

**HUNT TEST  
RULES  
AND  
REGULATIONS**  
for  
**Retrievers, Barbet,  
Irish Water Spaniels  
& Standard Poodles**

**Effective January 1, 2014**



**CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB**

**CLUB CANIN CANADIEN**

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## **PURPOSE**

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The purpose of a hunt test for Retrievers, Barbet, Irish Water Spaniels and Standard Poodles is to test the merits of, and evaluate the abilities of these dogs in the field in order to determine their suitability and ability as hunting companions. Hunt test should simulate as nearly as possible, the conditions met in a true hunting situation. (67-12-12)

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# **1 INTERPRETATIONS**

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## **1.1 Definitions**

For the purpose of these rules and regulations, the following interpretations shall apply:

**“Board”** means the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“CKC”** means The Canadian Kennel Club

**“Club”** means a club or association officially recognized by The Canadian Kennel Club

**“complainant”** means any person who had laid a charge or complaint against another person, partnership, company or organization relative to contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures and policies of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“debar”** means that any person is prohibited from participating in any competition or other activities directed, sanctioned, sponsored or authorized by The Canadian Kennel Club if held under the auspices or under any of its rules and regulations, to the extent and subject to terms imposed in any particular case

**“defendant”** means any person, partnership, company or organization against whom or which a charge or complaint has been laid, relative to contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures and policies of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“deprive of privileges”** means that a non-member is deprived of all privileges accorded to non-members of The Canadian Kennel Club, including the use of the Head Office

(67-12-12) **“dog”** means a purebred dog of either sex and refers to Retrievers, Barbet, Irish Water Spaniels and Standard Poodles

**“entrant”** means the individual, or if a partnership, all the members of the partnership, entering in a hunt test

**“expel”** means termination of membership in The Canadian Kennel Club and depriving the person so expelled from all privileges of The Canadian Kennel Club

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**“good standing”** means an individual who is not under suspension, deprivation, debarment or who has not forfeited his right to participate in any Canadian Kennel Club approved events

**“handler”** means the person handling the dog in a hunt test

**“Head Office”** means the office at which the business of The Canadian Kennel Club is carried out on a regular and ongoing basis

**“immediate family”** means spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents and significant other

**“just cause”** means how a reasonable person without personal bias or prejudice would act

**“poison bird”** is a visible bird thrown before a dog is sent for a blind retrieve.

**“suspend”** means that a member is deprived, for the period ordered, of all the privileges of The Canadian Kennel Club

This rulebook shall be read with all applicable changes in gender so that the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa and the singular shall include the plural. Unless stated otherwise, the Master Hunt Test shall include the Owner Handler Master Test and vice versa.

## **1.2 Hunt Test Defined & Classified**

1.2.1 An approved hunt test is a formal event given by a CKC accredited club at which qualifying scores may be awarded towards a title.

1.2.2 A sanctioned hunt test match is an informal event given by a CKC accredited club at which dogs compete but do not earn qualifying scores towards a title.

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## **2 GENERAL REGULATIONS**

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### **2.1 Eligibility of Clubs to Hold Hunt Tests**

- 2.1.1 Only CKC accredited clubs or associations that are in good standing with the CKC are eligible to apply for and hold hunt tests.
- 2.1.2 A club that has not held a hunt test under the CKC rules within 3 years will be required to hold one sanction test.
- 2.1.3 Approval to hold a hunt test may be given to clubs formed for the improvement of the several breeds of retrievers or to clubs formed for the improvement of a single breed.

### **2.2 Making Application**

- 2.2.1 A club or association applying to hold a hunt test must make application on forms provided by the CKC. The Event Date Application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 180 days prior to the date of the proposed test. The CKC will notify the club whether or not approval has been granted. If the date is granted and the club fails to hold its trial on the date approved, an administrative fee as set by the Board will be assessed against the club, unless the CKC waives this fee on grounds that the club had no alternative but to postpone or cancel.
- 2.2.2 The Event Secretary must be in good standing with the CKC.
- 2.2.3 The CKC shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for a test date. In the event approval is withheld, the test-giving club shall have no claim against the CKC.
- 2.2.4 The CKC will not approve an application for a hunt test where qualifying scores can be awarded when dates conflict with one or more hunt tests, unless it can be shown that the granting of such permission will not work to the detriment of the clubs applying to hold the hunt tests.
- 2.2.5 A club may offer Junior, Senior, Master and Owner Handler Master hunt tests.

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- 2.2.6 When offered Master Hunt tests should be provided with sufficient time to adequately test the dogs and where necessary may be scheduled to run over two days.

## **2.3 CKC Publications**

- 2.3.1 All clubs holding hunt tests are required to have copies of the latest edition of these Hunt Test Rules and Regulations available.

## **2.4 Advertising**

- 2.4.1 A club that has not been granted priority dates must not advertise or publish the date of any event that has not been approved by the CKC.
- 2.4.2 A club that has been granted priority dates for its event may advertise those dates prior to submitting the Event Date Application. This does not exempt the club from submitting the required applications to the CKC within the prescribed time frame.
- 2.4.3 A club must not advertise the names of the judges until the club has received official notification from the CKC that the judges have been approved.

## **2.5 Training**

- 2.5.1 There shall be no training of dogs on the grounds of a hunt test, except for single training bumpers which are thrown by hand by the handler, either within 24 hours of the commencement of the event, or at any time during the event. The Hunt Test Committee is responsible for enforcement of this provision.
- 2.5.2 Electronic collars (either dummy or live) as well as prong or pinch type collars shall not be worn by a dog on the grounds of a Hunt Test at any time during the event with the exception of those collars designed to curtail barking which may be worn by a dog while kenneled.

## **2.6 Hunt Test Secretary**

- 2.6.1 Any club or association holding a hunt test under these rules must name a Hunt Test Secretary who must be a member of the hosting club and the Canadian Kennel Club. The premium list for CKC approved hunt tests shall designate the Hunt Test Secretary as receiving entries.

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## 2.7 **Hunt Test Committee**

- 2.7.1 A club that has been granted permission by The Canadian Kennel Club to hold an approved hunt test must appoint a Hunt Test Committee which will have complete responsibility for the planning and conducting of the event. The Committee shall be comprised of at least 3 members of the club and may include the Hunt Test Secretary, but the Hunt Test Secretary shall not be designated as the Hunt Test Committee Chair. A majority of the Hunt Test Committee must be present during a CKC-approved hunt test. In the absence of Hunt Test Committee members, the chairman or an officiating officer shall appoint sufficient committee members in order to insure compliance with this section.
- 2.7.2 The Hunt Test Committee and Hunt Test Secretary shall be held responsible for compliance with all of the applicable rules and regulations for hunt tests, except those coming under the sole jurisdiction of the judges, and must provide themselves with copies of the latest editions of these books.
- 2.7.3 The Hunt Test Committee of a club holding an approved hunt test shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the running of the hunt test, except a matter coming within the jurisdiction of the judge.
- 2.7.4 A dog that bites or attempts to bite another dog or a person may be removed from the event grounds or premises for the duration of the event by the Hunt Test Committee Chair.  
*(35-06-08)*
- 2.7.5 Where a person who has control or custody of a dog at a CKC event causes that dog to suffer serious injury or death through negligence or willful misconduct, the Hunt Test Committee Chair shall file a report to the CKC for possible submission to the Discipline Committee.  
*(13-12-08)*

## 2.8 **Handlers with Disabilities**

- 2.8.1 At the judge's discretion a modification to the exercise/routine may be made to accommodate a handler with disabilities providing that such modification does not aid the dog's performance or inhibit other dogs and the dog is required to perform all exercises/routines.  
*(21-09-09)*

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## **3 JUDGES**

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### **3.1 Application for Approval of Judges**

- 3.1.1 After a club has been granted permission by the CKC to hold a hunt test, the club must submit an application for Approval of Selected Judges. The application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 120 days prior to the date of the test. The application must set forth the names and addresses of the persons selected to judge, as well as the level assigned to each judge.
- 3.1.2 When the Judging Panel Application reaches the CKC less than 120 days prior to the date of the test, an administrative fee, as set by the Board, will be assessed against the club.
- 3.1.3 The test-giving club shall not select any judge who is ineligible to officiate at a test held under these rules and regulations.
- 3.1.4 Once approval is granted, the CKC will inform the test-giving club that the judges have been approved. The test secretary shall send to each approved judge a confirmation of assignment letter, supplied by the CKC, as well as any other pertinent information that the club may include.
- 3.1.5 If The Canadian Kennel Club is not prepared to approve a selected judge, or it is not prepared to approve the entire assignment for which a judge has been selected, the club must submit to the Head Office of The Canadian Kennel Club the name or names of alternative persons to judge that test or tests.
- 3.1.6 Once a panel of judges has been approved by CKC, no change will be permitted except when necessary (i.e. death or illness) and with CKC permission. If a judging change is necessary the Hunt Test giving club will inform the CKC and submit for approval the name of a qualified replacement judge.

### **3.2 Judges' Eligibility**

- 3.2.1 Any regular member in good standing with The Canadian Kennel Club may be approved to judge a hunt test subject to the qualification requirements in force at the time.

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- 3.2.2 No entry shall be made at any hunt test in any stake if the judge of that stake, or any member of his immediate family or household, owns or has owned, sold, held under lease, retained financial interest in or trained professionally the dog within 60 days of the starting date of the hunt test.
  - 3.2.3 Any member of a judge's immediate family or household shall not enter or handle any dog in any stake in which that judge is judging.
  - 3.2.4 Each test (Junior, Senior, Owner Handler Master, or Master) or division of a test shall be judged by 2 or more judges.

### **3.3 Judges' Qualifications**

- 3.3.1 An open book test must be successfully completed by all first-time applicants applying to judge a hunt test. The passing grade is 80%.
- 3.3.2 The following point system shall govern the evolution of judging qualifications. Judges must ascend through Junior before they are eligible to judge Senior and must ascend through Senior before being eligible to judge Master. Judges must acquire 2 or more points in each category before ascending to the next level.
- 3.3.3 Each time an individual completes a judging assignment, he is awarded one point for that particular level.
  - (a) Points acquired at the Master level also qualify as Senior and Junior Points.
  - (b) Points acquired at the Senior level also qualify as Junior Points.
  - (c) Points acquired at the Junior level only qualify as Junior Points.
- 3.3.4 To be approved as a point bearing test, each level of testing must be judged by 2 judges whose combined judging points for that particular level must be 3 or more.
- 3.3.5 To be approved to judge, one must also have handled a dog in at least one approved hunt test event in either Junior, Senior or Master within the 5 previous years.
- 3.3.6 Judges must be regular members in good standing with The Canadian Kennel Club.

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### **3.4 Judges' Guidelines**

- 3.4.1 It is strongly recommended that clubs select as judges, individuals with broad and extensive background experience in handling and working with Retrievers in the field.
- 3.4.2 Judges must officiate over all series in their respective assignments.
- 3.4.3 A judge shall not handle a dog in another test until the test level (or division of a test level) that he is judging is fully completed.
- 3.4.4 Judges need not set up identical tests when test levels are divided.
- 3.4.5 A judge of a hunt test shall be familiar with all rules, regulations and procedures pertaining to the type of test being conducted. Judges shall be thoroughly familiar with the applicable standards, and shall be responsible for judging in compliance with the rules, regulations, and standards.
- 3.4.6 Judges must allow handlers to review their score sheets at the conclusion of the test. Requests to review score sheets are to be made to the test marshal.  
*(53-09-13)*

### **3.5 Judges' Authority**

- 3.5.1 The judges and the Hunt Test Committee are in total control of the mechanics within the framework of the regulations. While judges alone determine and design tests to be given, it is the Hunt Test Committee's responsibility to ensure the tests fall within the regulations and guidelines of the rule book.  
*(55-09-13)*
- 3.5.2 The judges have complete jurisdiction over the gunners, and must be particularly aware of gun safety. They can have the gunners replaced if performance is not satisfactory or safe. This right, however, should not be abused for minor matters since it presents a hardship for the club. On the other hand, the club should have more than an adequate number of gunners to insure the smooth flow of the test.
- 3.5.3 Only shotguns or devices that simulate the sound of shotguns should be used. While it is not a specific responsibility of the judges, all gunners using firearms should have successfully completed a Hunter/Gun Safety Course and comply with applicable Provincial and Federal regulations.

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- 3.5.4 Judges have the authority to disqualify a dog that is not present within 15 minutes after it is called to run. If a dog is absent after the 15 minute period, it cannot be allowed to run even if it shows up later, unless some previous arrangement had been made through or with the Marshal.

## **3.6 Judges' Responsibilities**

- 3.6.1 Before judges can begin evaluating the abilities of the entered dogs, they must reach certain decisions among themselves about various details, such as the following:
- (a) Instructions to the handler regarding the position to be taken, the explanation of the test set-up and the explanation of the objectives as they relate to a specific hunting situation. Great care must be exercised so that each handler receives the same instructions. This can be accomplished by summoning all handlers to the line before the series is started, and then providing these explanations to the group once and for all. If it is not possible to assemble all handlers for such a single announcement, the judges can explain the set-up and objectives to the handlers individually before they run their dogs.
  - (b) Signaling for birds to be thrown. It is recommended that each set of Official Guns be signaled separately. The signaling judge should be careful that neither his signaling nor the shadow of it might be an unwanted distraction.
  - (c) The dog must not be sent until the handler is signaled by the judge.
  - (d) Every bird retrieved and delivered to the handler should be inspected by one of the judges. Failure to inspect retrieved birds must be catalogued as carelessness and as an undesirable practice. It is unfair to the dog whose abilities are being evaluated – not only in respect to the question of “hard-mouth” but more particularly, since it may furnish the explanation for a slow pick-up or some other oddity in the dog’s pick-up. Any unusual condition of a bird should be brought to the attention of the judges. If the same birds are to be used again, those that are damaged should not be used again.
  - (e) When a dog can no longer receive a qualifying score, instructions to that effect may be given through the Marshal.

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- (f) When encountering wild birds, rabbits or other game, Senior and Master level dogs should ignore such distractions or be sufficiently under control to be handled to the fall. Judges should decide how they will deal with this situation.
  - (g) The judges should reach an agreement about the degree of movement they will consider a controlled break and should be in agreement on scoring a Junior and Senior dog's trainability for various degrees of controlled breaks. (Note: A "0" is required in Master.)
  - (h) Instructions given to the Marshal and the Official Guns should be by agreement of the judges. Of course, these will vary from series to series.
  - (i) To the extent that time permits, judges should be generous in calling back those dogs whose abilities they wish to evaluate further.

### **3.7 Substitute Judge**

- 3.7.1 Any person in good standing with the CKC may be used as a substitute judge in an emergency. The substitute judge shall judge the stakes as originally approved by the CKC. Whenever possible, the CKC requirements for combined experience for the stake should be met.

### **3.8 Indignities to a Judge**

- 3.8.1 *(56-09-13)* A judge officiating at a hunt test held under these rules shall not be subjected to any indignities of any kind during the progress of the hunt test. It shall be the duty and obligation of the club holding the hunt test to see that this rule is effectively carried out.

### **3.9 Judge's Conduct**

- 3.9.1 A judge must conduct himself in a manner that is fair and not prejudicial to the sport.

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## **4 PREMIUM LIST & CATALOGUE**

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### **4.1 Premium List**

4.1.1 A standard premium list or information flyer must be published by all clubs holding a hunt test under these rules. A club which has been granted permission to hold a test, and has received approval of its selected judges, must prepare and have printed a premium list with entry forms to be made available to prospective entrants.

4.1.2 Premium lists and entry forms shall be such size, in such form, and contain such information as prescribed by the CKC. The following information must be listed on the cover (or first inside page, excluding the inside cover) of the premium list:

- (a) The words "Official Premium List".
- (b) The name of the club or organization holding the event.
- (c) Type of event being held.
- (d) Dates of the events.

(57-09-13) (e) Date and closing time for entries. No entries may be accepted, altered, cancelled or substituted after the official closing date and time except as provided for in these rules. If "Day of" entries will be accepted, the mail-in entry closing date and time must be shown along with the start time and closing time for accepting "Day of" entries.

4.1.3 The following information must appear in a premium list:

- (a) Exact location of the event (must include a map to Head Quarters and signs should be posted to the test site from Head Quarters).
- (b) The statement "These events held under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club".
- (c) A list of the club officers (address may be given if desired).
- (d) A list of the Hunt Test Committee including the Hunt Test Chairman.
- (e) The address and phone number of where entries are to be sent (if different from the Event Secretary).

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- (f) A statement as to where entries are to be sent
  - (g) A listing of the judges and their mailing address.
  - (h) A complete list of the judge's assignments broken down for each day.
  - (i) A list of awards and prizes (if offered).
  - (57-09-13) (j) The amount of entry fee for each test. If "Day of" entries will be accepted, the mail-in entry fee for each stake along with the "Day of" entry fee for each stake must be shown.
  - (k) The name of the Chief Executive Officer of The Canadian Kennel Club and the address of the Head Office.
  - (l) The name, address and telephone number of the CKC Board Member and the CKC Retriever Representative for the zone in which the test will be held.
  - (m) Type of birds used.
  - (n) A statement to include the wording of section 19.7 regarding indignities.
- 4.1.4 At the time of distribution of prospective entrants, 2 copies of the premium list must be sent to The Canadian Kennel Club and one copy each to the Retriever Representative and Board Member representing the zone in which the test is to be held.
- 4.1.5 Clubs are free to include other rules and regulations as they deem necessary. However, if other rules are included, they become part of the premium list and will be enforced.

## **4.2 Catalogue**

- 4.2.1 An official catalogue must be provided for all approved hunt tests. The official catalogue must be printed or typed.
- 4.2.2 The following information must be listed on the outside front cover or the first page of the catalogue:
- (a) Name of the club or association holding the test
  - (b) The dates of the test
  - (c) The statement "This event held under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club"
  - (d) Exact location of the test
  - (e) List of the Hunt Test Committee including the Hunt Test Chair

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- (f) Name, address and phone number of the Hunt Test Secretary
  - (g) A complete list of the judges and their mailing address
  - (h) A listing of each judge's assignments for each day

4.2.3 The information in the catalogue on each dog must be in the following order:

- (a) Catalogue number of the dog
- (b) Registered name of the dog (in capital letters only)
- (c) Canadian Kennel Club registration number, Event Registration Number (ERN) (if given) or indicate "listed"
- (d) Date of birth
- (e) Name of breeders
- (f) Registered name of sire
- (g) Registered name of dam
- (h) Place of birth
- (i) Name of owners
- (j) Address of owners
- (k) Agent (if applicable)

4.2.4 The information in the catalogue must include a list of all dogs entered in each test (Junior, Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master) in order in which the dogs were drawn.

4.2.5 The following certification must appear in the official catalogue following the dogs listed in each test.

### **JUDGE'S CERTIFICATION**

I certify that \_\_\_ dogs received qualifying scores in this hunt test and that the above information identifying these dogs was entered prior to my signing this page

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Judge

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## HUNT TEST SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I certify that the judges have verified the above information and signed this page.

\_\_\_\_\_   
Date

\_\_\_\_\_   
Signature of Hunt Test Secretary

Number of dog entered \_\_\_\_\_

Total starters \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of qualifying scores \_\_\_\_\_

- 4.2.6 Following completion of judging in each test, the Hunt Test Secretary shall mark the Official Catalogue with the word "Qualifying" next to the names of all dogs that received qualifying scores. The judges shall then certify the accuracy of the marked awards, and both the Hunt Test Secretary and the judges shall complete their appropriate certifications.

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## **5 RIBBONS & PRIZES**

- 5.1 A club holding an approved hunt test shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes. Each ribbon or rosette shall be a least 2 inches or 5.08 cm wide and 8 inches or 20.32 cm long and a shade of camouflage green in colour, and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The Canadian Kennel Club, the words "Qualifying Score," the name of the test-giving club and the name of the test (Junior, Senior or Master Hunting Test).
- 5.2 If ribbons or rosettes are given at sanctioned hunt tests, they shall be a shade of camouflage brown in colour, but need not otherwise conform to the requirements for ribbons at approved or member hunt tests.
- 5.3 All ribbons or rosettes shall be offered for outright award.

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## **6 ENTRIES & END OF TEST**

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### **6.1 Entry Requirements**

- 6.1.1 Every dog entered in an approved hunt test or sanctioned hunt test must be one of the following:
- (a) Registered with the CKC
  - (b) Have an Event Registration Number
  - (c) Eligible for registration with the CKC
  - (d) Have a Performance Event Number
- 6.1.2 Hunt tests shall be open to all breeds of Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels and Standard Poodles which are eligible for registration or are registered in the CKC Stud Book. All dogs must be 6 months of age or over on the first day of the event.
- 6.1.3 If a dog is not registered individually in the CKC Stud Book, it may be entered at a test held under these regulations, as a “listed” dog, provided that:
- (a) If born in Canada, it is eligible for individual CKC registration.
  - (b) If not born in Canada, it is eligible for individual registration in the records of The Canadian Kennel Club.
  - (c) If it is a foreign born and owned dog, it has an Event Registration Number, or obtains this from the CKC within 30 days of the first test entered.
- 6.1.4 The entry of a “listed” dog at a hunt test held under these regulations (sanctioned hunt tests excluded) must be accompanied by the appropriate listing fee, and all listing fees must be remitted by the club or association holding the trial to the CKC within 21 days after the trial.
- 6.1.5 A dog that is eligible for a Performance Event Number (PEN) cannot be entered as a listed dog.
- 6.1.6 The CKC shall have the right at any time to require the owner of a listed dog to submit proof of the dog’s eligibility for registration in the CKC stud book. If the CKC is satisfied that the dog is not eligible for registration in the CKC studbook, it shall have the right to order the cancellation of all wins, championship points and prizes earned by the dog at these tests.

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- 6.1.7 A dog is not eligible to be entered or run in any approved hunt test in any category if it has been reported on 2 occasions that it has attacked another dog while under judgment at a CKC approved hunt test. The judges, in both instances, must be of the unanimous opinion that the attacks were without reasonable cause. Judges are required to identify the offending dog on the judging sheet or in the Official Catalogue and the name of the offending dog shall be listed in the report of the hunt test sent to The Canadian Kennel Club.
- 6.1.8 A club may decline any entry for just cause. In such instances the club shall file in writing its reasons for doing so with the CKC within 21 days of the test.

## **6.2 Entry Forms**

- 6.2.1 The following information must appear on each entry form:
- (a) Registered name of dog
  - (b) CKC individual registration number (if registered in the CKC stud book), Event Registration Number or foreign registration number or Performance Event Number
  - (c) Name of breed
  - (d) Sex of dog
  - (e) Date and place of birth
  - (f) Names of sire and dam
  - (g) Name of breeders
  - (h) Stake entered
  - (i) Name of the owner (name of lessee shall be given instead of the name of the registered owner if the dog is being held under lease)
  - (j) Complete address of owner or lessee
  - (k) Name of handler if the dog is not to be handled by the owner or member of his immediate family and
  - (l) Signature of owner, lessee or authorized agent
- 6.2.2 Owners or lessees are responsible for errors or omissions in completing the entry forms, regardless of who makes the error.
- 6.2.3 No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless the name has been registered with the CKC. All entries made under a kennel name must be signed with the name of the kennel followed by the word "registered".

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- 6.2.4 An entrant is the individual, or if a partnership, all the members of the partnership entering a dog in a hunt test. In the case of entry by partnership, every member of the partnership shall be in good standing with the CKC before the entry will be accepted. In the case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.
- 6.2.5 All entries must be made on an official CKC entry form and must show all particulars as set forth in these rules. The Hunt Test Secretary shall supply entry forms. Any dog proven not to correspond with its entry form shall be disqualified and all winnings and entry money shall be forfeited. Should the act of fraudulent entry be proven, the owner and/or handler, shall be referred to the Discipline Committee of the CKC who shall take such action as it sees fit.
- 6.2.6 In case of entries transmitted by facsimile, the entry form must be signed by the owner, lessee or agent before judging starts.

### **6.3 Entry Fees**

- 6.3.1 *(58-09-13)* A club may not accept an entry fee other than that which is published in the premium list or entry form or in any way discriminate between entrants. The entry fee for “Day of” entries may be higher than the entry fee for mail-in entries to reflect the extra work and cost of accepting”Day of” entries.
- 6.3.2 The entry of a dog at a hunt test held under these rules must be accompanied by the entry fee.
- 6.3.3 Tendering of a dishonoured cheque or credit card in payment of entry fees shall be considered non-payment of entry fees, and is an offence punishable by disciplinary action and cancellation of awards.
- 6.3.4 Non-compliance with this section of these rules shall be considered an offence punishable by disciplinary action and cancellation of awards.

### **6.4 Entry Fee Refund**

- 6.4.1 Bitches in Season
- (a) Bitches in season are not permitted to compete or enter, nor shall they be allowed on the grounds.

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## 6.4.2 Withdrawals

- (a) Any dog withdrawn because of injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, or a bitch that comes into season shall be refunded in full by the test-giving club. Prior to paying such refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate.
- (b) The test-giving club is free to formulate its own policy with reference to refunds for other reasons provided that the terms thereof are clearly stated in the premium list.

## 6.5 Disqualification

- 6.5.1 Any dog disqualified for biting or viciousness shall automatically be disqualified from entering in any other event in any other discipline until such time as the dog is officially reinstated.

## 6.6 Health

- 6.6.1 Where it is found that these rules have been contravened, the dog in question shall be removed from the grounds and the owner/handler will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6.6.2 No dog may be entered at a test held under these rules if the dog:
  - (a) Is known to have distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough or other communicable disease
  - (b) Has recovered from infection with canine distemper or canine parvovirus within the last 14 days.
- 6.6.3 It is recommended that all dogs must have current immunization status before being entered.

## 6.7 Closing & Drawing of Entries, Running Order

- 6.7.1 *(59-09-13)* Entries for an approved hunt test may close at any time prior to the hunt test, but shall not close later than the third day preceding the start of the hunt test for mail-in entries or later than the closing time stated in the Premium List if “Day of” entries are being accepted.
- 6.7.2 Each entry form must be completed in full and the information given on the entry form must be that which applies to the entered dog.

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- 6.7.3 A club holding an approved hunt test shall not accept any entries received after the closing time and date specified in the Premium List.
- 6.7.4 (59-09-13) The order of running shall be decided by lot at the draw, however dogs worked by the same person shall be separated when possible. A separate draw must be held for each day and each Test. If “Day of” entries are being accepted, the starting dog number must be drawn after all entries have been accepted and the running order established.
- 6.7.5 Dogs may be run in an order different from the order in which they were drawn when:
- (a) In the opinion of the judges or the Hunt Test Committee such will result in a reasonable and desirable saving of time in the conduct of the event.
  - (b) In the opinion of the judges such will avoid unfairness or prejudice to any dog resulting from an event which has occurred in the particular test.

## **6.8 Split Test Levels**

- 6.8.1 At the discretion of the Hunt Test Committee any or all test levels may be run in more than one division, but dogs shall not be entered in more than one division of the same test level. Whenever test levels are divided, they shall be divided equally with placement of the odd dog determined by the Committee.
- 6.8.2 The club must notify the CKC within 24 hours of the closing date when a test level is split and obtain judge’s approval.

## **6.9 End of Test**

- 6.9.1 The Hunt Test Secretary shall, within 21 days of the completion of an approved hunt test, forward to The Canadian Kennel Club the Official Catalogue, marked to indicate a qualifying or non-qualifying score for each dog entered and signed and certified by the judges and the Hunt Test Secretary including all applicable information and documents.
- 6.9.2 A club must forward an Official Catalogue to The Canadian Kennel Club and official judge’s book, signed and certified as above, along with the entry forms for those dogs entered, and a complete Hunt

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Test Secretary's report. (Evaluation forms need not be submitted to The Canadian Kennel Club). Clubs must keep evaluation forms for one year.

- 6.9.3 A club holding an approved hunt test shall retain an official catalogue.
- 6.9.4 The test-giving club is responsible for the collection of all listing fees and the submission of the same to The Canadian Kennel Club so as to be received not more than 21 days after the closing of the test. The test-giving club shall forward the following to The Canadian Kennel Club.
- (a) The signed certification over the signatures of any one of the following: president, vice-president, secretary or other authorized signing officer, as to the number of listed dogs entered in its test, and the total number of dogs entered in competition in its test.
  - (b) A remittance which shall include all listing fees, and recording fees as set by the Board of Directors for each and every dog entered in competition in its test. In the event that The Canadian Kennel Club establishes that the remittance fails to completely cover the fees as set forth above, an administrative fee as set by the Board shall apply.
  - (c) If a dog is entered in more than one class or stake at a hunt test, the remittance fee applies to each entry.
- 6.9.5 An administrative fee as set by the Board will be imposed for each day's delay in the returns reaching the CKC.

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## **7 SPORTSMANSHIP**

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### **7.1 Code of Sportsmanship**

- 7.1.1 Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- 7.1.2 Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.

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- 7.1.3 Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
  - 7.1.4 The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
  - 7.1.5 The sportsman refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
  - 7.1.6 The sportsman respects the bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport, conforms to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
  - 7.1.7 Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
  - 7.1.8 Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
  - 7.1.9 Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of the dogs.
  - 7.1.10 Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport or themselves while taking part in the sport.
  - 7.1.11 Sportsmen are concerned with the behaviors of all involved in the sport.
  - 7.1.12 Sportsmen take responsibility for their actions.
  - 7.1.13 Sportsmen exhibit respect for the officials

## **7.2 Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

- 7.2.1 It shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct if a person during the running of or in connection with an event abuses or harasses a judge or official or any other person present in any capacity at the event.
- 7.2.2 Any handler who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or who is seen to kick, strike, or otherwise roughly manhandle a dog while on the grounds of a hunt test at any time during the holding of the event, may be expelled from the test by the Hunt Test Committee.
- 7.2.3 The judges shall also have the authority to expel a handler if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler or see the handler kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog while the event is in progress. It will be the duty of the

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judges to report promptly to the Hunt Test Committee the expulsion of a handler.

- 7.2.4 The Hunt Test Committee shall investigate, at once, any instance of alleged unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler, or any report that a handler has been observed kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog. If a Hunt Test Committee, after investigation, determines that a handler is in violation of this section, and that the incident, if proven, would constitute conduct prejudicial to the sport or The Canadian Kennel Club.
- 7.2.5 The Hunt Test Secretary shall submit within 21 days to The Canadian Kennel Club a complete report of any action taken under this section.

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## **8 QUALIFYING SCORES, AWARDING OF TITLES**

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### **8.1 Qualifying Scores**

- 8.1.1 The total number of qualifying scores required for the issuance of the titles Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter and Master Hunter shall be established by the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club.
- 8.1.2 The ability categories in a series must be graded on a scale of 0-10.
- 8.1.3 In order to receive a qualifying score in Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests, a dog must acquire a minimum average of not less than 5 on each of the abilities listed on the evaluation form, with an overall average score of not less than 7.
- 8.1.4 A dog graded zero (0) for the same ability by 2 judges cannot receive a qualifying score and the handler must be informed that the dog cannot receive a qualifying score.
- 8.1.5 An attacking dog cannot receive a qualifying score at the event in which the attack occurred.

### **8.2 Qualifying Performances**

- 8.2.1 The judge's certification of a qualifying score for any particular dog constitutes certification to The Cana-

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dian Kennel Club that the dog on this particular occasion has evidenced abilities at least in accordance with minimum standards and that the abilities evidenced on this occasion would justify the awarding of the title associated with the particular test category. A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog which exhibits abilities that do not meet minimum requirements.

### **8.3 Junior Hunter Title (JH)**

- 8.3.1 In order to be recorded as a Junior Hunter, a dog must be registered in the CKC Stud Book or possess an Event Registration Number (ERN), and must have a record of having acquired qualifying scores in the Junior Hunt Test in 3 CKC approved hunt tests.
- 8.3.2 Upon completion of these requirements, a CKC Junior Hunter (JH) certificate will be issued to the owner, and the dog shall be identified as a Junior Hunter in all official CKC records by the suffix title JH.
- 8.3.3 A dog that has been recorded as a Junior Hunter may continue to enter the Junior Hunting Test, but no further Junior Hunter certificates will be issued.

### **8.4 Senior Hunter Title (SH)**

- 8.4.1 In order to be recorded as a Senior Hunter, a dog must be registered in The Canadian Kennel Club Stud Book or possess an Event Registration Number (ERN), and must have a record of having acquired qualifying scores in the Senior Hunting Test at 5 CKC approved hunt tests. In the case of a dog that has been recorded by CKC as a Junior Hunter, that dog will be recorded as a Senior Hunter after having acquired qualifying scores in the Senior Hunt Test at 4 CKC approved hunt tests.
- 8.4.2 Upon completion of these requirements, a CKC Senior Hunter (SH) certificate will be issued to the owner, and the dog shall be identified as a Senior Hunter in all official CKC records by the suffix title SH, which title shall supersede the Junior Hunter title when the Junior Hunter title has been previously awarded. A dog that has been recorded as a Senior Hunter may continue to enter the Senior Hunt Test, but no further Senior Hunter certificates will be issued.

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- 8.4.3 Dogs that have acquired a qualifying score in a Senior Hunt Test at an approved hunt test prior to the date that entries close may continue to enter Junior Hunt Tests.  
*(60-09-13)*

## **8.5 Master Hunter Title (MH)**

- 8.5.1 In order to be recorded as a Master Hunter, a dog must be registered in The Canadian Kennel Club Stud Book or possess an Event Registration Number (ERN), and must have a record of having acquired qualifying scores in the Owner Handler Master Hunt Test or Master Hunt Test at 6 CKC-approved hunt tests. In the case of a dog that has been recorded by CKC as a Senior Hunter, that dog will be recorded as a Master Hunter after having acquired qualifying scores in the Owner Handler Master Hunt Test or Master Hunt Test at 5 CKC approved hunt tests.
- 8.5.2 Upon completion of these requirements, a CKC Master Hunter (MH) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog will be identified as a Master Hunter in all official CKC records by the suffix title MH, which title shall supersede any CKC hunt test title that may have been previously earned.
- 8.5.3 A dog that has been recorded as a Master Hunter may continue to enter the Owner Handler Master Hunt Test or Master Hunt Test but no further Master Hunter certificates will be issued.
- 8.5.4 A dog is not required to earn any title as a prerequisite for earning a higher title.
- 8.5.5 Dogs that have acquired a qualifying score in a Master Hunt Test at an approved hunt test prior to the date that entries close may continue to enter Senior Hunt Tests.  
*(61-09-13)*

## **8.6 Grand Master Hunter Title (GMH)**

- 8.6.1 In order to be recorded as a Grand Master Hunter, a dog must meet the following requirements:
- (a) Registered in The Canadian Kennel Club Stud Book or possess an Event Registration Number.
  - (b) Fulfilled all of the requirements for and acquired a Master Hunter Title.
  - (62-09-13)* (c) Earned qualifying scores in 10 CKC approved Owner Handler Master, Master Hunter Tests or National Master Hunt Tests.

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**NOTE:** Qualifying scores that were used to acquire the dog's Master Hunter title do not count towards the 10 required qualifying scores for the Grand Master Hunter.

8.6.2 Upon completion of these requirements, a CKC Grand Master Hunter (GMH) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog will be identified as a Grand Master Hunter in all official CKC records by the prefix title GMH, which title shall supercede any CKC hunt test titles that may have been previously earned.

8.6.3 A dog that has been recorded as a Grand Master Hunter may continue to enter the Owner Handler Master Hunt Test or Master Hunt Test but no further Grand Master Hunter certificates will be issued.

## **8.7 National Master Hunter Title (NMH)**

8.7.1 In order to be recorded as a National Master Hunter, the dog must be registered with the CKC or have an Event Registration Number (ERN), or a Performance Event Number (PEN) or if listed in the miscellaneous list a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN) and must have qualified at a National Master Hunt Test stake.

8.7.2 Upon completion of these requirements, a CKC National Master Hunter (NMH) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog will be identified as a National Master Hunter in all official CKC records by the prefix title NMH.

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# **9 TEST REQUIREMENTS**

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## **9.1 Junior Hunt Test**

9.1.1 Dogs shall be tested on 4 single marks: 2 on land and 2 on water.

9.1.2 Test distances shall be established by the judges, but only in keeping with the simulation of realistic but relatively simple hunting situations. Test distances should not normally exceed 68.5 metres (75 yards). No retrieve shall exceed 100 yards.

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- 9.1.3 Dogs may be sent to retrieve more than once, but judges must take a second cast into consideration in evaluating a dog's marking and perseverance. Normally a second cast calls for a lower grade.
- 9.1.4 Junior Hunting dogs shall not be handled on more than one mark, and if handling is required, it must be accomplished crisply and cleanly.
- 9.1.5 Dogs need not be steady and may be brought to the line on leash. Dogs should be brought to line tractably at heel and must be under control. Dogs may be restrained gently with a slipcord, or held gently by a collar until sent to retrieve. If a collar is used to restrain, the collar must be removed before the dog is sent to retrieve. Prong and pinch collars are prohibited. Leashes, including short tabs, shall be removed before dogs are run.
- (63-09-13)
- 9.1.6 A dog must retrieve to hand. Failure to do so merits a grade of "0" in trainability.
- 9.1.7 A dog may be encouraged to hunt, but excessive noise in encouraging the dog suggests a lack of hunting desire and a low grade in perseverance is required.

## **9.2 Senior Hunt Test**

- 9.2.1 Dogs shall be tested in a minimum of 5 hunting situations which shall include:
- (a) One land blind.
  - (b) One water blind.
  - (c) One double land marks.
  - (d) One double water marks.
  - (e) An upland hunting test. The dog shall be required to locate birds as in typical upland hunting and within gun range of the handler. The dog may be urged to hunt or handled to maintain his range and position. The bird(s) must be placed in cover within the test area. When located, the birds must be retrieved by the dog to the handler. Dead birds shall be used.

(64-09-13) There shall be no walk-up test in senior hunt test.

The blinds may be run as a double blind, one placed on land and one placed on water.

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- 9.2.2 Guidelines for Judge's setting up test and evaluating dogs at the Senior Level:  
(65-09-13)
- (a) if the same piece of land or water is used for both blinds and marks, then the blinds must be run first;
  - (b) blinds should be no longer than 73.1m (80 yards) and as open as possible;
  - (c) in water, shoreline blinds, heavy cover and re-entries should be avoided;
  - (d) the line should be as close to the water as possible, avoiding cheating entries.
- 9.2.3 Senior Binds should be run on grounds separate from the marks or if necessary, judges should ensure that previous marks do not influence or interfere with the dogs running the blinds. Blinds shall not be run between the marks in Senior Hunter.  
(66-09-13)
- 9.2.4 Distances on land and water shall be established by the judges but no retrieve should normally exceed 73.1m(80 yards). Also, no marks should be thrown inside 18.3m (20 yards) from the line. Testing situations should, to the extent that it is practical and realistic, make use of the natural hazards, hunting equipment and obstacles that are encountered in true hunting.  
(67-09-13)
- 9.2.5 Dogs should be steady on the line but a controlled break or creeping should result in a relatively lower scoring in trainability than a controlled break or creeping would in Junior Hunt Tests.  
(68-09-13)
- 9.2.6 A Senior Hunt dog must retrieve to hand. Failure to do so merits a grade of "0" in trainability.
- 9.2.7 Dogs may be sent to retrieve more than once, but judges must take a second cast into consideration in evaluating the dogs marking and perseverance. Normally, a second cast calls for a lower grade.
- 9.2.8 Perseverance should be encouraged on marked retrieves, however dogs may be handled on marks and excessive handling requires a lower score in perseverance. A dog that goes to the area of the fall and finds the bird unaided should be scored appreciably higher than a dog that must be handled to a bird.
- 9.2.9 A dog shall be required to honour a working dog at least once, but judges should allow greater leeway in scoring the Senior Hunting dog on its trainability than would be allowed a Master Hunt dog. The hon-  
(69-09-13)
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our dog must be set up so that it is unlikely that the working dog will run across the front of the honouring dog. A controlled break is allowed in Senior providing it does not interfere with the working dog.

9.2.10 A diversion shot(s) shall be used. A diversion shot is a shot in which no bird is thrown, and shall be fired in Senior Tests.

9.2.11 Diversion Birds shall not be used  
(70-09-13)

### **9.3 Owner Handler Master & Master Hunt Test**

9.3.1 Dogs shall be tested in a minimum of 5 hunting situations as follows: multiple land marks, multiple water marks, an upland hunting test, a land blind(s) and a water blind(s). There shall be at least 3 series. Diversion birds and/or diversion shots must be used at least once.

**NOTE:** The word multiple means more than one, although triple marks are encouraged.

9.3.2 Natural hazards, obstacles, hunting equipment and implements should be utilized to a somewhat greater degree than in the Senior Hunt Test.

9.3.3 A Master Hunt dog must honour and at least one opportunity to honour must be provided. Trainability must be evaluated more stringently than in the Senior Hunt Test.

9.3.4 Dogs that switch shall be scored "0" in perseverance and cannot receive a qualifying score.

9.3.5 Test distances shall be established by the judges. No retrieve should normally exceed 91.4m (100 yards) and under no circumstance shall exceed 114.3m (125 yards).

9.3.6 As in Junior and Senior, situations must simulate natural and realistic hunting situations. While distance is not crucial, Master Hunt situations should be more challenging than Senior Hunt situations.

9.3.7 A Master Hunt dog must be steady and must deliver to hand. Failure to do so must be graded "0" in trainability.

9.3.8 A Master dog that creeps must be scored relatively lower than creeping in Senior. A controlled break in

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Master must be scored “0” in trainability, except in an upland test.

9.3.9 Dogs should be sent to retrieve only once. A dog that displays unwillingness must be scored relatively lower on marking and perseverance than in the Senior Hunt Test.

9.3.10 Perseverance should be encouraged on marked retrieves, however dogs may be handled on marks but must be scored with greater stringency than Senior Hunt dogs in marking and perseverance.

A dog that goes to the area of the fall and finds the bird unaided should be scored appreciably higher than a dog that must be handled to a bird.

9.3.11 Master Hunt dogs that require excessive handling on marks and blinds, that refuse voice or whistle commands, or appear unwilling to perform their work must be viewed in a different light from Senior Hunt dogs where a degree of tolerance is necessary for those not-so-seasoned Senior dogs. Master Hunt dogs must exhibit those qualities expected in a truly finished and experienced hunting companion.

9.3.12 A diversion shot(s) shall be used. A diversion shot is a shot in which no bird is thrown and shall be fired in Master Tests.

9.3.13 Diversion Birds shall be used at least once.

(72-09-13)

(a) A diversion bird is bird that is thrown in addition to the marks and blinds. Diversion birds may be shot or thrown on a blind retrieve after the dog has been sent for, or when a dog is returning from a blind retrieve. However, diversion birds shall only be used on marks when the dog is returning from a retrieve.

(b) Diversion birds shall always be initiated in front of the working dog. The diversion bird is not a mark but constitutes a trainability situation. It is always retrieved by the working dog. Diversion birds may be shot and thrown when the working dog is in a location where the dog should be able to see the bird as it goes up into the air and as it falls.

9.3.14 Poison birds may be used in the Master test. Judges will determine whether or not the poison bird shall be retrieved after the blind retrieve, but if it is to be retrieved it will be judged as a mark.

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### 9.3.15 Upland Hunting Test

- (73-09-13) (a) In all Master Hunt Tests, an upland hunting test with quartering and flush shall be used. At the Host Club's discretion, a separate set of qualified judges (2) may be used to judge the upland hunting test. The CKC must be advised the day after the close of entries.
- (b) When quartering the dog hunts in a radius ideally 10 to 30 yards to the front of the handler. The dog should be eager to hunt all available cover diligently and be under control. The intent of the upland hunting test is not to demonstrate running a pattern, but to demonstrate a natural tendency to quarter and hunt under control. The dog may be urged to hunt or handled to maintain his range and position, excessive handling is not acceptable.
- (c) Master Hunt Test dogs will be judged more stringently than Senior Hunt Test dogs.
- (d) A natural flush is preferred to the use of traps, pens, cages, or other devices designed to contain and then release birds during the upland hunting test. However, when conditions exist that prohibit the use of natural flushes (e.g., weather, poor birds, insufficient cover, etc.), such devices may be utilized but must be sufficiently camouflaged. When such devices are used, the bird is flushed (thrown or released) in full view of the dog. The distance from the bird to the dog should be within scenting distance when the bird is released. Whenever possible, the flush should be aimed away from the dog, not towards it.
- (e) If a bird is retrieved as part of the test, a dead bird must be used; it shall not be scored as a mark, but must be completed, and must be delivered to hand.
- (f) The dog must be steady to shot and shall be disqualified if it is not.
- (g) The handler must have the dog under control at the time the first shot is fired or, in the judge's opinion, should have been fired.
- (h) The dog may be sitting or standing with limited movement.
- (i) If a dog is steady to shot but then breaks at the fall and demonstrates an intent to retrieve without being sent, it must be stopped. If brought under immediate control, it shall be considered a controlled break and charged with a minor fault.

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- (j) All use of live and dead birds must comply with the provisions of the Criminal Code relating to Cruelty to Animals-Causing unnecessary suffering, S446.
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## **10 NATIONAL MASTER HUNT TEST STAKE**

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### **10.1 Guidelines**

- 10.1.1 The National Master Hunt Test stake shall be for dogs that qualify for this stake under these rules.
- 10.1.2 This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by a club duly accredited by the CKC.
- 10.1.3 At the conclusion of the stake, the Hunt Test Chair will name all of the dogs that received a qualifying score.

### **10.2 Qualifications**

- 10.2.1 All dogs entered in the National Master Hunt Test Stake must have, or be eligible for, a CKC registration number, an Event Registration Number (ERN) or a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN).
- 10.2.2 Entry in the National Master Hunt Test stake shall include the following:
- (65-03-10) (a) Any dog with a CKC Master Hunter title who has successfully completed 2 CKC Master Hunter passes at Hunt Tests hosted by clubs in good standing of the Canadian National Master Retriever Club, during the period from the closing date of the previous National Master Hunt Test Stake to the closing date of the upcoming National Master Hunt Test Stake.
- (65-03-10) (b) Any dog with an AKC Master Hunter title who has successfully completed 2 CKC Master Hunter passes at Hunt Tests hosted by clubs in good standing of the Canadian National Master Retriever Club, during the period from the closing date of the previous National Master Hunt Test Stake to the closing date of the upcoming National Master Hunt Test Stake.

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- (65-03-10) (c) Any dog with a CKC Grand Master Hunter title.
- (65-03-10) (d) Any dog that qualified in the most recent National Master Hunt Test Stake.
- (21-09-09) (e) Any dog that qualified in the most recent AKC Master National Hunt Test.

### **10.3 Entries**

- 10.3.1 The Hunt Test Secretary of the organization hosting the stake shall make entry information available to the owners of all qualified dogs.
- 10.3.2 Proof that the dog is qualified according to the conditions laid down in these regulations must accompany the entry form.
- 10.3.3 Entries will close ten days before the start of the National Master Hunt Test stake. The draw to determine running order will be held at that time.
- 10.3.4 Dogs which qualify at a test held within 7 days of the National Master Hunt Test stake's closing date for entries would be eligible to enter the National Master Hunt Test stake held the following year provided the dog was not entered in the current year.
- 10.3.5 Entry forms shall include the following:
- (a) Information regarding the stake
  - (b) Qualifications for entry
  - (c) Entry and other fees
  - (d) Date of Closing of entries
  - (e) Name and full address of person to whom entries are to be sent
  - (f) Date of test
  - (g) Exact location with map
  - (h) Names of approved judges
  - (i) Prizes offered
  - (j) Club name(s) and date(s) that the two required qualifying owner Handler Master Hunt Test and/or Master Hunt Test scores were obtained.
- 10.3.6 Owners are to be advised that entries received after close will not be accepted.

### **10.4 Specifics**

- 10.4.1 The National Master Hunt Test stake shall consist of the following:

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- (a) Two series of multiple land marks
  - (b) Two series of multiple water marks
  - (c) A minimum of two blinds and a maximum of three blinds on land
  - (d) A minimum of two blinds and a maximum of three blinds on water
  - (e) An upland test
  - (f) An honour on land and an honour on water
- 10.4.2 The word multiple means more than one, although triple marks are encouraged.
- 10.4.3 Every effort should be made to provide a realistic upland test. To this end, clubs are strongly encouraged that clubs use live birds and wild flushes at this test.
- 10.4.4 A controlled break is allowed on the flush
- 10.4.5 Situations must simulate natural and realistic hunting conditions and scenarios at all times. The National Master Hunt Test stake must capture the realism of hunting as much as possible.
- 10.4.6 Natural hazards, obstacles, hunting equipment and implements should be utilized extensively.
- 10.4.7 A numerical system of rotation will be utilized and administered by the Hunt Test Marshal and shall be set out in the Premium List. No dog shall run first more than once.
- 10.4.8 Handlers must shoulder or carry an empty shotgun or a reasonable facsimile on all marking tests.
- 10.4.9 All federal, provincial and local regulations pertaining to the handling of and use of birds and firearms must be strictly adhered to.
- 10.4.10 Except where such hunt test rules and regulations are inconsistent with any part of this section, the Hunt Test Rules, Regulations and Requirements adopted by the CKC for a Master Hunt test shall apply to this stake.
- 10.4.11 Judges should bear in mind that this is a National event and the requirements and rules pertaining to Hunt Tests should be strictly applied and the tests designed so as to maintain the high standard expected of dogs participating in this event.
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## **10.5 Organization and Field Committee**

- 10.5.1 The host club staging the stake shall name a Hunt Test Committee of 3 persons to deal with any complaints. The Hunt Test Marshal shall be chair of the committee and shall only vote in the event of a tie.

## **10.6 Judges**

- 10.6.1 The number of judges at the National Master Hunt Test stake will be three.
- 10.6.2 Each judge must have qualified a dog at least 5 times in CKC Master Hunt Tests and/or CKC Owner Handler Master Hunt Tests and must have judged at least 6 CKC or AKC Master Hunt Test stakes.
- 10.6.3 The Canadian National Master Retriever Club will choose and appoint the judges. CNMRC member clubs will be invited to nominate a qualified and willing judge from their zone to judge the National Master Hunt Test stake for the following year. Judges for the following year's National Master Hunt Test stake will be selected at or before the CNMRC's Annual General Meeting one year prior to the event.
- 10.6.4 A judge will not be selected from the Zone that is hosting the National Master Hunt Test Stake in that year.

## **10.7 Ribbons**

- 10.7.1 A distinctive red and white rosette with the CKC logo shall be given to all dogs that qualify at the National Master Hunt Test stake.

## **10.8 National Master Hunter Title**

- 10.8.1 Dogs that qualify at the National Master Hunt Test stake will be awarded the title National Master Hunter and shall be entitled to place the letters NMH before its name.

## **10.9 End of Stake**

- 10.9.1 The Hunt Test Secretary shall, within 21 days of the completion of the National Master Hunt Test stake, forward to the CKC the following:

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- (a) The official catalogue marked to indicate qualifying and non-qualifying dogs, signed and certified by the judges and the Hunt Test Secretary
  - (b) Entry forms for all qualifying dogs
  - (c) All recording and listing fees set by the CKC
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## **11 INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES & HUNT TEST COMMITTEE**

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### **11.1 Instructions**

- 11.1.1 The hunt test regulations have been formulated in such a manner that the officials of a test-giving club and the judges have considerable latitude in the conduct of a test. This is desirable to allow for variations in conditions that are peculiar to various parts of the country, and also to grant judges unlimited opportunities for ingenuity in planning tests. The regulations are not intended to be restrictive, either to officials or judges.
  - 11.1.2 The objectives of the regulations are twofold:
    - (a) greater uniformity in the conduct of hunt tests for retrievers;
    - (b) greater uniformity in evaluating the abilities and characteristics of retrievers at those hunt tests.
  - 11.1.3 In order that hunt tests may be conducted as uniformly as practicable, standardization of objectives is essential and, therefore, all judges, guns, entrants and officials who have a part in conducting hunt tests must be familiar with and be governed by these regulations:
  - 11.1.4 The judges, with paramount regard to Section one of this Chapter, shall determine the tests to be given and shall design those tests in order to approximate as nearly as possible true hunting situations. In keeping with this aim, the judges shall design and enhance hunting situations by utilizing, as naturally as possible, the equipment that would be found in a true upland game or waterfowl hunting situation. Strategic placement of numerous decoys anchored separately, use of camouflaged blinds to conceal guns and throwers, duck boats, duck and goose calls, etc. are necessary adjuncts to hunt tests for retrievers.
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- 11.1.5 It is strongly recommended that judges inspect the grounds with representatives of the Hunt Test Committee the day preceding the event, in order to select and determine the nature and objectives of each hunting situation, preferably for their assignment.
- 11.1.6 Judges should attempt to use a test dog in each series of all test levels. Clubs should make every effort to provide the necessary test dog for the judges to utilize. A good test dog:
- (a) Is not entered in the test
  - (b) Can reasonably be expected to complete the test
  - (c) Demonstrates the mechanics of the test
- 11.1.7 Judges must explain the test set-up to the handlers, and further explain the objectives as they relate to a specific hunting situation.
- 11.1.8 Judges may discontinue testing in a hunting situation before all dogs have been run in that situation, provided that another hunting situation is substituted. The score of a dog in a hunting situation which has been discontinued shall not be considered for any purpose in the evaluation of the abilities of that dog.
- 11.1.9 Judges shall have the authority to disqualify a dog that is not present within 15 minutes after it is called to run by the judges.
- 11.1.10 In the Senior and Master Hunt Tests, judges shall in their discretion determine the number of dogs that shall be kept on the line simultaneously. In at least one hunt situation involving the retrieve of a marked fall in the Senior and Master Hunt Tests every dog must be kept on the line, off the leash, while another dog works.
- (a) Whenever used within the above context, the word "line" is understood to mean the point from which a dog will commence its retrieve or the point at which a dog's evaluation is begun.
- 11.1.11 When running water tests, the Hunt Test Committee may allow a camouflage wet suit/vest to be used. When this is to be allowed, it must be set out in the premium list.
- 11.1.12 Judges shall have the authority to exclude any dog which they may consider unfit to run. The entry fee for all such dogs will be forfeited.
- (a) If an entered dog is to be run with a bandage, the handler is expected to explain the extent of
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the injury and the reason for the bandage to the judges before the start of the test, at which point the judges will decide whether or not to allow the dog to run.

- 11.1.13 Although not required, it is a considerate gesture by judges, if they are in agreement, to notify handlers when their methods of restraint are being reflected in their dog's trainability score.
- 11.1.14 The dogs shall be shot over only by official guns appointed by the Hunt Test Committee.
- 11.1.15 On marked retrieves including on walk up tests a dog should be able to see each bird in the air and as it falls. Guns may be requested to shoot twice at every bird, or at the discretion of the judges, guns may fire a diversionary shot or shots but diversionary shots may only be fired in the Senior and Master Hunt Tests. After birds have been shot, all guns shall remain quiet and only move their positions in accordance with specific instructions by judges. When guns are visible, the judges may request the guns to disappear from sight after the bird is down, but they should not have them move to another position to deliberately mislead the dogs in their marking. On marked retrieves, the order in which birds are to be retrieved shall not be specified by the judges; the handler is free to select the order in which he directs his dog to retrieve the birds provided that such selection should be accomplished quietly and promptly.
- 11.1.16 In any Junior, Senior, Owner Handler Master or Master Hunt Tests, the judges may, in their discretion, utilize either hidden and/or visible guns, but in doing so shall give paramount consideration to the simulation of hunting situations. Visible gun stations should be kept to a minimum in Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master Hunt Tests, but may be utilized to a greater extent in Junior Hunt Tests.
- 11.1.17 Unless otherwise instructed by the judges, no dog should be sent to retrieve until ordered to do so. Judges should call the number of the dog ordered to retrieve.
- 11.1.18 In a Senior, Owner Handler Master, or Master Hunt Test, when a dog is ordered by the judge to retrieve a fall, and another dog breaks for the same fall and interferes with the working dog to the extent of causing it in any way to make a faulty performance, the dog interfered with should be considered as not having been tested and given another evaluation.

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- 11.1.19 If there is an occurrence which makes for a relatively unfair test of a dog's abilities the judges shall exercise their discretion in determining how to score the abilities of the dog in that series. In doing so the judges may decide that it is necessary to re-run the dog.
- (a) The re-run of a mark or blind which was not previously completed shall be scored by taking into consideration the abilities exhibited by the dog prior to the point of unfairness in the initial run, and after the point of unfairness in the re-run.
- 11.1.20 When ordered to retrieve, the handler shall direct his dog from any position designated by the judges.
- 11.1.21 Official guns, blind planters, game stewards or persons other than the dog handler shall not assist a dog in finding game. Doing so may, at the discretion of the judges, result in either a re-run of the dog interfered with, or that dog not receiving a qualifying score.
- 11.1.22 No article or object must be thrown in any test level (Junior, Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master) in order to encourage a dog to enter the water or direct a dog to a fall. Violation of this provision is to be considered sufficient cause for the dog not to receive a qualifying score.
- 11.1.23 Judges shall have the authority to turn out of a test any dog which does not obey its handler and any handler who interferes willfully with another handler or his dog.
- 11.1.24 No dog shall be given a qualifying score in Junior, Senior or Master Hunting Tests unless the dog has completed all series held for any dog in the event except a series which has been discontinued.
- 11.1.25 At the end of the first series in each category (Junior, Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master), and every series thereafter, the judges will call back all dogs which they wish to evaluate further, and will score them in additional hunting situations until the testing category has been concluded.
- (a) Whenever a dog is graded "0" by 2 judges on the same ability, or whenever it is evident that a dog cannot receive a qualifying score, it shall not be called back to run in subsequent series.
- 11.1.26 It is essential that all spectators attending a hunt test be kept far enough from the line to enable the dog whose abilities are being evaluated to clearly discern its handler, and nothing shall be done to distract the
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dog's attention from its work. A handler has the right to appeal to the judges if the gallery is interfering with his work in any way, and the judges in their discretion may, if they believe that dog has been interfered with, allow the dog to be re-run at a later time.

11.1.27 In sanctioned hunt tests, any sections of these regulations except those pertaining to gun safety may be relaxed or eliminated, but all entrants should be advised in what respects this is true.

11.1.28 The judges of any hunt test shall not rank dogs in the order of the dog's relative numerical scores, nor shall judges be obliged to divulge any information with respect to the relative standing of numerical scores.

#### 11.1.29 Responsibilities of Gunners

(a) The dogs shall be shot over only by the official guns appointed by the Hunt Test Committee. When under judgment, a handler shall not fire ammunition from any type of firearm.

(i) It is recommended that all gunning be accomplished with breaking type shotguns, and that the guns must be unloaded, broken (or cased) when not in use.

(b) Gunners are to remain quiet and only volunteer information if:

(i) Requested to do so by the judges

(ii) They believe their bird to be drifting seriously

(iii) The dog retrieves a bird other than the one thrown for it

(iv) If there is a significant change in the cover, which may not be apparent to the judges

(c) Unless otherwise instructed, the gunners shall not move their position after their bird is down.

#### 11.1.30 Responsibilities of Handlers

(a) In Junior Hunt Tests, the judges may require the handler to carry an empty shotgun or replica, but may do so only once. The handler need not shoulder the shotgun.

(b) In Senior, Owner Handler Master, and Master Hunt Tests the judges shall require the handler to shoulder or carry an empty shotgun or replica on at least 2 occasions, but a minimum of 3 occasions is recommended.

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- (c) It shall be the responsibility of the test-giving club to provide an empty shotgun or replica and it shall further be the responsibility of the Marshal to ensure that the shotgun is unloaded.
  - (d) When coming to the line to be tested, and while on line, the dog and handler will assume such positions as may be directed by the judges.
    - (i) Leashes and collars shall be used as follows: In Senior and Master, dogs shall be brought to the line and taken from the line off-leash and without collars while they are under judgment. Collars and leashes may be put on the dogs after they leave the line and are back of all the judges.
    - (ii) Dogs are under judgment from the time they are called to the line until they have left the line and are behind the judges and on leash.
  - (e) Until called to be tested, a dog must be kept where it cannot see the location of a fall for another dog, or see the planting or retrieve of a blind, unless such be in compliance with instructions of the judges as in a hunting situation in which the dog is required to honour before being run. Violation of this Section shall cause the dog to not receive a qualifying score. Should the judges or the Hunt Test Committee believe the violation to have been deliberate, the occurrence shall be deemed to have been a display of unsportsmanlike conduct by the handler. If the incident occurs while the dog's abilities are being evaluated the judges shall decide whether or not there has been a violation of this Section and whether or not it was deliberate, otherwise these decisions shall be made by the Hunt Test Committee.
  - (f) In Keeping with the aim of simulated hunting conditions and situations, handlers, judges, workers and other test participants shall be attired in dark or customary hunting attire which adequately reflects a waterfowling or upland hunting environment and provincially required blaze orange for the upland test where applicable.
  - (g) No handler shall carry any exposed training equipment (except whistle) or use any other equipment or threatening gestures in such a manner that they may be an aid or threat in steadying or controlling a dog. Violation of this paragraph is sufficient to cause the dog not to receive a qualifying score.
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- (h) A handler may give a command to sit as the first bird is being thrown in a “walk-up” in the Senior and Master Hunt Tests. Judges should tell handlers, in advance of the test, when it is appropriate to give the command to sit.
  - (i) There should be no practicing or training on any part of the test grounds from the start of the test until its conclusion. The throwing of a bumper by a handler for the purpose of exercising his dog shall not be deemed to be practicing or training.
  - (j) After the Hunt Test Committee and the judges have selected test grounds, or at such earlier date as the test giving club shall determine, no competing dogs shall be trained or exercised in that part of the grounds to be used for the tests.
  - (k) The right to run a dog cannot be transferred except where the handler has been eliminated from the test or when approved by the Hunt Test Committee.
  - (l) During the period following, the time of the first shot and until the dog’s number is called, the handler of the working or honouring dog should remain silent. Also, in all marking tests, during such period, the handler’s hands should remain quietly in close proximity to his body. A handler who projects his hand during such a period, whether for the purpose of assisting his dog to locate a fall or otherwise should be considered to have a threatening gesture, and his dog penalized as outlined below.
  - (m) No handler shall:
    - (i) Carry any exposed training equipment, except whistles, game calls and guns, to the line.
    - (ii) Use threatening gestures or any equipment to aid in steadying or controlling a dog.
    - (iii) Hold or intentionally touch a dog while under judgment except as specifically provided for in these rules.
    - (iv) Any violation of these provisions is sufficient grounds to justify elimination from the stake. It is a considerate gesture if the judges notify a handler if a method of restraint might incur a penalty.
  - (n) When on line, whether running or honouring, a handler shall not place his dog or himself so that the dog’s full vision of any bird as it falls is blocked.
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- (o) Walk-up test: A handler may, without penalty, give a command to sit when the first bird is being thrown on a walk-up.
  - (p) When a handler of a dog under judgment is asked for any reason to pick up his dog, he is still under judgment until he has left the line with his dog at heel in accordance with the judges' instructions. When a dog is ordered by the judges to be picked up and run again, the dog should return promptly to its handler.
  - (q) In a handling situation, whether to a mark or a blind a dog that is allowed to hunt extensively for a bird after handling has begun should be considered out of control.

#### 11.1.31 Responsibilities of Marshals

- (a) The marshals of each stake are responsible to ensure the stake runs smoothly. The marshal shall:
  - (i) Call the dogs to line.
  - (ii) Announce to the judges the number of the dog about to be tested.
  - (iii) Enforce that all spectators attending a test be kept far enough from the line to enable the dog working to clearly discern its handler.
  - (iv) Call back to the line any dog which was picked up and was to be re-tested. How long such a dog shall wait behind the line before being re-tested should be prearranged with the judges so that the handler can be told when he is to run again at the time he picks up his dog.
  - (v) Obtain the callbacks for the next series from the judges, and announce them.
  - (vi) Generally to assist judges in running the test

## 11.2 Considerations for Judges

11.2.1 The most important element of judging is to have a thorough understanding of the regulations and guidelines and to apply them fairly and consistently. Consider, also, the purposes of the 3 test levels:

- (a) Master tests maintain the quality of the program.
- (b) Senior tests encourage owners to train for advanced work.

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(c) The Junior test encourages people to continue in the program.

- 11.2.2 Always arrange to be at the grounds at least a day before the event. Always use set-up dogs to design your tests and always inspect the routes to your falls and blinds for hazards.
- 11.2.3 Coordinate with the marshal or Hunt Test Chairman the day before to be sure that the proper equipment is on hand.
- 11.2.4 Be at the grounds at least one hour before starting time. Workers and officials should do the same.
- 11.2.5 Be sure instructions to bird throwers and gunners are clear.
- 11.2.6 If you score a dog a zero on any attribute, let your co-judge know. If both judges give the dog a zero, the handler must be informed that the dog can no longer qualify.
- 11.2.7 If a handler is doing something unusual do not hesitate to advise him or her that the actions can adversely effect the dog's scores.  
(74-09-13)
- 11.2.8 Make sure the gallery is safely positioned with respect to the guns, and that its position does not interfere with dogs or handlers. If possible, position the gallery so that they can see the dogs work.
- 11.2.9 Be sure that birds are not left lying around the line. Marshals should keep them out of sight in bags or other containers.
- 11.2.10 Always be aware on the day of a hunt test that you, as a judge, do not merely represent yourself as an individual. You represent the entire sport and, particularly the Canadian Kennel Club.
- 11.2.11 When a series is discontinued after one or more dogs have run, the judges should exercise care to locate the new series in an area different from that in which the original series was held. By doing so, they can fairly re-evaluate the abilities of the dogs that have already run in the area used for the discontinued hunting situation.

### **11.3 Interpretational Issues**

- 11.3.1 Prior to a test, the judges must agree on what constitutes creeping, controlled breaks, refusals, recasts and popping, and how these actions will be scored. In

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determining what constitutes these actions, judges must remember that they are evaluating dogs for their suitability as hunting companions. While some of these traits or actions are serious and others are less so (although they become serious through repetition), it is important to retain the perspective of “suitability as a hunting companion.” A certain tolerance must be afforded to the dog that still proves effective and accomplishes its purpose in the field.”

11.3.2 In keeping with the objectives of the regulations, some standardization is necessary to insure a greater degree of consistency and uniformity in these areas. The following general definitions are intended to be helpful guidelines for judges in making their determinations.

(a) **Break**

It is generally understood that a break occurs when a dog makes a movement, which in the opinion of the judges, indicates a deliberate intent to retrieve without having been ordered to do so, and cannot be brought under control by the handler.

(b) **Controlled break**

Controlled break is when a dog leaves to retrieve before being sent, but is quickly brought under control by verbal command or whistle and returns to the handler. A controlled break in Master Hunt Test calls for a “0” score except in the circumstances set out in section 9.3.15(i).

(c) **Creeping**

Creeping is considered as leaving the handler on a tentative yet excited basis, short of leaving completely to retrieve the bird, or waiting to be sent to retrieve. General unsteadiness, short of breaking.

(d) **Popping**

Popping is characterized as a voluntary stopping (without command) and looking back to the handler for direction.

(e) **Recast**

Recast occurs when a dog makes a start toward a marked fall, but stops within a short distance of the line (the distance usually limited to (15) feet or (4.5m) should be agreed upon between the judges) and returns or is recalled to the handler. The dog is then sent to retrieve again. This is most often attributed to confusion on the part of the dog as to whether it was sent to retrieve the

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first time. It is not considered a recast when a dog goes to the area of the fall, fails to find the bird and returns (or is recalled) to the handler. This must be evaluated as a lack of perseverance.

(f) **Refusal**

Refusal is disregard of a command. Failure to stop and look to the handler when signaled, failure to continue in that new direction for a considerable distance constitute refusal. Not coming when called is as bad as not going when sent.

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## **12 STANDARDS**

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12.1 Dogs should perform equally well on land and in the water, and must be thoroughly tested on both in accordance with the testing requirements of these regulations.

12.2 The judges must score the dogs on (a) their natural abilities including marking (memory), style, perseverance, courage, hunting; and (b) to relatively greater degrees in Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master Hunting Tests, their trainability as evidenced in steadiness, control, response and delivery.

Decisions not to award a qualifying score must be the consensus of the judges.

12.3 The ability to mark accurately is of primary importance. A dog which marks the fall of a bird, uses the wind and takes direction from its handler is of great value.

12.4 After delivering a bird to its handler, a dog should stand or sit close to its handler until given further orders.

12.5 When ordered to retrieve, a dog should proceed quickly and eagerly on land or into the water to marked falls, or on the line given it by its handler on falls it has not seen. A dog should not disturb too much ground or area and should respond quickly and obediently to any further directions its handler might give.

A dog which pays no attention to many whistles and/or directions by its handler can be assumed to be weak in response, and unless in the opinion of the judges there exist valid mitigating circumstances, the dog should be graded low or receive a grade of "0" in trainability.

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- 12.6 In marking situations, a handler may give the dog a line in the direction of the fall, provided that such lining is accomplished briskly and precisely. Conspicuously intensive lining suggests a weak marking ability and the dog must be graded low in marking.
- (a) The handler shall not line a dog in the direction of any fall or gun station until all falls are down.
  - (b) In the Senior Hunt Test it is desirable that the handlers of both the working dog and the honour dog remain silent from the time the first shot is fired until the dog is released by the judge but the handler may very quietly give an occasional command without incurring a penalty.
  - (75-09-13) (c) In a Master Hunt test the handler of the working and honouring dogs should remain silent from the time the first shot is fired until the dog is released by the judge. However, the handler may very quietly give an occasional command to facilitate a difficult-to-see mark without incurring a penalty. A Master Hunter dog is a polished hunting companion and is expected to be steady. Any speaking to the dog once the first shot is fired detracts from a perfect performance and must be reflected in the trainability score. Repeatedly speaking to the dog within one series or during more than one series indicates either an undesirable lack of steadiness or a lack of marking ability and must be scored "0". If a dog indicates with forward motion an attempt to retrieve and is stopped by the handler (a controlled break) he must be scored "0". A handler may speak quietly to his dog to prevent forward motion but repetition of this fault will necessitate a "0" in trainability. At any time, if the judges deem the handler to be loud or intimidating, the dog will be scored "0".
  - (d) If the handler of an honouring dog in either Senior or Master Hunt tests makes a loud noise or command which might interfere with a competing dog at the judge's discretion may turn the offending dog out of the test.
- 12.7 In marked retrieves, if a dog, after having been sent to retrieve: (1) returns to its handler before finding the bird, with or without having been called in, except in those cases of confusion of the dog as to whether it was really ordered to retrieve; (2) stops its hunt; or (3) fails to pick the bird up, actually leaving
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it after finding it; it shall be sufficient cause, unless there exist in the opinion of the judges valid mitigating circumstances, to grade the dog “0” in marking or perseverance.

A recast occurs when a dog makes a start toward a marked fall, but stops within a short distance of the line (the distance is usually limited to 15 feet or (4.5m), and should be agreed upon between the judges) and returns or is recalled to the handler. The dog is then sent to retrieve again. This is most often attributed to confusion on the part of the dog as to whether it was sent to retrieve the first time. It is not considered a recast when a dog goes to the area of the fall, fails to find the bird and returns (or is recalled) to the handler. This must be evaluated as a lack of perseverance.

- 12.8 A dog which fails to find a bird which, in the opinion of the judges, it should have found, shall be graded “0” in marking.
- 12.9 Upon finding the game, a dog should quickly pick it up and return briskly to its handler. A dog retrieving a decoy shall be graded “0” on trainability.
- (a) A dog should not drop its game on the ground, but distinction should be made between deliberately dropping a bird, and readjusting a bad hold or losing its grip or running over uneven terrain.
  - (b) Upon returning, a dog should deliver the bird promptly and tenderly to its handler. A dog that is unwilling to release a bird on delivery should be scored low in trainability, and if compelled to do so by severe methods should, unless in the opinion of the judges there exist valid mitigating circumstances, be graded “0” in trainability.
  - (c) A dog cannot receive a qualifying score if it renders a bird unfit for human consumption. Both judges are responsible for inspecting the bird and agreeing that the dog alone was responsible for the damage.
- 12.10 In Junior, Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master Hunt Tests, a dog should come to the line tractably at heel and sit promptly at the point designated by its handler and remain quietly where placed until given further orders. Retrievers which bark or whine on line, in a blind or while retrieving should be scored low in trainability. Loud and prolonged barking or whining is sufficient cause to justify grading a dog “0” in trainability.

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- 12.11 In Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master Hunt Tests, a handler may not hold or touch a dog to keep it steady, or noisily or frequently restrain a dog on line, except in extraordinary circumstances, from the time the first bird is being thrown until the dog's number is called. Violation of any of the provisions of this paragraph is sufficient cause to justify a grade of "0" in trainability.
- 12.12 In Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master Hunt Tests a dog that goes to the area of a fall, hunts, fails to find, and then leaves the area to hunt for another fall, or that drops a bird it is retrieving and goes for another, shall be considered to have switched. Unless in the opinion of the judges there exist valid mitigating circumstances, a dog that switches shall be scored "0" in perseverance in Senior and Master Hunt Tests.
- 12.13 In Senior, Owner Handler Master and Master Hunt Tests, failure to enter either rough cover, water, ice, mud, or any other situation involving unpleasant or difficult going for the dog, after having been ordered to do so several times, is sufficient cause to grade the dog "0" in perseverance.
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## **13 GUIDELINES FOR THE HUNT TEST**

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### **13.1 Purpose**

- 13.1.1 The purpose of the hunt test for Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels and Standard Poodles is to test the merits of, and evaluate the abilities of these dogs in the field in order to determine their suitability and ability as hunting companions. Hunt test should, therefore, simulate as nearly as possible the conditions met in a true hunting situations.
- 13.1.2 Dogs are expected to retrieve any type of game bird under all conditions, and the judges and the Hunt Test Committee have complete control over the mechanics and requirements of each test.
- 13.1.3 Pheasants, ducks, chukars or guinea hens may be used in hunt tests, as may any other species of game bird that might be unique to a specific region. Pigeons may only be used in the upland hunting test with flush 'in Master Hunt Test.
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- 13.1.4 While natural hunting conditions are subject to great variations in different parts of the country, retrievers are expected to possess a defined set of abilities which enables them to serve as hunting companions, although the proportion of these abilities and their relations to one another will vary. In most instances there should be little doubt in a judge's mind as to the abilities of dogs in a given hunting situation. However, there is unlimited opportunity for an honest difference of opinion on abilities that range from just above average to just below average.
- 13.1.5 Hunt tests provide a mechanism for identifying, through the evaluation of the abilities of retrievers, those dogs which possess abilities that set them apart as accomplished hunting companions.
- 13.1.6 The information provided here is intended as a guide, not only for judges, but for all concerned with the welfare and development of retrievers as superb hunting companions.
- 13.1.7 All Provincial and Federal laws must be adhered to regarding the handling of and use of birds; and the handling and use of firearms.
- 13.1.8 Gun safety is of paramount importance and judges (76-09-13) may remove anyone who does not practice gun safety. In accordance with the Canadian Firearms Program handlers, judges, gunners and others who handle firearms must adhere to the following Vital Four **ACTS** of Firearm Safety (Canadian Firearms Program):

**Assume every firearm is loaded**

**Control the muzzle direction at all times**

**Trigger finger must be kept off the trigger and out of the trigger guards**

**See that the firearm is unloaded**

and **PROVE** it safe:

**Point the firearm in the safest available direction**

**Remove all ammunition**

**Observe the chamber**

**Verify the feeding path**

**Examine before each time you pick up a firearm**

As well it is strongly recommended that handlers complete the Canadian Firearm Safety Course

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## **13.2 Apportioning Time**

- 13.2.1 This is a first and most important consideration in planning the mechanics of an event and is the joint responsibility of the judges and the Hunting Test Committee. The premium list scheduled the days of the hunt test and the hour when judging will start. Those are fixed, definite factors in planning the mechanics of an event.
- 13.2.2 The following factors should be considered in apportioning time:
- (a) the number of entries in each of the various tests;
  - (b) the quality and quantity of the facilities available at the grounds;
  - (c) the weather;
  - (d) the proximity of sites for the various tests;
  - (e) the ease of moving and the time involved in moving from one site to another (here one must not forget about the importance of the size of the gallery).

## **13.3 Inspection of Test Grounds**

- 13.3.1 It is extremely important that judges inspect the grounds with representatives of the Hunt Test Committee the day preceding the event.
- 13.3.2 The judges must seek the Committee's counsel regarding any peculiarities of the grounds not readily apparent and any conditions or situations which might compromise the safety of the dogs or handlers. At that time, the judges should select and determine the nature and objectives of each hunting situation, preferably for their entire assignment. The club must provide an efficient organization to conduct the event; this will do much to reduce a minimum delays in starting providing, of course, that the judges have previously planned and have instructed the Hunt Test Committee about the location of the hunting situations, and the requirements for game, guns, blinds, bird boys, boats, decoys, etc.

## **13.4 Planning Hunting Situations**

- 13.4.1 This is one of the most important responsibilities of the judges. With natural hunting situations, it is much easier to score the abilities of a dog than could be true with situations which are very easy, or with situations

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which are too difficult and time-consuming, or too tricky. Of primary importance is the simulation of natural hunting conditions in as realistic a manner as possible.

- 13.4.2 Be sure that instructions to bird throwers are clear about when and how to throw, and to remain quiet and not move while a dog is working. Bird throwers should also be old enough and strong enough for the task.
- 13.4.3 On marked retrieves, a dog should be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls, since marking can be evaluated only when it has seen the falls. Many factors contribute to a dog's ability to see and mark the falls: for instance, the background against which the bird is visualized in flight and the light conditions, as well as the height to which birds are thrown.
- 13.4.4 On blind retrieves, wherever possible, the judges should plan their hunting situations so as to take advantage of hazards, such as islands, decoys, points of land, sand bars, ditches, hedges, small bushes, adjacent heavy cover, and rolling terrain. Despite such natural distractions, it should be possible for a dog to find a well-planned blind retrieve on the initial line from its handler; that it will do so is highly improbable because of those natural hazards, so it must be handled to the blind. The test should be planned so that the dog should not be out of sight for a prolonged period so long as the dog is on or near to the direct line to the bird. A dog which is out of sight for a considerable period cannot be said to be under control. Utilizing natural hazards provides better opportunity to evaluate the abilities required of a superb retriever.
- 13.4.5 Each test should have a specific purpose that calls for the use of specific abilities. This makes scoring easier and your objectives more clearly known to handlers. Tests should never be overly complex or elaborate or anything other than reasonable (but imaginative and natural) situations.
- 13.4.6 Ingenuity on the part of the judges is always encouraged not only in planning natural hunting situations, but also in devising some which are unusual but practical and realistic and which would be encountered "...in a true hunting situation". These situations might take the form of a type of hunting unique to the region in which the event is held, but remember – complicated or unnatural tests very often prove nothing and consume great amounts of time and expense.
- 13.4.7 The judges should think of the handler as a hunting companion. Handlers can ask questions, but this

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does not relieve them of the responsibility for knowing where the birds fall and knowing generally where the blinds are located. Clarity in explaining test objectives should minimize questions.

- 13.4.8 Guns may be retired but visible guns should never be moved to another spot in order to trick or mislead the dog.
- 13.4.9 Tests should be designed to be fair and suitably challenging for the stake and not designed to eliminate or trick the dogs. Judges should not feel that if most dogs do well on the first test, the next test must be more difficult – elimination is not the point of testing.
- 13.4.10 Judges are also encouraged to incorporate elements and conditions that lend realism to their hunting situations. A test that requires a dog and handler to work from a boat, for example, is realistic but caution must always be exercised. Keep in mind those handlers, who, because of age, weight, injury, etc., might not be able to accomplish certain tasks.
- 13.4.11 Consider, also, the amount of time consumed by these elements, and ask yourself what they are testing, and whether they allow you to efficiently test multiple abilities.
- 13.4.12 Judges should avoid setting up a too-clearly-defined line (i.e., a departure point that would be unnatural when hunting). While consistent and similar tests for each dog are desirable and generally necessary, this does not mean that each bird must drop in the identical location for each dog, or that all dogs must work from the same line or point of departure.
- 13.4.13 For example, a dog and handler can walk along a hedge row and a bird or birds can be released from different areas along the row. In a test such as this, more than one dog can be taken on a hunt at the same time. In Senior and Master, one can honour while the other retrieves, and the roles can be reversed as you walk further down the row.
- 13.4.14 Blind retrieves must also have a scenario. On several occasions during a days testing, (except in Junior) a dog will be sent to retrieve a bird it has not seen fall. A shot can be used to indicate a downed bird while a dog is out retrieving another bird.
- 13.4.15 All birds should be within gun range so the judges will be able to see and evaluate the dogs under normal hunting conditions.

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When setting up your test remember the following factors:

- (a) Lighting and conditions over the course of a day
- (b) Water configuration
- (c) Terrain
- (d) Wind
- (e) Hillsides
- (f) Cover and changes in cover
- (g) Background against which birds are seen
- (h) Height and distance to which birds are thrown or to which they fly

## **13.5 Test Dogs**

- 13.5.1 Changing a hunting situation after a series has been started should be avoided if at all possible. One way of avoiding this, and of avoiding unforeseen and unpredictable situations which would weaken a sound hunting situation, is the practice of running a test-dog in every series before any of the entered dogs are run. Use of a test-dog is usual practice by some judges, when they may entertain doubts about the exact way in which the hunting situation may actually go. Use of a test-dog is very often a time-saving device.
- 13.5.2 The test dog must not be entered in that test and can reasonably be expected to complete the test and demonstrates the mechanics of the test.

## **13.6 Unusual Circumstances, “No Birds”**

- 13.6.1 If unusual and unplanned circumstances occur during the course of a marking test, the judges can ask the handler to handle the dog, or otherwise compensate for the unanticipated occurrence. The absence of competition allows more flexibility for judges.
- 13.6.2 Because dogs are evaluated against a standard, a test need not be exactly the same for every dog. However, it is highly desirable that they run in similar tests. Dissimilar tests can inadequately test some abilities. For example, a double mark and blind that becomes a single mark and blind because of a missed bird does not test a dog’s memory as adequately as it was intended to do.
- 13.6.3 Unplanned situations can markedly lessen or increase the difficulty of a given test and actually change the test level to a higher or lower category. Dissimilar tests also invite the question – “Why did my dog have to do ‘X’

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amount of work to qualify while that dog only had to do ‘Y’ to qualify?”

- 13.6.4 There will be situations, which through no fault of the dog, might adversely affect the score of one or more of the dog’s abilities. There will also be situations that present danger and hazards for dogs. Picture the bird that lands on the far side of a barbed wire fence, or over a levee and out of sight, etc.
- 13.6.5 Each judge should be at liberty to call a “no-bird” and independently, when in their opinion, a hazard or an element of danger exists, or the test conditions are altered to the point that the test becomes something else. Ask yourself whether the altered situation still presents a reasonable opportunity to evaluate other abilities.
- 13.6.6 Many situations will occur which cannot be specifically addressed in the regulations or guidelines. In these instances, judges must draw on their own experience to arrive at fair decisions.

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## **14 EVALUATION & SCORING**

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- 14.1 The evaluation of a dog’s abilities can never be precise; it is not an exact science. However, the primary purpose of a retriever is to get the birds to hand as quickly as possible in a pleasing, obedient manner; whether a dog accomplishes its primary purpose is determined by its possession of a unique set of both natural abilities, and abilities acquired through training.
- 14.3 A judge must keep in mind the fact that he is evaluating numerically a defined set of abilities and not judging a dog in relation to the performances or merits of the other dogs entered. A dog’s abilities are scored against an established standard.
- 14.4 In scoring a dog’s abilities in a test, the judges must assign a numerical score from “0” to “10” that reflects their estimation of each ability that they have seen demonstrated.
- 14.5 To qualify, a dog must receive an overall average of 7 for the entire test and must not have an average score in any one ability category below 5. For example, a dog could score 7’s, 8’s or even 9’s in some ability categories and fail to qualify if the average score in another category was below five.

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- 14.6 A frequently asked question is how to determine what score - from 0 to 10 - you should give in any one ability category. There are many ways, but one method is to determine whether the dog should qualify in that ability category, which might mean a minimum score of five. Knowing the dog must have an overall average of seven, the judge considers whether other abilities deserve a seven or higher. With a five or less (but not with a zero by both judges) the dog would have to score higher in that ability and other abilities to acquire the 7 overall average. A score of 5 or less on a given ability during a series does not necessarily mean that the dog cannot receive a qualifying score, unless both judges score that ability as a zero.
- 14.7 A judge might want to compare the scores to grades received in school. For example, a five, six or seven might be comparable to a passing grade of "C". An eight would be a "B" a nine would be an "A" and a ten would be an "A+".
- 14.8 Another scoring method could begin with a perfect score of 10 and progress downward. If not exactly 10, how close did the dog come to what you expect in a hunting companion?
- 14.9 If a particular ability did not merit a five, it should be scored lower, and possibly the dog will fail to qualify. The judges might determine that the dog showed promise in some ability categories, but just barely, and score accordingly. How much lower depends on individual judgment.
- 14.10 A zero means that the dog did not perform minimally. For example, it would be difficult to assign a score other than zero in perseverance when a Senior or Master dog failed to enter water after having been ordered to do so several times.
- 14.11 A zero score is very different from a "non-score". A zero is computed into the dog's average for that ability while a non-score is not. The zero indicates that the dog had an opportunity to exhibit an ability, but failed to do so. The non-score says that such an opportunity did not present itself. An "X" should be entered on the score sheet for non-scores.
- 14.12 When both judges grade a dog zero on the same ability, the dog can no longer receive a qualifying score. Keep in mind that moderate to serious faults in an ability will often become more apparent through the series of tests. In questionable instances, give the dog the benefit of the doubt.
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- 14.13 It is important to score a dog as accurately and consistently as possible in all test series. This provides handlers with information that can be used to plan future training.
  - 14.14 Remember, judges need not fear rating a dog's abilities very high in early series if they have exhibited excellent abilities. They do not have to leave "room" to score another dog relatively higher in a later series. The only thing they are scoring is a dog's abilities against the standard. They are not placing the dogs.
  - 14.15 An important note – judges should take time to review and check their scores with each other before the scores become "final". It is easy to unknowingly fail a dog that they might have intended to qualify.
  - 14.16 A key element to successful judging is good ongoing communication between judges. This should not include discussion of the dog work and scoring within hearing of handlers while a test is underway.
  - 14.17 There will always be occasions when some aspect of an ability is viewed differently and when judges might not agree on a specific numerical value; it is perfectly acceptable to compromise or average their scores. At the conclusion of their evaluation, however, judges must agree on those dogs which will receive a qualifying score.
  - 14.18 A judge's responsibility is to determine through the evaluation of abilities, whether or not a dog possesses sufficient abilities to be entitled to official CKC recognition of those abilities in the form of Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter, Master Hunter or Grand Master Hunter titles.
  - 14.19 Much can be achieved in attaining greater uniformity in evaluating the ability of retrievers through uniformity in defining and cataloging those abilities.

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## **15 STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE**

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### **15.1 Marking**

- 15.1.1 Marking, or memory of falls, is of paramount importance. However, this does not imply that dogs which excel in marking shall not be scored lower, even to the extent of not receiving a qualifying score, for deficiencies in, or a lack of the other required abilities.

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- 15.1.2 Ability to mark does not necessarily imply pin-pointing the fall, but a dog should proceed directly to the area of the fall and establish a hunt. A dog that misses the fall on the first cast but recognizes the depth of the area of the fall, stays in it, then quickly and systematically hunts it out has done both a creditable and an intelligent job of marking.  
(77-09-13)
- 15.1.3 Even with marked birds, a handler may be able to render great assistance to the dog by giving it a line in the direction of the fall. However, there is nothing he or she can do, short of handling, to aid the dog in recognizing the depth of the fall.
- 15.1.4 Often a dog gives definite indication of marking ability at or after delivery of a first bird, by aligning itself toward, or by looking eagerly in the exact direction of an unretrieved fall; at times, even leaving at once or leaving on command, but without benefit of a precise line to the fall given to it by the handler. There is no invariable method by which marking can be evaluated.
- 15.1.5 What precisely constitutes the area of the fall defies accurate definition; yet, at the outset of every marking situation, each judge must arbitrarily define its hypothetical boundaries for himself, and for each bird, so that he can determine whether dogs have remained within his own concept of the area of the fall, as well as how far they have wandered and how much cover they have disturbed unnecessarily. In determining these arbitrary and hypothetical boundaries, due consideration should be given to various factors:
- (a) the type, the height and the uniformity of the cover;
  - (b) light conditions;
  - (c) direction of the prevailing wind and its intensity;
  - (d) length of the various falls;
  - (e) whether there is a change in cover (as from stubble to plowed ground, or to ripe alfalfa, or to machine-picked corn, etc.) or whether the fall is beyond a hedge, across a road, or over a ditch, etc.; and, finally, and most important
  - (f) whether one is establishing the area of the fall for a single, or for the first bird a dog goes for in multiple retrieves, or for the second or the third bird; since each of these should differ from the others.
- 15.1.6 Since there are so many conditions and variables to be taken into consideration, it is obvious that each judge must attempt to define for himself a hypothetical area of the fall for each bird, and then numerically evaluate
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the dog's marking ability according to that definition. Individual evaluations should take into consideration the distance which a dog wanders out of the area, the frequency of such wandering, the number of birds mismarked and the amount of cover disturbed in these wanderings.

- 15.1.7 A dog which disturbs cover unnecessarily, clearly well out of the area of the fall, either by not going directly to that area, or by leaving it, even though it eventually finds the bird without being handled, should be scored lower on its marking than if it was handled quickly and obediently to the bird.

## 15.2 **Style**

- 15.2.1 Style is apparent in every movement of a dog by the gaiety of its manner, by its alertness, by its eagerness and speed on retrieves, by its water entry, by its pick up of birds, and by its return with them. Style and marking constitute the most important abilities of retrievers, but this does not imply that a dog which excels in marking and style should not be scored lower on other abilities, even to the extent of not receiving a qualifying score for lack of or serious deficiencies in those required abilities.

- 15.2.2 In any hunting situation style includes:

- (a) an alert and obedient attitude,
- (b) a fast determined departure, both on land and into the water,
- (c) an aggressive search for the fall,
- (d) a prompt pick-up, and
- (e) a reasonably fast return. The absence of these components of style should be reflected in a dog's score, even to the point of scoring a dog zero (0) on style.

## 15.3 **Perseverance**

- 15.3.1 Perseverance/courage/hunting is shown by a dog's determination to stick at it and complete the task at hand (i.e., systematically, aggressively, and without faltering) to search for and find the bird it has been sent to retrieve.

- 15.3.2 It is also displayed by a willingness to face without hesitation, and repeatedly, rough cover, cold or rough

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water, ice, mud, or other similar conditions which make the going tough.

15.3.3 A lack of perseverance may become apparent whenever:

- (a) a dog returns to the handler, voluntarily, and before finding the bird;
- (b) a dog either stops its hunt, or continues it in a slow, lackadaisical, disinterested manner;
- (c) the dog pops-up or looks back to its handler for directions on a marked fall and before it has hunted for a considerable time;
- (d) it switches birds; and
- (e) it “blinks” a bird (i.e., fails to pick it up and leaves it after making the find).

15.3.4 Switching birds implies that a dog gives up in its hunt after a search, leaves the area, and goes for another bird, or when it drops a bird it is retrieving and goes for another. Except in the latter case, a dog should not be scored for lack of perseverance unless it goes to the area of a fall, hunts, fails to find, and then leaves that area to hunt for another fall. It should not be considered as a lack of perseverance, if, while on the way to one fall, the dog sees or finds another bird and retrieves it first; or, if on the way to one fall but long before it reaches the area of the fall, it changes its direction and goes for another bird.

15.3.5 On being sent for a marked fall, a dog may be confused as to whether it was really ordered to retrieve and may then return after a few steps, thus requiring a recast or direction to continue. In such cases the dog may not have displayed a lack of perseverance or marking ability.

## 15.4 Trainability

15.4.1 The final attribute to be evaluated by judges is trainability, which includes those abilities which dogs acquire through training (steadiness, control, response and delivery). While not to be underestimated, acquired abilities must be viewed in a different perspective being of somewhat lesser importance than natural abilities even though a Master Hunter must exhibit all that is desirable in a finished retriever. The level to which acquired abilities are developed will vary in different test categories. For example, a reasonable degree of steadiness and general obedience are the requirements in the Junior Hunting Test. A greater

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degree of steadiness and some degree of the other qualities are expected in the Senior Hunt Test. There should be expectation of full refinement in acquired attributes in Master Hunt Tests.

15.4.2 Trainability, or the abilities acquired through training, is generally understood to be composed of four (4) components – steadiness, control, response and delivery. A discussion of each of the elements which characterize trainability follows.

(a) **Steadiness**

Dogs on line sometimes make various types of movements when game is in the air (and/or when it is shot). These movements may be interpreted as efforts by the dogs to improve their view of the fall, and some occur through sheer excitement. Except for an occasional change in position in order to better see a fall, all such movements could be viewed as unsteadiness – with trainability scored depending on the test being judged and the extent and the frequency of the unsteadiness. The requirement of steadiness is a very important factor in evaluating the trainability of a retriever.

(b) **Control**

Control is closely allied to the dog's response to direction, but it also includes obedience and line manners. Control in the Senior and Master Tests also includes walking tractably at heel, off lead, assuming and staying in any designated position on line, as well as remaining quietly on line beside the handler after delivery of the bird. When called, a dog should return promptly to its handler particularly in those instances where judges decide that it shall be tested again, at a later time, either because another dog broke or due to any of a variety of other circumstances.

Except for extraordinary circumstances, noisy or frequent restraining of a dog on line by its handler is sufficient cause not to award a qualifying score in the Senior and Master Hunting Tests. In less flagrant instances, the trainability score should correspond to the extent that the dog might be deemed to be out of control.

(c) **Response**

Response is all-important in handling tests, and in situations where a dog must be brought back to the area of the fall when it has mismarked. A dog that responds to direction should take the original

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direction given to it by its handler and continue on it until it either makes the find, or until stopped by the handler and given a new direction. The dog should then continue in this new direction until it finds, or is given further directions.

- (i) Lower scores, even to the extent of grading a dog zero on trainability, based on a lack of response, may be the result of the following:
  - a) not taking the direction originally given by the handler;
  - b) not continuing in that direction for a considerable distance,
  - c) failure to stop promptly and popping up and looking back for directions;
  - d) failure to stop promptly and look to the handler when signaled;
  - e) failure to take a new direction (i.e., a new cast) when given; and
  - f) failure to continue in that new direction for a considerable distance.
- (ii) The trainability score for any or all of the foregoing will vary with both the test being scored and the extent to which a dog might be unresponsive. Before scoring a dog lower on trainability for its failure to stop promptly at a whistle, judges should determine whether the wind, the cover, or the distance seriously interfered with the dog's ability to hear its handler. In general, the response displayed should be considered in its entirety; an occasional failure to take and hold a direction may affect a trainability score only slightly, if offset by several other very good responses.
- (iii) To the extent that a dog might not receive a qualifying score, a trainability score must reflect repeated and willful disobedience of the handler's orders. In addition, but to a lesser extent, a trainability score must show that, after taking the proper direction, the dog did not continue on it as far as the handler desired. Stopping voluntarily to look back for directions, in an isolated instance, may warrant a moderate or slight lowering of a trainability score, but frequent stopping can result in a zero (0) score.

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(81-09-13) (d) **Delivery**

Delivery of the bird in each level of hunt tests must be made to the handler directly upon return from the retrieve; in any test it should be given up willingly. A dog should not drop the bird before delivering it, and should not freeze, or be unwilling to give it up. It should not jump after the bird once the handler has taken it. A faulty delivery may, depending on the test, range from a slight lowering of the trainability score for an isolated offense, to the withholding of a qualifying score for a severe freeze or “hard mouth.” (See Chapter 12, Section 9 (b))

- (i) “Hard-mouth” is one of the most undesirable traits in a retriever. Once a dog has been charged with this trait, it carries that stigma for life. Hard-mouth should only become the judges’ verdict when there is incontrovertible proof of it. Torn skin or flesh alone is not sufficient evidence, in almost all cases, to constitute proof of hard-mouth. Damage of that type may be caused in a variety of ways, such as by sharp sticks and stones, etc. in the cover. Dogs can unintentionally damage birds when making retrieves from heavy cover, as well as by their fast, positive, pick-up. Furthermore, at certain times of the year, birds are particularly susceptible to such damage. Crushed bone structure usually can be accepted as trustworthy and sufficient evidence of hard-mouth. This is the only evidence offering such proof, in the absence of a particularly obvious, flagrant, and unjustified tearing of flesh.
- (ii) Other undesirable traits are frequently confused with hard-mouth, although, in reality, they are entirely separate and distinct from it, even though the dog may actually be hard-mouthed. Freezing, in particular, falls into this category. A hard-mouthed dog may have a gentle delivery and certainly, a reluctant or sticky delivery does not imply hard-mouth. Rolling a bird or mouthing it while making the retrieve may be erroneously associated with hard-mouth even though the bird may not be damaged. Such mouthing may not necessarily call for lowering a trainability score.

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- (iii) Judges should remember that a dog either does or does not have a hard-mouth, and if it does, the dog cannot receive a qualifying score.

While not required, it is a considerate gesture on the part of the judges to keep separately any bird which formed the basis for their decision that the dog could not receive a qualifying score in order that it might be inspected by the handler at a later time.

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## **16 CLASSIFICATION OF FAULTS**

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### **16.1 Guidelines**

16.1.1 Classification of the many faults which may be exhibited by retrievers during the course of a hunting test shall be primarily in terms of generalizations. In the lists which follow, various infractions are cataloged as serious moderate and minor faults.

- (a) Each fault should be considered as a single occurrence.
- (b) Repetition of a fault, particularly time after time, indicates a “weakness” or a bad habit, and justifies much more penalty than in an isolated occurrence of this fault. The same holds true when there is a combination of different faults. Such repetition or multiplicity of faults frequently indicates failing or an habitual tendency which produces neither a finished job nor one pleasing to the eye.
- (c) The faults listed in this classification are limited to those that are observed most at retriever hunt tests. Others may occur and this classification may serve as a helpful guide, on such occasions, in determining the relative importance of such unusual offences.
- (d) The primary consideration of judges in respect to the importance of faults listed here as well as others which may occur, is to determine the extent to which any and all such infractions would detract from the full enjoyment of a day’s shoot.
- (e) A judge may be thoroughly justified in moderating a penalty or even in failing to impose one, if there have been extenuating circumstances to justify such action. Much can be achieved in attaining

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great uniformity of judging through uniformed definitions of the various serious, moderate and minor faults. However, the personal equation cannot be eliminated completely since each judge must determine the relative seriousness of individual faults, repetition of faults, or combination of faults, which occur in the performance by dogs in a particular hunt test.

- (f) The faults set out in these summaries are extracted from the fuller descriptions set out in the body of the rule book. In case of conflict between the faults described below and the rules set out in the body of the rule book, the rules shall govern. The applicable rules section numbers are set out in parentheses beside each applicable fault. Where there is a "cf" notation it refers the reader to a similar description of faults but with a different degree of seriousness.

## **16.2 Serious Handler Faults**

16.2.1 These faults cover all those instances where the Standard describes conduct of the handler that justifies elimination from the stake:

- (a) In marking situations - lining a dog in the direction of any fall or any gun station before all the falls are down. [12.6 (a)]
- (b) The handler of a honoring dog makes noise or gives a command loud enough to interfere with the working dog(s). [12.6 (b), 12.6 (c), 12.6 (d)]
- (c) Unsportsmanlike Conduct – abusing or harassing a Judge, official or any other person present in any capacity; or, kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog while the event is in progress. [3.8.1, 7.21. 7.22]
- (d) deliberately permitting a dog to see the location of a fall for another dog, or to see the planting or retrieve of a blind [11.1.30 (e)]
- (e) Willfully Interfering – with another handler or with his or her dog. [11.1.23]
- (f) Carrying exposed training equipment (except whistles, calls & guns) in the Master and Senior Hunt tests. [11.1.30 (g), 11.1.30 (m) (i) (ii)]
- (g) Pulling out leash in front of Judges – (Master and Senior levels). [11.1.30 (L), 11.1.30 (m) (iii) (iv)]

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- (h) Restraining a dog on line – holding or touching a dog to keep it steady, or verbally restraining a dog (Master and Senior levels). [11.1.30 (m) (iii) (iv), 12.6 (c), 12.11, 15.4.2 (b)]
  - (i) Threatening Gestures - or any form of intimidation made to the dog. [11.1.30 (g) 11.1.30 (L), 11.1.30 (m) (ii) (iv)]
  - (j) Blocking a dog's view of a bird – a handler placing his dog or himself so that the dog's full vision of a bird is blocked. [11.1.30 (n)]
  - (k) Throwing objects - to encourage water entry or direct a dog to a fall. [11.1.22]
  - (l) Lack of safe gun handling. [13.1.8]

### **16.3. Serious Dog Faults**

16.3.1 These faults are usually sufficient to justify elimination from the stake:

- (a) A break or controlled break by either the working or the honoring dog results in mandatory elimination in the Master Hunt, except in the upland test where a controlled break is allowed and considered a minor fault. [9.3.8, 11.1.17, 11.3.2 (a), 11.3.2 (b)]
- (b) A dog that pays no attention to many whistles and/or directions by its Handler unless the existence of valid mitigating circumstances. [12.5, 15.4.2 (c)]
- (c) On a mark or blind, a dog that is allowed to hunt extensively after handling has begun should be considered out of control. [11.1.30 (q)]
- (d) On a blind retrieve, a dog that is out of sight for an unreasonable period of time should be considered out of control. [13.4.4]
- (e) Failure to deliver to hand. [9.1.6, 9.2.5, 9.3.7]
- (f) Freezing – refusal to release a bird on delivery for an unreasonable period of time or until compelled to do so by severe methods. [12.9 (b), 15.4.2 (d), 15.4.2 (d) (ii)]
- (g) Hard Mouth – badly damaging a bird, or making it unfit for human consumption, which in the opinion of the judges was caused solely by the dog without justification [12.9 (c), 15.4.2 d (i), 15.4.2 (ii)]
- (h) Switching birds – giving up after establishing a hunt in the area of the fall for one bird and then

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going to the area of another fall and establishing a hunt; or dropping the bird being retrieved and going for another. [9.2.11, 9.3.4, 12.12, 15.3.3 (d), 15.3.4]

- (i) Failure to enter – either rough cover, water, ice mud, or any other situation involving unpleasant or difficult going for the dog, after having been ordered to do so several times. [12.13, 15.3.2]
- (j) On a mark retrieve, returning to the handler without the bird except in a recast attributed to confusion on the part of the dog as to whether it was really ordered to retrieve. [12.7, 15.3.3 (a)]
- (k) Stops its hunt. [12.7, 15.3.3 (a)]
- (l) “Blinks” a bird – fails to pick the bird up, and leaves it after making the find. [12.7, 15.3.3 (e)]
- (m) Failure to find a bird which the dog should have found. [12.8]
- (n) Retrieving a decoy. [12.9]
- (o) Loud and prolonged barking or whining. [12.10]
- (p) Excessive handling required to maintain range and position during the upland test in the Master Hunt test. [9.3.5, 9.3.15 (b)]
- (q) Not steady to shot in the Master Hunt upland test. [9.3.15, 9.3.15 (f)]
- (r) Failure to return when called. [11.1.30 (p), 11.3.2 (f)]
- (s) Repeatedly popping on a blind. [15.4.2 (c) (iii)]
- (t) An unprovoked aggressive dog attack. [8.1.5]
- (u) Handling on more than one mark in Junior. [9.1.4]

## **16.4 Moderate Dog Faults**

16.4.1 Infractions in this category may actually be so slight as to warrant their consideration as only a “minor” fault, or they may be so severe as to warrant their consideration as a “serious” fault; also, repetitions of a “moderate” fault or a combination of several of these faults may readily convert the total infraction into a “serious” fault.

- (78-09-13) (a) Failure to proceed directly to the area of the fall and initiate a hunt, disturbing cover clearly out of the area of the fall.

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- (78-09-13) (b) In the Master Hunt Test: Failure to go directly to the area of the fall and setup a hunt, requiring the dog to be handled to the mark as a result.
- (c) Reluctance to enter - rough cover, water, ice, mud or other situations Involving unpleasant “going” for the dog. [12.13, 15.3.2]
- (d) Hunting in a slow, lackadaisical, disinterested manner. [15.2.2 (c), 15.3.1, 15.3.3 (b)]
- (e) Poor style – the lack of an alert and obedient attitude, a fast, determined departure both on land and into the water, an aggressive search for the fall, a prompt pick up, and a reasonably fast return. [15.2.2 (a), 15.2.2 (b), 15.2.2 (c), 15.2.2 (d), 15.2.2 (e)]
- (f) Popping on a marked retrieve - stopping and looking back to its handler for directions on a marked fall. [11.3.2 (d), 15.3.3 (c), 15.4.2 (c) (i) (c), 15.4.2 (c) (iii)]
- (g) Multiple whistle refusals - not stopping for directions after two or three whistles which the dog should have heard. [12.5, 15.4.2 (c) (i) (c), 15.4.2 (c) (i) (d), 15.4.2 (c) (ii), 15.4.2 (c) (iii)]
- (h) Multiple cast refusals - failure to take lines and directions, or to hold lines and directions more than a short distance [9.3.11, 11.3.2 (f), 15.4.2 (c) (i) (e), 15.4.2 (c) (i) (f), 15.4.2 (c) (ii), 15.4.2 (c) (iii)]
- (i) Moderate whining of short duration. [12.10]
- (j) Controlled break in a Senior Hunt test, after which the dog is brought immediately under control providing it does not interfere with the working dog. [9.2.4, 9.2.8, 9.3.8, 9.3.15, 11.3.2 (a), 11.3.2 (b)]
- (k) Extreme or persistent creeping or serious lack of steadiness and general poor line manners. [9.2.4, 11.3.2 (c)]
- (l) Recast. [9.2.6, 9.3.9, 11.3.2 (e), 12.7, 15.3.5]
- (m) Talking to the working dog in the Master Hunt test – the handler should remain silent from the time the first shot is fired until the judge release the dog. [11.1.30 (h), 11.1.30 (L), 11.1.30 (o), 12.6 (c)]
- (n) Talking to the honour dog in the Master hunt test [12.6 (c), 12.6 (d)]
- (o) Conspicuously intensive lining suggests a weak marking ability. [12.6]
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## 16.5 Minor Dog Faults

16.5.1 Either severe or repeated or combinations of these “minor” infractions may summate into a “moderate” or even a “serious” fault. Also, they may be so slight as not to warrant any penalty at all.

- (a) Lack of attention. [15.2.1, 15.2.2]
- (b) Poor line-manners - heeling poorly; not immediately taking and staying in the position designated; dropping a bird at delivery; jumping after a bird; not remaining quietly on line after delivery. [9.1.5, 15.4.1, 15.4.2 (b), 15.4.2 (d)]
- (c) Slow pick-up of a dead bird - (except when fluttering or badly shot-up); dropping a bird; handling game in a sloppy manner. [15.2, 15.2.2]
- (d) Unsteadiness on-line, including creeping. [9.2.4, 9.3.8, 15.4.2 a)]
- (e) Whistle refusal – not stopping at the first whistle that should have been heard, but stopping at the second or third. [11.3.2(f), 12.5, 15.4.2 (c) (i), 15.4.2 (c) (ii)]
- (f) Cast Refusal - Occasional failure to hold the line or to take the handler’s directions for more than a few yards. [ 11.3.2 (f), 12.5, 5.4.2 (c) (i), 12.5, 15.4.2 (c) (ii), 15.4.2 (c) (iii)]
- (g) Popping, stopping and looking back for directions, on a blind retrieve - where there are no extenuating circumstances. [13.3.2 (d), 15.3.3 (c), 15.4.2 (c) (iii)]
- (h) Slight freezing - reluctance to give up a bird. [12.9 (b), 15.4.2 (d)]
- (i) Slight short whining or one bark – while on the line or on being sent to retrieve. [12.10]
- (j) Roughness with game. [15.4.2 (d)]
- (k) Excessive noise encouraging the dog to hunt in the Junior Hunt test. [9.1.7]
- (l) A single recast in the Junior Hunt test. [9.1.3, 15.3.5]
- (79-09-13) (m) Handling on a mark. [9.1.4, 9.2.7]
- (n) A controlled break in the Master Hunt upland test. [9.3.15 (i)]
- (o) A controlled break in the Junior Hunt test. [9.2.4]
- (p) Creeping in a Senior Hunt test. [9.2.4]
- (q) Creeping in a Master Hunt test. [9.3.8]

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- (r) Talking to the working dog or honouring dog in the Senior hunt test – it is desirable that the handler remain silent from the time the first shot is fired until the judges release the dog. [11.1.30 (h), 11.1.30 (L), 12.6 (b)]
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## **17 SANCTION TEST**

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- 17.1 Sanctioned hunt tests shall be governed by such regulations as from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 17.2 A sanctioned test is an informal event held by a club whose approval is given by The Canadian Kennel Club. Only purebred dogs may compete but points are not awarded. These tests shall be governed by the same rules as a regular event; it is a training ground for new clubs.
- 17.3 Prior to holding an approved hunt test, a club must hold at least one sanctioned test.
- 17.4 All of these regulations shall govern CKC-sanctioned hunt tests except those which state specifically that they apply to approved hunt tests.
- 17.5 Sanctioned hunt tests authorized by the CKC shall be governed by such rules and regulations as from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The avoidance of conflicting date(s) for tests will be a consideration in the processing of applications.
- 17.6 A club that meets all of the requirements of The Canadian Kennel Club may be approved to hold a sanctioned hunt test by applying to hold a sanctioned hunt test on a form provided by The Canadian Kennel Club.
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## **18 PROTESTS**

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- 18.1 A protest against a dog may be made by an exhibitor, handler, any member of the CKC, or a member of the club or association holding the hunt test. It must be in writing, on a form provided by the CKC (or facsimile thereof), and be lodged with the Superintendent or
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Hunt Test Committee Chair before the closing of the hunt test. A hearing shall be held prior to the departure of all parties. No protest will be entertained unless accompanied by a deposit. This deposit will be returned if the protest is sustained. If the protest is not sustained, the deposit will be forwarded to the CKC with the Hunt Test Committee's report.

- 18.2 Where the Hunt Test Committee consists of more than 5 persons, the President of the test-giving club shall name 5 members of the Hunt Test Committee to act on any protest received by the test-giving club.
- 18.3 Written copies of all decisions on protests must be forwarded immediately to the Discipline Committee of the CKC. The Discipline Committee may take such action as it deems fit in connection with such protest, provided no appeal is submitted to the CKC within 10 days of the date on which the decision of the Hunt Test Committee was rendered. Such action may include barring the dog from future CKC approved events, imposition of an administrative fee, and/or cancellation of awards. The fact that the Hunt Test Committee did not sustain a protest in no way inhibits the right of the Discipline Committee to take such action as it deems advisable.
- 18.4 An appeal to the Discipline Committee of the CKC from a decision of the Hunt Test Committee where a dog has been protested must be forwarded to the CKC within 10 days of the date on which the decision was rendered, together with a deposit.
- 18.5 If a test-giving club fails to hear a protest as prescribed above, or in the opinion of the Discipline Committee improperly handles a protest, the Discipline Committee shall have the authority to take such action as it deems fit and necessary, and it may at the same time take disciplinary action against the officials of the test-giving club concerned.

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## **19 COMPLAINTS**

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- 19.1 A complaint against a person regarding a violation of the rules and regulations related to hunt tests must be in writing, on a form issued by the CKC (or facsimile thereof), and must be accompanied by a deposit. A deposit is not required on a complaint alleging that a judge officiating at a hunt test held under these

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- rules and regulations has been subject to indignities of any kind during the progress of the test.
- 19.2 A complaint should be lodged with the Hunt Test Committee Chairman of the test-giving club no later than 15 minutes after the completion of judging of the test, or should the complainant choose to do so, a complaint may be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the test. All such complaints shall constitute complaints under the CKC By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.
- 19.3 Any complaint against the club holding the test or any of its officials must be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the test. All such complaints shall constitute complaints under the CKC By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.
- 19.4 A complaint shall be restricted to any of the following:
- (a) An act of omission or commission on which is based an allegation of a violation of the Hunt Test Rules and Regulations.
  - (b) Any act on which an allegation of misconduct is based.
  - (c) The alleged failure of an officiating judge to excuse or remove from competition a dog for which a provision for excusing or removal from competition appears in these rules and regulations.
- 19.5 Where the Hunt Test Committee consists of more than 5 persons, the President of the test-giving club shall name 5 members to form a Hunt Test Committee to act on complaints received by the test-giving club.
- 19.6 When a complaint is received against a judge by the test-giving club, the club will hold a hearing while all parties are still in attendance. The report and all statements given by all parties will be forwarded to the Discipline Committee along with the deposit from the complainant. The Hunt Test Committee will not render a decision but will collect all pertinent information.
- 19.7 Upon receipt of a complaint the Hunt Test Committee of the test-giving club shall conduct an investigation as soon as possible thereafter, but in any event, within 14 days of receipt, conduct a hearing in accordance with procedures set out in the Procedure for Conducting a Hunt Test Committee hearing as provided in these rules and regulations.
- 19.8 The Hunt Test Committee shall promptly forward the complaint, the deposit and a record of the hearing together with its recommendation on the disposition of
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the complaint to the CKC. Copies of the record of the hearing and the Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the parties concerned at the same time.

- 19.9 Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in these rules and regulations, the procedure specified herein for dealing with complaints shall govern.
- 19.10 Disciplinary action will be taken against any official and the test-giving club of which he is an official when it is established to the satisfaction of the CKC that an attempt was made to discourage the submission of a complaint.
- 19.11 Disciplinary action will be taken against a test-giving club which fails to properly deal with complaints as provided in these rules and regulations.

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## **20 DISCIPLINE**

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- 20.1 The Discipline Committee may take disciplinary action against any club, person, partnership, company or organization for any act of omission or commission, which violates any section or sections of the rules and regulations for CKC hunt tests. Such action will be taken as provided for in the By-laws of the CKC.
- 20.2 No person shall abuse a dog on the grounds or premises of a Hunt Test, or conduct themselves in a manner prejudicial to the best interests of the event.
- 20.3 Any club, member, person, partnership, company or organization availing themselves of the privilege of participating in any capacity or manner whatsoever at a hunt test shall, by such participation, be deemed to have agreed to the authority of the CKC and its Board as conferred on the CKC by its By-laws and all other rules and regulations adopted by the CKC.
- 20.4 At its discretion and subject to the appeal process, the Discipline Committee may cancel any or all qualifying scores earned by a dog owned by a person debarred, deprived, suspended or expelled of all privileges of the CKC when such wins were earned following the date on which such act occurred that resulted in disciplinary action.
- 20.5 The administration to a dog competing at a hunt test of a drug or any substance in any form, which alters the nervous system by stimulation, sedation or

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traquilization shall be considered as misleading the judge and will be considered misconduct. The person or persons responsible will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with this section.

- 20.6 Any person who does anything calculated to attract, distract or otherwise interfere in any way with the attention, deportment, or performance of a dog under judgement, may be disciplined by the Discipline Committee in whatever way it considers to be in the best interest of the club, or the judge may take summary action.
- 20.7 It shall be the duty and obligation of the event-giving club to see that a judge, club official, volunteer, or any participant at a hunt test held under these regulations, is not subject to any indignities. The Hunt Test Committee Chair shall promptly report to the CKC any infringement of this regulation, and the CKC shall have the authority to take such action as it deems fit on receipt of a report indicating that this has occurred. A copy of this regulation shall be prominently placed in every premium list and catalogue.
- (89-06-13)

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## **21 PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING A HUNT TEST COMMITTEE HEARING**

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- 21.1 It is essential that the defendant be given the opportunity to be present during the whole hearing and to testify and present his own witnesses. If a defendant refuses to attend or defend himself, the hearing may proceed without him. In notifying the defendant of the hearing, it is essential that he be informed specifically of the nature of the charges against him and that a record of such notice be made.
- 21.2 The complainant must also be informed of the hearing and allowed to be present throughout the whole hearing.
- 21.3 Both the complainant and defendant should be informed that they may be represented by legal counsel or an agent at the hearing if they choose but this is not necessary.
- 21.4 The chair is to call the meeting to order and then announce: "We are proceeding by reason of our

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appointment to the Hunt Test Committee by (name of test-giving club).”

- 21.5 The chair shall identify all persons present and the reason for their presence (i.e. complainant, defendant, witness) and then ask the witnesses to withdraw until required to give evidence. After giving evidence a witness may be excused.
- 21.6 The complaint is to be read except that if the complainant and defendant agree, it may be necessary to relate only the substance of the complaint as set out on the Official Complaint form.
- 21.7 The chair is to ask the defendant whether he wishes to admit or deny the complaint as it has been read or stated.
- 21.8 The complainant is to give evidence on the complaint. He may then be questioned by the defendant. At the chair’s invitation, any member of the Committee may question the complainant. If the complainant has brought witnesses, such witnesses may then give evidence individually. Each witness may be questioned by the defendant or any member of the Committee. Each witness is to leave the hearing after evidence has been given.
- 21.9 Upon completion of the evidence given by the complainant and any witness appearing on his behalf, the defendant may then give evidence and may then be questioned by the complainant or any member of the Committee. If the defendant has brought witnesses, such witnesses may then give evidence individually. Each witness may be questioned by the complainant or any member of the Committee.
- 21.10 The chair may then call any other witness which the Committee considers appropriate to the proper hearing of the complaint.
- 21.11 The complainant may then have the opportunity of summing up the complaint and the evidence presented in support thereof. The defendant shall have the opportunity of summing up his defense and any evidence presented in support of his defense.
- 21.12 The Chair shall announce that the Committee will be submitting a report on the hearing together with its recommendation on the disposition of the complaint to the Discipline Committee of the CKC and the parties concerned. All but the Committee members shall be dismissed so that the matter may be considered.

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## **22 PARTICIPATION**

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- 22.1 The participation in any manner or in any capacity at a competitive event held under these rules shall be considered a privilege accorded to any person by the CKC and such privilege may be extended and withdrawn by the Discipline Committee.
- 22.2 Any person availing himself of the privilege of participating in any manner, shape or form and in any capacity, including that of a spectator at a competitive event held under these rules shall, by such participation, be deemed to have agreed to the authority of the CKC and its Board.
- 22.3 No person who has been expelled, deprived of privileges, suspended or debarred by the CKC may enter a dog, compete, exhibit, judge, act as agent or handler for any competitor, take a dog into any competition or be connected in any capacity with competitive events held under these rules.
- 22.4 A club holding a hunt test under these rules shall not engage in any capacity a person who is under suspension or expulsion, debarred or deprived of privileges by the CKC.
- 22.5 Any person who has lost the right to participate in events in their country of residence shall not, while such a loss of privilege is in effect, participate in any Canadian Kennel Club approved event. Any wins by a dog that is exhibited or handled by such individual shall automatically be canceled.

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## **23 NO LIABILITY**

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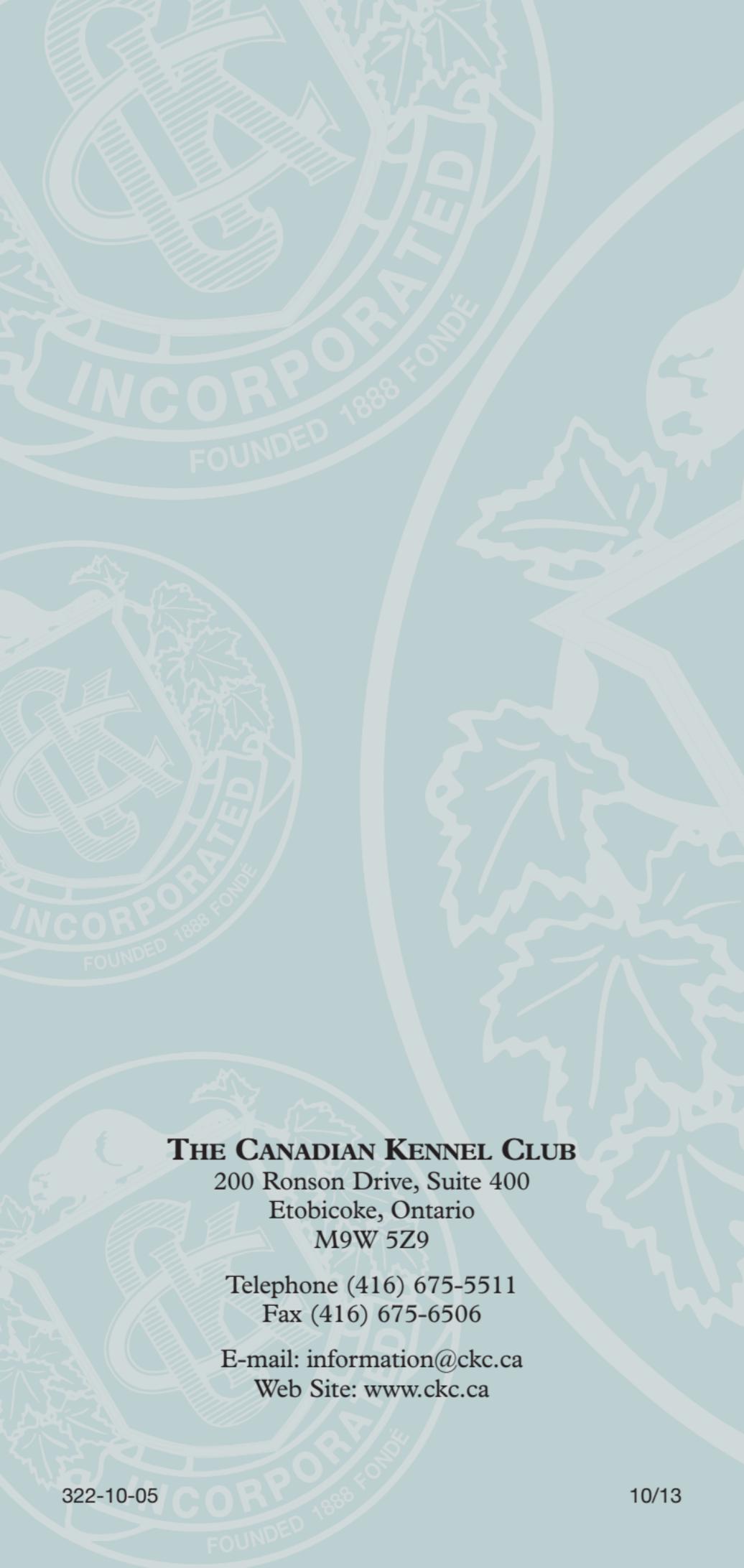
- 23.1 The CKC shall not be responsible to any member, person, partnership, club or corporation for any loss, damage or injury arising at or by reason of any hunt test held under any rules adopted by the CKC.

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## **24 AMENDMENTS**

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- 24.1 These rules are subject to amendment by the Board.
- 24.2 Amendments to these rules may also be proposed by a person, association, club, representative group or body by presenting such proposal to the Board for its consideration. In such circumstances, the Board will forward the proposal to the Retriever Council for its consideration and input, prior to the Board making its final decision.
- 24.3 Any amendment to these rules shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board.
- 24.4 The effective date of any approved amendment shall be set by the Board.
- 24.5 The Board, at its sole discretion, may choose to perform a non-binding poll of the membership to attain general input prior to making a final decision on any proposed amendment to these rules.
- 24.6 Upon the Board making its final decision with respect to any amendment to these rules, the membership shall be advised by placing a notice in the Official Section as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible.



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