

THE WORKING DOG STAKE and CERTIFICATE

The requirements for the Working Dog Certificate are designed primarily to test a dog's natural abilities and therefore, abilities acquired through training are not emphasized. For the most part, the WD Stake should follow the rules in the AKC "Standard Procedure for Retriever Field Trials" and the "Retriever Advisory Supplement." While this point certainly applies to judgment standards and trial mechanics, it is especially important in terms of serious faults, general manners, and correction of dogs under judgment. Areas in which the stakes differ should be those aspects of line manners and test characteristics described below. These are pass/fail non-competitive stakes.

This description should be read and followed in conjunction with the "Guidelines to Judges and Handlers, "Suggestions for Line Procedures" and any other attachments. Dogs must be at least six months of age and American Kennel Club (AKC), Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) registered or holding a foreign registry acceptable in that country. An AKC ILP or PAL number is an acceptable registration to be able to compete in this program.

REQUIREMENTS

Description of Tests

- a. **Land Singles.** This test consists of two consecutive singles. The first mark should be a dead game bird thrown into light cover so that it is invisible from the line and should fall about 50 yards out. The throw should be accompanied by a blank shot, shot before the throw. (Thrower/Gunner can be the same person or two people who must be standing at the required yardage in the field when shooting/throwing). This long mark in cover will demonstrate whether or not a dog can mark and, if he does not immediately find the bird, is willing to hunt it out. In order to obtain a dead bird for this first mark, one live bird should be shot in the area of the fall for the first dog running. The second single should be a live game bird shot as a flyer but in a different area from the first mark. (100+ degrees separation) The gunner/thrower should be approximately 20 yards from the line and this bird should fall in light cover. The close position of the shotguns will demonstrate whether or not the dog has a tendency to be gun shy.
- b. **Water Singles.** This test consists of retrieving two ducks as consecutive singles. The first bird shall be a dead duck, thrown in the water, approximately 40 yards from the line, and accompanied first by a blank shot. The second bird shall be a live mallard/game bird shot as a flyer. The line or starting point should be moved so that the duck will fall in a completely different area from the first fall. The tests should be set up so as not to let the dog switch or cheat the water. This second bird should be approximately 30 yards from the line. The reason for the second single is to prove that the dog is willing to enter the water a second time and will retrieve a freshly shot duck.

Judges

1. Satisfactory completion of the above tests shall be determined by two judges. Between the two judges they must have judged:
 - a. Two AKC or CKC licensed Field Trial Derby or above, or
 - b. Two AKC Hunting Tests Senior Level or higher, or
 - c. A combination of two WD or WDX or WDQ stakes.
 - d. Both judges must have titled a dog at the WD level (or higher) or trained a dog themselves to the WD level (or higher) or ran a dog at the JH or WD level. They must have experience working with dogs to judge.
Special Note: If the Stake Chair has trouble finding qualified judges, please contact the WD Program chairman for help and a solution)
2. Judges should be mailed the requirements for Working Dog Certificates at least two weeks prior to the test

Special Points

- a. Dogs are not required to be steady and may be held on line while birds are thrown or shot. However, a dog should not be sent until his number has been called by one of the judges.
- b. Delivery of a bird within two paces of the handler is acceptable as long as the dog has brought the bird across the starting line. Hand delivery is not required.

- c. Decoys are not to be used.
- d. All marks will be more than 100+ degrees from each other for gunners and/or where the bird lands. Set up the tests to avoid any switching. Those running can be inexperienced dogs/handlers with little training or experience.
- e. All gunners/throwers, on both land and water, must be fully visible to both dog and handler. All birds must be thrown so dog/handler can visibly watch the bird thrown and see it all the way to the ground. A white shirt/jacket must be worn by at least one gunner/thrower at each mark.

Privileges and limitations of the Working Dog Certificate

- a. The receipt of a Working Dog Certificate entitles the owner to indicate his dog's achievement by including the letters "WD" after the dog's name in documents other than those considered "official" by the AKC or other registries. The title "Working Dog" and the so designated letters "WD" are recognized by the ACC but not necessarily by any other organization.

Fees: A \$55 fee will be charged for ACC Members for entry. You must be approved as a member by the entry deadline to use this fee. A \$65 Fee will be charged for Non-Members. Non-Members can run each dog in only one stake - the WD, X or Q. You would sign an ACC membership application that day (if not before). You have 30 days only to submit your membership application with fee ACC Board approval. If approved as a member, you would then receive your passing certificate from the ACC WD Program Director. A Non-Member can run one time only as a non-member.

If your dog has previously earned a WD/X/Q Certificate, you may run only at the end of the running order as non-contention and providing there is enough time for extra dogs to run. These Non-Contention entries will be approved at the entry deadline date according to total number of dogs entered in the one-day competition. You would be notified shortly after the entry deadline if your entry is accepted.

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