

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

13, Place Albert 1er, B - 6530 Thuin (Belgique), tel : ++32.71.59.12.38, fax : ++32.71.59.22.29, internet: <http://www.fci.be>

FCI GUIDELINES

for
International Nordic Style Trials



Written upon request of the FCI Commission for Utility Dogs by
Tiina Hiljanen (SF)
Staffan Nordin (S)

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GENERAL REGULATIONS

Scope

The Nordic protection trial consists of four parts; obedience, tracking, article search and protection work in compliance with these rules.

The tracking, messenger dog and search trials consist of four parts; the main event has to be carried out on two separate days, the obedience part and the article search each on one day. In the main event, the same search areas, tracks, etc. may not be used on both days.

These Regulations do not affect national trials and championships existing in various countries and whose regulation is under jurisdiction of the governing national canine organization of each of these countries.

Eligibility to participate

It is up to every country to decide what national classes are recognised and what requirements need to be fulfilled before a dog is allowed to compete in the international class. In order to participate in an international competition, however, the handler and the dog together should at least once have passed the previous highest class in their own country.

Temperament Test

Before any trial starts, prior to the first examination phase, the dogs must undergo an impartiality test (temperament test). Part of the temperament test is the identity-inspection (examination and verification of the tattoo-number, chip, etc.).

Dogs that do not pass the temperament test are excluded from further participation in the trial and must be disqualified. Owners of dogs that are micro chipped are responsible for providing the necessary equipment for the identity check.

The judge will continue to evaluate the temperament throughout the entire trial. The judge must immediately disqualify a dog from the trial if that dog shows a faulty temperament. A note must be made in the scorebook, explaining the temperament fault. Dogs that were disqualified due to a temperament fault must be reported in writing to the appropriate committee of the national canine organisation (NCO).

1. The temperament test must be performed under normal environmental conditions in a neutral location for the dog.
2. Each dog will be presented to the judge separately.
3. The dog is presented to the judge on a regular leash. The leash must be held loosely.
4. The judge must avoid any type of provocation. The judge is allowed to touch the dog.

Evaluation:

- a.) Positive response of the dog: the dog shows itself for example neutral, self-confident, sure, attentive, energetic, impartial
- b.) Still acceptable borderline cases: the dog is for example somewhat unstable, slightly nervous, slightly insecure. Such dogs can still pass the temperament test but must be kept under close observation throughout the entire trial.

- c.) Negative response of the dog or temperament fault: the dog is for example shy, insecure, nervous, gun-sensitive, out of control, bites, is aggressive (disqualification).

Scores and coefficients

The performances are evaluated using a score scale of 0-5-5.5-6-6.5-7-7.5-8-8.5-9-9.5-10. The average score of the judges is multiplied with the coefficient defined for each exercise.

Judges

Each exercise has to be judged by two judges. Within each trial, the same exercise must be judged by the same judges each day.

Point limits and placements

In the Nordic protection trial, the dogs must obtain 250 points and an approved score in the main event (= min 135 points) for a qualifying result. In the tracking, messenger dog and search trials the dogs must obtain 250 points and an approved score in the main event (= min 130 points) on both days for a qualifying result.

The placing of the dogs is determined as follows:

- dogs with a qualifying result are always placed ahead of dogs with a disqualifying result,
- the placing of dogs with a qualifying result is determined on the basis of their total score,
- in case of a tie, the placing is determined on the basis of the points for the main event,
- if still a tie, the placing is shared.

Starting order

In each trial, the starting order has to be drawn separately for each of the two days.

Nordic protection, tracking, messenger dog and search trials – Obedience

DOWN STAY IN A GROUP

Coefficient 2

Commands: "Down" or hand sign - "Stay"

The dogs are arranged in a row at a distance of ca. 5 m from each other. The handlers command the dogs to lie down and walk out of sight of the dogs and stay hidden for 3 minutes. The handler may give the command "Stay" when leaving the dog. The handlers return to the dogs when instructed to do so by the steward.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins when the handlers leave the dogs and ends when the handlers return to the dogs (i.e. the commands for lying down and sitting up are not evaluated). If the dog crawls over a distance of more than 1 m, the exercise is failed. If the dog sits up before three minutes is up, the exercise is failed. If the dog sits up after three minutes is up, it may be awarded a maximum of 5 points.

Implementation of exercise:

The three-minute period starts when the handlers are out of sight of the dogs.

RECALL

Coefficient 1

Commands: "Down" - (dog's name) "Come" - ("Heel")

The handler enters the field and stops at an indicated point ca. 4 m inside the field. The handler commands the dog to lie down and then walks to a marked point indicated by the steward, stops there and turns toward the dog. On permission/sign from the steward, the handler recalls the dog. After the recall exercise the handler with the free-heeling dog walks to the starting point of the free heel exercise indicated by the steward.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins when the handler leaves the dog and ends when the dog comes to the handler and sits down either in front of the handler or on the left side of the handler. If the dog changes its position after the handler has turned toward the dog, it may be awarded a maximum of 5 points. If the dogs changes its position or crawls over a distance of more than 1 m before the handler turns toward the dog, the exercise is failed.

HEELING OFF LEASH

Coefficient 2

Command: "Heel"

The dog is to follow the handler willingly on the handler's left side with the dog's head or shoulder blade level with the handler's left knee. The handler must demonstrate different paces (normal walk and running) as well as turns. When the handler stops, the dog must sit quickly in basic position without a command. The handler is permitted to use the command only when starting from a basic position and when changing pace.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins when the handler and dog start walking from the basic position and ends when the handler and dog stop at the end of the exercise. If the dog heels at a distance of more than 1 m from the handler for most of the exercise, the exercise is failed.

STAND IN MOTION (WALK)

Coefficient 1

Command: "Stand", "Wait" or hand sign.

The dog must stop promptly on command. The handler gives the command without stopping.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins with a heelwork phase and ends after the handler has returned to the dog and commanded it into basic position. For a qualified score, the dog must stop within 2 m on receiving the command; the handler may only give the command once. If the dog assumes some other position than standing before the handler has turned toward the dog, the exercise is failed. If the dog changes position after the handler has turned, it can be awarded a maximum of 5 points.

Implementation of exercise:

The handler walks with the free-heeling dog a distance of ca. 20 m, commands the dog to stop in standing position and continues to walk for another 20 m, turns toward the dog and then returns to the dog.

DOWN IN MOTION (WALK)

Coefficient 1

Command: "Stay", "Down" or hand sign.

As "STAND IN MOTION", but the dog must lie down on command.

RETRIEVE OF HEAVY DUMBEL

Coefficient 1

Commands: "Bring" - "Out" - ("Heel")

From a basic position the handler throws a dumbbell (wooden dumbbell, weight: 2000 g) given by the steward at least 10 m far. Upon receiving the command "bring", the dog is to fetch the dumbbell quickly and to return with it to the handler, and sit in front of the handler or on the left side of the handler, and on command give the dumbbell to the handler.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins when the handler throws the dumbbell and ends after the handler has taken the dumbbell from the dog. If the dog sits in front of the handler, the dog must after the handler has taken the dumbbell go to basic position on the left side of the handler either on command or without a command. If the dog chews the dumbbell, this leads to point deductions. If the dumbbell falls because the dog does not hold it properly, or the dog drops the dumbbell, it can be awarded a maximum of 8 points. If the dog runs to the dumbbell before the handler has given a command, it can be awarded a maximum of 6 points, provided the handler can recall the dog. If the dog does not return to the handler when recalled, the exercise is failed.

Total coefficient for obedience 8

Nordic protection, tracking, messenger dog and search trials – Article search

ARTICLE SEARCH

Coefficient 8

Command: "Find, bring" and/or hand signs

Four articles, which are not the handler's own articles, are placed within an area of 50x50 m. The handler commands the dog with verbal commands and/or hand signs from outside the area, from the side indicated by the steward. The dog must find and bring the articles to the handler. The total time for the exercise is 5 minutes.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins (and the clock is started) when the handler on permission of the steward sends the dog into the area for the first time and ends when five minutes are up, with the following exceptions:

- If the dog brings all the articles before five minutes are up, the exercise ends when the handler has taken the last article from the dog.
- If the dog has found an article when five minutes are up, it may bring it to the handler and the exercise ends when the handler has taken the article from the dog.

For a qualified result, the dog must find and bring at least two articles. If the dog brings three articles, it can be awarded a maximum of 8 points. If the dog brings two articles, it can be awarded a maximum of 6 points. In order to obtain the highest score, the dog must bring the articles in the same way as in the "retrieve" exercise (sit in front of the handler or on the left side of the handler). Slight chewing of the articles leads to a point deduction with a maximum score of 9. Stronger chewing (the article is damaged) leads to a maximum score of 8.

If the dog gets tired and tend to stay close to the handler ("glued" to the handler), it can be awarded a maximum of 7 points.

A dog that does not obey the commands of the handler or requires a lot of encouragement from the handler to keep on searching can only be awarded a maximum of 6 points. If the dog leaves the area, the handler has the right to command it back into the area.

The handler may not grab the dog by the collar, harness, etc. in order to obtain the highest score.

The dog must work actively and efficiently.

Implementation of exercise:

The search area must be marked at least 12 hours before the first dog. Suitable articles include gloves, purses and similar. Dumbbells, "bringsels", or metal objects may not be used, nor articles that differ considerably in size from the above examples. The articles are placed at the same points for all the dogs and with a distance of at least ca. 10 m from each other. Several people as well as a dog must walk in the area before the first dog.

The steward will tell the handler when 1 minute remains of the search time.

Tracking trial

TRACK

GENERAL

Evaluation:

Performance of dog

The dog must work independently on an at least 10 m long line attached to a harness or similar. The handler may momentarily let go off the line or shorten the line if the terrain is hard to walk, there are bushes or similar. If the handler shortens the line without such reason, this will lead to point deductions. If the handler at some point unattaches the line and allows the dog to track or search for the track free, the performance of the dog is failed.

The handler has the right to command the dog when the dog is seeking for the track in the start area until the dog finds the track.

Renewal track

If the performance of the dog is disturbed by people or animals, a renewal track can only be awarded in very exceptional cases.

If the "seeking for track" phase has already been evaluated before the disturbance starts, only the "staying on track" phase is evaluated on the renewal track (dog sent directly on the track).

SEEKING FOR TRACK

Coefficient 6

Command: "Seek track" and/or hand signals

The track runs through a 30x50 m start area so that the length of the track inside the start area is at least 30 m. The steward shows the centre point on one of the 30-m long side lines of the area, and the dog must start the seeking for the track from that point. In principle the handler will move along the centre line of the start area. The dog must independently find the track within 4 minutes. If the dog fails to find the track, it cannot continue to the "staying on the track" trial phase.

Evaluation:

The seeking for the track starts when the handler, after obtaining permission from the steward, sends the dog into the area to seek for the track, and ends when the dog and the handler leave the start area on the right track and moving in the right direction, or when the four-minute seeking time is up.

If the dog and the handler fail to leave the start area on the right track and in the right direction before the four-minute seeking time is up, the tracking phase is failed. If the dog does not react to the track when crossing it for the first time, it can be awarded a maximum of 7 points.

If the dog starts to follow the track in the wrong direction and the handler has to be called back into the start area because of this, no more than 8 points can be awarded. If the dog starts to follow the track in the wrong direction but turns around before being called back into the start area, no points are deducted for this.

Should the dog find a track, which is not the trial track, no points are deducted for this.

Implementation of track seeking:

The start areas must be marked at least 12 hours prior to the estimated start of the tracking trial. Both the beginning and the end of the centre line of the start area, along which the handler moves, must be marked. The track must run over a distance of at least 30 m before it enters the start area, and it may not cross that side line of the area from which the handler will send the dog into the start area. The track must cross the centre line along which the handler moves, but the distance of the track from the start of the centre line must be at least 5 m. The handler may not leave the start area unless the dog is following the right track in the right direction; in all other cases he must be called back into the start area, when he crosses the side line of the area.

The steward will announce, when 1 minute remains of the seeking time.

STAYING ON TRACK

Coefficient 20

Command: "Track, bring"

The track is ca. 2000 m long, ca. 120 minutes old and not laid by the dog's handler. The track must make several corners, with at least one corner an acute angle, and run in a variable terrain area. The track layer places eight articles on the track, the last one at the end of the track.

The tracking time (including the seeking time) is max. 60 minutes.

Evaluation:

Tracking begins when the dog and handler leave the start area on the right track and in the right direction, and ends when the dog has found the last article or the tracking time is up.

Evaluation is based solely on the number of found articles and on not exceeding the tracking time. For the highest score, the dog must find all the articles. If the dog fails to find one article, the score is 9, if he fails to find two articles, the score is 8. However, if the dog fails to find the last article, the whole tracking phase is failed.

The organisers must in every way try to ensure that dogs do not wander into the tracking areas of other dogs. If there is a risk of this happening, the handler must be ordered to discontinue tracking and the performance of the dog is failed.

Implementation of tracking:

Track articles

The track articles are pieces of tree branches, thickness ca. 1-2 cm and length 10-12 cm, with the exception of the last article, which is 30-36 cm long. The articles are marked with codes, which will not enable the handler to deduce which track they are associated with or in which order they appear on the track.

Articles may not be placed 30 m closer to corners and the distance of the first article from the beginning of the track must be at least ca. 100 m. The track layer must hold the articles in his hand when laying the track, to transfer his scent on them. The articles may not be hidden, but may not be placed too conspicuously, either.

Articles, which are not identifiable, will not be approved.

Track

The first corner must be at a distance of at least 100 m from the beginning. The track or the return into the terrain may not at any point come closer to the starting area than 60 m.

The invitation to NOM must include a description of the tracking terrain.

Tracks located within the same terrain area must be at a distance of at least 150 m from each other.

Handing over of articles

The articles are handed over to the steward waiting at the end of the track. The steward must stay at an adequate distance from the track so as not to disturb the performance of the dog and the handler. The steward records the time of the handing over of the articles. The handler must be explained before he sends the dog to seek for the track where he is expected to hand over the articles.

Messenger dog trial

MESSENGER DOG TRIAL

Coefficient 26

Command: "Go"

Each dog has two handlers. All the handlers with the dogs on leash go to station A. One handler of each handler pair walks with the dog on leash to station B, which is at a distance of ca. 1100 m from station A. The dog is then sent from station B back to station A. After the last dog has been sent, the handlers walk further to station C, which is at a distance of ca. 400 m from station B. The dogs are then sent from station A to station C, and back from station C to station A. After the last dog has been sent, the handlers walk further to station D, which is at a distance of ca. 500 m from station C. The dogs are then sent from station A to station D. On the first day of the competition the dogs are further sent back from station D to station A. The dogs must be brought to the starting line off leash and must wait for the start moment off leash.

The maximum running time is 48 minutes (first day) and 36 minutes (second day).

Evaluation:

Start and end of trial

The trial begins when the steward presents station A to the competitors and ends when the last dog has completed its final leg or exceeded the maximum time.

Evaluation principles

The judges compare the total running times of the dogs and score the dogs in accordance with the Table below. After that, each judge makes his own comments about the behaviour of the dogs at the stations, about uneven running speed, etc. If one of the judges disqualifies a dog due to the behaviour of the dog, the dog may not complete the trial. The judges at stations B, C and D evaluate the behaviour of the dogs etc. after the dogs leave station A. With the exception of the comparison of the total running times, the judges score the dogs completely independently.

Total time

The maximum score of the dog based on the total running time of the fastest dog is defined in accordance with the Table. However, in order to obtain a qualifying result the dog must not exceed the maximum time.

Time difference min/sec		Max. score
Day 1	Day 2	
- 2.00	- 1.30	10
2.01 - 4.00	1.31 - 3.00	9.5
4.01 - 6.00	3.01 - 4.30	9
6.01 - 8.00	4.31 - 6.00	8.5
8.01 -10.00	6.01 - 7.30	8
10.01 -12.00	7.31 - 9.00	7.5
12.01 -14.00	9.01 -10.30	7
14.01- 16.00	10.31- 12.00	6.5
16.01 -18.00	12.01 -13.30	6
18.01 -20.00	13.31 -15.00	5.5
20.01 -	15.01 -	5

Uneven running speed

The running speed of the dog is considered uneven, if the dog takes longer on a shorter leg than on a longer leg. If the running speed of the dog is uneven, it may be awarded a maximum of 9 points.

Silence

In order to obtain the highest score, the dog is only allowed to whine quietly and momentarily. Loud whining or barking at any point will reduce the score to 9. Prolonged or repeated loud whining or barking will lead to further deductions in points.

If the whining or barking of the dog is disturbing, the dog will be disqualified. The dog is then not allowed to complete the trial phase.

Sending

The dog is brought to the starting line as in "heeling off leash" exercise, but a distance of ca. 0.5 m between the handler and the dog is allowed. The handler may command the dog to sit before the start of the 30-second waiting time and this will not lead to any deductions in points. If the dog stands or lies down during the waiting time, the maximum score is 9. If the dog makes a false start, it can obtain at most 6 points, provided the handler manages to recall it before it has advanced more than ca. 10 m. If not, the dog is disqualified.

If the judge feels that e.g. a dog returning back to the station has strongly disturbed the dog being sent off, the sending can be renewed. In such clear, exceptional cases the renewed sending will not lead to any deductions in points, and the dog's recorded start time is also changed accordingly.

Reception

The handler may call the dog when it approaches the station and is within the station area. If the handler calls the dog before this, it may be awarded a maximum of 9 points.

Implementation of messenger dog trial:

Messenger dog course

As a rule, the messenger dog course must be straight. Under no circumstances may the course curve in the shape of letter U, as the dogs could then take a shorter route from one end to the other to save time. The course may not run close to a trafficked road.

Stations

The distance over which the heeling of the dog is evaluated is 20 m, and this distance must be clearly marked. The entire station area (to a distance of ca. 50 m from the starting/reception line) must also be clearly marked at each station.

The resting places of the dogs must be at adequate distance from each other to ensure that the dogs do not disturb each other. The resting places must be clearly marked with the dogs' start numbers.

The resting places must be located towards the direction in which the course continuous, each resting place similarly with respect to the course. The handler has the right to use a mat for the dog to lie on in the resting place, and give the dog water and treats.

The handlers must be given an opportunity to warm up the dogs. The steward will show them where to warm up the dogs before send-off, without disturbing the other dogs. Normally the handler is not allowed to warm up his dog until after the preceding dog has been sent (a corresponding warm-up time to be given to the first dog).

Sending

The dogs are sent at intervals of 3 minutes. The first sending from station B takes place in the drawn start order. After that the dogs are sent in the order in which they arrive at the station. The steward announces the time to the competitors before the sending time as follows:

"2 minutes left - 1 minute left - 30 seconds - 10 seconds - 5 seconds - Send"

The dog and the handler must come to the starting line at least 30 seconds before the sending time. If the handler brings the dog to the sending line too late, sending is postponed until the 30-second waiting time is up. The recorded start time is not changed, however. It should be noted that the 30-second waiting time does not start again if the dog makes a false start.

During the 30-second waiting time the message collar must be around the dog's neck or in the handler's right hand so that it does not affect the dog. The dog may not be sent without the message collar.

If the dog fails to leave the station area within 1 minute after it has been sent, the judge orders the handler to call the dog back and it may not complete the trial phase. The same applies to dogs that leave the station area but return back to the area.

Reception

The dog's time of arrival is recorded as the time when the dog has arrived at the station and the handler has the dog under his control.

Transfers

The steward announces the competition time at station A before the dogs are transferred to station B. The transfer from station A to station B takes place with the dogs and handlers walking in a line in the start order.

The course shall over the first 100 m after each station continue in its natural direction forward.

The handlers may not at any point move backward on the course.

Search trial

SEARCH

SEARCH OF AREA AND INDICATION OF FIGURANTS

Coefficient 26

Command: "Search" and/or hand signals - "Show"

The search area is 100 m wide and 400 m long. Three helpers, or figurants, are placed in the area. Two of the figurants are completely concealed (in an underground cellar, a small shed, a covered shelter, or similar) and one is only partly concealed, so that he is not fully visible.

The steward shows the handler the centre line of the area, along which the handler moves and directs the dog with commands and/or hand signals. The dog must search both sides of the area by running at a good speed from the centre line toward the side line of the area and back in a square pattern.

When the dog finds the figurant, he must indicate the figurant to the handler either by remaining in the immediate vicinity of the figurant and barking until the handler arrives to the figurant, or by picking with his teeth the "bringsel" hanging from his collar and returning to the handler carrying the "bringsel" in his mouth. The handler will then attach a line to the dog's collar or harness and give the command "show" for the dog to take the handler to the figurant.

The total search time is 25 minutes.

Evaluation:

Start and end of trial

The trial phase (and the clock) starts for each dog when the steward gives the handler permission to enter the search area. The trial phase ends when the performance time is up, with the following exceptions:

- If the dog has found and indicated all the figurants, the trial phase ends when the handler has arrived at the last figurant.
- If the dog has found a figurant and started the indication when the time is up, he may complete the indication and the trial phase ends when the handler has arrived at that figurant or the judges conclude that it was a false indication.
- The trial phase ends when the handler crosses the end line of the area, but the dog may complete the ongoing search pattern, unless the time is up (the search pattern is completed when the dog indicates a figurant, returns to the handler or crosses the centre line).

Performance of dog and handler's control of dog

Search work is based on air-borne scent, and the dog must search the area holding his nose fairly high up to get the scent of the figurant. The dog should not try to track in the search area, because this will not result in a systematic search of the area, which is required.

Evaluation should focus on whether the dog searches the area according to the handler's commands using a speed suited to the terrain. This means that the handler decides where the dog should search and how much time is spent in the different parts of the search area. If the dog clearly does not work in a systematic manner, it may be awarded a maximum of 7 points. If the dog obviously does not maintain contact with the handler and the handler e.g. has difficulties in recalling the dog, the dog may be awarded a maximum of 6 points. In order to obtain the highest score the handler must not grab the dog by the collar, harness, etc. to control the dog.

The dog must not stay too close ("glued") to the handler when working in the search area.

The handler is allowed to use a whistle (not a supersonic whistle).

The dog must work energetically and effectively, displaying temperament and a certain degree of independence.

If the dog discontinues work and requires repeated commands to continue, it may be awarded a maximum of 6 points.

Indication

A false indication, i.e. the dog indicates without having found a figurant, leads to a deduction of points to a maximum of 7. A second false indication will lead to disqualification of the trial phase. If the dog has brought the "bringsel" but fails to take the handler to the figurant, this is also considered a false indication. If the dog drops the "bringsel" when he comes to the handler, this is not considered a false indication but the score will be reduced.

A barking indication must be so clear that the handler can find the dog and the figurant without difficulties. If the dog finds the figurant but does not indicate him, and then returns later back to the same figurant and indicates him, the score will be reduced. In most cases the judges need to follow the dog and handler to the figurant to ascertain that the indication is accurate enough.

The dog must not show any aggressive behaviour toward the figurants. All signs of aggressive behaviour lead to a deduction in points. If the figurant is clearly scared of the dog's behaviour, the score cannot be more than 6. Over-friendliness, i.e. licking of figurants etc., is judged more leniently.

When the figurant is brought to the centre line, the dog must be unleashed but under the handler's control. A dog may not be sent to perform a new search pattern until the judges and the figurant have returned to the centre line.

Number of indicated figurants

If the dog only finds one figurant, the trial phase is failed. If the dog finds two figurants, the maximum score is 7.

Implementation of trial:

Search area

The search area should be a clearly definable area in a covered, undulating terrain. The trial must test the dog's ability to search and find the figurants in challenging conditions.

The handler is during the trial followed in the centre line by the judges, the steward(s) and the found figurants. They must remain at a sufficient distance from the handler so as not to disturb the performance of the dog. No other persons may be present in the area without the permission of the steward.

The distance is not indicated in any manner on the centre line, and the markings used must run beyond the end line of the area. The judges inform the handler when he crosses the end line.

The handler may decide to which side he sends the dog first when the trial starts.

The figurants must be in the same locations for all the dogs. They must stay immobile and quiet until the handler retrieves the dog from the figurant.

The steward announces when 1 minute remains of the search time.

Scenting of area

Several persons and dogs must walk crisscross in the area, both parallel and perpendicular to the centre line. This must be done before the first dog and after every five dogs. Dogs need only be used to walk in the area before the first competing dog.

Disturbances

If the dog finds other people in the area, e.g. people picking berries, the clock is stopped when the disturbance is detected and re-started when the disturbance has been removed.

Protection dog trial

Tracking exercise for protection dogs

TRACKING

Coefficient 7

Command: "Track, fetch"

Tracking on an approximately 600 meters long, approximately 50 minutes old track, laid by someone else than the handler. The track, whose starting point and starting direction are stated, will have multiple angles. The track layer will place four objects on the track, thereof one at the end of the track.

The exercise must be finished within 20 minutes.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins when the dog is put on the track and is finished when the dog has found the object at the end of the track or the maximum time has elapsed.

Organization:

Tracks in same territory section should not be laid nearer each other than 150 meters. The judges should be able to follow the dog's tracking work for approximately 150 meters. The timing is started when the exercise begins and is finished when the objects have been presented to a volunteer near the end of the track.

Main exercises for protection dogs

Helpers without protection sleeve. The dog equipped with muzzle (not mandatory in exercises "Search for the helpers" and "Hold and bark").

SEARCH FOR THE HELPERS

Coefficient 5

Command: "Search" and/or sign.

Within an approximately 100 meters broad and 150 meters long area in uneven territory, two helpers are placed in, if possible, natural hiding-places. The handler advances along a centreline path in the area, and conducts the dog's work with commands and/or signs. The dog will should quickly search through the area in side-sweeps to both sides of the centreline path. The search work has to be finished within 10 minutes.

Evaluation:

The exercise (and the timing) begins when the handler enters the area on permission from the steward. The exercise is finished when the maximum time has elapsed, with the following exceptions:

- The dog is not evaluated in exercise "Search for the helpers" during that time it is assessed in exercises "Hold and bark 1" (but the timing is not intercepted).
- The exercise is finished when exercise "Hold and bark 2" starts.
- The exercise is finished if the handler passes the end marking of the centreline path before the maximum time has elapsed.

For a dog that does not follow the handler's commands and/or signs, the points are reduced. If the dog goes out of control, the exercise is failed. It is of great importance that the dog does not leave un-searched parts of the area behind. If the dog searches in too sparse side-sweeps or does not search the area in its full breadth, the points are reduced. In order to pass exercise "Search for the helpers", the dog must find and indicate at least one helper. If the dog finds and indicates only one helper, the maximum point is 7. If the dog appears without the muzzle during "Search for the helpers", the exercise is failed. The muzzle may be re-applied once, if the error is repeated (during "Search for the helpers" or "Hold and bark") the work is ended (any points already received in "Hold and bark 1" remain).

Organization:

The area's boundaries and, if necessary, centreline path shall be marked. The area should be prepared by persons and dogs strolling through it randomly. This procedure should be repeated after each fifth dog (dogs do not have to be used then). The helpers must be in the same locations for all dogs. The steward announces when 1 minute remains.

HOLD AND BARK 1 Coefficient 2

When the dog finds any of the helpers it shall, without impact from the handler or the helper, hold and bark at the helper until the handler arrives.

Evaluation:

The exercise begins when the dog finds the helper and is finished when the helper has been transported back to the middle path. The exercise "Hold and bark 1" refers to the first helper that the dog finds, independent of the locations of the helpers in the area. The dog's barking should guide the handler, i.e. make it possible for the handler to easily locate the dog and the helper. At longer interrupts in the barking the points will be reduced. To be able to evaluate the dog's barking, the judges have to observe the handler's retrieval of the dog, most often they have to follow the handler's path to the dog. If a dog has found the helper but leaves him more than approximately 10 meter without starting to bark is failed in the exercise.

In order to pass exercise "Hold and bark", the dog must start the barking before the maximum time has elapsed.

If the dog appears without the muzzle during "Hold and bark", the exercise is failed. The muzzle may be re-applied once, if the error is repeated (during "Search for the helpers" or "Hold and bark") the work is ended (any points already received in "Hold and bark 1" remain).

Organization:

The handler decides when the dog will be retrieved.

HOLD AND BARK 2 Coefficient 2

As exercise "Hold and bark 1".

Evaluation:

As exercise "Hold and bark 1", but refers to the second helper that the dog finds, independent of the locations of the helpers in the area.

Organization:

As exercise "Hold and bark 1".

The following exercises are carried out in this sequence.

The helper is equipped with protection sleeve. Dogs without muzzle.

TRANSPORT Coefficient 1

Command: "Heel".

The handler directs the helper to walk approximately 3 meters in front, the dog follows the handler on heel free. After a while, the handler advances up to approximately 1 meter lopsided right behind the helper. The total length of the transport should be at least 50 meters.

Evaluation:

For the maximum point, the dog is not allowed to "disturb" the helper at any occasion. Furthermore, the dog must be correctly placed with uninterrupted attention on the helper but nevertheless to have contact with the handler, i.e. at the handler's left side as in exercise "Heeling off leash".

Organization:

The exercise begins on the steward's order with the helper in front of the handler and the dog according to the description of the exercise. This placement of the helper should last for at least 15 meters whereupon the handler is ordered to advance to 1 meter lopsided right behind the helper.

The steward instructs the handler regarding changes of direction during the exercise.

The exercise is finished with a halt, whereupon the dog will take basic position.

ATTACK ON THE HANDLER DURING TRANSPORT Coefficient 2

Command: "Stand still".

On the steward's instruction, the helper attacks the handler, mainly with his right arm. The dog has to ward off the attack by biting the helper. When the helper ceases with his attack after the handler's command "Stand still", the dog shall release the helper.

Evaluation:

"Transport" and "Attack on the handler during transport" are carried out as two cohesive exercises but will be evaluated individually. On evaluation importance should be attached to the quickness that the dog uses when warding off the attack from the helper. In the description of the exercise it is stated that the attack shall be warded off, i.e. the stroke should not hit the handler in such a way that he would have risked to be damaged seriously. If the dog does not fulfil this task, the exercise should be failed. The dog this information should it be rejected. Besides this the evaluation should depend on the quickness and power used by the dog.

Organization:

In the description of exercise "Transport", it is stated which location the dog and handler will have in relation to the helper. For a dog that lacks in obedience, i.e. is too much in front of the handler, the attack is not carried out.

The attack that will be carried out with real force may not be directed against the dog but against the upper part of the handler's body. The regulations do not prescribe how long time the attack will last but this is decided by the handler. As soon as the dog has warded off the attack, it is commanded by the handler to release the helper. When the handler has got control of the dog, the exercise is finished and the transport continues.

SENDING OF DOG FOR HOLD Coefficient 2

Command: "Defend"

The dog is sent to a helper on approximately 40 meters' distance that the dog has not earlier been working against during this competition. On arrival at the helper, the dog is not allowed to attack, but it shall hold the helper and may not leave the place. The hold will last for at least one minute. The dog is retrieved on the steward's order.

Evaluation:

For the maximum point it is required that the dog runs to the helper without hesitation and starts to hold and bark at the helper. If it is close to the helper, i.e. within "kicking distance" no more than 8 points are given. If the dog leaves the place more than 5 meters or touches the helper, irrespective of how slight, the exercise is failed.

Organization:

As a helper should be chosen a person that the dog has not worked against earlier in the competition. The helper should get in place without arousing the dog's attention and then stand totally still for the rest of the exercise.

No other persons are allowed between the dog and the helper or so close to the helper that the dog could be mistaken, i.e. run to the "wrong" person.

The dog's hold of the helper should last for at least one minute. The exercise begins on the steward's order to send the dog and is finished when the handler retrieves the dog and has got control of it.

COURAGE TEST Coefficient 3

Command: "Defend"

On instruction from the steward, the helper escapes quickly from the dog. On a sign from the steward, the handler sends the dog after helper. When the dog has almost reached the escaping helper, the helper turns rapidly and threatens the dog through hits (simulated) with a rod. The dog must unconditionally attack.

Evaluation:

The name of the exercise reveals that the intention is to examine the dog's courage in connection with attacks from the helper. The hits simulated by the helper can sometimes delay the dog's attack. Such a hesitation will generally influence the evaluation. If the dog hesitates too long to attack, the exercise is failed.

Organization:

At the beginning the helper stands immobile just to the left of and a little in front of the handler and the sitting dog. The exercise begins on the steward's order or sign, whereupon the helper escapes. The dog is sent after the escaping helper, when he has run for at least 25 meters. In view of the quickness of the dog's action when it approaches the helper, this should take plenty of time to turn around and begin to threaten the dog.

The exercise is finished when the handler orders "Stand still" and the helper interrupts the attack on the dog.

RELEASE **Coefficient 4**

Command: "Stand still" or "Out"

When the helper stands still on the handler's order ("Stand still"), the dog shall release its bite and start holding the helper.

Evaluation:

A late release should cause a considerable reduction of the points. If the dog does not obey the second command, the exercise is failed. The evaluation of the hold after the release is performed with guidance from the evaluation of exercise "Hold".

Organization:

After that the hold has lasted for approximately 30 seconds, the handler is ordered to retrieve the dog.

The exercise begins on the handler's order to the helper to cease with the attack and the helper is standing still. The exercise is finished when the handler retrieves the dog and has got control of it.

HOLD **Coefficient 2**

Command: "Watch him"

The dog is placed approximately 3 meters from the helper, facing the helper and is given command to hold. The handler leaves the place for approximately 30 meters. When the helper tries to escape in a natural manner, the dog should prevent this and cease with its attack when the helper stands still. The handler has the option to command "Stand still" or "Out".

The dog is tested in at least two escape trials from the helper.

Evaluation:

The name of the exercise reveals that the intention is to examine how efficiently the dog holds the helper and that it attacks immediately when the helper tries to escape. Of this follows, that if the dog leaves the place and ceases to hold by for example running to the handler, the exercise is failed. Besides this it is required for passing the exercise that the dog attacks the helper at his movements and that it ceases with the attack as soon as the helper is passive.

Organization:

The handler decides in which position the dog will be placed on the beginning of the exercise. The steward orders the handler to leave the dog, in which direction this will happen and for how long distance. After approximately 30 seconds since the handler has left for the stipulated distance, the steward gives the helper a sign to escape. As soon as the dog attacks, the helper must stand still on his own initiative. If the dog does not attack, or the attack is very weak, the helper should continue his movements until the steward announces that the movement will be interrupted.

The exercise begins when the dog is placed to hold the helper and is finished when the handler retrieves the dog and has got control of it.

ESCAPE WITH FIRING **Coefficient 4**

Command: "Defend"

On a sign from the steward, the helper (equipped with a pistol) escapes quickly from the dog. On a sign from the steward, the handler sends the dog after the helper. When the dog is approximately 15 meters from the escaping helper, the helper starts running to the right, turns against the dog the dog and fires a shot in the air. The dog should attack the helper and should keep its grip until the helper is disarmed and the handler commands "Out".

Evaluation:

For the maximum point it is required that the dog keeps its grip until the disarmament of the helper is finished. If the dog releases its grip when the handler is more than 5 meters away from the helper, the exercise can at a maximum be considered as passed. If the dog shifts its bite and this happens rapidly, no reduction of points has to be done. For a dog that is shot shy the points should be reduced. If the shyness is striking the exercise will be failed.

Organization:

In the beginning the dog is sitting at the handler's side. The exercise begins when the helper escapes on sign or order from the steward. On the steward's order, the handler sends the dog after the escaping helper when he has run approximately 25 meters. The circumstance that the regulations state that the helper shall turn against the dog, when the dog has almost reached the helper, does not mean that the helper should interrupt the escape. On the other hand, it may be considered naturally that the helper loses a little speed in the moment of firing but – if the dog has not had time to attack – continues the escape in the same speed as before the shot. When the dog has attacked, the helper should be active as long as the dog keeps its grip. The handler may start the retrieval when the shot has been fired. The exercise is finished when the dog is in basic position again.

Sum of coefficients for main exercises for protection dogs	27
Sum of coefficients for protection dogs	50