

LINE PROCEDURES for the Handler

On arrival, sign in and report to the marshal that you are present and ready to run your dog. He will give you your running number. "Air" your leashed dog in the area designated and put him back in his crate. Do not let your dog see the tests, play or bark and disturb other dogs running.

Before the test begins, the judge will explain the rules of the stake to all handlers. A "test dog" will be run on the first test. Question the judge if you do not understand the test.

There are usually one or two "holding blinds" from which the dog cannot see the tests. 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 holding 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 the line.

Procedure for Singles

1. Walk to the line, which the judge or marshal will indicate, with dog at heel on lead.
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 right hand behind you so that it is not visible to the dog or distracting.
5. After signaling, do not speak to the dog again until after your number is called. Do not touch your dog until after he has run. The judge will signal the gunner to shoot or throw the bird.
6. 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), order him to "heel," but do not threaten or intimidate him. If he heels promptly, it is called a "controlled break," and he is still eligible to continue the stake. When the judge calls your number, send the dog.
7. 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.
8. When the dog picks up the bird, blow a few sharp whistle blasts, a "come-in."
9. Repeat whistle if necessary to get the dog to come directly back. As the dog approaches, firmly call him to heel. Do not threaten him. Take the bird from the dog anytime AFTER he has crossed over the line. **If the dog** retrieves the bird to heel position, take it and place it behind your back. Do not put it on the ground. The judge, marshal, or bird steward will take it.
10. If the dog drops the bird before crossing the line, you may tell him to fetch it. Be firm! If you touch the bird 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, you may pick the bird up.
11. Put lead back on the dog and leave the line. (WD/WDX) In the WDQ, the lead is replaced after the dog is 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 behind the judges' chairs or 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."
3. Signal judge when you and your dog are ready, by waving behind you.
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. When the judge calls your number, send your dog for the last bird down. Be sure the dog is looking at the bird; if necessary, point at it with your left hand, or move a step towards it. 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. After the dog has retrieved his first bird, you may line him up on the next bird by patting your leg if needed. 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 correctly facing the fall. **DO NOT TOUCH DOG BETWEEN BIRDS - 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.

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