

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 that country. An AKC ILP or PAL number is an acceptable registration to be able to compete in this program. Dogs are *not* required to have a WD and/or a WDX certification before they compete for the WDQ.

REQUIREMENTS

Description of Tests - (tests are performed in this order)

- a. **Land Double.** A dead game bird (memory bird) should be thrown into medium cover and fall 100 to 130 yards out. A second bird, a dead duck, should be thrown and landing approximately 90 yards out in medium cover. There should be 90 degrees or more between the two birds. This should not be designed as a switching test. Handling on a mark is not permitted on the land double.
- b. **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.
- c. **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.
- d. **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 thrown to 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 should be a live game bird, shot as a flyer, shot 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.

** If there is absolutely no water available where you can do the triple with one bird on the land and two in the water, it would then be permissible to have all 3 birds in the water with correct length and space between birds. There is one flyer in the WDQ and that will be on water shot as part of the triple. Handling on a mark is allowed for the triple water mark only. (Handling is Not allowed on the land double.)

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.

d. Both judges must have titled a dog at the WDQ level or trained a dog themselves to the WDQ level or ran a dog at the SH (or higher) or WDQ level. They must have experience working with dogs to judge. (*Special Note:* If the Stake Chair has trouble finding qualified judges, please contact the WD Program chairman for help and a solution).

2. Judges should be mailed the requirements for Working Dog Qualified Certificates two weeks prior to the tests.

Special Points

- a. Items contained in the WDX special points description section a-c apply here.
- b. 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.
- c. While marking is of prime importance, handling on water triple in the WDQ is permissible. (Not on the land double). However, if a handler decides to give assistance, the dog should respond readily and handle right to the bird in a controlled manner with no additional hunting by the dog.
- d. All birds thrown should be accompanied by a prior shotgun or blank shot before the bird is thrown.
- e. Dogs are required to deliver to hand, but not necessarily at heel position. Dogs will be off lead from the holding blind to the line.
- f. 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 remaining in the field for distraction. Blinds will be in a separate area from where the marks were located.

Privileges and Limitations of the WDQ Certificate

- a. 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. The title, "Working Dog Qualified," and the designating letters, "WDQ" are recognized by the ACC, but not necessarily by any other organization.

Fees: A \$55 fee will be charged for ACC Members for entry. You must be approved as a member by the entry deadline to use this fee. A \$65 Fee will be charged for Non-Members. Non-Members can run each dog in only one stake - the WD, X or Q. You would sign an ACC membership application that day (if not before). You have 30 days only to submit your membership application with fee ACC Board approval. If approved as a member, you would then receive your passing certificate from the ACC WD Program Director. A Non-Member can run one time only as a non-member.

If your dog has previously earned a WD/X/Q Certificate, you may run only at the end of the running order as non-contention and providing there is enough time for extra dogs to run. These Non-Contention entries will be approved at the entry deadline date according to total number of dogs entered in the one-day competition. You would be notified shortly after the entry deadline if your entry is accepted