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**OFFICIAL RULES AND BY-LAWS
FOR HUNTING TESTS FOR CONTINENTAL POINTERS
(KAER)**

Approved of by the Council of the Finnish Kennel Club (Suomen Kennelliitto - Finska
Kennelklubben ry) on 8 May 1997

Amendments Council of the Finnish Kennel Club on 24 November 2007, 31 May 2008 and 25 May
2014.

Valid as of 1 May 2015

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These rules and by-laws are valid as of 1 May 2015.

1. THE PURPOSE OF HUNTING TRIALS

The objective of hunting trials for continental pointers is to obtain information on the hunting abilities of the dogs for breeding purposes and to promote the use of dogs in hunting.

2. TRIAL PERFORMANCE

2.1. The trial performance entails the testing of the dogs' hunt to find game and point using wild game occurring in the terrain. The retrieve, reporting of game, water test and tracking test are tested depending on the class in which the individual dog is participating. Attention is also paid to the dog's temperament and behaviour when encountering predators.

2.2. Trials can be organised either divided or undivided.

In case of an undivided hunting trial, all components of a full trial performance will be carried out during the same trial. The results obtained in the water test and tracking tests organised during an undivided hunting trial can be utilised later as components of the full performance of a divided hunting trial.

In the case of an undivided hunting trial, the water and tracking tests are carried out separately from other components of the trial performance but during the same event. They can be completed from 1 June to 31 October and the results obtained are valid for two (2) hunting trial seasons. The best combined result of the water and tracking test completed either prior to the hunting trial or in a water and tracking test organised during the actual hunting trial shall be taken into account in the overall result of the hunting trial.

2.3. Foreign dogs are allowed to complete the hunting trial as undivided. However, the results from the water and tracking tests the dog has completed in his country of residence may be taken into account.

2.4. A dog that has obtained the qualification to participate in the limited class has the right to participate in a water and tracking test organised in conjunction with a divided hunting trial once during the same hunting trial season. The water and tracking test results obtained by the dog as described above are valid until the end of the said hunting test season unless the dog obtains a better result in another water and tracking test.

2.5. The hunting trial season is from 1 June to 31 May.

3. PARTICIPATION AND RESTRICTIONS TO PARTICIPATION

3.1 Hunting trials are open to all dogs registered in FCI breed group 7 that are a minimum of nine months of age, and that have received a prize in a show of the Finnish Kennel Club or a foreign international canine association recognised by the Finnish Kennel Club. The junior class is open to dogs registered in a studbook of a canine association defined above even though the dog has not been awarded a prize in a dog show.

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3.2. The organising association may choose to have a restricted number of classes or dogs in a trial in compliance with the instructions of the Finnish Kennel Club.

3.3. The judge is disqualified from judging a dog if he/she is the handler of the dog, the owner of the dog, the breeder of the dog, a holder of the dog on the basis of a contractual relationship or a family member of any of the aforementioned people. Parents, spouse, children and siblings are considered family members, even if they do not live at the same address. Partners and people cohabiting are considered spouses.

3.4. Trial participation is not open to the following:

- Dogs that are not vaccinated in compliance with the requirements of the Finnish Kennel Club or the authorities.
- Bitches in whelp, 30 days or less before the estimated time of whelping and 42 days after whelping.
- Bitches in heat. Bitches in heat can, however, participate in a water test and tracking test as the final participant. Bitches in heat must not be allowed to move around in the test area or its vicinity prior to their turn.
- Dogs suffering from an illness or a contagious illness.
- Males with abnormal testicles.
- Dogs with an injury that, in the judge's view, may cause distress or suffering to the dog during its performance in the trial.

3.5. A dog can only be judged once and in one class in a hunting trial.

3.6. If the handler fails to comply with the instructions given or behaves in a way which is considered to be contradictory to good manners, the judge may prevent the handler from participating in the trial or test.

4. GRANTING A PERMISSION TO ORGANISE A TRIAL OR TEST

These rules and regulations shall be applied in the hunting trials for continental pointers granted by the FCI, the board of the Finnish Kennel Club or its regional affiliates. International trials are granted by the FCI. The Finnish Kennel Club grants the permissions to organise national championship trials and their possible qualifying trials as well as competitions between countries. Regional affiliates of the Finnish Kennel Club grant other trials and tests.

5. APPLYING FOR A PERMISSION TO ORGANISE A TRIAL OR TEST

5.1. Trials can be organised by associations that are members of the Finnish Kennel Club. The organising association must invite a judge and appoint a chief steward or a trial committee.

5.2. An application for permission to organise trials and the divided part tests must be submitted to the Finnish Kennel Club or the regional Finnish Kennel Club affiliate of the area where the trial will be held in compliance with the currently valid regulations.

5.3. The application must contain the following information: the name of the organising association, the name and type of the trial, possible restrictions to participation, date and place, classes, entry fee and to whom, how and by when the registration is made and the entry fee paid, the judge appointed, his/her substitute and the chair of the trial committee.

5.4. The application is addressed to the board of the regional Finnish Kennel Club affiliate of the area where the trial will be held. A copy of the application to hold a trial will be submitted to the regional

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Finnish Kennel Club affiliate of the organising association and the head of trials of the official breed club.

6. TRANSFERRING OR CANCELLING A TRIAL

The general rules and regulations of the Finnish Kennel Club on transferring and cancelling trials and competitions valid at the given time shall apply.

7. JUDGES

The judge must be accredited to judge hunting trials for continental pointers by the Finnish Kennel Club. The judge must be a member of the Finnish Kennel Club and the breed club. A foreign judge must be approved by the Finnish Kennel Club and the breed club, and a member of a canine association accredited by the FCI in his/her domicile.

The judge is responsible for ensuring that the dogs have the right to participate in the trial.

The judge cannot be the handler of a dog in the same class of the trial in which he/she is judging.

The regional Finnish Kennel Club affiliate and the participants must be informed of if the judge changes.

The rules and regulations for judges on the judgement of dogs are described in more detail in the separate set of instructions attached to these rules and by-laws.

8. ENTRY AND WITHDRAWAL

8.1. An entry to a trial or test must be made in writing, taking the regulations of the organising association on the entry period and other relevant issues into account.

8.2. In case of restricted entry, those making an entry must be informed of their participation immediately after the termination of the entry period.

8.3. The handler must be present at the briefing given by the judge prior to the trial. If the handler of a dog, which has been entered in the trial in advance, is slightly delayed in attending the trial due to a reason acceptable to the judge, the dog's run will be allotted when lots are drawn for the running order of the trial. The handler and dog delayed must be present when the run allotted to them commences. If they are not, the dog will be considered withdrawn and it will be prevented from participating in the trial.

8.4. An entry fee is only refunded for those withdrawing their dog for a justified cause. Justified causes are as follows:

- A bitch has gone into heat.

- A reason certified by a physician or a veterinarian. The certificate must be presented within three days of the last day of the trial.

-Change in the judge announced.

-Transfer of the trial.

The trial organiser must be informed of the withdrawal of the dog before the trial starts. Otherwise, the trial committee can refund the entry fee at its discretion.

8.5. The handler has the right to terminate the trial of his/her dog by informing the judge thereof.

9. APPEALS AND PROTESTS

An appeal cannot be made against judging in compliance with the rules and by-laws and the judge's view. The appeal procedure of the Finnish Kennel Club valid at the given time must be complied with.

10. TRIAL RESULTS

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The trial committee must send the trial protocols that are checked and confirmed by the judge along with the judgement reports for checking to the relevant regional Finnish Kennel Club affiliate or its appointed checker. A trial protocol is not made for a water and tracking test, but the judging reports of individual dogs of the said tests are sent to the relevant regional Finnish Kennel Club affiliate or its appointed checker, who then sends the forms to the head of trials of the Finnish Continental Pointing Dog Club (SSK).

11. JUDGEMENT/CLASSIFICATION

11.1. Quality grading is applied in each class. As many first, second and third prizes are awarded as the points scored by the dogs allow.

11.2. Dogs of various breeds are judged in compliance with the same principles, taking breed-specific differences into account.

11.3. A gunshot at point is required in order to award a dog a prize in the trial.

11.4. In the junior class, attention must first and foremost be paid to the performance related to the innate hunting abilities of the dog. Less attention is paid to the lack of training of the dog than in other classes.

11.5. The following are judged: hunt, point, retrieve, water test, tracking test, reporting of game and behaviour when encountering predators. These components are described in more detail in the separate set of instructions attached to these rules and by-laws.

12. CLASSES

Junior class (NUO): entry is open to dogs under 24 months of age.

Open class (AVO): entry is open to dogs that do not qualify for the limited class.

Limited class (VOI): entry is open to dogs that have been awarded 1st prize in the open class.

The granting of points and awarding criteria are defined in more detail in separate instructions related to these rules and by-laws.

13. CARRYING OUT A HUNTING TRIAL

13.1 One or more judges can judge in a trial or test. One of the judges shall be appointed chief judge. The dogs entered in the trial are allotted to groups. The number of groups depends on the number of judges. Each judge adjudicates the dogs in his/her group independently.

13.2. Classes are judged in the order defined by the judge. The organiser's instructions on the carrying out of the trial are, however, taken into account.

13.3. The dogs run in the allotted order in the first round. After that the judge can call dogs to run in the order he/she considers best. Any deviations from the allotted running order must be justified to the handlers.

13.4. Dogs participating in the open or limited class can be run in pairs in open terrains. In all classes, more than one dog can be run at the same time if a specific area is appointed for each dog to quarter.

13.5. As regards to the dog, the trial should correspond to a practical hunt.

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13.6. The person appointed by the organiser or the judge acts as gun in the trial. In case of the limited class and the first point, the gun is fired by the handler. The firearm used is typically a shotgun. Blank cartridges can be used when no game is intended to be shot. Should the conditions so require, the judge can approve the shot to be fired with a 9 mm starter gun.

13.7. The valid legislation and regulations must be followed.

13.8. The handler is not allowed to force, restrain or punish the dog by touching the dog during the dog's performance. The grounds for eliminating a dog from a trial are defined in more detail in a separate set of instructions attached to these rules and by-laws.

14. DETAILED REGULATIONS

14.1. The detailed regulations and instructions on carrying out and judging hunting trials for continental pointers and instructions to judges are included in the instructions approved by the board of the Finnish Kennel Club attached to these rules and by-laws.

14.2. As an official breed club, the Finnish Continental Pointing Dog Club (SSK) provides regulations and instructions clarifying the details of trials if required.

15. COMPELLING REASONS

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club may, for compelling reasons, restrict participation in trials and competitions or give other special regulations for organising trials and competitions.

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THE DETAILED REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS ON CARRYING OUT AND JUDGING HUNTING TRIALS FOR CONTINENTAL POINTERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES

Approved by the Finnish Kennel Club on 12 December 2013
Valid as of 1 May 2010.

1. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions define the ideal performance of a dog. Any deviation from the ideal results in a lower grade at the discretion of the judge.

The judge shall only give merit or fault to a dog on the basis of his/her own observations. In the case of a tracking test, judges are allowed to use an assistant to observe the dogs' performance in areas where the judge cannot see. In competitions, assisting judges can be used, and their judging shall also be taken into consideration.

The judge must explain the grounds for judging to the handlers and give sufficient instructions for carrying out the trial in the briefing before the trial commences.

Dogs must be kept on a lead before and after their run while the trial or test is taking place.

Dogs may only wear a coloured collar or vest to make them more visible in the terrain during their run.

Dogs can be handled and commanded using commands, hand gestures and whistling. It is permitted to encourage dogs during their performance. The highest prize can only be awarded to a dog that has not been excessively commanded, restrained or encouraged by the handler. The objective is sober and low-keyed handling of the dog and a performance that reflects the collaboration, independent hunting and the will to hunt.

The person carrying or using a firearm during the trial must present a valid national hunting card and firearms licence to the judge or the chief steward before the trial commences.

2. ELIMINATION

Elimination follows, if the dog:

- intentionally and repeatedly flushes game without pointing in favourable circumstances.
- chases feather in the open or limited class unless the dog immediately stops on command.
- intentionally and repeatedly flushes game without a command after pointing it.
- in the open or limited class flushes game that another dog is pointing.
- repeatedly points or reports game without showing any game.
- fails to flush game upon the command of the handler.
- eats, tears or chews game so that it is no longer usable or buries the game during the retrieve.
- is out of hand and refuses to obey commands.
- performs without merit.
- chases domestic animals or reindeer.
- is aggressive and therefore considered dangerous to people or dogs.
- is gun-shy
- is disturbingly noisy.

3. SCORING AND PRIZES

Each component of a trial performance is graded with one of the following scores:

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Score 5 = excellent performance
Score 4 = good performance
Score 3 = moderate performance
Score 2 = sufficient performance
Score 1 = poor performance
Score 0 = insufficient performance
Score - = not applicable

Performance components, their weighted coefficient, approved scores and maximum scores are as follows:

Junior class

	Weighted coefficient	Approved score	Maximum score
Hunt	8	1-5	40
Point	7	1-5	35
Retrieve	2	1-5	10
Water test	3	1-5	15
		Maximum score	100

Open class

	Weighted coefficient	Approved score	Maximum score
Hunt	7	1-5	35
Point	6	1-5	30
Retrieve	3	1-5	15
Water test	4	1-5	20
		Maximum score	100

The open class 1st prize can only be awarded to dogs that have received an approved score in each component of the trial performance.

Limited class

	Weighted coefficient	Approved score	Maximum score
Hunt	6	1-5	30
Point	5	1-5	25
Retrieve	2	1-5	10
Water test	2	1-5	10
Tracking test	2	1-5	10
Reporting game	3	1-5	15
		Maximum score	100

Only dogs that have received an approved score in each component of the trial performance can be awarded a prize in the limited class.

The minimum scores for various prizes are:

Junior class 1st prize, open class 1st prize and limited class 1st prize: a minimum of 80 points.
Junior class 2nd prize, open class 2nd prize: a minimum of 60 points. Limited class 2nd prize: a minimum of 70 points.
Junior class 3rd prize, open class 3rd prize: a minimum of 40 points. Limited class 3rd prize: a minimum of 60 points.

4. HUNT

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4.1. The objective of the hunt is the efficient and rapid location of game and pointing it. Independent hunt and quartering are considered a merit but the dog can be handled using commands, hand gestures and whistling without disturbing game.

The hunt is scored on the basis of the quartering method and success. The style, for example the carriage of head, does not affect the score.

4.2. The dogs should, in general, quarter with an energetic and clearly purposeful gallop. When scenting game or traces of game, a lower pace is allowed for locating the game. Trotting during quartering is considered a fault, apart from those breeds that have the trot as a characteristic gait for hunting. A walking dog will be eliminated.

4.3. Pottering is considered a fault. Pottering refers to the tendency of a dog to linger in a one place sniffing traces and to repeatedly return to them. This negatively affects the continuity of hunt.

4.4. The dog must adapt its quartering and pace to match the wind and terrain. The dog should quarter the terrain in such a way that no game remains in the area unacknowledged by the dog.

4.5. Repeatedly turning downwind at the end of the cast and repeatedly quartering the beat that has already been hunted are considered faults.

4.6. The scope, efficacy and collaboration are appropriate when the handler can proceed in the beat in the direction he/she sees fit, without hurrying or waiting for the dog as the dog adapts its hunt to the movement of the handler.

4.7. The score good (4) or excellent (5) cannot be given for hunt if the dog fails to produce and point game. The score is lowered if the dog is observed to fall short in finding game and pointing it in the beat should the judge deem that the dog would have had the possibility to point game.

4.8. Judging hunt in various classes

Junior class: merit must be given for the innate hunting abilities of the dog, such as willingness to find game, scope and pace, utilisation of the wind and the terrain, game-finding ability and point. All dogs must be run to the wind. A more lenient approach is taken to faults in hunt than in other classes.

Open class: the hunt must be, in all respects, more trained, sustained and experienced than in the junior class. The dog must demonstrate sufficient obedience and the ability to adapt its hunt to match the prevailing terrain and wind conditions. The dog must quarter to cover all the ground allocated and the handler must be able to steer the dog to various locations in the beat.

Limited class: requirements as per the open class, in addition to which the dog must be more independent in its hunt.

4.9. Other regulations

When hunting in pairs, the handlers must not disturb the work of the other dog by whistling or in any other way. A dog must not disturb another dog on point.

The objective is that the total duration of runs, at least for the higher prizes, is a minimum of about 1½ hours in the limited class, about 1 hour in the open class and about 40 minutes in the junior class. The judge defines the length of each run as he/she sees appropriate.

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The judging of the hunt ends when the dog points a game or when it is leashed at the end of the run. When running in pairs, the judging of the hunt ends on the command of leashing the dogs.

5. POINT

5.1. The judging of a point includes the actual pointing of game, the dog's ability to localise the exact location of game, approach and commanded flush, and steadiness to flush and shot. If game is shot in the open or limited class, the steadiness of the dog to fall will be judged.

A valid point consists of a dog pointing at game and, when the game flushes or flees in such a way that it would be possible to make a kill, a gunshot must be fired in the vicinity of the dog.

5.2. Only points on game bird or hare are considered valid for awarding the dog a prize. Points on other animals are judged in compliance with item 10 Behaviour when encountering predators. Pointing at Cervidae is not judged and no point is completed.

False point means a point on which no game is produced.

5.3. Pointing

The point should be staunch and intense. The dog may leave the point only for commanded approach and flush, drawing-on or for reporting game to the handler. The handler must indicate a point to the judge, who then grants the permission to continue.

5.4. Commanded approach and flush

Approach and flush may only take place after the command given by the handler authorised by the judge. Approach and flush must be unhesitant and lead to the game flushing or fleeing. Contact with the handler must be maintained during approach and flush. The handler may not move in front of the dog. Any unwillingness or hesitation of the dog to approach and flush is considered a serious fault.

If the dog loses the scent of the game animal, limited quartering is permitted for relocating the game. If the game then flushes or flees, it is considered a lesser fault of the dog than intentional flushing of game without pointing it. The judge will inform the handler when he/she considers the connection with the game being lost and when a new point is required in order to have a valid point.

5.5. Steadiness to flush and fleeing of game

The dog must be steady to flush and shot. A dog rushing after fleeing game is considered chasing, which is a fault. If a dog chasing game does not immediately halt on command, the fault results into elimination in the open and limited class. A short chase is permitted in the junior class. However, such a dog cannot be awarded the highest score of the point. If a dog chasing a bird in the junior class does not stop when commanded, the point will not be accepted.

5.6. Steadiness to fall

Game can be shot in the open and limited class at the discretion of the judge. The dog must be steady to fall.

The dog may not retrieve the game shot at point without a permission. If the dog retrieves without a permission, the retrieve is rejected and the score given for the point will be lowered. A dog retrieving without a permission in the open class can only be awarded the 3rd prize.

5.7. Pointing a hare

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If the handler has indicated the point to the judge and the judge has given the permission to proceed, the point can be completed with a hare. The dog must be steady when the hare flees. Chasing the hare or retrieving it without permission is judged as with feathered game.

If a hare flees from the beat, the dog is allowed to hound it for a short period of time, preferably barking. It is considered a merit if the dog stops on command after having started to hound.

5.8. A minimum of two completed points are required for 1st prize in the open or limited class.

6. RETRIEVE

The objective of retrieve is to securely and quickly find and retrieve wounded game to the handler. Retrieve may only take place after the command given by the handler, who must be authorised by the judge.

If no game is shot on point, steadiness to fall and retrieve must be verified using cold retrieve. In cold retrieve, the dog sits next to the handler. Cold feathered game is thrown in front of the dog and the handler to a location that the dog cannot see and which is 20–30 metres from the dog. The person throwing game must not be visible during cold retrieve. When cold feathered game is in the air, a gunshot is fired. In the case of the junior or open class, the gun must be located obliquely forward from the dog and the barrel must be pointed in the direction that the cold game is thrown in. In the case of the limited class, the handler must fire the gun. The dog must then retrieve the feathered game on command. If the dog retrieves without a permission, the retrieve is rejected and the score given for point will be lowered in all classes. A dog retrieving without a permission in the open class can only be awarded the 3rd prize.

The following must be observed during retrieve: picking up game and the dog's ability to carry game taking its weight and nature into consideration. Dropping game during retrieve and mouthing are considered faults. The dog must return to the handler quickly via the shortest route possible. The dog should deliver game to hand sitting and on command, after the authorisation of the judge. It is considered a merit if the dog spontaneously retrieves dead, wounded or injured game encountered in the terrain to the handler during the trial.

7. WATER TEST

The objectives of the water test are to test the dog's willingness to enter into water, obedience and collaboration, game-finding ability and water retrieve. The game used is either game waterfowl or unprotected seagull.

7.1. General regulations

The dog may not be trained or made to swim in the test location on the day of the test.

The judge shows the handler where to dispatch the dog, where it can be commanded and where the game is delivered. The game is delivered approximately 5 metres from the water's edge. In the case of the limited class, the area to be hunted is also defined.

The water must be deep enough for the dog to swim a minimum of half of the distance of the retrieve.

The performance starts by the dog sitting unleashed next to the handler. The handler can only give the dog the permission to retrieve after the authorisation of the judge has been given. Dogs can be handled

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and commanded using commands, hand gestures and whistling. It is forbidden to throw objects to guide the dog or to indicate the game to be retrieved.

Dogs must enter water willingly and without hesitation in all classes.
Swimming technique must also be observed.

Water retrieve is judged in compliance with the principles described under 6 Retrieve. Forcefully shaking excess water off the fur before the delivery is completed is considered a fault.

The judge must appoint a location where dogs that are not being currently tested can wait without seeing or disturbing the performance of the dogs being tested.

No maximum duration is set for the water test but the judge has the right to stop the dog's performance if it falls short of the acceptable level.

7.2. Judging the water test in various classes

Junior class: the dog must swim and retrieve cold feathered game thrown in sight of the dog from the bank to open water at the distance of 10–15 metres. Not gunshot is fired. Retrieving without permission shall result into a lower score. Swimming without retrieving shall result into the maximum score of 2.

Open class: the dog must retrieve cold feathered game thrown into reeds on water or on land at a distance of 40–60 metres where the dog cannot see the game. Game must be thrown sideways and high in such a way that the dog has the possibility to mark the throw. The person throwing must be invisible to the dog. At the highest point of the throw, a gunshot is fired at the location of dispatching the dog at a spot indicated by the judge. The gun must be located obliquely forward from the dog and the barrel must be pointed to the direction where cold game is thrown.

Limited class: on command, the dog must find and retrieve cold feathered game thrown into reeds on water or on land at a distance of 40–60 metres. No gunshot is fired. The dog and the handler may not see the throwing of the game. If all dogs in the limited class cannot be given their own area with reeds, a dog not participating in the test must search the area first.

8. TRACKING TEST

The objective of the tracking test is to test the dog's ability to find and spontaneously retrieve wounded or cold game to the handler using a trail.

The trail is made by first dragging cold feathered game, an unprotected seagull, a crow hare or a small predator classified as game for about 50 metres into a following wind, after which an S-shaped trail with a width of about 100 metres is made. The total length of the drag is 300–400 metres. The distance between the dispatch point and the game is about 200–250 metres. The angles must be blunt. The last straight section after the last angle must cross and exceed the centre line of the trail by approximately 100 metres in order to be able to properly verify the dog's ability to track the trail. The game used for dragging the trail or another animal of the same species is placed at the end of the trail in a hollow, recess or under a bush so that it is invisible from the direction of arrival. A separate drag is made for each dog. The safety distance between the drags of individual dogs must be a minimum of 75 metres. The dog or the handler may not see the laying of the drag.

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The dog is dispatched from a point indicated by the judge. The starting point of the drag is from 10 to 20 metres from the dispatch point in a sector indicated by the judge. The handler may work the dog from the point of dispatch until the dog finds the trail, after which it must be left to work to its own devices to independently complete the task. When a dog is returning with game and is within 20 metres of the handler, it can be praised and commanded to deliver as if during a retrieve.

The dog's ability to utilise the trail when finding game must be taken into consideration in judging the performance. The retrieve is judged in compliance with the principles described under Retrieve.

If the dog fails to find game within a period of time that the judge considers appropriate, a new trail shall not be made. The test is repeated and the handler may restart the dog as described above. A dog can be restarted a maximum of two times. If the dog completes the task after having been dispatched to the trail twice, it can be awarded with a maximum score of 3. If the dog completes the task after having been dispatched to the trail three times, it can be awarded with a maximum score of 2.

Using a trailing harness during the trial is not allowed.

9. REPORTING GAME

Reporting game means that the dog returns to inform the handler of game found at some distance and out of the sight of the handler. The dog must return spontaneously or upon a whistling command. Other kinds of commands are not accepted.

The handler must notify the judge when the dog is reporting game.

The following points must be considered in judging: the ease with which the dog leaves game and returns to report it, how clearly the dog expresses it has found game and how well it keeps contact with the handler when returning to the game. If the dog flushes game without a permission on return, the performance can be judged as reporting game but it cannot be awarded the highest score.

Returning to report game spontaneously and on whistling command are considered equal in value.

If a wait of more than 10 minutes is required before the dog returns to report game, the score will be lower.

If the dog fails to report game in the limited class, it can be retried next time when the dog finds game. Failing to report game the second time will lead to elimination.

10. BEHAVIOUR WHEN ENCOUNTERING PREDATORS

If the dog encounters a predator during its trial performance, its willingness to attack predators can be tested in order to identify its boldness. The predators accepted in a trial are fox, raccoon dog, badger or wild cat. The dog may chase the predator for a short period of time, preferably barking. Pointing predators or barking at a predator that has escaped underground or in a tree or expressing their location in any way is considered a merit. The dog's behaviour must be judged as behaviour when encountering predators and it must be stated in the report.

If a gunshot is fired when the dog is pointing a predator, it can be considered a complementary point, in addition to demonstrating the dog's abilities with predators. A dog cannot be awarded a prize if the only valid point has been to a predator.