

Lure Chasing Instinct Experimental Program

At this time in ASFA's history we are faced with a huge decision. Entries are at an all-time low, we budgeted to lose 50 percent of our funds in 2018. At the 2018 ACOD a vote passed to change our purpose to allow us to start a program for non-sighthounds. However, although passed and will definitely be part of our constitution in January of 2019, ASFA cannot start holding non-sighthound events until then.

Back Ground

A task force was appointed by the Board of Directors to write this new program and have it completed to be looked at by May 1, 2018. The task force worked diligently on it starting before we had left the 2018 convention. Their task was completed by May 1st.

The problem now is that if we start this new program as an experimental program at this time we will be in conflict with our constitution until January of 2019.

Lobo Lure Coursing Club has stepped forward and will sponsor this program not as part of ASFA but as a program hosted by their club. Three clubs will put on this program under the auspices of Lobo Lure Coursing Club with the per capita monies going to ASFA as a donation. The monies will help ASFA and the extra entries will help the clubs offset expenses.

A change to the ASFA constitution was approved at this year's (2018) ACoD to allow activities that are not restricted to sighthounds. Prior to this only sighthounds were allowed to participate in ASFA events. The ASFA constitution has a waiting period prior to this revision taking effect (Jan. 1 2019), so the restriction continues.

It is anticipated that this program will introduce lure coursing to a new and larger group of individuals, bringing in additional entries and potentially new members for our Member and Affiliate clubs. There is an expected positive financial impact for both clubs and ASFA with increased entry fees and per-capita fees for ASFA. The program has been designed to minimize any additional work required to hold the event, and simplify record keeping and submittal for these events.

The Problem:

Due to the constitutional restriction, ASFA cannot introduce this new experimental program until Jan. 1, 2019. The rules are in their final stages of review and the program is ready to begin. Three clubs have expressed an interest in beginning the program as soon as possible. Each of these clubs had a member on the Task Force appointed by Jeff Lipps.

There is a concern that letting the program just sit on the shelf for six months will result in a loss of enthusiasm and potentially result in further delays in getting started. As this is a new venture for ASFA, targeted at a different set of dog owners than we have previously worked with, there is much to learn. There will likely be several adjustments to the running rules for this event before we are finished.

The present solution:

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A member club, Lobo Lure Coursing Club, New Mexico (LLCC) has agreed to sponsor this Lure Chasing Instinct program until Jan. 1, 2019. During this time the event will be run in conjunction with ASFA field trials, and results will be maintained by LLCC. An agreement is being developed between LLCC and ASFA covering the details for the trial period. ASFA will provide some support services and will receive payment from LLCC for those services. Per-capita fees for dogs entered in the Lure Chasing Instinct events will be paid to LLCC (\$4.00) by the hosting clubs.

The Lure Chasing Instinct events shall be governed by the running rules as proposed by ASFA Task Force that was appointed to have the program completed by May the first 2018 which shall remain in effect until at least Jan. 1, 2019, when the experimental program will be able to go into effect. ASFA will be free to refine the rules prior to Jan.1, 2019 for implementation prior to the Experimental program being approved by the Board.

Benefit to ASFA:

By having an approximate six-month trial period before the experimental program begins, we will gain very valuable experience on how to run the event, who is the target participant, and what refinements to the running rules will be required. When ASFA starts the experimental program Jan.1, 2019 we should have most of the bugs at least defined and solutions in the works.

A lot of work has been put into this program to date, and much enthusiasm seen when discussing with people across the country. We feel it is important to demonstrate that ASFA can develop new good programs quickly, be responsive to Member Clubs and their members, moving ASFA forward in a positive way.

The current rules for the Lure Chasing Instinct Program are attached. Please review and provide your comments. If your club is interested in holding this event in conjunction with your regular ASFA trial, or as a standalone event please let us know.

Your input is valued; however, in order to get the program running we may not be able to incorporate all the suggestions in the initial rules but will work toward consideration for the final ASFA Lure Chasing Instinct Program rules to take effect Jan. 1, 2019 at the start of the Experimental Program.

Keep in mind that this first trial period will NOT be an ASFA event, due to our constitutional limitations. The experiences and records from this trial program will be fully transferred to ASFA at its completion.

Thank You,

Dean Wright

ASFA President

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