

## RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR GUNDOG WORKING TEST

To attain a qualifying score in 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 starting point.

All dogs must do all tests with leads and collars removed. The work of dogs in Gundog Working Test should relate to work in Retrieving Trials, and so where there is any doubt as to what the dog should do in any part of the test, then the Rules of 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 but if combined then they must be in unison or they will be regarded as separate commands.

The ground for Gundog, Working Test 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 out the area with three pegs approximately 20, 25 and 40 metres apart respectively. For the Open class mark out an area 30, 35 - 40 metres apart.

### NOVICE CLASS

#### Qualification

A Novice Class is for all registered gundogs that have not previously won two Novice Gundog Working Test Classes, or an Open Class.

EXERCISE 1 Dog to walk to heel for 20 metres.

Procedure Dog is brought to the first peg on a lead. The lead is removed and the dog is then in competition. 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 "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 itself is walking, which usually means with head 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 required repeated commands to heel fails the test and will be scored Zero (0) points.

**EXERCISE 2** Dog to be put in a stand, sit or drop position. Handler to walk away, turn around and face dog, and when instructed by the judge, to call dog to hand. Handler shall walk away a distance of between 25 metres and 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 round to heel. The judge then declares the "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 around to heel cleanly and remains steady when commanded.

**Points awarded** 20 Points.

Again, 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 stored 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** Dog is given command to stay. Handler to walk away between Min 35 - Max 40 metres, turn around and face dog. 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 then gives the instruction to 'Call your dog". The handler then 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 around to heel. 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 or changes position once stopped is penalised half the points, and if the dog required 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 mark retrieve in Non-Slip Retrieving Trials, except that 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 take the lead from the dog and take the starting pistol from the gun steward. The handler, with dog at heel, will then proceed to the next set of control pegs; handler will then sit or stay the dog and fire at the dummy when cast from the thrower. The handler will then command the dog to retrieve the cast dummy. The dog will retrieve the dummy and deliver to hand cleanly. The handler will then heel the dog back to the start control pegs and sit or stay the dog, hand over starting pistol and dummy to the gun steward and place the lead back on the dog. Exercise finished.

**Assessment** The exercise shall be assessed the same as a single marked retrieve in Non Slip Retrieving Trials 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

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## **OPEN CLASS**

### **Qualification**

An Open Class is for all registered gundogs that have qualified three times or won a Novice Gundog Working Test.

**EXERCISE 1** Dog to walk at heel for 25 metres.

**Procedure** As for Test I in Novice

**Assessment** As for Test 1 in Novice

**Points awarded** 10 points

**EXERCISE 2** Dog put on down or sit position. Handler to walk away min.25 – max.30 metres Turn around and face dog. Then, when instructed by the judge, 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** Dog is put in down or sit position and required to remain in that position for **one minute** during which time the handler is to walk away min.35 – max.40 metres, the

handler will then turn and face the dog. Handler will call the dog to hand. All movements will be on orders from the judge.

<u>Procedure</u>	As for Exercise 3 in Novice, except that the judge will time one minute from when the handler leaves the dog to when handler is given the instruction "Call your dog".
<u>Assessment</u>	As for Exercise 3 in Novice.
<u>Points awarded</u>	20 points

**EXERCISE 4** This Exercise shall consist of a Double Mark Retrieve with the maximum distance for either legs not exceeding 60 metres. This Retrieve shall 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 site of the dummies is obtained by dog and handler.

Procedure This Exercise shall be conducted like a double mark retrieve in Non-slip Retrieving Trial but to a lesser standard as encountered in Retrieving Trials. The handler shall proceed to the control pegs and on command from the judge start the exercise. The handler will take the lead from the dog and receive the starting pistol from the gun steward. The handler will then proceed to the next set of control pegs with his dog at heel. The handler shall then 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 then instruct the dog to retrieve the dummies in whichever order the judge has stipulated. The dummies shall be retrieved and delivered to hand cleanly. When both dummies have been retrieved, the handler shall heel the dog back to the start control pegs and stay the dog, hand starting pistol and dummies to the gun steward and put the lead back on the dog. Exercise finished.

Assessment The exercise shall be assessed the same as for a Double Mark Retrieve in Non Slip Retrieving Trials. On marked retrieves the dog must be able to see the cast of the bird in the air and as it falls. A dog on a marked retrieve should not need direction from the handler.

Points awarded 55 points

## **DEFINITIONS**

Dummy All dummies shall conform with the VCA recommended size and shape.

Gundog Includes all registered Gundog breeds.

Margaret Hall  
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