

HUNT TEST ETIQUETTE

HANDLERS

- Park only in designated areas. Keep roads clear for traffic.
- If your dog barks, park farther away from the test.
- **Be on time for BITCH CHECK. No dogs in heat are allowed in a test or at the test site.**
- Check-in with the Site Marshal and give him your **PROGRAM DOG** number. Remember your number. Ask who you follow by two or three dogs. Keep track of where the running order is. It is your responsibility to be ready, not the Marshal's to get you ready.
- **WATCH THE TEST DOG** and stand in line behind the test handler as much as possible — get on the line after the test dog leaves and rehearse your strategy.
- Look at things that will throw your dog off: things such as hills, wind, cover, paths will be potential obstacles. **BE READY FOR THEM.** Watch the dogs that run before you. If nine out of ten go left on the blind — your dog will probably go left too! **BE READY.**
- **“CHALLENGE THE BLIND”** means don't avoid obstacles — run at the line.
- Plan how much time you will need to adequately air your dog before running the test.
- Air your dog in areas where you will not disturb tests in progress.
- Say only good things about your dog to the judges.
- Keep your eyes on your dog at all times — don't turn around to talk to the judges.
- Handlers should bring their own duck call and wader boots.
- Handlers should be prepared for any type of weather.
- Do not smoke on the line, in the field or in the holding blinds.
- Handlers, Bird Boys, Gunners, Marshals, and Judges are required to wear camouflage or appropriate dark hunting attire.
- Be courteous to other Handlers, Marshals, Judges, Hunt Committee and other Workers.
- If you are only running one stake, be prepared to be bumped in the running order.
- Dogs are to be leashed or crated at all times, except when airing or running a test. Any dog interfering with the dog(s) under judgment will be eliminated from the test.
- Training aids are not allowed, nor can the Handler intimidate their dog while it is on test grounds.
- Accept scores gracefully and consider non-qualifying scores as tools for improvement.
- Judges are volunteering their time and expertise. This is supposed to be fun! Take it easy on your dog, the Judges and everybody else at the test.
- Offer to help out if you are able.
- Drinking alcoholic beverages is not permitted until the “beer dog” runs in the last stake of the day.
- **HELP KEEP GOUNDS CLEAN** – Pick up your trash and any other trash you come across.

SPECTATORS

- Park only in designated areas. Keep roads clear for traffic.
- **CLOTHING** – Try and wear a contrasting color from the background. Be aware of your clothing while in the gallery. White or light colored clothing may draw the working dog's attention away from his handler.
- Spectators should sit far enough away from the line and speak in whispers so as to not disturb the Judges, Handler and dog under judgment (working dog and honor dog).
- Do not talk loudly while a dog is on line or working, and please no loud laughter.
- Do not crowd behind the Handler.
- No dogs are allowed in or near Spectator areas.
- Do not touch or pet a dog without the Handler's permission.
- Do not give tidbits or food to dogs.
- Please extinguish all smoking materials carefully. Do not throw cigarette butts on the ground.
- Offer to help out if you are able.
- Drinking alcoholic beverages is not permitted until the “beer dog” runs in the last stake of the day.
- **HELP KEEP GOUNDS CLEAN** – Pick up your trash and any other trash you come across.

**A ribbon is earned by HOW you picked up the birds.
The straighter the lines and the fewer the whistles, the better.**

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