



Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club

WORKING CHESAPEAKE TESTS

Notes for Judges

The aim of these tests is to encourage people to work with their dogs and to test for basic working instinct in a retriever in a non-competitive way. We are looking for accurate marking and memory of falls, intelligence, attention, a good nose, courage, perseverance, style and desire. The aim is to see if a dog can mark, to test for gun-shyness, to see if the dog can be handled on a blind retrieve, to see if the dog will enter and re-enter water, and to see if the dog can handle birds with a soft mouth. A lot of the handlers will be complete novices and we want to encourage them, not put them off, so a friendly, helpful manner is essential.

Eliminating Faults

1. Repeated evidence of poor nose
2. Failure to enter cover, water, mud or other unpleasant or difficult conditions
3. Returning to the handler without the bird
4. Refusal to retrieve (e.g. standing over the bird)
5. Running in (Levels 2 and 3 only)
6. Out of control
7. Chasing
8. Without merit (i.e. no enthusiasm to retrieve, slack or unbusiness-like work)
9. Unwillingness to release the bird/dummy on delivery
10. Failure to deliver to hand (in Levels 2 and 3)
11. Hard mouth/badly damaging the dummy/bird
12. Swops the dummy/bird whilst retrieving
13. Excessive noise (i.e. whining or barking)
14. Repeated dropping of the bird/dummy (putting it down once to adjust grip is not an eliminating fault)
15. Inappropriate or excessively noisy handling.
16. Manhandling the dog or threatening behaviour towards the dog, including verbal chastisement
17. It will be at the judge's discretion according to the circumstances, whether a dog urinating near a mark or rolling on a bird should be eliminated. A dog urinating directly on to the dummy/bird will be eliminated.

All birds will be inspected by the judge(s) for hard mouth. The judge will retain any birds deemed to have been 'pushed in', which will be shown to the co-judge and then shown to the handler for discussion. The judge's decision is final.

For all tests the handler is expected to come to the line quietly with the dog on a lead and under control at their side. Until the handler indicates that they are ready, they may gently touch the dog and speak to it in a normal manner.

Level 1

The dog can be held on a lead until sent but it is a disqualification if the dog runs in unless the handler can stop him quickly and call him back. After the dog has been sent the handler must stand quietly on the line while the dog is working in the field. Although delivery to hand is not essential, the dog should return by a reasonably direct route, showing a willingness to return with the dummy, and deliver the dummy to within 2 yards of the handler.

Levels 2 and 3

Once the dog has been sat at the line, the judge will explain the test to the handler, and will tell the handler when to remove the dog's lead. The handler must place the lead in their pocket so it is away before the handler indicates to the judge that they are ready. The dog is to be steady. The dog must deliver the dummy or bird to hand. The handler should not touch the dog until both dummies for each test have been handed to the judge.

Level 3 only

The judges are expected to inspect all the birds to be used prior to the test and to reject any deemed not suitable, i.e. crushed ribs, decomposed.

The organiser will discuss the tests with the judges. Judges are requested to ensure that all handlers are aware of the rules before running their dogs and to answer any questions the handlers have prior to running in the test. The handler may be nervous, as it could be their first experience of running a dog in a test, and judges are in a position to reassure the handlers.

These are pass/fail tests, and there will be a box to tick for each dog. Please return the forms provided to the Working Chesapeake Tests Co-ordinator or the event organiser at the completion of each level.