

WORKING DOG EXCELLENT (WDX) CERTIFICATION

The following are the extensions to the Working Dog (WD) Certification to form the Working Dog Excellent (WDX) Certification. Except where noted, all conditions for the WD apply to the WDX. These are pass/fail non-competitive tests. Dogs are not required to have a WD certification before they compete for the WDX.

Handlers should also refer to the *WD/X/Q Handler's Guidelines* for additional information.

Privileges and Limitations of the Working Dog Excellent Certificate

The receipt of a Working Dog Excellent Certificate entitles the owner to indicate their 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. **The WDX title is a club title only.**

REQUIREMENTS

For land marks, it is recommended to scent the area of the fall prior to the first running dog, so scent is present for the first dogs, similar to the dogs that run near the end.

Description of Tests (tests are suggested to be performed in this order)

a. Land Double. This is to be a true double with 90 degrees or more between the two birds. The first mark is a dead duck (memory bird); thrown into light to medium cover, and should fall about 75 yards from the line. Each throw should be accompanied by a shotgun simulator or blank shot prior to the throw. (Thrower/Gunner can be the same person or two people who must be standing at the required distance in the field when throwing/shooting).

The second bird should be a live duck shot as a flier, thrown angle back from the line. 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). For the live flier the Thrower/Gunner can be the same person but it is recommended that there be at least two people who must be standing at the required distance in the field when throwing/shooting.

b. Water Double. This is to be a true double with 90 degrees or more between the two birds (when possible). The first mark, a dead duck (memory bird), should fall about 60 yards out.

The second mark, also a dead duck, should fall about 40 yards out.

Both birds should be in swimming water. Two to three decoys are to be used and should be placed off to the side of the marks so as not to interfere with the line to the bird. These marks are to show that a dog can "mark," has "perseverance," and is confident in water.

Special Points

1. A holding blind is placed behind the line for the handler and dog to wait prior to running a test.
2. The dog and handler team is under judgment from the time they leave the last holding blind.
3. The dog may be brought to the line on a leash or slip cord, wearing either a flat buckle collar or a choke chain. (An English all-in-one slip lead is allowed). If a choke chain is

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used, it must be removed at the line. A flat buckle collar may remain on the dog. Choke chains, slip cords, and leashes must be removed and either placed on the ground behind the handler or placed in the handler's pocket. After the leash is removed, you can no longer touch the dog until the test is completed. Once the devices are removed and the dog/handler team is ready, the handler must signal the judge for the marks. The handler cannot touch the dog from this point on until the last bird is handed to the judge.

4. After the birds are delivered and the test is completed, the handler can touch the dog, replace the leash, and leave the line.
5. 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 the line. A dog should not be sent until the dog is released by one of the judges. One controlled "break" is acceptable.
6. Dogs are required to deliver to hand but not necessarily at heel position.
7. Handling on a mark with whistle, voice, or arm directions is NOT allowed. These are marked retrieves, and it is the dog's responsibility to find the birds without help.
8. A shotgun blank shot or shotgun simulator shot should be fired before a bird is thrown.
9. Tests should be set up to avoid switching. The water double should not be positioned to encourage cheating the water (bank running) or breaking.
10. All gunners/throwers, on both land and water, must be fully visible to both dog and handler. All birds must be thrown so dog/handler can watch the bird thrown and see it fall into light to medium cover.
11. A white shirt/jacket must be worn by at least one gunner/thrower at each throwing station.