

## WORKING DOG EXCELLENT Certification Program

The following are the extensions to the Working Dog Certification Program to form the Working Dog Excellent Certification. Except where noted, all conditions for the WD apply to the WDX. This should be read and followed in conjunction with the Working Dog Certification Program, the "Guidelines to the Judges & 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 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 certification before they compete for the WDX.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### Description of Tests

- a. **Land Double.** This is to be a true double with 90 degrees or more between the two birds. A dead game bird (memory bird) is thrown into light to medium cover, not visible from the line, and should fall about 75 yards out. The second bird should be a live game bird shot as a flyer. The guns should be approximately 50 yards from the line, and this bird should fall in light to medium cover. These marks in cover are to show that a dog can "mark," has a "good nose" and perseverance" (willingness to hunt).
- b. **Water Double.** This is to be a true double with 90 degrees or more between the two birds. A dead duck (memory bird) should fall about 60 yards out. The second duck, a thrown dead bird, should fall about 40 yards out. The birds should be in swimming water. Decoys (2-3) are to be used and should be off to the side of the marks so as not to interfere with the dog swimming to the bird. These marks are to show that a dog can "mark," has "perseverance," and is confident in water

#### 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. A combination of two WDX or WDQ stakes.
  - d. Both judges must have titled a dog at the WDX level (or higher), trained a dog themselves to the WDX level (or higher) or ran a dog at the SH or WDX 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 Excellent Certificates two weeks prior to the tests.

#### Special Points

- a. Dogs are required to be steady. Dogs must show a "reasonable degree of steadiness and general obedience." Dogs should not be touched or verbally reprimanded on line. A controlled "break" would be acceptable.
- b. Dogs are required to deliver to hand but not necessarily at heel position.
- c. All throws should be accompanied by a shotgun or blank shot with the dead bird thrown after the shot. Water tests should not encourage bank running or breaking.
- d. No handling with whistle, voice, or arm directions is allowed. These are marked retrieves and it is up to the dog to find the birds himself without help.

#### Privileges and Limitations of the Working Dog Excellent Certificate

- a. The receipt of a Working Dog Excellent Certificate entitles the owner to indicate his dog's achievement by including the letters "WDX" after the dog's name in documents other than those considered "official" by the AKC or other registries. The title "Working Dog Excellent" and the designated letters "WDX" 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 Chairman. 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

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