

Achievers Carting/Draught Regulations



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

The Achievers Awards in Draught have been created by the Working Newfoundland Club, are copyright to them and will only be run by this Club.

These regulations will be revised at the end of each year. Should any safety or operational issues become apparent prior to that period then the committee will issue immediate amendments.

Copies of all regulations can be obtained by request from the club Secretary or at test events or via the website (www.theworkingnewfoundlandclub.co.uk).

These regulations are the only standard against which all of the tests will be judged.



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Introduction

The Working Newfoundland Club has created these Achiever's Awards as a way for you to have fun with your dog whilst experiencing Draught work/carting.

These Awards have been designed to enable you to gain experience and skill in manoeuvring and working as a team with your dog. Mastering the skills required will also help you to achieve more in the Standard Draught tests. Just like those tests, the awards require you to work in a way that is best for you and your dog and not to follow a set pattern or working practices of a previous team to complete exercises.

The awards begin with basic manoeuvring, with the dog hitched up to the cart, therefore you do need to have done some obedience and basic draught work with your dog before entering, to get them to a stage where they are comfortable to be pulling an unladen cart around and over obstacles.

The handler will be encouraged to help the dog as much as possible by using positive verbal reinforcement with praise during the tests and by using rewards after the exercises at the lower grades.

The tests are based on the building block principle and each team must complete grade one before moving onto grade two etc. You are encouraged to obtain at least the multi pass award in bronze before moving onto the next grade, as this will enable your own learning process and team work to develop to achieve the next grade.

Please always ensure that you have taken your dog to relieve themselves, before coming down to the test area, as any contamination of the test area will put the other dogs at a disadvantage and the whole area may have to be moved so the test can be started again.

1 **Explanatory Notes, Equipment and Requirements**

- a) These guidance notes should be read in conjunction with the Land Test administration notes.
- b) For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to work with the handler as a team to simulate the haulage work it was bred to do without endangering itself or any person.

1.1 **Test Area**

- a) The test area can be set up on any flat fairly level area.
- b) Judges have the discretion, within the spirit of the regulations, to make adaptations to the test site due to the weather on the day of the test. Judges can move the test area if conditions dictate.
- c) There will be an element of preparation before each Grade of award begins (harnessing and hitching) and this should be taken into account by the judge concerned. Once hitched, the dog and handler will enter the test area where the judge should check the harness and cart of each team, prior to the test commencing.

1.2 **Equipment**

The following equipment is required for the tests:

- A waterproof set of Regulations
- Layout plan
- Score sheets
- Whistle
- Clipboards/pencils/pens
- First aid for humans and dogs
- Harness and cart (which may be borrowed for Grade One)
- 10 poles or similar
- Gate
- 6 windbreak poles
- Hurdle
- Steps
- "Under" obstacle
- Stopwatch
- Spare articles (Grade One)
- 2 x 5 litre water bottles
- Minimum 5ft lead

It may also be useful to have a shelter and an umbrella.

The handler must ensure that the harness is adjusted to fit the dog properly before entering the ring and that the cart is in good working order with sufficient air in the tyres.

1.3 Layout plan

The layout plan will be the same for each team at each grade. See the Grade sections below for each layout plan.

1.4 Timing

For timed exercises, the Judge will advise the handlers when the timing of an exercise is to begin and when it has finished.

1.5 Dogs

- a) The dog must be at least 12 months old to enter Grade One, 18 months for Grade Two and 2 years for Grade Three. This is due to the amount of weight to be hauled in the cart. Dogs over 7 years may be entered for the Veteran test.
- b) It is the responsibility of the owner(s) to ensure that any dog entered for any test level is sufficiently fit and healthy.
 - The Club cannot accept any liability for injury or exacerbation of existing illness.
- c) No dog can be entered into a test unless it has successfully completed all the preceding grades.
- d) Dogs are not permitted to wear full check collars during the tests.
- e) Halti or gentle leader style collars may be worn for Grade one only.

1.6 Handlers

- a) Only one handler is allowed to work the dog throughout the test.
- b) The handler may always give unlimited audible/visual instructions and encouragement. This can include the use of whistles although it must be borne in mind that a whistle may also be used by a judge, steward or someone unconnected with the tests.
- c) The Handler will need to provide 4 separate, non-flat, items (no duplicates) to be loaded into the cart for Grade one.

1.7 Permitted/ Non Permitted actions during the tests

- a) Handlers may not use food or toys as an enticement during an exercise, however food can be used as a reward after an exercise has been completed.

- b) Handlers may use different ways and techniques to train their dogs to complete the awards but they are expected to carry out each exercise of the test as they have been written.
- c) The dog and handler must attempt the exercise as a team. There will be no physical assistance from a steward or the Judge, although the handler may ask the Judge questions about the exercise.
- d) The dog and handler must achieve the required tasks by means of motivation, no rough handling is permitted.
- e) The handler is permitted to touch or rest a hand on the dog but no pushing or pulling is permitted.
- f) The handler may use the hoop or a rear handle on the cart to help the dog manoeuvre the cart over difficult terrain/obstacles, including adjusting the back of the cart.
- g) The handler may not use the hoop to drag an unwilling dog, or pull the lead over the dog's head to move the dog.
- h) The handler may work from any side of the dog, unless otherwise stipulated for a particular exercise (eg working from the rear or non-leading sides).
- i) The dog may always be called by name.
- j) The handler should take time to consider a manoeuvre before undertaking it. No exercises are timed except for unhitches (planned or random) and stays.

1.7 Disqualification

- a) If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.
- b) If the dog is out of control, including leaving the test area prior to the Judge advising that the test is complete.
- c) If the cart is dangerously unstable or tips.
- d) If the cart hits the dog during the unhitch.

1 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade One

Notes for Grade One Exercises:

1. All exercises will be carried out on lead with the exception of the stay and reload. The lead may be dropped on the unhitch.
2. The cart should not have a weight for Grade One, however the Handler will need to provide 4 items (no duplicates) which are not flat and can be loaded separately into the cart before the test begins. Flat items include items such as clipboards, newspapers, clothes, towels, gloves, etc.
3. The handler and dog will enter the test area already hitched to the cart and wearing the harness. The articles will also be loaded prior to commencing the test. These will be checked by the Judge.
4. Once the Judge is satisfied with the harness and cart, they will instruct the handler to begin the course.
5. Once each exercise is complete, the Judge will direct the dog and handler to the next exercise.
6. When attracting the dog's attention and instructing the dog, the handler is permitted to use any form of positive motivation, including the dog's name and may also use hand signals.
7. The handler is not permitted to push or pull the dog in anyway.
8. A requirement of **all** exercises is that the dog and handler must work together as a team and exercises may be failed if the Judge is not satisfied with this aspect of the exercise.
9. There is no time limit on any of the exercises, except for the emergency unhitch and the stay, however the team is expected to complete each exercise in a timely manner.
10. The Judge will indicate when the test is complete, after the final exercise.

Passing Grade One Award:

To achieve a pass the team must successfully achieve 8 out of the 10 exercises. Manoeuvres should be undertaken without hitting obstacles (excluding the uneven surface) and without breaking the stay or wait.

Grade One Exercises:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Exercise 1 | Squeeze – Pass between two points without unhitching |
| Exercise 2 | Figure 8 and Unload – Around two items |
| Exercise 3 | Reverse – At least 3 steps in a relatively straight line (5 attempts) |
| Exercise 4 | Comfort in Cart – Sit/Down/Stand held for 10 seconds |
| Exercise 5 | Uneven surface – Natural or using poles/rumble strip |
| Exercise 6 | Emergency unhitch – Planned within 6 seconds |
| Exercise 7 | Turns – Right and Left turn |
| Exercise 8 | Wait at junction – 30 seconds in a sit/stand/down |
| Exercise 9 | Stay – In cart whilst reloading |
| Exercise 10 | Change of pace – Loose lead normal to fast |

Failure for Grade One Exercises:

- Refusal at an obstacle or exceeding 5 attempts at the reverse or uneven surface.
- Breaking a stay, wait or held position (for example on the Comfort in Cart exercise)
- Not successfully completing 8 out of 10 exercises.

- Insufficient team work.
- Constant pulling (by dog or handler) and use of tight leads.
- Unhitching in an unsafe manner.

Disqualification

- If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.
- If the dog is out of control, including leaving the test area prior to the Judge advising that the test is complete.
- If the cart is dangerously unstable or tips.

1 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade One

Pre-test – Judge to check the harness, cart and load

Once the Judge is satisfied with the harness, cart and the four separate articles, they will instruct the handler to begin the course.

Exercise 1 - Squeeze

When instructed by the Judge, the handler, dog and cart must pass between two marker points (marked by poles, bottles or cones), without touching the markers. The markers will be two inches wider on each side than the widest point of the cart.

Exercise 2 – Figure of 8 and Unload

The dog and handler will move through a full figure of 8 around two markers (e.g. bottles, cones or poles) as indicated by the Judge. The dog, handler and cart should not touch the markers. Once completed, the Handler will put the dog in a wait (any position) and unload the articles to a space several paces away from the dog and cart. The articles will be unloaded one at a time.

Exercise 3 – Reverse

The dog alone or the dog and handler will, when instructed by the Judge, stop on forward movement and perform at least 3 steps backwards in a reasonably straight line. A maximum of 5 attempts are permitted.

The handler should take care not to stand over or touch the dog, or act in any other way which may appear to the Judge to be intimidating the dog.

Exercise 4 – Comfort in Cart

To demonstrate that the dog is comfortable working in the cart and harness, when requested by the Judge, the handler should put the dog in a sit/down/stand (Handler's choice) position in the cart which should be held for 10 seconds whilst hitched to the cart.

Exercise 5 – Uneven surface

The dog and cart should proceed to move over an uneven surface over a distance of 1-2 metres. If a sufficiently uneven (as determined by the Judge) natural surface is not available within the test area, 6 windbreak poles set 6cm apart from each other should be used to create an artificial uneven surface. The dog should proceed happily over the distance.

Should the dog stop on the uneven course, a maximum of 5 attempts are permitted to complete the exercise.

1 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade One

Exercise 6 - Unhitch

When indicated by the Judge, the handler should perform an “emergency” unhitch to demonstrate that they can separate the dog from the cart quickly. This should be performed within 6 seconds (starting from instruction by the Judge) to simulate an emergency.

The unhitch should be undertaken in a safe manner – should the cart hit the dog during unhitch, the exercise and the test will be failed.

Once complete, the dog should be re-hitched by the handler. The Judge may provide assistance (by holding the dog) if requested by the handler.

Exercise 7 – Left and Right Turns

The Judge will instruct the Handler to make a left and then a right turn around two marker points (poles/bottles/cones) on the course. The dog, Handler and cart should attempt the turns as close to a 90° angle as possible, without touching the markers. A third marker will be used to act as a guide to complete the second turn. The handler may work from the side which leads the dog into the turn.

Exercise 8 – Wait at Junction

When indicated by the Judge, the handler should instruct the dog to wait, in a stand/sit/down position of the handler's choosing, for 30 seconds to simulate a wait at a junction. The dog should stop and must maintain the instructed position for the 30 second period.

Exercise 9 – Stay and reload

The Handler will place the dog in a stay position of their choice, with the dog remaining hitched to the cart, and drop the dog's lead or hand it to the Judge. The Handler should, calmly, retrieve the articles unloaded on Exercise 2, and reload them into the cart one article at a time. Once the reload is complete, the Handler will move to a distance of 5m away.

The stay should be maintained until the Judge is satisfied (but for no more than 1 minute).

The Handler should stand next to their dog, which should remain in the stay position, until the Judge indicates that the exercise is complete, after which the dog can be released from the stay.

Exercise 10 – Change of pace

Over a straight course, when instructed by the Judge, the dog and Handler should change pace from normal to fast and maintain the fast pace until instructed to return to normal

pace. There should be a clear change in the pace of the dog for both changes, whilst maintaining a loose lead.

2 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade Two

Notes for Grade Two Exercises:

1. All exercises will be carried out on lead with the exception of the stay. The lead may be dropped on the unhitch.
2. The cart should carry a weight of 5kg, securely loaded, for Grade Two.
3. The team may use an article such as a bed, mat or toy for the send away.
4. The Handler and dog will enter the test area already hitched to the cart and wearing the harness. The weight will be loaded into the cart before entering the test area. These will be checked by the Judge.
5. Once the Judge is satisfied with the harness, cart and load, they will instruct the handler to begin the course.
6. Once each exercise is complete, the Judge will direct the dog and handler to the next exercise.
7. When attracting the dog's attention and instructing the dog, the handler is permitted to use any form of positive motivation, including the dog's name and may also use hand signals.
8. The handler is not permitted to push or pull the dog in anyway.
9. A requirement of **all** exercises is that the dog and handler must work together as a team and exercises may be failed if the Judge is not satisfied with this aspect of the exercise.
10. There is no time limit on any of the exercises, except for the emergency unhitch and stays, however the team is expected to complete each exercise in a timely manner.
11. The Judge will indicate when the test is complete, after the final exercise.

Passing Grade Two Award:

To achieve a pass the team must successfully achieve 9 out of the 10 exercises. Manoeuvres should be undertaken without hitting obstacles and without breaking the stay or held positions.

Grade Two Exercises:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Exercise 1 | Weave – Tight weave around 4 bottles/cones |
| Exercise 2 | Gate – Pass through a narrow gate without unhitching |
| Exercise 3 | Reverse – Straight reverse between 2 poles (5 attempts) |
| Exercise 4 | Wait during unload and reload after hurdle |
| Exercise 5 | Hurdle – Small hurdle/obstacle without unhitch |
| Exercise 6 | Turns – Right and Left turn from the non-leading side |
| Exercise 7 | Stay – 1 minute in cart |
| Exercise 8 | Send away – Send to specific place, handler working from rear |
| Exercise 9 | Wait/Recall – Wait on the move, then recall to handler |
| Exercise 10 | Emergency unhitch – Random, different for each team |

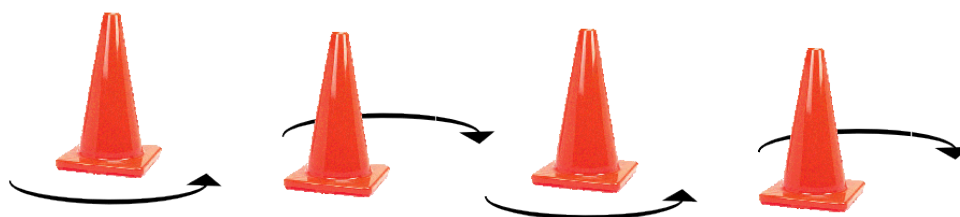
Failure for Grade Two Exercises:

- Refusal at an obstacle or exceeding 5 attempts at the reverse.
- Not successfully completing 9 out of 10 exercises.
- Insufficient team work.
- Constant pulling (by dog or handler) and use of tight leads.
- Unhitching in an unsafe manner.

2 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade Two

Exercise 1 - Weave

Four identical articles should be placed in a straight line 5 paces apart – bottles, poles or cones are ideal.



The handler and dog should travel in a weaving motion at a controlled pace from one end to the other, weaving as shown around the markers, without touching them.

Exercise 2 - Gate

The dog and handler will proceed to a gate – this may take the form of a hurdle between two poles. The gate should be set at 15cm wider than the widest part of the cart.

The dog and cart will be left with the dog in a wait (Handler's choice of position – but that position must then be held by the dog as instructed) while the handler steps forward and opens the gate/removes the hurdle. The dog and handler will proceed through the gate, without the dog or cart touching the gate. Once through, the dog and cart will again be left to wait while the handler returns to close the gate. The handler will then return to the dog and cart.

The dog must not break the wait either before or after travelling through the gate.

Exercise 3 – Reverse

The dog and Handler will approach two parallel poles on the ground. The poles should be between 1 and 2 metres in length (windbreak poles may be used). The handler should position the dog and cart ready to reverse between the two poles. The poles will be approximately 40cm wider on each side than the outer edge of the wheels of the cart.

The dog and cart must not touch the poles. The Handler may be inside or outside the poles during this exercise. The Handler may adjust the position of the cart during the exercise but may not pull the dog backwards in any way.

The dog must commence the reverse within 5 attempts.

2 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade Two

Exercise 4 – Wait for unload and re-load

When indicated by the Judge, the Handler will place the dog in a wait (Handler's choice of position – but that position must then be held by the dog as instructed). The Handler will then proceed to unload 5kg weight from the cart onto the ground, ready for the hurdle. The dog must wait calmly in the instructed position throughout and should not be unhitched.

Following Exercise 5, the Handler will place the dog in a wait position of their choosing and reload the 5kg weight safely. The dog must wait calmly in the instructed position throughout and should not be unhitched.

Exercise 5 – Hurdle

The handler will guide the dog to the hurdle (which should be no more than knee height relative to the dog). The Handler will guide the dog over the hurdle safely, whilst remaining hitched to the cart. The Handler should lift the back of the cart over the hurdle.

The hurdle must not be knocked over by the dog, cart or Handler.

Exercise 6 – Left and Right Turns (non-leading)

The Judge will instruct the Handler to make a left and then a right turn around two marker points (poles/bottles/cones) on the course. The dog, Handler and cart should attempt the turns as close to a 90° angle as possible, without touching the markers. A third marker will be used to ensure two full turns. The handler must work from the side which does not lead the dog into the turn, i.e. the Handler should be on the outside of each turn.

Exercise 7 – Stay

The Handler will place the dog in a position of their choice, with the dog remaining hitched to the cart, and remove the dog's lead. The Handler should move to a distance of 1-2m away. The stay should be maintained for 1 minute, after which the Judge will tell the handler to return to their dog.

The Handler should stand next to their dog, which should remain in the stay position, until the Judge indicates that the exercise is complete, after which the dog can be released from the stay.

Exercise 8 – Send away, working from the rear

To demonstrate that the Handler can work from the back of the cart, the dog and Handler will perform a send away with the Handler working behind the cart.

The Handler will place the dog in a wait where indicated by the Judge (between 2 markers). The Handler will then proceed to a point 5 paces in front and place a marker item (of their

2 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade Two

choice, for example a mat/bed or toy) on the ground – alternatively a pole may be used, the Handler may similarly proceed to the pole to indicate to the dog that this is the area to move towards. The Handler will then return to the dog, positioning themselves at the rear of the cart, where they must remain until indicated by the Judge.

The Handler will then instruct the dog to proceed to the marker. The dog must proceed to the marker without undue hesitation or diversion and wait at the marker (if a mat/bed, they should be touching the mat/bed) for 3 seconds, with the Handler remaining at the rear. The Handler may instruct the dog to wait.

Once complete, the Judge will instruct the handler to return to the dog's side.

Exercise 9 – Wait/recall

Whilst on the move, when indicated by the Judge, the Handler will stop and instruct the dog to wait. Once stopped, the dog must maintain the wait until recalled. The Handler should move away from the dog and once the Handler reaches the end of the lead, the dog should be recalled to the Handler's side where they will continue moving forward together. The dog must recall promptly (within 3 attempts) but safely.

Exercise 10 – Emergency Unhitch (random)

At any point during the course, the Judge will instruct an emergency unhitch. The Handler should separate the dog from the cart quickly and safely. This should be performed within 8 seconds (starting from instruction by the Judge) to simulate an emergency.

The unhitch should be undertaken in a safe manner – should the cart hit the dog during unhitch, the exercise and the test will be failed.

Once complete, the dog should be re-hitched by the handler. The Judge may provide assistance (by holding the dog) if requested by the handler.

3 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade Three

Notes for Grade Three Exercises:

1. The cart should carry a weight of 10kg for Grade Three.
2. The handler and dog will enter the test area, on lead, already hitched to the cart and wearing the harness. The 10kg weight should also be loaded before entering the test area. These will be checked by the Judge.
3. Once the Judge is satisfied with the harness, cart and load, they will instruct the handler to begin the course.
4. Once each exercise is complete, the Judge will direct the dog and handler to the next exercise.
5. When attracting the dog's attention and instructing the dog, the handler is permitted to use any form of positive motivation, including the dog's name and may also use hand signals.
6. The handler is not permitted to push or pull the dog in anyway.
7. A requirement of **all** exercises is that the dog and handler must work together as a team and exercises may be failed if the Judge is not satisfied with this aspect of the exercise.
8. There is no time limit on any of the exercises, except for the emergency unhitch.
9. The Judge will indicate when the test is complete, after the final exercise.

Passing Grade Three Award:

To achieve a pass the team must successfully achieve all 9 exercises. Manoeuvres should be undertaken without hitting obstacles and without breaking the down stay or waits.

Grade Three Exercises:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Exercise 1 | Off lead weave |
| Exercise 2 | Remove obstacle – Unhitch, dog and handler to remove obstacle, re-hitch |
| Exercise 3 | Over and Under - Over steps and under an obstacle while hitched |
| Exercise 4 | 360 degree turns left and right |
| Exercise 5 | Directed send away – handler working from the rear |
| Exercise 6 | Turns – Right, Left and About turn off lead |
| Exercise 7 | Reverse – Around a corner |
| Exercise 8 | Stay – In cart with distractions |
| Exercise 9 | Change of pace – Slow, normal and fast (in any order) |

Failure for Grade Three Exercises:

- Refusal at or hitting an obstacle.
- Touching the dog or cart during off lead exercises (except for hitching/unhitching/loading)
- Failing to keep the dog and cart within two metres of the handler, unless placed in a wait position, during off lead sections.
- Not successfully completing all 9 exercises.
- Insufficient team work.

Disqualification

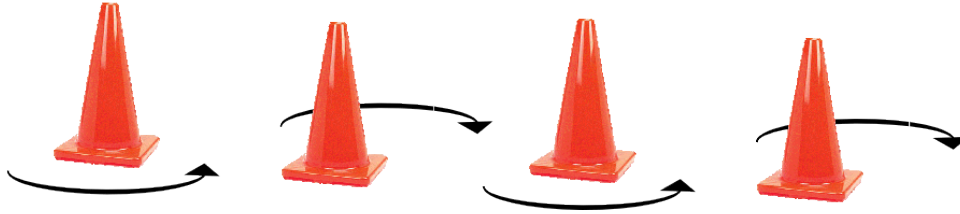
- If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.
- If the dog is out of control, including leaving the test area prior to the Judge advising that the test is complete.

- If the cart is dangerously unstable or tips.

3 Achiever's Draught Award – Grade Three

Exercise 1 – Off lead weave

Four identical articles should be placed in a straight line 2.5m apart – bottles, poles or cones are ideal.



The handler and dog, off lead, should travel in a weaving motion at a controlled pace from one end to the other, weaving as shown around the markers, without touching them.

Exercise 2 – Remove Obstacle (off lead)

The dog and handler will approach an obstacle (for example a log or 5 litre water bottle), on lead if the handler wishes, which must be removed for the team to be able to proceed with the course. The handler will unload the 10kg wait from the cart, unhitch the dog and reposition such that the tracers (removed from the cart), along with any other item at the handlers disposal, can be attached to the obstacle. With encouragement from the handler, the dog will haul the obstacle, off lead, approximately 10m (to be reloaded on Ex.8).

The handler will then re-hitch the dog to the cart and continue to move forward on the course.

Exercise 3 – Over and Under (on lead) – 3 attempts

The handler will guide the dog to the steps (for example double caravan steps). The handler will guide the dog to walk calmly over 2 steps, whilst remaining hitched to the cart. The handler should lift the back of the cart over the steps – failing to do so safely will result in failure of the exercise.

The handler will proceed to guide the dog under an obstacle. The handler should determine whether the “under” aspect of this test requires unhitching based on the cart and obstacle, but wherever possible the dog should remain hitched to the cart.

Exercise 4 – 360 Degree Turns (on lead)

The Handler will position their dog ready for the turns and, once they have selected their position, they must not step away from it (they may step on the spot to turn). The Handler will then guide the dog to complete a full 360 degree circle to the dog's right, around the Handler. The Dog and cart must complete full 360 degree turns without the handler moving or the dog/cart hitting the handler.

Once the Judge is satisfied that a complete turn has been achieved, the Handler may reposition for the same exercise to the left.

Exercise 5 – Directed Send Away (off lead)

To demonstrate that the handler can work from the back of the cart, the dog and handler will perform a send away to one of two markers with the handler working behind the cart.

The dog and handler will approach two identical markers (cones or poles), approximately 6 paces apart. The handler will place the dog in a wait where indicated by the Judge (mid-way between the markers, approximately 5 paces away). The handler may proceed to the markers, leaving the dog in a wait, to indicate the markers to the dog – if the handler chooses to do so, they must proceed to both markers.

The handler will then position themselves at the rear of the cart and begin instructing the dog.

The Judge will inform the handler whether the right or left marker should be used (this will be the same for each team). The handler will then instruct the dog to proceed to the marker. The dog must proceed to the marker without undue hesitation and wait at the marker for 3 seconds, with the handler remaining at the rear. The handler may instruct the dog to wait.

Once complete, the Judge will instruct the handler to return to the dog's side.

Exercise 6 – Left, Right and About Turns (Off Lead)

During the course, the dog and handler will be required to make a left, right and about turn around marker points (poles/bottles/cones), off lead. The dog, handler and cart should attempt the turns as close to the markers as possible, without touching the markers. The handler may work either side of the dog.

Exercise 7 – Reverse around a corner (on or off lead)

When instructed by the Judge, the dog and cart must be reversed around a corner, using a poles to indicate the inside of the corner. The dog and cart should not touch the poles but should reverse around them as closely as possible.

Exercise 8 – Distracted Stay

The Handler will place the dog in a down stay or sit position, with the dog remaining hitched to the cart. The handler should move to a distance of 5m away (by the previously removed obstacle from Ex2).

During the stay, the Handler must complete the following distractions in a calm manner (without touching or manouevring the dog or cart, except to load the article; minimal verbal commands on approach by the handler or judge are permitted):

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- Approach the dog from the front
- Walk a complete circle around the dog and cart (in either direction)
- Load the removed obstacle into the cart
- Return to the point 5m away.

During the stay, the Judge will also approach the dog and cart, inspect the load and complete a full circle around them.

Once the distractions are complete, the handler will be instructed to stand next to their dog, which should remain in the stay position, until the Judge indicates that the exercise is complete, after which the dog can be released.

Exercise 9 – Change of Pace (On lead)

Over a straight course, when instructed by the judge, the dog and handler should proceed, showing slow, normal and fast paces in any order. There should be a clear change in the pace of the dog for all changes, identifiable to the judge without prior instruction from the handler. Each pace must be maintained for at least 4 steps and may not be attempted multiple times.

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Notes for Veteran exercises:

1. All exercises will be carried out on lead with the exception of the downstay. The lead may be dropped on the unhitch.
2. The cart should not carry weight for the Veteran Grade.
3. The handler and dog will enter the test area already hitched to the cart and wearing the harness. These will be checked by the Judge.
4. Once the Judge is satisfied with the harness and cart, they will instruct the handler to begin the course.
5. Once each exercise is complete, the Judge will direct the dog and handler to the next exercise.
6. When attracting the dog's attention and instructing the dog, the handler is permitted to use any form of positive motivation, including the dog's name and may also use hand signals.
7. The handler is not permitted to push or pull the dog in anyway.
8. A requirement of **all** exercises is that the dog and handler must work together as a team and exercises may be failed if the Judge is not satisfied with this aspect of the exercise.
9. There is no time limit on any of the exercises, except for the emergency unhitch.
10. The Judge will indicate when the test is complete, after the final exercise.

Passing Veteran Award:

To achieve a pass the team must successfully achieve 6 out of the 7 exercises. Manoeuvres should be undertaken without hitting obstacles and without breaking the downstay or wait.

Veteran Exercises:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Exercise 1 | Gate – Pass through narrow gate without unhitching |
| Exercise 2 | Figure 8 – Wide figure of 8 around 2 items |
| Exercise 3 | Reverse – Straight reverse between 2 poles |
| Exercise 4 | Uneven surface – Natural or using poles/rumble strip |
| Exercise 5 | Turns from non-leading side – Right and Left |
| Exercise 6 | Stay – Any position, 2 minutes in cart |
| Exercise 7 | Emergency unhitch – Random |

Failure for Veteran Exercises:

- Refusal at an obstacle.
- Not successfully completing 6 out of 7 exercises.
- Insufficient team work.
- Constant pulling (by dog or handler) and use of tight leads.

Disqualification

- If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.
- If the dog is out of control, including leaving the test area prior to the Judge advising that the test is complete.
- If the cart is dangerously unstable or tips.

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Exercise 1 - Gate

The dog and handler will proceed to a gate – this may take the form of a hurdle between two poles. The gate should be set at 15cm wider than the widest part of the cart.

The dog and cart will be left with the dog in a wait (Handler's choice of position – but that position must then be held by the dog as instructed) while the handler steps forward and opens the gate/removes the hurdle. The dog and handler will proceed through the gate, without the dog or cart touching the gate. Once through, the dog and cart will again be left to wait while the handler returns to close the gate. The handler will then return to the dog and cart.

The dog must not break the wait either before or after travelling through the gate.

Exercise 2 – Figure of 8

The dog and handler will move through a full figure of 8 around two markers (e.g. bottles, cones or poles) as indicated by the judge. The dog, handler and cart should not touch the markers.

Exercise 3 – Reverse

The dog and handler will approach two parallel poles on the ground. The poles should be between 1 and 2 metres in length (windbreak poles may be used). The handler should position the dog and cart ready to reverse between the two poles. The poles will be approximately 40cm wider on each side than the widest point of the cart.

The dog and cart must not touch the poles. The handler may be inside or outside the poles during this exercise.

Exercise 4 – Uneven surface

The dog and cart should proceed to move over an uneven surface over a distance of 1-2 metres. If a sufficiently uneven (as determined by the Judge) natural surface is not available within the test area, 6 windbreak poles set 6cm apart from each other should be used to create an artificial uneven surface. The dog should proceed happily over the distance.

Should the dog stop on the uneven course, a maximum of 5 attempts are permitted to complete the exercise.

Exercise 5 – Left and right turns (non-leading)

The Judge will instruct the handler to make a left and then a right turn around two marker points (poles/bottles/cones) on the course. The dog, handler and cart should attempt the

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turns as close to a 90° angle as possible, without touching the markers. The handler must work from the side which does not lead the dog into the turn.

Exercise 6 – Stay

The handler will place the dog in a stay (any position, of the Handler's choosing), with the dog remaining hitched to the cart, and remove the dog's lead. The handler should move to a distance of 2m away. The stay should be maintained for 2 minutes, after which the Judge will tell the handler to return to their dog.

The handler should stand next to their dog, which should remain in the chosen position, until the Judge indicates that the exercise is complete, after which the dog can be released from the down.

Exercise 7 – Emergency Unhitch (random)

At any point during the course, the Judge will instruct an emergency unhitch. The handler should separate the dog from the cart quickly and safely. This should be performed within 8 seconds (starting from instruction by the Judge) to simulate an emergency.

The unhitch should be undertaken in a safe manner – should the cart hit the dog during unhitch, the exercise and the test will be failed.

Once complete, the dog should be re-hitched by the handler. The Judge may provide assistance (by holding the dog) if requested by the handler.



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