

2007

Ben Baker, DVM

Ben started training dogs in 1953 at the Army Dog Training Center, Camp Carlson, CO. He began training retrievers in 1958 while attending veterinary school at Colorado State University. For most of his years in field trials he participated in local retriever clubs and was a charter member of five retriever clubs, four of which he was instrumental in establishing and obtaining AKC permission for licensed field trials.

Ben judged many field trials, including the National Open Retriever Championship in 1974 and the National Amateur Retriever Championship in 1973. He also served as president of the National Retriever Club, chaired a National Open, co-chaired a National Amateur, served on various National committees and was the official veterinarian at several Nationals.

Twenty some years ago, after participating in judging clinics, Ben came up with the idea to establish a Judges Corner in the Retriever Field Trial News that would encourage people to read and understand the AKC Retriever Field Trial Rule Book. Bob Wolf, the editor-in-chief of the Retriever Field Trial News, agreed with the idea and the column was launched. Ben then answered the submitted questions for a two-year period. Ben trained and handled five dogs to their titles, running them in local and National competition.

Today, he no longer judges but continues to train and compete in field trials.

-From the 2008 Inductions to the Field Trial Halls of Fame program