

## **Performance Evaluation (PE)**

**Age limits:** none, typically at least 2 years

### **Test Activities:**

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

#### 1) Field Search

A dog works the field for 1 hour with another advanced dog as a brace mate that may or may not be under evaluation. The search usually begins with a "dry" field before moving into the section where 3-4 game birds had been liberated. The dog should point and be steady to wing, shot and fall. The second dog should back the point made by the first dog, without command for maximum score. Pointed birds are shot by gunners and must be retrieved to hand. Search should be appropriate to the cover encountered. Two gunners will be in the team to shoot birds. The handler carries a break-open gun, he/she does not fire but does swing on flushed birds.

#### 2) Independent Water Search

Purposeful search for about 10 minutes in water with heavy reeds or cattails. The water portion used should have little or no duck scent to encourage a dog to continually expand beyond already searched areas of the water or marsh.

#### 3) Search Behind the Duck

A live duck is released on shore out of sight of the dog. As soon as the duck is out of sight, judges will show the beginning of the duck's track to the handler waiting nearby who then encourages the dog to follow the track on water and/or in marsh vegetation. An experienced and capable dog will make efficient use of the duck's track by using wind to advantage, by staying close to the scent and by progressing deliberately and quickly to give the duck little chance to escape. When conditions resemble an average hunting situation a dog should find the duck without further help from the handler and retrieve it to hand.

4) Blind Water Retrieve

A dead duck is thrown into the water by a judge about 30 m from the dog and handler but out of their sight. The handler is told the approximate location of the duck by the judges. The dog must retrieve that dead duck to hand. Additional commands or rocks thrown to direct the dog will lower the score.

5) Game Drag

A dead bird or mammal is dragged about 250 m in an S shape, by a judge who hides at the end for observation. Feathers or fur will be pulled at the starting point and the dog shown these by the handler. Neither the handler nor dog see the track laid. 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 game to the handler promptly.

6) Blood Tracking

Note this test is offered as a separate test in Canada, not as part of PE. See separate explanation.

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