

Suggested LINE PROCEDURES for the Handler

Participants will be emailed a catalog or running order in advance of the test. Print it out and bring it with you. They will not be available at the Event. Print or review all rules for the stake you are running in and make sure your dog will pick up fresh birds before entering a test. On arrival, check in with the marshal so they know you are present and ready to run your dog. Verify your running number. "Air" your leashed dog in the area designated and put him back in his crate in your vehicle until it's his time to run. Do not let your dog see the tests, play or bark or disturb other dogs or people running. This is not a time to socialize your dog.

Before the test begins, the judge will explain the rules of the stake to all handlers. A "test dog" will be run before the first test. Ask the judge if you do not understand the test. There are usually one or two "holding blinds" you are in on the way to the line to run. Your dog cannot see the tests from these holding blinds. The marshal will call your number and tell you where to take your dog; for instance, He may say, 'Number 1 in first holding blind, number 2 in second blind, numbers 3 and 4 get ready.'" After you have proceeded to the first holding blind and the preceding dog has completed his test, the marshal will call you to move up and/or to the line.

Procedure for Singles

1. Walk to the line, which the judge or marshal will indicate, with dog at heel (on lead for some tests).
2. Tell the judge your number. He will indicate the line. If necessary (WD/WDX), remove leash and place behind you out of the way or put it in your pocket.
3. Tell dog "Sit" ("Stay," if necessary). "Mark" - show guns (or throwers) to dog, and leave dog facing that direction. Repeat "Sit" or "Stay" command. Do not touch, knee, or shove the dog.
4. Signal the judge, when you and the dog are ready, by waving your opposite hand behind you so that it is not visible to the dog or distracting. After signaling, you cannot speak to the dog again until after your number is called. (Do not touch your dog until after you have taken the bird from him). The judge will signal the gunner to shoot or throw the bird.
5. When the judge calls your number or says, "Dog," send the dog. Take your time. Be sure that he is ready and looking in the right direction. If the dog "breaks" (goes before his number is called), call him to "heel," but do not threaten or intimidate him. If he heels promptly, it is a "controlled break," and he is still eligible to continue the stake. When the judge calls your number, send the dog. (It is advisable to hold your dog by the collar/slip cord on single marks so he cannot break.)
6. Stand quietly until the dog picks up the bird. If the dog doesn't find the bird, the judge will signal the gunners to help the dog or tell you to "pick-up" (call) your dog back in. You do not help the dog while he is hunting for the mark.
7. When the dog picks up the bird, blow a few sharp whistle blasts, a "come-in." Repeat whistle if necessary to get the dog to come directly back. As the dog approaches, firmly call him to heel if you choose to receive the bird next to you. Do not threaten him. Take the bird from the dog anytime AFTER he has crossed over the line. Once the dog retrieves the bird to hand, take it and hold it behind your back. Do not put it on the ground. The judge, marshal, or bird steward will take it from you right away.
8. If the dog drops the bird before crossing the line, you may tell him to fetch it. Be firm. If you touch the bird or dog before he has crossed the line, you have failed the test. If the test does not require delivery to hand, as in the WD Stake, and the dog drops the bird after crossing the line and within two steps from you, you may pick the bird up.
9. Put lead back on the dog and leave the line. (WD/WDX) In the WDQ, the lead is replaced after you have heeled the dog back to behind the judges' chairs near the holding blind area.

Procedure for Multiple Retrieves

Generally, the dog who is ready for multiple retrieves is 'Steady'. He will stay on the line until he is sent. In WD/WDX tests, the dogs may be brought to the line on leash. For the WDQ and in field trials, with the exception of the Derby, leashes are removed in the holding blind.

1. Walk to line, with dog at heel, give your number to the judge, and he will indicate the line.
2. Tell dog to "Sit" and "Mark." Question the judge if you do not understand the test. Indicate all gunners to the dog, in the reverse order in which the birds are to be thrown, so that the dog is left facing the first bird to be thrown or shot. Repeat command "Sit," or "Stay." Do not touch your dog.
3. Signal judge when you and your dog are ready, by waving your hand or moving your head.
4. Do not speak to your dog again until after judge has called your number. You may not touch your dog until test completion.
5. After the first bird is shot and the dog has marked it, you may pivot towards the next bird to get the dog in position to mark the fall. The judge, not you, will signal for the next bird. If it is a triple retrieve, you may pivot towards the third bird, and the judge will signal for it. (you cannot talk to your dog or pat your leg while birds are going down). When the judge calls your number, send your dog for the last bird down. Be sure the dog is looking at the bird before you send him. When the dog retrieves the bird to heel position, before you take the bird, try to have him lined up towards the next bird to be retrieved. It will help him to remember it quickly and be pointed in the right direction. You may line him up on the next bird by patting your leg if needed or by voice but do not touch the dog. Take your time. At your discretion, send him on the next bird when he is looking in the correct direction and when his body is lined facing the fall. Do not touch the dog between birds and do not pick up birds from ground.
6. When test is finished, heel your dog off the line before you praise the dog. (You may give a big sigh of relief!)

Note: Always hand bird to the judge or hold it behind you until someone takes it from you. Do not drop the bird on the ground.