

## **Earthdog and Terrier Den Trials**

Does your dog show an interest in hunting birds, roaches, mice or rats? If so, this may be the sport for you! Many of you have already seen video on Animal Planet of dogs entering underground tunnels to hunt. This is exactly what we do! Earthdog refers to small terriers and dachshunds. Earthdog and terrier den trial are an opportunity to awaken the natural hunting abilities that often lay dormant in these dogs. This experience will help to properly introduce you and your dog to the sport and to prepare your dog to enter a licensed test where it could earn titles. These tests are non-competitive. Our main goal is to have FUN with our dogs, to meet new people, and to share our love for the sport!

The American Kennel Club offers 4 different levels of tests at earthdog tests. Dogs have to earn titles at each level and work their way up. The tests become more challenging as your dog progresses. These are the 4 levels:

1. Introduction to quarry: The dog will need to go through 10 feet of tunnel with 1 90 degree turn. The dog must work the quarry for 30 seconds with no encouragement AND the dog will be allowed 2 minutes from the time it enters the tunnel to begin working. There is no AKC title for this level and this class is NOT a requirement to entering the Junior Earthdog test.
2. Junior Earthdog test: The dog will need to go through 30 feet of tunnel with three 90 degree turns. They must pass 2 parts of this test in order to earn a leg toward the Junior Earthdog title. First the dog must reach the quarry within 30 seconds. Second the dog must work the quarry for 60 seconds. A dog needs to pass 2 tests under 2 different judges in order to earn the title of Junior Earthdog.
3. Senior Earthdog test: The dog will need to go through 30 feet of tunnel with three 90 degree turns. There is a false exit and a false den. There are 3 parts to this test. First the dog must reach the quarry within 90 seconds. Second the dog must work for 90 seconds. Third the dog must exit the tunnel when called by the owner. A dog needs to pass 3 tests under 2 different judges in order to earn the title of Senior Earthdog.
4. Master Earthdog test: The dog will need to go through 30 feet of tunnel with three 90 degree turns. There is a false entrance, false den, and false exit. The dogs work in pairs and have to go to the correct entrance and honor another working dog. This means that one dog needs to wait while another dog works. A dog needs to pass 4 tests under 2 different judges.