

## COMPANION EVENTS Tracking



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB

July 2013

### **Tracking Dog Urban Test — Effective January 1, 2014**

AKC licensed/member clubs eligible to hold TD Tracking Tests will be allowed to apply to hold the new **Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Optional Tracking Test**. This test is designed to make tracking more accessible to clubs and exhibitors in an urban setting. If your club is approved to hold tracking events of any kind it is eligible to hold the TDU test. Judges eligible to judge TD events will also be eligible to judge TDU events. TDU events will be approved to be held on or after January 1, 2014 and clubs may begin applying for the TDU events after August 1, 2013.

The fundamental features of the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of scenting conditions in an urban environment and to find the articles dropped by that person. This is an optional titling event. Clubs are not required to offer this test and dogs are not required to earn the title to enter a TD, TDX or VST tracking test. [See more information](#) about the TDU Test.

### **AKC Canine Partners<sup>SM</sup> Listed Dogs Eligible to Compete in AKC Tracking Events — Effective January 1, 2014**

Effective January 1, 2014, mixed-breed dogs listed with the AKC Canine Partners Program<sup>SM</sup> will be eligible to compete in AKC Tracking Tests. Beginning August 1, 2013, clubs may submit an application for an all-breed Tracking Test and may offer competition for mixed-breed dogs listed with the AKC Canine Partners<sup>SM</sup> Program at the club's option **for any Tracking Tests held on or after January 1, 2014**.

Applications for Tests have been updated to allow clubs to indicate whether competition will be offered to mixed-breed dogs. If your club has already applied for an event that will take place on or after January 1, 2014, you may still open the entries to mixed-breed dogs by contacting AKC at [Tracking@akc.org](mailto:Tracking@akc.org) or by calling 919-816-3908. The AKC Canine Partners Program<sup>SM</sup> offers clubs an opportunity to increase entries for events that do not typically fill and an opportunity to increase your membership.

### **New AKC Tracking Independent Contractor**

The Companion Events Department is pleased to announce the addition of Mrs. Carol Ruthenberg of Illinois to the AKC Tracking program. Carol has been involved with tracking for over 25 years and started judging in 1986. She is a long time dog fancier and is a dedicated local and national club member. Carol brings a wealth of knowledge to this position and an eager zest to assist judges and clubs. As an independent contractor Carol will be able to continue to enjoy her role as a judge and exhibitor. Please join us in welcoming Carol in her new role.

### **Judging Panels for All Tracking Events**

A Provisional judge **must** judge with an Approved (regular status) judge. No two Provisional judges will be allowed to judge a test together.

### **Contacting and Hiring Judges**

When making initial contact with judges about judging an event, it is imperative that clubs provide judges with the probable times they will be needed for both plotting and test day. Without being told otherwise, judges expect to plot the day before the test, typically from 9AM to ?, depending on the number of tracks, and then judge the dogs from about 9AM – whenever the last dog runs its track. Problems arise when clubs decide to run events outside of normal hours and do not share this information with judges until after they are hired.

### **Event Committee — Club Responsibilities**

Clubs are required to list the Event Committee names in the premium and catalog. At least 5 members must be on site throughout the day(s) of plotting and test day(s). A minimum of 3 members must be available for a hearing should one be called.

### **Test Workers — Who may be at the site when?**

For all Tracking Tests, tracklayers must be present on the day of plotting. For the TDX test, at least one cross-tracklayer must be present for each track. On the day of plotting, only the judges, AKC officials, judge applicants, approved apprentices and those required for the laying of the tracks will be allowed in the vicinity of the tracking fields. Neither clubs nor judges should allow multiple tracklayers on any one track.

All other persons connected with the test, such as exhibitors and owners or co-owners of an entered dog, must not be in the vicinity of the tracking fields. While it is not encouraged, if circumstances at a combined test require, a person entered in one test may lay tracks in another.

### **Tracklayer Etiquette**

While it is the judges' responsibility to instruct the tracklayer so that each track is properly laid, it is the club's responsibility to school their tracklayers on proper tracklayer etiquette. How a track is plotted, where the track goes, if it crosses roads or creeks, if there is standing water, if it goes between two buildings, if the judges changed their minds and did this instead of that, etc., should never be discussed off the track in front of potential exhibitors, owners or co-owners, etc., of entered dogs.

The club must remind their tracklayers that maps must be kept confidential and not left out for public viewing prior to the dog running the track. Additionally, it is the club's responsibility to remind the tracklayers if there is an error in walking the track the morning of the test, the tracklayer is to go directly to the judges, discreetly and privately without any fanfare, to communicate exactly what happened so that the judges can decide if the track is usable.

### **Draw for Entries — Specialty Clubs**

Specialty clubs have the option of opening their tracking tests to all breeds. Specialty clubs may choose either (1) only their own breed or (2) through the use of a lottery draw, may allow other breeds to enter their specialty using the following procedure:

Draw (1) – Specialty breed without a title

Draw (2) – Specialty breed with a title

Draw (3) – Other breeds without a title

Draw (4) – Other breeds with a title

In the case of a combined test where the Exchange Policy will be in effect, the Specialty Breed has FIRST preference in all tests, including the alternate list. Other breeds are serviced after the specialty breed in all instances.

### **AKC National Tracking Invitational — September 28-29, 2013**

**The 2013 AKC National Tracking Invitational (NTI) will be held at the [Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest](#) in Clermont, Kentucky on September 28-29, 2013.**

**To be eligible for an invitation**, dogs must have earned the Champion Tracker (CT) title from January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2013. Priority will be given in the draw for dogs that have not been exhibited in either the 2007, 2009 or 2011 AKC National Tracking Invitational.

The Companion Events Department will notify exhibitors of their dog's eligibility to enter the 2013 National Tracking Invitational by an **electronic invitation** only, which will be sent to the email address on the dog's AKC record. Invitations for the NTI will be sent out electronically no later than August 9, 2013 and entries will close on August 26th. The event is limited to ten (10) dogs. The drawing for the event will take place on Wednesday August 28th.

To receive an invitation, it is imperative that exhibitors check to make sure their email address information is current on their dog's AKC records and that their server is set up to receive AKC emails. There are a couple of options to ensure AKC has your correct email address. The best way is to create a "MY AKC Account" to manage and view your dog's records online. [Click here](#) and follow the instructions to create an account. Or you may contact the AKC Customer Service Department at 919-233-9767.

**For more information about the event, go to the [AKC web site](#).**

### **Event Application Fee Change — Effective January 1, 2014**

Effective **January 1, 2014**, an event application fee of \$25.00 has been established for all tracking tests. This makes Tracking consistent with the minimum fee for other AKC events.

### **A Club is Interested in Offering Tracking Events — What do they need to do?**

First, contact Club Relations at [clubrelations@akc.org](mailto:clubrelations@akc.org) or call 212-696-8211. They will assist your club through the process. Your club will be required to hold a TD or TDU Match (SEE Match Regulations,

Chapter 8). Once completed, the paper work for that event will be reviewed and if approved your club will be granted approval to then hold a TD and /or TDU Test.

Once a club is approved to hold a TD and/or TDU test they may opt to then hold a VST test. Whenever a club wishes to seek approval to hold a VST test they are first required to hold a VST Match. Once completed, the paper work for that event will be reviewed and if approved your club will then be granted approval to hold VST tests.

**Questions may be emailed to [Tracking@akc.org](mailto:Tracking@akc.org)**

We respect your privacy. Please read [AKC's Privacy Statement](#).

American Kennel Club | 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100 | Raleigh, NC 27617  
Customer Care Center (919) 233-9767 | [info@akc.org](mailto:info@akc.org)

**©2013 American Kennel Club**