

**ENGLISH COCKER SPANIEL
FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME
By-Laws and Operating Procedure**

As adopted and approved by
The English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame Committee
December 6, 2011 and revised January 14, 2012.
Amended: April 4, 2013, August 22, 2013, March 25, 2014, May 24, 2016

(Nominations open June 1 and close August 31st of each calendar year)

The English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame is one of several breed organizations that are part of the Bird Dog Foundation located in Grand Junction, Tennessee. These breed organizations include Pointer/Setters, German Shorthaired Pointers, Brittanys, Irish/Red Setters, Retrievers, and English Springer Spaniels.

“The Bird Dog Foundation is dedicated to preserving the past and protecting the future for bird sporting dog fanciers the world over” (From the Mission Statement of the Bird Dog Foundation)

The Bird Dog Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization and is a 501c3 tax-exempt entity. It oversees the National Bird Dog Museum, the Field Trial Hall of Fame and the Wildlife Heritage Center. The National Field Trial Hall of Fame includes the different breed Field Trial Halls of Fame and the English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame has become one of these.

The objectives and purpose of the English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial of Fame (hereafter referred to as: ECSFTHOF) is to create a legacy and to honor purebred English (and American) Cocker Spaniels which have competed in spaniel field trials. It serves as a repository for information, artwork, photography and appropriate memorabilia related to the history and achievements of the breed in the USA. It will recommend the recognition of worthy individual people and dogs for induction and will provide a place where the public can visit to learn more about the English and the American Cocker Spaniel as field dogs. All worthy Cocker Spaniels (English or American) competing in AKC field trials may be considered as candidates for the Field Trial Hall of Fame

BE IT RESOLVED that the “English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame Selection Committee (ECSFTHFC) constitutes a standing committee of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA) and shall constitute a standing committee of the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc., that the ECSFTHFC shall carryout their responsibilities in accordance with the following operating procedures:

OPERATING PROCEDURES

(Definitions of all acronyms can be found at the end of this document)

Section 1. Composition of the Field Trial hall of Fame Committee

A) All individuals elected to the ECSFTHFC shall have or have had extensive experience field trialing cocker spaniels. Committee members should be people who have been, or are currently involved with

field trials and are knowledgeable about cocker spaniel involvement and the history of the sport. The ECSFTHFC shall consist of seven (7) individuals divided into two classes.

B) Each Committee member shall serve a term of three (3) years with the seven such members belonging to two Classes, with staggered terms.

C) A committee member may serve no more than two consecutive three year terms. These term limits begin at the time of the committee member's election or after they have completed an appointed term by filling a vacancy on the committee and were then elected on the next ballot.

Section 2. Committee Nominations and Election

A) Nominations for prospective members of the ECSFTHFC shall be submitted to the ECSFTHFC Chairperson prior to the expiration of the class of membership stated above and by a date determined by the current ECSFTHFC. Nominations can be made by any individual who has an English or American cocker spaniel eligible to run in the National Cocker Field Trial Championship (NCC) for the current year as well as by any prior ECSFTHFC or ECSCA Field Trial Committee members. Nominees shall have extensive experience field trialing cockers. The nomination must include the full name, address, email address and phone number of the nominee and a short biography which details the nominee's credentials. This biography will be sent out with the ballot.

B) Ballots will be sent to each owner of a dog which has qualified for the NCC of that year. If there are two or more owners for one dog [co-owners] they get just one vote. The owner shall receive one vote, regardless of the number of dogs they have qualified

C). ECSFTHFC members shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast.

D) If at any time there is a vacancy in the post of Chairperson of the Committee, such vacancy shall be filled automatically by the ECSFTHFC from its current members.

E) The Chairperson of the committee is elected from within the ECSFTHFC by the committee members and shall serve in that role for up to three years and can be re-elected by the committee to serve in that role for up to three additional years.

F) If there is a vacancy in the committee membership for any reason (including, but not limited to, a former member's death or resignation) such *vacancy* shall be filled by the ECSFTHFC, selecting from the field trial community, a suitable person possessing the necessary skills and experience. This person shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election of that class member.

G) Removal of an ECSFTHFC members can be made if the member's conduct or behavior is deemed to be in conflict or detrimental to the purpose of the group. Such removal shall only take effect if the group, other than the person being charged, votes unanimously to remove the individual from the ECSFTHFC.

Section 3. Nominations to the ECSFTHFC

Nominations open June 1st and close August 31st of each calendar year.

Dogs

The ECSFTHF honors field trial dogs that have exhibited excellence in the field and made a significant contribution toward furthering English and American Cocker Spaniels in the field. Typically, these dogs are the ones that have been dominant in AKC field trial competition as demonstrated by multiple placements in various field trials nationwide. These dogs often will have produced offspring that have gone on to excel in the field and become Field Champions.

A nominated dog must be an AKC Field Champion. Dogs must be deceased for at least one year prior to being nominated to the ECSFTHF. A dog should be considered based on performance during its entire competitive career. Winning a National Championship does not necessarily make a dog an eligible nominee and should not overshadow an entire career. Nor should the lack of an NCC Title eliminate a dog if it has other NCC placements and multiple field trial wins. The dog's ability to perform for different handlers and in different regions of the U.S.A., Canada and the U.K., would be considered an admirable quality, but, not make a dog automatically eligible.

The future of the English Cocker Spaniel and American Cocker Spaniel depends on dogs producing excellent progeny. Therefore, a dog's progeny and their quality should be a strong consideration.

Other items to consider when nominating a dog to the ECSFTHF are: consistent high placements in open and amateur AKC field trial events, high point dog for a given year, or a winning of multiple NCCs and foreign field trial championships or foreign national championships.

We may accept a foreign dog that has not earned an AKC FC title, but did make a significant impact on the bloodlines in the USA. For a foreign dog to be included in the ECSFTHOF, it must receive a unanimous vote by the ECSFTHOF Committee Members and no less than five of the seven members must be present either in person or by conference call.

Certain dogs, during the course of their trialing careers, have been recognized by the field trial community as the "dog to beat" whenever they competed. Such reputation might also be taken into consideration.

Individuals

ECSFTHF honors individual people who have made significant contributions over their lifetime to the sport of spaniel field trials. Individuals to be nominated and elected to the ECSFTHF should have an exemplary service record to the sport of field trialing.

Individuals should be nominated based on the total contributions they have made of time, talent, or treasure. All persons should be respected by their peers as unselfish givers and have exhibited good sportsmanship at all times. People having long term involvement with the sport of cocker field trials through service such as a Patron, FTC or ECSFTHFC Member, Chair of an NCC and local trials, Gunning FT and NCC, Judging FT and NCC, handling, training and owners of dogs that have earned titles (FC, AFC, NCC, CNFTC, ENFTC, etc.) are qualities one looks for in nominating a person to ECSFTHF.

All people nominated to ECSFTHF must be deceased or 65 years of age or older. This award should reflect one's entire lifetime achievement and although, some may still be active after age 65, it was felt the recipient need not be deceased to be recognized.

Section 5 – Nomination Procedure

Nominations will be sent to a person designated by the ECSFTHFC as the Nomination Chairperson. This could be a current committee member or a person outside of the committee that is appointed to this position. After nominations are received for both dogs and individuals, the ECSFTHFC will meet to discuss and vote on each dog and person nominated. The members of the ECSFTHF Committee will consider the entire list of dogs and people nominated *both past and present* and select three (3) dogs and three individuals to be combined on the "short list".

The Committee members will discuss and vote on each nomination individually in an open ballot. The two dogs and two individuals receiving the most votes, providing they received at least 4 (four) votes each, will be inducted into the ECSFTHF. The induction year will be assigned to the inductee based on the year during which the vote occurred.

In the event that more than two dogs or people receiving four (4) or more votes are tied, there will be a runoff vote for dogs or persons tied in the first ballot. Each ECSFTHFC member will only be permitted to cast one vote in the runoff. The dog or person receiving the lowest number of votes will be dropped so that only a maximum of two dogs and two people may be elected each year.

There shall be no requirement to elect any minimum number of dogs or people. In the event that no dog or person receives four or more votes, then no dog or person shall be elected for that year.

If a dog or person is nominated to the ECSFTHF and is not elected, that dog or person will be added to a list of past nominees. This list will be combined with the new nominees to form the complete list of nominees to be considered for future consideration.

An exception may be made for any individual or dog that is a worthy candidate for the Hall of Fame. Approval of any exception would necessitate a unanimous vote by the HFC with at least five members of said committee being present.

If a dog or person is on this list for three years and is not elected to the ECSFTHF, or a nominated dog or person does not receive at least one vote, that dog or person will be removed from the list, but can be re-nominated.

Section 6. Certain Limitations on Eligibility

Neither an ECSFTHFC member (nor a member of his/her immediate family), nor a dog owned or handled in competition by such member (or an immediate family member of such member), shall be eligible for selection to the ECSFTHF at any time while such person serves on the ECSFTHFC.

Immediate family member shall include spouse, significant other, mother, father, children, including adopted children.

Section 7. Amendments

These by-laws and operating procedure are meant to stand the test of time. However, it may be found that portions of the by-laws are unclear or do not properly serve the English Cocker Spaniel field trial community and need to be amended. Any member of the ECSFTHFC can propose an amendment. If the amendment is seconded, following discussion, a vote will be taken and if the amendment receives five (5) votes in favor it will pass, otherwise the amendment will fail.

Section 8. Induction Process

All breeds in the Gun Dog Field trial hall of fame hold their Induction Ceremonies at the Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, TN. This event is held on the weekend prior to the second Monday in February. This is a big festivity for all attending, and includes a program book with pictures and information on all inductees. This ceremony includes the presentation of the Hall of Fame induction scroll to the owners, individuals, and/or family members inducted that year. The ECSFTHFC Chairperson or another designated committee member works with the Bird Dog Foundation Field Trial Hall of Fame Museum representatives to insure all proper information is collected for the inductees and the ceremony.

Definitions

AKC	-	American Kennel Club
AKC AFC	-	American Kennel Club Amateur Field Champion
AKC FC	-	American Kennel Club Field Champion
AKC NCC	-	American Kennel Club National Cocker Championships
CNFTC	-	Canadian National Field Trial Champion (Foreign Title)
ECS	-	English Cocker Spaniel
ECSCA	-	English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (Parent Club)
ECSFTHF	-	English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame
ECSFTHFC	-	English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame Committee
ENFTC	-	English National Field Trial Champion (Foreign Title)
FC	-	Field Trial Champion (AKC Title, U.S.)
FT	-	Field Trial(s)
FTC	-	ECSCA Field Trial Committee
NCC	-	National Cocker Championship