

AKC Hunt Tests

- AKC hunt tests are a great way to get you and your dog out in the field doing what our dogs were bred to do. That is to be a true companion both in the home and in the field.
- You will get to meet other sporting dog owners of various breeds as all AKC hunt tests are open to any AKC recognized pointing breed. Good people just like you, out to have a fun time with their dog.
- AKC hunt tests are offered for handlers and dogs in varying stages of training development. Junior Hunter for the novice, senior for the more polished and finally master hunter for those who strive for the pinnacle of hunt test titles with a very well trained polished gun dog.
- Hunt tests are not a competition. Judging is based on criteria set forth by the AKC and it is a simple pass/fail test. There exists a Regulations for AKC Hunt Test Booklet which is available from the AKC website at <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/RHTPNT.pdf>
- You can find a list of upcoming hunt tests being held in your area by going to the events page on the AKC website. <http://www.akc.org/events/search/>
- Prior to actually arriving at your first event you will want to prepare yourself by making sure you have a few bare necessities. A good pair of hiking boots or shoes “wellies if is real wet”, a blaze orange vest, a blank pistol, a reversible collar that is orange on one side and yellow on the other is convenient, a stake out for your dog, water for you and your dog, and your lead.



- Arrive early if possible and ask permission to walk the course for a brace of the master or senior dogs. The judges or marshal will advise you where to walk and how far back to stay so as not to distract the handler or the dogs running but you will get a chance to see some really nice dogs and learn what you might have to look forward to.
- Most of the time folks hang around the grounds and make a day of it and enjoy the fellowship of other sporting dog enthusiasts. Most host clubs will have a lunch right there at the grounds for a very minimal charge.



- Running order. When you arrive at the grounds double check with the hunt test secretary where you are in the running order. You will most likely be braced with another dog. If you are listed as top "Top Dog" you will need to show your dog with an orange collar. If you are listed as the bottom "Bottom Dog" you will need to show your dog with a yellow collar.
- Make sure you are paying attention to the dogs going out before you so that you are ready to go out on time. It's a good idea to locate your brace mate and go to the line together a bit early.

- The judges will double check that they have the right dogs at the line and then when both handlers are ready they will tell you to let them go.

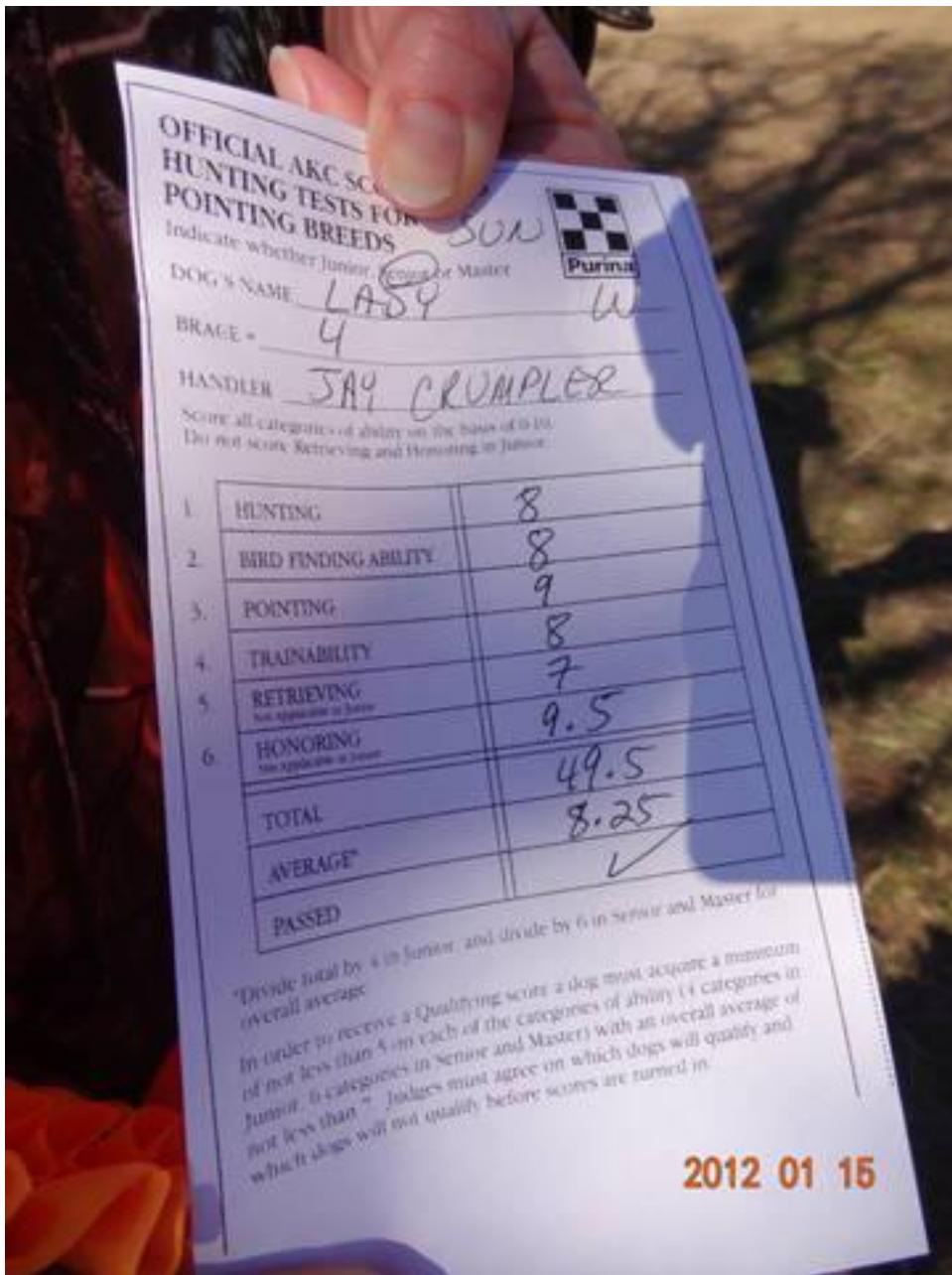


- At this point you must remember one very important thing. Have fun! Breathe! If it is your first time it is very likely that you are nervous but remember this is the fun stuff. Especially at the junior level in your first event or two just get the feel for what is going on and have a good time.

- Walk the course following the directions of the judges. If this is your dog's first time out, don't expect too much but you had better be ready to hold on for a fun time. All dogs react different their first time out. Some might be a little overwhelmed by the horses and the different smells while others run like the wind. The one that is right by the owner's side might also wake right up at first bird contact too. Bottom line is make sure you enjoy the time you are spending out there and always remember that a bad day in the field with your bird dog is still better than a good day at work



- In Junior Hunter you will be given at least 15 minutes to run your dog during which time your dog must in the opinion of the judges hunt actively, show decent trainability and control to the handler, and not only find a bird but point at least half the birds it finds and hold that point long enough for you to be within "reasonable gun range".
- The judges will turn in a score sheet to the secretary with a score and a pass or fail judgment of your dog's performance.



- If you passed, you will be awarded a ribbon from the host club and the AKC will record a leg qualification on your dog's points progression towards his future titles.
- Once your dog had received 4 qualifying legs he will be awarded the title Junior Hunter. Congratulations! You Did It!



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