



mike harper wild dog photography australia

The BH-VT Rule Book

Version – 2.0

The content of this Document is lifted from the 2025 International Utility Dog Trial Regulations of the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) as commissioned and executed by the FCI Utility Dogs Commission.

All international trial events in terms of training and competitions are subject to these regulations. The Rules are effective from January 1st, 2025.

The full version is available on request. Please contact info@wgsdca.org.au

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Preamble

For more than 35.000 years, the dog has been the companion of mankind. Through the domestication of the dog, a close social relationship was formed with mankind and in some respects the dog is dependent on him. With this comes a certain responsibility on the part of man to ensure the well-being of the dog.

It is imperative then that the dog be handled in a fair, orderly and humane way. This also should include adequate care of the dog through proper nutrition and water as well as maintaining his health which needs to include regular vaccinations and veterinary examinations. In addition to this there is an additional duty to the dog to properly socialize him and to ensure exercise to meets his needs. When it comes to training the physical as well as the psychological health of the dog is top priority.

During the course of history, the dog has had various jobs to help man. In the modern-day world, many of these duties have been relegated to technology. For this reason, the dog owner has the responsibility of ensuring that the dog has other activities due to the loss of past jobs as well as adequate exercise and activities that offer close contact to people. The dog should be occupied according to his abilities and capabilities. He should have allocated activities that take into consideration his learning ability, his exercise requirements as well as his other abilities. The various forms of dog sports provide these excellent venues. Dogs that do not have enough activities stand out and this can lead to public complaints.

A person who trains or does sport with his dog, has to undertake a method of careful training with the goal in mind to achieve the best possible harmony between himself and the dog. The goal of all training is to convey to the dog what it is we want him to do, in such a way that he can understand. The harmonious relationship between man and his dog, regardless of the dog sport one does, is the basis for all activities. To achieve harmony, it is important to honestly look at your dog and understand his abilities.

It remains the ethical responsibility of man to raise and adequately train the dog. The applied methods must meet the standards of behavioural sciences, especially with regards to the breed. In order to achieve the upbringing, training or training effect, it is important not to utilize force and to use positive methods for the dog. Furthermore, it is imperative to decline the use of techniques that do not utilize the proper training, raising and training aides.

Using a dog for dog sport has to be oriented to his capabilities, his competitive spirit and his willingness. Influencing the dogs training capabilities through the use of medication or animal cruelty must be avoided. One must carefully acknowledge the capabilities of his dog. To demand work of a dog that does not have the capability to do so, contradicts every ethical level of consciousness. Only someone who takes the responsibility to be a true friend to his dog will take a healthy and capable dog to trials, competitions and training.

General Trial Information

Purpose

- After passing a test, the individual dog should receive recognition for its' particular purpose.
- Contribute to the overall health, fitness and work ethic of the dog.

The National Organization is encouraged to promote the International Utility Dogs Regulations (FCI-IGP). International competitions should be conducted under the International FCI Working Dog Regulations concept. All trials and competitions are subject to proper sportsmanship regarding the conduct of the participants. These regulations are binding. All participants must meet the same work performance requirements. The trials are to be made public by advising the place and start time to the members.



Trial events and competitions must correspond with complete trial levels or individual complete phases of the respective trial levels. Only a completed trial level passed in an event will count as a title. The titles must be accepted by all FCI member countries.

Trial Season

Trials may be conducted year-round if weather conditions are conducive and the well-being of both handler and dog are not at risk. Otherwise, the event cannot be held. This is the sole decision of the trial judge (LR). The individual national organization can impose restrictions regarding the trial season for their area.

Trial Days

Trial days are generally on the weekend as well as legal Holidays. BH-VT tests can only be done on official trial days.

Trial Organization / Trial Secretary

The Trial Secretary is responsible for organizing the event. He/she finalises and supervises all required levels of work to prepare and conduct a trial. He/she must guarantee the orderly execution of the event and must be at the judge's disposal for the duration of the event.

The Trial Secretary may not show a dog or accept other duties. He/she is responsible for:

- Obtaining the necessary event documents
- Locating suitable venue according to the rules
- Having experienced volunteers available for group, temperament testing etc.
- Obtaining the event authorization

- Make available the required equipment
- Make available the written forms such as judges trial sheets, trial lists for all levels.
- Have available the scorebooks, pedigrees, vaccination certificates and if necessary, proof of insurance.
- To guarantee order and the safety in the entire trial area.

The Trial Secretary must propose a possible exclusion of a participant in the event of unsportsmanlike conduct or violations of an animal protection law if this happens during the event but the officiating Judge is unaware of it. Before this decision is made, the Trial Secretary must inform the judge of the situation and they will make the final decision together.

A minimum of three days in advance, the Trial Secretary must inform the judge the location, start times, directions, type of trial and number of dogs entered. Failure to provide this information can result in the judge declining to officiate. The event authorization is to be provided to the judge prior to the start of the trial.

Trial Supervision

The heads of examinations responsible for approving the examination are entitled to appoint an examination supervisor. They can appoint a competent person to supervise an event to ensure that the event is carried out in accordance with the provisions as stated in the 2025 International FCI Working Dog Regulations.

Trial Judges

Judges, who are authorized to judge an FCI-IGP trial/ event, can be invited by the hosting club or as determined by the National Organization (LAO). The number of judges invited for a trial is up to the hosting club.

Trial judges are not permitted to judge dogs that are owned by him or are in his possession, or dogs whose owners reside with him, or dogs that are owned by another person of the same household.

The trial judge is not permitted to disturb or influence the work of the dog through his behaviour.

The trial judge is responsible for the compliance and correct adherence to the governing rules. He is authorized to terminate the trial for failure of compliance of the rules and/or his instructions. In such cases, the judge must provide a written report to the appropriate office of the National Organization.

The trial judge is authorized to disqualify a handler in the event of unsportsmanlike behaviour, carrying of motivational articles, non-compliance with the rules, non-compliance with animal rights guidelines, and anything against the local laws.

A premature termination of a trial must be documented in the scorebook. In the event of a disqualification all acquired points will not be recognized.

The judge's decision is final and incontestable. Any form of criticism concerning the decision, can lead to dismissal from the site and eventually lead to disciplinary measures. In justified cases, not based on factual decisions, rather violations of the rules by the judge (LR), a complaint may be submitted within 8 days of the occurrence.

This complaint must be made in writing, whereby the plaintiff and at least one witness signs it and submits it via the trial secretary of the hosting club or the national organization (LAO). Filing a complaint does not automatically lead to a dismissal of the judge (LR)'s decision.

The decision concerning a complaint affects the National Committee, who can submit the claim to the FCI Working Dogs Commission. They make the final determination regarding the complaint.

Permission to enter a trial

The required age limit for BH-VT is to be set by the national organization, but the dog must not be younger than 12 months of age. No exceptions are permitted.

Dogs regardless of size, breed or heritage may participate at a trial. The dog must be in physical condition to complete the requirements of the BH-VT.

Females in heat may participate at all trial events, however, must be shown separately from the other handlers' dogs. They will be shown at the end after all the other dogs have completed the trial. Females, who are visibly pregnant or who are nursing or who have puppies with them, may not be trialled. Mated bitches can take part in the tests up to and including the 27th day after the day of mating. After the 27th day only if a veterinary certificate is presented that the bitch is not pregnant.

Sick dogs and dogs suspected of a contagious disease are excluded from all trial events. In case of doubt, the veterinarian will make the final decision.

Anti-doping and vaccination regulations

A dog registered by his owner for participation in a competition and placed by him or the dog handler in the test ground must be clear of all drugs in his tissues, his body fluids and his excretions on the day of the event are not to include any substances which are listed on the banned substance list of the FCI.

The list of substances, the procedure for the testing for banned substances, and the possible penalties for infringements are published in a corresponding set of rules of FCI. National organizations can extend these provisions on their own responsibility.

The participating dogs must be vaccinated according to the national regulations of the NCO, which must be proven by the dogs' passport/vaccination certificate.

Social compatibility

A dog who, at any time during the competition (before, during or after his own performance) bites a person or another dog, tries to bite, attack or attempt to attack, is disqualified from the competition.

All points are withdrawn, and the dog is disqualified (DQ). The disqualification shall be entered by the performance judge in all the performance records- score books, pedigree known to him and signed by him.

Entry: "*Disqualification due to dog aggression, dog must be presented again in a BH-VT with behavioural test.*"

If a dog reacts to an attack and defends itself, it will not be penalised.

Phases per day per Trial level

A Judge can only judge up to a maximum of 36 individual phases per day (not valid for championships).

Begleithundeprüfung (BH-VT) Companion examination is equivalent to 2 phases. For major events scheduled by the National Organization (LAO), special regulations can be established.

The national organization (LAO) submits a proposal to the FCI Working Dogs Commission, who makes the final determination.



Trial Participants

The trial participant must meet the entry deadline for the event. The participant also agrees to pay the entry fee upon submission of the entry form. If the participant cannot participate for whatever reason, he/she must advise the Trial Secretary (PL) immediately.

The participant is required to provide the vaccination certificate and uphold the animal rights guidelines.

The participant must adhere to the instructions of the judge (LR) as well as the Trial Secretary (LR).

The handler must present his/her dog in a sportsmanlike manner regardless of the results in any given phase, he is obliged to continue for the remaining phases of the event.

The trial ends with the results (awards ceremony) and the return of the scorebook.

The examination (trial) must have a minimum of 4 participants per trial day. The minimum number of participants per day may only be less if for BH-VT examinations these dogs pass and try for a further examination (IGP-1, IFH 1) at the same event.

A dog handler may only take part in an examination with the same dog. (A two-day test is considered as an examination event.) A dog handler may enter a maximum of two dogs for an examination at an event.

A dog may only acquire one title within an event. Exception: BH-VT in conjunction with another level 1 title.

Prerequisite for entering a trial is that the owner and dog handler belong to a club of the national organization which is recognized by the FCI. Exceptions to this can be determined by the national organization only for BH-VT examinations.

Physically challenged handler

If a dog handler cannot carry out part of an exercise correctly due to a physical handicap, he must inform the performance judge (LR) before the start of the trial. If due to a physical handicap the dog handler cannot present the dog on the left side of the dog handler, the dog may be presented in the same way on the right side. The national organizations may also allow further restrictions.

Collar requirement / Carrying a leash

For insurance liability reasons, handlers are required to carry a leash throughout the trial. The leash may be worn around the handler (with the clasp side positioned away from the dog) or kept out of sight. Additionally, the dog must wear a collar at all times during the trial. Judges are responsible for visually checking that all dogs are wearing properly fitting collars at all stages of the trial.

The BH-VT permits the use of the following collars:

- Leather or fabric collars
- Chest harnesses
- Single-row, loose-fitting large-link collars without spikes, claws, or hooks. These must be worn loosely.

Flea or tick collars must be removed before the trial begins. If there is any suspicion of fraudulent use of a spiked or similar collar, the judge will disqualify the handler from further participation in the trial.

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Muzzle obligation

The requirements for having a dog in public are mandated by the laws of the individual countries. Handlers (HF), who are bound by these laws only, may show their dogs in the BH-VT test with a muzzled dog.

Liability

The owner of the dog is liable for any personal injury or material damage caused by his/her dog. Therefore, he/she must have adequate coverage for such cases. In the event of an accident during the trial, the handler (HF) is liable for himself/herself and his/her dog.

The handler (HF) is to comply with the instructions of the judge (LR) and the organizing club and thereby executes of his/her own free will the instructions at his/her own risk.

Vaccinations

Proof of vaccinations as performed by a certified authority (vaccination certificate) must be presented to the judge (LR) or the Trial Secretary (PL).

Awards Ceremony / trophies

Generally, all participants are to be present at the awards ceremony. The trial ends officially with the award ceremony and the handing out of scorebooks.

Scorebook

A scorebook is mandatory for every participating dog. Issuance of the scorebook is done according to the instructions of the handler's corresponding National Organization. Important to note, only one scorebook may be issued per dog. This is the responsibility of the issuing organization.

The trial results must be recorded in the scorebook under all circumstances by the judge (LR) as well as the Trial Secretary (PL), who is to double check the entry and sign the book.

It is required to make the following entries:

- Members number
- Name and breed of the dog
- Identification of the dog (tattoo nr./Chip Nr.)
- Name and address of the owner of the dog
- Pass/Fail
- Name of the judge and his signature.

Commands

The Commands in the examination regulations are considered suggestions. Commands are given as normal spoken words and must always be the same for the same task. When recalling the dog, the name of the dog can be used instead of the command to recall.

The name of the dog in conjunction with any command is considered a double command. The national organization may make provision for the use of only national language commands, which are provided by the national organization and published in their rulebook. It is, however, permissible in any case that the commands may be given in the mother tongue of the dog handler.

Disciplinary rights

The judge is authorized to terminate the trial if the order and safety is compromised in any way. Violations by the handler against the prevailing rules, against the trial rules, against the animal rights laws and against cultural customs will lead to a termination of the trial.

Disqualification

A dog will be disqualified (DQ) if the dog:

- leaves the handler (HF) or the field and does not return after three commands
- is not neutral during the impartiality check
- If a judge determines that the dog has faulty temperament, unsportsmanlike behaviour on the part of the handler (e.g. alcohol, carrying motivational objects and/or food), violations of the rules, violations against the animal rights laws or violations against cultural customs, the team will be disqualified (DQ) from further testing
- If the Judge suspects attempts of fraudulent intent by use of prohibited training aids

All points awarded up to the point of disqualification (DQ) will be deleted.
No points or ratings will be entered into the scorebook.



Left:
Reg Worth
WGSDCA Judge and certified SV National Working
Judge, Australia

Right:
SV Chief Judge
Wilfried Tautz

Termination

In the event of a termination, all points earned up to that point, including those from completed phases, are voided. No points or evaluations are recorded in the scorebook.

If a dog is reported as ill during a test, the following procedure applies:

If the handler reports the dog's illness after a section has already been completed, the test documents will include the entry: *"Terminated due to illness."* Points earned up to that point are retained, but no grade is awarded. The judge has the authority to terminate the test independently, even without the handler's consent, if they determine that the dog is ill or injured. This also applies to dogs that, in the judge's opinion, can no longer be presented for animal welfare reasons due to age or condition. In such cases, an entry such as *"Terminated due to injury"* will be made.

The BH-VT evaluation Record

The evaluation of the performance is noted as
a Pass or Fail.

I N A N U T S H E L L

The BH-VT Test is like the Canine Good Citizen Test with the addition of an obedience routine

Contains the following (executed in listed order):

An Impartiality (Temperament) Assessment

An Obedience Routine (Part A). The dog needs to get a minimum of 42 points to pass the obedience routine, which is a prerequisite to be eligible to perform the next step

A Traffic Test (Part B) which assesses the dog's behaviour towards normal life situations (other dogs, joggers, cyclist, cars, strangers, etc.)

A first-time handler must pass a written examination prior to the actual test.

The BH-VT test does not check the gun sureness of the dog

THE BH-VT

Eligibility Criteria

- Dogs of all breeds and sizes are accepted.
- The minimum age of the dog is determined by the National Organization LAO but may not be less than twelve months.
- The dog must be identifiable by a tattoo or microchip.
- The dog must have a scorebook.

A BH-VT may be repeated at any time.

Evaluation

- Dogs that fail the temperament assessment are disqualified (DQ) and cannot proceed to Part A.
- Dogs which do not reach the required 70% of the points in Part A (“Obedience”) are not eligible for examination in Part B (“Traffic Portion”).
- The BH-VT test is passed if 70% of the points (42/60) is achieved in Part A and all exercises of Part B were considered sufficient by the performance judge.
- At the end of the trial no point score is given by the judge but rated only as a rating of Passed or Failed.

It is up to the judge, at the request of the hosting club, to place the participants at the awards’ ceremony. The result “Passed/Failed” must be entered in the official trial paperwork and the scorebook irrespective of the outcome of the examination.

Impartiality (Temperament) Assessment

Before the trial begins and prior to the first phase, the judge must conduct an impartiality test on each dog. This includes verifying the dog’s identity through methods such as checking tattoos or microchips. Dogs that fail this test are not permitted to participate in the trial and will be disqualified (DQ).

For dogs chipped abroad or acquired from another country, the owner is responsible for providing the appropriate microchip reader.

Throughout the entire trial, the judge observes the temperament of the dog. Any dog displaying faulty temperament must be disqualified (DQ), and this disqualification must be recorded in the scorebook.

Dogs that are disqualified (DQ) due to faulty temperament must be reported to the National Organization in written report.

The temperament test is to be conducted throughout the duration of the trial including the awards ceremony. If a dog stands out with a temperament problem, then he cannot pass for this reason even though results up to that point were positive. If a dog fails the temperament test, the dog is disqualified (DQ). This is to be noted in the records.

The temperament test is to be conducted in a neutral place. In the selection of the place, there should be no close connection to the trial or tracking fields.


Every dog is to be evaluated independently.

The timeframe should be such that the dog is not immediately going to go on the trial field. The dogs are to be on leash (short leash – without tracking harness, etc.). The leash is to be held loose. The dog must be led under control.

The following rules are to be adhered to during the Temperament evaluation

A systematic evaluation is not permitted. It is up to the judge to determine the way it is to be conducted. There are not to be extreme variations in the evaluation unless a judge tries to make a point.

The evaluation is to be done in a normal everyday setting. The dog is not to be challenged, as otherwise it would invoke a natural reaction, unnatural stimuli are to be avoided.



The identify control is a mandatory part of the temperament test

The temperament test is conducted not only at the beginning of the trial but throughout the entire event. If the judge identifies a potential temperament weakness, they are required to examine it thoroughly. Repetitions are allowed to ensure an accurate assessment. The BH-VT does not include a gun-sureness test.

The temperament test must take place under normal conditions in a neutral environment for the dog. Each participant is required to present their dog individually to the judge. Dogs must be presented on a standard leash attached to a dead ring (non-choking).

During the test, the leash must remain loose. The judge should ensure there are no provocations during the assessment.

Temperament Test – Judging Criteria

Positive behaviour of the dog

The dog conducts himself in neutral, self-confident, sure, attentive, energetic, impartial manner.

Still acceptable borderline cases

The dog is slightly unstable or slightly nervous, but not aggressive, slightly insecure. These dogs are still permitted to trial but are to be closely monitored for the duration of the trial.

Negative behaviour of the dog or faulty temperament

The dog that is shy, insecure, scared, out of control, that bites or that is aggressive will be disqualified (DQ).

Conducting the identity check

Identity checks are a mandatory part of every test. Each dog to be tested must be identifiable. This can be ensured either by a tattoo number or by a microchip. The judge must confirm in their records that the identity check has been carried out.

If the tattoo numbers are not easy to read, the numbers that can be seen must be recorded. The tattoo number / chip number must match the number entered in the pedigree / performance certificate. If difficulties arise (eg inability to read a number), a note must be made to this effect.



HF who has had their dog chipped abroad or who have acquired a dog from another country are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate microchip reader is provided

Dogs that cannot be clearly identified are not allowed to take part in a test/event.

If the microchip is not found by the LR, the LR instructs the HF to carry out the chip check himself. It is imperative that the LR or a person appointed by him carries out a final check with the chip reader.

Part A of the BH-VT Routine | Total points: 60

1 General Information

Handler help is not permitted and if used, results in point deductions.

Carrying something to motivate the dog, such as a toy, is not permitted

The dog must perform the exercises happily, confidently and immediately upon the handler's verbal command. Any behaviour that is due to fear or stress devalues the exercise.

If a handler cannot perform an exercise correctly because of a physical disability, the judge must be informed of this prior to the beginning of the trial. If a handler's disability doesn't allow the dog to heel on the left side, the dog may heel in a comparable position on the handler's right side.

The judge gives a signal to begin each exercise

Everything else, such as the turns, halts, changes of pace, etc., is carried out without direction from the judge. However, it is permitted for the handler to request these directions from the judge.

Praising – the dog may be briefly released and praised after each exercise. During the short praise and release (maximum of approx. 5 seconds) the dog may leave the basic position.

Afterwards, the handler may take a new basic position. Between praising the dog and new start there should be a distinct pause (about 3 seconds). The dog must remain at heel between exercises.

A pause of about 3 seconds must be shown between each exercise.

If the dog handler misses an exercise, the handler is asked by the judge to restart and show the missing exercise. There is no point deduction. Omission of or partial exercises result in deductions.

The BH-VT Obedience is performed together with a second dog

2 Individual Exercise Description

1. Heeling on leash 30 Points
2. Sit Exercise 10 Points
3. Down with recall 10 Points
4. Down under Distraction 10 Points

Reporting in

Two handlers walk onto the field with their dog on leash heeling at handler's left side and stop in front of Judge to report in by stating their name and the name of the dog.

One dog/handler will begin the Part A with the Down Under Distraction (exercise 4) - the other dog/handler team will begin Part A with the Heeling on Lead (exercise 1).

After the reporting in, the teams walk to the marked designated positions of their respective exercises and present the Basic Position.



The Basic Position

Each individual exercise begins and ends with the basic position: The dog sits parallel and directly next to its handler on the left side with its right shoulder at the handler's knee.

Assuming the basic position is allowed only once at the beginning of each exercise. The handler is to stand in the basic position in a sportsmanlike manner. In the basic position, the dog handler must not have a splayed leg stance and both arms must hang loosely at the side of the body. The dog must be attentive to the handler.



On Lead Heeling | 30 Points

Commands: "heel", "Fuss"

From a straight, calm and attentive basic position, the leashed dog follows the handler attentively, happily, heeling straight and quickly on the command "heel" with its left shoulder directly parallel with the handlers left leg. The dog must stay with its shoulder at handler's left knee. It must follow the handler without stress, confident, with purpose, straight and fast. It must neither forge, lag or heel sideways. A single command "heel" is permitted at the changes of pace. The dog must sit straight and quickly when stopping without a sit command.

The Lead: If the dog is carrying a loose-fitting large link collar, the lead must not be hooked to the live ring of the collar. The lead is to be held in the left hand and hang loosely. The dog

must walk attentively, confidently with purpose, without stress and concentrated on the handler.

The handler walks 50 paces straight ahead without stopping, perform an about turn (180°) and after 10-15 paces show a transition to 10-15 fast paces followed by 10-15 slow paces and then 10-15 normal paces followed by a halt. The dog should sit quickly without help from the handler.

After 3 seconds the handler continues heeling to a group of four moving people in which the handler must circle a person to the right and another person to the left (i.e. figure eight pattern) whereafter the dog handler stops in the group. The dog must sit quickly without help.

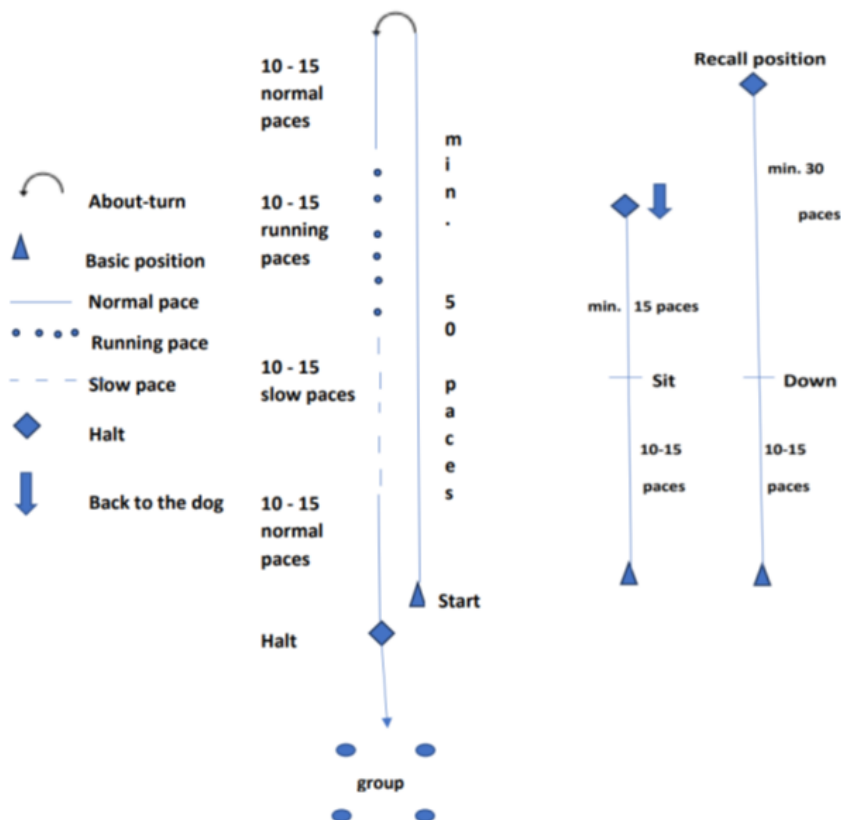


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Figure 8 heeling in the group.

At the judges signal the dog handler/dog heel back to the marked start position and takes off the leash (hangs it across his left shoulder, clipped on the right side or put the leash out of sight).

The heeling, sit and drop patterns used in BH-VT



Sit out of Motion | 10 Points

Command: “heel”, “Sit”

Point Distribution

“1st Part” – 5 points: basic position, 10-15 normal paces, execution of Sit

“2nd Part” – 5 points: leaving the dog, attention, approaching the dog, final position

From the Basic Position at the command “heel”, the off-lead dog, follows the handler gladly with its left shoulder directly parallel with the handlers left leg. After 10-15 paces, dog must sit quickly at the command “sit”. The handler has the option of stopping and giving the command “sit” before walking away from the dog or he/she can give the sit command and continue without changing his/her movement or looking around.



The dog must remain calm and attentive to the handler as the handler walks away 15 paces in a straight line. He then turns around and faces the dog. At the Judges signal, the handler returns to his dog and resumes the basic position which ends the exercise.

Basic Position.....X (“Sit”).....Handler
 10-15 normal paces 15 normal paces – about turn, halt, return to dog

Evaluation

Slow sitting, restless and inattentive sitting is devalued in addition to other misconduct.
 If the dog stands or downs, the exercise is rated ‘insufficient” mandatory-5 points.

Drop with Recall | 10 points

Commands: “heel”, “down/drop”, “here/come/name”

Point Distribution

“1st Part” – 5 points: basic position, 10-15 normal paces, execution of the down

“2nd Part” – 5 points: leaving the dog, attention, recall of the dog, frontal position, final position

From the basic position at the command “heel”, the off-lead dog, follows the handler gladly with its left shoulder directly parallel with the handlers left leg. After 10-15 paces, dog must drop to the ground quickly at the command “down”. The handler has the option of stopping and giving the command “down” before walking away from the dog or he/she can give the “down” command and continue without changing his/her movement or looking around.

The dog must remain calm and attentive to the handler as the handler walks away 30 paces in a straight line. He then turns around and faces the dog.

At the judges signal, the handler recalls his/her dog with a recall command or the dog's name. The dog must be fast, without stress, purposeful and come directly, sit closely and straight in front of the handler. After approx. 3 seconds the dog must return directly to the basic position upon command where after, the exercise is finished.



The dog can then be praised and then put on a leash to go to the “down under distraction” position.

Basic Position.....X (“Down”).....Handler
10-15 normal paces 30 normal paces – about turn, halt, Recall, return to heel

Evaluation

Slow drop, restless or inattentiveness, slow non-purposeful recall, handler help such as splayed legs is devalued in addition to other misconduct. If the dog sits or stands, the exercise is rated ‘insufficient’ mandatory-5 points. The dog must sit tightly and straight in front of handler.

The dog must go directly to the final position upon the command for the basic position. This can be done by the dog pivoting into basic position or by the dog going around behind the handler into basic position.

For a dog that does not come on the second extra command, the exercise is to be evaluated insufficient 0 point.

Drop Under Distraction | 10 points

Commands: “heel”, “down/drop”, “heel”

The exercise is performed during the obedience performance of another dog.

The position of the down under distraction is marked. The dog handler walks with his/her dog on lead (heeling) to the marked position, takes the basic position and takes the leash off the dog.

At the judge's signal, the handler gives a down command and walks at least 30 paces away. Stops and turns sideways towards the dog. The dog must lie quietly and calmly without the influence of the handler while the other dog is working.

At the judge's signal, the handler walks back to the dog and stands on its right side. At the judge's signal, the handler commands the dog to sit and come up into the basic position. The lead is put back on the dog.

Evaluation

Mistakes in the basic set up, restless behaviour, stress, handler help, premature standing and/or sitting, leaving the designated areal all lead to point deductions.

When leaving the down position by more than three meters, the following rules apply to allow a partial evaluation:

0 points awarded if the dog moves prior to completion of the Heeling On Lead exercise.
Minus 5 points, plus deductions for any other mistakes if the dog moves during the other exercises.

If the dog goes to the handler when approaching for pickup, up to 3 points are deducted.

Reporting Out

When both handlers have completed the obedience exercises, they walk with their dogs on leash heeling at handler's left side and stop in front of Judge to report out. Handlers will then move to a dedicated spot for subsequent judge critique. Part A is PASSED if obtaining at least 70% of the 60 max points (e.g. 42 points).

Additional information

- If a dog does not perform an exercise after the third given command, the exercise must be terminated without evaluation, 0 pts.
- When recalling, the name of the dog can be used instead of a recall command.
- The name of the dog in connection with any command is considered as a double command.
- The reaction of the dog to the command: The dog should perform the exercise quickly and without stress on the handler's command. Any behaviour of anxiety or stress deprecates the exercise.
- Additional Commands: If the dog does not execute an exercise after the second additional command, the exercise will be rated with 0 points. If the dog executes an exercise with two additional commands, the exercise is rated max high Insufficient. 1st Additional Command: "Satisfactory" for that part of the exercise. 2nd Additional Command: "Insufficient" for that part of the exercise
- 5 Points for partial exercise: 1st Additional Command: "Satisfactory" rating, from that portion of the exercise =-1.5 points. 2nd Additional Command: "Insufficient" rating, from that portion of exercise =-2.5 points If the dog executes an exercise without a command, the partial exercise is to be rated "Insufficient".

Part B of the BH-VT Routine | The Traffic Test

1 General Information

The exercises listed below are conducted in a suitable public area outside of the training field.

The judge and the trial secretary determine where and how the traffic exercises will be conducted (streets, walkways or squares). Public traffic may not be interfered with.

The implementation of this part of the examination requires a considerable amount of time because of its nature. Points are not given for the individual exercises of part B. During Part B the overall impression about the dog moving in the traffic / public area is most important.

The exercises described below are suggestions and can be modified individually to the local conditions by the performance judge.

The performance judge is entitled to repeat or vary in case of doubt in the assessment of the dog exercises.

Encounter with group of people

At the order of the judge, the dog handler, with his dog, walks on the sidewalk. The performance judge follows the team at a reasonable distance. The dog is to follow on the dog handler's left side on a loosely hanging leash- with the shoulder at the knee height of the dog handler. The dog must be indifferent to the pedestrian and driving traffic. On his way, the dog handler is stopped by a passing stranger. The dog has to show itself as neutral and unimpressed. The dog handler and the dog continue through a relaxed group of at least 6 people, in which a person responds to the dog handler and greets them with a handshake. The dog must keep quiet during the short conversation.



Encounter with Cyclists

The dog is walking along a path with his dog handler and is overtaken by a cyclist from behind who rings a bell. After a good distance, the cyclist turns to meet the dog handler and dog. There will be another bell ring. The passing has to be done in such a way that the dog is between the dog handler and the cyclist passing by. The dog has to see the cyclist.

Encounter with Cars

The dog handler walks past several cars with his dog. One of the vehicles is started. In another car, a door is shut. While the dog handler and the dog go on, a car stops next to them. The window is rolled down and the dog handler is asked for information. The dog must sit or lie down by the dog handler's instructions. The dog must be quiet and unimpressed with cars and all traffic noises.

Encounter with joggers or inline skaters

The dog handler walks along a quiet path with his dog. At least two joggers pass him without slowing down their speed. When the joggers have gone, joggers come back to the dog and dog handler and run past them without lowering their speed. The dog does not have to be in the correct heel position, but he must not bother the passing joggers. It is permitted to have the handler place his dog in a sit or down position during the encounter. Instead of the joggers, one or two inline skaters can also pass and meet the dog instead.

Encounter with other dogs

In the case of passing or encountering another dog and his handler, the dog is to remain neutral. The handler may give and repeat the command "Fuss/Heel" or place the dog in a sit or down position.

on the performance judge's direction, the dog handler, with the dog, walk along the sidewalk of a moderately busy street.

After a short distance, the dog handler stops at the order of the judge and attaches the leash to a fence, wall or something similar. The dog handler goes out of sight into a store or a house. The dog may stand, sit or lie down.

During the absence of the dog handler, a passer-by (pedestrian) passes the dog with a dog at a lateral distance of about five paces away from the test dog. The dog left alone must be quiet and calm during the absence of the handler. The dog (no dog aggressive dogs are to be used) passing by must pass without the test dog showing aggression (strong pulling on the leash, continuous barking). At the judge's direction, the dog is picked up again.



It is up to the judge to decide whether to carry out the individual exercises with each dog at the same location, or to have all the test dogs complete only a few exercises and then to go to another location and proceed there as well.