

## GUNDOG OBEDIENCE TESTS

The **purpose** of a Gundog Obedience Test, as stated from the beginning, is to encourage people already enjoying other canine activities such as obedience, into Retrieving.

Both NT Judges [Carmen Sinclair & Tom Rees] developed the following tool to more clearly explain to new, interested handlers, not only the basic exercise, but also a simple explanation of the processes involved. The comments below were taken after considering Gundog Working Tests Rules for various States.

DogsNT determined that existing Retrieving and/or Obedience Judges could apply for a simple training to officiate at these Tests. Both current Retrieving Trial Judges undertook a training session with Georgina Golle (QLD) and were duly endorsed for the DogsNT Council. *(Carmen Sinclair has both Retrieving and Obedience judging endorsed for some time.)*

### Rules:

- Judge as approved by DogsNT
- To qualify, a qualifying score of at least 50% is required for each exercise and 75% overall.
- Dogs must be on lead coming to and leaving the starting point. All tests are done with collars and leads removed.
- Where there is any doubt as to what the dogs should do in any part of the test, the Retrieving Rules of the ANKC should be used as a guide.
- The handler may use whatever commands, signals they deem appropriate, but as the Tests are conducted in open, grassed areas, undue shouting or gesturing should be discouraged.
- Tests are conducted using a triangular pattern for both Novice and Open, though distances vary slightly (details within the exercises).

### General Notes:

- During 2008 and 2009, there were five (5) Gundog Working Tests held in the Northern Territory. All had successful finishers and three (3) more Tests have been scheduled for 2010.
- The Palmerston Gundog Club generally uses dummies
- "Firing tool" is a toy shotgun which can be broken etc as per a real shotgun and even has 'blank cartridges'

## NOVICE TEST

| Exercise 1                        | Procedure   | Assessment & Deductions  | Pts |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----|
| Dog to walk at heel for 30 metres | <p>The dog is brought to start peg on lead. Lead &amp; collar are removed for test to begin.</p> <p>On Judge's command "<i>forward</i>", the Handler, with or without a command to "<i>heel</i>", walks toward the 2<sup>nd</sup> peg at a normal and steady pace with the dog at heel. The Judge will give the command to "<i>halt</i>".</p> <p>The Handler should stop promptly and the dog to also stop automatically at same time. The dog may assume the stand, sit or drop position. The Judge then says "<i>exercise finished</i>"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog must be under control</li> <li>• Walks close to the handler approx at knee level</li> <li>• Walks the same pace as the handler</li> </ul> <p><b>Deductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any additional commands to heel after the initial command, shall be penalised</li> <li>• Any dog not walking at the handler's pace and corrects without a command, will be penalised 5 pts</li> <li>• Any dog which requires repeated commands to heel fails the test</li> </ul> | 15  |

| Exercise 2   | Procedure   | Assessment & Deductions   | Pts |
|--|---|---|-----|
| Dog put on Stand, Drop or Sit position. Handler to walk away 30m. Turn about and face dog. Then call the dog to hand | <p>Handler and dog, at 2<sup>nd</sup> peg, facing 3<sup>rd</sup> peg. Test commences when Judge says "leave your dog".</p> <p>Handler gives command to stay and walks to 3<sup>rd</sup> peg, turns and waits direction. Judge says "call your dog".</p> <p>Handler gives command and dog should come in promptly and remain steady, in front, in the stand, sit or drop position.</p> <p>The Judge says "Finish". The handler commands the dog to the heel position. <i>[A dog which anticipates the finish, must still be given the command to "finish".]</i> The Judge says "exercise finished"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog remains steady when handler walks away</li> <li>• Goes to Handler promptly when called</li> <li>• Positions itself in front of Handler and awaits further command</li> <li>• Goes to heel position cleanly and remains steady</li> </ul> <p><b>Deductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra commands are penalised up to 50% of total</li> <li>• A dog which breaks from position (inc. moves all 4 feet) fails the exercise</li> <li>• A dog which returns to Handler directly to the heel position will be penalised 5 pts</li> <li>• If Handler looks back while walking, penalty of 5 pts</li> </ul> | 20  |

| Exercise 3  | Procedure   | Assessment & Deductions   | Pts |
|---|---|---|-----|
| <p>Dog put on Stand, Drop or Sit position and to remain in that position for ONE minute.</p> <p>Handler to walk at least 30m, turn and face dog.</p> <p>On command, to then call dog to hand.</p> | <p>From 3<sup>rd</sup> peg, the Handler and dog face the 1<sup>st</sup> peg. Test commences when Judge says "leave your dog".</p> <p>The Handler gives the command to stay and walk to the 1<sup>st</sup> peg, turns to face the dog and waits for Judge to say "call your dog".</p> <p>The Handler calls the dog which should go directly to the front of the Handler and remain steady.</p> <p>The Judge times the stay then orders "finish" and the dog is called to the heel position. The Judge says "exercise finished"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog remains steady when handler walks away</li> <li>• Goes to Handler promptly when called</li> <li>• Positions itself in front of Handler and awaits further command</li> <li>• Goes to heel position cleanly and remains steady</li> </ul> <p>Deductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dog which fails to stay is marked Zero</li> <li>• A dog which returns to Handler directly to the heel position will be penalised 5 pts</li> <li>• If Handler looks back while walking, penalty 5 pts</li> </ul> | 30  |

| Exercise 4                                 | Procedure  | Assessment & Deductions   | Pts |
|--|--|---|-----|
| <p>Single MARK retrieve of approx. 50m</p> | <p>Assessment will be as for a single mark retrieve in the ANKCRetrieving Trials for Gundogs, except, the Handler will be judged from the Firing Point</p> <p>Handler and dog comes to Control Point. On direction from the Judge to commence, the lead and collar is removed. The Handler takes the starting pistol or gun from the steward and walks to Firing Point.</p> <p>The Handler will command the dog to stay and fire at the dummy when cast. The Handler will command the dog to retrieve which should then be delivered cleanly to hand.</p> <p>The Handler will heel the dog back to Control Point, the dog to remain steady, and the Handler passes over the dummy and gun. Lead and collar are put on. Judge calls "exercise finished"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment and Deductions are as per the ANKC Rules for Retrieving Trials for Gundogs.</li> <li>• The dog must always be in a position to clearly sight the dummy</li> <li>• Directions should not be necessary from the Handler on simple, marked retrieves.</li> </ul> | 35  |

**A dog must score a minimum of 50% marks in each exercise and 75% of total marks overall**

## OPEN TEST

For Gundogs that have qualified 3 times in, or WON a Novice Gundog Test or have a Retrieving Trial title.

| <b>Exercise 1</b>                 | <b>Procedure</b>       | <b>Assessment &amp; Deductions</b> | <b>Pts</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Dog to walk at heel for 30 metres | Same as in Novice Test | Same as in Novice Test             | 15         |

| <b>Exercise 2</b>  | <b>Procedure</b>       | <b>Assessment &amp; Deductions</b> | <b>Pts</b> |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Dog put on Stand, Sit or Drop position, Handler to walk away 30 metres.<br>Turn about and face dog and when instructed by Judge call the dog to hand | Same as in Novice Test | Same as in Novice Test             | 15         |

| <b>Exercise 3</b>   | <b>Procedure</b>  | <b>Assessment &amp; Deductions</b>  | <b>Pts</b> |
|---|---|---|------------|
| Dog put on Stand, Drop or Sit and required to remain in that position for ONE minute.<br>Handler to walk away at least 30 metres, turn about and face dog.<br>Handler to call dog and put on Stand, Drop or Sit when requested by Judge, then call the dog to hand. | From 3 <sup>rd</sup> peg, the Handler and dog face the 1 <sup>st</sup> peg. Test commences when judge says "leave your dog".<br>The Handler gives the command to stay and walks to the 1 <sup>st</sup> peg, turns to face the dog and waits for Judge to say "call your dog"<br>When directed by the Judge, the Handler orders the dog into a Stand, Drop or Sit position.<br>On further order from the Judge, the handler will call the dog to hand. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog remains steady as handler walks away</li> <li>• The dog assumes the required position promptly when ordered to do so</li> <li>• On subsequent order, the dog is called to hand to await further direction</li> <li>• On command, the dog goes to heel position cleanly and remains steady</li> </ul> <p><b>Deductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dog which fails to stay at the peg, or does not assume the required position promptly shall fail the exercise</li> <li>• A dog which returns to Handler directly to the heel position will be penalised 5 pts</li> <li>• If handler looks back while walking, penalty 5 pts</li> </ul> | 30         |

| Exercise 4  | Procedure   | Assessment & Deductions  | Pts |
|---|---|--|-----|
| <p>All dogs to complete a DOUBLE RISE retrieve, with the second object to be thrown while dog is return with the first.</p> | <p>Assessment will be as for a Double Rise retrieve in the ANKC Retrieving Trials for Gundogs, and the handler will be judged from the time the dog's lead is removed.</p> <p>Handler and dog come to the Control Point. On direction from the Judge, the lead and collar is removed. The Handler will command the dog to stay and fire as the first dummy is cast.</p> <p>As the dog is returning with the first dummy, the second dummy is cast, and second short fired.</p> <p>The dog must deliver the first dummy to hand and on command from the handler, retrieve the second dummy</p> <p>The handler will feel the dog back to the Control Point. The dog is to remain steady as the handler passes the dummies and gun and lead and collar are put on.</p> <p>The Judge then calls "exercise finished"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments and Deductions are as per the ANKC Rules for Retrieving Trials for Gundogs.</li> <li>The dog must always be in a position to clearly sight the dummies</li> </ul> | 25  |

| Exercise 5  | Procedure  | Assessment & Deductions   | Pts |
|---|--|---|-----|
| <p>Single BLIND Retrieve at least 40 metres distance. This is to be a different areas from Exercise 4</p> | <p>Assessment will be as for a Blind Retrieve in the ANKC Retrieving Trials for Gundogs. The handler will be judged from the time the dog's lead is removed.</p> <p>The handler is advised prior to commencement where the dummy is to be placed.</p> <p>The dog is left is a blind or behind cover with collar and lead removed. The handler comes to the Control Point to collect gun and walks to the Firing Point</p> <p>On Judge's direction, the handler fires the gun and calls the dog to heel. Direction is given and the dog sent to retrieve</p> <p>The dog should then deliver cleanly to hand</p> | <p>Assessment and deductions are as per the ANKC Rules for Retrieving Trials for Gundogs.</p> | 15  |

**JUDGING SHEET      GUNDOG WORKING TEST**

**NOVICE TEST**

JUDGE:.....

DATE:.....

CLUB:.....

VENUE:.....

| Exercise               | Pts        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Heel free              | 15         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Recall                 | 20         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1 min Stay & Recall    | 30         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Single Mark            | 35         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>100</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <i>Less deductions</i> |            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>FINAL SCORE</b>     |            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

A pass requires at least 50% in each exercise and 75% overall

Judge's Signature:.....

**JUDGING SHEET      GUNDOG WORKING TEST**

**OPEN TEST**

JUDGE:.....

DATE:.....

CLUB:.....

VENUE:.....

| Exercise                        | Pts        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Heel                            | 15         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Recall                          | 15         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Stay / assume position & Recall | 30         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Double Rise                     | 25         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Blind Retrieve                  | 15         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>100</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <i>Less Deductions</i>          |            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>FINAL SCORE</b>              |            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

A pass requires at least 50% in each exercise and 75% overall

Judge's Signature:.....