



OFFICIAL UKC[®] ELITE SHED DOG SERIES RULEBOOK

EFFECTIVE MAY 24, 2024

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GENERAL INFORMATION

UKC reserves the right to change any and all policies, fees, etc. without notice.

Schedule of Fees:

Event License Fee - \$25

Event Recording Fee - \$2 per dog entered

Judge's License - \$20

Non-UKC Registered Dog Fee – A \$5 additional fee will be assessed to dogs not Temporarily Listed, Performance Listed, or Permanently Registered with UKC. This fee is to be forwarded to UKC with the event recording fees. Participants whose dogs pass or place have 60 days in which to complete the registration application to UKC. Failure to complete the registration process within the 60 day time period will result in penalty fees being applied to retain points /passes earned. Applicants should include documentation of any points/passes earned when applying for registration papers. Registrations denied will result in no points/passes being credited.

UKC reserves the right to change any and all policies, fees, etc., without notice. All major credit cards accepted for registration and DNA testing.



UKC is the trademark of the United Kennel Club located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The use of the initials UKC in association with any other registry would be in violation of the registered trademark. Notify the Registration Department, United Kennel Club, 100 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584, should you become aware of such a violation.

INHERENT RIGHTS & POWERS OF UKC

(Revised December 18, 2009)

United Kennel Club holds and has reserved to itself certain inherent rights and powers in connection with conducting its business, registering litters, transferring registrations of dogs, licensing events, and awarding titles. These inherent rights and powers include but are not limited to the following: United Kennel Club has the right to inspect all reports, scorecards and documents related to UKC events. Some, but not all, of the items subject to inspection are:

- a) scores;
- b) disqualifications of dogs for fighting or other reasons;
- c) errors by the recording person; and
- d) documentation excluded for any reason.

UKC reserves the right to correct any mistakes found during such inspection whether or not the document has the signature of a Judge or Club Officer. UKC reserves the right to itself and in its sole judgement and discretion, to take such actions and impose such sanctions as would:

- a) Bar an individual from entering or participating in any way in any UKC licensed event.
- b) Bar an individual from transferring or registering any pups or dogs in that person's name (joint or full registration) or to any member of that person's family.
- c) Bar an individual from receiving Championship points for any dog registered in that person's name (joint or full registration).

By way of illustration, the following constitute some, but not all, of the situations calling for the above sanctions:

- a) Falsification or alteration of a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry™ Card or any other UKC document.
- b) Falsification or alteration of any reports of wins issued to UKC
- c) Falsification or alteration of receipts issued by UKC Judges.
- d) Switching, wrongfully using or attempting to use a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry™ Card or any other UKC document.
- e) Selling or attempting to sell a dog with false or incorrect UKC Registration Certificate or Pedigree.
- f) Intimidating, threatening, or injuring a Judge, Club/Association member or official, event participant or spectator, or UKC representative.

The six illustrations given above are only by way of example and UKC reserves to itself its inherent right and power to impose such sanctions in any other circumstances deemed appropriate by UKC.

Any individual who is found guilty by a court of law of a crime involving dogs will be barred from United Kennel Club for an indefinite period. A person shall be considered guilty in a criminal proceeding if they are convicted by a judge, jury, or if they enter a plea bargain or other arrangement to plea to a lesser offense, or if their case is disposed of by any form of deferred adjudication; a person shall be considered guilty in a civil proceeding if they are held responsible or liable by a judge, jury, or if a compromised settlement is reached between the parties.

OVERVIEW OF THE UKC ELITE SHED DOG SERIES

- A. The goal of the UKC Elite Shed Dog Series is two-fold. First is the improvement of dogs used for the purpose of recovering shed antlers by the recognition of individual dogs of outstanding merit.
- B. Second is to provide individuals a family friendly environment in which to enjoy participating in an activity that promotes a healthy lifestyle for all individuals and their dogs.
- C. The Structure of the UKC Elite Shed Dog Series rules is specifically devised to aid in the identification, selection and classification of dogs that hunt in an appropriate style effective for the recovery of shed deer antlers.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - DOGS AND INDIVIDUALS

1. Dogs must be Permanently Registered, Performance Listed (PL), or Temporary Listed (TL) with United Kennel Club with the exception noted above for those dogs which have not completed the registration process.
2. Dogs must be at least 6 months old to be entered in Elite Shed Dog Series events.
3. Dogs must be in good standing with UKC and not currently suspended for fighting.
4. Unhealthy dogs and dogs with a contagious disease are not permitted to enter, participate or be on the grounds at Elite Shed Dog Series events.
5. Dogs shall not be disqualified from participation in Elite Shed Dog Series events for breed specific disqualifications as specified in the UKC breed standards.
6. Bitches in season are eligible to enter and run. Estrous condition must be disclosed to Judge and host/club. Bitches in season will be the last to run on a course and never be allowed to run on a separate course. Bitches in season will not be allowed to be aired out or walked near a course, holding blind or starting line. Every attempt must be made by owners/handlers and host/club to prevent bitches in season from distracting other dogs at the event. Failure to cooperate as determined by the Judge or host/club could result in a disqualification of the dog and competitor.
7. Host/club shall have the option to prohibit bitches in season from competing but shall also indicate such prohibition in all event advertising. Host/club shall refund 100% of entry fee for dogs that are scratched because they have come in season. A competitor must make the host/club aware of the fact that his/her bitch is in season at the earliest opportunity. Failure to do so will result in the dog and handler being disqualified.
8. No entry shall be accepted for any person who is not in good standing with United Kennel Club. Persons who have been suspended or barred shall not be eligible to enter or handle a dog at an Elite Shed Dog Series event.
9. Host/club has right to refuse entry to any dog or handler. However, no handler shall be refused on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age or sex.
10. If an entry fee is paid and funds are found not sufficient, the competitor will not be allowed to enter any Elite Shed Dog Series event until funds have been paid in full to host of said event. Points earned at the event in question will be held up for the dog(s) in question until the situation is resolved.
11. A dog may be entered in the Champion Class without having first earned the Working Shed Dog (WSD) title. A dog that has been entered in the Champion Class, but without any Champion Class passes, may revert back to the Working Shed Dog Class to work towards the WSD title.

HOST/CLUB INFORMATION

1. A host/club must be approved by United Kennel Club to hold UKC licensed Elite Shed Dog Series events.
2. A host/club is limited to six (6) licensed events during any calendar year.
3. Event confirmation forms can be found on the UKC website. A completed event confirmation must be submitted with event details not later than 60 days prior to the scheduled event.
4. UKC will endeavor to maintain a conflict file preventing licensed events from being held within 200 miles of each other on the same date.
5. Monday or Friday events are only allowed a part of 3 day weekend events and must be adjacent to the weekend.
6. Neither UKC, the host/club, members, Judges, property owners or volunteers conducting or assisting with the event may be held liable for injury to person or property which loss occurs during or in connection with the event. Host/club is encouraged to maintain adequate liability and medical insurance coverage for the event.
7. Host/club must select a Hunt Secretary who shall receive, process, approve or reject and keep complete records of all entries and all other documentation pertinent to the operation of the event. Any qualified person who is in good standing with UKC may act as Hunt Secretary. A copy of all hunt records must be filed by the event host/club for a period of one year from the date of the event.
8. In the event of inclement weather, lack of entries or other necessity in the sole discretion of the host/club, the event may be canceled or postponed. Reasonable efforts must be made to promptly notify all persons affected by a canceled or postponed event.

9. A host/club may select from the following event formats:
 - a. A single run format on a single course.
 - b. A double run format on two courses using combined times to determine winner.
 - c. The split flight format for larger hunts
 - i. This format must be advertised in the event posting in order to be held and requires 40 dogs participating in the class on the day of the event in order to split the flight. If less than 40 dogs are present to participate on the day of the event, the flights can not be split. Flights must be randomly drawn. Top 2 dogs from each flight have a runoff on a complete course that they have not run on that day to determine the top 4 placements.
 - d. Two licensed events in one day is not permitted.
10. Host/club may take advanced entries, day of event entries, or both. A day of event entry deadline or deadline to confirm advanced entries must be set. Host/Club to start drawing entries immediately following the deadline. Entries taken after the deadline will run last. No entries in either division can be accepted once the first competitor enters the field for the first run in that division.
11. An event must have a minimum of 35 dogs per flight across all classes before closing the event prior to the entry deadline. New clubs may request a lower limit for their inaugural event.
12. Host/club may set an entry limit per class and entry limit per handler.
13. Running order to be determined by random drawing of entries received by the deadline. Every effort should be made to separate entries for handlers running multiple dogs to facilitate transition of dogs. Once the running order has been set it shall not be changed other than moving dogs who are tardy at the line back 3 places in the running order.
14. Classes to be run in the order of 1) Champions 2) Working Shed Dog 3) Youth.
15. It is recommended that scorecards be sent from Judges to headquarters throughout the trial for the purpose of posting running order status and pre-calculating run time totals.
16. It is recommended that all host/clubs aspire to having at least 4 (four) members obtain their Judge license.
17. Upon completion of the event, the host/club is required to submit a recording fee of \$2 (two) per dog entered with the hunt report to United Kennel Club. Reports filed later than 20 (twenty) days after the event will be issued a late fee.
18. A host/club is free to solicit their own event sponsorships and are encouraged to do so.
19. A host/club is free to purchase awards or prizes they see fit for their event and are encouraged to provide awards for dogs that pass or place.
20. A host club should have adequate ground to host an event. (Adequate ground is defined as enough space for working and champion to be run on separate courses.)

JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant must be in good standing with United Kennel Club.
2. The applicant's character, honesty and integrity must be above reproach.
3. The applicant must have a thorough knowledge of applicable UKC rules and policies and have demonstrated good judgement.
4. The applicant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
5. The applicant must submit a Judge application and test available from United Kennel Club.
6. Upon passing the test the applicant will be sent one apprentice form. Applicant must apprentice at one event with a licensed Judge and be approved by them.
7. Those individuals approved to judge shed dog events in other venues may apply for grandfathered status. Grandfathered judges are required to submit application and test but are not required to serve apprenticeship.
8. All Judge licenses shall be granted or withheld at the sole discretion of United Kennel Club.
9. It is the responsibility of licensed judges to keep up-to-date with rules and policies.
10. Judges/Planters are permitted to run a dog provided there is another licensed Judge or Planter in attendance who can take over their responsibility.
 - a. A Judge/Planter handling his/her own dog must be the first to run on any course they will be judging thereby prohibiting them from running a female in season.
 - b. A Judge may not judge his or her own dog even if it is being handled by someone else.
 - c. Judges/planters cannot run more than 2 dogs in the class they are judging/planting.
11. Judges may tag team alternate runs when necessary for rest breaks, during inclement weather or so that another Judge may run a dog.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- A. An Elite Shed Dog Series course shall be approximately 50 yards wide by 100 yards long. The length and width of the course may vary slightly depending on terrain, cover type and conditions. Extremely heavy cover as well as short, mowed grass cover may not be used.
- B. Course boundaries must be well marked with tape, flags or flagging of a highly visible color.
- C. Each course shall have five (5) sheds planted in six (6) approximate zones (front, middle, back and right/left in each) which are unmarked. The plant locations to be determined by the random drawing of a plant card by the handler immediately prior to their run. Handler will not be made aware of plant. Dog and handler to be completely confined to a holding blind during the plant.
- D. As many as 3 (three) sheds may be partially covered (not more than half) with grass, leaves, snow or a naturally occurring water source for the Champion class only. An artificial water source may not be used.
- E. Antler sheds may range in size from those carried by average to large whitetail deer or mule deer but may not consist of spikes. Antlers must be natural sheds in good condition with no chew marks or splintering. Antlers which have been cut from a skull plate may not be used. Artificial antlers may not be used.
- F. In the event a naturally occurring shed is recovered it is eligible to be scored if it was found on the course. In ambiguous situations, or on the side of the dog
- G. Only an approved Elite Shed Dog Series scent shall be used at all UKC licensed events. Scent must be applied in 1 to 2 inch strips to the antler base, one time and midway along the beam. Scent must be re-applied every 3 or 4 dogs.
- H. Courses are encouraged to be designed with a limited, well-marked area for spectators. Reasonable silence, good manners and sportsmanlike conduct are required of all spectators. Any spectator interfering with any hunt will be directed to leave the grounds.
- I. Shed planters who are stationed near a course may be seated no closer than 20 yards from a course boundary and should make every effort to remain concealed by using a blind or sitting behind trees or brush.
- J. Clubs and/or Judges have the option to toss or hand-place sheds while planting courses. A tossed antler must be visually verified to be a consistent and retrievable plant. A hand-placed antler must be consistently tines up or tines down for each specific plant. Whichever procedure is used for a specific plant it must remain the same for each dog in the class.
- K. In the situation where a replant is required for handlers with multiple dogs, a replant must mean that the course has changed in some way but of a similar/comparable difficulty to the original plant.

GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

- 1. Elite Shed Dog Series requires all competitors, Judges, and Judge's assistants on the course to sign a liability and promotional release prior to their participation in any Elite Shed Dogs Series competition.
- 2. No person handling a dog in the event shall be permitted to be on the course or in the gallery until their run(s) on that course have been completed. Judge's assistants shall have the course planted by someone else before being permitted to run.
- 3. It is the competitor's responsibility to know the course outline and boundaries before leaving the starting gate. Under no circumstances will a rerun be granted because of lack of knowledge of the course and boundaries.
- 4. No competitor allowed on an event course prior to event. However, event host has the option of allowing handlers a course viewing time the evening before or morning of an event. No handlers may view courses after handler's meeting.
- 5. Where necessary due to terrain and course design, a holding blind(s) must be utilized to prevent a handler and dog from seeing the planting of the course for their run.
- 6. A handler may be disqualified for the following reasons. When a disqualification is determined, a competitor will forfeit all points earned for that event.
 - a. Poor sportsmanship
 - b. Mistreating a dog on event grounds
 - c. Unsafe or reckless acts
 - d. Use of drugs or alcohol during the event
 - e. Failure to adhere to instructions host/club or event ground rules
 - f. Behaving in a manner contrary to the best interests of United Kennel Club, the Elite Shed Dog Series or any persons attending the event.
 - g. Anyone who is caught sharing information or otherwise illegitimately obtaining information about plants or blanks will be disqualified and may face further disciplinary action.
- 7. Competitors must keep their dogs on a leash at all times in and around the staging area, headquarters, and holding blinds. Dogs may be aired or exercised away from these areas. Competitors are liable for the actions of their dogs and indemnify Elite Shed Dog Series and host/club for any action of their dog or injury caused thereby. If a dog entered in any event attacks another dog or person, the offending dog must be reported to United Kennel Club by the host/club of the event at the same time the event report is submitted to UKC. Host/club shall have the option of banning any dog that has been

reported to Elite Shed Dog Series as having attacked another dog or person. A dog defending itself from an attack by another dog shall not be reported. If it is unclear which dog started or instigated the attack both dogs should be reported. Any dog being reported for aggressive behavior three (3) times during any two (2) year period will be barred from entering any UKC licensed event.

8. Entry fees are forfeited and non-refundable if a dog or handler is disqualified.
9. Should a competitor have a question with a Judge's decision while on the course, he or she shall leash their dog and ask the Judge to stop the clock to review the call. If after discussing with the Judge the handler wishes to file a formal complaint, it shall be noted on the scoresheet. If not a disqualifying situation, the run will be continued. The Judge will then bring the formal complaint to the attention of the host/club for a final ruling. At the completion of the runs on that course, the host/club will assemble a formal complaint committee made up of three qualified, unbiased individuals to hear the complaint in the presence of the complainant and the Judge only. The decision of the formal complaint committee is final.
10. The accuracy of the information on a scoresheet is the responsibility of the owner or handler. Score sheets must be completely filled out and signed by each handler. Signed scoresheets are final with the exception of a mathematical error.
11. Once the clock has been started on a run, the clock may only be stopped at the discretion of the Judge.
12. In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker will be held. There will be a one shed Timed Retrieve with an appropriately-sized shed placed 30-50 yards out in front of the starting line visible to both competitor and dog. The clock will be started once the dog is released. The fastest dog back to the starting line with a credited retrieve for that class wins the tiebreaker. Dogs are to be run one at a time.
13. If a dog interferes with another dog on the course, the Judge shall stop the clock. The handler must leash their dog. If the interfering dog finds or identifies the location of a shed, a rerun is required. If it is determined by the Judge that the interference did not affect the run, the clock will be started and the run will continue.
14. A rerun may be awarded for various reasons including weather, course obstructions or anything deemed inconsistent in scoring. A competitor that has been injured during a run may not be replaced during the run but may be replaced on subsequent runs by an eligible back-up handler. An alternate shed plant will be necessary if that handler has already run the course.
15. There is to be a handler's meeting before every event. This meeting will explain course boundaries, starting gates, holding blind and on-deck procedures, as well as grounds and event rules. It will also include the order in which classes will be run and the running order for each class.
16. A test dog may be used to verify the fairness of the course but is not required. In the event a test dog is not utilized, the course will be reset if failed by the first three dogs running in a class and those dogs issued a rerun.
17. No judge or shed planter shall plant an antler where the environmental conditions of the day (including wind, thermals and temperature), require the dog to be in another block or out of bounds in order to locate the antler.
18. Rules and regulations may be amended by United Kennel Club as deemed necessary.

RUNNING RULES THAT APPLY TO ALL CLASSES

1. Competitors will start at a designated starting gate. A competitor may not leave the starting gate prior to their dog beginning the run. Dogs may remain on leash until released. No dog will be permitted to run while on lead. Once the dog is released the competitor's time shall start. Time will stop when the final shed is satisfactorily delivered in accordance with the class rules. Time will automatically stop at 15 minutes in both classes.
2. It is recommended that time be recorded to the nearest 100th of a second if time keeping device allows.
3. A dog deemed unruly at a starting gate will be given a warning. If the dog cannot be brought under control and remain steady at the gate until released it will result in a disqualification.
4. There will be no running on the course. One warning will be issued. Second offense will result in a disqualification.
5. Dogs may wear a GPS collar, e-collar, beeper or bell. Judge will have control of the hand-held device. If hand-held device is requested by handler before the completion of the run the dog will be disqualified on that course.
6. Dogs may be cast in a general direction to hunt but may not be handled to a shed.
7. In the event of a handler find, the handler may position themselves no closer than 15 feet from the shed in any direction. Handler may consult Judge to determine distance is adequate.
8. Judges shall attempt to verbally indicate to handler each find. A find is considered to be that point where the dog first makes physical contact with a shed. Once the Judge indicates a find, the handler must stop.
9. Judges shall attempt to verbally indicate to handler the successful completion of each retrieve. A handler may use as much time as they wish encouraging a successful retrieve.
10. A competitor may kneel down but may not lay down to receive a shed from the dog.
11. A handler may not physically assist (ear pinch, grab collar, etc.) the dog during the retrieve.
12. All retrieves must satisfy class requirements for the full retrieve credit.
13. Antlers planted on the course should not be thrown or otherwise used as a reward during or after a run.

14. Cell Phones and GPS devices may not be used by handlers on the course. Any person caught using a cell phone or GPS device for unethical purposes will be dealt with under the Inherent Rights and Powers and the misconduct guidelines of UKC. Violations may result in suspension.
15. No competitor will be allowed to solicit any information about the course or shed locations until their runs have been completed on that course. Any handler/spectator conspiring to cheat will be dealt with under the Inherent Rights and Powers of United Kennel Club which may result in suspension.
16. Because it is difficult for a judge and spectators to be able to distinguish between innocent notetaking and potential cheating/ unsportsmanlike conduct, any notetaking/ documentation is now prohibited while on the course.
17. No cell phones or electronic devices carried by competitor allowed on the course for any ESDS event.
18. Video recording of runs forbidden for any ESD event.

RUNNING RULES SPECIFIC TO CLASS OF COMPETITION

Working Shed Hunter and Youth Class

1. A qualifying run shall consist of the find and satisfactory retrieve of 4 (four) of the 5 (five) sheds planted. Should a find or retrieve be judged not satisfactory, the run may continue until the requirement is met, time is up, or no more sheds remain on the course.
2. The Working Shed Hunter Class plant should be challenging but less difficult than the Champion course.
3. The Youth Class plant will be the same for all youth regardless of the number of times a dog has been on the course.
4. Handlers may retreat a couple steps to encourage the retrieve but may never advance beyond the point where the find was indicated by the Judge.
5. Dogs must deliver to the immediate area of the handler (Judge's decision) but are not required to deliver to hand. Immediate area is loosely defined as a couple steps from the handler and should be discussed at the handler meeting. Judge's decision is final.
6. The clock shall be stopped when handler has final shed in hand.
7. Event host has the option for Youth Class only to use mid-course flagging or cones to help youth handlers understand the six zone concept.
8. **The Use of Treats As Rewards.** Treats may be used in the working dog and youth class however dropping treats on the course will be addressed first with a warning and after a warning is issued the judge may decide if further warnings or disqualification is appropriate.

Champion and Elite Class

1. A Champion and Elite class qualifying run shall consist of the find and satisfactory retrieve of 5 (five) sheds.
2. Champion and Elite class courses should be challenging and increasingly more difficult than the Working Shed Hunter class course.
3. Handlers of Champion and Elite class dogs may not retreat to encourage retrieve.
4. Champion and Elite class dogs must deliver to hand. Judge's decision is final.
5. No physical contact can be made with your dog to aid or assist in the run.

TITLES AND HOW TO EARN THEM

Working Shed Dog (WSD) – A dog competing in the Working Shed Dog Class must earn a total of five passes to earn the WSD title. Dogs who complete the requirements for a WSD title may continue to participate in the Working Shed Dog Class and may earn multipliers of the WSD title for each additional five passes.

Champion Shed Dog (CHSD) – A dog competing in the Champion class must earn a total of 100 Championship points to earn the CHSD title. Multipliers of the CHSD title are not available.

Championship Points Structure

1st – 35 points

2nd – 30 points

3rd – 25 points

4th – 20 points

Pass but not place – 10 points.

Grand Champion Shed Dog (GRCHSD) – A dog competing in the Champion class must earn a total of 300 Championship points to earn the GRCHSD title. Dogs who complete the requirements for a GRCHSD title will continue to compete in the Champion class and may earn multipliers of the GRCHSD title for each additional 300 points earned.

Elite Shed Dog (ESD) – A dog competing in the Champion class must earn a total of three 1st place wins to earn the title of ESD. A dog must beat a minimum of 6 other dogs in the event in order for the 1st place win to count towards ESD. (1st place wins must be earned after earning CHSD to apply to the ESD title.) Dogs who complete the requirements for an ESD title will continue to compete in the Champion class and may earn multipliers of the ESD title for each additional three 1st place wins.

Hall Of Fame (ESDS HOF) – The ESDS HOF suffix will be awarded to dogs that have earned the ESD title and accumulated 1,000 championship points.

YOUTH DIVISION

1. All hosts/clubs are encouraged to offer a non-licensed Youth Class in conjunction with their event.
2. There is no UKC recording fee charged to dogs entered in the Youth Class.
3. The youth class shall be open to young handlers between the age of 5 years and 15 years. Youth who are 15 years old at the start of the season are eligible to participate.
4. The Youth Class will be run in accordance with the rules for running the Working Shed Dog Class.
5. A dog of any title classification may be entered in the Youth Class.
6. A dog may be entered in the Youth Class that already participated in the licensed portion of the event that day.
7. A mentor may accompany a youth handler on the course and provide verbal assistance to the handler only. A mentor may not by voice or any other means handle the dog.
8. No dogs will receive pass credits towards titles for a pass or placement in the Youth Class.
9. A youth handler may only enter one dog per event in the Youth Class.
10. The youth class will consist of one run even if the event is advertised as a double run format.
11. Youth handlers that complete the course requirements within the allotted time will be credited with a Youth Class placement or pass. Clubs must also report Youth Class entries that do not pass.
12. The youth points exist only for the purpose of youth handler of the year tracking and are as follows:

Youth Handler of the Year Points Structure

1st – 1 point for each dog entered in the youth class (1 X # of dogs entered)

2nd – 0.75 point for each dog entered in the youth class (0.75 X # of dogs entered)

3rd – 0.5 point for each dog entered in the youth class (0.5 X # of dogs entered)

4th – 0.25 point for each dog entered in the youth class (0.25 X # of dogs entered)

Pass but not place – 0.1 point for each dog entered in the youth class (0.1 X # of dogs entered)

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UNITED KENNEL CLUB
100 East Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584
Tel: (269) 343-9020
www.ukcdogs.com