

Achiever's Water



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

These Achiever's Water Awards Rules and Regulations are issued by The Working Newfoundland Club.

The Achiever's Water Awards have been created by the Working Newfoundland Club and will only be run by this Club.

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

These Rules and Regulations are issued by The Working Newfoundland Club and are the only standard against which all the tests will be judged.



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Introduction

These Awards have been created to challenge both dog and handler in the water with the emphasis on fun. They celebrate what you may have already achieved in the standard water tests but mainly they are fun display exercises you might use in training and are designed to show what you and your dog can do in a demonstration to the public.

The three grades have been designed as follows: -

- Grade one – you with members of your family and your training group are putting on a demonstration to the public.
- Grade two – you, your training group with another group are putting on a demonstration to the public.
- Grade three – you turn up with a friend to work with complete strangers who are putting on a demonstration to the public.

They enable the undertaking of a variety of exercises chosen to stretch the team's ability and understanding of each other. Each Grade taken can involve the use of different exercises given for that grade thus encouraging the constant learning of something new for the team. The exercises can be used to teach and familiarise the dog with many of the exercises used in the standard tests so can be usefully used as a complementary training aid.

Unlike the standard test the achievers put the handler and dog team in control of the demonstration. The judges will help you on some exercises by acting as a director for example they will blow the whistle in a controlled swim to let the team know they have reached the correct distance or indicate when a person/stranger should jump from the boat etc.

These Awards have been designed to change and grow with time and need, and not to remain static, so new exercises can be added or current ones can be adapted, whilst still maintaining the same standard in each grade. To enable this, the Achiever's Awards will be reviewed on an annual basis at the end of the swimming season and all members will be encouraged to put forward any suggestions for consideration to the committee that they feel would enhance the tests.

- Puppy is a set demonstration
- For Veteran you pick one exercise from each Group.

The grades have been split into three groups.

- For Grade 1 you pick one exercise from each Group.
- For Grades 2 and 3, you pick one from each group plus one other from any group.

There are age limits which prevent very few of the exercises being attempted as we have designed an option so that all ages of dogs have plenty to choose from and as you and your Newfoundland's water skills grow, you can find new challenges to keep your dog interested and you on your toes!

You must complete a grade one pass before moving onto grade two and a grade two pass before moving onto grade three. Like all Newfoundland standard tests, these exercises have been based on a building block principle, so you are encouraged to obtain a few grades at each level before moving onto the next.

IMPORTANT

As a team, you as the handler decide what exercises to choose, what articles to use and you are responsible for instructing all the other people in your demonstration of how each exercise will work to help you achieve a pass within the regulations.

Therefore, it is your responsibility to know which exercises you have entered your dog for as you will need to advise the judges and the other people of this when you arrive at the water.

You will see as you read the regulations that each exercise has a number in the top corner of the page as per the example below which shows 1A1 – Grade 1, Section A and Exercise 1. Please ensure that you use the relevant exercise number to reference the elements that you have selected for you and your dog to attempt.

1 A 1

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within 3 Attempts

Group A - Exercise 1

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 6 months

Age limit = Dogs under 12 months not to pull back the boat.

Take rope from boat or tow boat back 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman, one boat steward and the handler
- Tow rope with the dog's own article attached if desired
- 2 land stewards

Achiever's Water Award – Important Guidelines

General Guidance Notes for all Grades

(these must be read together with the specific guidance notes for each exercise before attempting any Demonstration)

1. The role of the **handler** will be the same person who will handle the dog throughout the demonstration.
2. The role of the **secondary handler** can be a partner and/or a member of the family.
3. The role of a **person** will be played by a competent water steward who **may be a member** of the dog's training group, **but not a member of the family**.
4. The role of a **stranger** will be played by a competent water steward who **must NOT be a member** of the dog's training group.
5. Strangers are not permitted to use the dog's name, familiar names or words such as biscuit, etc whilst calling the dog during the exercise.
6. The water stewards playing the role of a noisy person or stranger at the instruction of the handler should 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.
7. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat) even when handlers or strangers need to enter the water from the boat they must remain completely in the boat until it is time for them to either jump or slide over the side.
8. When attracting the dog's attention, handlers **are** permitted to use the dog's name.
9. When attracting the dog's attention to call it back to shore after the exercise the person/strangers **are** permitted to use the dog's name.
10. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area, a steward may be used as the secondary handler if desired but will not be responsible for the failure of any dog due to unfamiliarity.
11. The role of the handler cannot be switched once the first exercise of the demonstration has been started.
12. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat during any exercise but will be held (firmly) by the handler/person or stranger as required.
13. When the boat is not required for any exercise, it will be ready and manned at the side of the test area to be used as the safety boat.

1. Responsibilities of the Committee

- a) With the working groups select suitable dates and venues for water demonstrations.
- b) With the judge's 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 awards in a consistent manner, they must judge according to the regulations as they are written and not how they would like the demonstrations to be or how they train their own dogs.
- c) 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 demonstrations to be held, and for obtaining permission to use the site from its owner(s).
- d) Ensure that their appointed officials (Test Manager and Judges) are aware that safety is always the prime consideration and that they have a duty to call off an event 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 exercise will be cancelled, halted or postponed.
- e) The Committee and or the hosting working group reserves the right to refuse any entries.
- f) 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 demonstrations, but no fees will be refunded.
- g) Acknowledgement of entry of a demonstration will not be sent out to the entrants, any person requiring acknowledgement of entry must enclose a SAE with their entry form or request by email.
- h) Every effort will be made to complete all demonstrations 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 entrant who has not been able to take part will have a credit note issued.
- i) 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 demonstrations – safety and the dogs always comes first.

2. Responsibilities of the Test Manager

- a) Ensure that the location of the event is adequate for the demonstrations 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.
- 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 the demonstrations. Check the test site, checking for any overnight changes that could pose problems for the test. Brief the Judges, entrants and safety stewards on the peculiarities of the venue.
- l) Provide suitable apparatus for all the exercises in Puppy, Veteran and Grades one to three.

- 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) 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.
- q) Within 14 days for the test post/give all the completed entry forms and pass record slips to the records keeper.

3. 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;
- 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 or award at the event, then the pass will be rescinded and a report provided by the Test Manager to the relevant subcommittee.

4. Failure in all Grades

- If the performance is deemed to be of too low a standard to be performed as a demonstration to the public.
- Not completing the exercise within 3 attempts - This is not 3 attempts at the whole exercise but for example at start of the exercise the handler has 3 attempts at sending the dog to collect an article, or the handler has 3 attempts to get the dog to start swimming with them, or the handler has 3 attempts to get the dog to exit the boat.
- The team are deemed to not have completed the exercise
- Climbing/Attempting to enter or re-enter the boat
- Attempting to climb or climbing on a handler, person or stranger in the water (including swimming over the unconscious handler or stranger)

5. Definition of Shore, Shore line, Shore Area and Test Area

- Shore is the visible dry land from the water
- Shore line is where the water meets the dry land
- Shore area is from where the water starts (shore line) out to knee depth
- Test area is water beyond knee depth to the given distance for each exercise

6. Criteria used by judges to determine a pass or fail

The Achiever's Awards are designed to show that the entrants have trained as a team and, if asked, could perform the chosen exercises to the public as a demonstration of their natural life saving abilities with their handlers. These demonstrations, although not faultless, should however be of a standard that the dog willingly takes part, is given clear instructions and encouragement and shows an enthusiastic and willing nature to complete the task as a team with its handler.

First and foremost the judges are to judge the awards in the spirit in which they have been written. They are required to use their discretion to determine if the team performed all that was necessary to complete the exercise in a proficient manner, bearing in mind that each team has chosen their exercises to show that they can perform each one to a high standard.

Criteria have been set above for failure of an exercise. Outside of this, the judge will record incidents of poor performance to determine if the team have reached a high enough standard to complete the exercise satisfactorily. If a team achieve the exercise

i.e. safely find and return a hidden person from behind the boat, then they should pass the exercise providing their performance was completed as described by the third attempt, was without undue manhandling of the dog, or the dog being out of control so as to affect the safety of itself and those around it.

Judges will make notes on each exercise at the end of each performance.

7. Complaints Procedure

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

8. 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 grade two Judge can judge veteran, grade one and two but not puppy or grade three. Persons wishing to become Judges can apply to the judge's coordinator or committee member. Following favourable mentors reports on their judging performance at demonstrations, Judges can be moved up the list as their experience grows. Similarly, for poor performance or other misdemeanours a Judge could be moved down the list or removed altogether. When a Judge's position on the list is changed, they will be notified by the Committee.

9. Responsibilities of the Judges

Each demonstration 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.
- b) Judge fairly and impartially. The judges will help on some exercises by acting as a director for example they will blow the whistle in a controlled swim to let the team know they have reached the correct distance or indicate when a person/stranger should jump from the boat etc.
- c) Judges may remain on shore or be in any one of the boats to view the demonstration.

- d) On invitation to judge a demonstration, 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.
- e) Having been briefed by the Test Manager on the peculiarities of the venue, brief everyone as to their responsibilities. Judges should remind entrants that it is their demonstration and that they as handlers are to advise all concerned how each exercise is to be completed. 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 demonstration 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 demonstration being taken if they consider that the continuation of the demonstration would be injurious to the dog, handler or stewards.
- h) If special circumstances make it necessary, then the judges can allow a dog to retake a particular exercise. 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.
- i) A team that has performed a demonstration failed cannot redo that Demonstration on the same day; however, at the discretion and agreement of both judges, it may be allowed to continue with the rest of the demonstration as a training exercise.
- j) 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.
- k) Judges will provide verbal comments to handlers immediately after their test and arrange written comments will be given out at the presentation.
- n) Judges will complete a joint score sheet for each team. They may also opt to provide a legibly written report on the demonstrations and teams, 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.

10. Judges' Briefing

A briefing will be held before the start of the demonstrations in which the 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.

11. Responsibilities of Safety Stewards

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.

12. Multi-Test Pass Awards and Distinctions

Multi-test pass will be awarded to a dog who has passed any of the grades or veteran awards five separate times for Bronze, eight separate times for Silver and ten separate times for Gold.

Achiever's Water Award of Distinction will be awarded when the dog has passed at least one test at all three grades To give due recognition to the attainment, any Distinction Status will be announced at the current or next working event attended by the handler

Both Multi-pass and Distinction 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 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.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Age requirements for the dog

Between 6 and under 9 months dogs may only bring back the tow rope or an article

Between 9 and under 12 months additionally, a dog can pull back one person

Between 12 and under 18 months additionally, a dog can pull back the boat and up to two persons

Once 18 months, the dog is now allowed to jump from the boat; they can carry out any exercise with the proviso that they are physically fit enough to do so

Choose 3 exercises – one from each group			
Group A		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 1	Take rope from boat or tow boat back 15 metres	6 months	12
Exercise 2	Multi tow of the handler and two other people from 15 metres	12 months	13
Exercise 3	Retrieve rope article from 20 centimetres under water.	6 months	14
Exercise 4	Dog and Handler to rescue a person at 15 metres using a torpedo buoy	9 months	15
Group B		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 5	Dog delivers an article to handler at 15 metres	6 months	16
Exercise 6	Dog to rescue unconscious handler at 15 metres	12 months	17
Exercise 7	Dog and handler swim to find the hidden rope and tow the boat back to shore from 15 metres	12 months	18
Exercise 8	Controlled Swim straight out for 15 metres	6 months	19
Group C		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 9	Dog to retrieve article dropped at 15 metres from shore	6 months	20
Exercise 10	Dog or Dog and handler to find the hidden person and rescue at 15 metres	12 months	21
Exercise 11	Dog and handler to retrieve article dropped at 15 metres	6 months	22

NB - For dogs under 12 months of age they may attempt any 3 of the 11 exercises stated as suitable for their age

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 1

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 6 months

Age limit = Dogs under 12 months not to pull back the boat.

Take rope from boat or tow boat back 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman, one boat steward and the handler
- Tow rope with the dog's own article attached if desired
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the Secondary handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The boat will be anchored where possible with the 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) On being given the instruction from the Judge, the handler will command **the dog to swim directly to the boat.**
- e) The **handler will offer the dog the rope** to hold or hold the dog's rump to **tow the boat to the shore area.** If the **dog is too young to tow the boat**, on arrival at the boat it should be given the **tow rope only** and be commanded to return to shore.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog and the boat are in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
2. The handler may use another article other than the tow rope to attract the dog, and/or tie it to the end of the rope if required.
3. It is permissible for the rump to be held and thus for the dog to tow the boat indirectly,

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 2

Age restrictions for the dog

12 months

Multi tow of the handler and two other people from 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance Handler at 15 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Dog's own article if desired
- 2 people linked with the handler
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the secondary handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The handler and two people will swim out from the shore. **The handler will be at 15 metres** and the other two people will link together behind the handler in the way the handler directs.
- c) On being given the instruction from the Judge, the handler will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- d) Upon command from the handler, the secondary handler will release the **dog who will swim directly to them.**
- e) On reaching them, the **handler will hold** onto the rump of the **dog** or its harness, so the dog can swim back to the shore towing the handler and the two people in a line behind.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **completed when the dog, handler and the two people are back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The handler may use an article for this exercise, which can be given to the dog to hold when returning to shore.
2. The handler will instruct the stewards on how they are to link into a human chain in a safe manner, for example they could instruct them to link into a line with their feet tucked under the arms of the person in front who will hold onto their feet or side by side each holding a foot of the handler.
3. The people may sing or provide props to provide entertainment during the demonstration

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A- Exercise 3

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 6 months

Retrieve a rope article from 20 centimetres underwater

Set up and resources

- Clean water area 20cm deep
- One handler will be required
- Heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) In full view of the dog, the **handler will drop or throw the article in the water** and allow it to sink.
- b) **When the article has sunk.**
- c) The **handler will command the dog 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 by the dog.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **article has been given by the dog to the handler.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The underwater test article will be a piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope and may be provided by the handler
2. The dog is permitted to 'trawl' the article out of the water before retrieving it and returning it to the handler.
3. The handler's hands can only be in the water to retrieve the article for re-dropping or re-throwing.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 4

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 9 months

Age limit = Dogs under 12 months but over 9 months may pull back one person only.

Dog and handler to rescue a person at 15 metres using a torpedo buoy

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Person to be rescued
- One Torpedo Buoy
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **person will swim out 15 metres** from the shore, turn and face the shore.
- b) On being given the instruction from the Judge, **they will attract the handlers and dog's attention** by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- c) The **dog will remain on shore** with the secondary handler **until called by the handler during their swim out**.
- d) The handler will swim out carrying the torpedo buoy.
- e) **At any point before the halfway point is reached, the handler will call the dog that will be released by the secondary handler.** If this is not done by the halfway point, the judge will instruct the secondary handler to release the dog.
- f) The **dog will swim directly to the handler** who will continue to swim to the person.
- g) **Once at the person, the handler will give them the torpedo buoy.**
- h) When joined by the dog, **the handler will offer the dog the end of the rope/strap** attached to the torpedo buoy being held by the person.

The following options now apply:

- The person will continue to hold the torpedo buoy with the handler holding the rope/strap and the dogs harness. **They will both be towed back to the shore area.**
 - If the dog is under 12 months of age, or the **handler wishes, they will swim back at the side of the dog while the dog rescues the person.**
- i) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog, handler and person are in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The torpedo can be secured to the dog's harness to affect a safe tow

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 5

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 6 months

Age limit = Dogs over 9 months may pull back handler

Dog delivers an article to the handler at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Tow rope, hank of rope, life jacket or life ring boat cushion
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article will be used.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the secondary handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The **handler will swim out 15 metres** from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait.
- c) On being given the instruction from the Judge the **handler will attract the dog's attention** by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- d) The **secondary handler will give the article to the dog** or throw it just in front of the dog for it to pick up.
- e) The **dog takes the article and swims directly to the handler;**

The following options now apply:

- the **handler will hold onto the dog and be towed** back to the shore.
 - If the dog is too young to tow the **handler, they will swim back with the dog.**
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog and handler are back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. No other articles or pieces of clothing (hats, loose gloves etc.) are to be used to attract the dog by the handler.
2. 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 of the dog.
3. The dog must carry the article all the way out to the handler. The team will bring back the article to the shore area.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 6

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 12 months

Dog to rescue 'unconscious' handler at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Optional towing article supplied by the handler meeting the criteria given below
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the secondary handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The **handler will swim out 15 metres** from the shore. They may call the dog continuously while swimming out.
- c) Once in position, they will then **pretend to become unconscious** by lying face up floating in the water. If holding an **article this must also remain completely still on the water**.
- d) On being given the instruction from the Judge, the **secondary handler will send the dog** who will swim directly to the floating handler.
- e) The handler may call the dog a maximum of 3 times whilst floating in the water.
- f) When the dog is within touching distance of the handler.

The following options now apply:

- The handler can offer the **dog** a hand for a **hand tow**
 - The handler can allow the **dog to hold the article** whilst still in the handler's hand to be towed back to shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and handler are in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The handler may use their own article for this exercise; which must be a maximum of 50cm long and 8cm high when floating in the water for example a rope toy or floating kong.
2. The **dog must not swim or climb over the handler** at any time.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 7

Age restrictions for the dog

Age Limit = 12 months

Dog and handler swim to find the hidden rope and tow the boat back to shore from 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman and one boat steward
- Tow Rope
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **boat will be positioned 15 metres** from the shore anchored where possible with a steward and helmsman holding the boat in position and having in it, the rope to be hidden.
- 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 **rope will be hung over the side of the boat away** from the water allowing plenty of length for the dog to hold. The rope must be held by a person in the boat.
- d) The Judge shall give the instruction that the exercise is to begin.
- e) When instructed, the **dog and handler will swim out to the boat**.
- f) On reaching the boat, the **dog and handler 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 and handler, the steward will once again hide the rope on the other side of the boat out of sight.

The following options now apply:

- The **dog will take up the rope** and use it to tow the boat back to the shore with the handler swimming beside the dog.
 - The **handler holds the rope and the dog** to achieve the boat tow.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **boat is in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. At the start of the exercise the rope may not be over the side facing the shore.
2. The Steward and Helmsman should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extra ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 8

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 6 months

Controlled Swim straight out for 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) On the judges instruction, the **dog and handler** will leave the **shore** together and swim 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.)
- d) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow or be towed by the handler during the exercise.
- e) The exercise is **complete** once the required **distance has been achieved**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. When entering the water together the handler may hold the dogs harness until the dog is swimming.
2. 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.
3. The dog (but not the handler) is permitted to carry a small object, e.g. a glove, whilst swimming.
4. Once the exercise has been completed, it is the handler's decision as to how they return to the shore area. They can either be towed back by the dog or swim back with the dog.
5. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
6. Distances will be measured from when the handler and dog start to swim.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 9

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 6 months

Dog to retrieve article dropped at 15 metres from shore

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman and, one boat steward
- hank of rope, life ring life jacket or boat cushion
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article will be used.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the handler until instructed to begin.
- A **boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 15 metres.**
- 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 overhead height into the water as they pass by so that the **dog will have to swim 15 metres to the article.**
- The Judge will immediately give the instruction to begin, while the boat leaves the test area.
- The **dog will swim out to retrieve the article** from the water and return it to the shore.
- The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog, with the article is back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The boat steward is permitted to attract the dog's attention by using its name.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 10

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 12 months.

Dog or dog and handler to find the hidden person and rescue at 15 metres**Set up and resources**

- Distance 15 metres
- A secondary handler may be required
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- Person to be rescued
- One person to be hidden behind the boat awaiting rescue
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- The **boat will be positioned 15 metres** from the shore anchored where possible with the steward and helmsman holding the boat in position. The **person to be hidden** will enter the water **behind the boat** and remain there.
- 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.
- When instructed, the **person who will be out of sight behind the boat**, will begin to shout and splash in the water, and will continue to do so until the dog or dog and handler come into sight. At this point, the person will stop splashing but continue to call the dog until it comes into touching distance.
- When instructed by the judge, the **dog, or dog and handler, will swim out to the boat.**
- On reaching the boat, the **dog or dog and handler will go around the back of the boat** to find the person.

The following options now apply:

- The **dog will then tow the person back to the shore** area, with the handler swimming beside them
 - The **handler will securely hold the person in a safe rescue position** by having them face up and holding onto them by resting the stranger on their upper torso and securing the persons arm across their body and **hold onto the dog to be pulled back to the shore area.**
- The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **person, dog or dog and handler are in shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

- The Steward and Helmsman will ensure there are no ropes hanging over the side of the boat that may act as a distraction.
- The person should also, 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 a constant monotone. The person is permitted to use the dog's name when calling.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade One

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 11

Age restrictions for the dog

Age Limit = 6 months

Age limit = Dogs under 9 months not to pull back anything other than the article.

Age limit = Dogs under 12 months but over 9 months may pull back the handler.

Dog and handler to retrieve article dropped at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- hank of rope, a life ring, life jacket or boat cushion
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article will be used.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) A **boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 15 metres.**
- b) 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 overhead height into the water as they pass by so that the team will have to swim 15 metres to the article.
- c) The Judge will immediately give the instruction to begin, **while the boat leaves the test area.**
- d) The **dog and handler will swim out to retrieve the article** from the water and return it to the shore. The handler is permitted to be towed back by the dog age permitting.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and handler, with the article are back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The boat steward is permitted to attract the dog's attention by using its name.
2. The handler may pick up the article and bring back to shore if dropped by the dog.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Age restrictions for the dog

Age Limit	=	Minimum 9 months to undertake any exercise
Age limit	=	Dogs under 12 months but over 9 months may pull back one person only.
Age limit	=	Dogs under 12 months not to pull back the boat or more than one person.
Age limit	=	Dogs under 18 months not to jump from boat.

Choose 4 exercises – one from each group and a fourth from any group			
Group A		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 1	Directed retrieve one of two life rings or life jackets at 15 metres	9 months	24
Exercise 2	Handler and dog to find the hidden life rings or life jackets at 20 metres	9 months	25
Exercise 3	Take article out to a boat and tow the boat back to shore from 20 metres	12 months	26
Exercise 4	Dog or dog and handler to Jump from boat and tow 20 metres to shore	18 months	27
Group B		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 5	Rescue a fallen person or handler (dog from shore) from a boat at 20 metres	9 months	28
Exercise 6	Rescue a fallen person at 20 metres (dog & handler from boat)	18 months	29
Exercise 7	Dog to search for hidden person or handler (noisy or quiet) at 20 metres	9 months	30
Exercise 8	Dog and handler to swim to two people in a line with a life ring or jacket at 15 metres	12 months	31
Group C		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 9	Dog and handler to rescue two people 5 metres apart at 20 metres	18 months	32
Exercise 10	Controlled Swim – n or triangle shape	9 months	33
Exercise 11	Multi tow of the handler and four other people from 15 metres	18 months	34

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 1

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 9 months

Directed retrieve one of two life rings or life jackets at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat and two boat stewards
- 2 similar life rings or life jackets
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which articles will be used and if the dog will retrieve (left or right).

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on shore with the handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) **A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 15 metres.**
- c) 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.
- d) Once the **second article is in the water, the Judge will give the instruction to begin**, while the **boat leaves the test area.**
- e) The **dog**, from their position **mid- way between the two articles**, will be sent to **retrieve the selected article** from the water and return it to the handler on the shore.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog and the handler with the article are back in the shore area.**
- g) The stewards in the boat will then retrieve the other article.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The two life rings, or two life jackets (which should be identical or very similar pairs).
2. If the articles drift too close together, the judges should re-set the exercise.
3. Retrieving the wrong article, even whilst holding the correct one, is deemed as not completing the exercise.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 2

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 9 months

Handler and dog to find the hidden life ring or life jacket at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat and two boat stewards
- Life ring or life jacket with piece of rope attached
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article will be used.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **boat will be positioned 20 metres from the shore** with the 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 Judge shall instruct that the exercise is to begin.
- d) When instructed, the **handler and dog will swim out to the boat**.
- e) On reaching the boat, the dog and handler **will swim round the back of the boat** to find the article that will be floating in the water attached to a piece of rope held by the boat steward. If, due to the weather conditions, the boat drifts and the article comes into sight of the dog and handler, the boat steward will once again hide it on the other side of the boat out of sight.
- f) On finding it, the **team will hold the article or the rope** and take it back to the shore once released by the steward.
- g) The **handler may hold onto the dog or swim** beside them back to shore.
- h) The second handler may call the dog back to the shore.
- i) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the team and the article are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. One end of the rope will be held (firmly) by the boat steward. It will not be attached to the boat. The other end is attached to the article which will be left floating in the water.
2. Throughout the exercise, the article or rope may not be over the side facing the shore.
3. The boat steward and Helmsman should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extra ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.
4. The handler and dog can both swim around the boat on the same side together and return on the same side together (they **do not have to split** around the boat at any time).

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 3

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 12 months

Take article out to a Person and tow the boat back to shore from 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat and one boat steward
- Hank of rope, life jacket, life ring or boat cushion
- 2 land stewards
- One person

The handler will advise the judges which article will be used

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **boat** with two boat stewards and a helmsman will be positioned **20 metres from the shore**.
- b) On the shore, the **handler** will **give the chosen article to the dog**, or **throw it just in front of the dog**, so the dog will swim with the article in its mouth to the boat.
- c) The **person** will be calling out to the dog to come to the boat; they will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance.
- d) On reaching the boat the person will attempt to **take the article** without endangering themselves or the dog.
- e) Once they are holding the article the person will give the '**release**' command, as notified to them by the handler before commencing the exercise and will continue to do so until the dog voluntarily releases the article. The person will not forcibly remove the article or continue to hold it if it becomes unsafe to do so.
- f) The **person must not show the tow rope** to the dog **until article is inside the boat**.
- g) The **person** will then **offer a tow rope to the dog**.
- h) The **dog** will then **take this rope** in its mouth & use it to tow the boat back to the shore area.
- i) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and the boat are in the shore area** and all occupants can step ashore safely.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) at one end by the person, 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.
2. The dog may circle the boat.
3. The handler will instruct the person on the commands/actions to be used for releasing the article.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within 3 Attempts

Group A - Exercise 4

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months.

Dog or dog & handler to Jump from boat and tow 20 metres to shore

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Secondary handler may be required
- Boat and one boat steward
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the Judge which of the two exercise options they have chosen.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog and handler**, in a controlled manner, will **enter the boat** containing a boat steward, the helmsman and a judge.
- b) The **boat will then be taken 20 metres** from the shore.

The following options now apply:

- The handler must remain in the boat until the test is completed, so when the judge gives the instruction 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.
 - The handler will jump out with the dog, so when the judge gives the instruction to begin, the handler and the dog with no physical assistance from the handler shall enter the water. The **team will tow the boat** directly back to the shore.
- c) The instruction to the dog can be supplemented by splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water.
 - d) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the boat is within the shore area** and the boat occupants can step ashore safely.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) by the handler if they remain in the boat or by the boat steward if they choose to jump out with the dog. One end of the rope must remain free.
2. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water
3. If handler chooses to enter the water they may swim back alongside dog or be towed back
4. with the boat.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 5

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 9 months

Rescue a fallen handler or person from a boat at 20 metres (dog from shore)

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Secondary handler may be required
- One handler or person to be rescued
- Boat and boat steward
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the Judge if the handler or person in the water will be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore**, under control with the handler or secondary handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) A **boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 20 metres.**
- c) In full view of the dog, on the Judge's signals the boat will slow down enough for the **handler or person to jump out of the boat** in a safe manner (not kicking as they leave).
- d) The **handler or person will jump out of the side of the boat** facing the shore.
- e) The **handler or person** should be **positioned in the water** so the dog will have to swim **20 metres** to them.
- f) The boat will move out of the area as soon as the handler or person is visible, facing the shore.
- g) On the judge's instruction, the **dog** can be **sent to rescue** the handler or person the moment they exit the boat.
- h) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and the handler or person are back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The handler or secondary handler are not permitted to launch the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the person.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 6

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months.

Rescue a fallen person at 20 metres **(dog & handler from boat)**

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Person with the dog's own article
- Secondary handler may be required
- Boat and boat steward
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the Judge if the handler or person in the water will be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog with the handler** will enter the **boat and be taken 20 metres** from the shore, with the person, one steward, the Helmsman.
- b) The **handler** will ensure that the **dog is under control** while in the boat.
- c) A **boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 20 metres.**
- d) In full view of the dog, on the Judge's signal, the boat will slow down enough for the **person to jump out of the boat** in a safe manner (not kicking as they leave).
- e) The **person will jump out** of the boat and position themselves, so they are **facing the boat.**
- f) The **boat will then circle round** and slowly and carefully come back to **within 10m of the person** in the water.
- g) The **dog and handler will leave the boat together** to affect a safe rescue.

The following options now apply:

- The **dog will tow the person** back to shore, whilst the **handler is swimming** beside them.
 - The **dog will tow the person and the handler** back to shore
- h) The secondary handler may call the dog from the shore.
 - i) The judge on land shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog, handler and person are back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The person may take the dogs own article.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 7

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 9 months.

Dog to search for hidden handler or person (noisy or quiet) at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Secondary handler may be required
- Handler or Person to be hidden
- Boat and boat steward
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges if they or person in the water will be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) In view of the dog, the **boat will be positioned at a buoy at 20 metres** from the shore with the handler or person in the water holding the boat in such a position that they **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) When instructed, the handler or person will do one of the two options advised by the handler:

The following options now apply:

- **Remain silent** until the dog comes into sight when they praise and call the dog until it comes within touching distance.
 - **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 praise and call the dog until it comes within touching distance.
- d) On the judge's instruction the handler or secondary 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 person and affect a **safe pick-up and tow** back to the shore.
 - f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog, and handler or person are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The Steward and Helmsman will ensure there are no ropes hanging over the side of the boat that may act as a distraction.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within 3 Attempts

Group B- Exercise 8

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 12 months.

Dog and handler to swim to two people in a line with a life ring or jacket at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler is required
- Life ring or jacket
- 2 people to be rescued
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article is to be used and instruct the people if or when they should be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the **handler** until instructed to begin.
- b) Two people will swim out from the shore; the **first person will be at 15 metres** the **other person** will line up **directly behind** the first but **three metres apart**. They will both be vertical in the water, facing/looking at the shore.
- a) On being given the instruction from the Judge, the **handler will give the dog the article to hold** in its mouth and swim to the first person.
- c) When they **reach the first person** the handler will instruct the dog to **release the article** and to **leave it** for the person to hold.
- d) The **handler and dog** will then **continue** to swim together to the **second person** where they will conduct a safe pick up. The **second person will hold onto the dog**.
- e) The **dog** with the **handler** will **tow/swim** with the second person **back to first person** who will **give the article to the dog** to hold. They will then **link to the other person** and so be **towed back with them**.

The following options now apply:

- If the dog is under 18 months or the **handler** wishes they will **swim back** next to dog, and may assist the dog but not be towed themselves.
 - If the dog is over 18 months the **dog may tow** the **handler** and the **two people with the article**.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and all the people are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. None

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within 3 Attempts

Group C - Exercise 9

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months.

Dog and handler to rescue two people 5 metres apart at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- One handler is required
- 2 people to be rescued
- Boat and boat steward
- 2 land stewards

The handler will instruct the people if or when they should be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) **A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 20 metres.**
- b) **Dog and handler remain on shore.**
- c) In full view of the dog, on the Judge's signals the boat will slow down enough for the **first person to jump out of the boat** in a safe manner (not kicking it as they leave).
- d) The **next person will jump out of the boat** facing the shore at a distance of **5 metres** from the first person in a safe manner (not kicking it as they leave).
- e) The **people** should be positioned in the water, so the dog will have to swim **20 metres** to them.
- f) The boat will move out of the area as soon as the people are visible, and facing the shore
- g) On instruction from the judges the **dog and handler** will **swim out** to their **first choice of person** who will **hold onto the dog's harness** to be rescued.
- h) The **handler and dog will then swim across 5 metres** to the second person **towing the first person**. On reaching the **second person** the **handler** will position themselves to **rescue** this person.
- i) The **second person is not allowed to hold onto the dog's harness, or any other part of the dog**, but must be **rescued by the handler** in a safe manner.
- i) The handler will securely hold this person in a **safe rescue position**.
- j) The **handler** will then **hold the dog** on the other side of the harness instructing the dog to take all three of them back to shore.
- k) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog, handler and the two people are all back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. **Example of a safe rescue position** is by having the person face up and holding onto them by resting the stranger on their upper torso and securing the persons arm across their body.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 10

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 9 months.

Controlled swim - n or triangle shape**Set up and resources**

- Distance total 45 metres
- 2 land stewards
- One handler required

The handler will advise the judges if which of the two options they will complete and where they will enter the water and the direction they will swim.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) During this exercise, the **dog and handler** will be required to **swim together for 45 metres** and perform two turns so that they are swimming parallel to the shore for at least 15 metres.
- b) The route will be an '**n**' or **triangle** shape with a swim out of at least 15m, turn to swim at least 15m parallel to the shore, then a further turn & swim back at least 15m to the shore.
- a) On the judge's instruction, the **dog and handler** will leave the **shore together** and **swim out** together.
- b) The **dog will swim at the side** of the **handler** close enough to be verbally/visually controlled (within 2m) but not too close to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- c) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; the **handler will not hold the dog or harness** once the dog is swimming.
- d) The distance points at which to make turns will be clearly indicated audibly and/or visually by the Judges, e.g. whistle or shout etc.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog and handler are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. If for any reason the handler **stops** swimming, then the **dog is permitted to circle the handler**.
2. There will be no buoys / boats close in to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog.
3. 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 the handler - whistles may be reinforced with a visual signal.
4. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
5. Distances will be measured from when the dog and handler start swimming.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Two

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 11

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Multi tow of the handler at 15 metres and four other people

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler may be required
- Dog's own article if desired
- 4 people linked in a line behind the handler
- 1 land steward

The handler will advise the four people how they wish to link to make a chain.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the secondary handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The handler and four people will swim out from the shore. The **handler will be at 15 metres and the other four people will line up one** behind the other **directly behind the handler**.
- c) On being given the instruction from the Judge, the **handler will attract the dog's attention** by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- d) Upon command from the handler, the secondary handler will release the **dog** that will **swim directly to them**.
- e) When within touching distance of the handler, the dog will need to be carefully turned so that the handler can hold onto the rump of the dog or its harness, so the **dog** can **swim back** to the **shore towing the handler and the four people** in a line behind.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog, handler and the four people are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The handler may use an article for this exercise, which can be given to the dog to hold when returning to shore.
2. The people may sing or provide props to provide entertainment during the demonstration.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = Minimum 18 months

Choose 4 exercises – with at least one from each group			
Group A		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 1	Dog to Take out article to stranger at 20 metres	18 months	36
Exercise 2	Dog to Search for hidden rope and tow boat back to shore at 20 metres	18 months	37
Exercise 3	Controlled Swim - inverted L shape	18 months	38
Exercise 4	Split search by dog and handler to find hidden article at 20 metres	18 months	39
Group B		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 5	Directed retrieve of one of two (noisy or quiet) strangers 10 metres apart at 20 metres	18 months	40
Exercise 6	Dog and handler to swim to three people in a line with a Life Ring /Jacket at 15 metres	18 months	41
Exercise 7	Dog to jump from boat and take an article to a person in another boat at 20 metres	18 months	42
Exercise 8	Handler and dog jump from boat and take a paddle to a person in another boat and find a hidden stranger at 20 metres	18 months	43
Group C		Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 9	Retrieve life ring / jacket and a person (hidden when placed) at 15 metres	18 months	44
Exercise 10	Dog to rescue unconscious stranger falling from a boat at 20 metres	18 months	45
Exercise 11	Directed rescue by dog and handler of two strangers 5 metres apart at 20 metres	18 months	46

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 1

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Take out article to stranger at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- One handler only
- Life ring, life jacket torpedo buoy, boat cushion or hank of rope
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- One stranger to fall from the boat and be rescued
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article is to be used and advise if the stranger is to provide a minimal splash or be silent.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **handler** will remain on **shore** with the **dog** until instructed to begin at which time they will **give** the **article** to the **dog to hold**.
- b) The **stranger** will enter the **water from a boat 20 metres** from the shore, so they are facing the shore.
- c) The judge will then instruct the handler to begin.
- d) On reaching the stranger, the dog will swim close enough for them to take and keep hold of the article.
- e) The **dog** will then **use the article to bring them back** to the shore.
- f) The **stranger will hold both the article and the dog**. (If the dog releases the article the stranger must continue to hold it.)
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog, stranger and article are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. 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 arm's reach of the stranger so that he can easily take hold of it.
2. 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

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 2

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Dog to search for hidden rope and tow boat to shore from 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- One handler only
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- Tow Rope
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) In sight of the dog, the **boat will be positioned 20 metres** from the shore with the 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.
- c) The dog will remain on shore under control with the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed by the judge, 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 article comes into sight of the dog, the boat steward will once again hide it on the other side of the boat out of sight.
- 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 **complete when the dog and boat are in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The rope will be held (firmly) by a steward at one end, it will not be attached to the boat, and the other end will be left loosely hanging over the side with at least the end in the water.
2. At the start of the exercise the rope may not be over the side facing the shore.
3. The Steward and Helmsman should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extra ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.
4. The handler may choose to remove the dog out of sight until the boat is set up.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 3

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Controlled swim – inverted L shape

Set up and resources

- Distance total 45 metres
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges where they will enter the water and the direction they will swim.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) During this exercise, the **dog and handler** will be required to **swim together for 45 metres** and perform three turns so that they are swimming parallel to the shore for at least 15 metres.
- b) The route to be the following shape;
- c)
 - 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.
- d) On the judge's instruction, the dog and handler will leave the shore together and swim out.
- e) The **dog will swim at the side of the handler** close enough to be verbally/visually controlled (within 2m) but not too close to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- f) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; the **handler will not hold the dog or harness** once the dog is swimming.
- f) The places at which to make turns will be clearly indicated audibly and/or visually by the Judges, e.g. whistle or shout etc. Hand signals may also be used.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete** when the **dog and handler are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. If for any reason the handler **stops** swimming, then the **dog is permitted to circle the handler**.
2. 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.
3. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
4. Distances will be measured from when the dog and handler start swimming.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group A - Exercise 4

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Split search by dog and handler to find a hidden article at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Life ring, life jacket, hank of rope or boat cushion
- 2 land stewards. Judges on shore.
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward

The handler will advise the judges which article is to be used

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **boat will be positioned 20 metres** from the shore with the 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.
- c) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is to begin.
- d) When instructed by the judge, the **handler and dog will swim out to the boat.**
- e) Before reaching the boat, the **dog and handler will split** with one swimming around one side of the boat and the dog being commanded to swim around the other side to find the article that will be floating in the water attached to a piece of rope held by the water steward. If, due to the weather conditions the boat drifts and the article comes into sight of the dog and handler the steward will once again hide the article on the other side of the boat out of sight.
- f) Both the **dog and the handler must meet around the back of the boat**, before returning around the same side of the boat.
- g) The **team will hold the article** either directly or by the rope and take it back to the shore.
- h) The handler may hold onto the dog or swim beside them back to shore.
- i) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and handler are back on in the shore area with the article.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The rope will be held (firmly) by a steward at one end, it will not be attached to the boat, and the other end will be attached to the article, which will be left floating in the water.
2. At the start of the exercise the article may not be over the side facing the shore.
3. The Steward and Helmsman should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extra ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.
4. The handler must swim around the back of the boat to meet the dog however they can both return from the same side of the boat.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 5

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Directed retrieve of one of two (noisy or quiet) strangers **10 metres apart at 20 metres**

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- 2 strangers
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- Two people to fall from the boat and be rescued
- 2 land stewards

The handler is to advise the strangers if they are to be noisy or quiet

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** under control, with the handler until instructed to begin.
- b) Two **strangers** enter the water **from a boat** so that they are **both 20 metres out**, approximately **10 metres apart** and both vertical in the water, facing and looking at the shore. If noisy is the chosen option, then they will begin calling as soon as they are both in position.
- c) The handler will advise the Judge which stranger the dog will retrieve.
- d) When instructed, the handler will command the dog, from its **position in the middle** of the two strangers on the shore area, to swim out to the selected stranger.
- e) The **dog** will swim **directly** to the selected stranger, affect a safe pick-up and return with them back to the shore.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the stranger is back in the shore area**.
- g) The other stranger will then return to the shore.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. If the dog comes within arm's reach of the 'wrong' stranger they will, nevertheless, hold on and get towed back to the shore area.
2. 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 steward.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 6

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Dog and handler to swim to three people in a line with a life ring or jacket at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- 3 people
- 1 land steward
- Life ring or life jacket

The handler will advise the judges which article is to be used and instruct the people if or when they should be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- The **dog** will remain on **shore with the handler** until instructed to begin.
- Three people will swim out from the shore; the **first person will be at 15 metres** the other people will **line up directly behind the first person**, so they will each be **three metres apart**. Everyone will be vertical in the water, facing/looking at the shore.
- On being given the instruction from the Judge, the **handler will give the dog the article** to hold in its mouth and swim to the first person.
- When they reach the **first person**, the handler will instruct the **dog** will to **release the article** and to leave it for the person to hold.
- The dog and handler will then **continue to swim** together to the **second person** where the **handler will remain**.
- The **dog** will then be **commanded to swim** alone to the **third person** where they will affect a safe pick up. The **third person will hold onto the dog**.
- The **dog** will then **swim back to the handler and second person**. The second person will **either held in a rescue position by the handler or they can hold onto the dog**.
- The dog and/or handler will then **swim back to the first person** who will offer the **article to the dog** to hold. The third person will link to the other two people and so be towed back with them.
- The **handler** will then **swim back alongside the dog or be towed**.
- The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog, handler and the three people are all back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The handler may hold the article and or the dog whilst swimming or being towed back to shore.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts****Group B - Exercise 7**Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

**Dog to jump from boat and take an article
to a person in another boat at 20 metres****Set up and resources**

- Distance 20 metres
- 3 people
- Boats with the helmsman and one water steward
- Both boats to be anchored
- One person to fall from the boat and be rescued
- 20m (minimum) of standard rope, life jacket, life ring, hank of rope or boat cushion.
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will enter a **boat and be taken out 20 metres** from the shore with a Helmsman, the handler and boat steward.
- b) Another boat with a Helmsman, the boat steward and one person, will be the same distance from the shore but at **15 metres away from the other boat**.
- c) To ensure the boats remain in their set positions of 15 metres apart, they will be anchored, wherever possible.
- d) The **handler** will command the **dog to leave the boat** and take the chosen article to the person in the other boat who will be calling out to them.
- e) The dog will enter the water, be handed the article to hold in its mouth and **swim directly** to the other **boat**.
- f) The person will continue to call the dog until the article is within touching distance.
- g) As the dog gets sufficiently near to the other boat, the person will actively attempt to get hold of the article without endangering themselves or the dog.
- h) When the **person has hold of the article**, they will use the advised **release command** to take it on board.
- i) The **dog will then be given the tow rope** to take back to the shore area.
- j) The judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog, with the tow rope, is back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. If a rope is chosen and there is insufficient length to reach from one boat to the other, the handler may let go of the end enabling the dog to still take the rope to other boat.
2. The dog can be given the end of the rope or article if it is the hank of rope or boat cushion before it jumps overboard.
3. If using the rope, it can have its commands supplemented by splashing or tossing the end of rope into the water.
4. The dog is permitted to swim around the second boat once it has given up the article.
5. A land steward can call the dog back to shore.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group B - Exercise 8

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Dog and handler jump from boat and take a paddle to a person in another boat & find a hidden stranger at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- 2nd boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- One person to be hidden behind the boat awaiting rescue
- Paddle size – maximum 1.2m
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- The **dog** will enter a **boat and be taken out 20 metres** from the shore with a Helmsman, the handler and boat steward.
- Another boat with a Helmsman, boat steward, one person to receive the rope and a person hidden in the water behind the boat, will be the same distance from the shore but at **15 metres away** from the other boat.
- To ensure the boats remain in their set positions of 15 metres apart, they will be anchored, wherever possible.
- When instructed by the judge, the **dog and handler will enter the water**.
- The boat steward will **hand the paddle to the handler** who will carefully give it to the dog (preferably so that it is held in the middle section). The handler may choose to remain holding the paddle also. The handler will then advise that they are in a safe position for the person in the other boat to start calling the dog. The team will then **proceed to swim directly** across to the calling person.
- The person will continue to call the team until the dog and paddle are within touching distance.
- As the dog gets sufficiently near to the other boat, the **handler will command the dog to release the paddle** so that it can safely be handed to the person in the boat without endangering themselves or the dog.
- When the person has hold of the paddle, they will then shout the word '**complete**' at which point, the **hidden person will begin to call the dog**.
- The **dog and handler will then swim round the boat to find the hidden person**.
- Once located they will **affect a safe pick up** and return to the shore with the handler swimming beside them or being towed by the dog.
- A land steward will call the dog back to shore.
- The judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog, handler and person is back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

- The dog is permitted to swim around the first boat whilst the paddle is being safely given to the handler.
- A piece of rope may be wound around the middle of the shaft to assist the dog's grip of the paddle.
- Paddle size – maximum 1.2m

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 9

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Retrieve life ring or jacket and person (hidden when placed) at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Life ring or life jacket
- One person
- 2 land stewards
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward

The handler will advise the judges which article is to be used and if the person is to be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- The **dog** will remain on **shore**, under control with the handler, until instructed to begin.
- A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 15 metres.**
- On the judge's signal, **out of sight** of the handler and dog, the **steward will quietly place the article** in the water as it passes on **opposite side of the boat to the shore**. The boat will continue in a straight line and after **6-7 meters the person will silently slip over the same side of the boat** as the article. The dog will have to swim 15 metres to retrieve the article and then take it to the Person.
- The Judge will give the instruction to begin, while the boat slowly leaves the test area.
- The handler will then command the **dog to retrieve the article and take it to the person** and return it them both back to the shore area.
- Upon reaching the **person will hold both the article and the dog**. (If the dog releases the article the person must continue to hold it.)
- The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and the person and the article are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

- The handler can request that the person face away from the shore.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 10

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Dog to rescue unconscious stranger
falling from a boat at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- Optional towing article supplied by the handler meeting the criteria given
- Stranger who will fall from the boat
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the stranger on how they to float in the water and if an article is being used which hand it should be held in.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The **stranger** will be taken out in the **boat**, to **20 metres from the shore**. They will then safely **fall into the water**, in full view of the dog from the shore side of the boat.
- c) They will **remain silent**, lying face up floating in the water as though unconscious. The boat will leave the area.
- d) If **holding an article**, it must also remain **completely still, flat and held slightly under the water as not to be seen from the shore**.
- e) On being given the instruction from the Judge, the **handler will send the dog**, who will swim directly to the floating stranger.
- f) When the dog is within touching distance of them, the stranger will;

The following options now apply:

- Remain face up, allowing the **dog to do a hand rescue** to tow them to shore.
 - Remain face up, allowing the **dog to hold the article to tow** them to shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and stranger are back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The stranger may **only use an article provided by the WNC for this exercise; which will be made of floating rope**.
2. The stranger may make a noise when entering the water.

Achiever's Water Award – Grade Three

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Group C - Exercise 11

Age restrictions for the dog

Age limit = 18 months

Directed rescue by dog and handler of two strangers 5 metres apart at 20 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 20 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- Two strangers to fall from the boat and be rescued
- 2 land stewards

The handler will instruct strangers if or when they should be noisy or quiet and where each will be placed (left or right). The handler will instruct the helmsman to enter the test area with the boat from the left or right.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- The **dog** will remain on **shore**, under control with the handler, until instructed to begin.
- A **boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 20 metres**.
- On the Judge's signals, and in full view of the dog, the boat will slow down enough for the **first stranger to jump out of the boat** in a safe manner (not kicking it as they leave). This stranger will face the shore
- At **5 metres** from the first stranger, the **second stranger will also jump out of the boat** in a safe manner (not kicking it as they leave).
- The Strangers will be positioned in the water, so the dog and handler will have to swim 20 metres out to them. The boat will move out of the area as soon as the strangers are visible.
- When instructed by the judge, the **dog and handler will swim out from their position midway between the two strangers**. The **dog and handler will start to swim together**.
- The **handler will direct the dog to swim** and affect a safe pick up **one of the strangers** who will **hold onto the dog** to ensure a safe tow. Meanwhile, the **handler will swim to the other stranger**.
- When at the stranger, the handler will prepare to **adopt the safe rescue position**.
- The **handler will then call the dog across the 5 metres** towards them, **towing its stranger**, who will still be holding onto the dog.
- The **handler** will securely hold their **stranger** in a **safe rescue position**.
- The **stranger, from this safe rescue position is not allowed to hold the dog**, when it gets there, **or assist in their own rescue in any way**.
- When it arrives, the **handler will then hold the dog**, instructing it to take **all three of them back to shore**.
- The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog, handler and both strangers are all back in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

- The second stranger will assist the handler in getting themselves into the safe rescue position.

2. A safe rescue position for example is by the stranger face up and holding onto them by resting the stranger on their upper torso and securing the strangers arm across their body.

Achiever's Veteran



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

Introduction

The Veteran Award is especially designed for your older dog (7+) that still loves to swim but might not be able to do too much. There are exercises that can still challenge the more proficient Newfoundland and ones that are just right for a gentle swim with their handler. Just choose 3 out of the 7 available and then have a go at some different one's next time.

All based at 15m so not too much hard work for dog or handler!

These Awards have been designed to change and grow with time and need, and not to remain static, so new exercises can be added, or current ones can be adapted, whilst still maintaining the same standard in each grade. To enable this, the Achiever's Awards will be reviewed on an annual basis at the end of the swimming season and all members will be encouraged to put forward any suggestions for consideration to the committee that they feel would enhance the tests.

The Award is made up of seven exercises. You just need to choose three of them that you and your dog would enjoy doing.

We offer the same range of multi passes as in our standard tests so when taking the same grade again you do not have to use the same exercises you did for your first test pass. As you and your Newfoundland's water skills grow, you can find new challenges to keep your dog interested and you on your toes!

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Choose 3 exercises			
		Minimum Age Limit	Page No
Exercise 1	Rescue Handler or Person from 15 metres	7 Years	51
Exercise 2	Tow boat (or rope) back 15 metres	7 Years	52
Exercise 3	Dog to retrieve article dropped at 15 metres	7 Years	53
Exercise 4	Controlled Swim straight out for 15 metres	7 Years	54
Exercise 5	Take article out to a person in a boat and bring the boat or tow rope back to shore from 15 metres	7 Years	55
Exercise 6	Directed Retrieve of one of two life rings or jackets	7 Years	56
Exercise 7	Dog to search for hidden person or handler at 15 metres	7 Years	57

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Exercise 1

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Rescue handler or person from 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler may be required
- Person may be required
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the Judge which of the two exercise options they have chosen.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** under control with the handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The handler or person will **swim out 15 metres** and turn to face the shore.
- c) When instructed by the judge, the handler or person will begin to call the dog and will continue to do so until the dog comes to within touching distance.
- d) The judge will then instruct that the **dog be sent out** to the handler or stranger.
- e) On reaching the handler or person,

The following options now apply:

- The **dog will tow the handler or stranger back to shore**
 - The **dog will swim beside the handler or stranger back to shore**
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog, handler or stranger are back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The handler or stranger may use an article for this exercise, which can be given to the dog to hold when returning to shore.

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Exercise 2

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Tow boat (or rope) back 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Secondary handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman, one water steward and the handler
- Tow rope with the dog's own article attached if desired
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore** with the Secondary handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The boat will be anchored with the 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) On being given the instruction from the Judge, the handler will command the **dog to swim directly to the boat.**

The following options now apply:

- The handler will **offer tow rope only** to be taken back to shore
 - The handler will offer the **dog the rope to hold to tow the boat** to the shore
 - The **handler will hold the dog's rump** to tow the boat to the shore
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog or dog and boat are in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
2. The handler may use another article other than the tow rope to attract the dog, and/or tie it to the end of the rope if required.

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Exercise 3

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Dog to retrieve article dropped at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- hank of rope, a life ring, life jacket or boat cushion
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article is to be used

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) A **boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 15 metres.**
- b) 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 overhead height **into the water** as they pass by so that the dog will have to swim 15 metres to the article.
- c) The Judge will immediately give the instruction to begin, while the boat leaves the test area.
- d) The **dog** will be commanded to **swim out to retrieve the article** from the water and return it to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and article are back in the shore area.**

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The boat steward is permitted to attract the dog's attention by using its name.

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Exercise 4

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Controlled Swim straight out for 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- 2 land stewards

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) On the judge's instruction, the **dog and handler** will leave the **shore** together and swim 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 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.)
- d) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow or be towed by the handler during the exercise.
- e) The exercise is **complete** once the required **distance has been achieved**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. When entering the water together the handler may hold the dogs harness until the dog is swimming.
2. 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.
3. The dog (but not the handler) is permitted to carry a small object, e.g. a glove, whilst swimming.
4. Once the exercise has been completed, it is the handler's decision as to how they return to the shore area. They can either be towed back by the dog or swim back with the dog.
5. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
6. Distances will be measured from when the handler and dog start to swim.

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Exercise 5

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Take article out to a person in a boat and bring the boat or tow rope back to shore from 15 metres.

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman and two boat stewards
- Hank of rope, life jacket, life ring or boat cushion
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges what option they are to complete and which article is to be used

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **boat** with a Judge, a helmsman and a person will be **positioned 15 metres** from the shore.
- b) The **dog** will remain on **shore**, under control, with the handler, until instructed to begin by the judge.
- c) The handler will command the **dog to swim out directly to the boat** and give the **chosen article** to the dog or throw it just in front, so the dog will swim out with it in its mouth.
- d) The person will be calling out to the dog to come to the boat; they will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance.
- e) On reaching the boat the **person will reach for the article** without endangering himself or the dog.
- f) Once he is holding the article, the person 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 article**. The steward will not forcibly remove the article or continue to hold it if it becomes unsafe to do so.
- g) The **person will then offer a tow rope to the dog**.

The following options now apply:

- The Person will **offer tow rope only** to be taken back to shore
 - The Person will offer the **dog the rope to hold to tow the boat** to the shore
 - The Person will **hold the dog's rump** to tow the boat to the shore.
- h) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and the boat are in the shore area**.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) at one end by the person, 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.
2. The dog may circle the boat.
3. The handler will instruct the person on the commands/actions to be used for releasing article.
4. The dog must bring back the article it has taken out.

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Exercise 6

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Directed retrieve of one of two life rings or jackets at 15 Metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- One handler will be required
- Boat with the helmsman and two boat stewards
- 2 similar life rings or life jackets
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the Judges which article will be used and which one it will retrieve (left or right).

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) The **dog** will remain on **shore**, under control until instructed to begin.
- b) A **boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore at 15 metres**.
- c) 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.
- d) Once the second article is in the water, the Judge will give the instruction to begin, while the boat leaves the test area.
- e) The **dog**, from any position **mid-way between the two articles**, will be **sent to retrieve** the selected article from the water and return it to the handler on the shore.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and the handler with the article are back in the shore area**.
- g) The stewards in the boat will then retrieve the other article.

Specific notes for this exercise – these need to be read in conjunction with the general guidance notes

1. The two life rings, or two life jackets should be identical or very similar pairs.
2. If the articles drift too close together, the judges should re-set the exercise.
3. Retrieving the wrong article, even whilst holding the correct one, is deemed as not completing the exercise.

Achiever's Veteran Water Award

Complete within **3 Attempts**

Exercise 7

Age restrictions for the dog

Minimum Age limit = 7 Years

Dog to search for hidden person or handler at 15 metres

Set up and resources

- Distance 15 metres
- Two handlers are required if handler is to be rescued
- Boat with the helmsman and one water steward
- One person/handler to be hidden behind the boat awaiting rescue
- 2 land stewards

The handler will advise the judges which article will be used and if the handler or person in the water will be noisy or quiet.

The test will be conducted as follows:

- a) In view of the dog, the **boat will be positioned at a buoy at 15 metres** from the shore with a person or handler 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 on **shore** under control, with the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed, the person/handler will remain silent or call until the dog comes into sight when they gently praise and call the dog until it comes within touching distance.
- e) On the judge's instruction, the **handler on shore 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 person/handler.

The following options now apply:

- The handler or person may be towed back to shore
 - The handler or person may swim back with the dog.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is **complete when the dog and person/handler are back in the shore area.**

Additional Notes for this exercise:

1. The Steward and Helmsman will ensure there are no ropes hanging over the side of the boat that may act as a distraction.

Achiever's Puppy Swimming Certificate



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



This test is designed to show that puppies can undertake the basics of water work whilst having fun.

There must be no pressure on the puppy to undertake any exercise, no over exertion nor harsh treatment.

Achiever's Puppy Swimming Certificate

Puppies must be between 3 and 12 months of age and fully vaccinated before taking this test.

You will need:

- 2 handlers (you may use a steward)
- Puppy's own toy/piece of rope or one provided
- A sinking food treat (example - Frolic)

Exercise One – Swim to handler

One handler will remain on shore with the puppy and, depending on your puppy's ability, the 2nd handler will walk out into the water to a depth that allows the puppy to swim for a short distance. The 2nd handler should call and encourage the puppy to swim to them at all times. On arrival of the puppy, they may be rewarded with a toy. Puppy and handler will return to shore.

Exercise Two – Retrieve a toy/Piece of rope

The toy/piece of rope will be thrown out into the water for the puppy to retrieve. It should be thrown by one of the handlers and the puppy may be allowed to retrieve it as soon as it has landed. The toy/piece of rope can be thrown out into the water so that the puppy has to swim a short distance or across the water in the shallow area so that the puppy can run to it.

Exercise Three – Tug a rope

The puppy should be encouraged to tug on a provided rope. This can be on the shore or in shallow water. The puppy must pull on the rope. Alternatively, the handler can take out into the water a rope tied to a life ring for the puppy to retrieve but there should be some visible strain on the rope.

Exercise Four – Get nose wet

A toy/piece of rope will be held just under the water so that the puppy has to get its nose wet to retrieve it. This should not be submerged to any depth unless the puppy is happy to do this. Alternatively, a sinking treat may be used in the hand.

This is a one-off test and on successful completion of all exercises you will receive a certificate and rosette at the presentation. If unsuccessful you may re-take the test while the puppy is still under 12 months of age. You may re-take the test on the following day providing there is time and the test manager is happy to accept your entry.

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