

SARDA Wales - Trailing Stages

GUIDELINES:

- 1- Dogs without a Acceptance test will not be eligible for training on land that has been cleared for Tuesday nights or weekends, and must remain on a lead at all times.**
- 2- Acceptance tests may be undertaken by any 2 Full dog handlers or a suitably qualified person.**
- 3- Handlers may be assessed for the next stage at any official training. Dog and handler must show consistency at each stage.**
- 4- Stage assessments may be undertaken by any 2 full Trailing or one Trailing dog handler and a Full dog handler.**
- 5- Dogs and handlers will not become eligible for assessment without passing each stage of training and hold a current recognised first aid Qualification.**
- 6- Novice full and regrade Trailing dog assessment may be undertaken by any 2 internal Trailing assessors and any 1 external assessor.**

ACCEPTANCE TEST

OBEDIENCE TEST

| Test Situation | Response |
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| 1- Dog to walk to heel on and off the lead. | Remains next to heel with the minimum of commands. |
| 2- Dog stay 10 minute, handler to walk up to 25m from dog 5 minutes with handler out of sight of dog. | Dog to remain at stay position until recalled or released. |
| 3- Dog recalled whilst mixing with other dog /handlers. | Dog returns on recall. |
| 4- Dog put into down/stop position away from handler. plus whilst mixing with other dog. | Dog responds to commands, and remains stationary until recalled or released. |

STOCK TEST

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| 1- Dog will be recalled through a number of sheep in a controlled area. | Dog returns on recall showing no interest in sheep. |
| 2- Dog will be given a stay command and sheep are herded within 5m of the dog. | Dog to remain at stay position until recalled showing no interest in sheep. |

Dogs will fail if they attack or show interest in sheep during the test. It is quite acceptable for dogs to break their stay if subjected to pressure provided they retreat or go to their handler. The assessor must be satisfied that each dog can be controlled in the presence of stock.

Before training starts dogs will be required to do a simple Scent discrimination exercise using five people including the body in a semi circle. The dog is to pick the body that matches the scent article. This will be done twice using two different bodies.

| Test Situation | Response |
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| <p><u>Stage 1</u></p> <p>Dog on a long lead & trailing harness. Dog secured & allowed to watch trail being set by handler. 15 – 20m double trail, placing food reward or toy @ furthest point.</p> <p>WIND Conditions - must be nil to light, dog working with the wind.</p> <p>TRAIL SURFACE – short grass</p> | <p>Correct venue / wind conditions that allow the dog to work on the trail laid.</p> <p>Handler able to secure trailing harness & line, just prior to search. Handler able to encourage dog to trail, dog maintains interest & works directly to the find.</p> <p>Handler to reward dog, with dog maintaining interest.</p> <p>Following trail, handler to fill in Trailing Sheet.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage 2</u></p> <p>Handler sets up exercise. Dog to be worked by handler on a long lead & trailing harness. Body sets 50 – 100m straight trail, with a hidden final location. Handler introduces body's scent article.</p> <p>WIND Conditions – must be light, dog working with the wind.</p> <p>TRAIL SURFACE – short grass.</p> <p>Fresh Trail.</p> | <p>As for Stage 1.</p> <p>Scent article introduced & the dog responds.</p> <p>Handler able to read the dog's response to losing the trail & deal with it appropriately.</p> <p>Handler & body to reward dog, with dog maintaining interest.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage 3</u></p> <p>Handler sets up exercise. Dog to be worked by handler on a trailing harness & line. Body sets 100 – 200m trail, with two 90' turns, & a hidden final location.</p> <p>WIND Conditions – dog working generally with the wind.</p> <p>TRAIL SURFACE – Varied.</p> <p>Fresh Trail.</p> | <p>As for Stages 1 & 2.</p> <p>Dog must hunt for trail on a lead & collar; dog must indicate the trail, handler clips on harness then follows it to its conclusion.</p> <p>Dog is able to complete two 90' turns & handler should confirm to dog's confidence by gently checking the line.</p> |

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| <p><u>Stage 4</u></p> <p>Handler completes a Basic Scent & Search Strategy questionnaire.</p> | <p>Pass level 80%.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage 5</u></p> <p>PRELIMINARY TRAIL ASSESSMENT</p> | <p>As for Stages 1, 2 & 3.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage 6</u></p> <p>Handler sets up exercise. Dog to be worked by handler on a long line & trailing harness. Positive body & Negative body set 100m straight trail, with the negative body making a 90' turn 50m from the start of the trail & hiding out of air scent contact with the dog. Handler introduces Positive body's scent article.</p> <p>WIND Conditions – must be light, dog working with the wind.</p> <p>TRAIL SURFACE – short grass.</p> <p>Fresh Trail.</p> | <p>Correct venue / wind conditions that allow the dog to work on the trail laid.</p> <p>Handler able to secure trailing harness line & introduce scent article, just prior to search.</p> <p>Dog must hunt for trail on a lead & collar, or by free quartering, and to indicate to handler once found. Harness to be clipped on to follow it to its conclusion.</p> <p>Dog maintains interest & works directly to the find ignoring negative trail. Handler to reward dog.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage 7</u></p> <p>Handler is blind to the setting up of the exercise. Dog to be worked by handler on a long line & trailing harness. Positive body sets 500m trail, with Four Turns, one hour later, the negative body follows route making a 90' turn at approximately 100m from the start of the trail & hiding out of air scent contact with the dog. Handler introduces Positive body's scent article, and is not shown point last seen.</p> <p>WIND Conditions – must be light, dog working with the wind.</p> <p>TRAIL SURFACE – Varied.</p> | <p>Handler able to secure trailing harness line & introduce scent article, just prior to search.</p> <p>Dog must hunt for trail by free quartering, and to indicate to handler once found. Harness to be clipped on to follow it to its conclusion.</p> <p>Dog maintains interest & works directly to the find ignoring the fresh negative trail. Handler to reward dog.</p> |

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| <p>One hour trail.</p> | |
| <p><u>Stage 8</u></p> <p>BASIC TRAIL ASSESSMENT</p> | <p>As for Stage 7</p> <p>800m trail.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage 9</u></p> <p>Handler is blind to the setting up of the exercise. Dog to be worked by handler on a long line & trailing harness.</p> <p>Positive body sets 800m trail, with Four Turns, one negative body follows route making 90° turn at approximately 50m from the start of the trail and a second body crossing the trail at right angles at about 200m, then both hiding out of air scent contact with the dog.</p> <p>Handler introduces Positive body's scent article, and is shown point last seen.</p> <p>WIND Conditions – must be light, dog working with the wind.</p> <p>TRAIL SURFACE – Varied.</p> <p>Not less than Four hour trail. Decoy trails to be of the same age.</p> | <p>Handler able to secure trailing harness line & introduce scent article, just prior to search.</p> <p>Dog must hunt for trail by free quartering, and to indicate to handler once found. Harness to be clipped on to follow it to its conclusion.</p> <p>Dog maintains interest & works directly to the find ignoring the old negative trails. Handler to reward dog.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage10</u></p> <p>STANDARD TRAIL ASSESSMENT (NOVICE, on Call Out List)</p> <p>Remain at Novice up to 18 months</p> | <p>As for Stage 9.</p> <p>Not less than four hours.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage 11</u></p> <p>Handler is blind to the setting up of the exercise. Dog to be worked by handler on a long line & trailing harness.</p> <p>Positive body sets 1.5km trail, with multiple turns, two negative bodies to make decoy tracks of the same age, then both hiding out of air scent contact with the dog.</p> <p>Handler introduces Positive body's scent article,</p> | <p>Handler able to secure trailing harness line & introduce scent article, just prior to search.</p> <p>Dog must hunt for trail by free quartering, and to indicate to handler once found. Harness to be clipped on to follow it to its conclusion.</p> <p>Dog maintains interest & works directly to the find</p> |

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| <p>and starts to work the dog from an unknown start point.</p> <p>WIND Conditions – must be fresh, dog working with the wind.</p> <p>TRAIL SURFACE – Varied.</p> <p>Eight hour trail.</p> <p>Decoy trails to be of the same age.</p> | <p>ignoring the old negative trails. Handler to reward dog.</p> |
| <p><u>Stage12</u></p> <p>FULL SEARCH ASSESSMENT (Upgrade in 3 years)</p> | <p>As for Stage 11, lengthening the time to 24 hours.</p> |