

# Coon Dog

Traditional

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The image displays a guitar tablature for the song "Coon Dog". The music is written in 2/4 time and uses a standard six-string guitar. The key signature is one sharp (F#), with the primary chord being G major. The tablature is organized into systems, each corresponding to a specific measure or group of measures. Chords are indicated by letters (G, C, Em, D7) above the staff. Fingering is shown with numbers 1-4 on the fingers. Techniques such as slides (Sl), pull-offs (Po), and hammer-ons (H) are marked. A capo is indicated by a circle with a crosshair and the number 1. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. The page number "Page 1 / 3" is located at the bottom center.

31 **C** **Em** **D7**

1. **G** 2. **G**

35 **C** **G** **Em**

39 **C** **G** **Em**

**D7** 1. **G** 2. **G**

43 **D7** **C** **G**

47 **C** **G**

**D7** 1. **G** **G** **X2** **G**

51 **D7** **G** **X2** **G**

56

I had heard this tune now and again over the years, but never learned the name of it. Recently, I heard a great version on John Salmon's Sugar in the Gourd old-time music streaming audio website ([www.sugarinthegourd.com](http://www.sugarinthegourd.com)), by the Red Mountain White Trash. This is not the same tune that Don Stover recorded on his Things in Life CD on Rounder, although the all purpose "coon dog" stanza, which customarily pops up in a lot of play-party songs, fits pretty well:

Somebody stole my old coon dog,  
I wish they'd bring him back,  
He chased the big hogs though the fence,  
And the little ones through the crack.

This is a more Scruggs sounding arrangement than most in this collection, though there are still a few melodic and other types of phrasing scattered throughout. It is a pretty fast arrangement, it can be played at a pretty good clip, if necessary. Note the little bit of Reno style single string melody in measures 8 and 16, on the fourth string. I played this with a hammer, originally, but it wasn't crisp enough to suit me.