

WORKING DOG QUALIFIED Certification Program

The Working Dog Qualified Certification Program is designed to be an extension of the previously established Working Dog and Working Dog Excellent Programs. In addition to testing a dog's natural abilities, additional training attributes are required. A WDQ Stake should be a fairly demanding test of those abilities expected in a competent, working retriever. Emphasis should be on testing straight forward abilities without resorting to tests containing "trick" elements.

The following describes extensions to the WD/WDX Programs that form the basis of the WDQ Program. Except where noted, all previously described conditions of the WD/WDX Programs apply to the WDQ Program. - This description should be read and followed in conjunction with the Working Dog Certification Program, the Working Dog Excellent Certification Program, the "Guidelines to Judges and Handlers," "Suggestions for Line Procedures" and any other attachments.

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.

I. Requirements

A. Description of Tests

1. **Land Double.** A dead game bird (memory bird) should be thrown into medium cover and fall 100 to 130 yards out. A second bird should be a live game bird, shot as a flyer, landing approximately 90 yards out in medium cover. There should be no less than 30 degrees between the birds and closer to 90 degrees or more is preferred. This should not be designed as a switching test.
2. **Land Blind.** A dead bird should be placed in light to medium cover about 80 yards from the line. A minor obstacle should be incorporated into the test to encourage handling. This could be a small ditch in front of the line, a sharp angle entry into cover, changes in cover, etc. This should be a down-wind bird.
3. **Water blind.** This test must contain at least some swimming water. A dead bird should be placed about 50 yards out so that it is not visible from the line. It can be in light cover. If there is not enough deep water, some running water is acceptable. In this case, the blind should be lengthened, but should never be longer than 70 yards. The line should be 5 to 10 feet back from the shoreline. While a slight angle entry into the water may be necessary, a straight entry is preferred. Sharp angle entries should be avoided so as not to encourage bank running or water cheating.
4. **Combination Triple.** This test is to be a triple mark consisting of two birds in water and a third on land. The area for this test should be chosen carefully to provide reasonably open swimming water with enough adjacent land to run a medium length land mark. The first bird down should be dead and fall on land in medium cover about 80 yards out. A second bird, a dead duck, should be thrown in partial cover in swimming water about 40 yards out. The third bird, a dead duck should be thrown in open, swimming, or running water about 20 yards out. There should be approximately 90 degrees between the land bird and the first duck (second bird thrown). The birds may be retrieved in any order.

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 Qualifying or above, or
 - b. Two AKC Hunting Tests Senior Level or higher, or
 - c. Two WDQ stakes.
2. Judges should be mailed the requirements for Working Dog Certificates two weeks prior to the tests.

C. Special Points

1. Items contained in Section B 1-3 of the WDX description apply here.
2. The blinds are expected to be handling tests, and the dogs should exhibit a reasonable willingness to stop and take casts when so commanded. An "out of control dog" that happens to stumble on the bird should not be considered to have passed the test.
3. While marking is of prime importance, handling on marks is permissible. However, if a handler decides to give assistance, the dog should respond readily and handle to the bird in a controlled manner.
4. All birds thrown should be accompanied by a prior shotgun or blank shot.
5. Dogs are required to deliver to hand, but not necessarily at heel position.
6. The tests will be run in the following order: the land marks, then the land blind, then the water blind or the water marks. The water blind will be a separate series from the water marks and suggest the same with the land blind. Both blinds will be run with no bird crates, bird scent of old falls or gunners with white coats remaining in the field for distraction. They will be in a separate area from where the marks were located.

D. Field Trial Credit - Hunting Test Credit

1. Dogs who have successfully completed all series and getting a JAM or higher in either a Qualifying, Amateur, Open, or Limited All-Age Stake in an AKC or CKC Licensed Field Trial shall be considered to have fulfilled the requirements for a WDQ certificate. Application must be made to the ACC WD Program Chairman.
2. Dogs, who have received a Qualifying Score in an AKC or CKC Licensed or Member Hunting Test in the Master Hunter Stake, shall be considered to have fulfilled the requirements for a WDQ Certificate. Application must be made to the ACC WD Program Chairman.
3. A \$10.00 fee must accompany the Certificate request to the ACC WD Program Chairman to cover administrative costs.

E. Privileges and Limitations of the WDQ Certificate

1. Receipt of a WDQ Certificate entitles the owner to indicate his dog's achievement by including the letters "WDQ" after the dog's name in documents other than those considered "official" by the AKC or other registries.
2. The title, "Working Dog Qualified," and the designating letters, "WDQ" 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 Qualified Stake.

A \$50 fee will be charged for non-members of the ACC in the Working Dog Qualified Stake