

The  
Working  
Newfoundland  
Club



# Rules and Regulations Standard Draught Test



Version 4 - October 2019

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These tests are issued by The Working Newfoundland Club and are the basis for all certified tests.

Should any safety issues become apparent then the Committee have the right to introduce amendments at any time.

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



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### 1.1 Introduction

It is generally acknowledged that the Newfoundland, as a unique breed, was bred by its originators in Canada to be a big powerful dog capable of an arduous days work either on board a fishing boat or on shore. On land it was extensively used as a beast of burden as well as being the friend and guardian of the family, especially the children. Without wanting to endanger the dog or anyone else, The modern day owner increasingly wants to see whether their dog is equally capable. This set of exercises, which will test the dog at five levels, has been devised to provide a safe and consistent method of proving the dog's capabilities in a non-competitive environment.

These tests, which are extensions to training and not an end in themselves, are based on the building block principle. Skills learnt by owner and dog for the lower levels are repeated and refined or modified in the higher levels. It must be understood that it is necessary to **MASTER** the lower levels first in order to proceed to the higher levels successfully. If a problem arises with a certain manoeuvre then there will be a firm foundation to fall back on; if training is carried out inconsistently then a problem cannot be dealt with systematically. Thus dogs must pass each lower level before being permitted to attempt the next highest level, i.e. passing the Beginners Test before Level 1, and Level 1 before entering for Level 2 etc. It must be borne in mind that the exercises actually test the handler and dog partnership, not just the capabilities of the dog, the handler and dog are working as a team.

On a test day there will be two judges and it is their desire for all the entered teams to pass. Handlers may ask the judges questions during the test if they are unsure whether they are permitted to do something or not. Judges may volunteer some advice to help handlers and their dogs during the lower level tests (beginners, levels 1 & 2). To guide entrants, a breakdown of the penalty points is shown within the exercises. The judges will be using a scoring system for marking each performance. These marks are purely for their use and will not be divulged to entrants. The published results will only show whether the required standard was reached. The dog and owner must reach the required standard in each exercise otherwise they will fail the test as a whole. At the conclusion of each test the judges will inform entrants whether they and their dog have passed or failed and probably make some verbal comments. There will also be written comments to collect from the score steward, together with a certificate of competence for a pass.

These tests are non-competitive. However, if a competitive trial, with dogs/handlers being placed in order of competence is being arranged, then these regulations may be the basis for those trials. A test day is for handlers to have **FUN** with their dogs and delight in their joint achievements and those of fellow Newfoundland teams. Even at a test, remember never to become so serious that the fun goes out of working for either you or your Newfoundland.

Dogs must be at least 12 months old on the day of the test to enter for the Beginners Level, 18 months for Level 1, 24 months for Level 2 & 3 and 30 months for Level 4. Dogs aged 8 years and over cannot enter for Level 4. These ages have been set in the best

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interests of the dog, bearing in mind its physical and mental capabilities. Handlers are encouraged to start training their dog only when it is capable of performing all elements without undue strain.

By making an entry, an owner declares that both the handler and their dog are fit to carry out the proposed test. If it appears to any official at a test event that a team is not fit enough they must not allow it to take part.

A team who has passed Beginners for the first time may at the same test – subject to the dog being of age and being trained to Level 1 – request on the day to enter Level 1, if the Judges deem the team capable then subject to time and with the Test Managers agreement the team may go on to enter Level 1. Apart from Beginners moving up to Level 1 on the same day, a dog can only be entered for one level which it has not passed per event, but may retake any level for which it already holds a pass, i.e. one new (un-passed) level at a weekend event.

Owners and Handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. Exercising of dogs within the designated test area is prohibited. All dogs must be kept on a lead while the tests are being conducted.

The Working Newfoundland Club cannot accept any responsibility for any accident or injury to persons or dogs at the event.

Beginners Tests can be conducted, informally, by two Judges from the approved list, provided one of them is an experienced judge at this level. This test does not have to be carried out at an organized event and can be arranged by the handlers at their and the Judges' convenience. The Committee of the WNC will sanction the chosen judges on receipt of a phone call or letter from the organisers. It is the responsibility of the organisers to notify any passes with any other relevant information to the WNC, so that the matter can be formally reported at the next committee meeting.

### **1.2 Responsibilities of the Committee**

- a) With the working groups select suitable dates and venues for draught tests.
- b) Select potential Judges from the approved list and arrange for them to be officially invited to adjudicate; acceptance slips will be kept on file. The Judges selected must know the rules thoroughly and will conduct the tests in a consistent manner; they must judge according to the regulations as they are written and not how they would like the tests to be or how they train their own dogs.
- c) Liaise with the working groups to appoint a proficient Test Manager, who is then responsible for ensuring the site is suitable for the tests to be held, and for obtaining permission to use the site from its owner(s).

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- 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 a test if the conditions are, or become, unsuitable. It doesn't matter if one or more of the three officials (Judges & Test Manager) think they should carry on, if just one official is concerned that it is dangerous then the Level will be cancelled, halted or postponed. This likelihood of cancellation should be included in the schedule so that entrants are fully aware of such a possibility.
- e) The Committee 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 tests, but no fees will be refunded.
- g) Acknowledgement of entry of a test will not be sent out to the entrants, any person requiring acknowledgement of entry must enclose a SAE with their entry form or request by email.
- h) Every effort will be made to test all entrants on the day of the event. If however, due to lack of entrants or circumstances beyond the Committee's control this is not possible, any untested entrants will have a credit note issued.

### 1.3 Responsibilities of the Test Manager

- a) Ensure that the location of the test is adequate for the tests to be held. Although the Test Manager will indicate the control/manoeuvre/haul area; it is the Judges who will decide if it is suitable.
- b) Check that suitable access can be provided, especially for emergency services.
- c) Ensure that a local veterinary surgeon has been asked, and if necessary agreed in writing, to act as emergency cover for the event. Notify other emergency services as appropriate. Publicise the telephone number and locations of emergency facilities (vet, hospital etc).
- d) Oversee the production of the schedule, checking that the address to which completed entry forms are to be sent is correct. The schedule will include the requirement to attend the Judge's briefing and that handlers who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.
- e) If there are to be limited entries, allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis, but with unqualified dogs taking priority; as soon as possible after the closing date for entries inform applicants if they are entrants or on the reserve list.

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- f) If insufficient entries are received by the closing date for entries, the Committee 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 one draught test 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 haul.
- 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 secretary of the Committee as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation.
- k) Ensure that all the equipment is in place and ready for use for the start of judging. Check the test site, checking for any overnight changes that could pose problems for the test. Brief the Judges and safety stewards on the peculiarities of the venue.
- l) Provide suitable apparatus for the beginners pull section..
- m) Ensure and provide if necessary a means of communication between judges and test manager to be used in emergencies during the haul section, i.e. walkie talkie or mobile phone. Also have a suitable method available to rescue an injured dog.
- n) Ensure the smooth running of the tests.
- o) Ensure that no smoking, eating or drinking takes place within the test area.
- p) It is the Test Manager's responsibility to deal with any members of the Press. Their requests should only be acceded to if they do not affect the smooth running of the test – safety and the dogs always comes first.
- q) Unless a separate Referee has been appointed, act as Referee.
- r) Provide a legibly written report to the relevant committee on the conduct of the tests, including constructive criticisms where appropriate, within 14 days of the test. It should include a balance sheet showing income and expenses including the relevant entry monies collected, along with the spreadsheet provided showing test results, withdrawals etc.



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### **1.4 Responsibilities of Referees**

Referees do not have to watch the test for which they are adjudicating. In the event of a disagreement over the interpretation of the regulations (not performance) between the Judges, the Referee will talk with them and attempt to conciliate with particular reference to the regulations. They may also talk to the safety stewards in an attempt to resolve the matter. The Referee can order a retake of an exercise if the matter is not resolved in any other way. If called upon to adjudicate on any matter, then the Referee will also supply a 'not for publication' report to the relevant Committee within 14 days. The Committee will have the ultimate decision as to whether a test has been carried out as per the regulations.

### **1.5 Complaints Procedure**

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

### **1.6 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) If the dog is exercised within the designated test area during the test event.

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

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### **1.7 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 Level 3 Judge can judge Levels 1, 2 and 3 but not 4. Persons wishing to become Judges can apply in writing using the downloadable form from the website or by requesting a copy from the Secretary. Following favourable reports on their judging performance at tests, Judges can be moved up the list as their experience grows. Similarly for poor performance or other misdemeanors a Judge could be moved down the list or removed altogether. When a Judge's position on the list is changed, they will be notified by the Committee.

### **1.8 Responsibilities of the Judges**

Each test will have two judges working in unison, with all decisions made jointly.

It is the responsibility of the judges to:-

- a) Judge to appropriate draught regulations, including the prior inspection of the site, where necessary. If the Judges disagree over whether a team has done sufficient to pass, then the joint decision will be a fail. If the Judges disagree over the interpretation of the regulations the Referee will be called in.
- b) Judge fairly and impartially. They should also be as helpful as possible, especially for the Beginners Test.
- c) On invitation to judge a test, written confirmation will be sent out by the Judges Coordinator. If, after acceptance, a Judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason, then they must inform the Judge's Coordinator as soon as possible.
- d) Check with the Test Manager who is to be the Referee.
- e) Having been briefed by the Test Manager on the peculiarities of the venue, brief the stewards as to their particular responsibilities. Judges should remind stewards that they are not to offer advice to the handlers (unless it is safety related). Stewards may bring to the Judge's attention some aspect of a completed exercise they feel might have been missed by the Judges.
- f) All handlers taking part in the test must attend the Judge's briefing at the appointed time. This is essential so that handlers are fully aware of hazards and safety requirements. Handlers who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.
- g) The judges have the right to terminate any test being taken if they consider that the continuation of the test would be injurious to the dog or handler.

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- h) Ensure that there are no more stewards than necessary in the test area.
- i) If special circumstances make it necessary, then the judges can allow a dog to retake a particular element of a test. This should not be used for an attempt that had only just failed but should be used where something unexpected happens which affects the dog adversely, for example a loose dog running through the control section area during a test. The Judges alone will determine what is 'unexpected', and whether the exercise can be attempted again.
- j) A team that has taken a test and failed cannot retake that test on the same day; however, at the discretion and agreement of both judges, it may be allowed to continue with the rest of the test as a training exercise.
- k) Allocate some time before the start of the tests for the Pre-Test Equipment Check. If the harness is deemed ill-fitting or if it or the apparatus is deemed unsafe in any respect, then it must be replaced or remedied before the dog will be permitted to commence the test. This will include repair equipment for the cart.
- l) 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.
- m) Judges will provide verbal comments to handlers immediately after their test and arrange for written comments which will be given out at the presentation.
- n) Judges scoresheets must be completed for each team, however the judges may opt, in agreement to complete a joint score sheet for each team. They must also provide a legibly written report on the test 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 novice judges should judge together and senior judges may be asked to recommend which judges could move up.
- p) A judge may not judge their own dog or one handled by a partner or immediate family member.
- q) A judge may not judge with co-judges who are a partner, parent, sibling or spouse.
- q) A Judge may only enter their own dog on the same day if it is entered at a different level that they are judging, and if there is someone else to handle it for the judge. However if time permits and there is no interference with the

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completion of the judging commitment, the judge, with the agreement of the Test Manager, may handle their own dog.

### 1.9 Judges' Briefing

A briefing will be held before each level in which the particular requirements of the judges will be outlined, together with any peculiarities concerning the test site. The briefing should include a reminder to handlers that by the owners signing the entry form they have declared that the handler and the dog is fit and well enough to undertake the relevant level. The judges will advise handlers how many points they have accumulated before the second element group down stay begins, they may also brief the handlers before elements three and four if they so wish, however this is not a review of how the rules will be interpreted. All handlers should be aware of what is expected of them in advance but can use the briefing as a time to clarify points.

Commented [HC1]: This is not in the combined regulations

### 1.10 Responsibilities of Safety Stewards

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

The amount of assistance a safety steward is allowed to give during the haul section, especially in the higher level tests, is minimal and only at the request of the handler.

A safety steward's main responsibility is to ensure the safety of the team that has been assigned to them and only in an emergency should they assist without being asked.

### 1.11 Teams of more than one dog – Brace

- a) A brace (more than one dog) can be entered at all levels, except the level 4 traivos test. Each individual dog must have passed the Level being attempted before it can be entered as a part of a team. The team will be required to go through each level starting at Beginners before proceeding to the next level. The Control Section of a team test will be carried out collectively. In the Pull Section for a team the regulations shall be modified so that all references to the dog shall be read as the team of dogs; the weight to be carried as a load shall be increased by 50% for the second and any subsequent members of a team.
- b) They should ensure that their apparatus is in good working condition.
- c) The entrants should be aware that when entering a team of more than one dog in a test, all dogs are to remain on the same side of the handler throughout the control section, as they would be, as if they were hitched in the cart. (For example, one dog on either side of the handler is not allowed)
- d) When completing the recall the dogs will remain side by side facing the handler and be called together.

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- e) When completing the back up the handler may stand in any position (front/side/behind) in relation to the dogs however the dogs will remain side by side to complete the back up.
- f) The dogs may not be coupled during the test.

### **1.12 Disabled Dogs**

Dogs that have any visual or audible impairment may still be entered into all levels of the tests and the handlers with the judge's permission may use additional visual or audible aids.

The dog however must still complete each and every element of the test, as laid out in the regulations.

### **1.13 Non Newfoundlands & Newfoundland Cross Breeds**

Working Newfoundland Club members who own a non Newfoundland and/or a Newfoundland cross breed may enter their dog/dogs in the tests. The suitability of the dog to carry out the level entered will be agreed by the judges before the commencement of the test.

Certificates for any levels passed will be issued by the Working Newfoundland club however these dogs will not be eligible to apply for certificates of merit, diplomas or championship status.

If the judges feel that any dog entered is unsuitable to carry out the test the entry fee will be refunded.

### **1.14 Junior Handlers**

- a) All junior handlers must be accompanied on all sections excluding the control section by a parent or guardian. This person is not there to give any advice to the handler or to assist with the dog in anyway, but must be present and is responsible for the safety of the junior handler and the dog.
- b) Junior Handlers must read and fully understand all sections of the regulations with particular attention to section 1.15 responsibilities of handlers before entering any test as all aspects apply.
- c) Junior Handlers must be aged between 14 to 18 years old to be able to be eligible to enter level 3 or 4.

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### 1.15 Responsibilities of Handlers

- a) Handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times.
- b) Handlers should have read and understood the regulations for the test they are taking.
- c) A handler exercising their dogs within the defined ring/test area is prohibited. Any dog within 25 yards of the ring/test area must be on a lead.
- d) They should ensure that their apparatus is in good working condition.
- e) They should provide their own weights for levels 1 – 4. Each load should weigh correctly using water for the weight in plastic containers (water can be disposed of easily during the haul).
  - The general consensus for measuring volume to weight mass is 1 Litre = 1 Kilo. Entrants will need to take into account the size and balance of their cart and weight of the actual container when choosing what containers to use.
- f) They should be certain that both they and their dog are fit and healthy and capable of undertaking the test. It is the handler/owners responsibility the club cannot accept any liability.
- g) They should ensure that they have appropriate apparatus for the comfort and safety of their team e.g. repair kit for cart, water and bowl for dog, first aid kit and poo bags.
- h) They should be aware of how to unhitch their dog quickly should an emergency occur and be able to demonstrate this.
- i) They should be aware of the type of obstacles and manoeuvres they will be expected to encounter.
- j) They should understand that **safety is of paramount importance** and that they should carry out the test in the style most suitable and safe for themselves, their dogs, and other entrants and other dogs. However judges have the final decision on safety.
- k) Handlers should be aware of how to correctly load the weights into their cart, taking into account the safety and comfort of the dogs when out on the haul.
- l) If a handler is also judging at the same event, please refer to the Responsibilities of the Judges.

## 2 Test Certificates and Multi Pass Awards

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### 2.1 Multi-Test Pass Awards

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

- a) A **Multi Pass Certificate** will be awarded to a dog or team of dogs who pass any of the Levels Beginners, Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 For five separate times they awarded a bronze, eight times a silver and ten times a gold. These certificate are awarded in recognition and the consistency of the dog(s) in being able to perform at the pass level over a number of months and in differing circumstances.
- b) **Championship Status** will be awarded to a dog or team of dogs who pass Level 4, three separate times with one of the passes obtained using a suitable none wheeled apparatus for at least one pass. Alternatively, this status may be obtained using the same criteria for five separate passes using wheeled apparatus throughout. Championship Status is awarded in recognition of the dedication and the skill of the dog(s) in being able to perform consistently at the highest level.

Apart from The Working Newfoundland Club passes, other passes obtained from the Northern Newfoundland Club, Southern Newfoundland Club and Newfoundland Club tests will be recognised as passes towards these awards. At least one pass must have been obtained with the Working Newfoundland Club to be awarded outright. Owners cannot claim a multi-pass from the Working Newfoundland Club if it has already been claimed with another Club. Champion status may be applied for in retrospect by writing to the committee and using the Championship Status application form downloadable from the Awards page of the website. This status is given at the discretion of the committee.

A dog, or particular team of dogs, will only qualify once for the Awards at any particular level, even though they may perform the requirements again with a new owner.

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

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#### 3.1 Explanatory Notes

- a) For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.
- b) It is the responsibility of the owner(s) to ensure that any dog(s) entered for any test level is FIT AND HEALTHY. The Club cannot accept any liability.
- c) "Halti" type head collars are not permissible.
- d) Dogs must be handled by the same person throughout all sections of each test.
- e) No dog can be entered into a test unless it has successfully completed all the preceding tests at previous events recognised by the Working Newfoundland Club and only one level may be entered on each day (with the exception of a first time Beginners pass progressing to Level 1 on the same day).
- f) The tests will be judged by two appointed persons working in unison. It will be necessary for the judges to place themselves in advantageous positions so that between them they will be able to see the performance of all the elements of the test.
- g) Judges will look at the following points when carrying out their inspections:
  - The ability of the harness:-
    - to allow the dog to pull the apparatus via the traces;
    - to prevent the apparatus from overriding the dog when going downhill or reversing;
    - to prevent the shafts from flying upwards or falling downwards.
  - The ease of fit and absence of chafing.
  - The pull coming from the correct point of the chest.
  - The ability to escape from the apparatus quickly in an emergency.

As long as a harness fulfils these principles, then it will be acceptable. The judges will expect the harness and shafts to be complementary. The shafts must not be so long or so short as to interfere with the action of the dog.

- h) The running order of the convoys will be decided by the Judges.
- i) Audible instructions given by handlers to their dogs can include whistles, although it must be borne in mind that a whistle may also be used by a judge or someone unconnected with the tests.
- j) Handlers can use verbal encouragement during all sections of the tests. Handlers can also touch their dogs during a test but should not physically manhandle them into position; movement of the dog should be accomplished with words not deeds. This is particularly the case with a back-up; the dog should respond to the



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handlers commands only and not to touching of the dog or the close proximity or actions of the handler.

- k) The handler and dog will be tested as a team at all times, to show this the handler must decide when they or their dog needs a stop to drink, when approaching hazards decide whether it is necessary to assist or unhitch & manhandle apparatus themselves. Except for on the out of sight down stays, when leaving the dog for any reason, it is the handlers choice how they leave their dog safely and therefore it can be tethered to the nearest stationary object for its own safety, either hitched or unhitched. If a suitable person is used this person should not in any way interfere with the dog, except for safety reasons.
- l) Unless entering with a team of two dogs, each handler may only handle one individual dog at each level per day. When entering more than one dog in different levels entry fees will be accepted and every effort will be made to accommodate the entrant by the test manger, however if these additional test entries prove to hold up the running of the event, the entrant will be requested to withdraw or to provide another handler for the additional tests by the test manager.
- m) Handlers must show complete awareness of the dog and apparatus at all times during the test, especially around objects both natural and provided. Handlers who put their dogs in a position whereby they will hit obstacles could face failure.
- n) Handlers must show careful thought before attempting any manoeuvre with particular regards to the safety of the team.
- o) In the event of only 'team' to form a group down stay, a reliable dog known to the Judges or Test Manager may be used to make up the group.
- p) Gradients of ascent and descent will and should be encountered, however because each and every draught venue is different, giving an exact measurement is impossible. As a guide, however, in level 2 they will be minimal, in level 3 they should be approximately 6% and level 4 they should be approximately 10%. Other gradients may be encountered on the haul but the above must be completed with the dog in the cart.
- q) Apart from Level 1, all stays will be timed from when the handler is at the wait location indicated and confirmed by the steward and end when the handler is instructed to return to the dog. The dog must stay in the wait position until the handler has returned and the exercise is called over by the steward

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#### 3.2 Environmental Equipment and Requirements

- a) The test area is to be approximately 25 by 25 metres, clean and kept clear of people and other dogs. It is not essential that this area is defined with stakes and tape/rope although a maximum of nine marker cones can be used as reference points. Weaving/Marker poles may also be provided for use at the Judge's discretion.
- b) Apart from the beginners, entrants will need to provide their own equipment (or arrange to borrow equipment) for the tests.
- c) For the Beginners Level Pull section the provided designated apparatus can be a small light weight log, sledge or section of ladder it should weigh no more than 20kg. It should be something that will drag fairly smoothly over the level surface of the test area. If the dog has had some carting experience an empty (no load or other items) light weight two wheeled cart can be used.
- d) Apart from Beginners, each set of draught apparatus provided by the entrants will be expected to carry drinking water and a water bowl for their dog. This will be part of the apparatus and will not be considered a load or part of a load. Other items (first aid, repair kit, poo bags, ice pack, etc.) in addition to any designated load, may be carried at the discretion of the handler and with the agreement of the Judges. An extra lead or cord may also be attached to back of the cart to enable the handler to assist the dog where necessary.
- e) Equipment for the judges/safety stewards:
  - Rules/scoring sheets
  - Clipboards/pencils
  - Whistles/stopwatch
  - Table & chair(s)
  - Shelter/umbrella
  - Results board
  - List detailing the running order which gives the details of the dogs taking part.
- f) First aid for humans and dogs – dogs cannot be carried on human stretchers.
- g) Generally the terrain for the tests should be suitable for the equipment being used. For the Beginners Level it is important that it is a level, well compacted, smooth surface. For the other levels, there should be firm level areas but with variety to include concrete, tarmac, compacted gravel or dirt, mud, leaves, etc where possible. Artificial surface changes should only be used as a last resort.
- h) In selecting a test site, the gradient requirements of Level 2, 3 and 4 should not be seen as posing any great difficulty. The requirement can be achieved in a number of ways. For example, the course could be generally flat but with some short steep climbs that would require the handler to help their dog; there would

### 3 Draught Test

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be equally steep descents. Alternatively, the course could be split into a number of gently rising and falling stretches that would in total amount to the correct level of difficulty.

- i) A 'narrow area' is one that the dogs and apparatus can negotiate but does not have sufficient space for the handler to be alongside.
- j) When using non wheeled apparatus the weights to be carried will be halved. Judges will also use their discretion as to the obstacles, particularly any reverses that non wheeled apparatus will be required to negotiate.
- k) No food or toys may be used during the control section or manoeuvring section at any level. Food may be given at all levels during the haul as a reward but not as an inducement.
- l) Suitable items to be used as loads during the hauls on Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4. These could include objects with lids, small cones, or we recommend water containers. 1 litre of water = 1kg in weight. So 2 x 5 litre bottles of water = 10kg weight.
- m) All Distances are approximate, all weights should be accurate:

	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Beginners Level		None
Level 1	½ - 1 mile	5kg weight carried for a small walk/haul
Level 2	1- 2 miles	10kg weight carried for 50% of the course
Level 3	2 - 3 miles	15kg weight carried for 50% of the course
Level 4	3 - 4miles	20kg weight carried for 50%of the course

### Control Sections

#### 3.3 Point Scoring

One point will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- a) The dog not walking at the side of the handler and responding to their commands.
- b) General lack of control.
- c) Each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes.
- d) If the dog changes position during the stay/halt or wait.
- e) The handler adapting his pace to that of the dog.
- f) Lack of control on turns, waits, stops, recalls and halts.
- g) Each time a subsequent back up is attempted on level 3 & 4.

### 3 Draught Test

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#### 3.4 Change of pace

Points lost for no significant change of pace as follows:

Beginners	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
N/A	N/a	3	Failure	Failure

#### 3.5 Commands

The number of times a command can be given before a point is accumulated are as follows:

- a) Beginners = not applicable
- b) level 1 = 5 times
- c) level 2 = 4 times
- d) level 3 = 3 times
- e) level 4 = 2 times

No points will be lost when handler continues to instruct or encourage the dog to continue to obey a command.

#### 3.6 Stays

Beginners – Level 2: Changing position or getting up during the stay, the dog may be calmly and quietly reset back into the original stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock, but will accumulate the following points each time they are reset:

- a) Beginners = 3 points
- b) level 1 = 4 points
- c) level 2 = 5 points

Level 3 & 4: Changing position or getting up during the stay results in failure.

Dogs that have been distracted by other dogs may be calmly and quietly reset back into the original stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock and will not accumulate any points or fail the test up to the point of distraction.

### **3 Draught Test**

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#### **3.7 Distracting Other Dogs**

Five Points will be accumulated for each and every occurrence of the following:

Distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the group down-stay, this will include rolling around the floor, continual barking/whining or getting up and going back to its handler.

**The points on the first and second elements are added together so if the 'team' has accumulated more than 15 penalty points, in these two elements combined they are not permitted to continue to the next element.**

#### **MANOEUVRE AND PULL/HAUL SECTIONS**

#### **3.8 Hitching / Unhitching**

One point will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- a) The dog is not waiting calmly while they are hitched.
- b) At the end of the course, the dog not waiting calmly while they are unhitched and unharnessed.

#### **3.9 Manoeuvring & Haul Section**

One point will be awarded for each occurrence of the following:

- a) Hitting any objects.
- b) The dog not staying alongside the handler, (unless the handler has positioned themselves to the back or the front of the cart and has instructed the dog accordingly).
- c) Handlers holding on to any part of the cart or equipment unnecessarily, to control the dog.
- d) Not assisting the dog over uneven surfaces, up hills etc, thereby not working as a team.

#### **3.10 Loading**

Five points will be awarded for:

- a) Incorrect and/or unsafe loading

#### **3.11 Commands**

The number of times a command can be given before a point is accumulated are as follows:

- a) Beginners = not applicable
- b) level 1 = 5 times
- c) level 2 = 4 times
- d) level 3 = 3 times

### 3 Draught Test

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- e) level 4 = 2 times

No points will be lost when handler continues to instruct or encourage the dog to continue to obey a command.

#### 3.12 Stays

Whilst out on a haul, changing position or getting up during the stay, the dog may be calmly and quietly reset back into the original stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock, But will accumulate the following points each time they are reset:

- a) level 1 = 4 points  
b) level 2 = 5 points  
d) level 3 = failure  
e) level 4 = failure

Dogs that have been distracted by other dogs may be calmly and quietly reset back into the original stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock and will not lose any points or fail the test.

#### 3.13 Distracting Other Dogs

Five Points will be awarded for each and every occurrence of the following:

Distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the down-stay, this will include rolling around the floor, continual barking/whining or getting up and going back to its handler.

## 4 Draught Test Beginners

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### **Beginners Test - Dogs minimum age is 12 months**

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

**Purpose** To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to safely pull through its harness.

#### **4.1 Control Section**

Points allowed – 15

A course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- There will be between 3 and 6 turns, all at normal pace made up from:
  - between 1 and 2 left turns.
  - between 1 and 2 right turns.
  - between 1 and 2 about turns.
- A wait at a junction of 5 seconds.
- A random, unexpected stop that may be different for each team.
- A 1 minute sit or down stay, the handler will stand next to the dog. Dog may remain on loose lead.
- A simple recall from 5 metres, the dog must be off lead.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward, who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

#### **Permitted actions:**

- Handlers can kneel or extend their arms or even walk backwards during the action part of the recall; the exercise is complete when the dog has returned to the handler and is back on the lead.

#### **Failure:**

- If the dog leaves the ring.
- If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall
- Time lapse of 30 seconds after being called for recall

## 4 Draught Test Beginners

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- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points in the element they are not permitted to continue to the pull

### **Disqualification:**

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

### 4.2 Pull Section

Points allowed - 15

On completing the Control Section satisfactorily, the handler will be required to hitch up the dog to the provided apparatus.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges that the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will instruct the dog to pull the apparatus willingly and safely diagonally across the ring in a straight line as instructed by the steward.

The steward will instruct the handler and dog to stop.

When instructed by the judges, the handler will unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

### **Failure:**

- If the dog leaves the ring
- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this section
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the log, sledge or cart becomes unstable or tips over;
- If the dog is dangerously out of control;
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in a way to cause distress or discomfort to the dog

### **Disqualification:**

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



## 5 Draught Test Level 1

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### Level 1 Test - Dogs minimum age is 18 months

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

**Purpose** To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to safely pull the apparatus over a basic course.

#### 5.1 Control Section

Points allowed - 15

A course will be set in the test area by the two judges, with the following elements

- There will be between 7 and 9 turns, all at normal pace made up from:
  - between 2 and 3 left turns.
  - between 2 and 3 right turns.
  - between 2 and 3 about turns.
- 30 second halt in any position of the handler's choice but the dog must remain in the same position (standing, sitting or down).
- A wait at a junction of 5 seconds.
- A random, unexpected stop that may be different for each team.
- A 1 minute down stay, the handler will be in sight of the dog, approximately 5m away, at 45 seconds the handler will be instructed to return and stand next to the dog at the end of the one minute the instruction will be given that the exercise is complete (off lead).
- A simple recall from 5 metres, the dog must be off lead.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward, who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

#### **Permitted actions:**

- Handlers can kneel or extend their arms or even walk backwards during the action part of the recall; the exercise is complete when the dog is back with the handler;

## 5 Draught Test Level 1

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### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this section they are not permitted to continue to the next element.
- If the dog leaves the ring.
- If the handler remains with the dog during the down stay.
- If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall.
- Time lapse of 30 seconds after being called for the recall.

### **Disqualification:**

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

### 5.2 Manoeuvring Section

Points allowed - 15

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that will be encountered on the haul for the same given exercises, but conducted in a 'safe' environment. It must be possible for the team to lose 15 points in the section enabling them to forfeit the option to proceed to the haul.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges and will incorporate:

- Circular patterns
- Broad curves
- Right angles (left and right).
- A figure of 8.
- A wait to remove an obstacle
- Narrow areas

These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog and apparatus is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

## 5 Draught Test Level 1

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### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.
- Only when this element has been completed satisfactorily will the team' be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element.

### 5.3 The Haul

The handler alone will load a 5k weight with straps safely into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 teams on a haul between 0.5 – 1 mile in distance over at least 2 different terrains, grass, path/hard surface where the wheels can be heard.

Note: Where only one terrain is available then a windbreak may be put on the grass for the cart to be pulled over, or a rumble strip. It is important that the dog can hear the noise and feel the different effect on the cart.

A downstay of 1 minute duration, in sight of the dog, approximately 5 metres away handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay, at 45 seconds the handler will be instructed to return and stand next to the dog at the end of the one minute the instruction will be given that the exercise is complete.

When the handler has completed the haul, they will be instructed by the Judge to unload, unhitch and un-harness the dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the cart becomes unstable or tips over;
- If the dog is dangerously out of control;
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in such a way as to cause distress or discomfort to the dog.
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.

### **Disqualification:**

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

## 6 Draught Test Level 2

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### Dogs minimum age is 24 months

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

**Purpose** To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to safely pull draught apparatus over a longer and more difficult course.

### **6.1 Control Section** (Points allowed- 15 including down stay section)

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- changes of pace to slow and back to normal.
- There will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from:
  - at least 3 left turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace).
  - at least 3 right turns (with at least 1 at slow pace).
  - at least 3 about turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace).
- A 1 minute halt, any position of the handler's choice but the dog must remain in the same position (standing, sitting or down).
- 2 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at slow pace).
- A random, unexpected stop (during normal pace) that may be different for each handler.
- A recall from 10 metres, the dog must be off lead.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

### **Failure**

- If the dog leaves the ring
- If the team have 3 or more resets on the recall
- Time lapse of 30 seconds after being called for the recall

***If the team has accumulated more than 15 points for in the control section they are not permitted to continue to the next element.***

## 6 Draught Test Level 2

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### **Disqualification**

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

### **6.2 Group Down Stay**                      Points included in above allowance

The team will proceed to this element which is a group down-stay of 2 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (recommended approximately 5 dogs).

The dogs will be 4 metres apart and off lead.

The handlers will be in sight of the dogs, approximately 5m away.

If the dog gets up while in the group down-stay; they must be calmly and quietly reset back into the down position and the handler returned to 5m away.

5 points will be accumulated each time the dog is reset. If however they have accumulated too many points and as such failed, after the reset the handler remain with the dog.

In the event of only one team, a reliable dog known to the test manager or judges will be used to make up the 'group' for this element.

#### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element,
- If the dogs leaves the area.
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- If the handler remains with the dog during the down stay.

#### **Disqualification:**

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

### **6.3 Manoeuvring Section**                      Points allowed - 15

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that will be encountered on the haul for the same given exercises, but conducted in a 'safe environment. It must be possible for the team to lose 15 points in this section enabling them to forfeit the option to proceed to the haul.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will cover approximately 150 metres and will incorporate:

- Circular patterns.
- Broad curves.
- Right-angle turns (right and left).
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle.
- A figure of 8.

## 6 Draught Test Level 2

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These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

### **Failure:**

- Only when this element has been completed satisfactorily will the team be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element
- If the team accumulates more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element

### **Disqualification**

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

## 6.4 Haul Section

The handler will load a 10k weight with straps into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges the dog is ready for inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 teams on a haul between 1-2 miles in distance. This will be in a rural environment (or simulated) with at least one change of surface and a minimal gradient to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these gradients.

A load comprising of a total weight of 10 kilograms, will be transported for 50% of the course or at the judges discretion.

The load may be removed after this distance.

## 6 Draught Test Level 2

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During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include:

- A gate.
- A right turn
- A left turn.
- A series of 'S' bends
- A natural distraction
- Simulated emergency stop and unhitch
- Out of sight downstay of 1 minute duration, handlers may leave their dog hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise. People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places
- 1 metre backup

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size, (approximately 5 teams) with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward, and necessary instructions given.

The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges. During this time the handlers at their own discretion will be expected to work from at least two different sides of the cart.

In the event of only one team a reliable dog known to the Judges or Test Manager may be used to make up the group.

Finally, when the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the cart becomes unstable or tips over
- If the dog is dangerously out of control.
- If the dog moves from the spot during the out of sight stay.
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in such a way as to cause distress or discomfort to the dog.

### **Disqualification:**

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

## 7 Draught Test Level 3

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### Dogs minimum age is 24 months

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

**Purpose** To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands on and off lead and to safely pull draught apparatus over a longer and more difficult course.

### 7.1 Control Section Points allowed – 15 including down stay

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

The first 75% of the course will include the following elements and be on lead:

- Change of pace to slow and back to normal and fast and back to normal;
- There will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from all the changes of pace (with at least 3 at each pace).
- a 1 minute halt (in the STAND position);
- 3 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at each pace);
- a random, unexpected stop (during normal pace) that will be different for each entrant;
- a reasonably straight "back-up" of one metre;

*The final 25% of the course will continue at normal pace with the following elements off lead:*

- a recall on the move from 10 metres, while moving away from the dog in a straight line.
- there will then be 3 turns made up of:
  - 1 left turn.
  - 1 right turn.
  - 1 about turn.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.





## 7 Draught Test Level 3

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A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will incorporate:

- Circular patterns.
- Broad curves.
- Right-angle turns (left and right).
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle
- A figure of 8.

These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

***If this element has been completed satisfactorily, the dog and handler will be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element.***

### **7.4 Haul Section**

Points included in element above

The handler will load a 15kg weight with straps safely into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges the dog is ready for inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 teams on a haul between 2-3 miles in distance. This will be in a mixed environment (part rural and part urban or simulated) with at least two changes of surface and a moderate approximately 6% inclines to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these inclines.

## 7 Draught Test Level 3

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A load comprising a total weight of 15 kilograms, will be transported for approximately 50% of the course or at the discretion of the judges.

The load may be removed after this distance.

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include:

- A gate.
- A series of fairly tight 'S' bends.
- A natural distraction
- A ditch.
- A large gap.
- Shallow steps or other similar type obstacle.
- A designated reverse over 2 metres.
- There will also be an out of sight down stay of 2 minute duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise
  - People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide one natural distraction

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size (approximately 5 teams), with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward, and necessary instructions given.

The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges. During this time the handlers at their own discretion will be expected to work from at least three different sides of the cart.

In the event of only one team a reliable dog known to the judges or test manager may be used to make up the group.

Finally, when the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 15 points in this and the previous element,
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the cart becomes unstable or tips over.
- If the dog is dangerously out of control.
- If the dog moves from down stay to a sit/stand.
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- If the dog does takes more than 4 attempts, does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup.

## 7 Draught Test Level 3

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- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in such a way as to cause distress or discomfort to the dog.

**Disqualification:**

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

## 8 Draught Test Level 4

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Dogs minimum age is 30 months – maximum age is 7 years (before 8<sup>th</sup> birthday)

All handlers must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

**Purpose** To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands off lead and to safely pull draught apparatus over a long and difficult course.

### 8.1 Control Section

Points allowed - 15

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements off lead:

- A consistent and noticeable change of pace to slow and back to normal and fast and back to normal;
- There will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from all the changes of pace (with at least 3 at each pace);
- a 1 minute halt (in the STAND position);
- 3 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at each pace);
- a recall on the move from 10 metres, while moving away from the dog incorporating a turn
- a random unexpected STOP that will be different for each handler;
- a reasonably straight "back-up" of two metres;

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges that the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

#### **Failure:**

- If the dog leaves the ring
- No pronounced change of pace
- If the dog takes more than 3 attempts, does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup.
- If the team has accumulated more than 15 points for in the control section, they are not permitted to continue to the second element.

**Disqualification**

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

**8.2 Group Down Stay** Points included in first element

The Handler and dog will proceed to this element which is a group down-stay of 3 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (recommended maximum of 6 dogs). The dogs will be 2m apart and off lead.

The handlers will not be in sight or sound of the dogs, i.e. not being able to be seen and silent.

In the event of only one team, a reliable dog known to the test manager or judges will be used to make up the 'group' for this element.

**Failure:**

- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- If the dog moves from the down-stay to a sit/stand.
- Handler remains with the dog during the down stay.

**Disqualification:**

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

**8.3 Manoeuvring Section**

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that will be encountered on the haul for the same given exercises, but conducted in a 'safe environment. It must be possible for the team to lose 5 points in this section enabling them to forfeit the option to proceed to the haul.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will incorporate:

- Circular patterns.
- Broad curves.
- Right-angle turns (left and right).
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle
- 1 metre backup
- A figure of 8.

These should include natural features i.e. trees, bushes, pathways etc, where possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus (empty of weight), harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.

## 8 Draught Test Level 4

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When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward.

### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 5 points they are not permitted to continue to the next element.

***If this element has been completed satisfactorily, the dog and handler will be directed to a waiting area ready for the next element.***

### **Disqualification:**

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

## 8.4 **Haul Section**

The handler will load a 20kg weight with straps into the cart, whilst being observed by the judges.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the judges the dog is ready for inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler with their dog alongside them, will proceed in convoy of approximately 5 teams on a haul of 3-4 miles in distance. This will be in a mixed environment (part rural and part urban or simulated) with at least three changes of surface and at least two noticeable gradients approximately 10% to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these inclines.

A load comprising of a total weight of 20 kilograms will be transported for 50% of the course or at the discretion of the judges..

The load may be removed after this distance.

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include:

- A gate.
- A right turn.
- A left turn.

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- A series of fairly tight 'S' bends.
- A ditch.
- A large gap.
- Shallow steps or other similar type obstacle.
- A designated reverse over 3 metres round an object (L shape reverse over 2 stages).
- There will be an out of sight down stay of 3 minute duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise.
  - People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places.

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size (approximately 5), with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges or if the judges have instructed the safety steward, by the safety steward, and necessary instructions given.

The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges. During this time the handlers at their own discretion will be expected to work from all sides of the cart.

In the event of only one team a reliable dog known to the judges or test manager may be used to make up the group.

Finally, when the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

### **Failure:**

- If the team accumulates more than 7 points in elements three and four,
- If through lack of handlers safety awareness the cart becomes unstable or tips over.
- If the dog is dangerously out of control.
- If the dog changes position from the down-stay.
- If the dog intimidates another dog whilst in the down stay.
- If the dog does takes more than 3 attempts, does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup.
- If the handler manoeuvres the apparatus in such a way as to cause distress or discomfort to the dog.

### **Disqualification:**

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





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