



We've got rats! We've got tunnels!

The only thing missing is you (and your dog)!

The Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Washington DC is hosting an Earthdog Event in Taneytown, MD.

September 23-24, 2017

We have IQ, Junior, Senior and Master Certification Tunnels and Judges!
(Judges are pending AKC approval)

All dogs six months of age or older from the following AKC Recognized Breeds are eligible to participate in Earthdog Events.

Australian Terrier
Bedlington Terrier
Border Terrier
Cairn Terrier
Cesky Terrier
Dachshund
Dandie Dinmont Terrier
Glen of Imaal Terrier
Jagdterrier
Lakeland Terrier

Manchester Terrier
Miniature Bull Terrier
Miniature Pinschers
Miniature Schnauzer
Norfolk Terrier
Norwich Terrier
Parson Russell Terrier
Rat Terrier
Russell Terrier
Scottish Terrier

Sealyham Terrier
Silky Terrier
Skye Terrier
Smooth Fox Terrier
Welsh Terrier
West Highland White Terrier
Wire Fox Terrier
Yorkshire Terrier

The following information (between the red lines) was copied directly from the AKC Website (Earthdog tab):

- Dogs of these breeds recorded with the Purebred Alternative Listing Program/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP) or dogs with Conditional registration are eligible to participate.
- Spayed and neutered dogs are eligible to participate.
- Monorchid or cryptorchid males are eligible to participate.
- Bitches in season are not eligible to participate.
- Blind and/or deaf dogs may not participate.
- Dogs with Limited Registration are eligible to participate.

The purpose of non-competitive earthdog tests is to offer breeders and owners of small terriers and Dachshunds a standardized gauge to measure their dogs' natural aptitude and trained hunting and working behaviors when exposed to an underground hunting situation. The non-competitive program begins with a basic introduction to "den work and quarry" and progresses through gradual steps to require the dog to demonstrate that it is willing to perform the required tasks, including seeking and locating its quarry underground. Fear not, rodent lovers: The rats are safely caged and are not harmed. In fact, many participants keep rats as pets for use in earthdog trials.

For generations small terriers and Dachshunds were bred as hunting dogs to track game above and below ground; to bark at their quarry in the den and to bolt or draw it for the hunter. Now these wonderful little dogs are very suitable as family pets, however, they sometimes have to be trained not to bark at every little noise and not to dig in the yard or garden. Barking and digging are what they were bred for all those years, so now AKC has developed the three levels of Earthdog tests for these game little dogs.

INTRODUCTION TO QUARRY

The initial test is the Introduction to Quarry (IQ) where the dog is introduced to a 10 foot tunnel with one right angle turn and at the end is a cage of rats behind a set of bars. There is a scent trail of rat scent leading into the tunnel and to the rats. At this level the handler can encourage the dog into the tunnel and the judge may help get the dog working at the rats by shaking the cage or making a noise to incite the dog's instincts.

JUNIOR EARTHDOG

The first level where a title is earned is the Junior Earthdog test where the dog may earn a Junior Earthdog title (J.E.). The dog must travel a 30 foot den with at least three right angle turns in 30 seconds (45 seconds effective July 1, 2016); work the rats at the end of the tunnel (in a cage behind bars as in IQ) for 60 seconds; and then allow the handler to remove him without injury to the dog or handler. Once the dog completes these requirements twice under two different judges he will receive the title of J.E. and receive a Junior Earthdog certificate from the AKC.

SENIOR EARTHDOG

The second level of Earthdog test is the Senior Earthdog test where the dog may earn a Senior Earthdog title (S.E.). The den is 30 feet with at least three right angle turns and there are the added distractions of a false, unscented exit and an unscented bedding area with used rat bedding at the end. The dog has 90 seconds to travel the tunnel length and get to the rats; must begin working the rats within 15 seconds of arriving at the end of the tunnel; and must work the rats for 90 seconds. At the end of the 90 seconds the rats are removed and the dog must recall from the den to the handler within 90 seconds. Once the dog completes these requirements under two different judges at three different tests, the dog will be designated a Senior Earthdog (S.E.).

MASTER EARTHDOG

The final level of the Earthdog test is the Master Earthdog (M.E.) title. The dog must actually hunt his way to the den with a bracemate 100 to 300 yards. On the way he must investigate an empty, unscented den when the handler asks him to. Then both dogs must find the entrance to the den and mark it decisively so that there is no question the dog is indicating an active den. The den itself is like the Senior den with the addition of two obstacles: a 6 inch diameter PVC pipe crossways in the den to simulate a root and a narrowing down to 6 inches for a distance of 18 inches. The Master competitor has 90 seconds to get to his quarry; must work the rats for 90 seconds and must allow himself to be removed from the den by his handler within 15 seconds. While one dog is working the other dog is staked out and must wait his turn with minimum amount of noise while his bracemate works the quarry. Once a dog successfully completes all parts of the Master test four times under three different judges the dog shall be designated a Master Earthdog and may continue to compete at all three levels at Earthdog tests.

Few small terriers and Dachshunds are regularly hunted to ground by their owners in natural hunts, but the AKC Earthdog tests allow these game little dogs an outlet for their excess energy and instincts in a way that benefits the dogs and the owners.

If you have any questions, please contact either of us. We'll be happy to provide any additional information you need for this fun and exciting event! Jeff Waite (240-401-2299) (waiteja45@aol.com) or Lori Waite (240-460-6037) (loriwaite@aol.com).