

HUNTING/WORKING Inc

HUNT TEST REGULATIONS

*UPLAND (FLUSHING)
RETRIEVING
FUR TRACKING/TRAILING*

Revised March 25, 2005

GENERAL:

Bitches in season shall not be eligible for entry in any Hunt Test, and shall not be allowed on the grounds of the tests.

Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming in season, or for a dog withdrawn because of an injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full by the Test-giving group. Prior to paying such refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate. In the event a dog is withdrawn for other reasons, the test-giving group is free to formulate its own policy with reference to refunds provided that said policy shall be fixed in advance of the mailing of the entry information / premium list for any particular Test.

Two judges shall judge all Test levels (Junior, Senior, or Master) or division of a Test level.

When both judges grant qualifying scores to a dog that has not passed a particular Hunt Test at a level not previously passed, the dog will earn the title granted for that test.

Judges shall not enter the Test level or a division of the Test level which they are judging, but may enter different Test level(s), divisions(s) provided there is no interference with the judging assignment. A judge shall not handle a dog in another test level / division until the test level / division that he/she is judging has been completed.

The judges shall determine the tests to be given and shall design those tests in order to approximate as nearly as possible the conditions met in true hunting situations. In keeping with this aim, the judges shall design and enhance the tests by utilizing, as naturally as possible, the equipment that would be found in a true hunting situation.

Hunt Tests shall simulate as nearly as possible the conditions met in hunting situations found in the region of the country that the Test is held.

In keeping with the aim of simulated hunting conditions, handlers, judges, workers, and other participants shall be attired as they would be in a hunting environment. During the Upland Tests, an outerwear item of blaze orange clothing (minimum of a vest or jacket) shall be worn by marshals, bird planters, dog handlers, gunners, members of the gallery, and judges. Camo or dark clothing shall be worn during the Retriever Tests.

Judges shall have the authority to disqualify a dog that is not present within 15 minutes after it is called to run by the judges.

The Test Committee and the judges shall not permit training or disciplining of dogs on any part of the Test grounds during the Test. Further, there shall be no training of dogs on the grounds of the Test within 24 hours of the commencement of the event, or at any time during the event.

Dogs on the Test grounds shall not wear electronic collars, either dummy or live, as well as prong or pinch collars during the event. Electronic bark collars are permissible while a dog is contained in a vehicle.

The premium list / entry information for each Test shall specify the type of birds and/or fur animals being used for the Tests.

If a Fur Tracking/Trailing Test is held in a state that does not permit the use of live caged game for such Tests, the Test Committee and judges shall make a decision as to whether to use "roadkill" carcasses, skins, or drags for the quarry. Every effort shall be made to simulate live quarry in a hanging cage. The entry information / premium list shall state if live game will not be used.

Only break-open 20 to 12 gauge double-barreled shotguns shall be used in the Upland and Retrieving Tests. .22 gauge blank pistols shall be used in the Senior and Master Fur Tracking/Trailing Tests.

ENTRIES AND MOVE-UPS:

A dog may not be entered in more than one level of a Test type (i.e: Junior Fur and Senior Fur) at a Test event.

At the Nationals, a dog may be "moved up" and run in the next highest level if the dog has passed the lower level on that day. (i.e: dog passes Junior at the Nationals and may then be entered in Senior at the same event.)

Each entry form shall be completed in full.

Running order will be posted prior to the Test.

Dogs may be run in a different order than they are drawn if, in the opinion of the judges or Test Committee, the change will result in a reasonable and desirable saving of time in the conduct of the event.

A catalog shall be provided for any National or Regional Hunt Test.

A dog is not required to earn any title as a prerequisite for earning a higher title.

In the Upland Flushing (or Pointing) and Retrieving tests, dogs that are qualifying after the land series will be called back for the water series. Dogs not qualifying in the land series may run the water series after all qualifiers have run, at the discretion of the judges.

After a dog has qualified five times at a single level in a particular Test field, he may no longer compete at that level.

TITLES:

Titles may be earned at the Junior, Senior, and Master levels in Upland Flushing (or Pointing), Retrieving, and Fur Tracking/Trailing. A dog completing all three titles at a particular level in a particular Test type will earn the title “Versatile.” The titles earned are:

Junior Hunter Fur	JHFur
Senior Hunter Fur	SHFur
Master Hunter Fur	MHFur
Junior Hunter Flushing	JHF
Senior Hunter Flushing	SHF
Master Hunter Flushing	MHF
Junior Hunter Retriever	JHR
Senior Hunter Retriever	SHR
Master Hunter Retriever	MHR
Junior Hunter Versatile	JHV
Senior Hunter Versatile	SHV
Master Hunter Versatile	MHV

FUR TRACKING/TRAILING

GENERAL:

Dogs are hunted alone for this test. Running order shall be decided by a drawing. Dogs handled by the same person shall be separated when possible.

There shall be two judges, a starting line judge and a tree judge.

Scent is to be laid down over varied terrain at least fifteen minutes prior to the test. (Varied terrain could include crossing a shallow creek, finger of a pond, marsh, swamp, etc.) There shall be a one-half hour recess whenever it is necessary to lay new scent along the entire length of the track. At the discretion of the judges, the starting scent pad and the first portion of the dragged track (up to 25 yards) shall be refreshed at more frequent intervals if needed. The one-half hour recess will not be required after refreshing the start of the track. The preferred way to lay down scent is with a commercial-type scented leather drag, or equivalent.

It is permissible to re-scent the track when, in the opinion of the judges, conditions warrant re-scenting the track.

Judges and handlers following the dog shall remain behind the dog, outside of the boundary. This parallel line shall be no closer than fifteen yards to the actual test track, although there are conditions (such as dense woods, steep terrain, creeks, etc.) that may require this line to be closer. When plotting this parallel trail, the judge shall consider the effects wind direction, terrain and cover conditions shall have on the actual track.

The caged raccoon is to be secured on the back side of the tree (out of sight) to prevent the test dog from sighting the game until the dog has followed the trail to its end. The caged raccoon must be secured well out of the reach of the Test dogs

The judges shall instruct the handler not to approach within 30 feet of the home tree until so directed by them.

Dogs shall be stock-broke. Evidence of running and/or treeing off-game are all grounds for the dog being disqualified in a Fur Tracking/Trailing test.

In any Test level, at the handler's option, the dog may be run with a flat collar.

STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE:

Junior:

The dog shall demonstrate the ability to locate a trail left by furred game over a course of approximately 100 yards, pursue it in a decisive and energetic manner until the quarry is treed, and remain at the tree announcing the location by repeated barking. Multiple false

dead-end trails shall be used to simulate true-to-life hunting situations. The handler shall not encourage his/her dog along the track, and shall remain with the line judge, outside the boundary formed by the line flags. Handlers must stay behind the dog at all times.

The dog shall bark “treed” to the satisfaction of the judges within 2 minutes of the dog’s arrival at the tree.

Senior:

A Senior dog shall show all of the attributes of a Junior level dog. At this level the dogs will be expected to do everything that a dog at the Junior level shall do, plus the following:

The trail shall be approximately 200 yards in length and shall follow a zigzag path; multiple false dead-end trails shall be used to simulate true-to-life hunting situations. The scent shall touch the bottom of more than one tree, and a crossing trail of another animal scent (examples: deer, fox, mink, groundhog) shall be laid. The dog may investigate the “off” scent but shall quickly return to the test track.

The handler shall not encourage or assist the dog either while on the track or at the tree. The dog shall bark “treed” to the satisfaction of the judges within 2 minutes of its arrival at the tree. The handler shall fire 2 shots from a .22 blank pistol while the dog is barking treed.

Master:

Dogs at this level are finished hunting dogs and will be expected to do everything that a dog at the Senior level is required to do, plus the following:

The track shall be laid over varied and some difficult terrain for at least 300 yards. The dog, handler, and judge shall approach the test track perpendicular to the course and at least 40 yards past the beginning of the track. There shall be at least two crossing trails of other “off” game scent (examples: deer, fox, mink, skunk, opossum) and one of these shall have a caged live animal (examples: mink, skunk, fox, opossum, or other fur-bearing animal native to the locality) secured on the “off” track within fifteen yards of the test track. This caged animal shall be a fur-bearing animal, indigenous to the area of the test. The dog may investigate the “off” scent but shall quickly return to the test track. If the dog discovers the off game animal, the dog shall immediately leave it and return to the raccoon scent. Multiple false dead-end trails shall be used to simulate true-to-life hunting situations.

The dog shall bark “treed” to the satisfaction of the judges. The handler shall fire 2 shots from a .22 blank pistol while the dog is barking treed.

STANDARDS FOR GRADING PERFORMANCE:

The dog must locate follow trail, pursue it in a decisive and energetic manner until the treed quarry is found, and remain at the tree announcing the location by repeated barking. The judges score the following five ability categories on the basis of “0” to “10.”

Striking Ability: In order to locate a trail left by game, a dog shall show an aptitude to recognize promising locations and demonstrate eagerness to explore the terrain, regardless of hazards or discomfort.

Tracking Ability: The trail shall be followed in a manner that shows both control and progress. The trail shall be pursued rather than merely followed, and the dog’s behavior shall indicate a determined effort to make progress in the surest, most sensible manner by adjusting speed to correspond to conditions and circumstances. A dog may run open or silent. A dog that is called back to the track after leaving it will not qualify. (Example: The commands “Come,” “Here,” or “Come here” as given in obedience training would be considered calling a dog back to the track. A warning such as “Get back to work” will result in a deduction, possibly up to the point of non-qualifying.

Treeing Ability: The dog shall mark the location of game by repeated barking. An intelligent and accurate dog will not be misled by any ruse that the game shall employ. The dog shall be confident that it has located the game; the proper use of voice reflects this ability of the dog. The dog shall clearly indicate that he has found the quarry without human assistance.

Staying Ability: After accurately locating the quarry, a dog shall show willingness and determination to continue to mark the location. Repeated intense barking indicates this as well as remaining in restricted proximity of the tree. The dog shall continue barking at the location to the satisfaction of the judge.

Determination: This essential quality shall be observed in all aspects of the dog’s performance (striking, trailing, treeing, and staying treed.) Determination is desire in its most intense form. A talented dog shall be less useful if it is deficient in this quality.

SCORING INSTRUCTIONS:

Judges evaluate the performance of dogs and then score the individual dog’s abilities on a scale of “0” to “10” in each ability element: striking, trailing, treeing, staying, and determination.

The judges determine the “Official Score.” In order to receive a qualifying score, a dog shall not have a score lower than 5 in any ability element. In addition, the overall average of all abilities shall be at least 7.

UPLAND FLUSHING (or POINTING)

GENERAL:

The primary purpose of the Upland Field testing is to evaluate the dog’s ability to hunt, find, flush, and return birds to hand in a pleasing and obedient manner as quickly as possible; whether a dog accomplishes its primary purpose is determined by evaluating its unique set of both natural abilities and trained abilities.

Dogs shall be run one at a time. Running order shall be decided by a drawing. Dogs handled by the same person shall be separated when possible.

All courses shall consist of sufficient cover to hold birds and be of adequate size to permit a dog to hunt naturally. A sufficient number of birds shall be released to give each dog an opportunity to show bird work. Courses shall be staked to indicate the perimeter of the field and utilized just as they would in hunting. All courses shall consist of a minimum of five acres.

Mechanical vehicles on the course, such as all-terrain vehicles, shall only be used for the purpose of planting birds.

Guns: Only Official Guns appointed by the Test Committee shall shoot over the dogs. Only break-open 20 to 12 gauge double-barreled shotguns shall be used. Safe gunning practices shall be adhered to at all times. All gunning involving live ammunition shall be performed by adults, age 21 or older. All popper gunning should be by individuals of at least 16 years of age and that individual should have completed a recognized gun safety course. Viewing of the AKC Gun Safety video before each event is mandatory for all members of the event committee and gunners. Judges may not be considered as Official Guns.

In the Upland Tests at the Senior and Master level, the handler shall carry an empty shotgun. When appropriate, the handler shall shoulder the empty break-open shotgun and follow the flight of the bird as if a shot were to be fired.

It shall be the responsibility of the test-giving Club or group to provide an empty break-open shotgun for the handler.

There shall be no more than 2 Official Guns per dog in any testing element, and judges shall have complete authority over the gunners and all shooting. The Guns represent the handler and shall attempt to follow the handler's movements.

The judges determine the positioning of the gunners, keeping them close enough to the handler so that they are not used by the dog as a quartering guide. Gunners do not flush game, nor are they responsible for locating game for the handlers.

The Official Guns shall shoot their game in a sportsmanlike manner, as they would in a day's shoot. The proper functioning of the Official Guns is of the utmost importance. The Guns represent the handler up to the time the game is shot, and shall not interfere in any manner with his/her work or that of the working dog. They are, if possible, or unless otherwise directed, to down cleanly and consistently the game flushed by the dogs, at a point most advantageous to a fair and natural test of the dog's abilities, with due regards to the dogs, handlers, judges, gallery and other contingencies. Birds must not be shot on the ground unless ordered by the judges.

Care shall be taken not to shoot so that the game falls too close to the dog. If this is done it does not afford a chance for the dog to show any good retrieving ability and often results in a bird being destroyed. The Guns shall stand perfectly quiet after the shoot; otherwise they may interfere with the dog and handler. When a dog makes a retrieve, no other birds or game shall be shot unless ordered by the judge. The Guns shall also keep themselves in the correct position to the handler and others.

Marshals: The Test Committee shall appoint a Marshal whose duty it shall be to assist the judges and to carry out their instructions, including regulating and controlling the gallery, and ensure the gallery is kept separate from and behind the judges, and that no one in the gallery talks to the judges while a dog is working. The Marshal shall also advise the handlers and judges as to the boundaries of the course.

The Marshal has the responsibility and authority to control the gallery and shall excuse anyone who does not comply with his or her instructions.

Other Marshals may be appointed by the Test Committee to supervise the immediate and humane disposal of game, and assist in all other matters necessary for the smooth and expeditious running of the Test.

STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE:

Junior:

A hunting dog shall show a desire to hunt in an enthusiastic manner and ability to retrieve. It is not necessary that a dog be steady to wing and shot. The dog shall show

boldness to cover and a reasonable response to commands (whistle, hand, or verbal,) while maintaining a decent working distance from the handler.

The Junior dog shall hunt in a bold and aggressive manner and find and flush two birds. Though not steady to wing and shot, the dog shall not show uncontrollable chasing in a missed bird situation. The dog shall have an opportunity to retrieve a bird on land. That bird shall be flushed by the dog and then shot by the Official Guns in order for the dog to have an opportunity to be shot over and to demonstrate the Retrieve.

If birds are missed or cannot be shot with safety, then a dead bird shall be thrown and a gun fired for the dog to make the retrieve.

The Junior dog shall complete all retrieves within reach to the handler, but need not retrieve completely to hand. Handlers shall control their dogs by hand, whistle, and/or verbal signals only in the quiet manner that would be used in the field

Junior dogs must perform a water retrieve. This is a single mark, approximately 25 yards in open water (dead bird, blank shot fired.) The dog may be restrained gently on the line in this water retrieve.

Senior:

The dog shall show true boldness to cover, a pattern addressing the course objectives and an intense desire to hunt. A proper working distance, and a cooperative, but independent hunting attitude shall be maintained. The Senior dog need not be steady to wing and shot.

The handler shall carry an empty break-open shotgun. When appropriate, the handler shall shoulder the empty shotgun and follow the flight of the bird as if a shot were to be fired.

At the Senior level, dogs will be expected to do everything that is required of a dog at the Junior level, must demonstrate stronger skills, plus the following:

Senior dogs shall retrieve to hand.

Handlers shall be able to call a dog off a missed bird. (No uncontrolled chases will be permitted.)

Senior dogs are to be sent a minimum of 20 yards from the running line.

Dogs will be expected to “hunt dead” in a 20 – 25 square yard area. A dead bird will be planted in this area and the dog will be expected to hunt the area, find the bird, and retrieve it to the handler. “Hunt Dead” is defined as a situation in which a dead bird, unseen to the dog, lies in the general area of the hunter/handler and the dog is expected to hunt the area carefully and thoroughly in order to retrieve the bird. A shot is not fired in

hunt dead situations. The hunt dead situation shall be set up to run on course or it shall be run separately. In either case, the handler casts the dog and may walk to within approximately one-half the distance to the objective. Dogs shall be handled in a hunt dead. Markers, including flags, ribbons, tape, etc., shall not be used to indicate the location of the bird.

Senior dogs must also demonstrate the ability to retrieve from water. The dog will perform a two single retrieves of at least 35 yards in length, but no more than 50 yards. Dogs must be steady on line at the water, but a controlled break will be permitted.

Master:

Master dogs are finished hunting dogs. This means that they shall stop on command when the bird is flushed and remain steady until sent for the bird by its handler. The dog shall exhibit a very definite hunting pattern in the field and at all times be under control. All retrieves shall be made to hand.

A Master dog shall show a keen enthusiasm to hunt, shall have a bold and attractive manner of running, and demonstrate not only intelligence in seeking objectives, but also excellent ability to find game. The dog shall hunt for its handler at all times at a suitable gun range, showing a fine hunting pattern and experienced cooperative hunting independence. The dog shall locate game, show a bold aggressive flush and be absolutely steady to wing and shot. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, accurate nose, and intensity are essential. After the shot, a Master hunting dog shall demonstrate its steadiness to wing and shot. The handler shall not command or signal the dog to retrieve until the steadiness has been demonstrated.

The handler shall carry an empty break-open shotgun. When appropriate, the handler shall shoulder the empty shotgun and follow the flight of the bird as if a shot were to be fired.

At this level, dogs will be expected to do everything that a dog at the Junior and Senior levels shall do, plus Master dogs are required to display a finished performance. The following is also required:

The Master dog must also perform a land blind. This shall be a true blind (unlike the Hunt Dead) of no more than 100 yards. Dogs shall take a line, stop on command and take casts. Blinds shall be run in areas where the dog is visible to both the handler and the judges at all times.

Distances shall not exceed those normally encountered in hunting.

Master dogs must also retrieve from water. The dog must do a true double on the water. These marks shall be about 40 yards in length and shall not exceed 60 yards. There must be at least 75 degrees between the two marks, but the spread shall not normally exceed 90 degrees. Dogs must be absolutely steady (no controlled breaks permitted.) Decoys shall

be used but they must be placed so that they are not on the line to either mark to avoid the dogs getting tangled in the decoys. Dogs must be able to see a definite splash for both marks.

POINTING AIREDALES:

The occasional Airedale is a natural pointer, and a dog who hunts in this manner may be run in any level of the Upland (Flushing) Hunt Test. The handler must declare in his/her entry and to the judges that the dog will be running as a pointer and not a flusher. The judges must ascertain that the dog is indeed pointing, and not merely performing a “soft” flush.

The intent is to make the pointing dog’s test as close to the level of the flushing test as possible, so that the flushing dog and the pointing dog can be run in the same course, interchangeably. The pointing Airedale must retrieve his/her birds as in the flushing test.

STANDARDS FOR GRADING PERFORMANCE:

Dogs exhibiting any of the following traits shall not receive a qualifying score: Severe hard mouth, gun shy, out of control, failed or refused retrieves, obvious blinking or ignoring game, obvious viciousness, refusal to flush.

In evaluating the abilities of a dog in Upland, the judges shall assign a numerical score from “0” to “10” in each of the following categories where ability has been exhibited:

Hunting Ability: Includes desire, courage, perseverance, independence and intelligence.

Bird Finding Ability: Includes bird sense, response to wind and scenting conditions, and use of nose.

Flushing Ability: Boldness.

Trained Abilities: Includes range, pattern, gun response, response to commands.

Retrieving Ability: Includes marking, enthusiasm and mouth trainability.

The dog shall be rated highest for a bold flush, however a soft flush or momentary stopping is acceptable if the dog forces the bird into flight within a very brief period. Passed birds are not grounds for failing a test unless it becomes evident that the dog is blinking or ignoring game. A bird that flushes wild has no bearing on the dog’s

evaluation, except for the behavior after the flush (e.g. chasing) and unless the dog is obviously ignoring game.

RETRIEVING

General:

Dogs are run singly, and the running order shall be decided by a drawing. Dogs handled by the same person shall be separated when possible.

Pheasants, chukars, quail, or ducks are preferable. However, if another bird shall be used, it shall be consistent with hunting in the local area.

On marked retrieves, the dog shall be able to see each bird in the air and as it falls, since Marking can only be evaluated when the dog has seen the falls. Many factors contribute to a dog's ability to see and mark the falls; for instance, the background against which the bird is visualized in flight and the light conditions, as well as the height that the birds are thrown or that they fly.

After birds have been shot, all guns shall remain still and quiet and move their positions only if so instructed by the judges. The judges shall request the Guns to disappear from sight after the bird is down, but they shall not move them to another position to deliberately mislead the dogs in their marking. The judges shall not specify the order in which the birds are to be retrieved.

The judges shall use hidden and/or visible guns.

Unusual Circumstances, "no birds": If unusual and unplanned circumstances occur during the course of a marking test, the judges can ask the handler to handle the dog, or otherwise compensate for the unanticipated occurrence.

Each judge should be at liberty to call a "no bird" independently when, in their opinion, a hazard or an element of danger exists, or the test conditions are altered to the point that the test becomes something else.

No dog shall be sent to retrieve until ordered to do so by the judges. Nothing shall be thrown to encourage a dog to enter the water.

When ordered to retrieve, a dog shall proceed quickly and eagerly to marked falls or in the direction given him by his handler for falls it has not seen. A dog shall not disturb too

much cover and shall respond quickly and obediently to any further directions his handler might give to him.

A dog who pays no attention to the many whistles and/or directions by his handler shall be considered weak in response, and unless mitigating circumstances exist in the opinion of the judges, the dog shall be graded low or receive a grade of "0" in Trainability.

In marking situations, a handler may give the dog a line in the direction of the fall, provided that such lining is accomplished briskly and precisely. Intensive lining suggests a weak marking ability and the dog shall be graded low in Marking.

In marked retrieves, after the dog has been sent to retrieve, if it: (a) returns to his handler before finding the bird, without having been called in; (b) stops his hunt; or (c) fails to pick the bird up, actually leaving it after finding it; that shall be sufficient cause to grade the dog "0" in Marking or Perseverance.

A dog that fails to find a bird which, in the opinion of the judges, should have been marked and found, shall be graded "0" in Marking.

Nothing shall be thrown during any of the Retrieve elements (Junior, Senior, or Master) to encourage a dog or to direct a dog to a fall. Violation of this provision is to be considered sufficient cause for the dog not to receive a qualifying score.

Every bird retrieved and delivered to the handler must be inspected by one of the judges. Failure to inspect retrieved birds is carelessness, and as an undesirable practice. It is unfair to the dog whose abilities are being evaluated - not only in respect to the question of "hard-mouth," but more particularly, since it may furnish the explanation for a slow pick-up or some other oddity in the dog's pick-up. Any unusual condition of a bird should be brought to the attention of the judges. If birds are being re-used, those that are damaged should not be used again. A dog that renders a bird unfit for human consumption cannot receive a qualifying score, but the judges shall agree that the dog alone was responsible for the damage.

In Senior and Master hunt tests a dog that goes to the area of a fall, hunts, fails to find the bird, and then leaves the area to hunt for another fall, or that drops a bird it is retrieving and goes for another, shall be considered to have switched. A dog that switches shall be scored "0" in Perseverance in Senior and Master hunt tests.

A dog that returns to the area of a fall or a blind that it has previously retrieved and establishes another hunt shall be considered to have returned to an old fall. Unless in the opinion of the judges there exist valid, mitigating circumstances, a dog that returns to an old fall shall be scored low in Perseverance and/or Marking.

STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE - LAND RETRIEVES:

Junior (Land):

Note: All retrieves shall normally be within 50 yards on land.

Dogs shall be tested with two marks.

Judges shall instruct the bird throwers to shoot, throw a dead bird, and then shoot again. Judges will indicate that the handler may release the dog by calling the dog's number or other agreed-upon word.

Dogs may wear a flat collar while being evaluated and may be brought to the line on a slip lead. Dogs need not be completely steady and may be restrained gently until sent to retrieve.

Dogs may be sent to retrieve more than once on a mark, but shall not be sent more than twice.

The bird shall be delivered to within reach of the handler. It is not necessary for the Junior dog to deliver to hand.

Senior (Land):

There shall be 2 land marks that shall be a double of no more than 100 yards in length. The birds shall fall in moderate cover.

Dogs shall be steady, but controlled breaks will be permitted.

Birds shall be retrieved to hand.

Dogs shall come to the line off-leash and will remain off-leash until the dog has completed the test and has left the line unless instructed otherwise by the judges.

Senior dogs shall also perform a land blind of no more than 100 yards in length. A dry shot shall be fired in the direction of the hidden bird as the dog comes to the line. The handler shall give the dog a line.

Note: If the dog has to be handled on more than one of the marks, it clearly has not demonstrated its ability to remember marks. All handling shall be crisp and clean. A significant part of marking is memory; therefore the dog will not qualify.

Master (Land):

These shall be finished hunting dogs. This means that on all marks they shall be absolutely steady. No controlled breaks are permitted. Dogs shall be brought to the line

off-leash and they shall remain off-leash until the test is completed and the dog is behind the judges.

All retrieves shall be to hand.

There shall be three land marks. This means that a double will be thrown, and when the dog is returning to the handler with its first bird, the third bird will be thrown and shot. Marks shall normally be within 100 yards.

Master dogs shall also complete a Land Blind. This shall not exceed 100 yards in length. If this test is run in conjunction with land marks, the blind shall not be run between the two marks, and there shall be at least 45 degrees between either of the outside marks of the three land marks and the line to the bird. The dog shall take a line, stop on the whistle, and take casts. An occasional slipped whistle or cast refusal will not be grounds for disqualification, but if the dog is clearly ignoring its handler and merely stumbles across the bird by accident, it will not qualify.

WATER RETRIEVES:

Junior (Water):

All retrieves shall normally be within 50 yards in water.

Junior dogs shall be tested with two water marks.

Judges shall instruct the bird throwers to shoot, throw a dead bird, and then shoot again. The judges will release the handler by calling the dog's number or other agreed-upon word.

Dogs may wear a flat collar while being evaluated and may be brought to the line using a slip lead. Dogs need not be completely steady and may be gently restrained until sent to retrieve.

Dogs may be sent to retrieve more than once on a mark, but shall not be sent more than twice.

The bird shall be delivered to the immediate area (within reach) of the handler. It is not necessary for the Junior dog to retrieve to hand.

Senior (Water):

Dogs shall come to the line off-leash and will remain off-leash until the dog has completed the test and has left the line, unless instructed otherwise by the judges.

There shall be two water marks that shall be a double, normally within 100 yards. One of the marks shall be a live flyer.

Dogs shall be steady, but controlled breaks will be permitted. Birds shall be retrieved to hand.

Note: If the dog has to be handled on more than one of the marks, it clearly has not demonstrated its ability to remember marks. A significant part of marking is memory, therefore the dog will not qualify.

Master (Water):

These shall be finished hunting dogs. This means that on all marks they shall be absolutely steady. No controlled breaks are permitted.

Dogs shall be brought to the line off-leash and they shall remain off-leash until the test is completed and the dog is behind the judges.

All retrieves shall be to hand.

One of the marks shall be a live flyer.

There shall be three water marks. These shall normally be within 100 yards. When delivering the second bird to the handler, a diversion bird will be shot and then retrieved. All birds must be retrieved by the working dog.

A minimum of eight decoys shall be used.

STANDARDS FOR GRADING DOGS:

The four abilities of a dog shall be graded on a scale of "0" to "10".

In order to receive a qualifying score, a dog shall acquire a minimum score of 5 on each of the abilities listed on the Evaluation Form / Score Card.

A dog cannot receive a qualifying score unless it has qualified in both the land and water series in its test level.

A dog that switches shall not receive a qualifying score.

The judges shall score the dogs on their natural abilities and their trainability, including:

- Marking (memory)
- Style
- Perseverance / Courage / Hunting
- Trainability (steadiness, control, response, delivery).

Marking: Memory is of paramount importance. The ability to mark does not necessarily imply pinpointing the fall. A dog that misses the fall on the first cast, but recognizes the depth of the area of the fall, stays within it, then quickly and systematically hunts it out, has done both a creditable and intelligent job of marking. No penalty on marking shall be assessed for handling on the diversion birds in the Master test.

Style: This includes

1. An alert and obedient attitude.
2. A fast, determined departure.
3. An aggressive search for the fall.
4. A prompt pick-up.
5. A reasonably fast return.

Perseverance / Courage / Hunting: This represents the dog's determination to stick to the job and complete the task at hand – systematically, aggressively and without faltering, to search for and find the bird it has been sent to retrieve. It is also displayed by a willingness to face without hesitation - and repeatedly - rough cover, mud, or other similar conditions which make for tough going.

Trainability: This factor is defined as steadiness, control, response, and delivery.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDGES

The most important element of judging is to have a thorough understanding of the Regulations and to apply them *fairly* and *consistently*. Consider the purposes of the three test elements and the levels of Junior, Senior and Master:

- Master tests maintain the quality of the program.
- Senior tests encourage owners to train for advanced work.
- Junior tests encourage people to continue in the program.

Always arrange to be at the grounds at least a day before the event. Always use set-up dogs to design your tests, and always inspect the routes to your falls and blinds for hazards.

Coordinate with the Marshal or Event Chairperson the day before to be sure that the approved and necessary equipment is on hand.

Be at the grounds at least one hour before starting time. Workers and officials should do the same.

Be sure instructions to bird throwers and gunners are clear.

Inform your co-judge if you score a dog zero on any ability. If both judges give the dog a zero in the same ability, the handler must be informed that the dog can no longer qualify.

If a handler is doing something unusual (for example: giving a line to a dog before a bird is thrown, which might indicate weak marking ability) do not hesitate to advise him or her that the actions can adversely affect the dog's scores.

On marked retrieves, the dog should be able to see the birds in the air and as they fall. Marking can only be evaluated when a dog has seen the falls.

Keep in mind that you cannot evaluate the dogs if you cannot see them.

Make sure the gallery is safely positioned with respect to the guns, and their position does not interfere with dogs or handlers. If possible, position the gallery where they can see the dogs work.

Be sure that game is not left lying around the line or grounds. Marshals and judges should keep game out of sight in bags or other containers.

Always use a test dog before the start of every retrieving series. A good test dog:

- Is not entered in your test.
- Can reasonably be expected to complete the test, but is not overqualified.
- Accomplishes the test.

Always be aware that on the day of a hunting test, you as a judge do not merely represent yourself as an individual. You represent the entire sport.

Judges decisions are final.