



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

February 2024

To: All Clubs Licensed to Hold AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Tests

Subject: **Announcing the Launch of the Pointing Breed Master Hunter Excellent Test**

It has been 38 years since the AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Test program was launched. In 2024, a higher testing level called the [Master Hunter Excellent \(MHX\) test](#) will be added to the program. The purpose is to acknowledge the most accomplished dogs that consistently demonstrate their ability to intelligently hunt and provide a finished performance when handling birds.

The [first MHX test](#) was held in November 2023. This test was meant to try out the new testing level and fine tune the Regulations. This has been accomplished. Clubs may now start applying to hold the MHX test. The event application can be found [here](#). The following is a summary of some important considerations as clubs and owners prepare for the MHX test.

The Format of the MHX Test

- Dogs that have earned the MH title are eligible to participate in the MHX test.
- The MHX test consists of two 30-minute series. A dog must receive a passing score in both series to pass the MHX test.
- The MHX test may be held as a stand-alone test, or it may be held in conjunction with a club's regular hunting test. If held as a stand-alone test, it will not count as one of the club's normal number of tests.
- Clubs may hold the MHX test over two days (one series each day) or they may hold one series in the morning and one in the afternoon depending on the number of entries, the weather, and how it fits in the club's overall event schedule.

The Grounds

- The adequacy of the grounds is important to evaluating a dog's hunting ability.
- The back course must be of adequate length, shall not cover the same ground twice, and consistent of logical hunting cover,
- If a bird field is used, the back course must be a minimum of 1.0 mile. If no bird field is used, the back course must be a minimum of 1.35 miles.
- MHX grounds must be approved by the AKC Performance Events Department.
- A list of grounds that have been approved to hold the MHX test can be found [here](#).

The MHX Judging Categories

- The MHX score sheet is different than the score sheet used in the MH test.
- There are five scored MHX test categories – Hunting Desire; Hunting Intelligence; Handling; Bird Work; Retrieving.
- The MHX score sheet can be found [here](#).

The Judges

- A MHX judge must have previously judged a minimum of five MH level tests.
- A MHX judge must view an online MHX seminar and must pass an online MHX judges' test. There is no cost for the online seminar and test.
- To become an approved MHX judge, visit the [AKC Canine College -MHX Overview & Exam](#).
- The judge's information shown in the online [Judges Directory](#) will indicate if an individual is approved to judge the MHX testing level. Additionally, to help club's find MHX judges, a separate [MHX judge list](#) will be maintained during 2024.

The MHX Title

- To pass the MHX test, a dog must average 8.0 or greater in each series and not score less than 5.0 in any category.
- A dog must pass the MHX test three times in order to earn the MHX title.

The complete MHX Regulations can be found at [here](#).

All information pertaining to the Master Hunter Excellent Test can be found on the [MHX webpage](#). For questions about this new test level, please contact the AKC Performance Events Department at pointingbreeds@akc.org. For assistance with a judging record or MHX judging application, please contact: performancejudges@akc.org