



ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL/ RECOVERY AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES RULES

FOR 2024-2025 FIELD TRIAL SEASON

The sole purpose of using the retrieval/recovery device in a field trial is to assist the handler in locating a dog that may be lost and which is deemed no longer in judgment. The UKC rules, as adopted by the AFTCA for the use of a dog recovery unit in all recognized stakes, are as follows:

1. The collar and receiver are to be used as received from the manufacturer. The collar may not have any capacity to receive any communication, including to shock, tone, vibrate, or to receive other behavioral commands from any receiver. The collar's sole intended purpose is to locate the dog. No modifications are to be made to the collar other than a name identification plate affixed. By design, the collar must have a flat surface against the dog's neck. All components, including the collar, are not to exceed nine (9) ounces.
2. A receiver is any unit capable of receiving any signal from the collar, including but not limited to handheld devices, watches, and smartphones. ALL receivers in the gallery, including those in the possession of the host club's designee, are to be turned OFF. (No one in the gallery shall "track" a dog while under judgment).
3. Neither the handler nor the scout may have a receiver in their possession while their dog is under judgment. All of their receivers are to be given to the judges or a person designated by the host club.
4. No Outside communication – No one shall communicate in any manner with the handler, scout, judges, or gallery members with any information obtained through the use of a recovery device while dogs are under judgment.
5. A receiver may only be activated once judgment has concluded. If a dog is gone at time, that dog is still under judgment until such time as the judges indicate otherwise or the handler requests the receiver unit. Once a handler requests the receiver the dog is no longer in judgment.
6. If a dog is lost from a previous brace, the handler or designee may use the receiving unit during the succeeding brace solely for the purpose of locating the lost dog. Once the dog is recovered the receiver is to be turned off.
7. The use of a recovery device is at the discretion of the host club. It is the handler's responsibility if they choose to use one, to furnish the device. The running of the stake shall not be held up due to the lack of a recovery device.
8. While competing, a dog shall wear no more than two collars. If a handler elects to use a recovery unit, the collar shall remain on during the entire time the dog is under judgment. Removal of a recovery collar during the competition will result in the disqualification of that dog.
9. Companion collar shall be no more than 2 inches in width and not more than 5oz in weight, used as received from the manufacturer without alteration. The only addition is that of an identification nameplate.
10. It is the responsibility of the handler to give the judge or club designee the receiver unit in the OFF position. A violation shall be the disqualification of the offending handler from the stake (the handler's remaining dogs in that stake may be run by a handler of their choosing should they elect to do so, but the violating handler cannot participate in any way in the remainder of that stake and the dog in that brace cannot be considered for placement in that stake).
11. Any person using a receiver to locate a dog currently under judgment must be reported to the stake manager immediately and the handler and dog are immediately disqualified from the stake. It is the responsibility of the host club to report in writing all violations of these rules to the UKC no more than seven days from the date of claimed occurrence. Failure to report violations can result in the suspension of the club's ability to host Field Dog Stud Book recognized events.

It cannot be reiterated too often that it is incumbent on club officials to ensure the integrity of the drawing and that they apprise trial participants of the rules governing the use of electronic devices at recognized trials.

Field trial participants are advised to keep these pages for future reference.