

## **SOME THOUGHTS ON BUMPING OR INTERFERENCE**

**By Bill Turpin, Sr**

\*\* (Editor's Note: At the time of this article's composition, Mr. Turpin was President of The British Columbia Whippet Racing Club, the WRA did not yet exist, the American Whippet Club ran the Whippet racing program in the U.S., and Mr. Louis Pegram whom was instrumental in the formation and success of the AWC's racing program was the acting club Secretary.)\*\*

Mr. Turpin begins:

I am not trying to establish myself as an expert on this subject, but for the past seven years my first love, insofar as Whippets are concerned, has been and is the racing. Because of this interest I have had a good deal of exposure and I, hopefully, have learned something about the controversial noted subject.

I would refer you to the article "Let's Get Something Straight" which was published in Whippet News in October, 1970, written by Bill Turpin, Jr. Bill Jr. has had eight years experience in racing and for the past six years has been in charge of racing in this particular area. My personal observation is that this is an excellent article, and would recommend that anyone interested in racing digest it thoroughly. This article was published with the approval of the AWC Secretary, Louis Pegram.

Along with this article mentioned above, I would like to add a few personal observations that might make for food for thought.

1. In the initial stages of training your dogs, it is most imperative that you do all in your power to train the dog to run after the lure and not run just for the sake of running. Having observed owners who in their enthusiasm to have their dog run well, will go to the finish line and in some cases actually call the dog to them. To me you are then training your dog to run to you and not the lure. If this happens your dog could cause trouble by inadvertently going to you and not the lure. Further, if by chance the owner is not there, the dog will look for him and in some instances could start to wander and again causing trouble. The answer to this is to train your dog to go to the lure, only, and to be so keen to do this he cannot think of anything else.
2. Many times I have seen keen, determined dogs interfered with, and in no instance have I seen dogs of this nature retaliate, as they have one thing in their minds, *get the lure*.
3. Another situation that could cause trouble is a dog of uncertain temperament unsighted on the lure. This is usually caused by the lure being too far in front of the lead dog. It is most important that your lure operator knows his business. This unsighting by these borderline dogs causes them to raise their heads and look, then wander and cause problems.
4. The appointment of the Foul Judges is probably the most important single matter a Club is faced with, when organizing a race meeting. We have to face the fact that everyone does not enter into a sporting activity just for the fun and associations. If they did, then this would be an ideal situation, but life is not like that and we have to be prepared to accept some persons with an overwhelming desire to win. In my opinion, the racing secretary should advise the

contestants beforehand who the judges are, and that their decision will be final. Then if the competitor is not too happy with the selection of judges, he does not have to run his dog, thus probably eliminating some of the trouble before it starts.

5. The selection of judges should be done with the greatest of care. They should be competent and completely impartial. If at all possible the appointment of a judge or judges, from another area, who would be attending the meeting, and are known to be completely reliable should be considered.

6. There should be a minimum of three judges for every race, equipped with field glasses. One should be directly behind the boxes, the second at the halfway mark and the third at the finish line. The racing secretary would also act as a judge and there should also be a couple of spares available.

7. In any race where a judge has a dog competing, then this person automatically disqualifies himself from any opinions of this particular race. You then call in one of your spare judges, not just anybody.

8. The lure should be weighted to keep it on a straight line. This weighting will tend to eliminate any bouncing from side to side or up and down. Also it will keep it from being affected by high cross winds. Any deviation from a straight line will cause even the best dogs to swerve and change directions. **THIS IS IMPORTANT**, as any sudden change of direction could be responsible for accidental bumping that could be misconstrued by persons not fully cognizant of what is "bumping".

**GOOD RACING!**

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