at both the opening and closing of each test day.
- We currently have 4 Corporate Sponsors (3 Exclusive and 1 National Sponsor) and 2 Conservation Partners that are to be mentioned. They are:
 - Exclusive Sponsor - Purina ProPlan. Our Purina sponsorship is our longest standing sponsorship within NAVHDA. It dates back to 1985, when the first agreement was put in place. That is 34 years of continued support in countless ways towards the organization. With NAVHDA being 50 years old, Purina has been with us for more than half of our existence. It is important to understand and recognize that long term commitment. There are very few companies in this day and age that show that continued support. Please encourage NAVHDA members to use Purina and specifically Purina ProPlan products.
 - Exclusive Sponsor - Garmin International. Garmin International has been a sponsor of NAVHDA for 11 years, starting in 2007. Around that time period Garmin acquired TriTronics and our TriTronic sponsorship dates back to 1999. That is 20 years of support towards NAVHDA either by Garmin or TriTronics. It is important to remember in addition to substantial financial support, Garmin also provides gift certificates to be used at test events for participants. These gift cards are a direct savings and money back in the pockets of NAVHDA members, and do not benefit NAVHDA International financially. With over 400 test events held annually and over 400 gift cards distributed, which are 20% off retail price of dog related products, the potential for savings to our members is significant. Make sure to ask the test secretary if the Garmin Gift Card was received and distributed.
 - Exclusive Sponsor - Ugly Dog Hunting. Founded and operated by NAVHDA members Terry Wilson and Nancy Ainsfield, Uglydog Hunting has been involved with or supporting NAVHDA for many years. Their support for NAVHDA goes well beyond our corporate support and agreement. Around 2006 Ugly Dog became a sponsor, and has not only supported NAVHDA prior to that but has drastically continued and increased support year after year. Terry and Nancy were behind a significant financial contribution that spearheaded the start of the NAVHDA youth programs designed to get more youths interested in NAVHDA, ultimately helping to grow the organization. Beyond that, both Terry and Nancy support NAVHDA in many other ways including local chapter support, at the annual meeting, the Invitational and supporting other promotional opportunities for

NAVHDA. If you get a chance to see Terry or Nancy in person please thank them for their support, and please encourage others to buy products through their online store, Uglydoghunting.com

- National Sponsor - Dakota283. Dakota283 has been with NAVHDA since 2016 and is not considered a "new" sponsor of NAVHDA as some would think. Dakota283 produces quality kennels and dog related products. In recent years, owner Greg Cronkhite has not only maintain support for NAVHDA but has an interest and is committed to increasing his support in future years. We continue to expand our relationship with Dakota283 and look forward to working together in future years.
- Conservation Partner - Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever. It is important to always recognize both PF and QF. With over 60% of NAVHDA members belonging to PF & QF, many of our members already understand the benefits of membership. PF & QF has been creating and conserving habitat successfully for many years. They have nearly 150,000 members in 700 local chapters, spread across 45 states and parts of Canada as well as over 150 biologist working to create and conserve hunting habitat. Our NAVHDA/PF&QF working partnership has increased substantially with a new agreement signed in early 2019 designed to promote both organizations and increase membership. Please encourage NAVHDA members to join PF & QF.
- Conservation Partner - Ruffed Grouse Society. A longtime supporter of NAVHDA, RGS has provided both financial and promotional support as well as conservation and habitat management guidance to our members. Conserving and creating healthy forests for Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock and a variety of wildlife is who they are. Please encourage NAVHDA members to join RGS.

Our sponsors have supported NAVHDA for many years. Long term sponsors who are committed to supporting the organization help provide financial stability to our organization, ultimately helping with growth. Make sure you give them the recognition they deserve and are owned at each test.