



## **RULES FOR CCRCA UPLAND WORKING TEST**

Final Draft 1-18-07

### **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 NAHRA judge, qualified at the Senior level.

\* This qualification to be dropped as sufficient Club members are trained as apprentices during CCRCA events. It is recommended that gunners at every event receive sufficient instruction from the judge to qualify as apprentices, allowing them to judge future events.

It is recommended that one of the judges also gun to limit the size of the hunting party.

### **HANDLERS**

Voice or whistle commands may be used to encourage the hunting retriever. No handler shall possess any training aid or equipment that could intimidate the dog in any manner. The handler shall not carry a gun.

All handlers, judges and gunners shall wear some blaze orange clothing. The test committee shall provide vests or hats for participant's use.

### **SPECTATORS/GALLERY**

Reasonable silence, good manners, and sportsmanlike conduct are required of all spectators. Any spectator interfering with any test will be directed to leave the hunt grounds. No dogs shall be allowed to watch from the spectators' section.

### **TEST RULES**

The Upland Working Test will be conducted according to the rules already established for the CCRCA's Working Certificate, plus the changes or additions to these rules, which follow:

The Upland Game Test shall consist of a simulated walk-up hunt with a retrieve, a quartering test with two flushes, a blind locate of a dead bird and a tracking test. Since the purpose of this test is to primarily judge natural ability rather than handling and training, the dog need not be steady to wing and shot, but must remain under reasonable voice control of the handler. During this test, the dog will be required to locate and retrieve game as the Judges shall direct. In all tests, the dog shall retrieve the bird to within 5 feet of the handler. The handler shall not move towards the dog to shorten the retrieve, but they may move to an open area to receive the bird.

- 1. Walk-up:** This should be the first test in the series as it will be used to check for gun shyness. – The dog shall be under reasonable voice control of the handler. At the judges signal, a gunner no closer than 25 yards nor more than 40 yards from the dog shall hail the dog (e.g. "there goes one") to gain the dogs attention, simultaneously launch a fresh killed bird and then fire a popper at the bird. The bird shall land in an area of relatively light cover. The dog is free to retrieve the bird as soon as it is in the air. This is not a steadiness test. The judge shall watch the dog for any sign of gun shyness, and if noted, for the sake of the dog, it should be prevented from further participation in the test.

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**2. Quartering:** The dog hunts in a radius ideally 10 to 30 yards to the front of the Handler and Hunting party. The Hunting Party shall consist of the judge, the handler and two gunners. The judge may also gun if there are insufficient gunners available. The gunners should be capable shots, but as in real hunting, it is not possible to guarantee that all birds will be hit.

In all cases, a natural flush is preferred to the use of traps, pens, cages or other devices designed to contain and then release birds during the quartering test. However, when conditions exist that prohibit the use of natural flushes (e.g., weather, poor birds, insufficient cover, etc.), such devices may be utilized but must be sufficiently camouflaged.

The live bird shall be flushed (thrown or released) in full view of the dog. The distance from the bird to the dog should be within scenting distance when the bird is released. The dog is not required to be steady to wing and steady to shot but should return to the handler upon being called and/or whistle commanded. If the gunners do not kill the bird and the dog does not return with reasonable promptness to the hunting area when called, the test may be failed.

The dog should be eager to hunt all available cover diligently and be under control. The intent of the quartering test is not to demonstrate running a pattern, but to demonstrate a natural tendency to hunt and be under control.

Each Dog must be presented with a minimum of two (2) birds to "flush" in the quartering test.

**3. Blind:** The dog shall be required to locate a bird that is shot, but the fall of which is not seen. Out of the sight of the dog and handler, a fresh killed bird is thrown into a marked area of heavy cover of approximately 625 square feet (25' x 25'). A gunshot is fired. The handler and the dog walk into the marked area of the fall and the dog is instructed to find the bird. The handler may encourage their dog to search with voice commands, but must remain in one place. If the dog leaves the area it may be called back and encouraged to continue its hunt. The dog is expected to find the bird and return it to the handler.

**4. Trailing:** The dog shall be required to trail, locate a bird and deliver it to hand. It shall be judged on its natural ability and the use of its nose to locate and follow the trail.

It shall not matter in what manner the dog follows the trail, e.g. The dog may stay precisely on the trail with nose down or close quarter back and forth across the trail with head up or run a few yards downwind of the trail with his head held high. It is the intent of this test to have a dog indicate scent, follow the trail and locate the bird in a natural hunting manner. A dog that quarters widely and does not demonstrate that it is following the trail shall not pass.

A dog may be urged to hunt by moderate voice or whistle commands, but handlers may not enter the area of the trail. Hand signals are inappropriate and shall not be used other than to put the dog onto the beginning of the trail.

Dogs shall be required to trail a minimum distance of 50 yards and shall not exceed 70 yards. Judges are urged to create a trail that simulates a realistic scenario and not to simply go through the motions with a straight-line drag. The trail should contain at least one distinguishable change in direction. It is permissible to drag a trail to a dead bird or to release a clipped wing bird.

## **SCORING**

There is no formal scoring for a UWC. The Judge shall use their experience with dogs to determine if this dog is or has the natural ability to become a strong upland hunter. The dog must successfully complete all four sections of the test. However, just picking up all of the birds is not enough to be considered passing. A fault, even if minor, which is repeated multiple times, may remove the dog from consideration.