

JOINT NEWFOUNDLAND DRAUGHT TEST REGULATIONS

These tests have been accepted by The Newfoundland Club, The Northern Newfoundland Club & The Southern Newfoundland Club as the basis for all certified tests.

However, during Q1 2020, there will be an evaluation and consultation before the regulations are revised ready for the first test in 2021. Any matters to be put on the agenda for discussion during the evaluation period should be notified as they arise, in writing, to the relevant club Working Section Sub Committee Secretary.

Should any safety issues become apparent prior to the start of the next evaluation period, then the Working Section Sub Committees can introduce amendments by mutual consent.

These regulations replace all previous versions at the agreed date and are the only standard against which all tests will be judged.

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1 - Administration of the Tests

1.1 - Introduction

It is generally acknowledged that the Newfoundland, as a unique breed, was bred by its originators in Canada to be a big powerful dog capable of an arduous days work either on board a fishing boat or on shore. On land it was extensively used as beast of burden as well as being the friend and guardian of the family, especially the children. Without wanting to endanger their dog or anyone else, the modern day owner increasingly wants to see whether their dog is equally capable. This set of exercises, which will test the dog at five levels, has been devised to provide a safe and consistent method of proving the dog's capabilities in a non-competitive environment.

These tests, which are extensions to training and not an end in themselves, are based on the building block principle. Skills learnt by owner and dog for the lower levels are repeated and refined or modified in the higher levels. It must be understood that it is necessary to **MASTER** the lower levels first in order to proceed to the higher levels successfully. If a problem arises with a certain manoeuvre then there will be a firm foundation to fall back on; if training is carried out inconsistently then a problem cannot be dealt with systematically. Thus dogs must pass each lower level before being permitted to attempt the next highest level, i.e. passing the Beginners Test before Level 1, and Level 1 before entering for Level 2 etc. It must be borne in mind that the exercises actually test the handler and dog partnership, not just the capabilities of the dog, the handler and dog are working as a team.

On a test day there will be two judges and it is their desire for all the entered 'team's to pass. Handlers may ask the judges questions during the test if they are unsure whether they are permitted to do something or not. Judges may volunteer some advice to help handlers and their dogs during the lower level tests (beginners, levels 1 & 2). To guide handler, a breakdown of the penalty points is shown within the exercises. The judges will be using a scoring system for marking each performance. These marks are purely for their use and will not be divulged to handlers. The published results will only show whether the required standard was reached. The dog and owner must reach the required standard in each exercise otherwise they will fail the test as a whole. At the conclusion of each test the judges will inform the entrant whether they and their dog have passed or failed and probably make some verbal comments. There will also be written comments to collect from the score steward, together with a certificate of competence for a pass.

These tests are non-competitive. However, if a competitive trial, with dogs/handlers being placed in order of competence is being arranged, then these regulations may be the basis for those trials. A test day is for handlers to enjoy working their dogs and delight in their joint achievements and those of fellow Newfoundland teams. Even at a test, remember never to become so serious that the fun goes out of working for either you or your Newfoundland.

Dogs must be at least 12 months old on the day of the test to enter for the Beginners Level, 18 months for Level 1, 24 months for Level 2 & 3 and 30 months for Level 4. Dogs aged 8 years and over cannot be entered for Level 4. These ages have been set in the best interests of the dog, bearing in mind its physical and mental capabilities. Handlers are encouraged to start training their dog only when it is capable of performing all elements without undue strain.

By making an entry, an owner declares that both the handler and their dog are fit to carry out the proposed test. If it appears to any official at a test event that a 'team' is not fit enough they must not allow it to take part

A team who has passed Beginners for the first time may at the same test - subject to the dog being of age and being trained to Level 1 - request on the day to enter Level 1, if the Judges deem the team capable then subject to time and with the Test Manager's agreement the team may go on to enter Level 1. Apart from Beginners moving up to Level 1 on the day a dog can only be entered for one level which it has not passed, per event, but may retake any level for which it already holds a pass, i.e. one new (un-passed) level, at a weekend event.

A dog can only be entered for one level per day. At a weekend event this can be one level which it has not already passed on one day and one level for which it already holds a pass on the other day.

Owners and Handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. Exercising of dogs within the designated test area is prohibited. All dogs not under test must be kept on a lead

Beginners Tests can be conducted, informally, by two Judges from the approved list, provided one of them is a senior judge at this level. This test does not have to be carried out at an organised event and can be arranged by the handlers at their and the Judge's convenience. The Working Sub-Committee will sanction the chosen judges on receipt of a recordable request from the organisers. It is the responsibility of the organisers to notify any passes with any other relevant information to Working Sub-committee, so that the matter can be formally reported at the next committee meeting.

A brace (more than one dog) can be entered at all levels except the level 4 travois test. Each individual dog must have passed the Level being attempted before it can be entered as a part of a team. The Control Section of a team test will be carried out collectively. In the Pull Section for a team the regulations shall be modified so that all references to the dog shall be read as the team of dogs; the weight to be carried as a load shall be increased by 50% for the second and any subsequent members of a team.

1.2 - Responsibilities of the Working Section Sub-Committee (WSSC)

- a) With the working groups select suitable dates and venues for draught tests.
- b) Select potential Judges from the approved list and arrange for them to be officially invited to adjudicate; acceptance notification will be kept on file. The Judges selected must know the rules thoroughly and will conduct

the tests in a consistent manner; they must judge according to the regulations as they are written and not how they would like the tests to be or how they train their own dogs.

- c) Liaise with the working groups to appoint a proficient Test Manager, who is then responsible for ensuring the site is suitable for the tests to be held, and for obtaining permission to use the site from its owner(s).
- d) Ensure that their appointed officials (Test Manager and Judges) are aware that safety is always the prime consideration and that they have a duty to call off a test if the conditions are, or become, unsuitable. It doesn't matter if one or more of the three officials (Judges & Test Manager) think they should carry on, if just one official is concerned that it is dangerous then the Level will be cancelled, halted or postponed. This likelihood of cancellation should be included in the schedule so that entrants are fully aware of such a possibility.
- e) The WSSC reserves the right to refuse any entries.
- f) Should any of the Judges or test officials be prevented from fulfilling their engagements, the WSSC reserves the right to appoint another in their place. Entrants may withdraw from the tests, but no fees will be refunded.
- g) Acknowledgement of entry of a test will not be sent out to the entrants, any person requiring acknowledgement of entry must enclose a SAE with their entry form or request by email.
- h) Every effort will be made to test all entrants on the day of the event, if however, due to lack of entrants or circumstances beyond the WSSC this is not possible, any untested entrants will have their entry fees refunded.

1.3 - List of Judges

The WSSC will hold a list from which Judges for its events will be chosen.

The list will show the highest level that the person can judge i.e. a Level 3 Judge can judge Levels 1, 2 and 3 but not 4. Persons wishing to become Judges can apply by referring to each individual clubs addendum. Following favourable reports on their judging performance at tests, Judges can be moved up the list as their experience grows. Similarly for poor performance or other misdemeanours a Judge could be moved down the list or be removed altogether. When a Judge's position on the list is changed then they will be notified by the secretary of the WSSC. Whilst each club will maintain their own list and use it to select their Judges. The lists will be combined (usually at year end). A person's position on the joint list will be the highest one they then hold on either list

1.4 - Responsibilities of the Test Manager

- a) Ensure that the location of the test is adequate for the tests to be held. Although the Test Manager will indicate the control/manoeuvre/haul area; it is the Judges who will decide if it is suitable.
- b) Check that suitable access can be provided, especially for emergency services.
- c) Ensure that a local veterinary surgeon has been asked, and if necessary has agreed in writing, to act as emergency cover for the event. This letter will be kept by the Test Manager and will be supplied to the relevant committee on request. Notify other emergency services as appropriate. Publicise the telephone number and locations of emergency facilities (vet, hospital etc) and also the locations of telephones to call these facilities.
- d) Oversee the production of the schedule, checking that the address to which completed entry forms are to be sent is correct. The schedule will include the requirement to attend the Judge's briefing and that handlers who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.
- e) If there are to be limited entries, allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis, but with unqualified dogs taking priority; as soon as possible after the closing date for entries inform applicants if they are entrants or on the reserve list.
- f) If insufficient entries are received by the closing date for entries, the Test Manager has authority to cancel part or the entire event, and advise the Judges, Stewards Entrants and the WSSC Secretary accordingly.
- g) Oversee the production of a catalogue or list of entrants for use on the day, together with blank score sheets, comment forms and certificates, ensuring each dog is only entered for one test per day.
- h) Arrange sufficient safety stewards. Depending on the event circumstances, the Test Manager can appoint a Chief Steward to deal with this. With the judges, the Test Manager is responsible for allocating safety stewards for each haul.
- i) Preferably the day before the tests, check the site for any last minute problems and then take any steps as necessary to rectify.
- j) If the Test Manager is unable to meet their commitment for any reason, they must inform the secretary of the WSSC as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation.
- k) Ensure that all the equipment is in place and ready for use for the start of judging. Check the test site, checking for any overnight changes that could pose problems for the test. Brief the Judges and safety stewards on the peculiarities of the venue.
- l) Provide suitable apparatus for the beginners pull section
- m) Ensure and provide if necessary a means of communication between judges and test manager to be used in emergencies during the haul section, i.e. walkie-talkie or mobile phone. Also have a suitable method available to rescue an injured dog.
- n) Ensure the smooth running of the tests.
- o) Ensure that no smoking, eating or drinking takes place within the test area.

- p) It is the Test Manager's responsibility to deal with any members of the Press. Their requests should only be acceded to if they do not affect the smooth running of the test – safety and the dogs always come first.
- q) Unless a separate Referee has been appointed, act as Referee.
- r) Provide a legibly written report, which includes the full names of the dogs entered/passed or disqualified, to the relevant committee on the conduct of the tests, including constructive criticisms where appropriate, within 14 days of the test. It should include a balance sheet showing income and expenses including the relevant entry monies collected.
- s) Within 14 days send details of the passes, failures or disqualifications to the club's record keeper, in accordance with the requirements included in the Test Manager's pack.

1.5 - Responsibilities of Referees

Referees do not have to watch the test for which they are adjudicating. In the event of a disagreement over the interpretation of the regulations (not performance) between the Judges, the Referee will talk with them and attempt to conciliate with particular reference to the regulations. They may also talk to the safety stewards in an attempt to resolve the matter. The Referee can order a retake of an exercise if the matter is not resolved in any other way. If called upon to adjudicate on any matter, then the Referee will also supply a 'not for publication' report to the relevant sub-committee within 14 days. The Working Section Sub Committee will have the ultimate decision as to whether a test has been carried out as per the regulations.

1.6 - Responsibilities of the Judges

Each test will have two judges working in unison, with all decisions made jointly.

It is the responsibility of the judges to:-

- a) Judge to appropriate draught regulations, including the prior inspection of the site, where necessary. If the Judges disagree over whether a 'team' has done sufficient to pass, then the joint decision will be a fail. If the Judges disagree over the interpretation of the regulations the Referee will be called in.
- b) Judge fairly and impartially. They should also be as helpful as possible, especially for the Beginners Test.
- c) On invitation to judge a test, a recordable response is required to the sub-committee. If after acceptance a Judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason, then they must inform the Test Manager as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation to the subcommittee.
- d) Check with the Test Manager who is to be the Referee.
- e) Having been briefed by the Test Manager on the peculiarities of the venue, brief the stewards as to their particular responsibilities. Judges should remind stewards that they are not to offer advice to the handlers (unless it is safety related). Stewards may bring to the Judge's attention some aspect of a completed exercise they feel might have been missed by the Judges.
- f) All handlers taking part in the test must attend the Judge's briefing at the appointed time. This is essential so that handlers are fully aware of hazards and safety requirements. Handlers who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.
- g) The judges have the right to terminate any test being taken if they consider that the continuation of the test would be injurious to the dog or handler.
- h) Ensure that there are no more stewards than necessary in the test area.
- i) If special circumstances make it necessary, the judges can allow a dog to retake a particular element of a test. This should not be used for an attempt that had only just failed but should be used where something unexpected happens which affects the dog adversely, for example a loose dog running through the control section area during a test. The Judges alone will determine what is 'unexpected', and whether the exercise can be attempted again.
- j) A 'team' that has taken a test and failed cannot retake that test on the same day; however, at the discretion and agreement of both judges, it may be allowed to continue with the rest of the test as a training exercise.
- k) Allocate some time before the start of the tests for the Pre-Test Equipment Check. If the harness is deemed ill-fitting or if it or the apparatus is deemed unsafe in any respect, then it must be replaced or remedied before the dog will be permitted to commence the test. This will include repair equipment for the cart.
- l) Whilst there may be times when Judges should consult together in private, it is good practice to speak openly in front of stewards and handlers.
- m) Judges will provide verbal comments to handlers immediately after their test and arrange for written comments to be supplied later.
- n) Judge's score sheets need to be completed for each entrant, however the judges may, in agreement, opt to jointly complete one score sheet per team. They must also provide a legibly written report on the test and teams, which must be forwarded to the WSSC secretary, within 14 days of the event. This may be published on the internet or in a suitable periodical. If there are comments that the judges wish to make but do not wish to be published, these are to be clearly marked as such and on a separate sheet that will not be sent for publication. Judges can combine their reports for publication but should report separately on matters not for publication. However all reports will be checked by the WSSC

- o) No two novice judges should judge together and senior judges may be asked to recommend which judges could move up.
- p) A judge may not judge their own dog or one handled by a partner, parent, sibling or spouse.
- q) Judges may not judge with co-judges who are a partner, parent, sibling or spouse..
- r) A Judge may only enter their own dog on the same day if it is entered at a different level that they are judging, and if there is someone else to handle it for the judge. However if time permits and there is no interference with the completion of the judging commitment, the judge, with the agreement of the Test Manager, may handle their own dog.
- s) Judges can judge a 'Brace' of two dogs in a test. Both dogs must remain on the same side of the handler throughout the control section, as they would be, 'if they were hitched together in the cart. (For example one dog cannot be on either side of the handler)
When completing the recall the dogs will remain side by side facing the handler and be called together.
When completing the back up the handler may stand in any position (front/side/behind) in relation to the dogs however the dogs will remain side by side to complete the back up.

1.7 - Judges' Briefing

A briefing will be held before each level (or each element of the level if the judges so wish) in which the particular requirements of the judges will be outlined, together with any peculiarities concerning the test site. It is not a review of how the rules will be interpreted. All entrants should be aware of what is expected of them in advance but can use the briefing as a time to clarify points. The briefing should include a reminder to entrants that by signing the entry form they have declared that their dog is fit and well enough to undertake the relevant level.

1.8 - Responsibilities of Safety Stewards

Safety stewards assisting in the Haul Section of the tests should not be the partner/spouse of the handler.

The amount of assistance a safety steward is allowed to give during the Haul Section, especially in the higher level tests, is minimal and only at the request of the handler.

A safety steward's main responsibility is to ensure the safety of the 'team' that has been assigned to them and only in an emergency should they assist without being asked.

1.9 - Responsibilities of Handlers

- a) Handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs during the test.
- b) Handlers should have read and understood the regulations for the test they are taking.
- c) Exercising dogs within the defined ring/test area is prohibited during the test event (see disqualifications)
- d) They should ensure that their apparatus is in good working condition. The designated load required on haul for each test is part of the entrant's equipment and will NOT be provided by the Test Manager entrants failing to provide their own containers will be unable to enter the test. Each load should weigh correctly using water for the weight in plastic containers (water can be disposed of easily during the haul).
 - o The general consensus for measuring volume to weight mass is 1 Litre = 1 Kilo. Entrants will need to take into account the size and balance of their cart and weight of the actual container when choosing what containers to use.
- e) They should be certain that both they and their dog are fit and healthy and capable of undertaking the test.
- f) They should ensure that they have appropriate apparatus for the comfort and safety of their 'team' e.g. repair kit for cart, water and bowl for dog, first aid kit and poo bags.
- g) They should be aware of how to unhitch their dog quickly should an emergency occur and be able to demonstrate this.
- h) They should be aware of the type of obstacles and manoeuvres they will be expected to encounter.
- i) They should understand the safety is of paramount importance and that they should carry out the test in the style most suitable and safe for themselves, their dogs, and other entrants and other dogs. However, judges have the final decision on safety. .
- j) Handlers should be aware of how to correctly load the weights into their cart, taking into account the safety and comfort of the dogs when out on the haul.
- k) The entrants should be aware that when entering a team of more than one dog in a test, all dogs are to remain on the same side of the handler throughout the control section, as they would be, as if they were hitched in the cart. (For example in brace, one dog on either side of the handler is not allowed)
- l) If a handler is also judging at the same event, please refer to the Responsibilities of the Judges.

1.10 - Disqualifications

A 'team' may be disqualified, or have any test already passed at that event rescinded and be removed from the event if:-

- a) The dog is found to be suffering from an infectious or contagious disease;
- b) The dog or owners/handler interferes with the safety or chance of success of any other entrant;

- c) The dog is of such temperament or so much out of control as to be a danger to itself or any other animal or person;
- d) The dog is likely to be caused suffering if it continues to take part in the tests.
- e) A bitch in season.
- f) If the owner/handler carries out any punitive correction or harsh handling at any time within the boundaries of the event.
- g) The owners/handler behaves in an abusive or intimidating manner to any other person or dog attending the event.
- h) Dog, Owner/Handler if the dog is exercised within the designated test area during the test event.

If a dog is disqualified for any of the above reasons and if the dog has already passed a test at the event, then the pass could be rescinded and a report must be provided by the Test Manager to the relevant WSSC. If a bitch comes into season unexpectedly after entries have closed and thus cannot attend, their owner can apply to have 90% of the entry fee returned; the application must be accompanied by a confirming veterinary certificate.

1.11 - Complaints Procedure

Any complaint should be made in writing to secretary of the WSSC within 14 days from the date of the test. The WSSC Secretary's details can be found in the member's book or from the club's website

1.12 - Teams of more than one dog – Brace

- a) A 'team' of two dogs known as a brace can be entered at all levels. Each individual dog must have passed the Level being attempted before it can be entered as a part of a brace. The brace will be required to go through each level starting at Beginners before proceeding to the next level. The Control Section of a brace test will be carried out collectively. In the Pull Section for a brace the regulations shall be modified so that all references to the dog shall be read as the 'brace of dogs'; the weight to be carried as a load shall be increased by 50% for the second member of a team.
- b) The entrants should be aware that when entering a team of more than one dog in a test, all dogs are to remain on the same side of the handler throughout the control section, as they would be, as if they were hitched in the cart. (For example, one dog on either side of the handler is not allowed)
- c) When completing the recall the dogs will remain side by side facing the handler and be called together.
- d) When completing the back up the handler may stand in any position (front/side/behind) in relation to the dogs however the dogs will remain side by side to complete the back up.
- e) Dogs may not be coupled during the test.

1.13 - Disabled Dogs

Dogs that have any visual or audible impairment may still be entered into all levels of the tests and the handlers with the judge's permission may use additional visual or audible aids.

The dog however must still complete each and every element of the test, as laid out in the regulations.

1.14 - Non Newfoundlands & Newfoundland Cross Breeds

Please refer to your clubs own addendum for further information about Non Newfoundlands & Newfoundland Cross Breeds.

1.15 - Junior Handlers

Please refer to your clubs own addendum for further information about junior handling regulations.

2 - Multi & Test Awards

2.1 - Multi-Test Pass Awards

Multi-test pass awards are issued to 'The Clubs' members and to Newfoundland dogs only, these consist of two types:-

- a) A certificate of merit will be awarded to a dog or brace who pass any of the Levels beginners, 1, 2 and 3 five separate times at more than three different venues and involving at least four different judges. This certificate is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner and the consistency of the dog(s) in being able to perform at the pass level of beginners, 1, 2 or 3 over a number of months and in differing circumstances.
- b) A Diploma will be awarded to a dog or brace who pass a level 4 and have achieved the following
 1. A dog/brace who has two passes using wheeled apparatus and one pass using suitable non wheeled apparatus
 2. A dog/brace who has five passes using wheeled apparatus

These passes must have been obtained at three different venues and involving at least four different judges

This diploma is awarded in recognition of the dedication and the skill of the dog(s) in being able to perform consistently at the highest level.

Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be awarded by all the clubs involved. A dog or particular team of dogs will only qualify once for the Diploma and Certificates of Merit at any particular level, even though they may perform the requirements again with a new owner. To give due recognition to the attainment, any Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be announced at an Annual General Meeting. Multi-test pass awards will not be awarded as of right. It will be the responsibility of the owner to apply to the Club's record keeper and the applicant will be informed of the arrangements for presentation.

2.2 - Junior Handler Certificates and Awards

Please refer to your clubs own addendum for further information about junior handling regulations.

2.3 - Veteran Certificates

Please refer to your clubs own addendum for further information about veteran certificates.

3 - Draught Test

3.1 - Explanatory Notes

- a) For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.
- b) It is the responsibility of the owner(s) to ensure that any dog(s) entered for any test level is FIT AND HEALTHY. The Club cannot accept any liability.
- c) "Halti" type head collars are not to be worn.
- d) Dogs must be handled by the same person throughout all sections of each test.
- e) The tests will be judged by two appointed persons working in unison. It will be necessary for the judges to place themselves in advantageous positions so that between them they will be able to see the performance of all the elements of the test.
- f) Judges will look at the following points when carrying out their inspection of the harness:
 1. The ability of the harness:-
 - to allow the dog to pull the apparatus via the traces;
 - to prevent the apparatus from overriding the dog when going downhill or reversing;
 - to prevent the shafts from flying upwards or falling downwards.
 2. The ease of fit and absence of chafing.
 3. The pull coming from the correct point of the chest.
 4. The ability to escape from the apparatus quickly in an emergency.

As long as a harness fulfils these principles, then it will be acceptable. The judges will expect the harness and shafts to be complementary. The shafts must not be so long or so short as to interfere with the action of the dog.
- g) The running order of the convoys will be decided by the Judges.
- h) Audible instructions given by handlers to their dogs can include the use of whistles, although it must be borne in mind that a whistle may also be used by a judge or someone unconnected with the tests.
- i) Handlers can use verbal encouragement during all sections of the tests. Handlers can also touch their dogs during a test but should not physically manhandle them into position; movement of the dog should be accomplished with words not deeds. This is particularly the case with a back-up; the dog should respond to the handlers commands only and not to touching the dog or the close proximity or actions of the handler.
- j) The handler and dog will be tested as a team, as an example of this working together the handler will determine whether it is necessary to unhitch, or perhaps assist with the apparatus up an incline or even manhandle it themselves, or if they or their dog needs to stop to have a drink, with the exception of the out of sight stays, viewing an obstacle, or finding a suitable path to take, in these cases it is the handler's choice how they leave their dog safely and therefore it could be by tying it to a lamp post or tree etc., either hitched or unhitched, by handing over control to some suitable person, however this person should not interfere with the dog in any way unless required to do so for safety reasons, or any other way the handler feels is appropriate.
- k) Unless entering with a team of two dogs, each handler may only handle one individual dog at each level per day. When entering more than one dog in different levels entry fees will be accepted and every effort will be made to accommodate the entrant by the test manger, however if these additional test entries prove to hold up the running of the event, the entrant may be requested to withdraw or to provide another handler for the additional tests by the test manager.
- l) Handlers must show complete awareness of the dog and apparatus at all times during the test, especially around objects both natural and provided. Handlers who put their dogs in a position whereby they will hit obstacles could face failure.
- m) Handlers must show careful thought before attempting any manoeuvre with particular regards to the safety of the team.
- n) In the event of only one 'team' to form a group down stay, a reliable dog known to the Judges or Test Manager may be used to make up the group.
- o) Gradients of ascent and descent will and should be encountered, however because each and every draught venue is different giving an exact measurement is impossible, as a guide however in level 2 they will be minimal, level 3 they should be approximately 6% and level 4 they should be approximately 10%. Other gradients may be encountered on the haul but the above must be completed with the dog in the cart.
- p) Only those teams qualified to undertake the hauls will be judged and are to remain in front of the last steward on the haul. Anyone following a haul (with or without a dog in cart) must remain behind the last steward, and do so at their own risk .
- q) Apart from Level 1 all stays will be timed from when the handler is at the wait location indicated and confirmed by the steward and end when the handler is instructed to return to the dog. The dog must stay in the wait position until the handler has returned and the exercise is called over by the steward.

3.2 - Environmental equipment and requirements

- a) The test area is to be approximately 25 by 25 metres, clean and kept clear of people and other dogs. It is not essential that this area is defined with stakes and tape/rope although a maximum of nine marker cones can be used as reference points. Weaving/Marker poles may also be provided for use at the Judge's discretion.
- b) Apart from the beginners, entrants will need to provide their own equipment (or arrange to borrow equipment) for the tests.
- c) For the Beginners Level Pull section the provided designated apparatus could be a small light weight log, sledge or section of ladder, it should weigh no more than 20kg. It should be something that will drag fairly smoothly over the level surface of the test area.
If the dog has had some carting experience an empty (no load or other items) light weight two wheeled cart may be used, this will be the provided designated apparatus for Level 1.
- d) Apart from Beginners, each set of draught apparatus provided by the entrants will be expected to carry drinking water and a water bowl for their dog. This will be part of the apparatus and will not be considered a load or part of a load. Other items (repair kit, first aid kit, water and bowl, poo bags, ice pack, etc.) in addition to any designated load, may be carried at the discretion of the handler and with the agreement of the Judges. An extra lead or cord may also be attached to back of the cart to enable the handler to assist the dog where necessary.
- e) Equipment for the judges/safety stewards:
 - o Rules/scoring sheets
 - o Clipboards/pencils
 - o Whistles/stopwatch
 - o Table & chair(s)
 - o Shelter/umbrella
 - o Running order/Results board
 - o List detailing the running order which gives the details of the dogs taking part.
- f) First aid facilities for humans and dogs - dogs cannot be carried on human stretchers.
- g) Generally the terrain for the tests should be suitable for the equipment being used. For the Beginners Level it is important that it is a level well compacted, smooth surface. For the other levels, there should be firm level areas but with variety to include concrete, tarmac, compacted gravel or dirt, mud, leaves, etc. where possible. Artificial surface changes should only be used as a last resort.
- h) In selecting a test site, the gradient requirements of Level 2, 3 and 4 should not be seen as posing any great difficulty. The requirement can be achieved in a number of ways. For example, the course could be generally flat but with some short steep climbs that would require the handler to help their dog; there would be equally steep descents. Alternatively, the course could be split into a number of gently rising and falling stretches that would in total amount to the correct level of difficulty
- i) A 'narrow area' is one that the dogs and apparatus can negotiate but does not have sufficient space for the handler to be alongside.
- j) When using non wheeled apparatus the weights to be carried will be halved. Judges will also use their discretion as to the obstacles, particularly any reverses that non wheeled apparatus will be required to negotiate.
- k) No food or Toys may be used during the control section or manoeuvring section at any level. Food may be given at all levels during the haul as a reward but not as an inducement.
- l) Suitable items to be used as loads during the hauls on Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4. These could include objects with lids, small cones, or we recommend water containers. 1 litre of water = 1kg in weight. So 2 x 5 litre bottles of water = 10kg weight.
- m) All Distances are approximate, All weights should be accurate:

	Distance	Weight
Beginners Level		None
Level 1	½ – 1 mile	5kg weight carried for a small walk/haul
Level 2	1 – 2 mile	10kg weight carried for 50% of the course
Level 3	2 – 3 mile	15kg weight carried for 50% of the course
Level 4	3 – 4 mile	20kg weight carried for 50% of the course

3.3 - Point Scoring

General Control

One point will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- The dog not walking at the side of the handler and responding to their commands.
- General lack of control.
- Each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes.
- If the dog changes position during the halt or wait.
- The handler adapting his pace to that of the dog.
- Lack of control on turns, waits, stops, recalls and halts.
- If the 'team' does not show a sufficient change of pace on level 3 & 4.
- Each time a subsequent back up is attempted on level 3 & 4.

Change of pace

Points lost for no significant change of pace are as follows:

Beginners	Level1	Level2	Level3	Level4
N/A	N/A	3	Failure	Failure

Multi Commands

The number of times a command can be given before a point is accumulated are as follows:

Beginners	Level1	Level2	Level3	Level4
N/A	5	4	3	2

No points will be lost when handler continues to instruct or encourage the dog to continue to obey a command.

Stays

Beginners – Level 2 changing position or getting up during the stay, the dog may be calmly and quietly reset back into the original stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock, But will accumulate the following points each time they are reset.:

Beginners	Level1	Level2	Level3	Level4
3	4	5	failure	failure

Dogs that have been distracted by other dogs may be calmly and quietly reset back into the original stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock and will not accumulate any points or fail the test.

Five points will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- Distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the group down-stay, this will included rolling around the floor,
- continual barking/whining or getting up and going back to its handler.

Hitching / Unhitching

One point will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- The dog is not waiting calmly while they are hitched.
- At the end of the course, the dog not waiting calmly while they are unhitched and unharnessed.

Manoeuvring & Haul Section -

One point will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- Hitting any objects.
- The dog not staying alongside the handler, (unless the handler has positioned themselves to the back or the front of the cart and has instructed the dog accordingly).
- Handlers holding on to any part of the cart or equipment unnecessarily, to control the dog.
- Not assisting the dog over uneven surfaces, up hills etc., thereby not working as a team.

Loading

Five points will be accumulated for:

- Incorrect and/or unsafe loading

4 - Draught Test - Beginners

Dogs minimum age is 12 months

Purpose – To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to safely pull through its harness.

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

4.1 - Control Section

Desired performance:

A course will be set in the test area by the two judges.

- There will be between 3 and 6 turns all at normal pace made up from:
 - between 1 to 2 left turns.
 - between 1 to 2 right turns.
 - between 1 to 2 about turns.
- A wait at a junction of 5 seconds.
- A random, unexpected stop that may be different for each handler.
- A 1 minute sit or down stay, the handler will stand next to the dog. Dog to remain on loose lead
- A simple recall from 5 metres, the dog must be off lead.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward, who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

Permitted actions:

- Handlers can kneel or extend their arms or even walk backwards during the action part of the recall
- The exercise is complete when the dog has returned to the handler and is back on the lead

Failure:

- If the dog leaves the ring
- If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall
- Time lapse of 30 seconds after being called for the recall.
- If the 'team' has accumulated more than 15 points in this element they are not permitted to continue to the pull

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

4.2 - Pull Section

Desired performance:

On completing the Control Section satisfactorily, the handler will be required to hitch up the dog to the provided apparatus.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges that the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will instruct the dog to pull the apparatus willingly and safely diagonally across the ring in a straight line as instructed by the steward.

The steward will instruct the handler and dog to stop.

When instructed by the Judges, the handler will unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Failure:

- If the dog leaves the ring
- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this section
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the log, sledge or cart becomes unstable or tips over;
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in any way to cause distress or discomfort to the dog
- If the dog is dangerously out of control;

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

5 - Draught Test - Level 1 (Intermediate)

Dogs minimum age is 18 months

Purpose – To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to safely pull the apparatus over a basic course

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

5.1 - Control Section

Desired performance:

A course will be set in the test area by the two judges. with the following elements

- There will be between 7 and 9 turns, all at normal pace made up from:
 - 2 and 3 left turns.
 - 2 and 3 right turns.
 - 2 and 3 about turns.
- 30 Second halt in any position of the handler's choice but the dog must remain in the same position (standing, sitting or down).
- A wait at a junction of 5 seconds.
- A random, unexpected stop that may be different for each handler.
- 1 minute down stay, off lead, the handler will be in sight of the dog, approximately 5 meters away, at 45 seconds the handler will be instructed to return and stand next to the dog at the end of the one minute the instruction will be given that the exercise is complete.
- Simple recall from 5 metres, the dog must be off lead.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward, who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

Permitted actions:

- Handlers can kneel or extend their arms or even walk backwards during the action part of the recall
- The exercise is complete when the dog has returned to the handler and is back on the lead

Failure:

- If the dog leaves the ring
- If the handler remains with the dog during the down stay.
- If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall
- Time lapse of 30 seconds after being called for the recall.
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

5.2 - Manoeuvring Section

Desired performance:

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that will be encountered on the haul for the same given exercises, but conducted in a 'safe' environment. It must be possible for the team to lose 15 points in this section enabling them to forfeit the option to proceed to the haul.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges and will incorporate:

- Circular patterns.

- Broad curves.
- right-angle turns. (left and right)
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle
- A figure of 8

These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

Failure:

- Only when this element has been completed satisfactorily will the 'team' be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

5.3 - The Haul

Desired performance:

The handler alone will load a 5k weight with straps safely into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges the dog is ready for inspection

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 'teams' on a haul between 0.5 – 1 mile in distance over at least 2 different terrains, grass/path/hard surface where the wheels can be heard

Note: Where only one terrain is available then a windbreak may be put on the grass for the cart to be pulled over, or a rumble strip. It is important that the dog can hear the noise and feel the different effect on the cart.

A down stay, of 1 minute duration, in sight of the dog, approximately 5 meters away handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise, at 45 seconds the handler will be instructed to return and stand next to the dog at the end of the one minute the instruction will be given that the exercise is complete.

When the handler has completed the Haul they will be instructed by the Judge to unload, unhitch and un-harness the dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Failure:

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the log, sledge or cart becomes unstable or tips over;
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in any way to cause distress or discomfort to the dog
- If the dog is dangerously out of control;
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

6 - Draught Test - Level 2 (Bronze)

Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to safely pull draught apparatus over a longer and more difficult course.

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

6.1 - Control Section

Desired performance:

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- Change of pace to slow and back to normal.
- There will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from:
 - at least 3 left turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace).
 - at least 3 right turns (with at least 1 at slow pace).
 - at least 3 about turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace).
- 1 minute halt, any position of the handler's choice but the dog must remain in the same position (standing, sitting or down).
- 2 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at slow pace).
- A random, unexpected stop (during normal pace) that may be different for each handler.
- A recall from 10 metres, the dog must be off lead.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

Failure:

- If the dog leaves the ring
- If the handler remains with the dog during the down stay.
- If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall
- Time lapse of 30 seconds after being called for the recall.
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

6.2 - Group Down Stay

Desired performance:

The Team will proceed to this element which is a group down-stay of 2 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (recommended approximately 5 dogs).

The dogs will be 4 metres apart.

The handlers will be in sight of the dogs, approximately 5m away.

If the dog gets up while in the group down-stay; it must be calmly & quietly reset back into the down position and the handler returned to 5 meters away.

5 points will be accumulated each time the dog is reset. If however the team has accumulated too many points and as such failed, after the reset the handler must remain with the dog.

In the event of only one team, a reliable dog, known to the judges or test manager may be used to make up the group.

Failure:

- If the dog moves from area
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay
- If the handler remains with the dog during the down stay.
- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

6.3 - Manoeuvring Section

Desired performance:

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that will be encountered on the haul for the same given exercises, but conducted in a 'safe' environment. It must be possible for the team to lose 15 points in this section enabling them to forfeit the option to proceed to the haul.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges and will incorporate:

- Circular patterns.
- Broad curves.
- right-angle turns. (left and right)
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle
- A figure of 8

These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

Failure

- Only when this element has been completed satisfactorily will the 'team' be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

Disqualification

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog

6.4 - Haul Section

Desired performance:

The handler will load a 10k weight with straps safely into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges the dog is ready for inspection

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 'teams' on a haul between 1 – 2 mile in distance. This will be in a rural environment (or simulated) with at least one change of surface and a minimal gradient to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these gradients.

A load comprising of a total weight of 10 kilograms, will be transported for 50% of the course or at the judges discretion

The load may be removed after this distance.

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include:

- A gate.
- A right turn
- A left turn.

- A series of 'S' bends
- A natural distraction
- Simulated emergency stop & unhitch.
- Out of sight down stay of 1 minute duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise
- People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide a natural distraction.
- 1 meter backup

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of approximately 5 teams, accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward, and necessary instructions given.

The Teams will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges,

During this time the handlers at their own discretion will be expected to work from at least two different sides of the cart.

In the event of only one team, a reliable dog, known to the judges or test manager may be used to make up the group

Finally, when the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Failure:

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the cart becomes unstable or tips over.
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in any way to cause distress or discomfort to the dog
- If the dog is dangerously out of control.
- If the dog moves from the spot during the out of sight stay
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- If the dog does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

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7 - Draught Test - Level 3 (Silver)

Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands both on & off lead and to safely pull draught apparatus over a longer and more difficult course.

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

7.1 - Control Section

Desired performance:

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

The first 75% of the course will include the following elements and be on lead

- Change of pace to slow and back to normal and fast and back to normal;
- There will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from all the changes of pace. (with at least 3 at each pace)
- 1 minute halt (in the STAND position);
- 3 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at each pace);
- Random, unexpected stop (during normal pace) that will be different for each 'team'
- Reasonably straight "back-up" of one metre;

The final 25% of the course will continue in normal pace with the following elements off lead:

- Recall on the move from 10 metres, while moving away from the dog in a straight line.

There will then be 3 turns made up from:

- 1 left turn.
- 1 right turn.
- 1 about turn.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

Failure:

- If the dogs leaves the ring.
- No pronounced change of pace
- If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall
- If the dog takes more than 4 attempts, does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the back up
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

7.2 - Group Down Stay

The 'team' will proceed to this element, which is a group down-stay of 3 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (recommended maximum of 6 dogs).

The dogs will be 3m apart.

The handlers will remain in sight of the dogs, approximately 10m away.

In the event of only one team, a reliable dog, known to the judges or test manager may be used to make up the group.

Failure:

- If the dog moves from down stay to a sit/stand
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- Handler remains with the dog during the down stay
- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

7.3 - Manoeuvring Section

Desired performance:

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that will be encountered on the haul for the same given exercises, but conducted in a 'safe' environment. It must be possible for the team to lose 15 points in this section enabling them to forfeit the option to proceed to the haul.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges and will incorporate:

- Circular patterns.
- Broad curves.
- right-angle turns. (left and right)
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle
- A figure of 8

These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

Failure

- Only when this element has been completed satisfactorily will the 'team' be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

7.4 - Haul Section

Desired performance:

The handler will load a 15k weight with straps safely into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges the dog is ready for inspection

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 'teams' on a haul between 2 – 3 mile in distance. This will be in a mixed environment (part rural and part urban or simulated) with at least two changes of surface and a moderate approximately 6% inclines to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these inclines.

A load comprising of a total weight of 15 kilograms, will be transported for approximately 50% of the course, or at the discretion of the judges

The load may be removed after this distance.

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include:

- A gate.
- A series of fairly tight 'S' bends.
- A ditch.

- A large gap.
- Shallow steps or other similar type obstacle.
- A designated reverse over 2 metre.
- There will also be an out-of-sight down stay of 2 minute duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise
- People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide one natural distraction

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of approximately 5 teams, accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle, or set of obstacles, the convoy will be halted by the judges, or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward and necessary instructions given.

The teams will then negotiate the obstacles while being observed by the judges.

During this time the 'handlers' at their own discretion will be expected to work from at least three different sides of the cart

In the event of only one team a reliable dog, known to the Judges or Test Manager may be used to make up the group

Finally, when the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Failure:

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the cart becomes unstable or tips over.
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in any way to cause distress or discomfort to the dog
- If the dog is dangerously out of control.
- If the dog moves from down stay to a sit/stand
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- If the dog does takes more than 4 attempts, does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

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8 - Draught Test Level 4 (Gold)

Dogs minimum age is 30 months – maximum age is 7 years (Before 8th birthday)

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands off lead and to safely pull draught apparatus over a long and difficult course.

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

8.1 - Control Section

Desired performance:

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements off lead:

- A consistent & noticeable changes of pace to slow and back to normal and fast and back to normal;
- There will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from all the changes of pace.(with at least 3 at each pace)
- 1 minute halt (in the STAND position);
- 3 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at each pace);
- Recall on the move from 10 metres, while moving away from the dog incorporating a turn
- A random unexpected STOP that will be different for each handler;
- reasonably straight "back-up" of two metres;

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

Failure:

- If the dog leaves the ring
- No pronounced change of pace
- If the dog does takes more than 3 attempts, does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup.
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

8.2 - Group Down Stay

The Team will proceed to the this element which is a group down-stay of 3 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (recommended maximum of 6 dogs).

The dogs will be 2m apart.

The handlers will be out of sight and sound of the dogs, i.e. not being able to be seen and silent

In the event of only one team a reliable dog, known to the Judges or Test Manager may be used to make up the group

Failure:

- If the dog moves from down stay to a sit/stand
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- Handler remains with the dog during the down stay

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

8.3 - Manoeuvring Section

Desired performance:

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that will be encountered on the haul for the same given exercises, but conducted in a 'safe' environment. It must be possible for the team to lose 5 points in this section enabling them to forfeit the option to proceed to the haul.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges and will incorporate 4 of the following:

- Circular patterns.
- Broad curves.
- right-angle turns. (left and right)
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle
- 1 metre backup
- A figure of 8

These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

Failure

- Only when this element has been completed satisfactorily will the 'team' be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element
- If the team has accumulated more than 5 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

8.4 - Haul Section

The handler will load a 20k weight with straps safely into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges the dog is ready for inspection

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 'teams' on a haul between 3 – 4 mile in distance. This will be in a mixed environment (part rural and part urban or simulated) with at least three changes of surface and at least two noticeable gradients approximately 10% to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these gradients.

A load comprising of a total weight of 20 kilograms, will be transported for 50% of the course or at the discretion of the judges

The load may be removed after this distance

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include:

- A gate.
- A right turn.
- A left turn.
- A series of fairly tight 'S' bends.
- A ditch.
- A large gap.
- Shallow steps or other similar type obstacle.
- A designated reverse over 3 metres round an object (L shape reverse over 2 stages)
- There will also be an out-of-sight down stay of 3 minute duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise
- People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of approximately 5 'teams', with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On

reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward, and necessary instructions given.

The Teams will then negotiate the obstacles while being observed by the judges

During this time the handlers, at their own discretion, will be expected to work from all sides of the cart.

In the event of only one team a reliable dog, known to the Judges or Test Manager may be used to make up the group

Finally, when the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Failure:

- If the team accumulates more than 7 points in this element
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the cart becomes unstable or tips over.
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in any way to cause distress or discomfort to the dog
- If the dog is dangerously out of control.
- If the dog changes position from the down stay
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay
- If the dog does takes more than 3 attempts, does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup.

Disqualification:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

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9 - Release notes:

03 Jan 2019 v2.0

- a) First release of combined joint regulations

28 Jan 2019 v2.1

- a) 6.4: Desired performance: Par 3:
replaced 'approximate 6% gradients' with 'gradient'
- b) 3.2: c:
replaced 'will be a small light weight log' with 'could be a small light weight log'
- c) 6.2: failure: item4:
removed: 'If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall'

28 Jan 2019 v2.2

- a) 8.4: failure: item 1:
removed: 'and the previous'
- b) 8.4: failure: item 5:
replaced 'If the dog changes position from a down to a sit/stand' with 'If the dog changes position from the down stay'
- c) 6.1: failure: item 2:
removed: 'If the handler remains with the dog during the down stay'

28 Feb 2019 v2.3

- a) Page layout adjusted for A4 paper
- b) Dates updated to reflect October release