

HUNT TEST NEWS

Hunting Working Airedales, Inc. (HWA) is delighted to announce that the United Kennel Club has accepted the Airedale for titling in the Hunting Retriever Program of the HRC. Carol Ford, Secretary of HRC, Inc. writes:

"The HRC and the UKC have agreed to include Airedales in our gun dog program. Welcome to our family. We look forward to your participation!

Any points earned in the past by Airedales will be retroactive. All the owner must do is send photocopies of passed point receipts to the UKC and the points will be counted towards titles."

HWA would like to thank Steve Gilbert for his work on this issue during the past year and, as always, his work during the past twenty years with Airedales afield.

What is HRC?

"*Conceived by Hunters for Hunters*" is both the philosophy and reality of the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. A non-profit, volunteer organization, HRC is democratically governed by a Board of Directors and an elected Executive Committee. Formed in 1984, the HRC boasts active membership of 8,500+ with 132 Clubs in 36 States and 2 Provinces. While most HRC members own retrieving breeds, participation in events is open to other versatile hunting dog breeds that can do the work.

What is the UKC relationship to HRC?

HRC is affiliated with the United Kennel Club, Inc., Kalamazoo, MI, which carries the registry for the HRC. The UKC offers 5 coveted titles to the HRC program: Started Hunting Retriever (SHR); Hunting Retriever (HR); Hunting Retriever Champion (HRCH); Grand Hunting Retriever Champion (GRHRCH); and Upland Hunter (UH). In keeping with the philosophy of HRC, titles earned are awarded as a prefix to the dogs name on its pedigree as opposed to a suffix to the name. <http://huntingretrieverclub.org>

What's an HRC test?

These tests are similar to the AKC Retriever Hunt Tests, the Hunting Working Airedale Retriever Tests or the North American Hunting Retriever Association (NAHRA) Tests. HRC maintains a common sense, hunting realism in testing Hunting retrievers. There are five ability-based (not age) categories that the dogs may enter in the HRC Tests: Started, Seasoned, Finished, Grand and Upland. Unlike field trials, these are not competitive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place events, but tests where all dogs are judged pass/fail against a "Hunting Standard". There are also, more recently, Upland tests, similar to AKC Spaniel Hunt Tests. Airedales are now eligible for either or both venues.

For the rules:

<http://www.ukcdogs.com/WebSite.nsf/RulesIndex?OpenView&group=HR>

Do I need to register with UKC?

Yes. Lots of obedience competitors dual register their dogs and get both CDs and UCDs (those obedience titles that go in front of the name). Here's how you do it:

<http://www.ukcdogs.com/WebSite.nsf/WebPages/RegistrationRegIndividualDog>

Where are these tests held?

There are quite a few every year, and HWA hopes that this will provide lots of additional opportunities for Airedales to shine.

Tests:

<http://www.ukcdogs.com/Upcoming.nsf/EventView?Open&Group=HuntingRetriever&Type=M&Month=72008>

and premiums:

<http://www.huntingretrieverclub.org/PREMIUMS/PREMIUM%20INDEX.htm>

Hunting Working Airedales, Inc. will consider the possibility of accepting the Canadian WC/WCX and the HRC titles as the "retriever" leg of Hunting Working Airedales, Inc. Versatile titles at our next BOD meeting.

Steve Gilbert would like to thank Claudene Christopher, HRC, Administrative Secretary and to Scott Leichty, HWA & HRC member for their help and understanding in making this possible.

For the future:

AKC representatives attended the Airedale Field Nationals in March, 2008. Subsequent conversations with the AKC and several members of the HWA BOD have made us optimistic that Airedales may soon be eligible for participation and titles in the AKC Hunt program. Get your Airedales ready, the future never looked birdier.

Guns Up!

Dave Morgan
Pres. HWA, Inc.