



## **Approved CKC Field Trials & Hunt Tests for all Spaniels** (Excluding Brittany and Irish Water Spaniels)

**Date: May 9 & 10, 2020**

**Location: Knutsford, British Columbia**

Hosted by the Eastern Slopes Spaniel Association

### **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We would like you to join us in making history.

There have been many Spaniel greats that have competed across Canada and the US that have come from BC but not once has a Spaniel Field Trial been offered in BC, until now. Please come and join us in this endeavor to develop this new opportunity for the Spaniel community.

The Eastern Slopes Spaniel Association ("ESSA") was formed with the objective of developing and providing new opportunities for anyone with a Spaniel to help them train their Spaniel to hunt and to handle their dogs in CKC approved events. ESSA has made history in the Spaniel Sport by advocating for changes in legislation to allow access to public lands for Spaniel Field Trials. ESSA initiated the development of Amateur Stakes and then advocated for Amateur All Age Stakes in Canada and then, after a National referendum, offered the first Amateur National Spaniel Championship in Canada in 2010.

With that in mind, we have invited the winner of that national championship, Marlene O'Connell (Montana), to judge the Open All Age Stake. Marlene will be teamed with Drew Goldsmith (Ontario). We have also invited other individuals with decades of experience judging across the

US and Canada, including National Championships, to fill out the judge's panel. Casey Butz (Alberta) has agreed to Judge the first BC Amateur All Age Stake with Wayne Brennen (BC). Casey won the 2019 US National Cocker Championship and will be judging the 2020 US National Amateur Cocker Championship. Finally, the Puppy Stakes will be judged by an experienced Spaniel judge from Vancouver Island, Mike Sterling (BC), who will be partnered with Rick Murphy (Alberta), who will be taking on his first assignment in the judge's seat.

ESSA will once again host Spaniel Hunt Tests at Knutsford, BC, after successfully offering the first modern Spaniel Hunt Tests held in BC's history last year. All the events will be held on May 9 & 10, 2020. Provided there are a minimum of 12 All Age entries each day, the trials will carry All Age points for all placing dogs and qualified levels for all Hunt Tests successfully completed.

We have assembled an exceptional Gun Team from across Canada and the western USA. Most of the Gun Team members are in-fact rated "G" (Gun Captain) under the ESSFTA List of Approved Guns. Every one of our field trial guns has gunned for multiple clubs in the USA and Canada and bring that experience, skill and safety record to these events.

The birds for the All Age and Puppy stakes, will be locally raised, fully mature Chukar partridge. We will have dedicated planters for the All Age Stakes. To ensure these volunteers are not overworked, we will be asking participants in the hunt tests to help plant for others in the hunt test. It is requested that those with experience help educate and assist the less experienced, facilitating the hunt tests moving along as quickly as possible.

Through the generosity of a fourth-generation rancher, we have been granted access to one of the largest private ranches in BC to offer these events. The ranch totals 35,000 deeded acres and 275,000 acres of lease land with large expanses of grassland. As part of our access agreement, **everyone gaining access to the property is required to complete and submit the Liability waiver attached to the premium list.**

An organizational note: The land work for the hunt tests will start at 7:00 am on both days, and the field trial will start immediately after the hunt test land work is completed. The hunt test water work will commence after the third series of the field trial.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in these events, please pass this information along. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the field trial or hunt test committee members.

Thank you,

Wayne Brennen  
Co-Chairman