

## **Hunting Aptitude Evaluation (HAE)**

**Age limits:** suggested maximum 18 months, suggested minimum 5 months

### **Test Activities:**

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

#### 1) Field Search

About 15-20 minutes with 2-3 liberated game birds. Search pattern should be appropriate to the cover encountered. The dog should point scented bird, but need not be steady to flush. Two 12 gauge blanks are fired during the search to determine gunshyness.

#### 2) Water Work (typically included in Canada)

The dog should enter the water and swim, twice. This is a test of the dog's comfort in water and willingness to search water/marsh, as it would the field. If a bumper/dummy is used, then the maximum score available is 8. If a dead bird is used to entice the dog, then the maximum score is 5.

#### 3) Tracking

A live pheasant is released out of sight of the handler and dog. (a wild rabbit track could also be used) Feathers will mark the starting point. The handler walks to start the dog about 5 m and then releases the dog. The dog is evaluated on how well it uses scent to follow the trail.