



Bracco Italiano Club of America

2019 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

JUNE 1ST- 5TH

LOVELAND, CO

My disclaimer

- ▶ I created this presentation designed to give you an overview of the events to be held at the 2019 BICA specialty. This does not define specific rules for each event and is simply a guideline to help you fully enjoy the events!
- ▶ If you have any questions please refer to the rules and regulations for each event. You can also email Jennifer Caban at cmelon22@aol.com if you have questions.

The Events

Please refer to the premium for schedule of events and info on how to enter

- ▶ BICA Hunt Evaluation (Slide 4-7)
- ▶ BICA Italian Specialty Show (slide 8-12)
- ▶ AKC Open Show styled show (Slide 13)
- ▶ AKC Hunt Test (slides 14-22)
- ▶ AKC Water Retrieve Test (slide 23)
- ▶ NAVHDA Hunt Test (Slide 24-31)
- ▶ Hunt Training Seminar/Health Seminars (Slide 32)

BICA Hunt Evaluation

Field evaluation using the Pastrone Working Standard- evaluation and critique card by judge Riccardo Laschi (Italy)

- ▶ There are 2 levels of hunting ability to be evaluated
 - ▶ Advanced Hunter
 - ▶ Beginner Hunter
- ▶ Each participant will receive a written evaluation card from Riccardo Laschi
- ▶ This evaluation is not pass/fail but a chance to see how our dogs hunt compared to the style the Italians use
- ▶ Placements will be award 1st- 4th in each division
- ▶ One Best in Field will be awarded by Mr. Laschi

BICA Hunt Evaluation

- ▶ The following are the criteria scored by Mr. Laschi. This is not a pass/fail but the evaluation gives you an idea of how well he feels your dog performed. Beginner dogs will NOT have birds shot and therefore do not retrieve. Advanced dogs will have birds shot by official gunners and therefore must retrieve. Scores will be Fair/Good/Excellent

	Category	Notes
Fair/Good/Excellent	Hunting/Search	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Bird Finding Ability	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Pointing	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Cooperation w Handler	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Retrieving (not in Beginner)	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Working Standard Use of Nose/Scenting	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Working Standard Gait/Trot	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Working Standard Tail Carriage	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Working Standard Head	
Fair/Good/Excellent	Working Standard Temperament	
	Overall	

Pastrone Working Standard Info

- ▶ This evaluation is designed to see how closely our dogs work like the standards set in Italy (notes taken from comment on the standard by Manfroni)
- ▶ The search (use of nose/scenting) is a lively movement that covers ground well. During the hunt the dog should quarter at distances of about 100 meters (330ft) or more from the handler well spaced in relation to his excellent smell.
- ▶ Gait/Trot- The gait is a long and brisk gait. Brief periods of galloping are allowed when re-crossing previously covered ground, at the beginning of the hunt or when the dog encounters a new situation. Above all the rule when working scent is the trot. The trot of the Bracco must be lengthened and not an ordinary heavy ambling gait.
- ▶ The tail- The search is extremely diligent and enlivened by the rhythmic, almost continuous, side to side motion of the stub of the tail. The tail is carried on the horizontal plane with the rhythmic motion of the trot.

Pastrone Working Standard Info

- ▶ Head carriage- The bearing is very erect, with the neck a little outstretched, to have a head quite high with the nasal pipe strongly inclined on the horizontal line (towards the land)
- ▶ Temperament- The Bracco should show brave initiative to search in all terrain.
- ▶ “To hunt with a Bracco rich of means and style, it is really an attractive thing and highest poetry, without getting nervous, with the most cordial and peaceful collaboration between dog and hunter, for the delight to explore the ground, to contemplate a majestic service, to hit with a calm and secure gunshot. Also outside the ground of hunting the Bracco is a companion that knows how to understand, to love and to be loved”

BICA National Specialty Show

This Conformation show is judged by Riccardo Laschi (Italy)
all entrants will receive a written critique from the judge

- ▶ Conformation shows judge the dog/bitch against the standard and awards the closest representation to the breed standard. Entrants must be in tact unless otherwise specified.
- ▶ Classes for this show all classes divided by sex:
 - ▶ Junior Showmanship (not divided-sex of dog not relevant)
 - ▶ 6-9 month puppy
 - ▶ 9-12 month puppy
 - ▶ 12-18 month puppy
 - ▶ Bred by Exhibitor
 - ▶ American Bred
 - ▶ Open
 - ▶ Field Titled
 - ▶ Veteran 7+ years old (may be altered)
 - ▶ Altered
 - ▶ Stud Dog
 - ▶ Brood Bitch

Class Descriptions

- ▶ Junior Showmanship- Judges the Junior handler (18 years or younger) on their handling skills. Dog/Bitch does not need to be intact and is not under judgement. No further judging beyond Jr Showmanship
- ▶ 6-9 month puppy- between 6 months and under 9 months on day of show
- ▶ 9-12 month puppy- between 9 months and under 12 months on day of show
- ▶ 12-18 month puppy- between 12 months and under 18 months on day of show
 - ▶ Winners from each class, male and female move on to compete for Reserve and Best Puppy in Show as well as move on to compete for Winners Dog/Winners Bitch with the winners of classes on the next page

Class Descriptions

- ▶ Bred by Exhibitor: Dogs that are 6 months or older on the day of show. Must be bred by the handler (exhibitor) and owned or co-owned by the exhibitor. Must be shown by the breeder/owner from start to finish of the show.
- ▶ American Bred: dogs 6 months or older who were bred and whelped in the USA
- ▶ Open: Open to all dogs 12 months or older
 - ▶ This is the class you would enter if you do not qualify for any other class
- ▶ Winners of each class above (and winners of classes from previous page-puppies) will move on to compete for Winners Dog/ Winners Bitch.
 - ▶ The Winners Dog and Winners Bitch advance to Best in Show Competition

Class Descriptions

- ▶ Field Titled: Open to any intact dog/bitch who has earned a hunting title through AKC, NAVHDA, UKC by the date entries close
- ▶ Veteran: Open to dogs/bitches who are 7 years or older on the day of the show
 - ▶ Veterans DO NOT need to be intact
 - ▶ The winner of the Field Titled Dog and Field Titled Bitch as well as Veteran Dog and Veteran Bitch class move on to Best in Show Competition with the winners dog and winners bitch
- ▶ Additional Classes: (not eligible for best in show)
- ▶ Altered: open to spayed females or neutered males
 - ▶ Best Altered will be awarded
- ▶ Stud Dog: (3 get max) evaluates the stud on consistency and type of get produced- offspring must be intact but stud may be altered
- ▶ Brood Bitch: (3 get max) evaluates the bitch on consistency and type of get produced- offspring must be intact but bitch may be altered
 - ▶ The handler of each dog must wear an armband, the owner of the stud/brood do not need to own the offspring, offspring only judged on their merit

The Rules of Double Entering

- ▶ You may enter classes your dog/bitch is eligible for however if you enter more than one class- you **MUST** remain undefeated in order to go for Best of Breed (best in show).
- ▶ An Example: If you enter Bred by Exhibitor and Field Titled you must win both classes. If you do not win both classes either loss negates the other win and you may not advance to winners dog/bitch competition or further
- ▶ Any questions just ask show chair Jennifer Caban
cmelon22@aol.com

Parent Club Specialty Show

AKC Open Show Format
Judge Richard “Dick” Quaco (USA)

- ▶ This is another opportunity for those of you who enjoy conformation shows. This show will follow the AKC Open Show format.
- ▶ Only in tact dogs are eligible under AKC open show regulations therefore all dogs/bitches must be in tact to enter any class other than Altered which will not compete toward best of breed/Best in Show
- ▶ Classes Offered (all classes divided by sex):
 - ▶ 4-6 month puppy
 - ▶ 6-9 month puppy
 - ▶ 9-12 month puppy
 - ▶ Bred By Exhibitor*
 - ▶ American Bred
 - ▶ Open
 - ▶ The Winner of each class will compete for winners dog/winners bitch
 - ▶ The winners dog and winners bitch will compete for Best of Breed/ Best in Show
 - ▶ The Bred by class must be handled by the breeder/owner or co-owner from start to finish
- ▶ Altered- not eligible for Best in Show
 - ▶ the winner of altered dog will compete against the winner altered bitch for best of altered

AKC Hunt Tests at a glance

- ▶ There are 3 main levels to the hunt test for AKC as well as advanced levels of each main level. All of the tests below are run in a brace (2 dogs at a time). Braces are randomly assigned and entrants are notified a few days prior to the test who their brace mate will be. There are elements in each test scored from 0-10 with no score lower than 5 and an average of 7 required to pass. (average of 8 in advanced levels) Judges can be on foot, horseback or ATV for these tests. Tests are pass/fail and not competitive with brace mates- all dogs have the chance to pass
 - ▶ Junior Hunter/ Junior Hunter Advanced
 - ▶ Senior Hunter/ Senior Hunter advanced
 - ▶ Master Hunter/ Master Hunter Advanced

The advanced level is for dogs who have already earned the base title but wish to continue to compete in their level without moving up to the next base level.

AKC Junior Hunter

- ▶ Junior Hunter is designed for the dog who has had exposure to birds but may not be a fully trained hunting dog.
- ▶ In this test braces are run for approximately 20 minutes
- ▶ Dogs must find and point birds and must have a blank shot fired when the bird flushes
 - ▶ Dogs must point at least 50% of the birds they come in contact with
 - ▶ They do not have to be 100% steady, if the judge sees the point then the bird is flushed it still counts as a point. Dogs who are steady to the handler flushing are scored higher than dogs who flush their birds. Dogs can chase after the flush but should be able to be called back or return to hunting in a reasonable amount of time
 - ▶ Handler must fire a blank shot when the bird is flushed if within a reasonable distance to the dog

There is no live fire, so no shooting of birds and therefore no retrieve

AKC Junior Hunter

The following are scored from 0-10 with no score lower than 5 and an average of 7 required to pass (average of 8 if advanced)

Hunting- a keen desire to hunt , boldness, independence, a fast yet useful pattern of running

Bird Finding Ability- demonstrates intelligence in seeking objectives, use of wind and ability to locate birds

Pointing – Based on the intensity of the point as well as ability to pinpoint birds under difficult scenting conditions a flash point is not considered a point however score is not influenced by steadiness to wing and shot

Trainability- willingness to be handled, reasonable obedience to commands, and gun response (looking for gun shyness)

AKC Senior Hunter

- ▶ Senior Hunter is designed for the dog who has more advanced training than the junior but may not be a rock solid hunting dog.
- ▶ In this test braces are run for approximately 30 minutes
- ▶ Dogs must show all the traits of the junior hunter but must also be steady to wing on all pointed birds and must remain in position until the bird is shot or the dog is released.
- ▶ Senior hunter must retrieve
- ▶ In Senior hunter if a dog encounters a brace mate on point it must honor, a dog that steals point may not pass

AKC Senior Hunter

The following are scored from 0-10 with no score lower than 5 and an average of 7 required to pass (average of 8 if advanced) All gun fire is by official gunners- handler only carries a blank pistol.

Hunting- a keen desire to hunt , boldness, independence, a fast yet useful pattern of running

Bird Finding Ability- demonstrates intelligence in seeking objectives, use of wind and ability to locate birds

The above 2 categories are scored with less tolerance than in Junior Hunter

Pointing – Based on the intensity of the point as well as ability to pinpoint birds under difficult scenting conditions. Must be steady until the shot, steadiness is scored under trainability

Retrieving- Must retrieve the bird, but not deliver to hand just reasonable distance. A dog that doesn't have the opportunity to retrieve (if all other scores qualify) will be called back for a retrieve- this often happens if there is no safe shot for your dog to retrieve

AKC Senior Hunter continued

The following are scored from 0-10 with no score lower than 5 and an average of 7 required to pass (average of 8 if advanced)

Trainability- willingness to be handled, obedience to commands and gun response. Must show adequate steadiness to wing before shot is fired. Must stop on a wild flush, the handler has the option to fire a blank shot after the stop to flush. Dog can be collared away from stop to flush

Honoring- Dog must honor when he encounters their brace mate on point. Handler may give verbal command to honor After it acknowledges the pointing dog. Dog can be collared after the honor is established in order to prevent interfering with the pointing dog's flush/shot/retrieve

If dogs do not have the opportunity to honor (but all other scores are qualifying) they may be called back and an honor situation set up by judges

AKC Master Hunter

- ▶ Master Hunter is designed for the dog who is considered a finished gun dog and performs as such with minimal commands and hacking from the handler
- ▶ In this test braces are run for approximately 30 minutes
- ▶ Dogs must show all the traits of a finished hunter, cover adequate ground but never remain out of range of a hunter on foot, locate game, staunchly point must be steady to wing shot and fall, must honor if he locates the brace mate on point. All killed birds must be retrieve promptly and returned to hand.

AKC Master Hunter

The following are scored from 0-10 with no score lower than 5 and an average of 7 required to pass (average of 8 if advanced) All gun fire is by official gunners- handler carries a blank pistol and an unloaded gun (typically provided by host club)

Hunting- a keen desire to hunt , boldness, independence, a fast yet useful pattern of running

Bird Finding Ability- demonstrates intelligence in seeking objectives, use of wind and ability to locate birds

The above 2 categories are scored with less tolerance than in Senior Hunter

Pointing – Based on the intensity of the point as well as ability to pinpoint birds under difficult scenting conditions. Must be steady to wing and shot, steadiness is scored under trainability

Retrieving- Must retrieve the bird absolutely to hand. If the handler moves towards the dog they run the risk of lowering the score to less than 5 (non pass). If there is no opportunity for a retrieve due to safety of shot birds the dog can be called back by judges

AKC Master Hunter continued

The following are scored from 0-10 with no score lower than 5 and an average of 7 required to pass (average of 8 if advanced)

Trainability- willingness to be handled, obedience to commands and gun response. Must show it is positively steady to wing and shot on all birds in all situations including honoring. If a bird cannot be shot the dog must be steady to a blank shot. A dog that breaks cannot pass. Dogs must be healed away from game contacts where the bird is not shot unless the judge deems collaring acceptable. Dog must stop on wild flushes without being commanded. If live fire is shot at a bird by gunners the handler must shoulder the unloaded gun to imitate shooting.

Honoring- Dog must honor when he encounters their brace mate on point without being commanded to do so and the handler must not restrain the dog. The master hunter must honor through the entire flush/shot/retrieve sequence of the pointing dog.

If dogs do not have the opportunity to honor (but all other scores are qualifying) they may be called back and an honor situation set up by judges

AKC Water Retrieve Test

- ▶ The water retrieve test is an event the Bracco is allowed to participate in at the nationals however it does not earn a title nor is it a requirement to earn other titles.
- ▶ Dogs are run 1 at a time for this event
- ▶ They are brought to the edge of the body of water/pond
- ▶ The handler may hold the collar of the dog to keep them steady
- ▶ When the handler and judges are ready a duck is launched into the pond (either by hand or from a launcher) from about a 90* angle from the dog
- ▶ As the duck is in the air the handler fires a blank shot
- ▶ The duck lands approximately 50 yards from the dog
- ▶ Dog must swim out , retrieve the duck and return to a reasonable distance of the handler with the duck

NAVHDA Hunt Tests

- ▶ The NAVHDA event is being offered the same date/time as the BICA National Specialty show judged by the Italian judge however anyone interested in running NAVHDA is welcome to do so. Please note these tests fill up quickly so if you are interested get your entry in ASAP.
- ▶ There are 3 levels that you may enter for NAVHDA I will briefly explain each- please refer to the www.NAVHDA.org for more info.
 - ▶ NA- Natural Ability- for dogs up to 16 months of age on the test date
 - ▶ UPT- Utility Preparatory Test
 - ▶ UT- Utility Test
- ▶ In each test you will have 3 judges and could possibly have an apprentice judge as well
- ▶ All gunning is done by official gunners, handlers do not shoot their own birds. No live fire in the NA test

NAVHDA- Natural Ability

- ▶ For dogs up to 16 months of age. Dogs over 16 months can be run for evaluation but cannot earn a NA prize. Dogs over 16 months may only be run if there is space available
- ▶ There are 3 phases to the NA test which can be run in any order determined by the judges

Field Evaluation

Tracking

Swim

Field Evaluation- Each dog is hunted for 20 minutes and evaluated on Use of Nose, Search, Pointing, Desire, Cooperation, and Gun Sensitivity (which is 2 blank shots while the dog is working to determine gun shyness)

Tracking- A live pheasant (or chukar) with flight feathers pulled is set down at a location where judges observe the bird run off leaving a scent trail. The pup is then brought to the line, shown a feather pile and released by the handler to track the game. The dog does not have to produce the bird to earn a max score, but show tracking ability on wounded game.

Swimming- The pup is brought to the edge of a body of water of swimming depth and the handler tosses bumper (s) into the pond. The dog must go out and swim, retrieval of the bumpers is not necessary. The pup must swim a minimum of 2 times.

NAVHDA- Utility Preparatory Test UPT

This is a test midway between natural ability and Utility.

Field Phase: This phase evaluates- Search, Pointing, Steadiness on Game, Retrieve of shot bird, Retrieve by drag

Water Phase: This phase evaluates- Water Search, Walking at heel, Steadiness by Blind, Retrieve of Duck

Throughout the test the dog is evaluated for: Use of Nose, Desire to Work, Cooperation, Obedience

Field Group:

Field search- dog is hunted for 25 minutes over typical terrain. The handler carries a break open unloaded shotgun. The search should show maturity and purpose at this stage. Dogs in UPT are not required to be steady to shot.

Pointing- Judgement begins when a convincing point is established and ends when the dog is aware of the handler's presence. Points must be intense and productive

NAVHDA- Utility Preparatory Test UPT

Field group continued:

Steadiness- At a minimum the dog must allow the handler to move in front to begin the flush without excessive commands

Retrieve of shot bird-the dog should happily and promptly retrieve shot game. The dog should pick up the bird and return directly to the handler with minimal commands

Retrieve by drag- the dog should retrieve game as directed by his handler. Because the game is placed out of sight of the handler, where the dog on his own with no urging or control, the drag primarily demonstrates cooperation and obedience. The drag is approximately 50 yards.

Water group:

Water Search- This is a test of the dog's ability to locate downed game. A dead duck is placed in cover in swimming depth water, out of sight of the dog. Once the duck is placed the handler brings the dog to the water, the handler fires one blank shot, not in the direction of the duck. The dog must diligently search the area for a period (usually 10 minutes) The retrieve of duck is not necessary unless the dog comes in contact with the duck. If the dog retrieves the duck in too short a time he will be resent to continue a search without a new duck being placed.

NAVHDA- Utility Preparatory Test UPT

Water Group Continued:

Walking at heel- this is a test of obedience. Dog is to be walked at heel on or off lead for approximately 25 yards, with a bend, to the blind area. Excessive pulling or commands will lower the score.

Steadiness by Blind- Handler positions dog by the blind, removes the lead and load the gun with a blank shell. The judge signals a duck thrower, when the duck is in the air the handler aims and fires the blank shot. After a pause the handler sends the dog on retrieve. The dog is expected to stay until sent for the retrieve.

Retrieve of Duck- The dog is expected to mark the fall of the duck and complete his task with desire and enthusiasm. The duck is thrown into open water approximately 40 yards with no decoys or distractions. The dog should pick up the duck and return to the handler within reach with minimal commands.

NAVHDA- Utility Test UT

Field Phase: This phase evaluates- Search, Pointing, Steadiness on Game, Retrieve of shot bird, Retrieve by drag

Water Phase: This phase evaluates- Water Search, Walking at heel, Steadiness by Blind, Retrieve of Duck

Throughout the test the dog is evaluated for: Use of Nose, Desire to Work, Cooperation, Obedience

Field Group:

Field search- dog is hunted for 30 minutes over typical terrain. The handler carries a break open unloaded shotgun. The search should show maturity and purpose at this stage.

Pointing- Judgement begins when a convincing point is established and ends when the dog is aware of the handler's presence. Points must be intense and productive

NAVHDA- Utility Test UT

Field group continued:

Steadiness- The highest score is awarded when quiet, confident and sportsmanlike team work between dog and handler is displayed during most bird contacts.

Retrieve of shot bird-the dog should happily and promptly retrieve shot game. The dog should go quickly to the fallen game, pick it up, and return to the handler and wait calmly until told to release the bird to hand. The dog should hold the bird gently but firmly with a balanced grip.

Retrieve by drag- the dog should retrieve game as directed by his handler. Because the game is placed out of sight of the handler, where the dog on his own with no urging or control, the drag primarily demonstrates cooperation and obedience. The drag is approximately 100-200 yards.

Water group:

Water Search- This is a test of the dog's ability to locate downed game. A duck is placed in cover in a marsh of about 1 acre with ability for the bird to move freely. Once the duck is placed the handler brings the dog to the water, the handler fires one blank shot, not in the direction of the duck. The dog must diligently search the area for a period (usually 10 minutes) The retrieve of duck is not necessary unless the dog comes in contact with the duck. If the dog retrieves the duck in too short a time he will be resent to continue a search without a new duck being placed.

NAVHDA- Utility Test UT

Water Group Continued:

Walking at heel- this is a test of obedience. Dog is to be walked at heel on or off lead through a course of stakes in a serpentine pattern of approximately 50 yards. Excessive pulling or commands will lower the score

Remaining by Blind- This is a test of obedience and control in the presence of gunfire when the handler is not within the dog's view. Handler positions dog by the blind, removes the lead and walks to a hidden spot where he fires 2 blanks within 10 second intervals. A dog under control remains quietly at the blind and waits for the handler's return.

Steadiness by Blind- the handler enters the blind, leaving the dog close by outside the blind. At a signal from the judge a gunner fires one shot, the handler then fires a shot, the gunner fires a second shot, Next a duck is launched, and while in the air the handler fires a second shot. There should be a distinct interval between the handler's shot at the bird and the command to fetch.

Retrieve of Duck- The dog is expected to mark the fall of the duck and complete his task with desire and enthusiasm. The dog should swim around or through decoys paying them no attention retrieve the duck and without hesitation return it to the handler wither by land or water. The dog should not drop the duck in route to the handler. The dog should sit or stand close to the handler until given the command to release the bird to hand.

Other Activities that we will host

- ▶ There will also be a Hunt Training Seminar to be hosted by Ed Erickson of Autumn Breeze Kennels. Ed will do some field demonstrations with his dogs as well as assist with questions and advice for training your Bracco for hunting and or testing.
- ▶ Seminar by Jack Hague on the importance of Hunt Testing your dog
 - ▶ Info on why NAVHDA and AKC testing is beneficial to keeping this a hunting breed and how those test help us to evaluate breeding stock
- ▶ Breed Seminars and Health Seminars
 - ▶ We will have talks on both the breed standard as well as the working standard
 - ▶ You will be invited to ask questions and learn more about the standards and what to look for in conformation/temperament and ability in the Bracco
 - ▶ There will be a health seminar done by Amanda Inman DVM with emphasis on the kidneys and the research being done to find more data on amyloidosis

There are also several seminars to be held by SCOA that we are invited to join. Please see schedule for full listing of events.

- ▶ I hope this was helpful if you had any question on which events are right for you. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to us!
- ▶ On Behalf of the BICA board we hope to see you in Colorado June 1-5, 2019!



Presentation created by Jennifer Caban 2019