



This rulebook was created to provide an edited, easy to understand English version of the current RH 1 Rules, as defined by the IRO / SV for use by USCA Members and Competitor Entries into USCA RH 1 Working Dog Trials by Stefanie Dunion, USCA Liaison to the SV / IRO and Nathaniel Roque, Director of Judges USCA.

The RH 1 or RH – E title is the same working title. For evaluation and scorebook entry USCA and currently the SV identify this as RH 1. These rules are the same as described in the IRO or SV Rulebook.

All Licensed USCA Working / Performance Judges are approved to evaluate and award the RH 1 Title at an authorized Trial.

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General Rules for RH - 1 (RH-E)

“Edited version from the complete FCI RH rulebook for use by USCA Members and USCA Trials”

General information:

The rescue dog tests are designed to qualify each dog for its area of use. Successful completion of a test is proof of proper rescue dog training in that particular discipline. This is one of the basic requirements for determining mission readiness in participating organizations.

Mission readiness is determined and awarded by its home organizations, which can stipulate further requirements such as additional dog handler skills, electronic communication skills, alpine rescue, age limits for both dog and handler, physical fitness, personal equipment preparedness, First Aid courses, periodic re-testing, etc. Rescue dog tests can be held throughout the year. If the safety of the handler or dog is in question, testing must be postponed to a later date. There must be due compliance with safety and environmental regulations.

The verification of the dog’s identity through checking the tattoo or microchip has to be possible. Not identifiable dogs have to be described in a document for the trial paperwork (USCA, umbrella organization) of the organizing trial by the incumbent judge.

Dogs may take part in the rescue dog tests regardless of size, breed or pedigree certificate. A handler may only enter one testing event on any given day but is allowed to lead more than one dog. After successfully completing a test at Level A in the relevant category, the dog may immediately proceed to Level B in the relevant category as long as it meets age requirements. Handlers are allowed to show more than one dog.

A dog may not be handled (shown) by several handlers within a trial. Bitches in heat may participate in all tests, but must be kept apart from all the other participants and are to be tested last at the end of the event.

Sick and possibly contagious dogs are excluded from tests and must not be taken to the test site.

If the dog shows poor obedience, the judge will give the handler three chances to recall the dog. If this exercise will be accomplished after the second command, the exercise will be

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downgraded with two grades. If the dog shows no obedience after the third voice command the exercise has to be discontinued. The judge decides the moment for the voice command.

The judge is entitled to discontinue the activity if the dog is quite clearly ill-prepared, displays insufficient willingness to work, is obviously not under the control of its handler, or if physical limitations can be clearly identified. The judge is entitled to give a warning to the handler if he reacts unsportsmanlike or uses improper aid. After the first warning 5 points will be taken off, after the second warning the discipline will be discontinued and graded with unsatisfactory. Gross unsportsmanlike conduct by the handler, or aggressive behavior from the dog, entitles the judge to immediately disqualify the RH Team (RHT).

Types of alert

Barking:

While barking the dog clearly homes in on the victim or the location of his/her scent and barks continuously and in direction until the handler appears and the alert is over. The dog must not touch the victim. When hiding places are enclosed but accessible to the dog, it should indicate the precise location of the scent source through direction giving behavior.

Bringsel:

A special collar, on which a “bringsel” is fixed, is fitted on the dog if it is doing bringsel work. The collar has to have a releasing mechanism which protects the dog from injuries. When it has found the person the dog takes the bringsel to the handler. There is no need for it to sit during the handover of the bringsel. Once the bringsel has been removed, and at the order of the handler, the dog takes the handler directly and independently to the victim. Whilst doing so, the handler must be in constant contact with his dog. The dog may be taken on a leash with any length for this purpose.

Recall:

During recall the dog takes the quickest route back and forth between handler and victim, thereby leading the handler to the victim or the place of alert. In addition, the dog must clearly show the handler the sort of behavior that can clearly be interpreted as alert behavior. The dog handler notifies the judge of this type of behavior before the scent work begins.

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Pawing:

At the avalanche work also pawing at the place of alert is a correct type of alerting. It has to be carried out clearly and with the target to ingress. Pawing can also be shown in combination with barking.

Trial authorization:

The permit to hold an event is issued by the responsible umbrella organization (USCA) of the event organizer (USCA, SV,FCI-LAO or IRO-NRO). Trial results are mutually recognized by all FCI-LAOs and IRO-NROs. A testing event competition can only be held when there are at least 4 participating dog handlers.

Trial (Test organization):

The Trial Secretary is responsible for the organizational portion of the testing event. He / she handles and oversees all the necessary work for the preparation and execution of tests, especially the set-up of the track circuit for the disciplines obedience and dexterity in accordance with the judge. The Trial Secretary is available to the judge for the entire duration of the test. He has to be appointed to the judge at least 14 days before the event starts.

Liability:

The dog handler is liable for himself and his dog in the event of any accidents during the testing event. The owner of the dog must pay for any injuries or damages caused by his dog. He must therefore be insured as a dog handler against such losses. All instructions given by the judge or Trial Secretary are to be accepted and voluntarily executed at the handler's own risk. Proof of officially required vaccinations (vaccination certificate) must be furnished to the responsible judge or Trial Secretary before the test upon request.

Age limit:

The dog must have reached the required minimum age on the day of test.

- Suitability test 14 months
- A test 18 months
- B test 20 months

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Temperament check:

The judge is to observe the temperament of the dog at the start of and throughout the whole test. The judge is obliged to disqualify any animal showing obvious temperament inadequacies and to note this down in the log book.

The temperament check includes:

- Confidence and composure of the dog around strangers.
- Confidence and composure during unexpected disturbances.
- Resilience during difficult situations such as extended work periods, many dogs working simultaneously, extremes in temperature and weather, presence of dust and smoke, or strong, unpleasant odors etc.
- Additional temperament inadequacies such as gun shyness, nervousness and its associated aggressiveness, aggressive disposition, fearfulness etc.

Duties of the test participant:

Every dog handler is obliged to meet registration deadlines. Any delay in arrival is to be reported to the Trial Secretary (Test Organizing Officer) immediately. Every handler taking part in a test must arrive suitably equipped and clothed for the relevant test category. Dogs must be on the leash in start position when signing in and out with the judge. The handler is to comply with the instructions of the judge and the Trial Secretary.

Every handler is obliged to complete all disciplines, even if he has not passed with the minimum score in a phase (discipline).

Permitted aids (equipment):

The following aids are permitted as a means of tactical support for search work specifically during the scent work:

- Whistle: Before the activity begins the judge must be notified about the use of audible whistle sounds.
- Identifying harness and/or chain collar. Lights and/or bells are allowed.
- Water and/or sponge

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Score Book:

The score book issued by the national organization and is mandatory for every trial entry and must be registered by USCA (or AWDA, WUSV, FCI-LAO or the IRO-NRO). It must be presented to the Trial Secretary prior to the trial. The trial score is to be entered by the Trial Secretary and confirmed and signed by the judge. If the performance of a dog is registered in several organizations (USCA,SV, FCI,IRO etc) all performance records (score books) must be duly presented and the test score entered.

The trial is complete when the results have been announced and entered into the score book and trial paperwork and returned to the handler. Any premature termination (DQ/Termination) of the test is to be recorded in the score book along with an explanation.

Scoring:

The performances shown are awarded a qualification and score points. The grades and accompanying points must accurately reflect the performance of each exercise. In case of equal scores at events with ranking order, the deciding factor shall be the number of points scored in the individual sections in the following order:

A. Scent Work

B. Obedience and Dexterity.

Only whole points may be awarded in the overall assessment. Fractional points may, however, be awarded for individual exercises. If the sum total of a section adds up to a fractional number, this is to be rounded up or down according to the overall impression of the performance in this section.

In order to pass a test, the dog must have obtained at least 70% of the possible points in each discipline.

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Scoring table:

Score Excellent - Very good - Good - Satisfactory - Unsatisfactory

- 5 points 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 - 0
- 7 points 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 - 5.0 4.5 - 0
- 8 points 8.0 7.5 7.0 - 6.5 6.0 5.5 - 0
- 10 points 10.0 9.5 - 9.0 8.5 - 8.0 7.5 - 7.0 6.5 - 0
- 15 points 15.0 -14.5 14.0 - 13.5 13.0 - 12.0 11.5 - 10.5 10 - 0
- 20 points 20.0 -19.5 19.0 - 18.0 17.5 - 16.0 15.5 - 14.0 13.5 - 0
- 25 points 25.0 - 24.0 23.5 - 22.5 22.0 - 20.0 19.5 - 17.5 17.0 - 0
- 30 points 30.0 - 29.0 28.5 - 27.0 26.5 - 24.0 23.5 - 21.0 20.5 - 0
- 35 points 35.0 - 33.5 33.0 - 31.5 31.0 - 28.0 27.5 - 24.5 24.0 - 0
- 40 points 40.0 - 38.5 38.0 - 36.0 35.5 - 32.0 31.5 - 28.0 27.5 - 0
- 50 points 50.0 - 48.0 47.5 - 45.0 44.5 - 40.0 39.5 - 35.0 34.5 - 0
- 60 points 60.0 - 57.5 57.0 - 54.0 53.5 - 48.0 47.5 - 42.0 41.5 - 0
- 70 points 70.0 - 67.0 66.5 - 63.0 62.5 - 56.0 55.5 - 49.0 48.5 - 0
- 80 points 80.0 - 76.5 76.0 - 72.0 71.5 - 64.0 63.5 - 56.0 55.5 - 0
- 90 points 90.0 - 86.0 85.5 - 81.0 80.5 - 72.0 71.5 - 63.0 62.5 - 0
- 100 points 100 - 95.5 95.0 - 90.0 89.5 - 80.0 79.5 - 70.0 69.5 - 0
- 120 points 120 - 114.5 114 - 108.0 107.5 - 96.0 95.5 - 84 83.5 - 0
- 140 points 140 - 133.5 133 - 126.0 125.5 - 112.0 111.5 - 98.0 97.5 - 0
- 200 points 200 - 190.5 190 - 180.0 179.5 - 160 159.5 - 140 139.5 - 0
- 300 points 300 - 285.5 285 - 270.0 269.5 - 240 239.5 - 210 209.5 - 0
- Percentage > 95 % 95 - 90 % 89 - 80 % 79 - 70 % 69 - 0 %

Score sheets:

The documentation of test results is to be conducted according to national regulations (USCA trial regulations).

RH Judges (Rescue dog judges):

The trials (tests) may only be carried out by judges approved by the umbrella organization of the organizer (FCI or IRO, USCA is a member of both IRO and WUSV/SV providing RH titles). All judging rules and regulations of the organizer’s umbrella organization apply (WUSV & IRO).

A judge may evaluate a maximum of 36 units in one day.

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The sections are weighted as follows:

- Section A scent work Suitability Test 2 units
- Section A scent work level A 2 units
- Section A scent work level B 2 units
- Section A water rescue Suitability Test 2 units
- Section A water rescue level A 2 units
- Section A water rescue level B 2 units
- Section B obedience and dexterity Suitability Test 1 unit
- Section B obedience and dexterity level A 1 unit
- Section B obedience and dexterity level B 1 unit

The judge's decision is final.

Phase A Types of scent work

(Handler may choose , "Tracking" , "Area Search" or "Rubble"

Rescue Dog Suitability Test Tracking RH – 1 (RH – F E)

Consists of: Scent Work 100 Points

Obedience and Dexterity 100 Points

Total Possible Points 200 Points

Scent Work for RH 1 (RH – F E) SECTION A:

Scoring criteria and Total Possible Points

- Total Possible Points 100 Points
- Alerting Exercise 20 Points
- Adherence to Scent Track 50 Points
- Objects 3 x 10 Points 30 Points

General Rules:

Composition of the track:

- Own track: 400 paces (length of pace 70 cm), age: 20 minutes. 2 right angles.
- The handler walks the entire trail at a normal pace; whilst laying the trail he must not scrape the surface or stop.
- Starting point: signposted (left).
After waiting a short time the handler walks at a normal pace in the direction indicated.
- Articles: 3 well-worn objects of daily use belonging to the handler, maximum

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- shoe size, not markedly different in colour from the terrain.
- The articles must be placed on, not next to, the scent trail. The first object is laid on the first track, the second on the second track and the third at the end of the trail.
 - Time limit: maximum 15 minutes.

The search time begins when the dog starts its search.

Permitted commands:

A voice command for “Search”. The voice command is permitted when tracking begins and after any object. Occasional praise and occasional voice commands for “Search” are also allowed.

Performance rules:

Alert exercise

The alert exercise is to be held outside the area that is to be used subsequently for the search.

The victim must make his way to the place of alert without the dog being able to observe this. On the instructions of the judge the handler makes the dog search-ready (from complete rulebook IPO-R 2012 Page 17 of 95) and sends it, with a single voice command and hand signal, to the victim, who can be seen sitting or lying 30 m away. The dog must alert clearly and with no help from the handler.

Permitted types of alert to the victim are barking, bringsel or recall. The handler confirms the alert. Depending on the type of alert, the handler goes to the victim or is taken to him by the dog. The handler lets the dog off the leash approx. 3 m from the indicated victim. The dog must remain calm whilst the handler approaches the victim directly. On the instructions of the judge the handler is to collect his dog and report to the judge to sign out.

Search work:

The test participant must wait with his dog search-ready until called. The search-ready dog may be led off leash or by a 10 m leash on a chain collar or harness. There must be no use of force prior to the tracking task, during the preparation time and throughout the entire tracking task.

The handler reports to the judge with his dog on the leash. Permitted types of alerts on finding the articles are picking up or indicating, or both alternately. When picking up, the dog can stand still, sit down or come to the handler. When indicating, the dog can lie, sit or stand.

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If necessary, the handler takes his dog off the leash and instructs it to commence the search. The handler follows his dog and must also stay at a distance of 10 m during an off-leash search. As soon as the dog has found the article, it must immediately pick it up or forcefully indicate without any influence from the handler. If the dog has indicated the object, the handler makes his way to his dog. The handler lifts up the object to show that the dog has found it. The handler then continues the tracking task with his dog.

The Tracking Search, Suitability Test, section is completed when the found articles are shown, the dog handler reports to the judge and signs out and the judge announces the marks.

Assessment:

Alert exercise

- The judge assesses the independent alert of the victim by the dog.
- Any harassment of the victim by the dog is duly penalized.
- Any injury to a victim by the dog leads to disqualification.
- If the alert behavior of the dog is triggered by the dog handler and/or the victim, this exercise is to be awarded 0 points.

Search work:

- The judge assesses picking up and following the trail and indicating the found articles.
- The dog should display positive behavior during the search and be confident when indicating the objects. Slight deviation from the trail is not a fault, as long as the dog is able to continue to follow it independently.
- Every article that is not found scores 0 points. Any article that is not indicated independently by the dog is marked as not found.
- The task is cut short by the judge if the handler is more than 10 m away from the track.
- The judge may allow a greater distance on difficult terrain. The work will definitely be stopped if the judge is under the impression that the dog is no longer able to pick up the track by itself.

Rescue Dog Suitability Test Area Search RH-1 (RH-FL E)

- Consists of: Scent work 100 Points
- Obedience and dexterity 100 Points
- Total possible points 200 Points

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Assessment criteria and total possible points (search):

- Total possible points 100 Points
- Execution of task The work rate and directability of the dog should come under particular scrutiny. 30 Points
- Victim alert 70 Points

General rules

- Search area: 5000 m², open and covered terrain.
- Victims: 1 victim.
- Visual and physical contact must be possible for the dog. The hiding place of the victims may be changed after every dog. Hiding places can be used more than once.

After being given a description of his role, the victim takes up his position as instructed by the judge before the task begins. The rescue dog team should not see the victim's placement. The victim is there to assist the judge; he must lie or sit and remain quiet, without giving the handler and / or the dog any help whatsoever.

- Time limit: maximum 10 minutes.
- The search time begins when the dog starts its search.

Permitted commands:

Repeated and familiar voice commands and hand signals are permitted.
(from RH rulebook IPO-R 2012 Page 19 of 95)

Performance rules:

The test participant must wait with his dog search-ready out of sight of the search area until called. The search-ready dog may wear an identifying harness and / or a chain collar. The judge will give a verbal description of the search area, which is visually demarcated or has clearly identifiable boundaries. The handler may choose his own route through the area.

Before beginning the search, the dog handler notifies the judge of the type of alert his dog will give. Permitted types of alert are barking, bringsel and recall.

The judge instructs the victim to move to the allocated hiding place.

The search begins at the command of the judge. The handler instructs the dog to search at what appears to be an appropriate point at the border or in the search area.

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Once it is clear that the dog has been released, the judge gives the handler permission to leave the starting point. The dog is to comb the site at the command of its handler. While alerting, the dog may receive absolutely no support from the dog handler and / or the victim. The dog handler must report the alert to the judge and may not go to his dog until instructed to do so by the judge. The dog must alert clearly and forcefully when the victim is found, until his handler reaches him. The alert must be carried out within a maximum 2-meter radius of the victim.

The Area Search, (Aptitude Test section) is completed when the dog handler reports to the judge and signs out and the judge announces the score and rating.

Assessment:

Shortcomings in the dog’s directability, intensity of search, agility and independence, and any harassment of a victim by the dog are duly penalized. An alert which is not confirmed by the dog handler is a fault, but is not to be marked as a false alert. If the alert behavior of the dog is triggered by the dog handler and / or the victim, this victim alert will be awarded 0 points.

- The first false alert will be marked as minus 20 points.
- A second false alert will lead to the scent work being abandoned.
- The test cannot be passed if a victim is not found.
- Any injury to a victim by the dog leads to disqualification.

Rescue Dog Suitability Test Rubble Search RH-1 (RH-T E)

Consists of: Scent work 100 Points
Obedience and dexterity 100 Points
Total possible points 200 Points

Scent work for RH-T E Section A (rubble)

- Assessment criteria and total possible points
- Total possible points 100 Points
- Execution of task The work rate and directability of the dog should come under particular scrutiny.
30 Points
- Victim alert = 70 Points

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General rules

- Search area: destroyed or partially destroyed building, may consist of different building materials, at least 400 – 600 m², on one level.
- The dog handler and judge must be able to see into the search area.
- Victims: 1 victim, concealed.

The dog may have visual and / or physical contact. Hiding places may be used more than once, but there is to be no danger of false alerts when changing hiding places. Hiding places used must remain unconcealed when unoccupied.

- The victim must be in position 10 minutes before the dog begins to search.

There must be due compliance with safety regulations. The victim is there to assist the judge and must remain quiet, without giving the handler and / or the dog any help whatsoever.

- Time limit: maximum 15 minutes.
- The search time begins when the dog starts its search.

Permitted commands:

Repeated and familiar voice commands and hand signals are permitted. (from complete rulebook IPO-R 2012 Page 21 of 95)

Performance rules:

- The test participant must wait with his dog out of sight of the search area until called.
- The handler is given a drawing of the site. The search area is visually demarcated or has clearly identifiable boundaries.
- Before beginning the search, the dog handler notifies the judge of the type of alert his dog will give. Permitted types of alert are barking, bringsel and recall.
- The search-ready dog is to begin the search without an identifying harness or collar at a point the dog handler deems correct. A collar may only be used for the attachment of a bringsel and must be fitted with a release mechanism as a protection against injury. The dog is to search the site at the command of its handler. The handler may follow his dog into the ruins as soon as ordered to do so by the judge.

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- While alerting, the dog may receive absolutely no support from the dog handler and / or the victim. The dog handler must report the alert to the judge and may not go to his dog until instructed to do so by the judge. The dog must alert clearly, forcefully and in the right direction to show the location of the scent / the place of alert until his handler reaches him.
- The handler must clearly identify the place where the dog has picked up the scent.

The Rubble Search, Aptitude Test, section is completed when the dog handler reports to the judge and signs out and the judge announces the score and rating.

Assessment:

Shortcomings in the dog handler’s tactics or in the dog’s directability, intensity of search, agility and independence are duly penalized. An alert which is not confirmed by the dog handler is a fault, but is not to be marked as a false alert.

- If the alert behavior of the dog is triggered by the dog handler and / or the victim, this victim alert will be awarded 0 points.
- The first false alert will be marked as minus 20 points.
- A second false alert will lead to the scent work being abandoned.
- The test cannot be passed if the victim is not found.

Obedience and Dexterity for RH 1 (RH-F E, FL E, T E Section B)

Scoring criteria and Total Possible Points

- Total Possible Points 100 Points
- Exercise 1: Heeling 10 Points
- Exercise 2: Walking through a group of people 10 Points
- Exercise 3: Off leash heeling 10 Points
- Exercise 4: Tunnel 10 Points
- Exercise 5: Traversing of unpleasant surfaces 10 Points
- Exercise 6: Carrying and handing over the dog 10 Points
- Exercise 7: Lying down while distracted 10 Points
- Exercise 8: Traversing an elevated rigid wooden board 15 Points
- Exercise 9: Traversing of 3 different obstacles 15 Points

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General Rules:

The start and execution of the exercises are to be announced by the judge or a person he appoints. The dog should carry out the exercise willingly and quickly. In the start position, the dog must sit close to the handler on his left side, oriented directly forward, and its shoulder may not be further forward than the handler's knee.

Two gunshots (caliber 6-9 mm) have to be fired during the off leash heeling. The dog must be indifferent to the gunshots. Should the dog show any gun-shyness, it will be disqualified from the test. If the dog becomes agitated during the shooting, this will be considered acceptable as long as it remains under the control of its handler. Only a dog that reacts indifferently to gunshots can be awarded full points.

The dog must be on the leash when signing in and out and as well during exercise 1 and 2.

Performance Rules

1. Heeling 10 Points

Exercise requirements:

The attached diagram for heeling and off leash heeling of the suitability test must be followed. As a sole exception, depending on local conditions, the judge may change the direction of the angles, which must be the same for all test examinees.

Permitted commands:

Either a short voice command or a hand signal for heel, which may be given at the start and again when changing pace.

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Conduct of exercise:

From the start position, the dog must be attentive to the handler's voice command heel and obey willingly and directly, and heel going to the left side of the dog handler and remaining oriented directly forward, with its shoulder no further forward than the handler's knee. When the handler stops, the dog must sit quickly, without assistance and remain oriented forward.

At the beginning of the exercise the RHT is to take 50 steps at normal pace straight down the middle line without stopping; upon turning around and an additional 10-15 steps at normal pace, the Handler (RHT) must demonstrate both the running pace and the slow pace for at least ten steps each. Change of pace from running to a slow pace must be achieved abruptly with no steps being taken in between. The RT Team (RHT) then goes a few steps at normal pace and demonstrates the first corner on a pattern of 20-25 steps without a change of pace, the second

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corner on a pattern of 25-30 steps, turns around, a further 10-15 steps at normal pace and a start position. Then another 10-15 steps at normal pace are followed by a corner and 20-25 steps at normal pace back to the middle line and another start position.

Assessment:

Running ahead, straying to the side, lagging behind, slow or hesitant sitting, a dispirited attitude by the dog, and additional voice commands/ hand signal or physical assistance from the handler, will be penalized.

2. Walking through a group of people (10 Points)

Exercise requirements:

The group must consist of at least four people incl. the 2nd dog handler, and must have two people each with a dog on the leash (dog and bitch). The group moves in a circle in a clockwise direction.

Permitted commands:

Either a short voice command or a hand signal for heel may be given again at every start.

Conduct of exercise:

From the start position the dog handler passes close by the circle of people with his dog on the leash, starting from the outside and going at normal pace in an anticlockwise direction so that the dog to be tested directly encounters each of the dogs brought along by the group. The RHT stops once at which the group continues to move and at least one person passes the RHT. Making a figure eight, the dog handler then leads his dog through the group at normal pace, stops in the middle and his dog takes up the start position independently. The RHT then leaves the group at normal pace and completes this exercise with a start position.

Assessment:

Running ahead, straying to the side, lagging behind, slow or hesitant sitting, a dispirited attitude by the dog, and additional voice commands / hand signal or physical assistance from the handler, will be penalized.

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3. Off leash heeling (10 Points)

Exercise requirements:

The attached diagram for heeling and off leash heeling of the suitability test must be followed. As a sole exception, depending on local conditions, the judge may change the direction of the angles, which must be the same for all test examinees.

Permitted commands:

Either a short voice command or a hand signal for heel, which may be given at the start and again when changing pace.

Conduct of exercise:

From the start position, the dog must be attentive to the handler's voice command heel and obey willingly and directly, and heel going to the left side of the dog handler and remaining oriented directly forward, with its shoulder no further forward than the handler's knee. When the handler stops, the dog must sit quickly, without assistance and remain oriented forward.

At the beginning of the exercise the RHT is to take 50 steps at normal pace straight down the middle line without stopping; upon turning around and an additional 10-15 steps at normal pace, the RHT must demonstrate both the running pace and the slow pace for at least ten steps each. Change of pace from running to a slow pace must be achieved abruptly with no steps being taken in between. The Handler (RHT) then goes a few steps at normal pace and demonstrates the first corner on a track of 20-25 steps without a change of pace, the second corner on a track of 25-30 steps, turns around, a further 10-15 steps at normal pace and a start position. A further 10-15 steps at normal pace are followed by a corner and 20-25 steps at normal pace back to the middle line and another start position.

Assessment:

Running ahead, straying to the side, lagging behind, slow or hesitant sitting, a dispirited attitude by the dog, and additional voice commands / hand signal or physical assistance from the handler, will be penalized.

4. Tunnel (10 Points)

Exercise requirements:

Obstacle:

- Fixed access, height 0.50 m, length 3 m;
- Adjoining crawl pace: Soft material, length 3 m.

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Permitted commands:

A voice command for “Crawl”, “Stay”, “Start position”.

Conduct of exercise:

The dog handler takes up the start position at an appropriate distance from the obstacle with his dog off the leash. At the voice command for “Crawl” and / or a hand signal the dog must go through the apparatus. Once the dog has left the apparatus it must comply with the voice command for “Stay”. At the judge’s command, the dog handler goes to his dog and orders it into the start position with the voice command for “Start position” or a hand signal.
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Assessment:

Hesitation in entering and passing through the tunnel are duly penalized. If the dog does not leave the tunnel the exercise is marked as unsatisfactory.

5. Traversing of unpleasant surfaces (10 Points)

Exercise requirements:

Obstacle:

An area of tin sheeting or steel building lattice of approx. 3 x 3 meters covered with stones, construction materials, rubble, or similar materials.

Permitted commands:

A voice command for “Heel”

Conduct of exercise:

The start position is to be assumed in front of the obstacle. At the command “Heel”, the handler walks from one end of the obstacle field and back with his dog willingly following in the heel position. On the return stretch, one full stop must be demonstrated. After leaving the obstacle field, the start position is to be assumed.

Assessment:

Unconfident behavior by the dog, hesitation and avoidance of materials will be duly penalized. If the dog avoids unpleasant material, the exercise will be awarded 0 points.

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6. Carrying and handing over the dog (10 Points)

Exercise requirements:

- Start position: The dog may be picked up from the ground or a higher level (a spotting table, for example).
- A carrying assistant.

Permitted commands:

Repeated and familiar voice commands and hand signals are permitted.

Conduct of exercise:

From the start position, the dog handler may give a voice command or hand signal to adopt a start position that makes it easier to lift the dog. Distance control between handler and dog is not incorrect.

The handler carries his dog in a straight line for 10 m and hands it to a second person. The second person carries the dog another 10 m and sets it on the ground. The handler walks next to the carrying assistant. He may speak to his dog, but must not touch it. The carrying assistant then places the dog on the ground and the handler puts his dog in the start position. The dog may show no aggression towards the handler or the assistant. While being carried the dog must be able to move its tail freely.

Assessment:

If the dog is uncooperative, agitated whilst being carried, growls or moves away when set down, this will be duly penalized. If the dog jumps down, the exercise is marked as unsatisfactory.

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Excessive shyness or aggression towards the handler or assistant will lead to disqualification.

7. Laying down while distracted (10 Points)

Exercise requirements:

Two marked places for dog and bitch.

Permitted commands:

A voice command or a hand signal for "Down"; Either a voice command or a hand signal for "Sit up".

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Conduct of exercise:

Before the second dog begins work the dog handler assumes the start position with his dog off leash at a place specified by the judge. At the judge’s command he orders his dog to “Lay down” with a voice command or a hand signal, leaving no objects near it.

The dog handler now goes to a second place at least 30 paces away, as specified by the judge, and stands still facing the dog. The dog must lay quietly without any intervention by the handler, whilst the first dog demonstrates exercises 1 to 6. While the other dog does exercise 1 the dog handler goes alone to the group of people and then returns to his original place.

At the judge’s command the handler is to go to his dog and stand to the right of it. At the further command of the judge, the handler gives the voice command for “Sit up” or a hand signal. The dog must quickly sit up straight.

Assessment:

Marks are duly deducted if the dog lays in an agitated manner, stands / sits up too soon or comes to meet the handler when being collected, and for agitated behavior by the handler or other covert assistance.

The exercise will be assessed as unsatisfactory if the dog stands or sits instead of laying down but stays in its place. If the dog moves more than 3 meters away from its place once the dog on show has completed the fourth exercise, a part-assessment is carried out.

If the dog moves more than 3 meters away from its place before the fourth exercise has been completed, the exercise will be awarded 0 points.

8. Traversing an elevated rigid wooden board (15 Points)

Exercise requirements:

Obstacle:

- Wooden plank: Length approx. 4 m, width approx. 0.30 m, height approx. 0.04 m.
- Mount and dismount.
- 2 bases of the same size: Height approx. 0.40 m, fixed.
- Plank fixed in place.

Permitted commands:

A voice command and / or a hand signal for “Cross”; a voice command and / or a hand signal for start position.

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Conduct of exercise:

The dog handler takes up the start position at an appropriate distance from the obstacle with his dog off the leash. At the voice signal for “Cross” and / or a hand signal, the dog must mount, cross and dismount the wooden bridge quietly and confidently. The handler walks alongside his dog at a normal pace. The handler stops a few paces behind the apparatus and uses a voice command and / or hand signal to put his dog in the start position. The dog must traverse the full length of the plank without any signs of fear or inclination to jump.

Assessment:

Hesitant or unsure footing is duly penalized.
 If the dog jumps down, the exercise is marked as unsatisfactory.

9. Traversing of 3 different obstacles (15 Points)

Exercise requirements:

Obstacles:

- 1 obstacle, height approx. 0.40 m.
- 1 obstacle, height approx. 0.60 m.
- 1 obstacle, height approx. 0.80 m.
- The obstacles are to be set up approx. 10 m apart.

Permitted commands:

- A voice command and / or hand signal for “Heel”.
- A voice command and / or hand signal for “Jump”.
- A voice command and / or a hand signal for start position.

Conduct of exercise:

The dog handler takes up the start position at an appropriate distance from the obstacle with his dog off the leash. The voice command for “Heel” and / or a hand signal is used to direct the dog at a chosen pace to the first of the sequence of obstacles. At the voice command for “Jump” and / or a hand signal, the dog must clear the obstacle, either in one jump or by first landing on it. The handler walks alongside, summons his dog behind the obstacle with the voice command for “Heel” and / or a hand signal, and directs his dog straight to the next obstacle.

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The Handler and Dog(RHT) proceed in the same way for obstacles 2 and 3. The handler uses a voice command and / or hand signal to bring his dog into the start position behind the last obstacle.

Assessment:

- Change of pace does not form part of the assessment.
- Should the dog fail to clear an obstacle, 5 points are deducted.
- **This test section is completed when the dog handler reports to the judge and signs out and the judge announces the score and ratings. (Obedience and Dexterity)**