

## Request to the ESSFTA BOG

### Request:

- That the ESSFTA submit a request to AKC (on parent club letterhead) that English Springer Spaniels be added to the list of breeds eligible to run in AKC Retriever Hunt Tests

### Background:

The Rogue Valley Sporting Spaniel Club (RVSSC) is a newly organized AKC-affiliate club in southwestern Oregon. The club recently was notified by AKC that they have been approved to hold AKC Mentored Spaniel Hunting Tests under the Mentored program for Performance Clubs. RVSSC intends to organize and host a Spaniel Hunting Test next spring, and then apply to the AKC for approval to also host Spaniel Field Trials. Our long-term intent is to hold one Spaniel Hunt Test, one Cocker Field Trial and one Spaniel Field Trial each year.

The Northwest English Springer Spaniel Club has agreed to act as our “mentor club” for our spaniel events. In addition, a local Retriever Club has agreed to provide “workers” to help us organize and stage the events. Several of the Retriever Club members have also joined RVSSC and are interested in entering their Flat coat retrievers, Labrador retrievers, and Duck Tolling Retrievers in our Spaniel Hunt Tests. To foster good relations with the local Retriever Club, our club secretary (Cindy Williams) has joined the Retriever Club and begun occasionally joining their training days. On the first retriever training day Cindy’s dog, an English Springer Spaniel who she currently runs in Spaniel Hunt Tests and Field Trials, was assessed by the retriever training group (which includes several Retriever Hunt Test judges) as doing work equivalent to a good performance at the Senior Hunter level of a Retriever Hunt Test.

### Reasons to approve the Request:

- English Springer Spaniels are used by many owners to not only hunt upland game, but also to hunt waterfowl
- English Springer Spaniels have the capacity to do the work required in a Retriever Hunt Test
- Many retriever owners are not knowledgeable regarding the qualities of English Springer Spaniels, but could become acquainted with the breed were they eligible to run in Retriever Hunt Tests

In addition

- Having English Springer Spaniels eligible to run in Retriever Hunt Tests, as retrievers are eligible to run in Spaniel Hunt Tests, would help strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the Rogue Valley Sporting Spaniel Club and the Rogue Valley Retriever Club, thereby helping to ensure that the RVSSC has the work force needed to put on successful Spaniel Hunt Tests and Field Trials

### Process:

Should the ESSFTA BOG approve the request, the following process should be followed:

- A letter, on ESSFTA letterhead, should be sent to Caroline K. Murphy, Director of Performance Events, AKC (email address: [Caroline.Murphy@akc.org](mailto:Caroline.Murphy@akc.org); snail mail address: 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617; phone: 919-816-3912; fax: 919-816-4209
- The letter should request that English Springer Spaniels be added to the list of breeds eligible to compete in AKC Retriever Hunt Tests
- Once Ms. Murphy receives the letter from ESSFTA she will put it through and seek approval from the AKC Board. She also will have to coordinate and schedule programming with AKC’s IT Department to ensure their system is ready to accept our breed and generate titles upon receiving quals.