

RULES AND PROCEDURES  
FOR GUNDOG WORKING TESTS  
A.N.K.C.

*Note – these rules were copied from the rules published in the South Australian Canine Association Journal of July 2003, pages 20 and 21. Any discrepancy between these rules and the SACA rules, then the SACA rules prevail.*

- Retrieving or Field Trial Judges must officiate at these Tests, or a suitable person approved by the Council of the S.A.C.A.
- To attain a qualifying score in a Gundog Working Test, an overall pass of at least 50% in each exercise and an overall score of not less than 75%, will entitle a dog to receive a Gundog Test Certificate. No official titles are awarded in Gundog Working Tests.
- In both Novice and Open, dogs are to be at heel coming to and leaving the starting point.
- Dogs must do all tests with leads and collars removed.
- The work of the dogs in Gundog Working Test should relate to the work in Retrieving Trials. Where there is any doubt as to what the dog should do in any part of the test, the Rules of A.N.K.C. Retrieving Trials should be used as a guide.
- If a dog is required to stay it may remain in the sit, stand or drop position, the essence of the test being the ability of the dog to remain steady.
- The Handler may control the dog by voice, hand signals or whistle, singly or combined. If combined, they must be in unison, or they will be regarded as separate commands.
- The ground for Gundog Working Tests should preferably be a grassed area of sufficient size to allow for retrieves of 50 metres or more -water may be used.
- For the first three tests in Novice class, mark a triangular area with three pegs approximately 20, 25 and 35 metres apart.
- For the Open class mark a triangular area with three pegs approximately 30, 35 and 40 metres apart.

## NOVICE CLASS

Novice Class is for all registered gundogs that have not previously won two Novice Gundog Working Test Classes, or an Open Class. To qualify the dog must successfully complete the following exercises.

### EXERCISE 1 –

The dog to walk in the heel position for 20 metres.

#### Procedure –

The dog is brought to the first peg on a lead. The lead and collar are removed and the test then commences. On the command of "Forward" from the Judge, the Handler, with or without commanding the dog to heel, walks toward the second peg at a normal and steady pace with the dog at heel. As the second peg is approached the Judge will give the command "Halt". The Handler should stop promptly and the dog should automatically stop in unison, with the dog assuming the stand, sit or drop position. The Judge will then declare the "Exercise finished".

#### Assessment –

The essentials of the test are that the dog:

- (a) is under control;
- (b) walks in a position where it is close to the Handler, aware and responsive to any movement of the Handler, and can see where it is walking, which means its head is approximately alongside the Handler's knee;
- (c) takes the pace of the Handler.

#### Points awarded -10 points

- Any command to heel required after the initial command shall be penalised half the points.
- A dog that is not walking at the Handler's pace and corrects itself without a command will be penalised five (5) points.
- A dog which requires repeated commands to heel fails the test and will be scored Zero (0) points.

### EXERCISE 2 –

The dog is to be put in a stand, sit or drop position. The Handler is to walk away, turn around and face the dog, and when instructed by the Judge, call the dog to hand. The Handler shall walk away a distance of between 25 metres and a maximum of 30 metres.

#### Procedure –

The Handler and dog proceed to the second peg and stop, facing the third peg. The second test commences with the Judge giving the instruction "Leave your dog". The Handler gives the dog a command to stay and walks to the third peg, turns to face the dog and waits for the Judge's instruction "Call your dog". The Handler calls the dog and the dog should go promptly to the Handler and remain steady in front of the Handler in the stand, sit, or drop position, until the Judge gives the instruction "Finish". The Handler then commands the dog to go to heel position. The Judge declares "Exercise Finished".

#### Assessment –

The essentials of the test are that the dog

- (a) remains steady when the Handler walks away;
- (b) goes to the Handler promptly when called;
- (c) on recall, positions itself in front of the Handler and awaits further command;
- (d) goes to heel position cleanly and remains steady when commanded. .

#### Points awarded –20 Points.

- Extra commands are penalised half the points.
- A dog which moves all four feet in a forward movement when in the stay situation has broken the command and is scored Zero (0) points.
- A dog which on return to the Handler goes directly to heel will be penalised half the points.

- A penalty of five (5) points will be applied if the Handler looks back while walking to the third peg.

### EXERCISE 3-

The dog is given a command to stay. The Handler is to walk away a distance between a min. of 35 to a max. of 40 metres, turn around and face the dog. The Handler will call the dog, and on command instruct the dog to stop. (The dog may stop in either the stand, sit or drop position.) The Handler will then call the dog to hand. All movements will be on order from the Judge.

#### Procedure –

The Handler and dog proceed to the third peg, and stop facing the first peg. The third test commences with the Judge giving the instruction "Leave your dog". The Handler gives the dog a command to stay, and walks to the first peg, turns to face the dog and waits for the Judge's instruction "Call your dog".

The Handler calls the dog and on instruction from the Judge to "Stop your dog", the Handler commands the dog to stop. The dog may stop in the stand, sit or drop position, but must obey the command by stopping immediately. The dog must not change position.

The Judge gives the instruction "Call your dog". The Handler calls the dog, which should go directly to the front of the Handler and remain steady, awaiting the next command.

The Judge gives the instruction "Finish" and the dog is called to heel position.

The Judge will then declare "Exercise Finished".

#### Assessment –

- A dog which fails to stay is marked Zero (0) points.
- A dog which does not stop promptly on the first command it or changes position once stopped is penalised half the points, and if the dog requires a second command to stop it is scored Zero (0) points for the test.

Points awarded -25 points.

### EXERCISE 4 –

This exercise will comprise of a single marked retrieve of approximately 50 metres.

#### Procedure –

This exercise will be tested and assessed as for a single marked retrieve in Retrieving Trials for Gundogs, except the Handler will only be judged from the Firing Point.

The Handler and dog will proceed to the start control pegs. On instruction from the Judge the exercise will commence. The Handler will remove the lead and collar from the dog and take the starting pistol from the Gun Steward. The Handler, with the dog at heel, will proceed to the next set of control pegs.

The Handler will sit or stay the dog and fire at the dummy, when cast from the thrower. The Handler will command the dog to retrieve the cast dummy. The dog will retrieve the dummy and deliver to hand cleanly.

The Handler will heel the dog back to the start control pegs and sit or stay the dog, hand over the starting pistol\* and dummy to the Gun Steward and place the lead and collar back on the dog. Exercise finished.

#### Assessment –

- The exercise shall be assessed the same as a single marked retrieve in Retrieving Trials for Gundogs except for the heeling to the firing point.
- On marked retrieves the dog must be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls.
- A dog on a marked retrieve should not need direction from the Handler.

Points awarded -45 points

\*Use of a starting pistol is at the discretion of the Club conducting the Test.

## OPEN CLASS

An Open Class is for all registered gundogs that have qualified three times or won a Novice Gundog Working Test. To qualify the dog must successfully complete the following exercises.

### EXERCISE 1 –

The dog to walk at heel for 25 metres.

Procedure –As for Test 1 in Novice.

Assessment -As for Test 1 in Novice.

Points awarded -10 points.

### EXERCISE 2 –

The dog is put in a down or sit position. The Handler is to walk away a min. of 25 to a max. of 30 metres, turn around and face dog. When instructed by the Judge, the Handler shall call the dog to hand.

Procedure -As for Exercise 2 in Novice.

Assessment -As for Exercise 2 in Novice.

Points Awarded -15 points

### EXERCISE 3 –

The dog is put in a down or sit position and required to remain in that position for one minute during which time the Handler is to walk away a min. of 35 to a max. of 40 metres. The Handler will turn and face the dog. The Handler will call the dog to hand. All movements will be on orders from the Judge.

Procedure –

As for Exercise 3 in Novice, except that the Judge will time one minute from when the Handler leaves the dog to when the Handler is given the instruction "Call Your Dog".

Assessment -As for Exercise 3 in Novice.

Points awarded -20 points

### EXERCISE 4 –

This Exercise will consist of a Double Mark Retrieve with the maximum distance for either legs not exceeding 60 metres. This Retrieve will consist of two (2) marked retrieves and may include land and water. Dummies cannot be cast simultaneously and there must be a reasonable delay between casts, so that a clear sight of the dummies is obtained by the dog and Handler.

Procedure –

This Exercise will be conducted like a double mark retrieve in a Retrieving Trial for Gundogs but to a lesser standard than encountered in Retrieving Trials.

The Handler will proceed to the control pegs and on command from the Judge the exercise will commence. The Handler will remove the lead and collar from the dog and receive the starting pistol from the Gun Steward. The Handler will proceed to the next set of control pegs with the dog at heel. The Handler will sit or stay his dog and fire at the two dummies when they are cast from the throwers.

Once both dummies have been cast the Handler will instruct the dog to retrieve the dummies in whichever order the Judge has stipulated. The dummies will be retrieved and delivered to hand cleanly.

When both dummies have been retrieved, the Handler will heel the dog back to the start control pegs and stay the dog, hand the starting pistol\* and dummies to the Gun Steward and put the lead and collar back on the dog. Exercise finished.

Assessment –

- The exercise will be assessed the same as for a Double Mark Retrieve in Retrieving Trials for Gundogs.
- On marked retrieves the dog must be able to see the cast of the bird in the air and as it fails (sic).
- A dog on a marked retrieve should not need direction from the Handler.

Points awarded -55 points

## DEFINITIONS

Dummy -The type of dummies used shall be at the discretion of the Judge. Gundog -Includes all registered Gundogs (Main and Limited) and purebred Gundogs on the Associate Register.

\* Use of a starting pistol is at the discretion of the club conducting the Test.