



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

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Performance Events

April 22, 2009

To: All Pointing Breed Clubs Licensed to Hold Field Trials or Hunt Tests

Subject: **The Use of GPS Tracking Devices at Pointing Breed Field Events**

The GPS tracking collar is a new piece of equipment available to Pointing Breed owners and trainers. The availability of this equipment has raised questions concerning its use in Pointing Breed field events. In January the AKC Performance Events Department wrote to all Pointing Breed parent clubs briefly explaining the current regulations pertaining to the use of tracking collars and requesting input regarding the possible acceptance of GPS tracking devices.

Eight clubs responded. Many individuals also wrote the AKC. Club input was consistent on a number of issues.*

1. The use of GPS tracking devices should be allowed in Pointing Breed field events.
2. AKC should continue to approve tracking devices before their use is permitted.
3. There are significant concerns about the possible misuse of GPS tracking devices to aid the handler and scout. AKC should modify the existing tracking collar regulations in order to address the issues raised by this new technology.

Given the strong consensus regarding the use of GPS tracking devices, the Performance Events Department will recommend the approval of the Garmin Astro receiver and the Garmin DC30 collar for use in AKC Pointing Dog field events along with a revised set of regulations governing the use of tracking devices. The approval of the Garmin unit and the revised regulations will be effective August 1, 2009, assuming Board approval.

Attached below are the draft regulations. Prior to finalizing, the Performance Events Department would like to receive comments. This letter is being e-mailed to all clubs licensed to hold field trials and hunt tests. Clubs are asked to distribute the letter to interested members. Contact information for submitting comments (from either individuals or clubs) is provided at the end of the draft regulations.

Thank you for your thoughts as we implement the use of this new technology into our field events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ljungren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Ljungren

- * All responding clubs supported the approval of GPS tracking devices. The AKC encouraged clubs to submit minority opinions. Based on the input received from clubs and individuals, an estimated 5% of participants are against the use of any tracking device. Further, an additional 10% of participants feel the potential for misuse of the GPS technology is so great that it outweighs the advantages of its use. An estimated 85% of participants feel all tracking devices should be allowed as long as the units are approved by the AKC and there are regulations which address potential issues regarding their use.

Regulations On the Use of Tracking Devices at AKC Pointing Dog Events

The following are Draft Regulations. Please submit comments no later than June 5. Final Regulations will be adopted following the comment period. The new Regulations will become effective August 1, 2009.

The use of tracking devices is solely for locating the dog once the dog is no longer under judgment. Information obtained through the use of a tracking device must not be used to aid the handler, scout or judges. The following regulations on their use will apply.

1. AKC Approved – Only tracking devices approved by the AKC Performance Events Department will be permitted. The collar and receiver must be used as received from the manufacturer. No modifications may be made other than name tags may be added. The collar surface against the dog's neck shall be flat. For future units, approval will include both the collar and the receiver.
2. No Receivers Carried by the Handler and Scout – The handler and scout may not carry a receiver. If they choose to bring their receivers on course, they must be given to the judges or someone designated by the judges.
3. Receivers in the Gallery Must Be Turned Off – No one in the gallery shall track the dogs while they are under judgment.
4. No "Outside" Communications - No one shall communicate in any manner with the handler, scout, judges or gallery any information obtained through the use of a tracking device while the dogs are under judgment.
5. Receivers May Only Be Used Once the Dog is No Longer Under Judgment – Receivers shall only be activated once judgment has concluded. If a dog is gone at time, the dog is still under judgment until the judges indicate otherwise.
6. Dogs Lost From Previous Braces – If a dog is lost from a previous brace, the handler and scout may use their receivers during the next brace solely for the purpose of locating their dog. Once the dog is located, they must immediately turn off their receivers. They must not communicate any information they obtain through the use of their receivers concerning the dogs currently under judgment.
7. Judges May Not Consider Information Obtained Through Tracking Devices – Judges are not to consider any information obtained through the use of a

tracking device. No one shall use information from a tracking device to attempt to influence a judge or to discredit the judge's decision.

8. The use of a tracking collar is an elective by the handler and it is the handler's responsibility to furnish the device. The running of a stake shall not be held up due to the lack of a tracking device.
9. Two-Collar Rule – A dog may wear no more than two collars. All collars shall be worn on the dog's neck. If the handler elects to use a tracking collar, it shall remain on the dog during the entire time the dog is under judgment. If the handler removes the tracking collar, the dog shall be considered out of judgment.
10. Tracking Collars Not Allowed in Call Back Situations – Since the use of a tracking collar is solely for locating the dog, tracking collars are not allowed in call back situations.
11. The use of tracking devices is at the discretion of the host club. For Field Trials, the premium list must state that tracking devices are not allowed, otherwise they will be allowed. For Hunt Tests, the premium list must state they are allowed, otherwise they will not be allowed.
12. Rescinding Use - Use of specific tracking devices may be rescinded at any time by the AKC Performance Events Department if the regulations pertaining to their use become overly difficult to enforce or in the case of repeated misuse.

In addition, the AKC will clarify the Rules pertaining to scouting. It will be more clearly stated that "out-riding" by the scout will not be allowed and that the judges shall instruct scouts to return to the gallery if they feel out-riding is occurring.

Penalty for Misuse of Tracking Devices

The misuse of a tracking device to aid in the handling or scouting of a dog is a flagrant act of poor sportsmanship and is prejudicial to the sport. The dog shall be disqualified from the stake. The accused shall be charged with misconduct. If the event committee determines the charges have been proven, the individuals shall be immediately suspended from all forms of participation in AKC Pointing Breed field events.

AKC has not predetermined the penalty that will be imposed. However, AKC will view this as a flagrant and premeditated act of poor sportsmanship. Penalties may

include any combination of suspension from participation in pointing breed field events, a monetary fine and the loss of the privilege to use a tracking device for a future period of time. Further, the AKC will share tracking device misuse information with the American Field.

Comments

If you have a comment on the draft regulations, please submit them to Lisa Carroll, Manager of Performance Events no later than June 5, 2009.
(approximately 45 days)

E-mailed to LAC@akc.org, or mailed them to:

Lisa Carroll
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