

Iowa Brittany Club

AKC Pointing Dog Hunt Test

Open to all AKC registered
pointing dogs

Annually, Spring & Fall



Held at

Steelclay Shooting Sports,
LLC

Eddyville, Iowa

Many pointing breed dog owners are looking for field activities that will allow their dog to perform the function for which it was bred. The American Kennel Club Pointing Breed Hunting Test program will provide this opportunity.

Whether you are a diehard hunter or a person who happened to fall in love with a breed that can hunt, you will enjoy watching your dog's instincts come alive through his preparation for and participation in Hunting Tests.

If you are an experienced hunter, the Hunting Test program will keep your hunting companion sharp and physically fit between hunting seasons. It will challenge you to more thoroughly train your dog should you decide to progress to higher levels of performance. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to associate with likeminded dog owners in a healthy, family-friendly, outdoor environment.

General Overview

The purpose of the AKC Hunting Test program is to provide an opportunity for a dog to demonstrate its field abilities in a manner as consistent as possible with the demands of actual hunting conditions.

There are three levels of testing:

- Hunting Tests are open to all AKC registered pointing breeds over six months of age. There are no maximum age restrictions for any of the test levels.
- The dog's natural hunting ability and training are scored against a standard of performance. The standard varies by test level.

Junior, Senior and Master Levels

- Hunting Tests are pass/fail events. Each dog is scored on the merit of its own performance. There are no placements and no ranking of the dogs entered in the test.
- If in the opinion of the judges a dog meets the minimum requirements for the test entered, the dog will receive a passing score, thereby earning a "leg" toward a Junior (JH), Senior (SH), or Master (MH) title.
- All handlers must walk. Judges are allowed to ride horses, or ride ATVs.
- Dogs are to run two at a time (a brace) on the same course.
- Gunning is involved in the Senior and Master tests. All gunning is done by designated gunners.

Junior Hunting Test

Junior hunting dogs are expected to show a keen desire to hunt, be bold and independent, and have a fast, attractive manner of hunting.

They should demonstrate intelligence in seeing objectives and the ability to locate game.

A Junior dog must establish point, but no additional credit shall be given for steadiness to wing and shot.

A "flash" point does not qualify as a point. A blank cartridge shall be fired by the handler.

Junior dogs are expected to show reasonable obedience to their handler's commands.

A Junior hunting dog must achieve four qualifying scores to receive a Junior Hunter (JH) title.

Senior Hunting Test

Senior hunting dogs must show all the attributes of a Junior dog. In addition, they must be steady to wing, staying in position until the bird is shot or they are released.

A Senior dog must retrieve, but the retrieve need not be perfectly to hand. Whenever it encounters its brace mate on point, a Senior dog is expected to honor (stop and acknowledge a dog on point), but it may be give a verbal command to do so.

A Senior dog is expected to stop on a wild bird flush but it may be commanded to do so. A dog that renders a bird unfit for the table or that steals its brace mate's point shall not receive a qualifying score.

A Senior hunting dog must achieve five qualifying scores to receive a Senior Hunt (SH) title, except that if the dog has earned a JH title—then it will receive a SH title once it has achieved four qualifying scores.

Master Hunting Test

A Master hunting dog is expected to be a finished and experienced hunting companion. It must show a keen desire to hunt at a range suitable for a handler on foot.

It must cover ground and intelligently hunt the objectives without ranging out of sight for a length of time that would detract from its usefulness as a practical hunting dog.

It must handle kindly with a minimum of noise from its handler. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain, accurate nose, and intensity on point are essential.

A Master dog must locate game, point staunchly, and must be steady to wing and shot on all birds. The handler shall not command the dog to retrieve until positive steadiness has been demonstrated.

The dog must retrieve promptly, tenderly and absolutely to hand. Whenever a Master dog encounters its brace mate on point it must honor on its own. All commands to the dog while it is on point or while it is honoring are expected to be quiet and infrequent.

A Master hunting dog must achieve six qualifying scores to receive a Master Hunter (MH) title, except that if the dog has earned a SH title—then it will receive a MH title once has achieved five qualifying scores.

The Scoring System

Judges assign a score from 0 to 10 for each category of performance.

Junior dogs are judged in four categories:

- (1) Hunting
- (2) Bird-finding ability
- (3) Pointing
- (4) Trainability

Senior and Master dogs are judged in these same four categories plus

- (5) Retrieving
- (6) Honoring

As dogs advance, their performance is expected to be more finished; therefore, they are judged with less tolerance.

In order to receive a passing score a dog must average 7 across all categories, and cannot receive a score less than 5 in any one category.

For further information on Hunt Tests and upcoming Iowa Brittany Club Hunt Test events, please contact....

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or visit

www.iowabrittanyclub.com then click on Events, and select the current month and year Hunt Test.

We look forward to working with you and your dog, and having you join us for an AKC Hunt Test event!