



## Regulations for Hunting Trials

Approved at the annual general meeting for the Swedish Club for German Pointers on the 9th of May 2015, § 21a, and confirmed by the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK/Jhk) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2016 to apply for the time period of 01 Jan 2017 until 31 Dec 2021.

### **General regulations for shows, trials and competitions**

**organized by Svenska Kennelklubben (SKK, Swedish Kennel Club), by provincial kennel clubs and breed clubs affiliated with SKK, and by breed clubs affiliated by agreement. In case of differences in interpretations of the show, trials and competitions regulations only the Swedish version is valid.**

The following General regulations apply to official (SKK Dog Registered) shows, trials and competitions arranged by the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK), by provincial kennel clubs and breed clubs affiliated with SKK, and by breed clubs affiliated by agreement. In addition, the applicable parts of SKK's rules and the regulations issued by authorities also apply.

Bringing dogs together for shows, trials and competitions places requirements on both the organizer and dog owners/handlers in order to be able to maintain good protection against infectious diseases and harm to humans, owners' own dogs and other animals.

The dog's welfare always takes top priority at all SKK events. It is also important that the results of judging are not affected by undue circumstances.

Participants and functionaries are obliged to act or perform in such a way that they do not harm or act against SKK or its member organisations, and not to act in such a way that they affect other dogs' chances of being judged fairly at trials, shows or competitions, and not to make disparaging comments about other dogs, officials or participants.

All dogs must be made available for the examinations and taking of samples that may be necessary in connection with checking for doping and other undue circumstances.

When a veterinary certificate is referred to for a dog, this must be issued on an SKK approved form (e.g. Swedish Veterinary Association form F145 or equivalent). The following details must be included in order for the certificate to be accepted: breed, registered name, registration number, ID number, description of injury, whether this has been acquired, what the intervention relates to, action, reason for action and, if a body part has been removed, a comment on its appearance. An original copy of the certificate must always be brought to the show.

Organizers are entitled to take copies of veterinary certificates.

Any person who has been excluded by the SKK's Disciplinary Board from the SKK organisation or who has been banned from taking part in shows, trials and competitions by a Nordic kennel club or the FCI or has been banned from handling and keeping animals by the authorities, may not own, enter or handle dogs at trials and competitions. Such person may not own, enter or show a dog at a show or take part with a progeny group or breeders group. This also applies to any person who has chosen to leave the SKK organisation during an ongoing investigation by SKK's Disciplinary Board, meaning that the Disciplinary Board cannot examine the matter. Dog owners are responsible for dogs not being shown/handled by a person who has been excluded or has been banned from handling and keeping animals by the authorities.

Dogs which, in the six months prior to the show, trial or competition, have been owned by a person who has been excluded or banned by the SKK's Disciplinary Board from entering, bringing dogs to, or allowing dogs to be brought to shows, trials or competitions may not take part.

Results awarded in official classes will be recorded by SKK. Only registered dogs can be named champion.

## 1. Vaccinations

Participating foreign dogs must be brought into Sweden in accordance with Swedish import requirements for dogs in relation to rabies vaccinations and deworming against tapeworms (echinococcus).

**Participating dogs must be vaccinated against distemper as follows:**



## Regulations for Hunting Trials

- Dogs **under** the age of one (1) year: at the age of **at least** ten (10) weeks.
- Dogs **over** the age of one (1) year: the dog must be vaccinated at the age of **at least** ten (10) months, and not more than four (4) years ago.
- First-time vaccination must be carried out **at least** fourteen (14) days **before** the day of the trial, competition and/or show.

Checks may be carried out to ensure that the applicable import and vaccination requirements have been followed.

In addition, SKK recommends that participating dogs are also vaccinated against parvovirus infection and parainfluenza (kennel cough).

## 2. Identification number

Dogs must have an identification number in order to take part in an official show, official trial or competition. (This also applies to crossbreed and unregistered dogs.) The identification may be carried out by tattooing or with a microchip implant that complies with ISO standards 11784 and 11785.

Breed clubs are entitled to decide that only tattooing shall be acceptable at the club's events.

Participants that provide their own microchip scanner are entitled to take part with microchipped dogs, regardless of whether the organiser has decided that only tattooing shall be acceptable.

At shows organised by the SKK General Committee or an SKK provincial kennel club, the organiser is responsible for providing a microchip scanner.

Identification checks may be carried out by random inspections.

## 3. Responsibility

During shows, trials or competitions, dog owners or their representatives are responsible in accordance with the *Swedish Supervision of Dogs and Cats Act*.

Those taking part in shows, trials or competitions are responsible for dogs being kept in such a way that they cannot harm themselves or others. Under no circumstances may dogs be kept in cars, dog cages, tents or similar in such conditions that they could come to harm.

If the dog owner or their representatives during the show, trial, competition or club organized activity keeps a dog in contravention of the above, he **shall** be reported by the duty functionary to the Kennel Club on a specific form. Examples of functionaries are: organizing committee, show manager, veterinary in duty, trial or competitive leaders, judges, ring steward, instructor and as well figurant to trials. It is incumbent upon the organizer to ensure that the form is available at the event.

Organising clubs discharge themselves and their officials from all liability for harm or loss that dog owners may sustain in connection with shows, trials or competitions. The same applies to damage caused by dogs during shows, trials or competitions if such damage is not demonstrably a result of obviously inadequate organisation.

Physically punishing dogs is forbidden.

## 4. Force majeure

The organiser is not obliged to refund entry fees if the event is cancelled as a result of force majeure.

Neither SKK nor its member organisations are responsible for loss or direct or indirect costs caused as a result of an event not being held. Nor are elected representatives, employees or officials of SKK or its member organisations who have made a decision on such an event responsible for loss or direct or indirect costs.



## Regulations for Hunting Trials

### 5. Unacceptable behaviour

Dogs that demonstrate unacceptable behaviour during shows, trials, competitions or activities organised by the club by showing aggression, attacking or otherwise appearing to be threatening towards people and/or other dogs may be dismissed from the venue.

Specific reporting obligations for judges and officials

Serving judges and officials are obliged to report to SKK in writing using a specific form if a dog demonstrates unacceptable behaviour during a show, trial, competition or activity organised by the club in accordance with the above. The organiser is responsible for ensuring that this form is available at the event.

*Examples of officials include: Show Committee members, Show Managers, Vets on duty, trial or competition organisers, Ring Stewards, Instructors and Figurants at trials.*

### 6. Prohibited from taking part in shows, trials and competitions

*Mental attributes (Agenäs comment: Should be translated as "temperament")*

Dogs that have been Disqualified or awarded 0 grade with regard to mental attributes on three (3) occasions are not entitled to take part.

*Infectious diseases*

Dogs suffering from an infectious disease or infestation of vermin may not take part.

Dogs may not take part if during the last month they have had or are suspected to have had distemper, parvovirus infection or kennel cough, or if during the last month they have been spending time together with a dog that has had any of these diseases.

Dogs may not take part earlier than two months after completing a period in quarantine.

*Bitches in whelp and bitches rearing puppies*

Bitches in whelp may not take part in trials, shows or competitions in the 30 days before whelping, calculated from 63 days after the first mating, and nor may they take part before 75 days after whelping, regardless of the outcome of the whelping.

*Puppies*

Puppies under the age of 4 months may not take part in trials, competitions or shows, and may not be brought into the venue.

**Ear cropped dogs** Dogs born before 1 January 2008:

- Dogs born in a country where ear cropping was not allowed when it took place or are after a Danish-, Finnish-, Norwegian-, or Swedish owned bitch **may not participate** in a show, trial, competition or dog mental health description.
- Dogs born in a country where ear cropping was permitted when it took place **may participate** in a show, trial, competition and dog mental health description.

Dogs born on 1 January 2008 or later:

- **May not participate** in a show.
- Dogs born in a country where ear cropping was permitted when it took place **may participate** in a trial, competition and dog mental health description.



### Regulations for Hunting Trials

- Dogs born in a country where ear cropping was not allowed when it took place **may not participate** in a show, trial, competition or dog mental health description.

**Dogs with docked tails and dogs that are not born with a natural full-length tail** Dogs born before 1 January 2008:

- Dogs born in a country where tail docking was permitted when it took place and that is not bred by a Swedish- or Norwegian owned bitch **may participate** in a show, trial, competition and dog mental health description.
- Dogs born in Sweden, where tail docking done for health reasons in order to remedy a postnatally acquired injury and where a certificate in accordance with what is stated in the introduction to the general rules can be shown in original, both in the venue and subsequently **may participate** in a show, trial, competition and dog mental health description.
- However, regarding dogs of the breeds

**Dobermann and Rottweiler** born in countries where tail docking was not allowed when it occurred, regardless of the health reasons stated above, **may not participate** in a show, trial and competition. On the contrary, it **may participate** in a dog mental health description.

Dogs born on 1 January 2008 or later:

Show

**May not participate** in the show. This applies regardless of the country the dog was born in or if tail docking has been made for health reasons.

From this prohibition to participate in the show are here the following exceptions:

- Dogs of the breed from the **FCI group 7 (pointing dogs)** born in a country where tail docking was allowed when it occurred or who has tails docked for veterinary reasons or are not born with naturally full-length tail may participate in the show.

Dogs of the breed specified below and who are not born with naturally full-length tail **may participate** in the show.

**Group 1** Australian Shepherd, Australian Stumpy  
Tail Cattle Dog

Pyrenean Sheepdog (both varieties),

Bouvier des Flandres,

Catalan Sheepdog, Croatian

Sheepdog, Mudi, Old English

Sheepdog, Polish Lowland

Sheepdog, Welsh Corgi

Pembroke , Schipperke

**Group 2** English Bulldog, Entlebucher



Regulations for Hunting Trials

Mountain Dog, Danish Swedish  
Farndog

**Group** Jack Russell Terrier, Brazilian  
**3**

Terrier, Tenterfield Terrier

**Group** Karelian Bear Dog, Swedish Vallhund  
**5**

**Group** Småland Hound  
**6**

**Group** See exceptions for group 7 above  
**7**

**Group** Spanish Water Dog  
**8**

**Group** Boston Terrier, French Bulldog,  
**9**

King Charles Spaniel

*Assessing by a show judge on one occasion*

Dogs that are born in a country where tail docking was allowed when it occurred or who has been tail docked for veterinary reasons or is by breed not named in the list above and who are not born with a natural full-length tail, may after a special assessment by SKK be allowed to become assessed by a show judge on one occasion and get the results registered in the studbook.

**Trial, competition and dog mental health description** (*This is the official SKK translation. "Mental health description" would be translated as "temperament test" in many situations, Agenäs' comment*)

- Dogs born in a country where tail docking was allowed when it occurred or who have tails docked for veterinary reasons or are not born with naturally full-length tail **may participate** in tests, competition and dog mental health description.
- Dogs born in countries where tail docking was not allowed when it took place **may not participate** in a trial, competition or dog mental health description.

*General clause and the possibility of dispensation*

Dogs that have been taken out of Sweden and that have had their ears cropped, their tails docked or any other procedure carried out that is not permitted in Sweden, may not take part after being brought back into Sweden. This also applies to puppies from bitches that have been taken out of Sweden, if the puppies were born within one year of the day on which the bitch was taken out of Sweden.

The SKK General Committee may grant dispensation from this regulation if it is clear that the dog was not taken out of Sweden in order to circumvent the regulation on disqualification from taking part, or if special reasons exist.

## 7. Doping and other undue circumstances



### Regulations for Hunting Trials

The showing of injured or sick dogs is not permitted. Nor is the showing of dogs which have been subjected to measures aimed at improperly altering their appearance, performance or character, or intended to conceal signs of injury or illness.

Doping by a dog is regulated by the State Board of Agriculture regulations and general advice about training and competition with animals, *SVFS 2011:24 item number L17, chapter 7, §§ 1-2 and appendix 2* to these regulations.

**In addition**, for detailed regulations outlining which treatments or actions are not permitted in the SKK-organization, see the *National regulations against dog doping*. Rules for applying for exemption can also be found from SKK organization's doping regulations.

It is the obligation of the person responsible for a dog to ascertain how a specific treatment or other measure may affect the eligibility of the dog to take part in a show, trial or competition.

If the show committee/trial management/ competition management decides to carry out tests with the aim of investigating the issue of doping or other prohibited actions, the person responsible for a dog is obliged to make the dog in question available for testing and for any further examination resulting from the test. The manipulation of samples for doping analysis is forbidden.

Detailed rules for taking samples, etc., can be found in the *National regulations against dog doping*.

#### *Neutered male dogs/bitches*

Male dogs that have been surgically neutered are granted general dispensation to take part in trials, competitions or shows. In order to take part in shows and external assessment, certification is required in accordance with the introduction to the general regulations (issued prior to neutering but after the age of 6 months) to confirm that the dog had two normally developed and positioned testicles prior to the operation.

Male dog that has been neutered by medical treatment is not allowed a dispensing for participating in trials, competition or shows.

Female dog that has been neutered by continuously medical treatment or surgical treatment is allowed to a general dispensation for participation in proportion to the *National regulations against dog doping*.



Svenska Vorstehklubben (SVK)

(The Swedish Club for German Pointers) 7 (13)

Regulations for Hunting Trials

## SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR HUNTING TRIALS ORGANIZED BY THE SWEDISH CLUB FOR GERMAN POINTERS

### PURPOSE

#### 1.

The purpose of the trials is to evaluate the hunting ability of the dogs for the benefit of game keeping and breeding and in addition stimulate the interest in well trained dogs. The evaluation should be done under conditions that are as close to real hunting as possible.

### ORGANISATION OF THE TRIALS

#### 2.

Hunting trials are announced by SVK and arranged by SVK or one of the SVK provincial clubs. Time and place for the trial must be decided by SVK and approved by SKK. The acting judge must have been authorized by SVK.

Individual members of SVK can apply to SVK for arranging a private test (*Swedish: Särskilt prov*) under the trial regulations. Directions for privately arranged tests are issued by SVK.

#### 3.

The host of the trial, SVK or one of the SVK provincial clubs, is responsible for that the trial is carried out in accordance with the regulations. The host appoints judges, one or several stewards and when necessary a head steward. The stewards must be a member of SVK, be familiar with the trial regulations and how these are applied in practice and be authorized by SVK. The host can, when necessary, limit the number of entries.

Judges also have a responsibility for that the trial is carried out in accordance with the regulations. When a judge is invited to act at a field trial on pheasant or partridge or on ducks the judge is *obliged* to ensure, at the time of accepting the invitation to judge and again the day before the trial, whether there will be any reared game in the grounds. If there is reared game in the grounds it is the obligation of the judge to make sure this has been done according to the SKK guidelines and advice for reared game on grounds where dogs are trialled or trained (*SKK:s Riktlinjer och råd för utsättning av fågel inför jaktprov och träning med apportering, stående och stötande fågelhundar samt bestämmelser om särskild apportör vid jaktprov.*)

In cases where the judge during an on-going trial realizes that handling of reared game has not been done in accordance with the guidelines and advice issued by SKK the judge is obliged to ask the steward of the trial whether there alternative grounds where this has been done are available. In such cases, the judge should, together with the steward, change grounds for the trial and finish it. If this is not possible the judge is *obliged to break off the trial.*

### PARTICIPATION

#### 4.

*Entitled to participate*

Dogs that belong to the SVK breeds and is owned and handled by a member of SVK or its equivalent in another country are entitled to participate. In addition the following applies:

- 1) Dogs owned in Sweden must be registered in the SKK before the deadline of entering the trial.



### Regulations for Hunting Trials

- 2) For dogs owned outside of Sweden and that have not entered any SKK activity previously and therefore have no SKK stud book record, a copy of the pedigree must be handed to the head steward before the start of the trial. The copy should preferably be digital but a good quality paper copy is also accepted. The copy should be added to the entry form.
- 3) When dogs have more than one owner all owners must be members of SVK.
- 4) Anorchid and monorchid dogs are always excluded from international trials.
- 5) The dog must in all other respects fulfil the requirements set by SKK for participation in trials.

#### *Factors that prevent participation*

- 1) Dogs that are owned by the acting head steward or that has been owned or trained by the acting head steward during the last six months.
- 2) Dogs that are owned by, or during the last six months have been owned or trained, by the acting judge or person training to become a judge or a judge candidate (*doing the final test for the judge approval on the day of the test*) in the class the dog is in.
- 3) Dogs that belong to, or during the last six months have belonged to or been trained by, a family member to the persons referred to in 1) and 2).
- 4) Dogs that have been prohibited to start by a veterinarian because of an injury or disease or by the head steward or acting judge is considered to be in apparently poor condition.
- 5) Dogs that are gun shy, show aggression towards people or dogs;
- 6) Bitches in season although exceptions from this may be made if it is possible to judge her without other dogs being affected by her.

## **ENTRY, ENTRY FEE AND CATALOGUE**

### **5.**

Entry should be done in the manner decided by SVK. Complete entry form must be presented to the trial management on the decided date. The entry fee, set by the organizing club, must be paid at the latest on the day the entry closes. The entry fee can be refunded if a trial is cancelled or if a dog is hindered from participating due to reasons not controlled by the handler, and documentation of the hindrance is made available to the organizing club. The trial management shall provide a catalogue according to instructions provided by SVK.

## **CLASSES**

### **6.**

In order to enter a hunting trial the dog must be 10 months old. The dogs are trialled in the following classes:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Junior class (UKL) | for dogs who have not reached 24 months of age.   |
| Open class (ÖKL)   | for dogs who have not been awarded more than one 1 <sup>st</sup> in Open class, under these regulations.  |
| Elite class (EKL)  | for dogs who have been awarded two 1 <sup>st</sup> awards, or one 1 <sup>st</sup> with grade 8 for the hunting, under these regulations, and for dogs who have awards from other countries that SVK and SKK have approved for giving access to Elite class. |

Dogs may do the retrieving tests in Elite class before they have been awarded in Open class.



Regulations for Hunting Trials

## RUNNING ORDER

### 7.

The running order for the hunting is decided for each class by a lottery, in front of the head steward. The drawn running order may only be adjusted in order to make it possible for handlers with more than one dog entered to run each of them or when there are other special circumstances.

The judge decides the duration of each run, how often and, apart from the first run, against which partner. If the handler does not appear on time a new chance to run the dog will be offered another run, if it is possible, decided by the judge and head steward.

## JUDGING AND HOW THE TRIALS ARE CARRIED OUT

### 8.

The trials should to the utmost possible extent resemble hunting.

The dogs are tested on hunting, water retrieving, a trail retrieve and retrieving in connection to the hunting. The water and trail retrieves are referred to as retrieving tests and are carried out on cold game.

It is possible, in all classes, to either test the dogs on all four parts at one trial or as split trials with the retrieving test at one occasion and then the hunting and the retrieve in connection to the hunting at another occasion. Results on the water and trail retrieves may not be used at a trial that includes all four tests but results on the retrieving tests from one of these trials may be used towards the hunting and retrieve on the day of the hunting of a split trial. At split trials the water and trail retrieves must be carried out at the same test. Results from the retrieving test in Junior class can be used towards the hunting and retrieve on the day of the hunting regardless of when it was obtained.

Field trials that are carried out from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June may only be combined with results from retrieving tests that have been carried out until the 30<sup>th</sup> of August the same year. Field trials that are carried out from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December may only be combined with results from retrieving tests obtained *before* the hunting trial.

The best score from the retrieving tests during the same calendar year may be used when calculating the total score.

The overall impression of the dog's work should determine how it is scored and occasional faults should not weigh in too much. A score is given for each individual test with the scores "not approved" (e.g.) or with the scores 4-10. Dogs who, during their hunting, has not had a chance to get in contact with birds are scored "not in contact with birds" (e.f.f.).

Only dogs that obtain a score 4 or higher in each separate test pass and can be awarded. Each score is multiplied with a factor for that test to generate the points for each test, those values are summarized to arrive at the total points for the trial.

The complete hunting trial, regardless of class, includes the following events and coefficients:

	Coefficient	Maximum points
1. Hunting	10	100
2. Water retrieve	5	50
3. Trail retrieve	3	30
4. <u>Retrieve during hunting</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>



Svenska Vorstehklubben (SVK)

(The Swedish Club for German Pointers)

10 (13)

## Regulations for Hunting Trials

Sum 200

For a 1<sup>st</sup> 160 points are required, with a minimum score 7 on the hunting. For a 2<sup>nd</sup> 120 points are required, with a minimum score 5 on the hunting. For a 3<sup>rd</sup> 90 points are required.

### HUNTING AND RETRIEVING

#### 9.

The dog's hunting ability as a pointing dog should be tested on grouse, woodcock, field- or forest game birds. Other game birds or other game can be approved by the SVK.

Dogs run in pairs at the trials. If the conditions do not allow pairs, for example covered grounds or when there is a dense fog, the dogs have single runs.

No other technical equipment than a bell, collar or vest or both may be used. The design of these shall be approved by the judge. When trials are held in areas with predator game like wolf or bear GPS tracking device may be used. SVK decides how these devices may be used.

In order to be eligible for a score 4 for the hunting the dog must run for at least 20 minutes, for a score 5 and 6 at least 30 minutes and for a score 7 or higher approximately 45 minutes in Junior and approximately 60 minutes in Open and Elite. It is the judge's decision to say when the dog is done for the day and the judge can therefore apply a shorter running time.

The judge may discontinue the trial for any dog at any time after making the decision that the dog will not pass the trial.

In Junior the judge should primarily value dogs that have matured early, are eager to work and show good hunting drive and hunting aptitude. Possible absence of obedience should not affect the overall score noticeably. In Junior it is not required to shoot a bird over the dog but a gunshot is required after a point and flush, in a situation where it would have been possible to shoot the bird. It is the judge's opinion that determines whether it would have been possible to shoot the bird. The score should not be influenced by whether or not a bird is shot.

In Open and Elite a gunshot is required after a point and flush or when a bird gets up in order for the dog to pass. In addition it is desired that a bird is shot over the dog after a point and flush.

If the dog shows excellent game handling and excellent work all over a score 8 or higher can be given.

Careful attention should be given to the dog's ability to find and handle game during the conditions of the day, as well as its general hunting skills.

The dog should, when hunting and in other parts of the work, be handled without unnecessary commands by voice or whistle and should be willing to follow directions by the handler. Speed, width and quartering should be adjusted so scent and ground conditions on the day. The grounds should be well covered. No game that the dog is trialed on should be unnoticed in the grounds that the dog has searched. The hunting score should be lowered for dogs that show persistent interest in ground scent.

When scoring the dog, particular value should be put on that the dog has found a bird on its own and come on point spontaneously, and that the dog on the handler's command after the judge's order, with good energy and drive has produced the bird. In connection to this a gun must have been fired and, if possible, a bird been shot. If the bird is running the dog should follow it willingly and with determination. Unwillingness to produce the bird should lower the score for hunting.

When the dog is flushing the bird the handler must not touch the dog, and the dog should flush the bird on its own after the handler's command. When a dog is on point, or is running in or chasing game, the pair mate should be left off leash and may not be picked up until the judge says so.



### Regulations for Hunting Trials

If the dog comes on point out of sight of the judge and handler it is a benefit if the dog leaves the point or can be called off the point, then make contact with the handler and show the handler to the scent and come on point again.

When trialed in woods the dog should be rewarded for pointing where a bird is running and waiting for the handler before starting to work on that scent.

The dog should back a partner on point or respect the partner on point when commanded by the handler. The dog may not steal the point from the partner by moving in front of the partner when the partner is on point and then either come on point or put the game up.

When the game flushes, at the gunshot and when a bird falls the dog should be calm and may not run in.

The dog shall, at the handler's command, quickly and with confidence retrieve shot game and bring it to the handler. The dog should also be rewarded for spontaneous retrieves of fallen game when hunting. The dog's ability to adjust the grip to the weight and other characteristics of the game should be observed. The dog must not have a hard mouth.

A shot bird should be retrieved when possible. In cases where no bird is shot a retrieve on a cold bird should be arranged close to the flush and shot if possible. The dog should sit off leash 2 meters to the side of the handler. The bird should be thrown so that it falls out of sight for the dog and handler in Open and Elite. Disobedience before the fetch command should penalize the hunting score.

A dog that is chasing game that has not been wounded, or reindeer or other domestic animals, should be eliminated from the trial.

## **WATER RETRIEVE**

### **10.**

The dog's water passion and its ability to work and retrieve in water should be tested. Before the test starts the judge should inform the handler of the boundaries for the test area. It is not encouraged to set a certain time limit for the test but the judge may call off the test. Dogs that are waiting for their turn should not be able to see the ongoing tests. Suitable game birds should be used at the water test. The dog shall, on the handler's command, quickly and with determination, enter the water. The dog shall adjust the grip to the weight and other characteristics of the bird/retrieve. The dog shall not have a hard mouth.

Alternative retrieving objects can be approved by SVK.

Additional help, like extra gunshots or throwing stones into the water, should not be given.

In junior the water retrieve is on open water and the cold bird is thrown from land. There is no gunshot. The water should be deep enough to ensure that the dog will swim at least half the distance.

In Open the water test includes searching for and retrieving a cold bird in covered water (reeds if possible) where the cold bird is thrown into the water immediately after a gunshot. The bird should be thrown high enough to allow the dog to see it while it is in the air. The bird should be thrown 40-60 metres from the starting point and the length should be adjusted according to the conditions at the test site and the water temperature. The water should be deep enough to ensure that the dog has to swim at least half the distance.

The dog should sit at the side of the handler, off leash, and stay calm at the gun and throw. A dog that runs in at the gun or throw cannot be awarded a score 10.

In Elite the test includes searching for and retrieving a blind retrieve in covered water (reeds if possible). The bird should be put out so that the dog does not see it. There is no gunshot. The handler should be shown the position of the bird. The dog's search for the bird should be directed by the handler from the shore using commands (oral and whistle) and signs. The bird should be put out 40-60 metres from the starting point and the length should be adjusted according to the conditions at the test site and the water temperature.



## Regulations for Hunting Trials

The water should be deep enough to ensure that the dog is swimming at least half the distance.

### **TRAIL RETRIEVE**

#### **11.**

The dog's ability to track and retrieve cold small game, by following the ground scent trail, should be tested.

In Junior and Open the test should be done on a rabbit or bird. In Elite it should be on any game that is hunted and has a weight of 3-7 kg. The game should be cold. The trail should bend (only weak bends in Junior) and if possible be put out on a tail wind. The weight of the game should be adjusted to the physical ability of the breed of the dog.

In Junior the trail should be approximately 100 metres and in Open and Elite approximately 200 meters.

The starting point should be marked and the direction of the trail should be indicated to the judge. The trailed game is left at the end of the trail. The handler may show the dog the start and direction of the trail and give the dog a command to start working. After that the dog should work the trail methodically. In Junior the dog should lead the handler along the trail off leash or on a rope (minimum 5 meters). The handler can choose to start the dog with the rope and then let it off anywhere along the trail. In Open and Elite the handler can use a rope (minimum 5 metres) and follow the dog up to five metres from the starting point, thereafter the dog should be released from the rope and the handler should return to the start of the trail. The dog shall, without further encouragement, retrieve the trailed game and return to the handler without delay.

The dog's ability to adjust the grip to the weight and type of game should be observed. The dog should present the retrieve to the handler's hand. The dog must not have a hard mouth. The handler should, in Open and Elite, remain at the start of the trail when the dog is working.

If the dog does not succeed the handler is entitled to recall the dog twice and send it off again from the start of the trail. If the dog succeeds after the second time it is sent off it can get a maximum score of 8 and if the dog succeeds after the third time it is sent off the maximum score is 6.

A dog that hides the retrieve by burying it should be eliminated.

### **CANCELLING A TRIAL**

#### **12.**

The judge shall cancel the trail for a dog if the handler does not agree to run the dog in the appointed grounds or in any other way follow the instructions given by the judge.

If a dog shows signs of being gun shy or aggressive to people or dogs or both, or if it in the judge's opinion is in poor general condition, the judge should cancel the test for the dog.

The judge or head steward should cancel the test for a dog that is subjected physical punishment by its handler. The head steward must report such incidences to the board of SVK. A trial can also be cancelled for a dog on the request of the handler

### **THE JUDGE'S OBLIGATIONS**

#### **13.**

The judge should follow the regulations and instructions given by the head steward. The judge is the leader of the trial party and should only consider his or her own direct observations when evaluating the dogs.



### Regulations for Hunting Trials

Requests put forward by handlers should be considered as far as possible as long as they are not in contradiction with the trial regulation or are unreasonable in any other way. The judge may appoint more than one gun in order to get birds shot for enabling the evaluation of the retrieving ability in the dogs. Handlers at the trial may act as guns only after a decision by the judge.

## SCORING and SCORE SHEETS

### 14.

The judge shall determine scores, fill in the written critique in the documents required by SVK and submit the paperwork to SVK within the requested deadline. The judge is expected to provide oral and written feedback to the handlers at the end of the trial, regarding the work of the dogs, also for dogs that were not awarded. The results from the trial should be reported to SVK and SKK according to set routines.

## PROTEST

### 15.

Decisions made by the judge, including how a dog is graded, may be changed if a technical fault is at hand or if the dog was not allowed to participate according to the current regulations. However, the judge's score, based on the evaluation of the dogs work, cannot be questioned.

A questioned decision made by a judge is tried only after:

- 1) a protest has been lodged by a handler affected by the questioned decision
- 2) after report from the test organizer or from the judge himself/herself or
- 3) after a decision by the board of SVK or SKK to handle the matter for any other reason.

A protest must be lodged in writing. The protest must be given to the test organizer on the same day as the judgement was made official, before the close of the trial/test, and must be accompanied by a fee corresponding to twice the sum of the entry fee. If a protest is lodged by someone not entitled to do so, or if the protest is not accompanied by the fixed fee, the protest must immediately be rejected. Such a decision is made by the head steward.

If the protest is accepted the dog's score/point/award can be adjusted immediately or after the handler has been offered a retest/retrial of the dog and the protest fee is repaid. If the acceptance of a protest leads to the elimination of the score/point/award given to the dog, the entry fee is repaid, in addition to the protest fee. The decision in writing is given to the handler who lodged the protest.

A handler who is affected by the decision of the head steward can appeal to the board of SKF. Appeals should be made in writing and have reached the SVF board no more than two weeks after the day of the decision by the local club. If a complaint is ignored by the SVK board the handler is entitled to appeal to SKK within 30 days from the decision by the SVK board. A grade/award can be changed within two years from the trial/test.

\*\*\*\*\*