

NEWFOUNDLAND

WATER

TEST

REGULATIONS

These tests have been accepted by The Northern Newfoundland Club and the Newfoundland Club for all certified water tests. However, following the last test in 2010, there will be period of evaluation and consultation before the regulations are revised ready for the first test in 2011. Copies of the regulations can be obtained from the Working Section Secretary of the above clubs (free of charge to members). Any matters to be put on the agenda for discussion during the evaluation period should be notified as they arise, in writing, to the Working Section Secretary of either Club.

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

January 2006

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NEWFOUNDLAND WATER TEST REGULATIONS

This document is in *three* parts.

Part 1 - concerns the administrative requirements for a test.

Part 2 - contains explanatory notes, which should assist in the interpretation of the regulations, and test site and equipment requirements

Part 3 - comprises the actual regulations that govern the judging of tests.

Introduction

The Newfoundland has a well-deserved reputation, established over many years, as a saviour of people from the sea. Without wanting to put anyone in danger, the present day owner increasingly wants to see whether the dog is equally capable in the water. This set of exercises, which will test the dog at 5 levels, has been devised in order to provide a safe and consistent method of proving the dog's capabilities in a non-competitive environment. Owners do not have to train only to these exercises or even for the tests. The tests have been designed to encourage the dog and owner to work together as a team.

The tests, which are extensions to training and not an end in themselves, are generally 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. Two examples of this building block approach are:-

1. Approaching a boat correctly is necessary for Section A, Exercise 1, but is also used in all subsequent sections;
2. The complexities of retrieving are gradually built over different distances and a variety of objects, so the dog will eventually carry out a directed tow/retrieve of a person in Section E Exercise 3.

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 exercise or part of it 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 section before being permitted to attempt the next highest section, i.e. passing A & B before entering for C. 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 dogs to pass. Entrants may ask them 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 first three test levels (A, B & C).

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.

A dog can fail through losing too many points, performing a failure action or running out of time. 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 have **FUN** with their dogs and delight in their joint achievements and those of fellow Newfoundland owners. Even at a test remember; never become so serious that the fun goes out of working for either you or your Newfoundland.

Dogs must be at least 6 months old on the day of the test to enter for Section A, 9 months for Section B, 18 months for Section C and 24 months for Sections D & E. 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 when it is capable of performing all elements without undue strain.

A dog can only be entered for one Section, which it has not passed, per water test event. Notwithstanding this, provided a dog passes Section A, if time and circumstance allow it may be permitted to enter Section B on the day of the test, age permitting.

Owners are responsible for the control of their dogs, and cleaning up after them. Exercising of dogs within the designated test area is prohibited. All dogs within 25 metres of the test area must be kept on a lead.

Except for the dog under test, dogs may only enter the water at a designated 'warm up' area (if available), at any time during the tests. Any entrant in breach of this regulation will be liable to disqualification.

During an exercise spectators are requested to remain quiet so that the owner/handler can concentrate and give commands at the appropriate time.

Food and/or dog treats of any kind will not be permitted inside the test area. They cannot be used during any exercise.

Responsibilities of Working Sub-Committee

1. Select suitable dates and venues, with permission obtained from the owners, for water tests.
2. Select potential Judges from the approved list and arrange for them to be officially invited to adjudicate; acceptance slips will be kept on file.
3. Appoint a proficient Test Manager.
4. 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 Section 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.

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 Section D Judge can judge Sections A, B, C and D but not E. Persons wishing to become Judges can apply to a working sub-committee and depending on their suitability and experience they will be added to the list at Section A level. Following favourable 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. Clubs will usually appoint Judges from their own list but may use the joint list if they so wish.

Responsibilities of Judges

Each test will have two Judges working in unison, with all decisions made jointly.

It is the responsibility of the Judges to: -

1. On invitation to judge a test, a written response is required to the relevant sub-committee. If after acceptance, a Judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason then he must inform the Test Manager as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation to the relevant working sub-committee.
2. Know the rules thoroughly and 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. They must judge to the appropriate water 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.
3. Check with the Test Manager who is to be the Referee.
4. Check availability and suitability of equipment necessary for the test. Judges may substitute a suitable item of equipment.
5. Having been briefed by the Test Manager on the peculiarities of the venue, brief the stewards as to their particular responsibilities. Judges may remind stewards that they are not to make comments direct to entrants. Stewards may bring to the Judge's attention some aspect of a completed exercise they feel might have been missed by the Judges.
6. All entrants must attend the Judges' 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.
7. Judge fairly and impartially. They should be as helpful as possible, especially for a Section A Test. Account will be taken by Judges of prevailing wind/current conditions in penalising dogs that do not return to the designated shore area. Exercises should be set up so that the dog has the best chance of achieving a pass.

8. Ensure that there are no more stewards than necessary in the test area.
9. 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.
10. A dog that has taken a test and failed cannot retake that test on the same day.
11. Allocate some time prior to the start of each test to inspect the harness, if worn. If the harness is deemed ill-fitting or unsafe in any respect, then it must be removed before commencing the test. Full check collars will not be worn during tests.
12. If the Judges feel circumstances dictate that it is necessary to change how an exercise is being set up, they should inform all the entrants why the change is being made and include all the facts in their subsequent report. The Judges can use a capable non-competing dog to do a dummy run to check the change is reasonable.
13. 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.
14. Judges will provide verbal comments to entrants immediately after their test and arrange for written comments to be supplied later.
15. Each judge must provide a legibly written report on the test and entrants without naming dogs or owners, which must be forwarded to the relevant committee, within 14 days of the event. This may be published 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.

Responsibilities of the Stewards

It is considered good practice for stewards to:

1. Ensure the safety of entrants and dogs throughout the test exercises. Watch dogs and persons in the water at all times.
2. Steward at one test level before progressing to the next higher level.
3. Be fully familiar with and steward in strict accordance with the water test regulations.
4. Make Judges aware of your availability on the day, your previous experience and swimming ability.
5. Not make comments directly to entrants during the course of the tests.
6. Be ready to bring to the Judges attention any aspect of an exercise you feel may have been missed by them, so it can be taken into consideration.
7. Remain consistent, positive and friendly throughout the whole day.
8. Each Club may issue its own more comprehensive set of Stewarding Guidelines, which would be available upon request from the Secretary of the appropriate Working Sub-Committee.

Responsibilities of the Test Manager

1. Ensure that the location of the test is adequate for the tests to be held. Although the Test Manager will lay out the site it is the Judges who will decide if it is suitable.
2. Check that suitable access can be provided, especially for emergency services.
3. If appropriate, contact the local Police (and Coastguard for sea tests) and advise them of the event just in case there are reports of people drowning or other types of incident. Ensure that a local veterinary surgery 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. Publicise the telephone number and locations of emergency facilities (vet, hospital, etc.,) and also the locations of telephones to call these facilities.
4. Check 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 for entrants to attend the Judges' briefing and that entrants who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.
5. If there are to be limited entries, allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis, but with unqualified dogs taking priority; **at least two weeks prior to the date of the test** inform applicants if they are entrants or on the reserve list.
6. Produce a list of entrants for use on the day, together with blank score sheets, comment forms and certificates.
7. Arrange sufficient stewards (4 stewards Sections A, B, & C. 5 stewards Sections D & E). Depending on the event circumstances the Test Manager can appoint a Chief Steward.
8. Preferably the day before the tests check the site for any last minute problems and then take any steps as necessary.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Brief the Judges as to the peculiarities of the venue. Brief the land stewards. Suitably qualified persons should be appointed as boat stewards; it is their sole responsibility to control the boat during exercises and they must not be expected to perform any other role except in an emergency. (Helmsmen must hold RYA level 2 for powerboats certificate.)
12. Ensure the smooth running of the tests.
13. Ensure that no smoking takes place within the test area.
14. It is the Test Manager's responsibility to deal with any members of the Media. Their requests should only be acceded to if they do not affect the smooth running of the tests - safety and the dogs always come first.
15. Unless a separate Referee has been appointed, act as Referee.

16. Provide a legibly written report, which includes the full names of the dog 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.
17. Within 14 days send details of the passes/failures to the respective record keeper.
18. Appoint a safety officer to ensure the welfare of both humans and dogs within the venue area.

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 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.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaint should be made in writing to the relevant Club in accordance with its complaints procedure. Complaints must be made within 14 days.

Disqualifications

A dog and its owner/handler will be immediately disqualified and be removed from the event if the dog is: -

- Suffering from an infectious or contagious disease;
- Interfering with the safety or chance of success of any other entrant;
- Of such temperament or so much out of control as to be a danger to itself or any other animal or person;
- Likely to be caused suffering if it continues to take part in the tests;
- A bitch in season
- If the owner/handler carries out any punitive correction or harsh handling at any time within the boundaries of 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 sub-committee.

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.

Explanatory Notes

1. Judges have the discretion, within the spirit of the regulations, to make adaptations to the rules for the individual conditions of the test site and the weather on the day of the test. Judges can change the test area during each exercise or between entrants if conditions dictate.
2. In the following Newfoundland tests the word 'owner' has been used to describe the person who sends the dog; it may be the owner, friend of the owner or a steward. Equally the term 'handler' has been used to describe the person to whom the dog is expected to go to or 'retrieve'; it may be the owner, friend of the owner or a steward. Once an exercise has been started then the roles of owner and handler cannot be switched.
3. Within the test area marked on land for a certain length of bank and in the water for a certain distance from the bank there will be two areas:-
4. One is the shore or shore area; generally this will be dry land but depending on the location the Judges may direct that a certain distance into the water will count as shore. This is likely to occur where the shore slopes gently into the water and it would not be possible to bring the boat to dry land but it would be possible to bring it to the edge of the designated shore area. Owners are permitted total freedom of movement in the shore area.
5. The second is the water test area. This is the rest of the test area in which the boat will float safely. Owners have limited access rights to the water test area.
6. The tests will be judged by two appointed persons working in unison. It will be necessary, particularly in the higher level tests, 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. This position of advantage will be determined by the Judges depending on the test environment and may be in a boat or in the water. If the Judge(s) decides to be in the test boat then they will be in addition to the normal complement and not perform any dual role.
7. Some Newfoundlands instinctively take the wrist when they want attention or want to guide a human in a particular way. This instinct also shows itself when the dog is being sent out to a person in the water; they will attempt to take hold of the person's hand or lower arm to tow them back to the shore. Some Newfoundland owners have seen the French Lifesavers either in real life or on video and now teach their dogs to tow in a similar way. In fact, when a person is unconscious or simulating unconsciousness, it is only by the dog taking hold of clothing or the person that they can be towed. However, in view of the continuing controversy over 'dangerous' dogs, owners submitting their dogs to these tests are not expected to train their dogs to tow in this way by taking hold. In any test or trial as long as a safe tow is performed there will be no differentiation by Judges according to the method of towing, i.e. no extra marks for a hand tow and no loss of marks for a held tow.
8. In exercises where the dog is performing a retrieve, if the dog lets go to adjust its grip then it will not be penalised for dropping the object.
9. For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.

10. The owner may always give unlimited audible/visual instructions and encouragement. This can include the use of whistles although it must be borne in mind that a whistle may also be used by a Judge or someone unconnected with the tests.
11. Owners may enter the water with their dogs at the beginning of all exercises starting from the shore until they reach waist depth. Once the dog is 1 metre in front of them they must then return to the shore, even though they might not have reached waist depth. Once they are back over the shore line, they cannot re-enter the water test area without penalty. Any subsequent influence on the dog arising from the close proximity of the owner will be deemed physical redirection and will be penalised. Physical redirection is any use of force, however slight, to control the dog. Thus an owner can walk their dog so far into the water and send them on their way - it is touching or intimidation after this that will be penalised. Intimidation is influence over the actions of the dog which arises purely from the close proximity of the owner and not from verbal or visual commands.
12. Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and so re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore few points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch.
13. Attempting to enter the boat is always penalised. However, a Judge can decide that an innocent touching of the boat whilst turning or reaching up to get a rope is not an attempt to enter the boat and thus the dog will not be penalised or automatically failed.
14. The owner shall return to the shore after any redirection and may not swim alongside the dog (with the exception of the 'swim' exercises). The owner may also move, within the shore area, to collect the dog without penalty.

Environmental and Equipment Requirements

1. The test site must have sufficient shore space and water to carry out the tests. The shore should ideally slope gently into the water without any sudden changes in depth and dogs should be at swimming depth within 3 to 5 metres from the shore, if possible. The Test Manager should take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the site is suitable for the exercises to be undertaken. Natural obstructions are acceptable but, as with dangerous currents or the effects of cross winds, should be brought to the notice of all entrants by the Judges as they commence their test.
2. An area of the shore needs to be roped or coned off to separate the test area from the spectators/waiting area.
3. Within the shore area, markers need to be set which show the permitted test areas for exercises within the various Sections, i.e. 20 metres of shore for Sections A and B entrants, 15 metres for Section C and 10 metres for Sections D and E.
4. Distance markers will be needed in the water to show 6, 15, 20, 25 and 30 metres from the shore. All measurements out into the water are to be taken from where an average dog starts swimming. Markers should only be set if there are tests being conducted at that distance. They must be safe, not tied together, yet conspicuous enough to be seen from the shore. They should be placed to the sides of the test area so as not to distract the entrants.

5. Life jackets/buoyancy aids for all stewards and persons entering the water or a boat will be worn without exception. Dogs may wear Life jackets/Floatation coats.
6. The equipment to be used in the tests:
 - a. Hank of standard rope; ¹
 - b. Life buoy (including 'Torpedo' type)/lifejacket/buoyancy aid; ¹
 - c. Boat cushion; ¹
 - d. Piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope;
 - e. Coil of standard rope with 6-10 loops of 45-75cm diameter and tied so as not to unravel;
 - f. 3m of standard rope made from the same size and type as the coil;
 - g. 20m (min.) of standard rope;
 - h. Boat(s) with a standard tow rope and an appropriate anchor.²

¹For Section D3, identical or very similar pairs of items (a) to (c) will be required.

²For Sections D/E the boat needs to be able to accommodate at least 5 persons and a large dog.

7. Standard rope for the tests will be made from between. 35 and 65 mm floating rope, heat-sealed where necessary, with nothing on the end other than a plain back-splice or whipping.
8. Equipment for the Judges/assisting stewards:
 - Rules/scoring sheets;
 - Clipboards/pencils;
 - Whistles/stopwatch;
 - Table & chair(s);
 - Shelter/umbrella;
 - Results board.
9. A list of entrants - giving details of the dogs taking part.
10. First aid kit, for humans and dogs.

Multi-Test Pass Awards

Multi-test pass awards are of two types.

1. Certificates of Merit will be awarded to dogs that pass any of the Sections B to D inclusive five separate times at three or more 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 in being able to perform at the pass level of B, C or D over a number of months and in differing circumstances.
2. A Diploma will be awarded to dogs that pass at Section E three separate times at three different venues and involving at least four different Judges.
This diploma is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner and the skill and training of the dog 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 'Water Work Champion'.

Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be awarded jointly by the Clubs involved. A dog will only qualify once for the award at any particular level, even though they may perform the requirements again with a new owner. The maximum number of multi-test pass awards a dog could obtain is four.

Multi-test pass awards will not be awarded as of right. It will be the responsibility of the owner to apply to the appropriate Working Sub-committee in writing. The application will then be verified with that Club's record keeper.

To give due recognition to the attainment any Diplomas and Certificates of Merit should be presented at the next Annual General Meeting of the Club to whom the application was made.

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Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat.

Section A

EXERCISE 1 - Swim out 15 metres to boat

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 15 metres out to a boat and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The handler will be in the front of a boat, with the boat steward, at least 15 metres from the shore. The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the boat, and either take the tow rope in his mouth and tow the boat to the shore or, when within touching distance of the handler in the boat, turn and swim back to the shore being followed closely by the boat. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog is back on shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- attempting to enter the boat;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 26 out of 35.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise.

Permitted actions:

The rope to be used to pull the boat can be provided by the owner, subject to the judges' approval. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **IS** permitted to use the dog's name and to have the dogs own article, which may be given to the dog to return to shore with.

Section A

EXERCISE 2 - Swim out 15 metres to handler or stranger

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 15 metres out to a person and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The handler or water steward will swim out at least 15 metres from the shore, turn and face the shore and wait. On being given the indication from the Judge they will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the handler/steward, and when within touching distance of them, turn and swim back to the shore either towing or being followed by them. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog is back on shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 26 out of 35.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- Attempting to climb on the handler or water steward.

Permitted actions:

The dog is permitted to wear a harness to provide a safe handhold when towing.

When attracting the dog's attention, the swimmer **IS** permitted to use the dog's name and to have the dog's own article, which may be given to the dog to return to shore with. When approaching the swimmer the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for them to take hold or turn safely behind the person.

Section A

EXERCISE 3 Retrieve familiar object from 6 metres

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to return a familiar thrown object to its owner.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. In full view of the dog, the owner or steward will throw the article out at least 6 metres into the water test area. The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin. The dog will be sent to retrieve the object from the water and return it to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and object are back on shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the object;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping object before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- having the object rethrown;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 23 out of 30.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise.

Permitted actions:

The object will be selected or provided by the owner, assisted by the Judges, if they so wish, from a hank of rope, a life buoy/life jacket/buoyancy aid, or other piece of equipment approved by the Judge prior to commencing the test.

Section B

EXERCISE 1 - Tow boat back 20 metres

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 20 metres out to a boat and then tow it to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The boat will be positioned at least 20 metres from the shore, with the handler at the front of the boat. The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the boat, take the tow rope in his mouth and tow the boat to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the owner and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- attempting to enter the boat;
- not turning when instructed;
- not taking the rope when offered;
- not towing the boat with the rope;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the boat within reach of the owner;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- handler fails to offer the rope to the dog.

Permitted actions:

The rope to be used to pull the boat can be provided by the owner, subject to the judges' approval; the tow rope **will not be** attached to the boat. The handler may only hold one end of the rope; the rope cannot be held either side of the dog's mouth, or both ends.

Whilst points will be lost for not towing with the rope, it is permissible for the rump to be held and thus for the dog to tow the boat indirectly.

When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name, no other article other than the tow rope can be used to attract the dog.

Section B

EXERCISE 2 - Tow handler or stranger from 20 metres

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 20 metres out to a person and then return with him to the shore, without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The handler or water steward will swim out at least 20 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait. On being given the indication from the Judge the handler/steward will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the handler/steward, effect a safe pick-up and tow him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the handler/steward is in shallow water near the shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the handler/steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- attempting to climb on the handler or water steward.

Permitted actions:

The dog is encouraged to wear a harness to provide a safe handhold when towing.

When attracting the dog's attention the swimmer **IS** permitted to use the dog's name, but not have the dog's own article.

To effect a safe pick-up when approaching the swimmer the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold, or turn safely behind the person.

Section B

EXERCISE 3 - Retrieve provided object from 6 metres

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and return an unfamiliar object to its owner.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. In full view of the dog, the owner or steward will throw the article out at least 6 metres into the test area. The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin. The dog will be sent to retrieve the object from the water and return it to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and object are back on shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the object;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping object before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- having the object rethrown;
- not giving the object to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.

Note:

The object will be selected by the Judges on the day from a hank of rope, a life ring/buoy, a life jacket/buoyancy aid or a boat cushion and will be the same for each dog.

Section B

EXERCISE 4 - Retrieve object from 20 centimetres underwater

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and retrieve an object from a reasonable depth of water.

Desired performance:

In full view of the dog the owner will drop or throw the article into the water and allow it to sink, in accordance with the Judge's instructions. When the object has sunk, the Judge will immediately give the indication to begin. The dog will be commanded to find the object and return it to the owner. The owner's hands should not be in the water when the object is retrieved. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the object has been given by the dog to the owner.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not homing in directly to the object;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- dropping the object before giving it to the owner;
- not giving the object to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owners hands not being clear of the water.

The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Failure:

- exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- owner attempts to force the dog's head under water, however slightly.

Permitted actions:

The underwater test object will be a piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope and will be the same for each dog.

The dog is permitted to 'trawl' the object before retrieving it and returning it to the owner.

In accordance with the Judge's instructions, the object can be re-dropped or re-thrown.

Section B

EXERCISE 5 - Controlled swim

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim safely with the owner without interfering with them.

Desired performance:

On the judges instruction the dog, off lead, and owner will leave the shore together and swim at least 20 metres straight out from the shore. The dog will swim at the side of the owner close enough to be controlled (within 2m) but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer. On reaching the required distance an indication by one of the Judges (by whistle, loud hailer, flag, etc.), will deem the exercise complete. The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise. It will not tow the owner during the exercise.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not being close enough to the swimmer;
- being too close to the swimmer, so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer;
- physically redirecting the dog;
- not turning when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- Attempting to climb on the owner.
- Owner swimming on their back with the dog following them.
- Dog swimming off and the owner chasing it.
- Owner swimming off and the dog chasing them.
- Wearing fins or swimming aids, other than webbed gloves.

Permitted actions:

When entering the water together the owner may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming. If for any reason the owner stops swimming then the dog is permitted to circle the owner as many times as necessary, but should not be more than 2 m (approximately) from the owners head. The dog (but not the owner) is permitted to carry a small object, e.g. glove, whilst swimming.

The Judges will indicate a target to aim for so that they can see that the dog and handler are swimming in the right direction, but there will be no buoys close to the test area that would act as an attraction or danger for the dog.

It is the owner's responsibility to swim or provide a person to swim with their dog; it cannot be assumed that a steward will be available to take on this role, without prior arrangement.

Once the exercise is complete, it is the owner's decision as to how they return to the shore area. However, they will tell the Judge before the exercise of the arrangements in order for this to be supervised by the safety boat that will be standing by. Possible options may be: - being towed back by their dog or being picked up by the safety boat.

Section C

EXERCISE 1 - Jump from boat and tow 25 to 30 metres to shore

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and jump from a boat then tow it 25 to 30 metres to shore. Without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The dog and owner, in a controlled manner, will enter the boat containing a steward, the boat steward and a Judge. The boat will then be taken 25 to 30 metres from the shore. When given the signal to begin, the dog shall enter the water; take the boat's tow rope in its mouth and tow the boat directly back to the shore. The instruction to the dog can be supplemented by splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water. The owner must remain in the boat until the test is completed. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the handler and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- not entering the boat safely at the shore;
- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the owner;
- hesitation in taking the rope when commanded;
- attempting to re-enter the boat;
- dropping the rope;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the boat within reach of the handler;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- Not exiting the boat in the first 60 seconds of the exercise.
- Owner physically assisting in the exit from the boat.
- Not towing the boat by holding the rope voluntarily in its mouth.
- Owner holding both ends of the rope.
- Owner holding the rope in a loop, however loosely.
- Owner holding rope either side of the dogs mouth.

Permitted actions:

The tow rope must float and must not have anything at the towing end, other than a plain back-splice or whipping. The rope shall be between 35 and 65 mm in circumference and heat sealed where necessary.

The tow rope **will not be** attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) by the owner, one end of the rope must remain free. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.

A handler may call the dog to the shore.

Section C

EXERCISE 2 - Tow stranger from 25 metres

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 25 metres out to a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. The water steward (who is a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group) will swim out at least 25 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait. On being given the indication from the Judge, they will attract the dog's attention by calling AND splashing in the water. They will continue to attract the dog's attention until the dog is within touching distance. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the steward, effect a safe pick-up and tow him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the steward is in shallow water near the shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- attempting to climb on the water steward.

Permitted actions:

The dog is encouraged to wear a harness to provide a safe handhold when towing. When attracting the dog's attention the steward is **NOT** permitted to use the dog's name.

To effect a safe pick-up when approaching the steward the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.

Section C

EXERCISE 3 - Retrieve object from 15 metres

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to return an unfamiliar object to its owner from a distance.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore. In full view of the dog, the steward will hold the article above their head and then on the Judge's signal drop it into the water as they pass so that the dog will have to swim at least 15 metres to the article. The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area. The dog will be sent to retrieve the object from the water and return it to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and the owner with the object are back on shore

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not swimming directly to the object;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the object before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- not giving the object to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.

Permitted Actions:

The object will be selected by the Judge on the day from a hank of rope, a life ring/buoy, a life jacket/ buoyancy aid or a boat cushion and it will be the same for each dog. In selecting the article the Judge will take into account their suitability having regard to all the circumstances.

Section C

EXERCISE 4 - Controlled swim

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim safely with the owner, without interfering with them.

Desired performance:

During this exercise the dog and owner will be required to swim together for at least 45 metres and not more than 50 metres. Perform a minimum of two turns so that they are swimming parallel to the shore for at least 15 metres. The route to be taken should be either:-

1. 'n' shaped with a swim out of at least 15m, turn to swim at least 15m parallel to the shore and then a further turn and swim back the last at least 15m to the shore.
2. A triangle with a swim out of at least 15m, turn to swim at least 15m parallel to the shore and then a further oblique turn and swim back the last at least 15m to the entry point on the shore.
3. An inverted 'L' with a swim out of at least 15m, turn to swim at least 7.5m parallel to the shore, then an about turn over the same route to return to the shore at the entry point. The choice of route will be decided by the Judges depending on the environment and weather conditions on the day of the test and will be the same for each dog; the Judges may vary distances according to venue or conditions but without reducing the overall distance.

On the judges instruction the dog, off lead, and owner will leave the shore together and swim out following the route previously detailed by the Judges. The dog will swim at the side of the owner close enough to be verbally/visually controlled (within 2m) but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer. The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow the owner during the exercise. Note: The points at which to make turns will be clearly indicated audibly and/or visually by the Judges, e.g. whistle, loud hailer, flag, etc.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not being close enough to the swimmer;
- being too close, so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer;
- physically redirecting the dog;
- not turning when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- Attempting to climb on the owner.
- Owner swimming on their back with the dog following them.
- Dog swimming off and the owner chasing it.
- Owner swimming off and the dog chasing them.
- Wearing fins or swimming aids, other than webbed gloves.

Permitted actions:

When entering the water together the owner may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming. If for any reason the owner stops swimming then the dog is permitted to circle the owner as many times as necessary, but should not at any time be more than 2 m (approximately) from the owner's head.

The Judges will indicate a target to aim for so that they can see that the dog and owner are swimming on line, but there will be no buoys close in to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog.

Distances will be measured from when the dog and owner start swimming.

For the turns to swim parallel to the shore and the return to shore the Judges will arrange in advance how they will signal to each other and the entrant - whistles may be reinforced with a visual signal.

A Judge will be in a boat at a safe distance from the dog and owner to give a better perspective to the actual swim.

It is the owner's responsibility to swim or provide a person to swim with their dog; it cannot be assumed that a steward will automatically be available to take on this role without prior arrangement.

Section D

EXERCISE 1 - Take coil of rope out to a boat and tow it back to shore

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and take a coil of rope to someone in a boat then tow it back safely to the shore.

Desired performance:

The boat with boat steward and a steward not known to the dog, and a Judge will be positioned at least 25 metres from the shore. The boat steward will be solely concerned with the safety and position of the boat and will not be concerned with handling the dog. The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. When instructed, the owner will command the dog to swim out directly to the boat with the coil of rope in its mouth, with the steward calling out for the dog to come to the boat, they will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance. On reaching the boat the steward will attempt to take the coil of rope without endangering himself or the dog. Once he is holding the coil of rope, the steward will give the 'release' command, as notified to him by the owner before commencing the exercise, and will continue to do so until the dog voluntarily releases the coil of rope. The steward will not forcibly remove the coil of rope or continue to hold the coil of rope if it becomes unsafe to do so. The handler must not show the second rope to the dog until the coil of rope is inside the boat.

The steward will then go to the front of the boat and offer a similar rope to the dog. The dog will then take this rope in its mouth and use it to tow the boat back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the owner and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- dropping the rope during the swim out;
- not releasing the rope to the steward on command;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the rope during the tow back;
- not bringing the boat within reach of the owner;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12).

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- Attempting to climb in the boat.
- Physical redirection.
- Not towing the boat by holding the rope voluntarily in its mouth.

Permitted actions:

The coil of rope will be made from floating rope between 35 and 65 mm in circumference and coiled so that there are 6 to 10 loops of 45 and 75 cm diameter. The coil must be tied so that it will not unravel. The 3 metres of tow rope already on the boat will be prepared from the same size and type of rope.

When attracting the dog's attention the steward is **NOT** permitted to use the dog's name.

The tow rope will **not** be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) at one end by the steward, one end of the rope must remain free, he cannot hold it in a loop however loosely, neither can he hold it either side of the dog's mouth.

The coil of rope can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 6 metres so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore. The dog can turn before or after coming within reach of the steward or may completely circle the boat.

The owner may call the dog to the shore.

Section D

EXERCISE 2 - Tow stranger to a boat

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and jump from a boat and tow a stranger back to the boat without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The dog will enter the boat and be taken about 25 metres from the shore with the owner, a water steward (who is a stranger to the dog), a steward, the boat steward and a Judge. The owner will ensure that the dog is under control whilst in the boat and does not impede the stewards. When given the signal to begin the water steward will fall noisily overboard and position himself at least 5 metres from the boat, where he will be vertical in the water, facing the boat, calm and silent. The water steward should be on the side of the boat furthest from the test area shore, but this may depend on prevailing weather conditions. When the water steward is in position and when instructed by the Judge, the owner will command the dog to enter the water, swim to the water steward and effect a safe tow. The boat steward will continue to hold the boat in position and NOT allow the boat to drift. The Judge will determine when to release the boat after the dog has jumped so that the test distance is achieved. The dog will tow him to a position close enough to the boat so the owner **and** steward can pull the water steward aboard. The owner does not have to physically get the water steward aboard but should be involved and should not be solely dealing with the dog during this time. Once the water steward is safely aboard the Judge will tell the owner to bring their dog aboard. Meanwhile, the dog will have been required to wait in the water until instructed to approach the boat again, when it will be carefully pulled aboard in a safe manner. The owner must remain in the boat until the test is complete. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog is back in the boat.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- not entering the boat safely at the shore;
- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the boat;
- not bringing the steward to the position indicated by the owner;
- owner not assisting with reboarding of water steward;
- not swimming calmly while waiting for the water steward to be taken aboard.

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- not exiting the boat in the first 30 seconds of the exercise.
- owner physically assisting in the exit from the boat.
- attempting to climb on the water steward.
- attempting to re-enter the boat until instructed to do so.
- physical redirection.
- using any article to assist in controlling the dog.

Permitted actions:

It is encouraged for the dog to wear a harness to provide a safe handhold when towing and for when it is being hauled into the boat.

To effect a safe pick-up when approaching the steward the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, or turn safely behind him.

Section D

EXERCISE 3 - Directed retrieve of one of two objects

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to return a specific object to its owner from a distance.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore, under control at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. The Judge will inform the owner which article the dog has to retrieve. A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore. In full view of the dog, the stewards will hold the articles above their heads and then on the Judge's signals quietly place the articles in the water as it passes, so that they are between 6 and 7 metres apart and the dog will have to swim at least 15 metres to them. The articles and their positions will be the same for all dogs in that test. Once the second article is in the water the Judge will give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area. The dog, from its position midway between the two articles, will be sent to retrieve the selected article from the water and return it to the owner on the shore. In this particular exercise the owner must stay on land at the midway point, directing the dog only by verbal/visual commands and not move until the dog commences the exercise. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and the owner with the object are back on shore. The boat will then retrieve the other article.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not swimming directly to the redirect article;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the article before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- not giving the article to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12).

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- retrieves the wrong article
- physical redirection.

Permitted actions:

The Judges on the day will select two hanks of rope, or two life rings/buoys, or two life jackets/ buoyancy aids or two boat cushions (which should be identical or very similar pairs). When making their selection, the Judges will take into account the suitability of the articles having regard to all the circumstances.

The first or the second object out of the boat will be randomly designated to be the actual item to retrieve and will not necessarily be the same for each dog. The owner will know which article (Left or Right) to retrieve as the boat is getting into position and before the articles are placed.

Before the dog leaves the shore, a Judge will announce which article (Left or Right) is to be retrieved.

The owner is not permitted to launch the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected object.

Section D

EXERCISE 4 - Search for hidden stranger and tow to shore

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and search round a boat to find a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

Out of the view of the dog, the boat will be positioned at a buoy at least 25 metres from the shore with a water steward (who is a stranger to the dog) in the water holding the boat in such a position that he cannot be seen by the dog on the shore. The boat steward, who will eventually handle the boat, must make himself as inconspicuous as possible so as not to attract the dog's attention in any way, but still be able to see the dog. The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. When instructed the water steward will begin to shout and splash in the water and will continue to do so until the dog is within touching distance, the owner will command the dog to swim out to the boat. On reaching the boat it will swim around the boat to find the water steward and effect a safe pick-up and tow. Avoiding the boat, it will then return with him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the steward is in shallow water near the shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- not circling close to the boat when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12).

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- attempting to enter the boat.
- attempting to climb on the water steward.
- physical redirection.

Permitted actions:

The dog is encouraged to wear a harness to provide a safe handhold when towing.

The water steward is **NOT** permitted to use the dog's name.

To effect a safe pick-up when approaching the steward the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, or turn safely behind him.

Notes:

'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the owner and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the area while the exercise is set up.

The boat steward will ensure there are no ropes hanging over the side of the boat that may act as a distraction.

Section E

EXERCISE 1 - Take out life buoy/jacket to stranger

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and take an object to a stranger in the water then tow him back safely to the shore.

Desired performance:

The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the owner until instructed to begin. The water steward (who is a stranger to the dog) will enter the water from a boat at least 30 metres from the shore so that he is facing the shore. When instructed the steward will splash only, and will continue to do so until the article is within touching distance, the owner will command the dog to swim out to the water steward with the life buoy or life jacket. The dog will swim directly to him holding the article with its mouth. On reaching the steward it will swim close enough for him to take and keep hold of the article. The dog will then use the article to bring him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the steward is in shallow water near the shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not swimming directly to the water steward;
- not turning when instructed;
- not keeping hold of the article;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the steward to shallow water
- not leaving the water when instructed.

5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12).

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- attempting to climb on the water steward.
- physical redirection.

Permitted actions:

The Judge on the day will select either,

1. a life ring/buoy
2. a life jacket/buoyancy aid

to be the article for the day and it will be the same for each dog. When making his selection the Judge will take into account their suitability having regard to all the circumstances.

The selected article can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 6 metres so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore.

To effect a safe pick-up the dog should preferably turn behind the water steward but it may turn in front or to the side; however it must be a close turn as the article must be presented within arms reach of the steward so that he can easily take hold of it.

Section E

EXERCISE 2 - Search for hidden rope and tow boat to shore

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and search round a boat to find a rope and then use it to tow the boat back to the shore.

Desired performance:

Out of sight of the dog, the boat will be positioned at least 30 metres from the shore with a steward holding the boat in position. The boat steward must make himself as inconspicuous as possible so as not to attract the dog's attention in any way, but still be able to see the dog. The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. When instructed, the owner will command the dog to swim out to the boat. On reaching the boat, the dog will swim around the boat to find the rope that will be hanging loosely with the end in the water. The dog will take up the rope and use it to tow the boat back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the owner.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- not circling close to the boat when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the rope on the swim back;
- not bringing the boat to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12).

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- attempting to enter the boat.
- physical redirection.

Permitted actions:

The tow rope must float and not have anything at the towing end, as approved by the Judge, other than a plain back-splice or whipping. The rope shall be between 35 and 65 mm in circumference and heat sealed where necessary.

The rope will held (firmly) by a steward at one end, it will **not** be attached to the boat, one end will be left loosely hanging over the side with at least the end in the water; the rope may not be over the side facing the shore at the start of the exercise.

N.B. The boat steward should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extraneous ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.

Notes - 'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the owner and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the test area while the exercise is set up.

Section E

EXERCISE 3 - Directed tow of one of two persons

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim to a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance:

The exercise will be set up out of sight of the dog. When called forward the dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the owner until instructed to begin. Two water stewards (who are strangers to the dog) will have entered the water from a boat so that they are both at least 30 metres out, about 10 metres apart and both vertical in the water, facing the shore. The Judge will inform the owner which steward the dog has to tow. Depending on the random selection, both stewards will be either noisy and splash in the water or both will remain calm and quiet. When instructed, the owner will command the dog from its position mid way between the two water stewards to swim out to the randomly selected steward. In this particular exercise the owner must stay on land at the midway point, directing the dog only by verbal/visual commands and not move until the dog commences the exercise. The dog will swim directly to the selected steward, effect a safe pick-up and return with him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the steward is in shallow water near the shore. The other water steward will then return to the shore.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the owner;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not effecting a safe pick-up;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12).

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.

attempting to climb on either water steward.

physical redirection.

coming within arms reach of the 'wrong' steward.

Permitted actions:

Prior to the boat leaving shore the water stewards will find out if they are both to be noisy or quiet, by random selection. The steward to be collected (Left or Right) will also be randomly selected and will be known to the owner just before the water stewards get out of the boat and into position; they will, therefore, not necessarily be the same for each dog.

The dog is encouraged to wear a harness to provide a safe handhold when towing. To effect a safe pick-up when approaching the steward, although the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, it is preferable for it or turn safely behind him.

The owner is not permitted to launch the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected steward.

If the dog comes within reach of the 'wrong' steward then they will hold on and get towed back to the shore.

Attention is drawn to the *Explanatory Note 7* at the front of these Regulations which explains the situation concerning dogs taking hold with the mouth.

Section E

EXERCISE 4 - Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat and be pulled in.

Purpose:

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to commands and to jump from a boat and take a rope to someone in another boat some distance away and then be pulled into that boat.

Desired performance:

The dog will enter the boat and be taken about 25 metres from the shore with the owner, the boat steward and a Judge; another boat with a steward and its boat steward, neither of which are known to the dog and the other Judge will be the same distance from the shore but at least 15 metres away. To ensure the boats remain in their set positions of at least 15 metres apart they will be anchored, where possible. When given the signal to begin, the owner will command the dog, with the steward in the other boat calling out for the dog to come to the boat, the steward will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance. The dog will enter the water, be handed or take one end of the rope in its mouth and swim directly to the other boat. As the dog gets sufficiently near to the other boat the steward will actively attempt to get hold of the rope but without endangering himself or the dog. When the steward has the end of the rope, he will secure it to the boat. While he is doing this the dog will be required to swim calmly in the water until instructed to approach the boat again, when it will be carefully pulled aboard in a safe manner. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boats are connected by the rope and the dog is in the second boat.

Scoring:

Points will be lost for:

- not entering the boat safely at the shore;
- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the owner;
- not taking the end of rope when instructed;
- not swimming directly to the other boat;
- dropping the rope during the swim;
- not taking the rope directly to the steward;
- not swimming calmly while waiting to be taken aboard.

The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Failure:

- exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
- not exiting the boat in the first 30 seconds of the exercise.
- owner physically assisting in the exit from the boat.
- attempting to enter or re-enter either boat.
- physical redirection.

Permitted actions:

The rope must float and not have anything at the end other than a plain back-splice or whipping. The rope shall be between 35 and 65 mm in circumference, heat sealed where necessary and be of sufficient length (at least 20 m) to reach between the two boats.

The dog can be given the end of the rope before it jumps overboard or have its commands supplemented by splashing or tossing the end of rope into the water. The boat steward is **not** permitted to use the dog's name.

The owner must remain in the first boat until the test is completed.