

Advanced Hunting Aptitude Evaluation (AHAE)

Age limits: none, suggest dogs 2-5 years

Test Activities:

(note the order of these is determined by the judges on the day of the test)

1) Field Search

About 30 minutes with 3-4 planted game birds. The dog should point and be steady to wing, but not necessarily shot and fall. Pointed birds are shot by gunners and must be retrieved to the handler. Search should be appropriate to the cover encountered.

2) Search Behind the Duck

A live duck is released on shore out of sight of the dog and handler. The judges show the beginning of the duck's track to the handler who then encourages the dog to follow the duck's trail on water and/or in marsh vegetation. The dog need not necessarily catch the duck but demonstrate that it can follow and persevere, promising success in a hunting situation.

3) Blind Water Entry

A dog is sent into a pond as though to recover a dead duck or follow a duck's trail. The dog should enter the pond without delay, begin to search the water and expand the search area with purpose.

4) Marked Water Retrieve and Gun Sensitivity

This is a test a dog's ability to mark and retrieve from water, and potential gun sensitivity while swimming. A dead duck is thrown into the water in sight of the handler and dog. A shot is fired while the dog is swimming. The dog should retrieve that dead duck to hand.

5) Game Drag

A dead bird is dragged about 150 m by a judge who hides to observe pick-up. Feathers will be pulled at the starting point and the dog shown these by the handler. The handler walks to start the dog about 5 m and then releases the dog. The dog must follow the trail and retrieve the dead bird to the handler.

24 Jan 2016, revised 10 Feb 2020