

Achiever's Nose Work Award



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

The Achievers Awards in Nose Work 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 via the website: www.theworkingnewfoundlandclub.co.uk by request from the club Secretary or at test events.

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



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with grateful thanks to Pete Webber and all the SEWN members for their help.

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Introduction

The Working Newfoundland Club has created these tests as a way for you to have fun with your dog in the art of Nose Work. You will also learn how your Newfoundland, like all breeds, constantly uses its nose to sniff the ground and air to gain information regarding their surroundings.

These tests have not been designed to enable you to undertake serious search and rescue - other dog organisations have already been established to do this type of activity. These Achievers Awards have been developed purely as a way for you to learn to perform as a team by understanding how your dog works using both ground and air borne scents to find a particular target, and how you can apply this information to help your dog use the natural elements such as the wind direction to your best advantage.

The dog will use all of their senses to begin with, but as the tests progress on a building block principle, you will work more as a team on how to develop their true Nose Work skills. Each team must complete grade one before moving on to grade two etc. You are encouraged to obtain at least the multi pass award in bronze at grade one before moving on to grade two as this will enable you to learn the necessary skills to achieve the next grade.

The Layout Plan shows how the course will be laid out and before the test begins you will be asked to randomly pick a sequence card or tile. This sequence card or tile will determine which of the nose work poles you will place your bait and decoys on and how you will retrace your steps back to the marker line.

To achieve the grade, you must complete the exercise in the time allowed. The handler can send the dog from anywhere along the marker line, but they must not cross over it. Remember, dog and handler are always to work as a team, but don't forget to allow the dog time to process the information they are gaining from the scent to find the target. When in hiding, the handler/steward may hold the bait aloft but both it and they must remain out of sight allowing the dog to find them by using the airborne scent alone.

The handler should encourage the dog as much as possible by using praise and commands throughout the tests and rewards can be given at the end of each exercise.

IMPORTANT

Please 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 result in time penalties in the lower grades and disqualification in the higher grades. If the area is contaminated and this puts the other dogs at a disadvantage and in some cases, the whole area will have to be moved so the test can be started again.

Nose Work Tests

1 Explanatory Notes, Equipment and Requirements

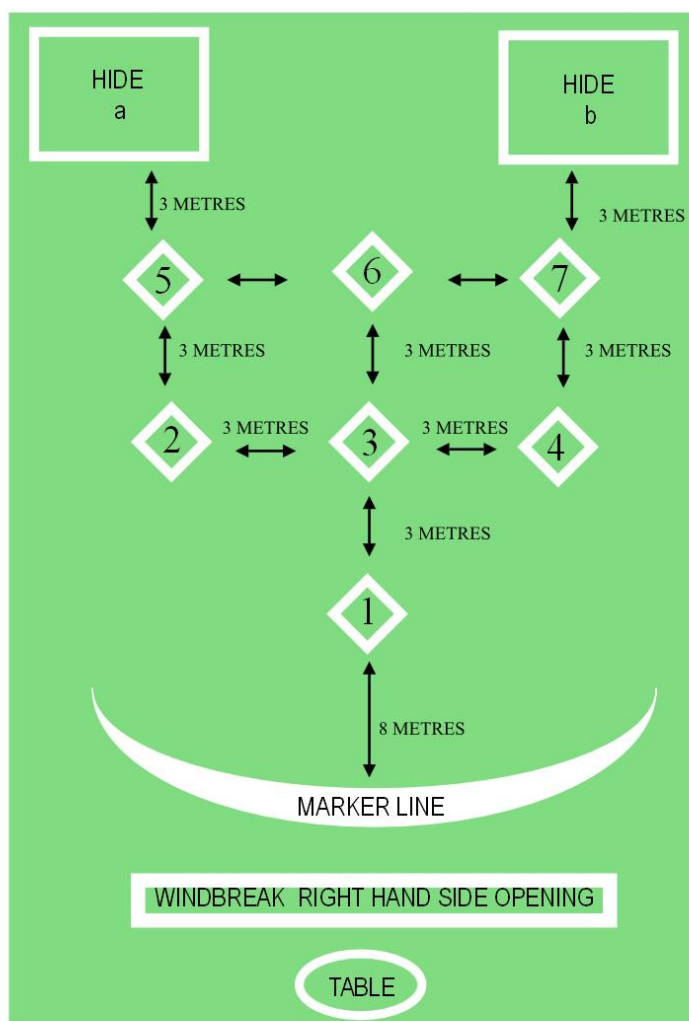
- These guidance notes should be read in conjunction with the Land Test administration notes.
- For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to work with the handler as a team by encouraging the dog to use all its scenting skills to locate its target without endangering itself or any person.

1.1 Test Layout Plans

Grade One – Ring size between 20 metres wide and 30 metres long



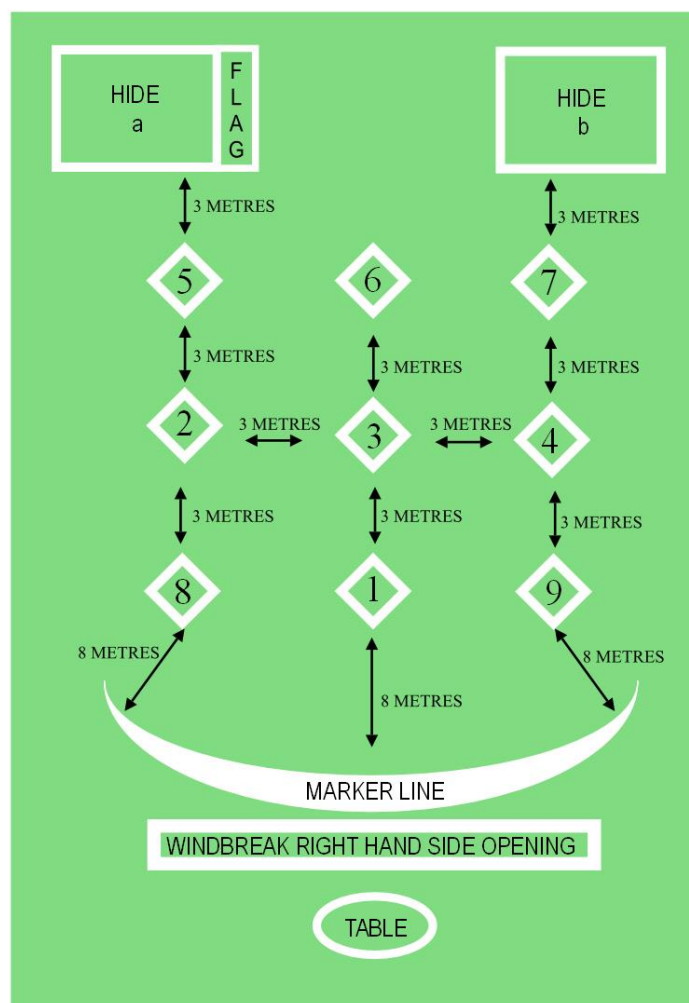
Grade One

The following layout plans will be used for grade one:

Plans; A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N.

These have been designed on the easiest sequence from pole 1 proceeding to row two poles 2, 3 or 4 and then row three poles 5, 6 or 7.

Grade Two – Ring size between 20 metres wide and 30 metres long



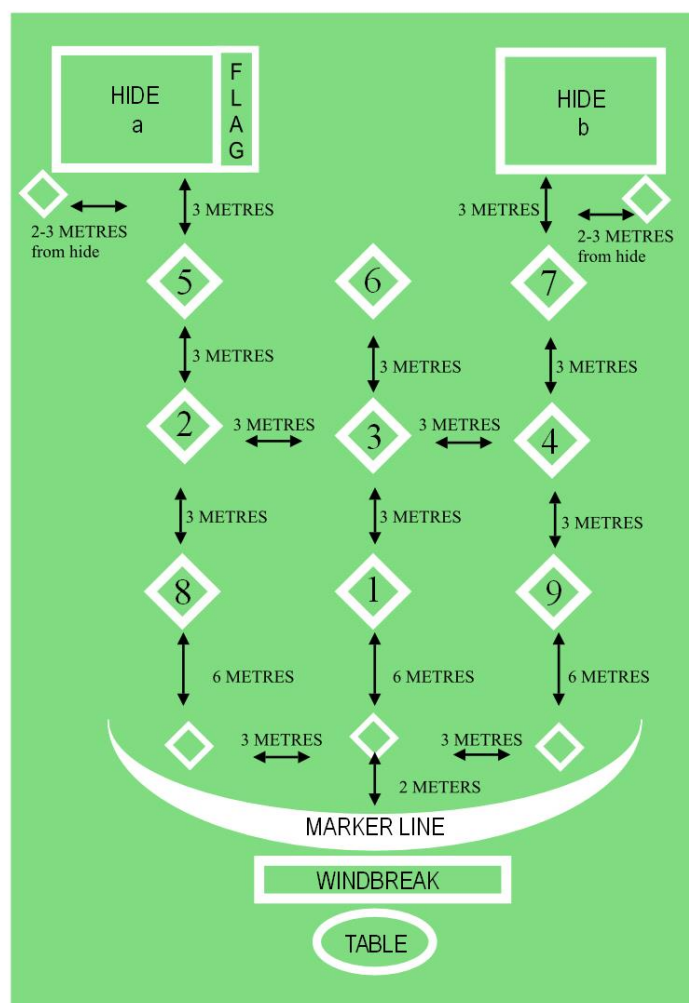
Grade Two

The following layout plans will be used for grade two:

Plans; O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

These have been designed on a progression from the grade one sequences from row one, poles 8, 1 and 9, row two poles 2, 3 or 4 and then row three pole 5, 6 or 7.

Grade Three – Ring size between 20 metres wide and 30 metres long



Grade Three

The following layout plans will be used for grade three:

Plans; O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Outer marker = Use plan marked A= left side or B= right side

These have been designed on a progression from the grade two sequences and are to test the dog to the highest standard in finding the rewards in the area.

The outer markers have the middle section removed and are therefore close to the ground.

The outer marks are to be measured 3 metres from the outside of the hide.

The scented and non-scented articles are 5 metres in front and in line with row 1.

Test Area

- a) The test area and target poles will be measured and set out as per the layout plan for each grade, and each test must be carried out exactly as per the regulations. The windbreaker screen door will always be set up on the right-hand side of the area.
- b) The test area will be set up taking into consideration the direction of the wind and should be set up so that the dogs and handlers work into the wind (i.e. blowing towards the dog) to give the team the best advantage. For all grades the test area is to be enclosed by netting or a natural barrier.
- c) The Marker line is to be a minimum of 16 metres long and set in line with pole 1 and curving around the area in line at 8 metres with poles 8 & 9 grade two layout plan.
- d) The hides will be made using windbreaks they should be the same size and preferably the same dark colour as each other (or two doubled together), to stop any shadows being visible.
- e) The flag (to indicate wind direction) will be placed and secured to one of the hides.
- f) For all the exercises taking place within the layout area, they do not necessarily have to be on short grass or on completely flat ground. The poles and hides can be set up on an uneven surface or in a semi rough grass scrub area, if the dog can work freely and without being encumbered when working.
- g) 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 any contamination of the area has taken place or the weather conditions dictate.
- h) The test area must be in an enclosed area either in a compound or by using netting fencing to enclose the area and ensure other dogs cannot enter the working area.

1.2 Equipment

The following equipment is required for the tests:

- A waterproof set of Regulations
- Sequence cards/ or tiles – one will be chosen at random for each entrant.
- Score sheets.
- Target poles, Marker Line Tape and three identical items which will be either Tennis balls or Handkerchiefs (grade three).
- Flag Bait (in a sealed box) Non-fragranced sterilisation wipes.
- Table to hold bait box, unscented wipes and score sheets etc.
- Stop Watch.
- Whistle.
- Clipboards/pencils/pens.

- 3 Windbreaks (preferably to be the same size, style and height to make the hides, they should be dark in colour or can be doubled to avoid shadows.
- Chair for grade three

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

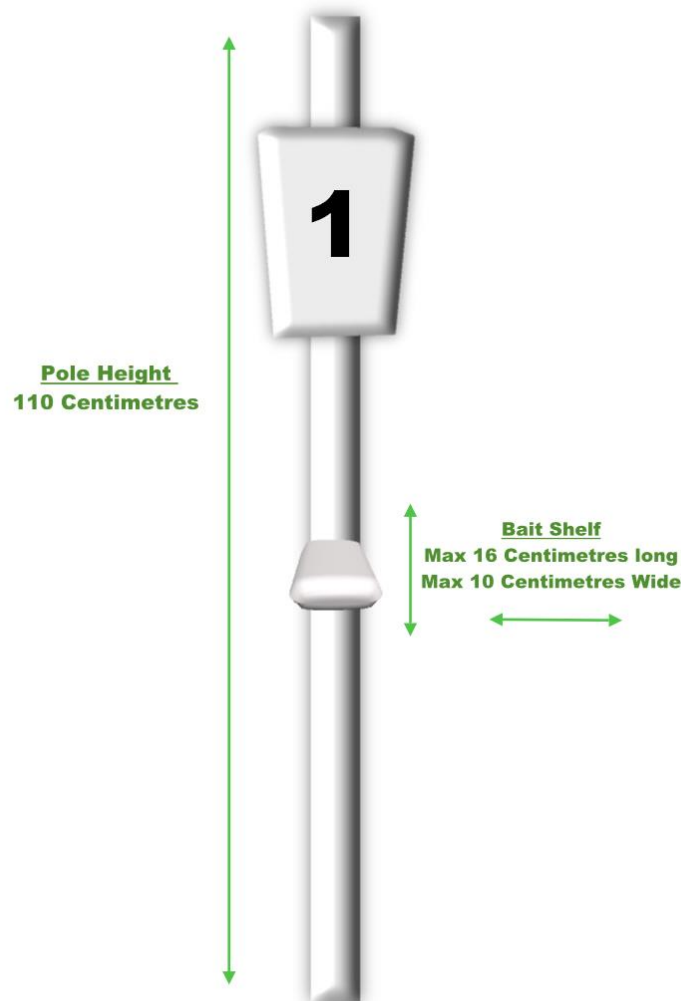
1.3 The Nose Work Target Poles

Only poles approved by The Working Newfoundland Club are to be used for a test.

The poles are made of plastic, so they can be wiped clean after each test and so not retain any scent. The pole height once secured into the ground with a metal spike should be approximately 110 centimetres in height.

The bait shelf should be a maximum of 16 centimetres long and 10 centimetres wide, with a rounded edge (no sharp edges). They will be set at 47 centimetres high from the ground, the only exception will be for puppies, cross breeds or non-Newfoundland's not tall enough to comfortably reach the bait shelf, when it will be 15 centimetres high from the ground.

The poles will be numbered in accordance with the grade being used.



1.4 Example of Grade One Test The Sequence Cards

The Sequence cards should be laminated so they can be wiped clean after each test so as to remove any scent.

The sequence card will show the sequence of how the test is to be carried out.

Tiles

Plastic tiles with letters on may also be used as these can be wiped clean after each test so as to remove any scent.

A layout plan of the corresponding to the tile will show how the test is be carried out.

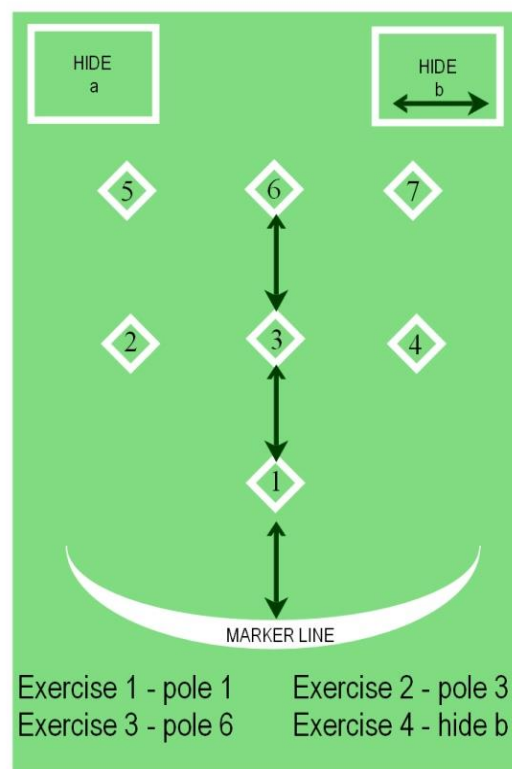
The handler will advise the judge which hand is their nominated bait hand and this hand will be used throughout the test.

Exercise One, the handler will start with exercise one and using the example plan and place the bait on pole number 1, retracing their steps back over the maker line to start exercise one.

Exercise Two, the handler will be following the lines retracing their steps as before and proceed to pole 1, this time they will touch the bait shelf, to act as a decoy and then proceed to pole 3, leave the bait. Following the arrows and retracing their steps back to pole 1 then back over the marker line

Exercise Three, the handler will be following the lines retracing their steps as before and proceed to pole 1, touch the bait shelf to act as a decoy and then proceed to pole 3, touch the bait shelf to act as a decoy and then proceed to pole 6, leave the bait. Following the arrows and retracing their steps back to pole 3 and 1 then back over the marker line

Exercise Four, the handler will follow the lines retracing their steps as before, and proceed to pole 1, touch the bait shelf to act as a decoy and then proceed to pole 3, touch the bait shelf to act as a decoy. They may call the dog whilst proceeding to pole 1 then onto pole 3, at which time the dog will be screened out of sight and the handler will fall silent. The handler will then proceed to pole 6, touch the bait shelf to act as a decoy and from there go to hide in hide b where they will remain out of sight and silent until found by the dog.



1.5 Timing

When working with the target poles the timing of each exercise will start as soon as all the dog's feet have crossed the marker line and will continue until all of the dog's feet are back over the marker line, and they have returned to their handler who is holding their collar (the dog must be under control at this point).

On the hide section:

Grade one and two finding the handler/steward

The exercise will stop once the dog has found the handler/steward and both handler/steward and dog has appeared back in view.

Grade two and three article exercise

Will stop once the dog has clearly indicated a find, to the judge.

1.6 Bait

The bait for the test exercises on the target poles will be provided by the test manager and this will preferably be garlic sausage, ham or cheese.

However, the handler may provide their own bait, the size of which will be agreed by the judge. The bait will be kept in an air tight container, once a piece has been removed for the exercise, the steward will ensure the remaining bait is stored in the sealed container and hidden away from the dog behind the working screen.

After each test the pole shelves will be wiped clean using an unscented fragrance free wet wipe.

1.7 Dogs

- a) The dog can be of any age to take part in all grades of the Achiever's Nose Work Tests.
- b) No dog can be entered into a test unless it has successfully completed the preceding grade.
- c) The Handler should always ensure that the dog has gone to the toilet before coming down to the test area, as any contamination of the test area will result in time penalties in the lower grades and disqualification in the higher grades.
- d) Dogs are not permitted to wear full check collars during the tests. This is to avoid any danger of the chain links catching on the undergrowth or tree branches, when the dogs are searching for their targets in the higher grades.
- e) The dog must be off lead, so they need to be able to either wait and stay whilst the handler places the bait or be of an acceptable nature to allow the steward to hold their collar during the test.

1.8 Handlers

- a) Only one handler is permitted to work the dog throughout the test.
- b) The Handler will advise the judge which bait hand they will use for the test. (the same hand must be used throughout the test)
- c) The handler will select a sequence card/tile at the start of the test and will continue to use the same one throughout the remainder of the test.
- d) The handler may always give unlimited audible/visual instructions and encouragement, whilst commanding the dog from the marker line. 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.
- e) Any reward given at the end of each exercise will need to be provided by the handler.
- f) Grade Two articles must be able to rest on a target pole platform, such as a favourite hard plastic or soft stuffed toy, a tennis ball, or rope tugger

1.9 Stewards

- a) After each test the pole shelves will be wiped clean using an unscented fragrance free wet wipe.
- b) Hold the bait box by the sides, do not pick up the bait and give it to the handler.
- c) Ensure the bait box is resealed and put out of sight before the test begins.

2.0 Permitted/ Non-Permitted actions during the tests

- a) The dog must stand behind the marker line or behind the out of sight screen on the hide section at the beginning of each exercise and not cross the marker line until instructed to do so. (either in a stay or a steward holding the collar).
- b) The Handler is permitted to position the dog anywhere behind the marker line as their start position.
- c) Once the exercise has begun, the handler is permitted to move up and down the marker line, but not over it, to encourage their dog whilst they are seeking out their target.
- d) The handler will use the same hand as their bait hand throughout the test.
- e) If the dog finds the bait but does not eat it, and returns to the handler, the bait is to be left in position until the end of the exercises and until all elements in the relevant grade have been completed.
- f) The tests and exercises have been written in detail on how they are to be carried out. Handlers may use many different ways and techniques to train their dogs to complete the tests but, together with the Stewards and Judges, they are expected to carry out each exercise of each test as they have been written.

Grade One

Notes for Grade One exercises:

1. Handlers will pick a sequence card/tile before the start of the test; this card will be used for the duration of the test.
2. Only one handler is permitted to work the dog for the duration of the test
3. The sequence cards/tile may be different for each handler and dog.
4. The stopwatch will be started the moment all the dogs feet are across the marker line and will stop:
 - In pole exercises, once the target has been found/eaten and all the dog's feet are back over the marker line, and their handler is holding their collar.
 - In the Hide exercises, once the handler has been found and both have become visible to judge.
5. Handlers are permitted to allow the dog to sniff the bait before proceeding to the poles.
6. Handlers may use their own bait, the size of which will be agreed by the judge.
7. The dog does not have to eat the bait only indicate that they have found it. If the dog finds the bait but does not eat it, and returns to the handler, the bait is to be left in position until the end of all the exercises and until all elements in the relevant grade have been completed
8. The handler is permitted to send the dog from anywhere along the marker line.
9. The handler may talk to the dog at all times during the exercise to instruct them, whilst commanding the dog from the marker line and they are permitted to use their name when sending the dog or attracting the dog's attention.
10. The handler is not permitted to cross over the marker line once the dog has been sent to do the exercise and the timing of the exercise has started.
11. The Dog is allowed to be called back over the marker line to be resent as many times as the handler wishes.
12. Handlers are permitted to reward the dog at the end of the exercise with their own food, toy or article.

Passing Grade One Test:

To achieve a pass the team must achieve all four exercises.

Scoring for Grade One exercises:

20 Second penalty for the dog contaminating the area.

The dog is allowed 60 seconds to complete each exercise

Failure for Grade One exercises:

The dog exceeds the time limit on each exercise.

Handler stepping over the marker once the dog has been released to find the target and the timing of the exercise has started.

Not completing the exercise.

Grade One

Find the reward on the First Row Pole

Exercise 1

- a) The dog may be held by the steward behind the marker line until instructed to begin.
- b) The handler will collect the bait from a sealed box held by the steward, with their **nominated bait hand**.
- c) The handler will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been marked as pole number 1 and place the bait on the pole shelf.
- d) **Retracing** their steps, the handler will return to the dog behind the marker line.
- e) The Judge will instruct the handler to begin the exercise.
- f) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- g) Once the dog has found and/or eaten the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- h) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back across the marker line and their handler is holding their collar.

Find the reward on the Second Row Pole

Exercise 2

- a) The dog may be held by the steward behind the marker line until instructed to begin
- b) The handler will collect the bait from sealed box held by the steward, using their **nominated bait hand**.
- c) The handler will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been marked as pole number 1 and touch the pole shelf with their **bait in hand** to act as a decoy.
- d) The handler will continue to the second row of poles and place their bait on the numbered pole indicated on their layout card and place the bait on the pole shelf.
- e) **Retracing** their steps back to the pole in the first row the handler will once again touch the pole shelf with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy before returning to the dog behind the marker line.
- f) The Judge will instruct the handler to begin the exercise.
- g) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- h) Once the dog has found and/or eaten the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- i) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog is back across the marker line and their handler is holding their collar.

Grade One

Find reward on the Third Row Pole

Exercise 3

- a) The dog may be held by the steward behind the marker line until instructed to begin. The handler will collect the bait from sealed box held by the steward, using their nominated bait hand.
- b) The handler will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been marked as pole number 1 and touch the pole shelf with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy.
- c) The handler will continue to the second row of poles and place their bait on the numbered pole used in exercise 2 and touch the pole shelf with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy.
- d) The handler will continue to the third row of poles and place their bait on the numbered pole indicated on their layout card and place the bait on the pole shelf.
- e) **Retracing** their steps back to the poles in the second and first rows the handler will once again touch the pole shelves with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy before returning to the dog behind the marker line.
- f) The Judge will instruct the handler to begin the exercise.
- g) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- h) Once the dog has found and/or eaten the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- j) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back across the marker line and their handler is holding their collar.

Grade One

Find the Hidden Handler

Exercise 4

- a) The windbreaker end pole will be removed from the ground by a steward who will hold onto it and now use it as a screen door.
- b) The dog will be held by another steward at the back of the wind breaker in sight of the handler (screen door to the side).
- c) The handler will collect the bait from sealed box held by the steward using their **nominated bait hand**.
- d) The handler will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been marked as pole number 1 and touch the pole shelf with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy.
- e) The handler will continue to the second row of poles used in exercise 2 and touch the pole shelf with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy. At this point the handler must stop calling or instructing the dog and **remain silent** until they have been found.
- f) The Judge will advise the steward to slowly and carefully close the screen door, using it to hide the dog behind the screen out of sight of the handler.
- g) The handler will continue to the third row of poles and touch the pole shelf with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy.
- h) At this point the handler will continue to walk to the hide indicated on their layout card and once inside the hide the handler may not call the dog or make any other sound as to attract the dog's attention.
- i) The handler is permitted to hold the bait aloft but only within the confines of the hide, so the dog can scent it, but it must remain out of sight to the dog.
- j) The Judge/Steward will remove the screen door and instruct the steward to bring the dog to the marked line.
- k) The steward will command the dog to find the hidden handler.
- l) Once the dog has found the handler they will both come out of the hide and become visible to show the dog has completed the exercise.
- m) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when both handler and dog are again visible.

Additional Notes for exercise 4:

1. The Steward will send the dog from a position behind the marker line which has been instructed by the handler.
2. The stopwatch will be started the moment all the dog's feet are across the marker line and will stop once the dog has found the handler in the hide and the dog and handler become visible to the judge.
3. When sending the dog or attracting the dog's attention, the steward is permitted to use the dog's name.

Grade Two

Notes for Grade Two exercises:

1. Handlers will pick a sequence card/tile before the start of the test; this card will be used for the duration of the test.
2. Only one handler is permitted to work the dog, for the duration of the test. A steward will also be nominated to work with the dog and will remain the same person throughout the test. (the steward may not be a member of the handlers and/or the dogs household)
3. The article will be provided by the handler and must be of medium size, (agreed by the judge).
4. The article must be able to rest on a target pole platform, such as a favourite hard plastic or soft stuffed toy, a tennis ball, or rope tugger.
5. The sequence cards may be different for each team.
6. The stopwatch will be started the moment all the dog's feet are across the marker line and will stop:
 - In pole exercises, once the target has been found/eaten and all the dog's feet are back over the marker line, and their handler is holding their collar.
 - In the Hide exercise, once the steward has been found and both have become visible to judge.
 - In the Hide exercise, once the dog has found the article they will give a clear indication that it has been found, this can be shown in many ways as long as it is clear to the judge, they can either retrieve it, hold it, stand, sit or lay down next to it, bark at it or indicate a find by simply wagging their tail, but a clear indication must be given.
7. The steward is permitted to allow the dog to sniff the bait/article before proceeding to the poles.
8. Handlers may use their own bait, the size of which will be agreed by the judge.
9. Handlers must provide their own article, which the size of which will be agreed by the judge as per explanatory notes 1.8 (f). These articles may also be scented.
10. The handler/steward is permitted to send the dog from anywhere along the marker line.
11. The handler/steward may talk to the dog at all times during the exercise to instruct them, whilst commanding the dog from the marker line and they are permitted to use their name when sending the dog or attracting the dog's attention.
12. The handler/steward is not permitted to cross over the marker line once the dog has been sent to do the exercise and the timing of the exercise has started.
13. The Dog is allowed **back over the marker line to be resent only once**. If the dog comes back over the marker line again after one resend this will be deemed as a fail.
14. Handlers are permitted to reward the dog at the end of the exercise with their own food, toy or article.

Passing Grade Two Test:

To achieve a pass, the team must achieve all four exercises.

Grade Two

Scoring for Grade Two exercises:

30 Second penalty for the dog contaminating the area.

The dog is allowed 60 seconds to complete each exercise.

Failure for Grade Two exercises:

The dog exceeds the time limit on each exercise.

Handler stepping over the marker once the dog has been released to find the target and the timing of the exercise has started.

The dog comes back over the marker line more than once.

Not completing the exercise.

Find the reward on the First Row Pole

Exercise 1

- a) The dog may be held by the handler behind the marker line until instructed to begin.
- b) A steward will be nominated to work with the dog for the duration of the test.
- c) The nominated steward will collect the bait from a sealed box held by another steward, with their **nominated bait hand**.
- d) The nominated steward will proceed to the pole in the first row of poles which has been indicated on their layout card and **place the bait** on the pole shelf.
- e) **Retracing** their steps, the steward will return to the dog behind the marker line.
- f) The handler can request that the steward show the dog his empty hands.
- g) The Judge will instruct the handler to begin the exercise.
- h) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- i) Once the dog has found and/or eaten the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- k) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back across the marker line and their handler is holding their collar.

Find reward on the Third Row Pole

- a) The steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the second row of poles, which has been marked indicated on their layout card and **place the bait down** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- b) The steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the third row of poles indicated on their layout card and **place the bait** on the pole shelf.

Grade Two

- c) **Retracing** their steps back to the poles in the second and first rows the steward will once again touch the pole shelves with **their bait hand** to act as a decoy before returning to the dog behind the marker line.
- d) The Judge will instruct the handler to begin the exercise.
- e) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- i) Once the dog has found and/or eaten the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- j) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back across the marker line and their handler is holding their collar.

Find the Hidden Steward

Exercise 3

- a) The windbreaker end pole will be removed from the ground by the steward who will hold onto and now use it as a screen door.
- b) The dog will be held by the Handler at the back of the wind breaker in sight of the nominated steward (screen door to the side).
- c) The Steward will collect the bait from sealed box held by another steward, with **their nominated bait hand**.
- d) The steward will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been indicated in the lay out card and **place the bait down** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- e) The Steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the second row of poles on the lay out card and **put the bait down** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- f) At this point the Judge will advise the other steward to slowly and carefully close the screen door, using it to hide the dog behind the screen out of sight of the steward.
- g) The Steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to third row of poles on the numbered marked on the lay out card and **place the bait down** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- h) The Steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to walk to the hide indicated on their layout card, once inside the hide the steward may not call the dog or make any other sound as to attract the dog's attention.
- i) The steward is permitted to hold the bait aloft but only within the confines of the hide so the dog can scent it but it must remain out of sight to the dog.
- j) The judges will advise the other steward to remove the screen door and instruct the handler to bring the dog to the marked line.
- k) The handler will command the dog to find the hidden steward.
- l) Once the dog has found the steward he must offer the reward on the flat of his hand or place the bait on the floor for the dog to take it.
- m) The steward will make themselves visible as soon as possible to show the dog has completed the exercise.
- n) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when both steward and dog are again visible.

Grade Two

Additional Notes for exercise 3:

1. The stopwatch will be started the moment all of the dog's feet are across the marker line and will stop once the dog has found the steward in the hide and the steward has become visible to the judge.
2. When sending the dog or attracting the dog's attention, the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

Find the Article

Exercise 4

- a) The handler will advise the judge how their dog will indicate the found article.
- b) The windbreaker end pole will be removed from the ground by the steward who will hold onto and now use it as a screen door.
- c) The dog will be held by the handler at the back of the wind breaker in sight of the steward (screen door to the side).
- d) The steward will take the chosen article and they will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been indicated in the lay out card and **place the article** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- e) The steward will **pick up the article** and continue to the second row of poles on the numbered marked on the lay out card and **place the article** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy. At this point the Judge will advise the other steward to slowly and carefully close the screen door, using it to hide the dog behind the screen out of sight of the handler.
- f) The steward must now remain silent and will continue to the third row of poles on the numbered marked on the lay out card and **place the article** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- g) The steward will up **pick up the article** and will continue to walk to the hide indicated on their layout card and **put the article inside** the hide the steward may not call the dog or make any other sound as to attract the dog's attention, whilst this article is being hidden out of sight, or whilst returning to the dog.
- h) The judges will advise the steward to remove the screen door and instruct the handler to bring the dog to the marked line.
- i) The handler will command the dog to find the hidden article.
- j) Once the dog has found the article and indicated they have done so to the judge, the judge will call the exercise complete.

Additional Notes for exercise 4:

1. The stopwatch will be started the moment all the dog's feet are across the marker line and will stop once the dog has indicated they have found the article.
2. When sending the dog or after the dog has been sent the handler is permitted to attract the dog's attention, and to use the dog's name.

Grade Three

Notes for Grade Three exercises:

1. Handlers will pick a sequence card/tile before the start of the test; this card will be used for the duration of the test.
2. Only one handler is permitted to work the dog, for the duration of the test. A steward will also be nominated to work with the dog and will remain the same person throughout the test. (the steward may not be a member of the handlers and/or the dogs household)
3. The articles will be provided by the test manager and will be two identical sterilised unscented articles either a tennis balls or handkerchiefs and one scented matching article.
4. The sequence cards may be different for each team.
5. The stopwatch will be started the moment all the dog's feet are across the marker line and will stop:
Pole exercises,
 - once all the dog's feet are back over the line, and they have returned to their handler and their handler is holding their collar (the dog must be under control).Article exercises,
 - once the dog has found the article they will give a clear indication that it has been found, this can be shown in many ways if it is clear to the judge, they can either retrieve it, hold it, stand, sit or lay down next to it, bark at it or indicate a find by simply wagging their tail, but a clear indication must be given.
6. The steward is permitted to allow the dog to sniff the bait/article before proceeding to the poles.
7. Handlers may use their own bait, which the size of which will be agreed by the judge.
8. The handler is permitted to send the dog from anywhere along the marker line.
9. The handler may talk to the dog at all times during the exercise to instruct them whilst commanding the dog from the marker line and is permitted to use their name when sending the dog or attracting the dog's attention.
10. The handler is not permitted to cross over the marker line once the dog has been sent to do the exercise and the timing of the exercise has started.
11. The **Dog is not allowed back over the marker**. If the dog comes back over the marker line this will be deemed as a fail.
12. Handlers are permitted to reward the dog at the end of the exercise with their own food, toy or article.

Passing Grade Three Test:

To achieve a pass the team must achieve all four exercises.

Scoring for Grade Three exercises:

The dog is allowed 60 seconds to complete exercises 1, 2 and 3 (exercise 4 is not timed)

Grade Three

Failure for Grade Three exercises:

The dog exceeds the time limit on exercises 1, 2 & 3.

Dog or handler indicates the wrong scent on exercise 4.

Dog contaminating any part of the test area.

Handler stepping over the marker once the dog has been released to find the target and the timing of the exercise has started.

The dog comes back over the marker line.

Not completing the exercise.

Disqualification from the Grade Three Test:

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

If the dog is out of control.

Find reward on the Second Row Pole out of Sight

Exercise 1

- a) The dog will be held by the Handler at the back of the wind breaker
- b) The steward will collect the bait from sealed box and show the dog.
- c) The handler and dog will remain behind the screen **out of sight** of the steward, and test area.
- d) The steward will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been marked indicated on their layout card and **place the bait down** on the pole shelf, to act as a decoy.
- e) The steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the second row of poles on the numbered pole indicated on their layout card) and **place the bait** on the pole shelf.
- f) **Retracing** their steps back to the poles in the first row the steward will once again touch the pole shelves with their bait hand to act as decoys before returning to the dog behind the marker line.
- g) The judges will advise the handler to bring the dog in sight of the test area to the marked line.
- h) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- i) Once the dog has found the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- j) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back across the marker line, and they have returned to their handler and their handler is holding their collar.

Grade Three

Find reward on the Third Row Pole out of Sight

Exercise 2

- a) The dog will be held by the Handler at the back of the wind breaker
- b) The steward will collect the bait from sealed box and show the dog.
- c) The handler and dog will remain behind the screen **out of sight** of the steward, and test area.
- d) The steward will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been indicated in the lay out card and **put the bait down** on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- e) The Steward will **then pick up the bait** and continue to the second row of poles on the lay out card and **put the bait down** on the pole shelf with their put the bait down on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- f) The steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the third row of poles and **place their bait** on the numbered pole indicated on their layout card and place the bait on the pole shelf.
- g) **Retracing** their steps back to the poles in the first and second rows the steward will once again **touch the pole** shelves with their **bait hand** to act as decoys before returning to the dog behind the marker line.
- h) The judges will advise the handler to bring the dog in sight of the test area to the marked line.
- i) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- j) Once the dog has found the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- k) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back across the marker line, and they have returned to their handler and their handler is holding their collar.

Additional Notes for exercise 2:

3. The stopwatch will be started the moment all of the dog's feet are across the marker line and will stop once the dog has found the handler in the hide and the dog and handler become visible to the judge.
4. When sending the dog or attracting the dog's attention, the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

Grade Three

Find the reward on the Outer Markers out of Sight

Exercise 3

- a) The dog will be held by the Handler at the back of the wind breaker
- b) The steward will collect the bait from sealed box and show the dog.
- c) The handler and dog will remain behind the screen **out of sight** of the steward, and test area.
- d) The steward will proceed to the target in the first row of poles which has been indicated in the lay out card and **place the bait** down on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- e) The Steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the second row of poles on the lay out card and **place the bait** down on the pole shelf to act as a decoy.
- f) The steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the third row of poles on the numbered pole indicated on their layout card and **place the bait** on the pole shelf.
- g) The steward will then **pick up the bait** and continue to the outer marker on the marker indicated on their layout card (**left or right 2 - 3 metres from the hide**) and **place the bait** on the pole shelf.
- h) **Retracing** their steps back to the poles in the first, second and third rows the steward will once again touch the pole shelves with **their bait hand** to act as decoys before returning to the dog behind the marker line.
- i) The judges will advise the handler to bring the dog in sight of the test area to the marked line.
- j) The handler will command the dog to find the target.
- k) Once the dog has found the target the handler will call the dog back across the marker line.
- l) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back across the marker line, and they have returned to their handler and their handler is holding their collar

Additional Notes for exercise 3:

1. The stopwatch will be started the moment all the dog's feet are across the marker line and will stop once the dog has indicated they have found the article.
2. When sending the dog or after the dog has been sent the handler is permitted to attract the dog's attention, and to use the dog's name.

Grade Three

Find the Scented Article out of Sight

Exercise 4

- a) The Judge will confirm to the handler what is on their test entry form, if they are to work with tennis balls or handkerchiefs and what is their preferred scent.
- b) The handler will advise the judge how their dog will indicate the found article.
- c) The handler will then sit in a chair facing away from the test area.**
- d) The dog will be held by the handler, **both will be out of sight** of the working area.
- e) The judge will take the unscented and scented articles and place them approximately **3 meters apart in a row and 2 meters from the marker line.**
- f) The judge will return to the handler and dog who have both remained **out of sight** of the working area.
- g) The judge will allow the dog to take scent from the correct scent box.
- h) The judge will make a note on the score sheet of where they have placed the scented article somewhere in the row.
- i) The judges will advise the handler to bring the dog to the test area the test will now be carried one of the following ways:
 1. The dog can be released as soon as they come into sight out the markers, it must **go straight** to the article to indicate which one of the articles is scented.
 2. The handler and dog are permitted to walk up and down but remain behind the marker line **a maximum of three times**. Once the handler is aware the dog has scented the article the **dog may be released** anywhere along the line to find the scented article.
 3. The handler and dog are permitted to walk up and down but remain behind the marker line **a maximum of three times**. Once the handler is aware the dog has scented the article the **handler will advise** the judge of the chosen target.
 4. The handler whilst sitting in the chair will hand their dog on a lead to the steward, the handler will then rise from chair walk the way they are facing to the back of the test area and then turn either left or right and walk the outer perimeter within the test area until they are level with the first row of numbered poles, the **handler may now go and stand by pole 1** to watch the dog who will be walked by a steward behind the marker line **a maximum of three times**. The **dog may be released** anywhere along the line to find the scented article.

Grade Three

5. The handler whilst sitting in the chair will hand their dog on a lead to the steward, the handler will then rise from chair walk the way they are facing to the back of the test area and then turn either left or right and walk the outer perimeter within the test area until they are level with the first row of numbered poles, the **handler may now go and stand by pole 1** to watch the dog who will be walked by a steward behind the marker line **a maximum of three times**. Once the handler is aware the dog has scented the **handler will advise** the judge of the chosen target.
- j) Once the dog has indicated the scented article, the judge will call the exercise complete.



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