

Judges Email Blast

April, 2022

Below you will find questions, comments or concerns brought before the Judging & Testing Committee over the last few weeks.

Judges Returning Phone Calls and Emails

Several Test Secretaries have communicated that they are asking people to judge a test and they are not getting a response. I'm sure everyone is getting lots of requests to judge these days. As a professional courtesy please respond to test secretaries in a reasonable amount of time (within a week) and let them know if you are available to judge or not available to judge.

Test Evaluation Form

If a Chapter Officer would like to review or take a photograph of the completed Test Evaluation form, they are welcome to do that

Training Aids

Handlers are not allowed to run a dog in a NAVHDA test with anything that may be considered a training aid. These include, but are not limited to; choke collars, pinch collars, slip leads, wonder leads, GPS devices, e-collars, belly protectors, neoprene vests, treats, and goggles. The only exception would be for a dog with an obvious injury and that would be at the sole discretion of the judging team to allow or not. The discretion *may* be based on a determination that the device is clearly to protect an injury and is obviously NOT a training aid or something that might be used as a training aid. Handlers are allowed one flat collar to be on the dog. The only exception would be the addition of a flea collar. There are times when the judging team will ask for a high visibility collar to be placed on a dog at the Invitational level to help the team identify similar looking dogs running in a brace.

Treats

Treats are considered a training aid, as stated above and are not allowed to be given while your dog is under judgment. In the event the use of treats is discovered after the fact, scores in desire, cooperation and obedience may be impacted if it is determined their use was while the dog was under judgment.

Pointing

A dog that creeps, cat walks, dances, circles, or wants to look at the birds prior to establishing an intense and convincing point should be penalized in pointing. This includes dogs testing at all NAVHDA levels.

Field Search Duration

Dogs are to be given the full allotted time during the field search:

Judges should never ask the handler to leash the dog prior to 20 minutes for NA, 25 minutes for UPT, 30 minutes for UT, and 1 hour for Invitational dogs. More time may be given at the judge's discretion to fully evaluate performance.

Blinds

Blinds need to be **3 sided** and at least 36 inches in height. The blind must create a barrier between the handler and the dog. During the retrieve sequence the handler must be inside the blind until the dog is sent for the retrieve. As the dog returns with the duck, the handler may stand to one side of the blind and away from the water's edge. Some good examples of these would be the Gunners Up 3 panel or the Zinger 5 panel.

UT Takeout's / Steadiness

Question: If a UT dog takes out a bird how is steadiness to be judged?

In the 2020 Judges workshop it was determined that pointing judgment ends when the dog is aware of the handler, judges or gunners and judgment of steadiness then begins. In answering this question, the Judging & Testing Committee has determined: A UPT, UT or Invy dog that takes out birds after establishing point should be penalized in steady to flush and wing. By taking out birds the dog has not allowed the steadiness sequence to begin and should therefore be severely penalized (i.e. nonqualifying score) in flush and wing on that particular bird sequence.