

# CCRCA Upland Rules and Guidelines UWC and UWCX

## **Curly-Coated Retriever Upland Hunting Program June, 2019**

The Curly-Coated Retriever (CCR) hunting program is designed to test CCRs as upland hunters. It will test instincts, hunting abilities, the ability to find, flush and retrieve upland birds. In the process, the dog will exhibit to the judges its tolerance of gun fire, willingness to challenge cover, perseverance and ability to discriminate old scent from fresh. All of these attributes the judges will evaluate to pass or fail the CCR as an effective upland hunting companion.

Two Levels of certification will be offered. The Upland Working Certificate is designed to evaluate a dog for gunshyness, the basic instincts of quartering and flushing as well as the ability to find downed game without seeing it fall. The Upland Working Certificate Excellent is designed to evaluate a dog for all of the instincts of the UWC as well the ability to track a wounded bird. At this level, through team work, the dog will display a more polished, efficient hunting strategy to prove its trainability to the judges.

### **The Upland Working Certificate (UWC)**

The three components of the UWC : The dog's response to gunfire and birds (the walk up test). The dog's ability to quarter, find and flush birds. The dog's ability to find downed game which it didn't see fall (the blind retrieve).

IN THE WALK-UP TEST, the judges shall determine the starting point or "line" for the exam. The dog shall be brought to the line on lead. At the line, prior to the start of the walk-up, the handler shall remove the lead. As motion begins, a bird thrower will announce "there goes one" as a shot is fired and a bird will be thrown no closer than 10 yards out in front of the dog. The handler will instruct the dog to retrieve the bird. The dog need not be steady to shot but must not portray gunshyness. The bird does not need to be delivered to hand but must be retrieved to a reasonable proximity to the handler, i.e. six feet. This is not a steadiness exercise but rather an evaluation for gunshyness and interest in birds.

IN THE FLUSHING TEST, the judges shall predetermine the appropriate area to conduct the planting of two birds with adequate distance between the two birds. The precise bird placement shall be blinded to the dog and handler. There shall be two gunners and two judges. In the event two gunners are not available, one of the judges may serve as a gunner. The line will be established by the judges. The dog shall be moved from the area of the walk up test zone to the line of the flushing test on lead. The first bird shall be planted 20-30 yards out from the line or far enough for the dog to establish a quarter and hunt. We don't want the dog to flush before exhibiting his ability to quarter. The gunners will walk approximately 30 yards apart preferably with the dog exhibiting an arc between them. The handler may use voice, whistle or hand signals to help redirect the dog to the preferred area if necessary.

Once the bird is flushed and shot, the dog should proceed on its own to retrieve the bird to the handler. The bird does not need to be delivered to hand but to a reasonable proximity to the handler, i.e. six feet. Once the first bird is retrieved and delivered, the handler will instruct the dog to continue hunting to the next bird. After the second bird is retrieved and on instruction from the judges, the handler shall place the dog back on lead to be quietly lead from the test area to a blind or area shielding the view of the next and final test zone.

The flushing, shooting and retrieving of both birds ideally should take no longer than five to eight minutes. But, as in real life situations, longer may be required based on terrain, wind and scenting conditions. The judges will have the ultimate discretion on length of time required for the flushing of two birds. In the event a bird is found by the dog and trapped before flushing, the judges should count that as a flush as long as the dog returned with the bird to the handler. In the event the bird flushes but is missed and flies away, the judge shall declare a "fly away" at which time, once recalled, the dog should return to the handler within a reasonable length of time as determined by the judges. The dogs at this level are expected to be less experienced, so the judges shall have latitude in determining "a reasonable length of time". At no time will loud, boisterous or an intimidating tone of voice be accepted from the handler. If a dog fails to return to handler and in the judge's mind shows poor regard for the handler's command, the dog shall be failed. All birds shall be delivered in a condition that is "suitable for the table".

THE BLIND RETRIEVE, shall mimic a hunt for downed game that neither the dog or handler saw fall. While the dog and handler are shielded from view, a dead bird is planted in light to moderate cover in an area approximately 25 yards by 25 yards. A shot should be fired in the direction of the bird indicating a bird is down. The handler and dog will proceed to the edge of the marked area at which time the handler will release the dog and instruct the dog to hunt. The handler must not enter the marked area. The handler may encourage the dog and if necessary redirect the dog back to the marked area. Once again, delivery to hand is not required but the bird should be delivered to within six feet of the handler. This exercise should take no longer than five minutes.

### **The Upland Working Certificate Excellent (UWCX)**

The (UWCX) test is the next upland level for CCRs that have passed the (UWC). The components of the (UWCX) include: The dog's response to gunfire and birds (the walkup test). The dog's ability to quarter, find and flush birds. The dog's ability to find game which it didn't see fall (the blind retrieve). The trailing and retrieving of wounded game.

IN THE WALK UP, the judges shall determine the starting point or "line" for the exam. The dog shall be brought to the line on lead. At the line, prior to the start of the walk-up, the handler shall remove the lead. As motion begins, a bird thrower will announce "there goes one" as a shot is fired. The bird shall be thrown no closer than 20-30 yards

out in front of the dog and handler. The handler will instruct the dog to retrieve the bird. The dog need not be steady to shot but must not portray gunshyness. The bird shall be retrieved to hand. This is not a steadiness exercise but rather an evaluation of gunshyness and interest in birds. The delivery to hand portrays trainability and discipline of the dog.

IN THE FLUSHING TEST, the judges shall predetermine an appropriate area for the planting of two birds with adequate distance between the birds. The placement of the planted birds shall be blinded to the dog and handler. The first bird shall be planted at least 40 yards out from the line or at least far enough for the dog to exhibit the quartering skill for which he is being judged. We don't want the dog to flush before he has established "the quarter". The second bird shall also be planted a suitable distance from the first bird to re-establish the quartering skill. The birds shall be hidden in moderate cover if available. In the hunting party there shall be two judges and two gunners. In the event that only one gunner is available, one of the judges may serve as a gunner.

The judges will determine the direction the hunting party shall move. The dog shall be moved from the area of the walk-up test zone to the line of the flushing test on lead, the dog must exhibit good control for the handler. If the dog charges into the "flush zone" before the hunting party is ready to begin their hunt, the judges may deem this as poor control and fail the dog. The judges will signal the beginning of the flushing test. The gunners will approach the "flush zone" approximately 30-40 yards apart. Ideally, the dog will move with the gunners in an arcing pattern between the gunners.

The handler may use voice, whistle or hand signals to re-direct the dog to the preferred area if necessary. Once the bird is flushed and shot, the dog shall proceed on his own to retrieve the bird to hand. Once the first bird is retrieved and delivered to hand, the handler shall instruct the dog to continue the hunt to the next flush. Once the second bird is delivered to hand and on instruction from the judges, the dog will be moved from the flushing test area to a blind or holding area shielding his view of the bird placement for the next exercise, the blind retrieve. The same rules apply regarding on-lead as the dog and handler move to the holding blind.

As in the (UWC) test, the hunting, flushing and retrieving of both birds should take no longer than five to eight minutes. If conditions of the field dictate a longer hunt, once again as in the (UWC), the judges have the ultimate discretion on the appropriate length of time the dog may require to flush both birds. The (UWC) guidelines for trapped birds, flyaways and accidental finds shall apply to the (UWCX) as well with one exception. At this level, a dog that disregards the handler's recall from a flyaway and chases the flyaway out of the hunt area shall be judged very low for control and training and could be failed. As in real hunting scenarios, sometimes a bird may be hit, crippled and still able to wing out of "bounds". In this event, the judges shall have latitude in judging if the dog charges after the bird and recovers it even after being recalled.

THE BLIND RETRIEVE shall mimic a hunt for downed game which neither the dog nor handler saw fall. While the dog and handler are shielded from field of view, a dead bird shall be planted in moderate cover, if available, in an area of approximately 50 yards square, that may be marked by ribbons. A shot shall be fired in the direction of the bird indicating a downed bird. Upon instruction from the judge, the handler and dog will proceed to the marked area at which time the handler will release the dog and instruct him to hunt the dead bird. The handler must not enter the marked area of the hunt. The handler may encourage the dog and if necessary redirect the dog back to the marked area using whistle, voice or hand signals. The bird shall be delivered to hand. This exercise should take no longer than five minutes.

THE TRAILING TEST shall simulate trailing, finding and retrieving to hand a shot, crippled bird. The trail shall be 40-60 yards long with one distinct (90 degrees) change of direction. The dog shall not be allowed to observe the trail being laid. All efforts should be made by the judges to establish a trail that it is as similar as possible as they proceed from dog to dog.

To mimic the trail of a "cripple", the bird shall be dead not alive. It shall be preferable to use a bird that has been shot dead but not handled by another dog as the presence of blood on the bird is a strong component of the scent. This is particularly true when using birds such as Chukkers which don't seem to carry as much scent as pheasants, ducks or quail. Realizing that test birds are expensive, it may not be feasible to use a newly shot, non-slobbered on bird for each trail-but that is the ideal. The bird handler that lays the trail should wear rubber boots of a scent free nature if possible. The dead bird shall be dragged on a line which is tied to a stick or pole of 6-8 foot length and held at arm's length from the person laying the trail. At the end of the drag the bird shall be left at a marked location.

It is important at this point that the person laying the trail exits the area of the bird in the exact same direction and manner as they return back to the line area. If there is a change in trail laying personnel, the judge shall take a moment to ensure that this is understood. Cover doesn't have to be tall but of some density if available. It is desirable to be able to maintain visibility of the dog while he is in the test. When field conditions permit, the judges shall take into consideration the terrain and wind conditions affecting the trail. The goal is to establish a trail that doesn't blow in the dog's face. It is also preferable to avoid crossing streams or wet areas when laying the trail.

We want to see the dog exhibit the ability to "lock on" to scent, not have it "delivered" to his nose by the wind. On the perfect test ground, a new trail would be laid for each dog tested. However, that ideal does not have to be adhered to. Upland tests require a large tract of land for all the components of the test. If it isn't feasible to lay a unique trail for each dog, the effort shall be made to maintain the mechanics of the test similar for each dog. We want each dog to experience the same sequence of test components and as much as possible the same length of time between test components. This is particularly

true with respect to the tracking component. If for some reason a trail is laid and the dog isn't able to begin the track in a timely manner, the trail shall be re-laid.

At the starting point of the trailing test, an area of approximately two feet by two feet shall be thoroughly scented by scrubbing the ground with a dead bird. There shall also be a handful of pulled feathers scattered in the scented area. This area shall be re-scented between every 3-5 dogs.

To begin the test, a gunner shall fire a shot in the field in or along the trail and prior to the angle change to indicate a fresh kill. The gunner shall maintain visibility to the dog and handler. The handler and dog will proceed to the starting point established by the judges. The handler will instruct the dog to hunt. The handler may not enter the trail area. The handler may encourage the dog verbally but the use of whistles, hand signals or verbal handling such as "back" or "over" are not allowed. Although the handler is allowed minor position changes once the dog is in the field, the handler may not use body position to influence the dog. The handler is allowed to recall the dog back to the line one time for a restart or recast. Once the bird is found, the dog shall deliver it to the hand of the handler not the gunner.

This is a trailing test not a quartering test. Most dogs will work a trail in a back and forth manner across the trail sometimes circling tightly to pick the scent back up if lost. A dog that quarters widely as in flushing may not pass. The dog must maintain forward progress to the bird. Some dogs may scent and track with nose down, others with nose up. Either is acceptable as long as forward progress is maintained. Once the bird is delivered to the handler, the bird shall be removed from the line. No birds shall be stored or hung in the vicinity of the starting line.

## **General Guidelines To The Judges**

At the line- in the (UWC) some confusion on the part of the dog, handler or both may be acceptable due to inexperience of the team.

In the (UWCX), there shall be no confusion. These dogs and handlers should have experience in training and testing.

Cover- Ideally cover should be light but dense enough to hide and hold the planted bird. Birds should not be visible.

Delivery- At this level (UWC) delivery to hand is not required but the bird should be retrieved to within 6 feet of the handler.

At the (UWCX) level, all birds shall be delivered to hand. At this level the dogs should demonstrate their training.

All birds should be "suitable for the table" upon judge's inspection.

Recasts- The (UWC), in the event that a dog or handler may become confused at the line, recasting is permissible. At this level it is quite likely that the handler may have

limited field experience also. If it becomes necessary to continually recast in order to persuade the dog to hunt, the judges shall consider this heavily in their decision of the overall performance by the dog. Repeated need to recast and failure to hunt may indicate a lack of instinct and can be considered grounds for failure.

In the (UWCX), any recast shall be at the judges discretion, not the handler's. It shall be permissible for the handler to ask a judge's permission for a recast. The judges may or may not permit recast. Both judges must be in agreement. Keep in mind that if a handler has a dog in the field and is requesting a recast, the dog is moving and the decision must be swift and complete.

**Response to gunfire-** In the (UWC) the dog need not be steady to shot but must display a reasonable response to the handler's commands. A complete disregard for the handler's commands at the line can be grounds for failure. A dog that displays an obvious fear at the sound of gunfire shall not pass. It would be unfair to the dog to force them into a fearful situation.

In the (UWCX), any shyness to gunfire shall be grounds for failure.

**Restraints-** In the (UWC) dogs shall be restrained at the line and between testing venues with a snap lead, a slip lead, a check cord or by holding on to the collar. All leads shall be removed before sending the dog.

In the (UWCX), the dog shall be brought to the line on-lead. The dog must display manners and response to the handler's instruction. Failure to do so will be a display of poor training and can deduct heavily from the dog's scoring.

It is permissible for the handler to touch the dog or steady him by holding the collar while taking the retrieved bird as long as there is no intimidation. Acceptable collars will be flat with buckle or snap. Identification tags are acceptable. They may be riveted or on a typical ring of attachment. No metal, choke, slip, pinch or training collars.

**Accidental finds-** As in true life hunting, sometimes in upland tests a dog may find, flush or retrieve a lost bird or cripple from a previous dog's test. Although it is preferable that the dog flush, the judges shall consider an accidental find as a flush as long as the dog returns the bird to hand and shows good instincts in all other ways throughout its test.

**Air Scenting-** Different dogs hunt in different ways. Some hunt with nose up, some with nose down or from time to time, a combination of the two styles. It shouldn't matter how a dog manages to lock and hold scent. The strongest scent may not be on or near the ground. So it follows that "air scenting" shall be allowable as the dog performs its tasks in the field. What is important is that the dog maintains forward progress to the bird in a manner acceptable for the task being evaluated.

## **Administration**

1. Working Certificate Application and Emergency Plan forms shall be obtained by the Event Secretary of a CCRCA sponsored working certificate test from the Field Committee Chairman of the CCRCA. The CCRCA Upland Event Secretary is responsible for sending the completed Working Certificate Application and Emergency Plan Forms to the Field Committee Chairman.
2. It shall be the Event secretary's responsibility to make and deliver a record of the dogs entered and results of the event for a CCRCA sponsored event to the Field Committee Chairman.
3. In cases where the dog meets requirements for an Upland working certificate at a non-CCRCA sponsored event, the owner or handler is responsible for obtaining the Verification Form from the Field Committee Chairman. The owner or handler is responsible for sending the completed Verification Form signed and marked by the judges to the Field Committee Chairman.
4. It is the responsibility of the owner or handler to make a Photostatic copy of the form completed by the judges, if he or she desires one.
5. A fee shall be charged for entry into an Upland working certificate stake sufficient to cover the cost of the birds and other expenses.
6. If a dog owned by a non-CCRCA member has qualified for a certificate, a fee of Five Dollars shall be charged for processing of the forms and issuance of the certificate. For dogs owned by CCRCA members there shall be no fees.
7. Upon receipt of the completed forms verifying that the dog has passed, and any required fees, the Field Committee Chairman of the CCRCA shall issue the appropriate CCRCA Upland Working Certificate.
8. The receipt of a certificate entitles the owner to indicate his or her dog's achievement by including the letters UWC after the dog's name in documents other than those considered "official" by the AKC or other registries.
9. Any dog which has passed the CCRCA UWC test requirements prior to September, 2019 shall be considered to have fulfilled the requirements of the new UWCX.

## **10. JUDGES**

Two judges are required for the Upland Working Certificate (UWC) test, at least one of which meets the following criteria.

- An individual deemed qualified by the CCRCA field committee\*; or
- An individual who has served as an apprentice judge at another CCRCA Upland Test, or
- A Licensed HRC Upland Judge; or
- A Licensed AKC Spaniel Test Judge or
- A NAHRA judge, qualified at the Senior level.

**Administration (continued)**

11. All dogs that enter the UWCX must have passed the UWC test prior to participating in the UWCX. A dog that has acquired a UWC certificate by participating in another recognized upland event may also be allowed to participate in the UWCX as long as the required paper work is complete.





This is to certify that the Curly-Coted Retriever  
(Please Print)

Registered Name: \_\_\_\_\_

AKC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Owned by: \_\_\_\_\_

Has on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ completed the test requirements for

Working Certificate (WC) \_\_\_\_\_ Working Certificate Excellent (WCX) \_\_\_\_\_

Working Certificate Qualified (WCQ) \_\_\_\_\_ Upland Working Certificate (UWC) \_\_\_\_\_

Upland Working Certificate Excellent (UWCX) \_\_\_\_\_

At the test/trial of \_\_\_\_\_

Held at \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America to  
the satisfaction on the undersigned:

Judge's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Test/Trial Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

# CURLY-COATED RETRIEVER CLUB of AMERICA, INC.

## FIELD COMMITTEE

Kathy Kail  
202 West Stevens Ave  
Santa Ana, CA 92707  
[curlcoat@earthlink.net](mailto:curlcoat@earthlink.net)

### APPLICATION FOR SANCTIONED WORKING CERTIFICATE TESTS

NAME OF CLUB, EVENT SECRETARY AND COMPLETE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER:

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EXACT LOCATION OF TESTS:

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NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF LANDOWNER:

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DATE AND TIME OF TESTS:

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WILL TEST DAY ENTRIES BE ACCEPTED?

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WILL THE TEST BE OPEN TO OTHER BREEDS?

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TYPE OF GAME BIRDS USED:

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HAVE NECESSARY FEDERAL/STATE PERMITS BEEN OBTAINED?

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PLEASE PRINT JUDGES NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS. LIST JUDGES  
QUALIFICATIONS AND TESTS TO BE JUDGED:

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CURLY-COATED RETRIEVER CLUB of AMERICA, INC.

WORKING CERTIFICATE TESTS EMERGENCY PLAN

NAME OF EMERGENCY COORDINATOR ON TEST DAY:

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EMERGENCY COORDINATOR MUST HAVE A WORKING CELLPHONE NAME,  
ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF NEAREST EMERGENCY HOSPITAL:

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NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF NEAREST VETERINARY HOSPITAL:

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NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF NEAREST POLICE OR AMBULANCE  
SERVICE:

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