

Hunting/Working Dog Committee Report

Calendar year 2020 was obviously a unique year which affected conducting and participating in many dog events. This was reflected in titles earned in both the ESSFTA Working Dog Test program and the AKC Spaniel Hunting Test program. This will be my final annual report as chairperson of the ESSFTA Working Dog/Hunting Test Committee. I want to extend a personal thanks to everyone who has been involved with the numerous working dog tests and spaniel hunting tests over the years. Your dedication and committed work to promoting the field activities for the English Springer Spaniel has been invaluable in bringing new English Springer Spaniel owners into the WD Test program and AKC Spaniel Hunting Test program, as well as contributing to the assurance the sporting instinct of the breed remains intact.

There were very few Working Dog Tests offered during calendar year 2020. Due to the decreased event opportunities, there were no Working Dog nor Working Dog Excellent titles earned during the year. This has been a continuing trend over the past few years as the AKC Spaniel Hunting Test program remains a strong and viable testing event.

Input concerning the AKC Spaniel Hunting Test program has indicated that participation has continued to remain steady for the various spaniels. During calendar year 2020 the following titles were earned by English Springer Spaniels (excluding December 2020 events): 10 – Junior Hunter titles; 1 Junior Hunter Advanced title; 13 Senior Hunter titles; 11 Master Hunter titles; 2 Master Hunter 12 titles; 1 Master Hunter 15 title; and 3 Master Hunter Advanced titles.

Congratulations to all those earning titles during calendar year 2020.

Last year a proposal from the ESSFTA Hunting Committee had been forwarded to the ESSFTA Officers regarding consideration for a request to the AKC to have English Springer Spaniel be eligible to enter and run in AKC Retriever Hunting tests. This request originated from ESSFTA members in the Midwest region and was forwarded to the ESSFTA Officers. Due to there being no ESSFTA Annual Meeting last year, discussion will continue this year for possible consideration. If approved at the ESSFTA Board of Governor level the request would then be submitted to the AKC and be discussed and considered within the Performance Events Department and then subsequently at the AKC Board level for final approval, if deemed acceptable to move forward from the Department level. As updates are available, I will attempt to distribute to the membership as quickly as possible.

Wishing the very best to all in your upcoming canine endeavors!!