

WORKING DOG Certification Program

The primary objective in the establishment of this program is to encourage the development and use of those natural working and retrieving abilities for which the Chesapeake Bay Retriever was originally bred. Additionally, it is hoped that the program will provide another available means to help determine future breeding stock.

This description should be read and followed in conjunction with the "Guidelines to the Judges and Handlers" and the "Suggestions for Line Procedures".

Dogs must be at least six months of age and American Kennel Club (AKC), Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) registered or holding a foreign registry acceptable in the country holding the stake. An AKC ILP or PAL number is an acceptable registration to be able to compete in this program.

THE WORKING DOG STAKE AND CERTIFICATE

The requirements for the Working Dog Certificate are designed primarily to test a dog's natural abilities and therefore, abilities acquired through training are not emphasized. For the most part, the WD Stake should follow the rules in the AKC "Standard Procedure for Retriever Field Trials" and the "Retriever Advisory Supplement." While this point certainly applies to judgment standards and trial mechanics, it is especially important in terms of serious faults, general manners, and correction of dogs under judgment. Areas in which the stakes differ should be those aspects of line manners and test characteristics described below. These are pass/fail non-competitive stakes.

1. Requirements

A. Description of Tests

1. Land Singles. This test consists of two consecutive singles. The first mark should be a dead game bird thrown into light cover so that it is invisible from the line and should fall about 50 yards out. The throw should be accompanied by a blank shot, shot before the throw. This long mark in cover will demonstrate whether or not a dog can mark and, if he does not immediately find the bird, is willing to hunt it out. In order to obtain a dead bird for this first mark, one live bird should be shot in the area of the fall. The second single should be a live game bird shot as a flyer but in a different area from the first mark. (100 – 180 degrees separation)The guns should be approximately 20 yards from the line and this bird should fall in light cover. The close position of the shotguns will demonstrate whether or not the dog has a tendency to be gun shy.
2. Water Singles. This test consists of retrieving two ducks as consecutive singles. The first bird shall be a dead duck, thrown in the water, approximately 40 yards from the line, and accompanied first by a blank shot. The second bird shall be a live mallard shot as a flyer. The line or starting point should be moved so that the duck will fall in a completely different area from the first fall. The tests should be set up so as not to let the dog switch or cheat the water. This second bird should be approximately 30 yards from the line. The reason for the second single is to prove that the dog is willing to enter the water a second time and will retrieve a freshly shot duck.

B. Judges

1. Satisfactory completion of the above tests shall be determined by two judges. Between the two judges they must have judged:
 - a. Two AKC or CKC licensed Field Trials Derby or above, or
 - b. Two AKC Hunting Tests Senior Level or higher, or
 - c. A combination of two WD or WDX or WDQ stakes.
 - d. When WD Tests are held in other Countries, the qualifications for the judges will be suited to those countries requirements for hunting and trials. The individual Chesapeake Club holding the tests will be responsible for their own requirements for their judges.
2. Judges should be mailed the requirements for Working Dog Certificates two weeks prior to the tests.

C. Special Points

1. Dogs are not required to be steady and may be held on line while birds are thrown or shot. However, a dog should not be sent until his number has been called by one of the judges.
2. Delivery of a bird within two paces of the handler is acceptable. Hand delivery is not required.
3. Decoys should not be used.
4. All marks will be more than 90 degrees from each other for gunners or where the bird lands. Set up tests to avoid any switching. These are very inexperienced dogs/handlers with little training or experience.

D. Field Trial Credit - Hunting Test Credit

1. Dogs that have successfully completed all series in any stake of an AKC or CKC Licensed Field Trial shall be considered as having fulfilled the requirements for a Working Dog Certificate in lieu of the tests described under "A" above.
2. Dogs who have received a Qualifying score in any Stake of an AKC Licensed or Member Hunting Test shall be considered as having fulfilled the requirements for a Working Dog Certificate in lieu of the tests described under "A" above.
3. A \$10.00 fee must accompany the Certificate request to the ACC WD Chairman to cover administrative costs.

E. Privileges and limitations of the Working Dog Certificate

1. The receipt of a Working Dog Certificate entitles the owner to indicate his dog's achievement by including the letters "WD" after the dog's name in documents other than those considered "official" by the AKC or other registries.
2. The title "Working Dog" and the so designated letters "WD" are recognized by the ACC but not necessarily by any other organization.

2. Fees:

- A \$45 fee will be charged for ACC Members for entry in the Working Dog Stake.
- A \$50 fee will be charged for non-members of the ACC in the Working Dog Stake.