

The
Working
Newfoundland
Club



Rules & Regulations Standard Water Test



*Encouraging, preserving and celebrating the working traits of the
Newfoundland Dog*



These Standard Water Test Regulations are issued by The Working Newfoundland Club.

These Standard Water Tests are exactly the same as those agreed by the Newfoundland Club, the Southern Newfoundland Club and the Northern Newfoundland Club at the last review and will be held and judged to the same high standard by the same, experienced judges qualified to judge at the breed club events.

Please note that all passes already obtained or obtained by you in the future, at any breed club event, will be recognised by The Working Newfoundland Club and will count towards your bronze, silver and gold multi passes with this Club. However, test passes obtained with us will not be recognised by the breed clubs and so will not count towards your certificates of merit with them.

Please Note:

All Clubs may have slight variation in their administration of the tests therefore, please make yourself aware of any specific regulations for the test you are entering in regard to:

- the number of tests you may enter each day
- eligibility for multi test passes and other awards

The Achiever's Water Awards have been created by the Working Newfoundland Club they are separate to these standard tests and will only be run by this Club.

Copies of these regulations can be obtained via our website (www.theworkingnewfoundlandclub.co.uk).

INDEX

1.1	Introduction – Standard Test	2
1.2	Explanatory Notes	2
1.3	Environmental Equipment and Requirements	5
1.4	Responsibilities of the Committee	6
1.5	Responsibilities of the Test Manager	8
1.6	Responsibilities of the Referees	9
1.7	Complaints Procedure	9

1 Standard Water Tests

INDEX Continued

1.8	Disqualifications	9
1.9	List of Judges	10
1.10	Responsibilities of the Judges	10
1.11	Judges' Briefing	12
1.12	Responsibilities of Safety Stewards	12
1.13	Multi-Test Pass Awards and Championship Status	13
1.14	Brief list of the tests	14

2 Section A

Exercise A1 - Swim out 15 metres to boat.	15
Exercise A2 - Swim out 15 metres to handler/stranger.	17
Exercise A3 - Retrieve familiar object from 6 metres.	18

3 Section B

Exercise B1 - Tow boat back 20 metres.	19
Exercise B2 - Tow handler or stranger from 20 metres.	21
Exercise B3 - Retrieve provided object from 6 metres.	23
Exercise B4 - Retrieve of object from 20 centimetres under water.	24
Exercise B5 - Controlled swim.	26

4 Section C

Exercise C1 - Jump from boat and tow from 25 metres to shore.	28
Exercise C2 - Tow a stranger from 25 metres.	30
Exercise C3 - Retrieve object from 15 metres.	32
Exercise C4 - Controlled swim.	34

5 Section D

Exercise D1 - Take coil of rope out to a boat at 25 metres and tow it back to shore.	36
Exercise D2 - Rescue a fallen stranger from a boat at 25 metres.	38
Exercise D3 - Directed retrieve of one of two objects from 15 metres.	40
Exercise D4 - Search for hidden stranger behind a boat at 25 metres and tow to shore.	42

6 Section E

Exercise E1 - Take out life buoy/jacket to stranger who is 30 metres out.	44
Exercise E2 - Search for hidden rope at 30 metres and tow boat to shore.	46
Exercise E3 - Directed tow of one of two persons from 25 metres.	48
Exercise E4 - Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat who is 25 metres out.	50

1 Standard Water Tests

1.1 Introduction – Standard Test

The Standard Water Tests have now been in operation in this country since the first test was held on 22nd April 1990. Since then, hundreds of dogs have undertaken the varying levels or sections to show that their working instinct in the water is still very much apparent.

All over the country – the world in fact, people don wetsuits and drysuits and spend hour upon hour in the water trying to fathom out what will persuade their dog to do something in a certain way. The Standard Tests have been designed to work on a building block principle and it is easy to see that a dog that has mastered one section is ready to gain additional skills to add to what s/he already knows to achieve a higher degree of difficulty. Water training can be full of frustration but by going back to the beginning and being sure of the lower steps is the way to get through the sections.

Few do reach the very top to gain the coveted Working Club Champion title but the teams dedication, patience and understanding of each other should be an example of what can be achieved and an inspiration to us all.

1.2 Explanatory Notes

For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.

- a) It is the responsibility of the owner(s) to ensure that any dog entered for any test level is FIT AND HEALTHY. The Club cannot accept any liability for injury or exacerbation of existing illness.
- b) Some Newfoundlands instinctively take the wrist when they want to guide a human in a particular way. This instinct also shows itself when the dog is being sent out to a person in the water; they will attempt to take hold of the person's hand or lower arm to tow them back to the shore. In any water test as long as a safe tow is performed there will be no differentiation by Judges according to the method of towing, i.e. no extra marks for a hand tow and no loss of marks for a held tow. The handler must inform any person being used in a retrieve that this will happen.
- c) In exercises where the dog is performing a retrieve, if the dog lets go to adjust its grip then it will not be penalised for dropping the article.
- d) Attempting to enter the boat or climbing is always penalised. However, a Judge can decide that an innocent touching of the boat whilst turning or reaching up to get a rope is not an attempt to climb or enter the boat and thus the dog will not be automatically failed.
- e) No dog can be entered into a test unless it has successfully completed all the preceding tests at previous events and only one section (excluding section A with progression to section B for the first time) may be entered on any day.

1 Standard Water Tests

- f) Handlers may use many different ways and techniques to train their dogs to complete the tests but, together with the Stewards and Judges, they are expected to carry out each exercise of each test in the spirit within which they have been written.

The tests and exercises have been written in detail on exactly how they are to be carried out.

- g) It is recommended that for the lower sections, two handlers are used, one as the primary handler the person who sends the dog and a secondary handler to whom the dog is expected to go to or 'retrieve'. (These roles may be switched). In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the handler but cannot be deemed responsible for the failure of any exercise. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
- h) The handler may always give unlimited audible/visual instructions and encouragement. This 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 may enter the water with their dogs at the beginning of all exercises starting from the shore until they reach waist depth. Once the dog is 1 metre in front of them they must then return to the shore, even though they might not have reached waist depth. Once they are back over the shore line, they cannot re-enter the water test area without penalty. Any subsequent influence on the dog arising from the close proximity of the handler will be deemed physical redirection and will be penalised.
- j) If the handler intentionally exceeds waist depth in sections D & E it will be an automatic fail. In sections A, B & C, the judge is to inform handler they need to release the dog at waist depth, if the verbal warning is not heeded and the handler goes beyond waist depth 1 point will be lost.
- k) Physical redirection is any use of force, however slight, to control the dog. Thus a handler can walk their dog so far into the water and send them on their way - it is touching or intimidation after this that will be penalised. Intimidation is influence over the actions of the dog which arises purely from the close proximity of the handler and not from verbal or visual commands.
- l) Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and so re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This can only be requested once and is therefore a 're-send attempt' it will entail an immediate 5 points, any previous points to be disregarded, therefore few points can be lost whilst doing this re-send attempt to still obtain a pass. Explanatory Notes 1.2 (j) applies to this re-send. The timing

1 Standard Water Tests

of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and not re-started from scratch.

- m) The handler shall return to the shore after any redirection and may not swim alongside the dog (with the exception of Standard Water Test exercises B5 & C4). The handler may also move, within the shore area, to collect the dog without penalty.
- n) **Double Handling** will result in failure. This is deemed to be as follows:
- The exercise is started by one handler and a second handler takes over working the dog within the same exercise this includes the second handler stepping in to help take an article/rope from the dog when it returns to the shore at the end of an exercise.

Verbal double handling is no longer a failure

- o) Within the test there will be two areas:

One is the shore or shore area; generally this will be dry land but depending on the location the Judges may direct that a certain distance into the water will count as the shore. This is likely to occur where the shore slopes gently into the water and it would not be possible to bring the boat to dry land but it would be possible to bring it to the edge of the designated shore area. This is normally defined as the area up to where the water first reaches the handlers knee.

All distance measurements for each test should be taken from this knee depth from the shore. Handlers are permitted total freedom of movement in the shore area.

The second is the water test area. This is the rest of the test area in which the boat will float safely. Handlers have limited access rights to the water test area.

- p) The tests will be judged by two appointed persons working in unison. It will be necessary, particularly in the higher level tests, for the Judges to place themselves in advantageous positions so that between them they will be able to see the performance of all the exercises of the test. This position of advantage will be determined by the Judges depending on the test environment and may be in a boat. If the Judge(s) decides to be in the test boat then they will be in addition to the normal complement and not perform any dual role.
- q) Judges have the discretion, within the spirit of the regulations, to make adaptations to the test site due to the weather on the day of the test. Judges can change the test area during each exercise or between entrants if conditions dictate. This does not include any exercise of any section of the test; each test must be carried out exactly as per the regulations.

1 Standard Water Tests

- r) A judge may not judge their own dog or one handled by a partner, parent, sibling or spouse.

1.3 Environmental Equipment and requirements

- a) The test site must have sufficient shore space and water to carry out the tests. The shore should ideally slope gently into the water without any sudden changes in depth and dogs should be at swimming depth within 3 to 5 metres from the shore, if possible. The test manager should take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the site is suitable for the exercises to be undertaken. Natural obstructions are acceptable but, as with dangerous currents or the effects of cross winds, should be brought to the notice of all handlers by the judges as they commence their test. Buckets or large bowls are not permitted for section B, element 4 underwater retrieve, however a soft sided paddling pool may be used provided the dog can trawl the article out of it.
- b) An area of the shore between 10 to 15 depth metres needs to be roped or coned off to separate the test area from the spectators/waiting area.
- c) For the Standard Water Tests shore area width markers need to be set to show the permitted test areas for exercises within the various sections i.e. 20 metres for sections A & B 15 metres for C and 10 metres for D & E.
- d) Distance markers (buoys) will be needed in the water to show 6, 15, 20, 25 and 30 metres from the shore. All measurements out into the water are to be taken from where an average dog starts swimming. Markers should only be set if there are tests being conducted at that distance. They must be safe, not tied together, yet conspicuous enough to be seen from the shore. They should be placed to the sides of the test area so as not to distract the entrants.
- e) Life preservers consisting of a sleeveless jacket of buoyant or inflatable design must be worn by everyone (judges, stewards and handlers) inside the test area, without exception.
- f) All dogs must wear a suitable harness. Dogs may wear life jackets or floatation coats as well as or instead of a harness, provided they are strong enough to enable a dog to be lifted into a boat in the relevant exercises of the test or in an emergency. This harness, life jackets or floatation coat should have a handle or an area suitable for a stranger/person to hold onto to affect a safe tow to shore.
- g) Judges will look at the following points when carrying out their inspections:

The ability of the dogs water harness, life jacket or flotation coat:

1. It must be strong enough to allow the dog to be pulled into the boat without breaking.

1 Standard Water Tests

2. It is strapped securely to prevent the harness overriding the dog or coming loose when swimming.
 3. There are no loose straps
As long as a harness fulfils these principles, then it will be acceptable.
- h) Dogs are not permitted to wear full check collars during the tests.
- i) The equipment to be used in the tests:
1. Distance markers will be needed in the water to show 6, 15, 20 and 30 metres from the shore
 2. 2 hanks of standard rope.
 3. Life buoy (including 'Torpedo' type) /lifejacket/buoyancy aid or boat cushion.
For section D3, identical or very similar pairs of items Life buoy /buoyancy aid or boat cushion will be required.
 4. Piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope.
 5. Coil of standard rope with 6-10 loops of 45-75mm diameter tied so as not to unravel.
 6. 3m of standard rope made from the same size and type as the coil.
 7. 20m (min.) of standard rope.
 8. Boat(s) with a standard tow rope and an appropriate anchor.
For Sections D/E the boat needs to be able to accommodate at least 5 people and a large dog.
- j) Standard tow rope for the tests will be made from between. 15 and 25 mm diameter floating rope, heat-sealed where necessary, with nothing on the end other than a plain back-splice or whipping.
- k) Display the telephone number and locations of a local veterinary practice who has been asked to act as emergency cover for the event and local hospital etc.
- l) A list giving the running order of dogs taking part in the tests, which can also be used as a results board.
- m) Equipment for the judges:
1. A waterproof set of Regulations.
 2. Scoring sheets.
 3. Clipboards/pencils/pens.
 4. Whistles/stopwatch.
 5. Table & chair(s).
 6. Shelter/umbrella.
- n) First aid for humans and dogs

1.4 Responsibilities of the Committee

- a) With the working groups select suitable dates and venues for water tests.

1 Standard Water Tests

- b) Section A Tests can be conducted, informally, by two Judges from the approved list, provided one of them is an experienced judge at this level. This test does not have to be carried out at an organized event and can be arranged by the handlers at their and the Judges' convenience. The Committee will sanction the venue and the chosen judges on receipt of a phone call or letter from the organisers. It is the responsibility of the organisers to notify any passes with any other relevant information to the Committee, so that the matter can be formally reported at the next committee meeting.
- c) With the judges coordinator select potential Judges from the approved list and arrange for them to be officially invited to adjudicate. 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.
- d) Liaise with the working groups and Judges coordinator 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).
- e) 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 section will be cancelled, halted or postponed.
- f) The Committee and or the hosting working group reserves the right to refuse any entries.
- g) Should any of the Judges or test officials be prevented from fulfilling their engagements, the Committee reserves the right to appoint another in their place. Entrants may withdraw from the tests, but no fees will be refunded.
- h) 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.
- i) 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 Committee's control this is not possible, any untested entrants will have a credit note issued.
- j) It is the Committee'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 comes first.

1 Standard Water Tests

1.5 Responsibilities of the Test Manager

- a) Ensure that the location of the test is adequate for the tests to be held.
- b) Check that suitable access can be provided, especially for emergency services.
- c) Ensure that a local veterinary surgeon has been asked to act as emergency cover for the event. Publicise the telephone number and locations of emergency facilities (vet, hospital etc).
- d) With the judge's coordinator, 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 Committee with the test manager has authority to cancel part or the entire event, and advise the judges, stewards and entrants accordingly.
- g) Oversee the production of a running order of entrants for use on the day, together with blank score sheets, ensuring each dog is only entered for the allowed number of tests 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 swim.
- 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 judges coordinator 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 all the tests sections A to E.

1 Standard Water Tests

- m) Ensure a means of communication between judges and test manager to be used in emergencies during the day, i.e. walkie talkie or mobile phones if necessary. Also have a suitable method available to rescue an injured dog.
- n) Ensure the smooth running of the tests.
- o) Ensure that no smoking takes place within the test area.
- p) Unless a separate Referee has been appointed, act as Referee.
- q) Within 7 days of the test, by email to records keeper, return the spreadsheet and accounts balance sheets, showing test results, withdrawals etc. The balance sheet shows income and expenses including the relevant entry monies collected and banked by the test manager.
- r) Within 14 days for the test post/give all the completed entry forms and pass record slips to the records keeper.

1.6 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 Committee within 14 days. The Committee will have the ultimate decision as to whether a test has been carried out as per the regulations.

1.7 Complaints Procedure

Any complaint should be made in accordance with the Club's complaints policy available on the website or from the Secretary.

1.8 Disqualifications

A dog and its owners/handler may be disqualified, 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;

1 Standard Water Tests

- 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) The dog is 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) Pushing or throwing a dog out of the boat will result in disqualification.

If a dog is disqualified for any reason and if the dog has already passed a test at the event, then the pass will be rescinded and a report provided by the Test Manager to the relevant subcommittee.

1.9 List of Judges

The Judges Coordinator holds 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 section D Judge can judge Sections A, B, C & D but not E. Persons wishing to become Judges can apply to the judges coordinator or committee member. Following favourable mentors reports on their judging performance at tests, Judges can be moved up the list as their experience grows. Similarly for poor performance or other misdemeanors a Judge could be moved down the list or removed altogether. When a Judge's position on the list is changed, they will be notified by the Committee.

1.10 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 water 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 section A test.

1 Standard Water Tests

- c) On invitation to judge a test, by the Judges Coordinator. If, after acceptance, a Judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason, then they must inform the Judge's Coordinator as soon as possible.
- 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, handler or stewards.
- h) Ensure that there are no more stewards than necessary in the test area.
- i) If special circumstances make it necessary, then 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 test area into the water. 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 apparatus is deemed unsafe in any respect, then it must be replaced or remedied before the commencement of the test.
- l) Inspect if necessary the dog's harness or life jacket.
- m) 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.
- n) Judges will provide verbal comments to handlers immediately after their test and arrange written comments will be given out at the presentation.
- n) Judges may opt, in agreement to complete a joint score sheet for each team. They may also opt to provide a legibly written report on the test and teams,

1 Standard Water Tests

which must be forwarded to the 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 Committee.

- o) No two inexperienced judges should judge together.
- p) A judge may not judge their own dog or one handled by a partner or immediate family member.

1.11 Judges' Briefing

A briefing will be held before each section in which the particular requirements of the judges will be outlined, together with any peculiarities concerning the test site. The briefing should include a reminder to handlers that by the owners signing the entry form they have declared that the handler and the dog is fit and well enough to undertake the relevant section. All handlers should be aware of what is expected of them in advance but can use the briefing as a time to clarify points.

1.12 Responsibilities of Safety Stewards

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

A safety steward's main responsibility is to ensure the safety of everyone including the dog in the water or on land. In an emergency they may assist without being asked by the judge's or chief steward, however good communication between everyone in the test area in an emergency is essential.

1 Standard Water Tests

1.13 Multi-Test Pass Awards

Multi-test pass awards are issued to Working Newfoundland Club members and these consist of two types:-

- a) A **Multi Pass Certificate** will be awarded to a dog who has passed any of the Sections A, B, C D & E five separate times for Bronze, eight separate times for Silver and ten separate times for Gold at three different venues and involving at least four different judges. This certificate is awarded in recognition and the consistency of the dog in being able to perform at the pass level over a number of months and in differing circumstances.
- b) **Championship Status** will be awarded to a Newfoundland dog only, who has passed section E, three separate times at two different venues, involving at least four different judges. Championship Status is awarded in recognition of the dedication and the skill of the dog in being able to perform consistently at the highest level.

Apart from The Working Newfoundland Club passes, other passes obtained from the Northern Newfoundland Club, Southern Newfoundland Club and Newfoundland Club tests will also be recognised as passes towards these awards. At least one pass must have been obtained with the Working Newfoundland Club for your multi passes Bronze Silver and Gold awards this does not apply to the championship award.

Owners cannot claim a multi-pass from the Working Newfoundland Club if it has already been claimed with another Club.

To give due recognition to the attainment, any Championship Status will be announced at the current or next working event attended by the handler. Both Multi-pass and Championship Certificates and badges will be awarded at the following Annual General Meeting.

Multi-pass awards will not always be awarded automatically, as it will be the responsibility of the owner to advise and/or confirm all their passes with The Working Newfoundland Club as well as passes gained with any of the breed clubs to the Club's record keeper by the 31st December of each year for these to be counted towards any awards to be issued in the following years AGM.

1.14 Brief List of the Tests

Dogs must be at least 6 months old on the day of the test to enter for Section A, 9 months for Section B, 18 months for Section C and 24 months for Sections D & E. These ages have been set in the best interests of the dog, bearing in mind its physical and mental capabilities. Owners are encouraged to start training their dog when it is capable of performing all exercises without undue strain.

The Standard water tests have the following exercises:

Section A

- Exercise 1 Swim out 15 metres to boat
- Exercise 2 Swim out 15 metres to handler/stranger
- Exercise 3 Retrieve familiar articles from 6 metres

Section B

- Exercise 1 Tow boat back 20 metres
- Exercise 2 Tow handler or stranger from 20 metres
- Exercise 3 Retrieve provided article from 6 metres
- Exercise 4 Retrieve of object from 20 centimetres under water
- Exercise 5 Controlled swim

Section C

- Exercise 1 Jump from boat and tow from 25 metres to shore
- Exercise 2 Tow a stranger from 25 metres
- Exercise 3 Retrieve article from 15 metres
- Exercise 4 Controlled swim

Section D

- Exercise 1 Take coil of rope out to a boat at 25 metres and tow it back to shore
- Exercise 2 Rescue a stranger fallen from a boat at 25 metres
- Exercise 3 Directed retrieve of one of two articles from 15 metres
- Exercise 4 Search for hidden stranger behind a boat at 25 metres and tow to shore

Section E

- Exercise 1 Take out life buoy/jacket to stranger who is 30 metres out
- Exercise 2 Search for hidden rope at 30 metres and tow boat to shore.
- Exercise 3 Directed tow of one of two persons from 25 metres.
- Exercise 4 Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat who is 25 metres out.

2 Section A – Dogs minimum age is 6 months

Exercise A1 - Swim out 15 metres to boat

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim 15 metres out to a boat and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the handler until instructed to begin.
- b) A Secondary handler will be in the front of a boat, with a steward and helmsman 15 metres from the shore.
- c) The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water.
- d) Upon command from the Primary handler, the dog will swim the full distance directly to the boat
- e) The dog will either take the tow rope in his mouth, or the handler holds the dog's rump and the dog tows the boat to the shore, or when within touching distance of the handler in the boat, turns and swims back to the shore being followed closely by the boat.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back on shore.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. A Primary and a Secondary handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat, but will be held (firmly) by the handler.
5. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
6. The handler in the boat may have the dogs own article, which can be given to the dog to return to shore with or it can be tied to the end of the tow rope to enable the dog to tow the boat back to shore.
7. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise

2 Section A – Dogs minimum age is 6 months

2. If the team accumulates 10 marks in this exercise
3. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference d*).
4. Double handling (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference n*).

2 Section A – Dogs minimum age is 6 months

Exercise A2 - Swim out 15 metres to a person

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim 15 metres out to a person and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The Secondary Handler will swim out 15 metres from the shore, turn and face the shore and wait.
- c) On being given the indication from the Judge, they will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- d) Upon command from the Primary Handler, the dog will swim directly to the person, and when within touching distance of them, turn and swim back to the shore either towing or being followed by them.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and person are in shallow water near the shore.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the person.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. A Primary and a Secondary handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
3. The Secondary Handler may have the dogs own article, which may be given to the dog to return to shore with.
4. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the person the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for them to take hold or turn safely behind the person.
5. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise
2. If the team accumulates 10 marks in this exercise
3. Attempting to climb on the person.
4. Double handling (see *Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference n*).

2 Section A – Dogs minimum age is 6 months

Exercise A3 - Retrieve familiar article from 6 metres

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and to retrieve a familiar thrown article to the handler.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) In full view of the dog, the steward will throw the article out 6 metres into the water test area.
- c) The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, once the article hits the water at the correct distance.
- d) On the judge's instruction, the dog will be sent to retrieve the article from the water and return it to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the article are back in the shore area and the article has been released by the dog.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping article before getting it back to the shore within the test area.
- Having the article re-thrown.
- Not readily giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area, unless they are purely holding the dog until the exercise begins and do not interfere with the exercise in any way.
3. The article will be selected or provided by the handler from a hank of rope, a life buoy/life jacket/buoyancy aid, or other piece of equipment or floatation toy approved by the Judges prior to commencing the test.
4. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 10 marks in this exercise.

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

Exercise B1 - Tow boat back 20 metres

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and swim 20 metres out to a boat and then tow it to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The boat will be positioned 20 metres from the shore, with the Secondary Handler at the front of the boat.
- c) The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water.
- d) Upon command from the Primary Handler, the dog will swim directly to the boat, take the tow rope in his mouth and tow the boat to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is touched by the handler and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not taking the rope when offered.
- Each time the rope is dropped
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the boat within reach of the handler.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

Three marks will be added for the following occurrences:

- Using a rump tow.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. A Primary and a Secondary handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat, but will be held (firmly) by the handler.
5. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
6. No other article other than the tow rope can be used to attract the dog.
7. The handler may only hold one end of the rope; the rope cannot be held either side of the dog's mouth, or both ends.

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

8. It is permissible for the rump to be held and thus for the dog to tow the boat indirectly although this will incur 3 marks.
9. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 7 marks in this exercise
3. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference d*).
4. Handler fails to offer the rope to the dog.
5. Double handling (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference n*).

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

Exercise B2 - Tow person from 20 metres

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and swim 20 metres out to a person and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) Secondary Handler will swim out 20 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait.
- c) On being given the indication from the Judge the Secondary Handler will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- d) Upon command from the handler, the dog will swim directly to the Secondary Handler, affect a safe pick-up and tow him back to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and person are in shallow water near the shore.
- f) The Primary Handler must help the Secondary Handler out of the water.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the person.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the person to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.
- Handler does not assist the secondary handler/steward out of the water.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. The part of the person should be played by the Secondary Handler or a steward.
3. The roles of the handler/person cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
4. No other articles or pieces of clothing (hats, loose gloves etc.) are to be used to attract the dog.
5. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the person, the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold, or turn safely behind the person.
6. When attracting the dog's attention, both handler/person **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise
2. If the team accumulates 7 marks in this exercise
3. Attempting to climb on the person being rescued.
4. Double handling (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference n*).

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

Exercise B3 - Retrieve provided article from 6 metres

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and to return an unfamiliar article to its handler.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) In full view of the dog, the steward will throw the article out 6 metres into the water test area.
- c) The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, once the article hits the water at the correct distance.
- d) The dog will be sent to retrieve the article from the water and return it to the shore area.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the article are back on shore and the article has been given by the dog to the handler

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping article before getting it back to the shore within the test area.
- Having the article re-thrown.
- Not readily giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area, unless they are purely holding the dog until the exercise begins and do not interfere with the exercise in any way.
3. The article will be selected by the Judges on the day from a hank of rope, a life ring/buoy, a life jacket/buoyancy aid and it will be the same for each dog.
4. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 7 marks in this exercise.
3. Not retrieving the article.

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

Exercise B4 - Retrieve an article from 20 centimetres under water

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and retrieve an article from approximately 20 centimetres of water.

- a) In full view of the dog, the Primary Handler will drop or throw the article in the water and allow it to sink.
- b) When the article has sunk, the Judge will immediately give the indication to begin.
- c) The dog will be commanded to find the article and return it to the handler.
- d) The handler's hands should not be in the water when the article is retrieved.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the article has been given by the dog to the handler.

Scoring

The exercise will be deemed a fail if the dog or article combined is physically repositioned more than the maximum six times or the three minute time allowance for the exercise runs out.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area, unless they are purely holding the dog until the exercise begins and do not interfere with the exercise in any way.
3. The underwater test article will be a piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope and will be the same for each dog.
4. The dog is permitted to 'trawl' the article out of the water before retrieving it and returning it to the handler.
5. The article can be re-dropped or re-thrown and the handler can physically reposition the dog for only up to the maximum six times for any combination of the two. i.e. if the dog is physically handled twice after the start of the exercise then the article could only be dropped or thrown a further four times.
6. The handler's hands can only be in the water to retrieve the article for re-dropping or re-throwing.
7. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.
8. A soft sided padding pool (which allows the dog to "trawl" the article) can be used when conditions at the venue are deemed unsuitable. At such times entrants can be given the option to use padding pool or not but must state which option they will be choosing before the exercise commences and cannot change their option once the exercise is started.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the dog or article combined is physically repositioned more than the maximum six times.

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

3. Handlers attempts to force the dogs head under water, however slightly.

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

Exercise B5 - Controlled swim

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and swim safely with the handler without interfering with them.

- a) On the judges instruction the dog, off lead, and handler will leave the shore together and swim 20 metres straight out from the shore.
- b) The dog will swim at the side of the handler close enough to be controlled (within 2m) but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- c) On reaching the required distance an indication by one of the Judges (by whistle, or shout, etc.), will deem the exercise complete.
- d) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow or be towed by the handler during the exercise.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not being close enough to the swimmer.
- Being too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- Physically redirecting the dog.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Circling the handler whilst the handler is swimming.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. When entering the water together the handler may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming.
4. If for any reason the handler **stops** swimming then the dog is permitted to circle the handler as many times as necessary without penalty, but should not be more than 2m (approximately) from the handler's head.
5. The dog (but not the handler) is permitted to carry a small article, e.g. a glove, whilst swimming.
6. The Judges will indicate a target to aim for so that they can see that the dog and handler are swimming in the right direction, but there will be no buoys or boats close to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog.
7. The safety boat will be ready on standby at the side of the test area, in case it is needed.
8. It is the handler's responsibility to swim with their dog; it cannot be assumed that a steward will automatically be substituted to take on this role without prior arrangement.
9. Once the exercise has been completed, it is the handler's decision as to how they return to the shore area. They can be towed back by their dog or swim back with their dog.

3 Section B – Dogs minimum age is 9 months

10. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
11. Distances will be measured from when the handler and dog start to swim.
12. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 7 marks in this exercise.
3. Attempting to climb on the handler.
4. Handler swimming on their back with the dog following them.
5. Dog swimming off and the handler chasing it.
6. Handler swimming off and the dog chasing them.
7. Wearing fins or swimming aids, other than webbed gloves.

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

Exercise C1 - Jump from boat and tow 25 metres to shore

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and jump from a boat then tow it 25 metres to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog and Primary Handler, in a controlled manner, will enter the boat containing a steward, the Helmsman and a Judge.
- b) The boat will then be taken 25 metres from the shore.
- c) When given the signal to begin, the dog with no physical assistance from the handler shall enter the water take the boat's tow rope in its mouth and tow the boat directly back to the shore.
- d) The instruction to the dog can be supplemented by splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water.
- e) The handler must remain in the boat until the test is completed.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the secondary handler and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Not entering the boat safely at the shore.
- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the handler.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Hesitation in taking the rope when commanded.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the boat within reach of the secondary handler.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Three marks will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Each time the rope is dropped.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. A Primary and a Secondary handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) by the handler, one end of the rope must remain free.
5. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
6. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Climbing/Attempting to re-enter the boat. (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference d*).
4. Not exiting the boat in the first 60 seconds of the exercise.
5. Entrant physically assisting in the exit from the boat,
6. Not towing the boat by holding the rope voluntarily in its mouth.
7. Handler holding both ends of the rope.
8. Handler holding the rope in a loop, however loosely or on either side of the dogs mouth.
9. Returning to the shore without the boat.

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

Exercise C2 - Tow stranger from 25 metres

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and swim 25 metres out to a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) A stranger to the dog, will swim out 25 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait.
- c) On being given the indication from the Judge, they will attract the dog's attention by calling and splashing in the water.
- d) They will continue to attract the dog's attention until the dog is within touching distance.
- e) Upon command from the handler, the dog will swim directly to the stranger, affect a safe pick-up and tow him back to the shore area.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and stranger are in shallow water near the shore.
- g) The handler must help the stranger out of water.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the person.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the stranger to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.
- Handler does not assist the stranger out of the water.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area,
3. The stranger role will be played by a competent steward; the steward will be a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group.
4. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

5. When attracting the dog's attention the handlers **is** permitted to use the dog's name but the stranger is **not** permitted to use the dog's name, familiar names, or words such as biscuit, treats, toys etc.
6. The stranger should however encourage the dog by changing their call from here dog, to over here, this way, what have I got, good dog etc, so as not to be calling the dog in one constant monotone.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Attempting to climb on the stranger.

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

Exercise C3 - Retrieve dropped article from 15 metres

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and to return an unfamiliar article to its handler from a distance.

- a) The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the Primary Handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore.
- c) In full view of the dog, the steward will be kneeling in the boat and holding the article above his head and then on the Judge's signal drop it from over head height into the water as they pass so that the dog will have to swim 15 metres to the article.
- d) The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area.
- e) The dog will be sent to retrieve the article from the water and return it to the shore area.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the handler with the article are back on shore, and the article has been given by the dog to the handler willingly.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping the article before getting it back to the shore within the test area.
- Not readily giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The article will be selected by the Judge on the day from a hank of rope, a life ring/buoy, a life jacket/ buoyancy aid or a boat cushion and **it** will be the same for each dog.
4. In selecting the article the Judge will take into account their suitability with regards to the weather conditions.
5. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

3. If excessive tugging or force is used before the dog releases the article.

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

Exercise C4 - Controlled swim

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and swim safely with the handler without interfering with them.

- a) During this exercise the dog and handler will be required to swim together for 45 metres and perform a minimum of two turns so that they are swimming parallel to the shore for at least 15 metres.
- b) The route to be taken will be one of the following shapes:-
 - (1) 'n' shaped with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 15 m parallel to the shore and then a further turn and swim back at least 15 m to the shore.
 - (2) a **triangle** with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 15 m parallel to the shore and then a further oblique turn and swim back at least 15 m to the entry point on the shore; or
 - (3) an **inverted 'L'** with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 7.5 m parallel to the shore, then an about turn over the same route to return to the shore at the entry point.
- c) The choice of route will be decided by the Judges depending on the environment and weather conditions on the day of the test and will be the same for each dog.
- d) The Judges may vary distances according to venue or conditions but without reducing the overall distance.
- e) On the judges instruction the dog and handler will leave the shore together and swim out following the route previously detailed by the Judges.
- f) The dog will swim at the side of the handler close enough to be verbally/visually controlled (within 2m) but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- g) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow or be towed by the handler during the exercise.
- h) The points at which to make turns will be clearly indicated audibly and/or visually by the Judges, e.g. whistle or shout etc.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not being close enough to the swimmer.
- Being too close, so as to interfere with the stroke of the handler.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Two marks will be added for each of the following occurrences:

- Circling the handler whilst swimming (excluding any circling when the handler and dog are turning to swim in a different direction which is part of the exercise and therefore not penalised)

4 Section C – Dogs minimum age is 18 months

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. When entering the water together the handler may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming.
4. If for any reason the handler **stops** swimming then the dog is permitted to circle the handler, but should not at any time be more than 2 m (approximately) from the handler's head.
5. The Judges will indicate a target to aim for so that they can see that the dog and handler are swimming on line, but there will be no buoys / boats close in to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog.
6. For the turns to swim parallel to the shore and the return to shore the Judges will arrange in advance how they will signal to each other and the handler - whistles may be reinforced with a visual signal.
7. A Judge will be in a boat (which can also act as the safety boat) at a safe distance from the dog and handler to give a better perspective to the actual swim.
8. It is the handler's responsibility to swim with their dog; it cannot be assumed that a steward will automatically be substituted to take on this role without prior arrangement.
9. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
10. Distances will be measured from when the dog and handler start swimming.
11. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Attempting to climb on the handler.
4. Handler swimming on their back with the dog following them.
5. Dog swimming off and the handler chasing it.
6. Handler swimming off and the dog chasing them.
7. Wearing fins or swimming aids, other than webbed gloves.
8. Physically redirecting the dog.

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Exercise D1 - Take coil of rope out to a boat and tow it back to shore

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and take a coil of rope to someone in a boat then tow it back safely to the shore.

- a) The boat with a Judge, a Helmsman and a steward not known to the dog, will be positioned 25 metres from the shore.
- b) The Helmsman will be solely concerned with the safety and position of the boat and will not be concerned with handling the dog.
- c) The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed, the handler will command the dog to swim out directly to the boat.
- e) The handler will give the rope to the dog or throw the rope just in front of the dog, so the dog will swim with the coil of rope in its mouth.
- f) The steward will be calling out to the dog to come to the boat; the steward is allowed to encourage the dog by calling and tapping the boat only, no splashing is allowed; they will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance.
- g) On reaching the boat the steward will attempt to take the coil of rope without endangering himself or the dog.
- h) Once he is holding the coil of rope, the steward will give the 'release' command, as notified to him by the handler before commencing the exercise, and will continue to do so until the dog voluntarily releases the coil of rope.
- i) The steward will not forcibly remove the coil of rope or continue to hold the coil of rope if it becomes unsafe to do so.
- j) The steward must not show the tow rope to the dog until the coil of rope is inside the boat.
- k) The steward will then offer a tow rope to the dog.
- l) The dog will then take this rope in its mouth and use it to tow the boat back to the shore.
- m) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and boat is within reach of the handler and the boat occupants can step ashore safely in the less than knee depth water.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Dropping the coil of rope during the swim out.
- Not releasing the coil of rope to the steward on command.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the boat within reach of the handler.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Three marks will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Each time the rope is dropped during the tow back

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Five marks will be added:

- Immediately a second re-send attempt is started (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (*see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g*).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) at one end by the steward, one end of the rope must remain free, he cannot hold it in a loop however loosely, and neither can he hold it either side of the dog's mouth.
5. The dog can turn after coming within reach of the steward or may completely circle the boat.
6. The handler will instruct the steward on the commands/actions to be used for releasing the coil/rope. The steward is only permitted to give the dog a release command; he is not permitted to command the dog in any other way any further commands must be given by the handler on the shore.
7. When attracting the dog's attention the handlers **is** permitted to use the dog's name but the stranger is **not** permitted to use the dog's name, familiar names, or words such as biscuit, treats, toys etc.
8. The stranger should however encourage the dog by changing their call from here dog, to over here, this way, what have I got, good dog etc, so as not to be calling the dog in one constant monotone.
9. The coil of rope can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 3 metres so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore up to waist height of the handler.
10. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).
11. The handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Climbing/Attempting to re-enter the boat. (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference d*).
4. Physical redirection (with the exception of a requested re-send).
5. Not towing the boat by holding the rope voluntarily in its mouth.
6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Exercise D2 - Rescue a fallen stranger from a boat at 25 metres

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and jump from a boat and tow a stranger back to the boat without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will enter the boat and be taken 25 metres from the shore with the handler, two stewards one of which is a stranger to the dog, the Helmsman and a Judge.
- b) The handler will ensure that the dog is under control while in the boat and does not impede the stewards.
- c) The Helmsman will continue to hold the boat in position (preferably anchored) and not allow the boat to drift.
- d) When given the signal to begin, the steward who is a stranger to the dog will fall noisily overboard and position himself 5 metres from the boat, where he will be vertical in the water, facing/looking at the boat, calm and silent.
- e) The stranger should be on the side of the boat furthest from the shore, but this may depend on prevailing weather conditions.
- f) The Judge will, as soon as possible, give the command to release the dog as soon as it is safe to do so.
- g) The dog will enter the water, swim to the stranger and affect a safe tow.
- h) The dog will tow him to a position close enough to the boat so the steward and handler can pull the stranger aboard. The handler must touch the drowning stranger before the stranger can let go of the dog.
- i) The handler does not have to physically get the stranger aboard but should be involved and should not be solely dealing with the dog during this time.
- j) The dog will be required to wait in the water or swim round the boat, until the stranger is safely aboard.
- k) The dog will present itself sideways along the side of the boat and will be held via the harness for 3 seconds by both the handler and a steward.
- l) Once the Judge indicates that the exercise is complete, the dog is to be returned to shore by one of the following methods;
 - 1) The dog will be pulled into the boat.
 - 2) The dog will swim back to shore with the tow rope
 - 3) The handler will swim back with the dog.

The handler must inform stewards at the start of the test which method they will use.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Not entering the boat safely at the shore.
- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water when commanded.
- Not swimming directly to the stranger.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the boat.
- Not bringing the stranger to the position indicated by the handler

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

- Handler not assisting with re-boarding of stranger.
- Not swimming calmly while waiting for the stranger to be taken aboard.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area. A land steward will call the dog to shore if using option 2.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The stranger role will be played by a competent steward; the steward will be a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group.
5. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger, the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.
6. The dog is permitted to swim around the boat as many times as is necessary without incurring any marks.
7. The handler must advise both the judges and stewards which of the options is to be used when returning to shore, before the exercise starts.
8. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulate 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Dog not exiting the boat in the first 45 seconds of the exercise.
4. Owner physically assisting the dog in the exit from the boat.
5. Attempting to climb/climbing on the stranger.
6. Attempting to re-enter the boat. (Until instructed to do so, if option 1 has been advised for the completion of the exercise).
7. Physical redirection.
8. No articles (coil of rope, toy, tow rope etc.) are to be used to assist in controlling the dog, whilst the stranger is being pulled into the boat. The handler must control the dog by using visual/audible commands only.

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Exercise D3 - Directed retrieve of one of two articles

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to return a specific article to its handler from a distance.

- a) The dog will remain on shore, under control at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) The Judge will inform the handler which article the dog has to retrieve (left or right).
- c) A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore.
- d) In full view of the dog, the stewards will hold the articles above their heads and then on the Judge's signals quietly place the articles in the water as it passes so that they are between 6 and 7 metres apart and the dog will have to swim 15 metres to them.
- e) Once the second article is in the water the Judge will give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area.
- f) The dog, from its position midway between the two articles, will be sent to retrieve the selected article from the water and return it to the handler on the shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the handler with the article are back on shore.
- h) The stewards in the boat will then retrieve the other article.

Point Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the correct article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping the article before getting it back to the shore within the test area.
- Not giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Five marks will be added:

- Immediately a second re-send attempt is started (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (*see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g*).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The Judges on the day will select two hanks of rope, or two life rings/buoys, or two life jackets/ buoyancy aids (which should be identical or very similar pairs).
4. When making their selection, the Judges will take into account the suitability of the articles having regard to all the circumstances.
5. If the articles drift too close together the judges should re-set the exercise.
6. The actual item to be retrieved will be selected randomly for each dog.

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

7. The handler will know which article (Left or Right) is to be retrieved as the boat is getting into position and before the articles are placed.
8. The handler is not permitted to launch or physically direct the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected article.
9. When attracting the dog's attention the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.
10. The handler is permitted to request one re-send - (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Touching, holding or retrieving the wrong article even whilst holding the correct one.
4. Physical redirection (with the exception of a requested re-send).
5. If excessive tugging or force is used to release the article.
6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Exercise D4 - Search for hidden stranger and tow to shore

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler commands and search round a boat to find a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) Out of the view of the dog, the boat will be positioned at a buoy at 25 metres from the shore with a steward who is a stranger to the dog in the water holding the boat in such a position that he cannot be seen by the dog on the shore.
- b) All occupants of the boat must make themselves as inconspicuous as possible so as not to attract the dog's attention in any way, but still be able to see the dog.
- c) The dog will remain under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed, the stranger who will be half way along the side of the boat will begin to shout and splash in the water, and will continue to do so until the dog comes into sight when they will stop splashing but call the dog until it comes within touching distance.
- e) The handler will command the dog to swim out to the boat.
- f) On reaching the boat, the dog will swim around the boat to find the stranger and affect a safe pick-up and tow.
- g) Avoiding the boat, the dog will then return with the stranger back to the shore.
- h) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and stranger are back in the shore area.
- i) The handler is expected to help the stranger out of the water.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not circling close to the boat when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the stranger to the shore area.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Five marks will be added:

- Immediately a second re-send attempt is started (*see Explanatory Notes page 12 section 3.1 reference I*).

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (*see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g*).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The Steward and Helmsman will ensure there are no ropes hanging over the side of the boat that may act as a distraction.

5 Section D – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

4. 'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the handler and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the area while the exercise is set up.
5. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.
6. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).
7. The stranger is **not** permitted to use the dog's name, familiar names, or words such as biscuit, treats, toys etc.
8. The stranger should however encourage the dog by changing their call from here dog, to over here, this way, what have I got, good dog etc, so as not to be calling the dog in one constant monotone.
9. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, or turn safely behind him.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Attempting to climb/climbing on the stranger.
4. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference d*).
5. Physical redirection. (With the exception of a requested re-send).
6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

6 Section E – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Exercise E1 - Take out life buoy/jacket to stranger

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and take an object to a stranger in the water then tow him back safely to the shore.

- a) The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The steward who is a stranger to the dog will enter the water from a boat 30 metres from the shore so that he is facing the shore.
- c) When instructed, the stranger will provide a minimal splash only, and will continue to do so until the article is within touching distance.
- d) The handler will command the dog to swim out to the stranger holding the article with its mouth.
- e) On reaching the stranger it will swim close enough for him to take and keep hold of the article.
- f) The dog will then use the article to bring him back to the shore.
- g) The stranger will hold both the article and the dog. (If the dog releases the article the stranger must also release the dog).
- h) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and stranger are back in the shore area.
- i) The handler is expected to help the stranger out of the water.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each of the following occurrences

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the stranger.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not keeping hold of the article.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the stranger to the shore area.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Five marks will be added:

- Immediately a second re-send attempt is started (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (*see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g*).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The Judge on the day will select either a) or b) to be the article for the day and it will be the same for each dog.
 - a) A life ring/buoy (including "Torpedo" type)
 - b) A life jacket/buoyancy aid

6 Section E – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

4. When making the selection the Judge will take into account their suitability having regard to the weather conditions.
5. The selected article can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 3 metres so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore.
6. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).
7. To affect a safe pick-up the dog should preferably turn behind the stranger but it may turn in front or to the side; however it must be a close turn as the article must be presented within arms' reach of the stranger so that he can easily take hold of it.
8. The stranger will hold both the article and the dog, in such a way as to not tip the dog or hinder the dog in returning to the shore.
9. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Attempting to climb/climbing on the water steward.
4. Physical redirection. (With the exception of a requested re-send).
5. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

Exercise E2 - Search for hidden rope and tow boat to shore

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and search round a boat to find a rope and then use it to tow the boat back to the shore.

- a) Out of sight of the dog, the boat will be positioned 30 metres from the shore with a steward and/or helmsman holding the boat in position.
- b) All occupants of the boat must make themselves as inconspicuous as possible so as not to attract the dog's attention in any way, but still be able to see the dog.
- c) The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed, the handler will command the dog to swim out to the boat.
- e) On reaching the boat, the dog will swim around the boat to find the rope that will be hanging loosely with the end in the water. If due to the weather conditions the boat drifts and the rope comes into sight of the dog the exercise will continue.
- f) The dog will take up the rope and use it to tow the boat back to the shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the boat is within reach of the handler.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each of the following occurrences

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not circling close to the boat when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping the rope on the swim back.
- Not bringing the boat to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Five marks will be added:

- Immediately a second re-send attempt is started (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (*see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g*).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The rope will be held (firmly) by a steward at one end, it will not be attached to the boat, and one end will be left loosely hanging over the side with at least the end in the water.
4. At the start of the exercise the rope may not be over the side facing the shore.
5. The Steward and Helmsman should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extraneous ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.

6 Section E – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

6. 'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the handler and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the test area while the exercise is set up.
7. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).
8. When attracting the dog's attention the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise
3. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference d*).
4. Physical redirection (With the exception of a requested re-send).
5. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

Exercise E3 - Directed tow of one of two strangers

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim to a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The exercise will be set up out of sight of the dog.
- b) When called forward, the dog will remain under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- c) Two stewards who are strangers to the dog will have entered the water from a boat so that they are both 30 metres out, approximately 10 metres apart and both vertical in the water, facing and looking at the shore.
- d) The Judge will inform the handler which steward the dog has to tow.
- e) When instructed, the handler will command the dog from its position mid way between the two strangers to swim out to the selected stranger.
- f) The dog will swim directly to the selected steward, affect a safe pick-up and return with stranger back to the shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and stranger are in shallow water near the shore. The handler is expected to help the stranger out of the water. The other stranger will then return to the shore.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water
- Not swimming directly to the stranger.
- Not affecting a safe pick-up.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the stranger to the shore area.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

Five marks will be added:

- Immediately a second re-send attempt is started (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (*see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g*). This must have a handle or an area suitable to provide a safe handhold when towing.
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The stranger to be collected (Left or Right) will be randomly selected. They will therefore not necessarily be the same for each dog.
4. The handler will be advised which of the strangers is to be collected (Left or Right) before the dog is removed from sight.
5. Both strangers will be facing the shore, both will be either:
 - a) Silent and looking straight ahead (not simulated unconsciousness)

6 Section E – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

- b) Noisy, calling and splashing, if they are noisy they will continue to be noisy until the dog is within touching distance.
- 6. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference k*).
- 7. If the dog comes within arms reach of the 'wrong' stranger they will hold on and get towed back to the shore.
- 8. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger, although the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, it is preferable for it to turn safely behind him.
- 9. The handler is not permitted to launch or physically direct the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected stranger.
- 10. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

- 1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- 2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise
- 3. Attempting to climb on either stranger.
- 4. Physical redirection (With the exception of a requested re-send).
- 5. Coming within arms' reach of the 'wrong' stranger even if they have collected the correct stranger.
- 6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth.

6 Section E – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

Exercise E4 - Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to a handler's commands by jumping from a boat and taking a rope to a stranger in another boat 15 metres away.

- a) The dog will enter a boat and be taken out 25 metres from the shore with a Helmsman, a Judge, the handler, and a steward.
- b) Another boat with the other Judge, a Helmsman and two stewards who are strangers to dog, and will be the same distance from the shore but at 15 metres away.
- c) To ensure the boats remain in their set positions of 15 metres apart they will be anchored, wherever possible.
- d) When given the signal to begin, the handler will command the dog; one of the strangers in the other boat will be calling out for the dog to come to the boat. The stranger is allowed to encourage the dog calling and tapping only, no splashing is allowed.
- e) The strangers will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance.
- f) The dog will enter the water, be handed or take one end of the rope in its mouth and swim directly to the other boat. If there is insufficient rope to reach from one boat to the other, the handler may let go of the rope enabling the dog to take the rope to other boat.
- g) As the dog gets sufficiently near to the other boat the stranger will actively attempt to get hold of the rope but without endangering himself or the dog.
- h) When the stranger has the end of the rope, he will use the advised release command to take the rope and secure it to the boat or hand it to the other stranger.
- i) The dog will be required to wait in the water or circle the boat until the rope is secure.
- j) The dog is held by its harness sideways along the side of the boat by 2 stewards for 3 seconds.
- k) Once the judge indicates that the test is over, the dog is to be returned to shore by one of the following methods:
 - 1) The dog will be pulled into the boat.
 - 2) The dog will swim back to shore with the tow rope.
 - 3) The Handler will swim back to shore with the dog.

Handler must inform stewards at start of test which method they will use.

Scoring

One mark will be added for each and every of the following occurrences:

- Not entering the boat safely at the shore.
- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not taking the end of rope when instructed;
- Not swimming directly to the other boat;
- Dropping the rope during the swim;

6 Section E – Dogs minimum age is 24 months

- Not taking the rope directly to the stranger.
- Not swimming calmly while waiting for the rope to be taken aboard.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (*see Equipment Notes 1.3 reference f/g*).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area. A steward will call the dog to shore if using option 2.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat).
4. The stranger role will be played by a competent steward; the steward will be a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group.
5. The handler must advise both the judges and stewards which of the options is to be used when returning to shore, before the exercise starts.
6. The rope will be held/fed into the water by handler until the dog reaches the other boat.(if the rope is not long enough to reach the other boat the handler may let go of their end allowing the dog to take the rope to the other boat)
7. The dog can be given the end of the rope before it jumps overboard or have its commands supplemented by splashing or tossing the end of rope into the water.
8. The stranger is **not** permitted to use the dog's name or command the dog in any other way other than the release of the rope; any further commands must be given by the handler in the boat.
9. The dog is permitted to swim around the boat as many times as is necessary without incurring any marks.
10. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.
11. The handler must remain in the first boat until the test is completed.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 marks in this exercise.
3. Not exiting the boat in the first 30 seconds of the exercise.
4. Climbing/attempting to re-enter the boat. (*see Explanatory Notes 1.2 reference d*).
5. Not taking the rope to the boat.
6. Owner physically assisting in the exit from the boat.
7. Physical redirection.
8. Being too far away for the stewards to hold the dog safely at the side of the boat for 3 seconds.



www.theworkingnewfoundlandclub.co.uk