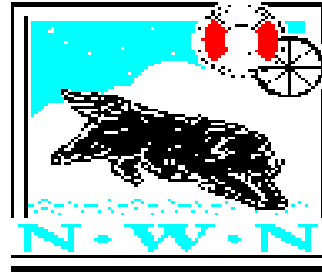


NEWFOUNDLAND DRAUGHT TEST REGULATIONS



October 2014

These tests have been accepted by The Northern Newfoundland Club as the basis for all certified tests.

However, during 2017, there will be an evaluation and consultation before the regulations are revised ready for the first test in 2018. Any matters to be put on the agenda for discussion during the evaluation period should be notified as they arise, in writing, to the relevant club Working Section Sub Committee Secretary.

Should any safety issues become apparent prior to the start of the next evaluation period, then the Working Section Sub Committees can introduce amendments by mutual consent.

These regulations replace all previous versions and are the only standard against which all tests will be judged.

Copies of these regulations can be obtained from the copyright holders, i.e. the Working Sub-Committee of The Northern Newfoundland Club. The authorisation to copy for private use will not be unreasonably withheld if a request, in writing, is made to the Working Sub-committee.



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1.1 Introduction

It is generally acknowledged that the Newfoundland, as a unique breed, was bred by its originators in Canada to be a big powerful dog capable of an arduous days work either on board a fishing boat or on shore. On land it was extensively used as beast of burden as well as being the friend and guardian of the family, especially the children. Without wanting to endanger their dog or anyone else, the modern day owner increasingly wants to see whether their dog is equally capable. This set of exercises, which will test the dog at five levels, has been devised to provide a safe and consistent method of proving the dog's capabilities in a non-competitive environment.

These tests, which are extensions to training and not an end in themselves, are based on the building block principle. Skills learnt by owner and dog for the lower levels are repeated and refined or modified in higher level tests. It must be understood that it is necessary to MASTER the lower levels first in order to proceed to the higher levels. If a problem arises with a certain manoeuvre then there will be a firm foundation to fall back on; if training is carried out inconsistently then a problem cannot be dealt with systematically. Thus dogs must pass each lower level before being permitted to attempt the next highest level, i.e. passing the Beginners Test before Level 1, and Level 1 before entering for Level 2 etc. It must be borne in mind that the exercises actually test the owner and dog partnership, not just the capabilities of the dog.

On a test day there will be two judges and it is their desire for all the dogs to pass. Entrants may ask the judges questions during the test if they are unsure whether they are permitted to do something or not. Judges may volunteer some advice to help entrants and their dogs during the test. To guide entrants, a breakdown of the available points is shown within the exercises. The judges will be using a scoring system for marking each performance. These marks are purely for their use and will not be divulged to entrants. The published results will only show whether the required standard was reached. The dog and owner must reach the required standard in each exercise otherwise they will fail the test as a whole. At the conclusion of each test the judges will inform entrants whether they and their dog have passed or failed and probably make some verbal comments. There will also be written comments to collect from the score steward, together with a certificate of competence for a pass.

These tests are non-competitive. However, if a competitive trial, with dogs/owners being placed in order of competence is being arranged, then these regulations may be the basis for those trials. A test day is for entrants to enjoy working with their dogs and delight in their joint achievements and those of fellow Newfoundland owners. Even at a test, remember never to become so serious that the fun goes out of working for either you or your Newfoundland.

Dogs must be at least 15 months old on the day of the test to enter for the Beginners Level, 18 months for Level 1, 24 months for Level 2 & 3 and 30 months for Level 4. Dogs aged 8 years and over cannot enter for Level 4. These ages have been set in the best interests of the dog, bearing in mind its physical and mental capabilities. Owners are encouraged to start training their dog only when it is capable of performing all elements without undue strain.

By making an entry, an owner declares that their dog is fit to carry out the proposed test. If it appears to any official at a test event that a dog is not fit enough they must not allow it to take part (See Explanatory Note 11).

A team who has passed Beginners for the first time may at the same test - subject to the dog being of age and being trained to Level 1 - request on the day to enter Level 1, if the Judges deem the team capable then subject to time and with the Test Manager's agreement the team may go on to enter Level 1.

Apart from Beginners moving up to Level 1 on the day a dog can only be entered for one level which it has not passed, per event, but may retake any level for which it already holds a pass, i.e. one new (un-passed) level, at a weekend event.

Owners are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. Exercising of dogs within the designated test area is prohibited. All dogs must be kept on a lead while the tests are being conducted unless stated in the Regulations, when a steward will be in fairly close proximity in the event of a problem arising.

Beginners Tests can be conducted, informally, by two Judges from the approved list, provided one of them has previously satisfactorily judged at this level. This test does not have to be carried out at an organised event and can be arranged by the owners at their and the Judge's convenience. The Chairman of the Working Sub-Committee will sanction the chosen judges on receipt of a phone call or letter from the organisers. It is the responsibility of the organisers to notify any passes with any other relevant information to Working Sub-committee of the club hosting the test, so that the matter can be formally reported at the next committee meeting.



A team (more than one dog) can be entered at all levels except the level 4 travail test. Each individual dog must have passed the Level being attempted before it can be entered as a part of a team. The Control Section of a team test will be carried out collectively. In the Pull Section for a team the regulations shall be modified so that all references to the dog shall be read as the team of dogs; the weight to be carried as a load shall be increased by 50% for the second and any subsequent members of a team.

1.2 Responsibilities of the Working Section Sub-Committee

- a) Select suitable dates and venues for draught tests.
- b) Select potential Judges from the approved list and arrange for them to be officially invited to adjudicate; acceptance slips will be kept on file. The Judges selected must know the rules thoroughly and will conduct the tests in a consistent manner; they must judge according to the regulations as they are written and not how they would like the tests to be or how they train their own dogs.
- c) Appoint a proficient Test Manager, who is then responsible for ensuring the site is suitable for the tests to be held, and obtaining permission to use the site from its owner(s).
- d) Ensure that their appointed officials (Test Manager and Judges) are aware that safety is always the prime consideration and that they have a duty to call off a test if the conditions are, or become, unsuitable. It doesn't matter if one or more of the three officials (Judges & Test Manager) think they should carry on, if just one official is concerned that it is dangerous then the Level will be cancelled, halted or postponed. This likelihood of cancellation should be included in the schedule so that entrants are fully aware of such a possibility.

1.3 List of Judges

Each club will set up a list from which Judges for its events will be chosen. The list will show the highest level that the person can judge i.e. a Level 3 Judge can judge Levels 1, 2 and 3 but not 4. Persons wishing to become Judges can be nominated to The Northern Newfoundland Club or the Southern Newfoundland Club working sub-committee and depending on their suitability and experience they will be added to the list at the Beginners Level. Following favorable reports on their judging performance at tests, Judges can be moved up the list as their experience grows. Similarly for poor performance or other misdemeanours a Judge could be moved down the list or be removed altogether. When a Judge's position on the list is changed then they will be notified by the secretary of the working sub-committee. Whilst each club will maintain their own list and use it to select their Judges. The lists will be combined (usually at year end). A person's position on the joint list will be the highest one they then hold on either list

1.4 Responsibilities of the Judges

Each test will have two judges working in unison, with all decisions made jointly.
It is the responsibility of the judges to:-

- a) Judge to appropriate draught regulations, including the prior inspection of the site, where necessary. If the Judges disagree over whether a team has done sufficient to pass, then the joint decision will be a fail. If the Judges disagree over the interpretation of the regulations the Referee will be called in.
- b) Judge fairly and impartially. They should also be as helpful as possible, especially for the Beginners Test.
- c) On invitation to judge a test, a written response is required to the sub-committee. If after acceptance a Judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason, then they must inform the Test Manager as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation to the subcommittee.
- d) Check with the Test Manager who is to be the Referee.
- e) Having been briefed by the Test Manager on the peculiarities of the venue, brief the stewards as to their particular responsibilities. Judges should remind stewards that they are not to make comments direct to entrants (unless it is safety related). Stewards may bring to the Judge's attention some aspect of a completed exercise they feel might have been missed by the Judges.
- f) All entrants must attend the Judge's briefing at the appointed time. This is essential so that entrants are fully aware of hazards and safety requirements. Entrants who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.



- g) The judges have the right to terminate any test being taken if they consider that the continuation of the test would be injurious to the dog or handler.
- h) Ensure that there are no more stewards than necessary in the test area.
- i) If special circumstances make it necessary, then the judges can allow a dog to retake a particular element of a test. This should not be used for an attempt that had only just failed but should be used where something unexpected happens which affects the dog adversely. The Judges alone will determine what is 'unexpected' and whether the exercise can be attempted again.
- j) A dog that has taken a test and failed cannot retake that test on the same day; however, at the discretion and agreement of both judges, it may be allowed to continue with the rest of the test as a training exercise.
- k) Allocate some time before the start of the tests for the Pre-Test Equipment Check. If the harness is deemed ill-fitting or if it or the apparatus is deemed unsafe in any respect, then it must be replaced or remedied before the dog will be permitted to commence the test.
- l) Whilst there may be times when Judges should consult together in private, it is good practice to speak openly in front of stewards and even in front of entrants.
- m) Judges will provide verbal comments to entrants immediately after their test and arrange for written comments to be supplied later.
- n) Judges at each test level must provide a legibly written report on the test and entrants, which must be forwarded to the WSC of the relevant club, within 14 days of the event. This may be published on the internet or in a suitable periodical. If there are comments that the judges wish to make but do not wish to be published, these are to be clearly marked as such and on a separate sheet that will not be sent for publication. Judges can combine their reports for publication but should report separately on matters not for publication. However all reports will be checked by the Working Section Sub-Committee.
- o) No two novice/junior or inexperienced judges should judge together and senior judges may be asked to recommend which judges could move up.
- p) A judge may not judge their own dog or one handled by a partner or immediate family member.
- q) Judges may not judge with co-judges who are partners or immediate family members.
- r) A Judge may only enter their own dog on the same day if it is entered at a different level to that which is been judged, and if there is someone else to handle it for the judge. However if time permits and there is no interference with the completion of the judging commitment, the judge, with the agreement of the Test Manager, may handle their own dog.
- s) Judges can only judge a team of more than one dog in a test, if all dogs remain on the same side of the handler throughout the control section, as they would be, as if they were hitched in the cart. (For example in brace, one dog can not be on either side of the handler)

1.5 Responsibilities of the Test Manager

- a) Ensure that the location of the test is adequate for the tests to be held. Although the Test Manager will indicate the control/manoeuvre/haul area; it is the Judges who will decide if it is suitable
- b) Check that suitable access can be provided, especially for emergency services.
- c) Contact the local Police and advise them of the event. Ensure that a local veterinary surgeon has been asked, and has agreed in writing, to act as emergency cover for the event. This letter will be kept by the Test Manager and will be supplied to the relevant committee on request. Notify other emergency services as appropriate. Publicise the telephone number and locations of emergency facilities (vet, hospital etc) and also the locations of telephones to call these facilities.
- d) Oversee the production of the schedule, checking that the address to which completed entry forms are to be sent is correct. The schedule will include the requirement to attend the Judge's briefing and that entrants who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.



- e) If there are to be limited entries, allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis, but with unqualified dogs taking priority; as soon as possible after the closing date for entries inform applicants if they are entrants or on the reserve list.
- f) Oversee the production of a catalogue or list of entrants for use on the day, together with blank score sheets, comment forms and certificates.
- g) Arrange sufficient safety stewards. Depending on the event circumstances, the Test Manager can appoint a Chief Steward. With the judges, the Test Manager is responsible for allocating safety stewards for each haul.
- h) Preferably the day before the tests, check the site for any last minute problems and then take any steps as necessary.
- i) If the Test Manager is unable to meet their commitment for any reason, they must inform the Chairman of the relevant working sub-committee as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation.
- j) Ensure that all the equipment is in place and ready for use for the start of judging. Check the test site, checking for any overnight changes that could pose problems for the test. Brief the Judges and safety stewards on the peculiarities of the venue.
- k) Provide suitable apparatus for the beginners pull section.
- l) Provide a means of communication between judges and test manager to be used in emergencies during the haul section, i.e. walkie talkie or mobile phone. Also have a suitable method available to rescue an injured dog.
- m) Ensure the smooth running of the tests.
- n) Ensure that no smoking takes place within the test area.
- o) It is the Test Manager's responsibility to deal with any members of the Press. Their requests should only be acceded to if they do not affect the smooth running of the test – safety and the dogs always come first.
- p) Unless a separate Referee has been appointed, act as Referee.
- q) Provide a legibly written report, which includes the full names of the dogs entered/passed or disqualified, to the relevant committee on the conduct of the tests, including constructive criticisms where appropriate, within 14 days of the test. It should include a balance sheet showing income and expenses including the relevant entry monies collected.
- r) Within 14 days send details of the passes/failures to the club's record keeper, in accordance with the requirements included in the Test Manager's pack.

1.6 Responsibilities of Referees

Referees do not have to watch the test for which they are adjudicating. In the event of a disagreement over the interpretation of the regulations (not performance) between the Judges, the Referee will talk with them and attempt to conciliate with particular reference to the regulations. They may also talk to the safety stewards in an attempt to resolve the matter. The Referee can order a retake of an exercise if the matter is not resolved in any other way. If called upon to adjudicate on any matter, then the Referee will also supply a 'not for publication' report to the relevant sub-committee within 14 days.

1.7 Responsibilities of Safety Stewards

Safety stewards assisting in the Haul Section of the tests should not be the partner/spouse of the owner/handler. The amount of assistance a safety steward is allowed to give during the Haul Section, especially in the higher level tests, is minimal and only at the request of the owner/handler. A safety steward's main responsibility is to ensure the safety of the team that has been assigned to them.



1.8 Responsibilities of Entrants

- a) Entrants should have read and understood the regulations for the test they are taking.
- b) They should ensure that their apparatus is in good working condition. The designated load required on haul for each test is part of the entrant's equipment and will **NOT** be provided by the Test Manager **entrants failing to provide their own containers will be unable to enter the test**. Each load should weigh correctly using water for the weight in plastic containers (water can be disposed of easily during the haul).

The general consensus for measuring volume to weight mass is 1 Litre = 1 Kilo. Entrants will need to take into account the size and balance of their cart and weight of the actual container when choosing what containers to use. The Test Manager will provide one 5 litre container marked off in 1 litre graduations as the standard measure.

- c) They should be certain that they and their dog are fit and healthy and capable of undertaking the test.
- d) They should ensure that they have appropriate apparatus for the comfort and safety of their team e.g. repair kit for cart, water and bowl for dog, first aid kit and poo bags.
- e) They should be aware of how to unhitch their dog quickly should an emergency occur and be able to demonstrate this.
- f) They should be aware of the type of obstacles and manoeuvres they will be expected to encounter.
- g) They should understand the **safety is of paramount importance** and that they should carry out the test in the style most suitable and safe for themselves, their dogs, and other entrants and other dogs. However, judges have the final decision on safety.
- h) Entrants should be aware of how to correctly load the weights into their cart, taking into account the safety and comfort of the dogs when out on the haul.
- i) The entrants should be aware that when entering a team of more than one dog in a test, all dogs are to remain on the same side of the handler throughout the control section, as they would be, as if they were hitched in the cart. (For example in brace, one dog on either side of the handler is not allowed)
- j) If an entrant is also judging at the same event, please refer to the Responsibilities of the Judges, section 1.4 q)

1.9 Complaints Procedure

Any complaint should be made in writing to the Complaints Co-ordinator of the Working Committee.

1.10 Disqualifications

A dog and its owners/handler may be disqualified, have any test already passed at that event rescinded and be removed from the event if:-

- a) The dog is suffering from an infectious or contagious disease;
- b) The dog or owners/handler interferes with the safety or chance of success of any other entrant;
- c) The dog is of such temperament or so much out of control as to be a danger to itself or any other animal or person;
- d) The dog is likely to be caused suffering if it continues to take part in the tests.
- e) A bitch in season.
- f) If the owner/handler carries out any punitive correction or harsh handling at any time within the boundaries of the event.
- g) The owners/handler behaves in an abusive or intimidating manner to any other person or dog attending the event.

If a dog is disqualified for any of the above reasons and if the dog has already passed a test at the event, then the pass will be rescinded and a report provided by the Test Manager to the relevant subcommittee. If a bitch comes into season unexpectedly after entries have closed and thus cannot attend, their owner can apply to have 90% of the entry fee returned; the application must be accompanied by a confirming veterinary certificate.



1.11 Judges' Briefing

A briefing will be held before each level (or each element of the level if the judges so wish) in which the particular requirements of the judges will be outlined, together with any peculiarities concerning the test site. It is not a review of how the rules will be interpreted. All entrants should be aware of what is expected of them in advance but can use the briefing as a time to clarify points. The briefing should include a reminder to entrants that by signing the entry form they have declared that their dog is fit and well enough to undertake the relevant level.



2 Draught Test Regulations

This section contains explanatory notes, which should assist in the interpretation of the regulations, the test site and equipment requirements

2.1 Explanatory Notes

- a) The tests will be judged by two appointed persons working in unison. It will be necessary for the judges to place themselves in advantageous positions so that between them they will be able to see the performance of all the elements of the test.
- b) For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.
- c) Audible instructions given by owners to their dogs may be by using whistles although it must be borne in mind that a whistle may also be used by a judge or someone unconnected with the tests.
- d) Judges will look at the following points when carrying out their inspections:
 - The ability of the harness:-
 - to allow the dog to pull the apparatus via the traces;
 - to prevent the apparatus from overriding the dog when going downhill or reversing;
 - to prevent the shafts from flying upwards or falling downwards.
 - The ease of fit and absence of chaffing.
 - The pull coming from the correct point of the chest.
 - The ability to escape from the apparatus quickly in an emergency.

As long as a harness fulfils these principles, then it will be acceptable. The judges will expect the harness and shafts to be complementary. The shafts must not be so long or so short as to interfere with the action of the dog.

- e) The handler and dog will be tested as a team, as an example of this working together the handler will determine whether it is necessary to unhitch, or perhaps assist with the apparatus up an incline or even manhandle it themselves, or if they or their dog needs to stop to have a drink, with the exception of the out of sight stays, viewing an obstacle, or finding a suitable path to take, in these cases it is the handler's choice how they leave their dog safely and therefore it could be by tying it to a lamp post or tree etc., either hitched or unhitched, by handing over control to some suitable person, however this person should not interfere with the dog in any way unless required to do so for safety reasons, or any other way the handler feels is appropriate.
- f) The running order of the convoys will be decided by the Judges.
- g) Dogs must be handled by the same person throughout all sections of each test.
- h) Unless entering with a team of two or more dogs, each entrant may only handle one individual dog at each level (excluding beginners).
- i) Handlers can use verbal encouragement (talk to their dog) during all sections of the tests. Handlers can also touch their dogs during a test but should not physically manhandle them into position; movement of the dog should be accomplished with words not deeds. This is particularly the case with a back-up; the dog should respond to the command not to the close proximity or actions of the handler.
- j) It is the responsibility of the owner(s) to ensure that any dog(s) entered for any test level is FIT AND HEALTHY. The Club(s) cannot accept any liability.
- k) "Halti" type head collars are not permissible.
- l) Only those teams qualified to undertake the hauls will be judged and are to remain in front of the last steward on the haul. Anyone following a haul (with or without a dog in cart) must remain behind the last steward, and do so at their own risk .



2.2 Environmental Equipment and requirements

- a) The test area is to be approximately 25 by 25 metres and kept clear of people and other dogs. It is not essential that this area is defined with stakes and tape/rope although a maximum of nine marker cones can be used as reference points. Weaving poles may also be provided for use at the Judge's discretion.
- b) Generally the terrain for the tests should be reasonable for the equipment being used. For the Beginners Level it is important that it is approximately level well compacted smooth surface. For the other levels, there should be firm level areas but with variety to include concrete, tarmac, compacted gravel or dirt, mud, leaves, etc where possible. Artificial surface changes should only be used as a last resort.
- c) In selecting a test site, the incline requirements of Level 3 and 4 should not be seen as posing any great difficulty. The requirement can be achieved in a number of ways. For example, the course could be generally flat but with some short really steep climbs that would require the handler to help their dog; there would be equally steep inclines. Alternatively, the course could be split into a number of gently rising and falling stretches that would in total amount to the correct level of difficulty.
- d) A 'narrow area' is one that the dogs and apparatus can negotiate but does not have sufficient space for the handler to be alongside.
- e) Apart from the Preliminary Level, entrants will need to provide their own equipment (or arrange to borrow equipment) for the tests.
- f) When using non wheeled apparatus the weights to be carried will be halved. Judges will also use their discretion as to the obstacles, particularly any reverses that non wheeled apparatus will be required to negotiate.
- g) No food may be used during the control section or manoeuvring section at any level. Food may be given at all levels during the haul as a reward but not as an inducement.
- h) Apart from Beginners Level, each set of draught apparatus provided by the entrants will be expected to carry drinking water and a water bowl for their dog. This will be part of the apparatus and will not be considered a load or part of a load. Other items (first aid, ice pack, etc.) in addition to any designated load, may be carried at the discretion of the handler and with the agreement of the Judges. An extra lead or cord may also be attached to the cart to enable the handler to assist the dog where necessary.
- i) Equipment for the judges/safety stewards:
 - Rules/scoring sheets
 - Clipboards/pencils
 - Whistles/stopwatch
 - Hi-Vis Jackets for Judges and Stewards
 - Table & chair(s)
 - Shelter/umbrella
 - Results board
 - List of entrants - giving details of the dogs taking part
 - One 5 Litre container marked off in 1 litre graduations as the standard measure for water loads.
1 Litre is equal to 1 Kilo.
- j) First aid for humans and dogs - dogs cannot be carried on human stretchers!
- k) All Distances are Approximate.



2.3 Multi-Test Pass Awards

Multi-test pass awards are of two types:-

- a) A certificate of merit will be awarded to a dog or team of dogs who pass any of the Levels 2 and 3 five separate times at more than two different venues and involving at least four different judges. This certificate is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner and the consistency of the dog(s) in being able to perform at the pass level of 2 or 3 over a number of months and in differing circumstances.
- b) A Diploma will be awarded to a dog or team of dogs who pass at Level 4, three separate times at three different venues and involving at least four different judges. Single dogs shall use suitable non wheeled apparatus for at least one pass. This diploma is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner and the skill and training of the dog(s) in being able to perform consistently at the highest level.

In the event of Kennel Club recognition, it would be recommended that this Diploma be taken as equivalent to the title 'Draught Work Champion' for individual dogs and 'Team Draught Work Champion' for members of a team.

Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be awarded by all the clubs involved. A dog or particular team of dogs will only qualify **once** for the Diploma and Certificates of Merit at any particular level, even though they may perform the requirements again with a new owner. To give due recognition to the attainment, any Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be announced at an Annual General Meeting. Multi-test pass awards will not be awarded as of right. It will be the responsibility of the owner to apply to the Club's record keeper and the applicant will be informed of the arrangements for presentation.



3 Draught Test - Beginners

Dogs minimum age is 15 months

All entrants must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Entrants who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

Purpose – To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to safely pull through its harness.

3.1 Control Section (Beginners)

Desired performance:

- A course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:
- Over a distance of between 50 and 75 metres,
- There will be between 3 and 6 turns, all at normal pace made up from:
 - between 1 and 2 left turns;
 - between 1 and 2 right turns;
 - between 1 and 2 about turns
- a wait at a junction of 5 seconds;
- a 1 minute down-stay, the handler standing beside the dog with a loose lead;
- a simple recall from 5 metres, the dog must be off lead

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward. The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes. The handler will take the harness from the steward, who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- The dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed;
- The dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- Changing position during the stay, the dog may be calmly and quietly reset back into the original stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock, but will lose 5 points each time they are reset;
- 45 points will be allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler;
- getting up during the down-stay (the dog may be reset but will lose 5 points each time);
- lack of control on turns, waits, stops, the recall and the down stay;
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog;

Failure:

- if the team loses more than 15 points in this section (at least 30 points required to pass);
- if the team have more than 3 attempts at the recall;
- if the team does not reach a sufficiently high standard, then it will NOT be allowed to enter the next section of this test
- if the dog leaves the ring;

Permitted actions:

- Handlers can kneel or extend their arms or even walk backwards during the action part of the recall; the element is complete when the Judge or Steward says "exercise complete" this will be after the dog has returned to the handler and is back on lead.



3.2 Pull Section (Beginners)

Desired performance:

On completing the Control Section satisfactorily, the handler will be required to hitch up the dog to the apparatus designated by the Judges (see note below¹). When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus willingly and safely diagonally across the ring in a straight line as instructed by the steward.

When instructed by the steward, they will stop; the handler will unhitch and un-harness the dog before walking out of the test area in a controlled manner.

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- the dog will wait calmly while it is hitched;
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- at the end of the pull, the dog will again wait calmly while they are unhitched and unharnessed;
- 55 points will be allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- mistakes during hitching unhitching and harnessing and un-harnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler;
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog;
- lack of control on stop;

Failure:

- if the team loses more than 15 points in this section (at least 40 points to pass);
- if through lack of handlers safety awareness the log, sledge or cart becomes unstable or tips over
- if the dog is dangerously out of control
- If the dogs leaves the ring.

¹ The provided designated apparatus will be an empty (no load or other items) light weight two wheeled cart, or, if the dog has never been in a cart before a log can be used.



4 Draught Test Level 1 (Intermediate)

Dogs minimum age is 18 months

All entrants must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Entrants who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to safely pull draught apparatus over a short level course.

4.1 Control Section Level 1 (Intermediate)

Desired performance:

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- Over a distance of between 75 and 100 metres
- there will be between 7 and 9 turns, made up from:
 - between 2 and 3 left turns;
 - between 2 and 3 right turns;
 - between 2 and 3 about turns;
- a 1 minute halt, any position of the handlers choice but the dog must remain in the same position (standing, sitting or down);
- a wait at a junction of 5 seconds;
- a random, unexpected stop that may be different for each entrant;
- a down-stay of 1 minute with the handler 5m away, in sight of the dog;
- a recall from 5 metres, the dog must be off lead

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward. The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes. The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

Scoring:

It is expected that;

- the dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed;
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- getting up while in the down-stay, the dog may be calmly and quietly reset back into the down stay position for the remaining time still running on the clock, but will lose 5 points each time they are reset;
- 45 points will be allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler;
- if the dog gets up while in the down-stay, (the dog may be reset and left but it will lose 5 points each time); they must be reset back into the down position;
- lack of control on turns, waits, stops, the recall and the halts;
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog
- using a non-directional command (ie: stop, wait, come, sit) more than five times before a response,

Failure:

- if the team lose more than 15 points in this section (at least 30 points required to pass);
- if the team have more than 3 attempts at the recall;
- if the team does not reach a sufficiently high standard, then it will NOT be allowed to enter the next section of this test
- if the dog leaves the ring



Permitted actions:

- Handlers can kneel or extend their arms or even walk backwards during the action part of the recall; the element is complete when the Judge or Steward says “exercise complete” this will be after the dog has returned to the handler and is back on lead.

4.2 Manoeuvring Section Level 1 (Intermediate)

Desired performance - A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will cover approximately 150 metres, and will incorporate circular patterns, broad curves, at least 2 right-angle turns, narrow areas, a wait at a removable obstacle and will include as many of these as natural features as possible. To commence the manoeuvring course, the handler will take the dog to the apparatus, and when instructed will hitch it up. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges. This is to satisfy the judges that the dog can safely and capably pull the apparatus on the following haul.

Only when this part has been completed satisfactorily will the dog and handler be directed to a waiting area ready for the next part; failure to perform satisfactorily will mean they will not go onto the next part.

4.3 The Haul Level 1 (Intermediate)

This will be in a rural environment (or simulated) and will be over a distance of 1 mile, with at least one change of surface and minimal inclines. There will be no additional load transported during the haul at this level.

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered. People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide a natural distraction. This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size, with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at any encountered obstacles. On reaching any obstacle the convoy will be halted by the judges and/or safety steward, and necessary instructions given. The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges.

When the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness the dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- the dog will wait calmly while it is hitched;
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- at the end of the course, the dog will again wait calmly while it is unhitched and unharnessed;
- 55 points are allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect hitching, unhitching, harnessing and unharnessing,
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler, (unless the handler has positioned themselves to the back or the front of the cart and has instructed the dog accordingly).
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog:
- lack of control on turns, waits, stop
- using a non-directional command (ie: stop, wait, come, sit) more than five times before a response
- incorrect and/or unsafe loading;

Failure:

- if the team lose more than 15 points in this section (at least 40 points required to pass);
- if through lack of handler safety awareness, the cart tips over;
- if the dog is dangerously out of control



5 Draught Test Level 2 (Bronze)

Dogs minimum age is 24 months

All entrants must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Entrants who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to safely pull draught apparatus over a longer and more difficult course.

5.1 Control Section Level 2 (Bronze)

Desired performance:

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- Over a distance of between 100 and 150metres
- changes of pace to slow and back to normal;
- There will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from:
 - at least 3 left turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace);
 - at least 3 right turns (with at least 1 at slow pace);
 - at least 3 about turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace);
- a 1 minute halt, any position of the handlers choice but the dog must remain in the same position (standing, sitting or down);
- 2 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at slow pace);
- a random, unexpected stop (during normal pace) that may be different for each entrant;
- a recall from 10 metres, the dog must be off lead

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward. The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes. The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

The second part of this section is a group down-stay of 2 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (maximum of 5 dogs). The dogs will be within 4m of each other. The handlers will be in sight of the dogs, approximately 5m away.

Scoring:

It is expected that;

- the dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed;
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- 45 points will be allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for: -

- general lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler;
- if the dog gets up while in the group down-stay; they must be reset back into the down position (5 points lost each time reset);
- lack of control on turns, waits, stops, the recall and the halts;
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog
- using a non-directional command (ie: stop, wait, come, sit) more than three times before a response;
- distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the group down-stay;

Failure:

- if the team lose more than 15 points in this section (at least 30 points required to pass);
- if the team does not reach a sufficiently high standard, then it will NOT be allowed to enter the next section of this test
- if the team does not show a pronounced change of pace
- If the dog leaves the ring



Permitted actions:

- Handlers can kneel or extend their arms or even walk backwards during the action part of the recall; the element is complete when the Judge or Steward says “exercise complete” this will be after the dog has returned to the handler and is back on lead.

5.2 Manoeuvring Section Level 2 (Bronze)

Desired performance - A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will cover approximately 150 metres, and will incorporate circular patterns, broad curves, at least 2 right-angle turns, narrow areas, a wait at a removal obstacle and will include as many of these as natural features as possible. To commence the manoeuvring course, the handler will take the dog to the apparatus, and when instructed will hitch it up. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges and/or safety steward. This is to satisfy the judges that the dog can safely and capably pull the apparatus on the following haul.

Only when this part has been completed satisfactorily will they be directed to wait ready for the next part; failure to perform satisfactorily will mean they will not go onto the next part.

5.3 Haul Section Level 2 (Bronze)

This will be in a rural environment (or simulated) and will be over a distance of at least 2 miles, with at least two changes of surface and a moderate incline (about 8%) to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of this incline. A load (which will be inspected prior to the commencement of this section), comprising a total weight of 10 kilograms, will be transported for 50% of the course (the load may, if the owner wishes, be removed after this).

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include a gate, a right turn, a left turn, a series of fairly tight ‘S’ bends, and one other obstacle selected by a Judge. People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide a natural distraction.

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size, with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges and/or safety steward and necessary instructions given. The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges.

There will also be an out-of-sight down stay of 1 minute duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise. The 1 minute will commence once handlers are out of sight and finish when the handlers have returned to their dogs and on the call of a Judge or steward saying “**exercise complete**”.

Finally, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- the dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed and hitched;
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- at the end of the course, the dog will again wait calmly while it is unhitched and unharnessed;
- 55 points are allocated for this section.



Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect hitching, unhitching harnessing and unharnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler; (unless the handler has positioned themselves to the back or the front of the cart and has instructed the dog accordingly).
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog
- lack of control on turns, waits and stops;
- using a non-directional command (ie: stop, wait, come, sit) more than three times before a response;
- incorrect and/or unsafe loading;
- handler holding on to any part of the cart or equipment unnecessarily to control the dog.
- not assisting the dog over uneven surfaces, up hills etc, where deemed necessary
- distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the group down-stay;
- if the dog changes position during the down stay; 5 points will be lost;

Failure:

- if the dog moves away from the spot during the down stay;
- if the team lose more than 15 points in this section (at least 40 points required to pass)
- if through lack of handler safety awareness, the cart tips over;
- if the dog is dangerously out of control



6 Draught Test Level 3 (Silver)

Dogs minimum age is 24 months

All entrants must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Entrants who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to safely pull draught apparatus over a longer and more difficult course.

6.1 Control Section Level 3 (Silver)

Desired performance:

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- Over a distance of 150 to 200 metres
- with changes of pace to slow and back to normal;
- with changes of pace to fast and back to normal;
- there will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from:
 - at least 3 left turns, (with at least 1 at each pace);
 - at least 3 right turns (with at least 1 at each pace);
 - at least 3 about turns, (with at least 1 at each pace);
- a 1 minute halt (in the STAND position);
- 3 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at each pace);
- a random, unexpected stop (during normal pace) that will be different for each entrant;
- a reasonably straight "back-up" of one metre;
- a recall on the move from 10 metres, while moving away from the dog the dog must be off lead

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward. The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes. The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

The second part of this section is a group down-stay of 3 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (maximum of 6 dogs). The dogs will be within 3m of each other. The handlers will be in sight of the dogs, approximately 5m away.

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- the dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed;
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- 45 points will be allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler;
- lack of control on turns, waits, stops, halts and the recall.
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog
- using a non-directional command (ie: stop, wait, come, sit) more than twice before a response
- the dog moving while in the stand stay;
- distracting another dog or dogs while in the group down-stay;



Failure:

- if the team lose more than 15 points in this section (at least 30 required to pass);
- if the team does not reach a sufficiently high standard, then it will NOT be allowed to enter the next section of this test
- if the dog gets up during the down-stay element;
- the dog leaves the ring;
- if the dog does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup;
- if the team does not show a pronounced change of pace;

6.2 Manoeuvring Section Level 3 (Silver)

Desired performance - A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will cover approximately 150 metres, and will incorporate circular patterns, broad curves, at least 2 right-angle turns, narrow areas, a wait at a removal obstacle and will include as many of these as natural features as possible. To commence the manoeuvring course, the handler will take the dog to the apparatus, and when instructed will hitch it up. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges and/or safety steward. This is to satisfy the judges that the dog can safely and capably pull the apparatus on the following haul.

Only when this part has been completed satisfactorily they will be directed to wait ready for the next part; failure to perform satisfactorily will mean they will not go onto the next part.

6.3 Haul Section Level 3 (Silver)

This will be in a mixed environment (part rural and part urban or simulated) and will be over a distance of 3 miles, with at least two changes of surface and noticeable inclines (about 8%) to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these inclines. A load (which will be inspected prior to the commencement of this section), a total weight of 15 kilograms, will be transported for approximately 65% of the course.

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include a gate, a right turn, a left turn, a series of fairly tight 'S' bends, a ditch, a large gap, shallow steps or other similar type obstacle and a designated reverse over 1 metre. People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide one natural distraction.

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size, with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges and/or safety steward and necessary instructions given. The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges.

There will also be an out-of-sight down stay of 2 minute duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise. The 2 minutes will commence once handlers are out of sight and finish when the handlers have returned to their dogs and on the call of a Judge or steward saying "**exercise complete**".

Finally, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- the dog will wait calmly while they are hitched;
- the dog will respond to the handlers commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- at the end of the course, the dog will again wait calmly while they are unhitched and unharnessed;
- 55 points will be allocated for this section.



Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing or hitching, unhitching or unharnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler; (unless the handler has positioned themselves to the back or the front of the cart and has instructed the dog accordingly).
- The handler adapting his pace to that of the dog;
- lack of control on turns, waits or stops;
- having to use a command more than twice before a response;
- incorrect and/or unsafe loading;
- handler holding on to any part of the cart or equipment unnecessarily;-to control the dog.
- not assisting the dog over uneven surfaces, up hills etc, where deemed necessary
- distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the group down-stay;

Failure:

- if the team lose more than 15 points in this section (at least 40 points required to pass)
- if through lack of handler safety awareness, the cart tips over
- if the dog is dangerously out of control;
- if the dog gets up during the down-stay element;
- if the dog does not complete or is intimidated to complete the back-up;



7 Draught Test Level 4 (Gold)

Dogs minimum age is 30 months

All entrants must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Entrants who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to safely pull draught apparatus over a long and difficult course.

7.1 Control Section Level 4 (Gold)

Desired performance:

A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- Over a distance of between 200 and 250 metres
- with changes of pace to slow and back to normal;
- with changes of pace to fast and back to normal;
- there will be a minimum of 9 turns made up from:
 - at least 3 left turns, (with at least 1 at each pace);
 - at least 3 right turns (with at least 1 at each pace);
 - at least 3 about turns, (with at least 1 at each pace);
- a 1 minute halt (in the STAND position);
- 3 waits at a junction of 5 seconds each, (1 at each pace);
- a random unexpected STOP while off lead; that will be different for each entrant;
- a reasonably straight "back-up" of 3 metres;
- a recall on the move from 10 metres, while moving away from the dog followed by 1 left turn, 1 right turn and 1 about turn in any order the dog must be off lead

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward. The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes. The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

The second part of this section is a group down-stay of 3 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (maximum of 6 dogs). The dogs will be within 2m of each other. The handlers will not be in sight or sound of the dogs, i.e. not being able to be seen and silent. The 3 minutes will commence once handlers are out of sight and finish when the handlers have returned to their dogs and on the call of a Judge or steward saying "**exercise complete**".

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- the dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control.
- 45 points will be allocated for this section

Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler;
- lack of control on turns, waits, stops halts and the recall;
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog
- having to use a command more than once before a response,
- the dog moving while in the stand stay;
- distracting another dog or dogs while in the group down-stay



Failure:

- if the team lose more than 10 points in this section (at least 35 required to pass);
- if the team does not reach a sufficiently high standard, then it will NOT be allowed to enter the next section of this test
- if the dog gets up during the down-stay element;
- the dog leaves the ring
- if the dog does not complete or is intimidated to accomplish the backup;
- if the team does not show a pronounced change of pace;

7.2 Manoeuvring Section Level 4 (Gold)

Desired performance - A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will cover approximately 150 metres, and will incorporate circular patterns, broad curves, at least 2 right-angle turns, narrow areas, a wait at a removal obstacle and will include as many of these as natural features as possible. To commence the manoeuvring course, the handler will take the dog to the apparatus, and when instructed will hitch it up. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the judges and/or safety steward. This is to satisfy the judges that the dog can safely and capably pull the apparatus on the following haul.

Only when this part has been completed satisfactorily they will be directed to wait ready for the next part; failure to perform satisfactorily will mean they will not go onto the next part.

7.3 Haul Section Level 4 (Gold)

This will be in a mixed environment (part rural and part urban or simulated) and will be over a distance of 4 miles, with at least three changes of surface and at least two noticeable inclines (about 10%) to ascend and descend. The overall length of the course must be extended in the absence of these inclines. A load (which will be inspected prior to the commencement of this section), a total weight of 20 kilograms, will be transported for 80% of the course.

During the course a number of obstacles (hopefully, natural) will be encountered; these should include a gate, a right turn, a left turn, a series of fairly tight 'S' bends, a ditch, a large gap, shallow steps or other similar type obstacle and a designated reverse over 3 metres round an object (L shape reverse). People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide one natural distraction. Other distractions may be provided by a revving engine or some other sudden, but plausible, noise/event.

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size, with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at the various obstacles. On reaching each obstacle or set of obstacles the convoy will be halted by the judges and/or safety steward, and necessary instructions given. The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges.

There will also be an out-of-sight stay of 3 minutes duration, handlers may leave their dogs hitched or unhitched for the stay exercise. The 3 minutes will commence once handlers are out of sight and finish when the handlers have returned to their dogs and on the call of a Judge or steward saying "**exercise complete**".

Finally, each handler in turn will be instructed by the Judge to unhitch and un-harness their dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Scoring:

It is expected that:

- the dog will wait calmly while they are hitched;
- the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- the dog will respond to the handlers commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control;
- at the end of the course, the dog will again wait calmly while they are unhitched and unharnessed;
- 55 points will be allocated for this section.



Points will be lost for:

- general lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing or hitching, unhitching or unharnessing;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler; (unless the handler has positioned themselves to the back or the front of the cart and has instructed the dog accordingly).
- The handler adapting his pace to that of the dog;
- lack of control on turns, waits and stops;
- having to use a command more than once before a response,
- incorrect and/or unsafe loading;
- handler holding on to any part of the cart or equipment unnecessarily to control the dog.
- not assisting the dog over uneven surfaces, up hills etc, where deemed necessary
- distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the group down-stay.

Failure:

- if the team lose more than 15 points in this section (at least 40 points required to pass)
- if, through lack of handler safety awareness, the cart tips over;
- if the dog is dangerously out of control
- if the dog gets up during the down-stay element;
- if the dog fails to complete or is intimidated to complete the back-up.

