



## ***Newfoundland Club of America***

### ***Draft Test Regulations***

# **Newfoundland Club of America Draft Tests**

## **Introduction**

The Newfoundland Club of America Draft Tests are series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of purebred Newfoundland dogs. While working in a capacity involving hauling, the dog and handler must demonstrate teamwork skills. The Newfoundland has historically functioned as a draft dog in various capacities, and the performance of these exercises is intended to demonstrate skills resulting both from natural ability and training that are applicable to realistic work situations.

Dogs must be willing to work with their handlers and the exercises must be accomplished efficiently. The goal of each handler is to maintain control while encouraging his dogs' natural independence; together, they demonstrate teamwork. Since a dog can perform draft work only in cooperation with a person, each handler must demonstrate an understanding of draft work with the dog's ability, training, and equipment.

The Newfoundland Club of America Draft Test Regulations is a set of standards by which handlers and Newfoundlands are judged at a Newfoundland Club of America sponsored draft test. The Regulations are neither a guide on how to train for draft work nor a definition of draft work.

## **Chapter One**

### **General Regulations**

#### **Section I – Application for Draft Tests**

A Draft Test Committee from a recognized Regional Club of the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) may apply to the Working Dog Committee (WDC) of the NCA for permission to sponsor a Draft Test. Application must be made using an approved WDC application form.

Application forms are available from the Draft Test Applications Secretary and the NCA website. The completed application and a required fee (payable to NCA) must be sent to the WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary. The application must contain the following information:

1. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Draft Test Chairperson, the Draft Test Secretary, and a third person from the test giving club. All must be NCA members, and one of the three must be an officer in the Regional Club sponsoring the Draft Test.
2. The Judges' Profile Forms, completed and signed by the two selected judges. Each Judge's Profile Form must be filled out in full, including the judge's name, address, qualifications for judging Newfoundland draft work, and individual experience with different types of draft equipment.
3. The written guarantee that steward assistance and all equipment (other than the equipment furnished by each entrant), and other necessary provisions will be available at the test site.
4. The certification that all NCA Draft Test regulations will be followed.
5. The date of the Proposed Draft Test, the test site address, and a description of the site including a detailed site map with descriptions of the ground conditions and terrain. The WDC recommends that Draft Test dates be coordinated with neighboring Regional Clubs to avoid conflicting dates.
6. The signatures of the Draft Test Chairperson, the Draft Test Secretary, and the third member of the Regional Club sponsoring the Draft Test signing on behalf of the Regional Club.

A completed application, along with a self-addressed, stamped postcard must be mailed to the Draft Test Applications Secretary a minimum of four (4) months prior to the date of the proposed test. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary will return the post card upon receipt of the application. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary usually communicates the WDC's approval or rejection of the Draft Test Application to the Draft Test Chairperson within forty-five (45) days following the receipt of the completed application. When the Working Dog Committee is considering a regional club's application for an NCA Draft Test, the committee considers any past violations of the Regulations at its previous tests.

## **Section 2 – Duties of the Draft Test Committee**

The Draft Test Committee will act as the official representative of NCA and must enforce the Regulations. Any violations of these Regulations shall be reported in writing and attached to the Draft Test Committee's report to the WDC.

The Draft Test Committee will print a Premium List and make it available to Newfoundland owners potentially interested in entering their dogs in the proposed Draft Test. The Premium List must include the following information:

1. The date and location of the draft test; a detailed description of the test site describing ground surfaces, slope and other features to help entrants determine proper equipment; and requirements or regulations specific to the test site.
2. The judges' names.
3. The entry limit, that there will be an alternate list if the entries exceed the limit and the method to be used for determining alternates.
4. The beginning date for accepting entries, which should be no less than ten (10) days after the mailing date of the premium list.
5. The closing date for accepting entries.
6. The approval date of the Draft Test Regulations being used at the NCA Draft Test.
7. A statement regarding entrant's responsibility for obtaining the NCA Draft Test Regulations.
8. The name and address of the WDC Publications Secretary from whom entrants can order the NCA Draft Test Regulations.
9. The name and address of the Draft Test Secretary to whom the entries shall be sent.
10. Entries must be made on an official NCA entry form containing the notice that a copy of the entered dog's AKC, ILP, or foreign registration paper must be attached.

The Premium List must not be mailed before the regional club receives approval from the NCA WDC to conduct the test.

After the closing date for entries, the Draft Test Secretary will notify each exhibitor at least ten (10) days before the test. Notification must include: draft test location (including a map), judging time, judges' names, and any changes in the draft test information that occurred since the premium list was sent. If entries exceed the published entry limit, the Draft Test Secretary notifies alternates of their position on the alternate list. The Draft Test Secretary will keep a copy of the current NCA Draft Test Regulations and Grievance Procedures at the test site for reference.

The Draft Test Chairperson and Draft Test Secretary must each submit reports to the WDC Draft Test Records Secretary within thirty (30) days after the test. The Chairperson's report will include a description of the test, descriptions of any problems or complaints registered with the Draft Test Committee, and other information requested by the WDC. The Secretary's report will include the judges' report sheets, entrant evaluations, judges' evaluations, two (2) copies of the premium list, four (4) copies of the marked catalog, and any other materials requested by the WDC. The WDC Draft Test Records Secretary will send one copy of the marked catalog to the NCA Database Committee.

All required reports submitted to the WDC Draft Test Records Secretary must be postmarked within thirty (30) days from the date of the test in order to receive approval for a subsequent draft test. The WDC Draft Test Records Secretary may grant an extension provided he/she is contacted prior to the deadline and there is a valid reason for the extension.

### **Section 3 – Qualifications of Judges**

The WDC believes that the Draft Test Judges should understand thoroughly draft work and the physical conditioning necessary for draft and other types of pulling.

Before the Draft Test Committee applies for permission to sponsor an NCA Draft Test, it must select a judging panel from the list of judges who have met the qualifications approved by the WDC and NCA Board. Prior to contacting the proposed judges, the Draft Test Committee shall contact the WDC for a copy of the list of approved Draft Test Judges and to discuss the suitability of the proposed judging panel.

### **Section 4 – Dogs Eligible to Compete**

The NCA Draft Tests will be open to purebred Newfoundland dogs at least twelve months of age. The word 'dog' in the NCA Draft Test Regulations refers to either sex. All entered dogs must have an AKC registration number, ILP number, foreign registration number, or AKC or foreign litter number.

### **Section 5 – Dogs that May Not Compete**

No dog belonging wholly or in part to a Draft Test judge or to any member of such person's immediate family can be exhibited under the judge.

### **Section 6 – Handling a Dog**

Each dog or team must be handled by the same person for all exercises.

### **Section 7 – Test Disqualifications and Ineligibility**

Judges must immediately disqualify and remove from competition a handler and dog for any of the following reasons:

1. The dog attacks a person or dog on the test grounds.
2. The handler deliberately interferes with another handler or dog.
3. The handler behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in or outside the testing area. (Unsportsmanlike behavior includes: directing angry, abusive language at a person or dog; mistreating a dog; showing discourtesies to judges, test officials, stewards or others.)
4. The dog is lame or wears corrective bandages or other attachments.

The judges will mark the dog disqualified and state the reason on the judges' report for the WDC. The Draft Test Secretary will submit the disqualification to the WDC along with the test report.

### **Section 8 – Bitches in Season**

Bitches in season may participate in NCA Draft Tests. If the Basic Control exercises are performed far removed from the other exercises, bitches in season may perform these exercises after the last male dog has finished and before the other exercises begin. Otherwise, bitches in season must compete only after all male dogs are judged. When not being tested, bitches in season must be contained in a designated area well away from male dogs and the official test areas.

## **Section 9 – Unentered Dogs**

A Safety Officer will be appointed and is responsible for insuring that all unentered dogs are kept outside and away from the main test area.

## **Section 10 – Entering at Own Risk**

Entrants participate in an NCA Draft Test at their own risk. Entrants agree to abide by the NCA Draft Test Regulations and the Constitution and By-laws of the NCA.

## **Section 11 – Judges' Decisions**

At the draft test, the decisions of the judges are final in all matters affecting the scoring and working ability of the dogs and their entrants. The judges are in sole charge of the Draft Test area until their assignment is complete.

## **Section 12 – Entry Limitation**

Entries for a draft test must not be accepted prior to the date when the regional club's Test Secretary receives notification from the NCA Working Dog Committee of test approval. The Premium List must not be mailed prior to the Test Secretary receiving approval notification from the NCA WDC. Once approval is granted, the Draft Test Committee can determine the date it will accept entries, and the date shall be published in the Premium List. This date must be at least ten (10) days after the mailing date of the Premium List.

Maximum entries to be judged is fifteen (15) per test day. If a Draft Test Committee anticipates an entry in excess of its facilities for a Draft Test, it may limit entries to fewer than fifteen (15).

A prominent announcement of test limits must appear on the title or cover page of the draft test Premium List with a statement that entries in one or both specified divisions of the Draft Test automatically closes when the specified limit or limits are reached, even though the official closing date has not arrived. Priority will be given to entries that have not earned titles in the division entered. Titled dogs may be entered for judging (requalification) if entry limits have not been filled, and the entry form must state that the entry is for requalification. Under no circumstances can the published entry limit be changed.

Entries will be accepted by mail only. The entry slots will be filled according to the postmark date. If the number of entries with the same date exceeds the number of available slots, a drawing will take place to fill the vacancies and determine the alternates. All entries received after the entry limit is filled will be placed on an "alternate list" by order of those without titles, in order of postmark, followed by requalifiers in order of postmark. If absentees or withdrawals occur prior to the start of the test, the test secretary will substitute entries from the alternate list. When notifying exhibitors of their entry numbers, exhibitors on the alternate list will be notified of their position on the waiting list. Entrants who learn they will be unable to attend a draft test must contact the test secretary immediately so exhibitors on the alternate list may be notified. Entry fees will be refunded if the withdrawal of the entry is done prior to the closing date of the Draft Test.

## **Section 13 – Entry in Team Division**

A team consists of two or more dogs working together in unison. Only dogs passing the Individual Division at a previous test will be eligible to compete in the Team Division. See Chapter 1, Section 5, for handler eligibility.

If a dog entered and passed Individual Division in a previous draft test, the entry may be transferred from Individual to Team Division by one of two methods:

1. The dog entered in Individual Division may be added to an already entered team.
2. The dog entered in Individual Division may enter the Team Division with a dog or dogs that have earned Draft Dog Titles (proof must be shown as described below for each dog in the team).

To transfer the entry, the handler must submit to the Draft Test Secretary a copy of the dog's Draft Dog title certificate or a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Draft Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners. A change of entry from Individual to Team Division must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. the night before the test.

#### **Section 14 – Qualifying Scores & Awards**

For a dog or dogs to receive a qualifying performance, both judges must mark the dog with a passing performance for each exercise in the division entered. A dog receiving a qualifying performance in Individual Division is entitled to use the title "Draft Dog" in any Newfoundland Club of America activity. "DD" is the abbreviation for the Draft Dog title. Dogs receiving a qualifying performance in Team Division are entitled to use the title "Team Draft Dog" in any activity. "TDD" is the abbreviation for the Team Draft Dog title.

#### **Section 15 – Change of Judges, Draft Test Officials or Site**

If a Draft Test Committee is informed any time prior to the opening of its draft test, that an advertised judge cannot fulfill his/her engagement to judge, the Draft Test Committee will substitute a judge from the NCA WDC Approved Judges List. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary (or the WDC Chairperson in the event the Secretary cannot be contacted) must be notified immediately in order to approve the substitution. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary may be notified by telephone, mail or electronic means. This same policy applies to an emergency change of site, Draft Test Chairperson or Test Secretary. If the request is made by phone, a follow-up letter must be sent to the Draft Test Applications Secretary by mail or electronic means with a full explanation. The Draft Test Applications Secretary must notify the WDC members of the changes and reasons for the request. If time permits, a written notice should be mailed to all exhibitors.

In the unlikely event that a judge becomes ill or is unable to fulfill the judging assignment on the day of the test, and the WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary or Chairperson cannot be reached according to the procedures described above, the test committee may substitute an Approved Draft Test Judge who is in attendance at the test to fulfill the assignment. If an approved judge is not available, a qualified person with considerable draft test training and exhibiting experience (see Chapter Two, Section 1, paragraph 2) may be appointed by the Draft Test Committee to fulfill the assignment. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary or Chairperson must be notified of the substitution as soon as possible, and a full explanation for the substitution, including the qualifications of the substitute judge, must be included in the test chairperson's report.

Prior to the start of the test or substitute judging assignment, the change must be posted. Exhibitors have the right to withdraw their entry if they choose not to exhibit under the substitute judge, and their entry fee will be refunded.

In the event a site must be changed, the Draft Test Committee should make every effort to secure a suitable site within 25 miles of the original site.

If, because of natural disasters, civil disturbances, or other acts beyond the control of the test-giving club, it is impossible to start or complete the test, no refund of entry fees will be made.

## **Section 16 – Stewards**

Stewards assist the judges and they may act only on the judges' instructions. Stewards must not give information or instructions to owners and entrants except as specifically instructed by a judge and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of a judge. Any harassment of stewards must be reported immediately to the judges.

At least two stewards are required for all exercises. In addition, the test committee must provide a sufficient number of stewards on the Distance Freight Haul: two lead stewards to set a brisk pace, and one steward assigned to each handler and dog for safety and, at the judges' request, to monitor handler's compliance with the rules.

## **Section 17 – Test Area Conditions**

The ring for the Basic Control exercise must be enclosed by ropes, baby gates, etc, be rectangular and should be at least forty by fifty feet (40' x 50'). The testing areas for the other exercises must be clearly marked (e.g. ribbons on trees, lime path on route, and so forth). Only members of the Draft Test Committee, judges, and stewards have unlimited access to the testing areas. Only the current handler and dog being tested are permitted in the testing areas.

At the judges' discretion, unentered spectators may be permitted to follow the last entrant on the freight haul course but are not permitted in other testing areas.

## **Section 18 – Spectators**

As Newfoundlands working under natural conditions may be in places where there are extraneous sounds (such as in a parade or in a grocery store parking lot), spectators are encouraged to applaud and cheer for a performing dog. However, spectators must not interfere with the performance in any way. Judges may use their discretion to determine what constitutes interference.

## **Section 19 – Emergency Provisions**

The Draft Test Committee should take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of everyone involved. It is recommended that the services of a veterinarian be available during a draft test. The veterinarian may be 'on call' if the office is within a fifteen (15) minute drive and a telephone is available at the draft test site. Otherwise, the veterinarian must be on site. First aid equipment must be available to handle injuries.

# Chapter Two

## Regulations for Performance and Judging

### Section 1 – Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of great importance, and since NCA Draft Tests occur on natural terrain, the judges may, if necessary, make minimal adaptations to the exercises to fit the available site. Judges must act in a professional, impartial, and pleasant manner. If, in the opinion of the judges, the test setup is not safe or will not adequately test a dog's and handler's abilities, the judges may disapprove of the Draft Test Committee's test setup and make suggestions for improvements. In no instance, however, should the judges add, delete or change any draft test requirement.

Judges selected by a Draft Test Committee for a draft test should be chosen for their ability to judge Newfoundland dogs working in harness. Judges should possess thorough knowledge of the draft test rules, a sense of fairness, and consideration for the efforts of dogs and handlers. The NCA WDC maintains a copy of the Qualifications for Draft Test Judges and a current list of approved judges.

### Section 2 – Failed Exercises and Rejudging

During the draft test, judges may permit a handler to assist his dog in completing a failed exercise. Only gentle guidance by the dog's collar is permitted as discipline.

If a dog fails a particular exercise, it will not ordinarily be rejudged. However, if in the judges' opinion, a particular and unusual circumstance affected the dog's performance, the judges may rejudge the dog on the complete exercise at their discretion. If the judges rejudge a dog on an exercise, they should explain the reason on the Judges' Record. The reason for the rejudging should be announced to the spectators.

### Section 3 – Dog in Distress

If at any time during a draft test it becomes apparent to either the handler or a judge that the dog is in distress, the exercise will be immediately terminated and the dog will be recorded as failed unless the judges determine that the cause of distress is due to an unusual circumstance. In that case, the judges may permit the dog to be retested. The dog should be given a reasonable period of time to recover before testing resumes. If the dog does not recover sufficiently to continue testing without causing an unreasonable delay, the judges must mark the dog failed. If in the judges' opinion a handler is not showing reasonable consideration for the dog's welfare, it is within the judges' discretion to terminate the exercise and to mark the dog as failed.

### Section 4 – Judges' Records

The judges will record the pass or fail performances for each dog on the Judges' Record sheets following the conclusion of the test. Any significant comments on judges' score sheets should be noted on the Judges' Records. Entrants may view their score sheets. If the judges retain the score sheets for their own records, the test committee, at its option, may provide copies for the entrants.

### Section 5 – Entrant's Evaluation

The Draft Test Committee will provide entrants with the Handler's Evaluation Forms with the name and address of the WDC Test Evaluations Secretary. Entrants should complete the forms before leaving the test site and return them to the Draft Test Secretary. If not, the forms should be sent to the WDC Test Evaluations Secretary within ten (10) days.

Evaluations will be submitted to the WDC for review and consideration in matters concerning the test or future tests.

## **Section 6 – Catalog Order**

Catalog order will be determined by the order in which entries are received unless a handler requests, at the time of entry, a change due to handling two or more dogs or teams.

Handlers and dogs must exhibit in catalog order unless otherwise allowed by the judges.

It is the responsibility of each handler to be ready since judges are not required to wait for an entrant. If no arrangements have been made in advance, judges may mark absent and refuse to judge any dog or team that is not ready to be judged in catalog order.

Bitches in season are judged as stated in the Chapter I, Section 8, “Bitches in Season” in Chapter I. Exercises are performed in the order given in Chapter III, “Individual Division” and Chapter IV, “Team Division.”

To facilitate judging, entrants may be divided into groups of equal size in catalog order for the Distance Freight Haul. The judges may switch an entrant from one group to another only for special circumstances, such as to accommodate a bitch in season. As the dogs begin the trail, judges may allow the dogs to find their position within the group according to each handler and dog’s working speed.

## **Section 7 – Use of Leash**

All dogs at an NCA sponsored Draft Test are tested off lead unless otherwise specified in the description of an exercise. All dogs must be held on a leash or securely confined at all times when not being tested.

## **Section 8 – Required Equipment**

### *Handlers*

In addition to providing a collar and leash, the handler provides the dog’s draft equipment (including appropriate harness, traces, and draft apparatus for site conditions) and a freight load that properly fits the draft apparatus. Equipment may be shared by two (2) or more exhibitors or by two (2) or more dogs owned by the same exhibitor; however, the sharing must not interfere with the safety or the timely completion of the draft test.

A Dog entered in the test must wear a well-fitted plain buckle, slip or snap-around slip collar. Fancy collars, special training collars, and collars that are improperly fitted are not permitted.

The harness must fit the dog. At test sites where the Distance Freight Haul encompasses hilly terrain, the WDC strongly recommends that an entrant use a siwash-style harness for the dog’s safety and efficiency in hauling. If an appropriate harness and apparatus are not used in such terrain, the judges may fail the handler for improper equipment for trail conditions.

If at any time during the test the equipment breaks down in a manner that could not have been anticipated by the handler, the judges may allow the handler to make an emergency repair. The repair must be made within ten (10) minutes with materials that the handler carries or carries in the apparatus. The handler must make the repairs without assistance from others.

## *Draft Test Committee*

The Draft Test Committee must provide the following test items:

- ropes, standards or ring gates for test area where needed;
- exhibitor numbers;
- watch or stop watch to time “stays”;
- clipboards and pencils or pens for judges;
- markers for the distance freight haul;
- obstacles; intriguing distractions;
- scale for weighing the freight loads.

In addition, the Draft Test Committee must have first aid equipment available and a vehicle large enough to carry a dog and handler.

Examples of removable obstacles include the following: gates, saw horses, logs, branches, and highway construction cones. Obedience equipment must not be used. When deciding what removable obstacles to use, the Draft Test Committee should consider the types of obstacles working dogs encounter in parades, neighborhoods, the woods, and a trip to a store.

Prior to the beginning of the draft test, the judges will inspect and approve or disapprove all of the equipment provided by the Draft Test Committee. The equipment must be suitable for the test site.

### **Section 9 – Commands, Signals and Encouragement**

During the testing, a handler may give commands, signals and encouragement to the dog by voice, arm signal or with a whistle. Multiple commands and signals are permitted. When one command only is specified for an exercise, it may be a voice, hand, or simultaneous voice and hand command. A simultaneous voice and hand command is considered a single command. While an entrant may encourage the dog in a pleasant, upbeat manner, undue and frequent yelling, shouting or reprimands should be considered undesirable and unnecessary for a dog under control. Such behavior constitutes a failure of the exercise.

### **Section 10 – Praise**

Physical praise and petting are encouraged between and after exercises. A handler shall not carry or offer food during the exercises or in the testing area.

### **Section 11 – Handling Between Exercises**

A dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. No other physical guidance is permitted and will result in a failure.

### **Section 12 – Familiarization with the Test Courses**

Ninety (90) minutes before the start of judging, handlers and dogs (except bitches in season) are allowed a thirty (30) minute period to familiarize themselves with the test areas. At least three (3) stewards must be available to walk entrants on the Distance Freight Haul course, and to monitor the test areas. Handlers may walk the course with their dogs on lead, but not hitched to an apparatus. Handlers will not be permitted to walk the Maneuvering or Distance Freight Haul courses after this time period.

Sixty (60) minutes before the start of judging, all entrants will check in with the Draft Test Secretary. If a handler is not present within fifteen (15) minutes of check-in time, an entrant from the alternate list will be assigned the absent handler's position.

Thirty (30) minutes before the start of judging, handlers and stewards must meet with the judges for instructions. Judges will answer questions at this time.

### **Section 13 – Interference and Double Handling**

Double handling or interference is not permitted. If a judge notices assistance or interference while a handler and dog are performing, the judge must act promptly to stop the double handling or interference. If the circumstances warrant (in the judges' opinion), the judge shall mark the dog failed for the exercise when aid was received.

### **Section 14 – Discipline**

Discipline for violations of the NCA Draft Test Regulations will be under provisions of the NCA Constitution and By-Laws and the NCA Working Dog Committee Grievance Procedure. Any person attending a draft test may obtain a copy of the NCA WDC Grievance Procedure and Forms from the Draft Test Chairperson. Complaints must be registered with the Draft Test Chairperson no later than thirty (30) minutes following the announcement of awards.

### **Section 15 – Qualifying and Non-Qualifying Performance**

A dog's ability to perform assigned tasks with its handler is the primary quality emphasized in a Draft Test. In addition, judges must consider a dog's willingness and smoothness of performance. A dog that willingly completes each task within a reasonable time period and without physical assistance should be marked as passed.

To earn a title, both judges must pass dog and handler on all exercises in either the Individual or Team Division.

The judges will inform entrants if they pass or fail at the completion of each series of exercises as follows:

- Basic Control after Group long down
- Harnessing, Hitching, Equipment Check after Entrant's completion of the exercise
- Maneuvering Course, Basic Commands after Entrant's completion of the exercise
- Freight Load and Out-of-Sight Stay after Group Exercise
- Distance Freight Haul after Group Exercise

Judges will mark entrants with a failing performance during any portion of the test for the following Failures Common to All Exercises:

1. A dog is not under the handler's control.
2. A handler yells at his dog frequently to maintain control of his dog.
3. A handler abuses the dog or fails to show consideration for the dog's welfare.
4. The dog upsets the draft apparatus.
5. A dog urinates while being tested (except during the freight haul when it will be limited to one occurrence).
6. A dog defecates while being tested (except during the freight haul, when the handler must clean up appropriately).
7. The handler or dog violates specific test site regulations.

# Chapter Three

## Individual Division Exercises

### Section I – Basic Control

The handler and dog are tested to verify the handler's control over the dog off lead. Unlike AKC Obedience Trials, however, no point system exists and handlers are permitted to talk and to encourage their dogs during the exercises.

Basic Control takes place off lead in a ring at least forty feet by fifty feet (40' x 50'). Three different exercises make up Basic Control: a heel pattern, a recall, and a group one minute down. One judge will call the commands, but both judges mark the dog and handler's performances. The dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. Extra hand signals, voice commands, and praise are acceptable on the motion exercises, including the sits during the heel pattern.

#### ***Heel Off-Lead***

The dog will heel within arm's reach of the handler. The handler must not touch the dog, but may command and encourage the dog to remain within arm's reach at all times. The judge calls the following commands: forward, slow, fast, normal, right turn, left turn, about turn, halt, and exercise finished. Failure to change pace will not automatically result in failure. The judges will determine the order of commands, and the calling judge will call the same pattern for each dog and handler.

#### ***Principal parts of the Heel Off-Lead Exercise***

The dog performs the heeling pattern on the left side of the handler and within arm's reach while responding to the handler's commands.

#### ***Failing Performance***

1. Handler must constantly adapt to the pace of the dog.
2. Dog frequently heels beyond the handler's reach.
3. Dog leaves the ring.
4. Dog is considered unmanageable by the judges.
5. Dog must be physically handled by the handler during the heel pattern.

#### ***Recall***

The dog performs the recall off lead across the full length of the ring. The dog will stay in place until called by the handler. The dog must respond to the first command or signal to come; a simultaneous voice and hand command is permitted as described in Chapter II, Section 9. Extra hand signals and vocal commands are allowed after the dog begins to move. The dog will come to the handler near enough to be touched and should sit facing the handler. The judge calls the following commands: sit your dog, leave your dog, call your dog, finish, and exercise finished (the dog is not required to finish).

#### ***Principal parts of the Recall Exercise***

The recall uses the length of the ring. The dog remains in place until the judge tells the handler to call the dog. 'Stay' and 'Come' may be voice, hand or a simultaneous voice and hand command.

### **Failing Performance**

1. Handler gives more than one (1) stay command.
2. Dog does not stay when told to do so.
3. Dog does not respond to the first 'come' command.
4. Dog does not go to the handler.
5. Dog goes to the handler, but remains out of reach.
6. Dog leaves the ring.
7. Dog must be physically handled by the handler.

### **One Minute Down**

The one-minute down is a group exercise and will be performed off lead with the handlers across the width of the ring. As a judging convenience, the judges will keep each group to a maximum of ten dogs. The handlers may manually put their dogs down before the judge commands the handlers to leave their dogs. The handlers will remove the leads and place them behind their dogs. The judge calls the following commands: down your dogs, leave your dogs, return to your dogs, and exercise finished.

### **Principal parts of the One Minute Down Exercise**

1. The exercise is performed with the handlers across the width of the ring.
2. The 'stay' command may be given as a voice, hand or simultaneous voice and hand command.
3. The judge will tell the handlers to return to their dogs after one minute. The handler will walk around their dog and return to heel position.
4. The dog will remain down until the handler returns to the heel position.
5. The handler shall not release the dog until the judges say exercise finished.

### **Failing Performance**

1. Handler gives more than one stay command.
2. Dog moves substantially even though still down.
3. Dog sits or stands any time before the handler returns to the heel position.

## **Section 2 – Harnessing, Hitching & Equipment Check**

A draft test demonstrates cooperation between the handler and dog. Since a handler's draft work knowledge and abilities are essential to draft work, the judges evaluate a handler's knowledge and ability to select the correct equipment for the dog, site, and conditions and to use the equipment properly. It is critical that a handler understand the equipment that the dog uses, since the dog has no recourse if the equipment is poor. The equipment includes the harness, draft apparatus, and any traces or tack required.

Using the equipment provided by the handler, the handler harnesses and hitches the dog in this exercise. A handler may touch the dog only as required to harness and to hitch the dog, but may not touch to discipline. The dog must demonstrate willingness to be harnessed and hitched to the draft apparatus without shying. The judges may touch the dog and equipment as necessary for checking. Once checked, equipment may not be substituted, and the handler must use the approved equipment throughout the remainder of the test.

The equipment must remain in safe working condition throughout the draft test. Consequently, the judges may fail improper or unsafe equipment during the scheduled Equipment Check or at any time during the remainder of the test.

Prior to the official beginning of the exercise, the handler brings the draft equipment, including the harness, to the steward assigned to the test area. The steward places the empty draft apparatus with the harness in the test area according to the judges' instructions.

With the dog and handler at the edge of the test area, the judges instruct the handler to harness and to hitch his dog. The handler and dog move into the test area at least twenty (20) feet from the draft apparatus. The handler instructs the dog to stay, leaves the dog, gets the harness, and returns to harness the dog. The handler may instruct the dog to cooperate for harnessing and hitching.

When instructed by the judges, the handler commands the dog to back up. Within a thirty (30) second time limit, the dog must back a distance of at least four (4) feet in the direction of the draft apparatus without varying more than 90° to either side. Next, the handler hitches the dog to the draft apparatus. When the dog is completely hitched, the judges will indicate that the dog and handler are to move to a predetermined location (at least twenty (20) feet ahead) and stop. As the dog and handler move forward, the judges observe the equipment to verify that the equipment works safely, efficiently, and in harmony with the dog's anatomy during the forward motion and during braking. When the dog and handler have stopped at the designated location, a judge calls the exercise finished.

Judges instruct the handlers through the exercise using such commands as: harness your dog, back your dog, hitch your dog, move forward to the next position and halt, exercise finished. Judges are expected to adapt their instructions to the handler, dog and test site conditions.

### ***Principal Parts of the Exercise***

1. Handler leaves the dog in the center of the test area in a stand, sit or down position (handler's choice) and instructs the dog to stay.
2. Handler gets harness from steward and returns to dog.
3. Dog cooperates with handler for harnessing.
4. Dog stands, backs up at least four (4) feet without substantially changing direction; the handler may reposition by voice or hand commands and restart the back within thirty (30) seconds from the start of exercise.
5. Dog cooperates for hitching.
6. Judges inspect equipment, which must be in good working condition, safe and appropriate for the test site and for the dog.
7. Handler uses equipment correctly and appropriately during the remainder of the test.
8. Handler and hitched dog move into position in center of test area and indicate readiness to proceed.
9. Handler demonstrates that the equipment performs safely and efficiently when in motion and when braking.

### ***Failing Performance***

1. Handler physically guides dog during the exercise, with the exception of the necessary physical contact required to harness and to hitch the dog.
2. Dog refuses to accompany handler to harnessing or hitching area.
3. Dog leaves location where told to stay while handler gets harness.
4. Dog is uncooperative (walks away, refuses to obey handler's commands) during harnessing.
5. Dog refuses to back up on command within thirty (30) seconds.

6. Dog substantially changes direction while backing (judges' discretion, but changes of direction less than 90 degrees will not fail).
7. Dog is uncooperative during hitching.
8. Handler does not properly harness or hitch the dog to the apparatus.
9. Harness does not fit correctly.
10. The hitch is unsafe.
11. Apparatus balance is unsafe or causes dog trouble while working.
12. Equipment is poorly designed or in need of repair.
13. Draft equipment selected by handler is inappropriate for site.
14. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

### **Section 3 – Maneuvering Course & Basic Commands**

The Draft Test Committee sets up and clearly marks a maneuvering course that includes as many natural features as possible. The judges will verify that the course meets the test criteria. If necessary, the judges may modify the course so that it adequately tests the handler and dog's maneuvering abilities. The course must cover at least 150 yards and include the following:

1. Circular patterns.
2. Broad curves.
3. Ninety-degree turns; at least one to the left and one to the right.
4. At least two narrow areas six or more feet long; preferably one low to the ground (e.g., logs) and one solid narrow area a minimum of three feet high (e.g., stacked bales of hay).
5. Removable obstacle.

At the beginning of the maneuvering course, the judges tell the handler and dog to take the course. The handler, with the dog off lead and hitched to the draft apparatus, hauls forward at a normal working speed unless commanded otherwise by the judges. There are no time constraints for traversing the course as long as the dog continues to work.

The handler may work in front of, beside, or behind the dog, or any combination of these positions. The handler may not impede the dog's forward movement at any time. This includes stepping in front of a dog to enforce a halt command or stepping in front of a dog that tries to change direction against the handler's command. Judges will allow a light load if it significantly improves apparatus stability.

At appropriate locations along the maneuvering course, the judges will command (in any order) the handler and dog to slow, halt, and back at least one (1) or three (3) feet (depending upon the apparatus used).

Judges will instruct handlers using the commands: haul forward, haul slowly, stop, back your dog, and exercise finished. Judges will decide in advance the appropriate locations and sequences for the commands. The locations will be the same for all dogs.

If a dog's apparatus bumps an object (e.g. tree or narrow area) and the dog obeys the handler's commands in dislodging it, the judges will pass the dog. However, if this happens more than two (2) times, the judges will fail the dog. The dog will also fail the exercise if the dog damages the objects or apparatus.

At least one of the narrow areas should be adjusted to be twelve (12) inches wider than the widest point of each dog and apparatus. Other narrow areas may be wider.

At the removable obstacle the dog waits (handler instructions allowed) for the handler to move the obstacle, and then the dog waits until the handler instructs the dog to move through the passageway. The judges will instruct the handler to leave the dog and return the obstacle to its former position.

The dog must back within thirty (30) seconds. Draft apparatus with wheels must move at least three (3) feet. Those draft apparatus without wheels, (e.g., sleds, toboggans, traditional Indian travois) may not be capable of being backed, in which case the traces will slacken and the dog must back at least one (1) foot. The judges will decide whether an apparatus and harness are appropriate for the dog to be required to back its apparatus.

The handler may not touch the draft apparatus unless special permission is granted from the judges, and then only if negotiation of a maneuver exceeds the dog's ability or if the equipment requires assistance in passing an obstacle (e.g. a curb). Once the area is passed, the handler must release his hand from the apparatus.

### ***Principle Parts of the Exercise***

1. With the dog harnessed and hitched to the draft apparatus, the handler directs the dog to pull through the maneuvering course.
2. The dog follows the handler's instructions to turn, halt, slow and back as directed by the judges.

### ***Failing Performance***

1. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog to enforce a halt command.
2. Handler touches dog or apparatus without judges' permission.
3. Dog refuses to accompany handler.
4. Dog does not obey commands given by handler.
5. Dog or apparatus bumps objects more than two (2) times.
6. Dog bumps handler who chooses to work in front of his dog.
7. Dog refuses to back the required distance within thirty (30) seconds on command.
8. Dog significantly moves other than by changing position, during the out-of-sight stay.
9. Dog tries to pass removable obstacle without waiting for handler to move it, does not wait for handler's command to move forward or does not stay while the handler returns the obstacle to original position.
10. Dog upsets draft apparatus.
11. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and can not be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

## **Section 4 – Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load**

The Three (3)-Minute Out-of-Sight will be tested as a group exercise, with a maximum of six (6) entrants at a time, as part of the Freight Load Exercise. In preparation for this exercise, the handlers will harness and hitch their dogs. This exercise is divided into two (2) parts as follows:

### ***Part A – Three (3) Minute Out-of-Sight***

The handlers will leave their dogs upon command from the judges and will go out of sight for three (3) minutes. The handler will instruct the dog to stay in a stand, sit or down position. The dog may shift position (e.g. go from a sit to a down) but may not significantly move the apparatus forward or back ward, other than the motion that occurs from a change in position. The steward assigned to the handler for the Distance Freight

Haul Exercise will be stationed behind the handler's cart for safety while the handler is out of sight. After the handlers return to their dogs at the conclusion of the three (3) minutes, the judges will indicate that Part A of the exercise has been completed. The handlers are permitted to pet and praise their dogs at this time, but they must remain in the area for Part B of the exercise.

### **Part B – Freight Load**

The judges will watch each individual handler load and secure the freight in the apparatus. The handler must select an appropriate freight load for the apparatus and the dog within the following guidelines:

- Five to twenty (5-20) pounds for a travois.
- Fifteen to fifty (15-50) pounds for a sled or toboggan.
- Twenty-five to one hundred (25-100) pounds for a wheeled apparatus.

A steward will weigh any non-standardized freight materials. At the judges' discretion, the steward may be asked to weigh any of the loads.

The handler will provide the freight load for the apparatus. The handler must secure the load adequately so that it does not shift when the apparatus moves. The handler must place and secure the load into or on the draft apparatus without help from anyone else, unless the judges grant an exception and permit assistance. The judges will verify that the load is appropriate for the dog, apparatus, and the site conditions. Animals or people may not be used as loads. Factory sealed containers of pet food may be used, if the seal has not been broken.

After the judges have observed each handler load and secure the freight in the apparatus, they will watch the dogs and handlers move as a group to the beginning of the distance freight haul area. At this point the judges will instruct the handlers that the exercise is completed.

The judges must fail a handler and dog for the following reasons:

1. The freight load is too heavy for the dog to pull.
2. The load is not balanced.
3. The load is not securely tied down.
4. The dog is improperly harnessed or hitched.

If the judges fail a handler because the freight load is too heavy for the dog to pull, weight may be removed and the handler and dog may continue the course with a lighter load.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The handlers leave their dogs, harnessed and hitched to an apparatus, and go out of sight for three (3) minutes.
2. The handler selects a comfortable working load for the dog and apparatus.
3. The handler loads and secures the weight in the apparatus.
4. Judges observe that the freight load is balanced and secured safely during movement.

## **Failing Performance**

A failing performance may occur during loading or at any time during the remainder of the test.

1. During the three (3) minute out of sight stay, the dog moves the apparatus a significant distance forward or backward.
2. Handler overloads the dog's apparatus.
3. Handler must reduce or re-balance the freight load after the dog begins to pull.
4. Handler physically touches or guides the dog unnecessarily during loading.
5. Dog refuses to move loaded draft apparatus.
6. Freight load becomes unbalanced when the apparatus is moving.
7. Freight load is too heavy for the dog.

## **Section 5 – Distance Freight Haul**

The Distance Freight Haul is a group event with a maximum of six (6) handlers per group. Each dog will haul a loaded apparatus on a course that is at least one (1) mile in length. Each handler and dog will start the course in catalog order (refer to Chapter II Section 6, "Catalog Order") with an assigned steward. As the dogs begin the trail, judges may allow the dogs and teams to find their position within the group according to each handler and dog's working speed. Each handler and dog must be within sight of at least one judge at all times. Per judges' instructions, the two lead stewards will set and maintain a pace that the dogs and handlers will follow.

The course may have natural obstacles (bends in the trail, trees, potholes, etc.) that are native to the test area. Each dog will pull the freight loaded and secured during the Freight Load Exercise. As long as the dog works, there is no time limit. If the dog stops pulling at any point along the test route, the handler has one (1) minute to get the dog moving again. With the judges' permission, a handler may stop the dog at the side of the course to rest briefly. At that time, the judges may allow other dogs in the group to pass. If other situations arise, such as ice balls in paw pads during a winter draft test, the handler may request permission from the judges to stop and attend to the situation.

With the judges' permission, a handler may touch the draft apparatus in order to lift it over an obstruction such as a curb.

The handler may work in front of, beside, or behind the dog, or any combination of these positions. The handler may not impede the dog's forward movement at any time. This includes stepping in front of a dog to enforce a halt command or stepping in front of a dog that tries to change direction against the handler's command.

At the completion of the distance freight haul the handler will wait for a judge to verify that the dog cooperates with the handler while being unhitched from the draft apparatus. Once the dog is unhitched, a judge will state that the exercise is finished. With the permission of a judge, the handler may unload the freight before unhitching.

## **Principle Parts of the Exercise**

1. Dog hauls a loaded draft apparatus a distance of at least one (1) mile off lead with the handler.
2. Dog must be under handler's control and remain behind the lead stewards.
3. Dog cooperates with its handler for unhitching from the apparatus

## **Failing Performance**

1. Handler physically touches the dog or apparatus during the exercise without judges' permission.
2. Handler must alter the load on the course.
3. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog or otherwise physically impedes the cart to enforce a halt command.
4. Dog refuses to move the loaded draft apparatus when told to do so (one (1) minute time limit).
5. Dog bumps lead stewards or overruns and tries to pass lead stewards.
6. Dog cannot comfortably or safely move the freight load the full length of the course.
7. Dog bumps handler who chooses to work in front of his dog.
8. Dog does not cooperate during unhitching.
9. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

## **Section 6 – Intriguing Distraction**

At some point during one of the moving exercises (Maneuvering & Basic Commands, Distance Freight Haul) a planned intriguing distraction occurs near the dog. If the distraction is planned for the Maneuvering and Basic Commands, a different distraction may occur for each dog. If an unplanned distraction occurs, the dog will be judged the same as on the planned intriguing distraction.

When the distraction appears, the dog may stop what it is doing or shift its position to watch, but may not divert from the course. To give the dog time to respond to the handler's stop command, the dog may move two or three steps toward or away from the distraction. If the dog stops to watch the distraction, the handler should encourage the dog to proceed when appropriate to do so.

The test committee person who selects the intriguing distractions cannot participate in the test or be related to a handler. The intriguing distraction will remain a secret. If a handler knows the intriguing distraction before the start of the test, a different intriguing distraction will be used.

### ***Principal Parts of the Exercise***

1. An intriguing distraction occurs near the working dog during a moving exercise.
2. The dog may stop and notice the distraction, but may not pursue the distraction.
3. The handler redirects the dog, and the dog continues with the exercise.

## **Failing Performance**

1. Handler physically touches or guides the dog during the exercise.
2. Dog changes direction and follows the distraction.
3. Dog flees from the distraction.
4. Dog barks more than a few times or refuses to stop barking when instructed by the handler.
5. Dog refuses to resume the exercise after the distraction passes.
6. Dog fails a naturally occurring distraction for the above reasons, even if it has passed the planned distraction.

# Chapter Four

## Team Division Exercises

### Section 1 – Basic Control

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Basic Control for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 1, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog and the ring may be enlarged if necessary to accommodate a team. The dogs in the team are to perform the commands together and to work as partners. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 1, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. Judges should consider ages and sizes of the dogs when judging the team's allocation of work.

### Section 2 – Harnessing, Hitching & Equipment Check

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Harnessing, Hitching & Equipment Check for a team are to follow Chapter III, Section 2, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog in the test area at once. The handler may work with each dog individually when harnessing and hitching and may instruct the other dog(s) to cooperate appropriately. The dogs must back as a team. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length but their harnesses may not be connected in any way for the back up exercise.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 2, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team.

### Section 3 – Maneuvering Course & Basic Commands

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Maneuvering Course & Basic Commands for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 3, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the draft apparatus. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length. The dogs in the team are to perform the commands together. The adjustable narrows area should be twelve (12) inches wider than the team or apparatus (whichever is wider).

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 3, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. If one member of the team consistently pulls less than its share, the team is considered to have failed the exercise. Judges should consider ages and sizes of the dogs when judging the team's allocation of work.

### Section 4 – Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for the Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 4 with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the draft apparatus. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length. The weight specified in Chapter III, Section 4 – Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load, must be multiplied by the number of dogs to determine the appropriate load for the team.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 4, and Chapter II, Section 15. A failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure for the entire team.

### **Section 5 - Distance Freight Haul**

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for the Distance Freight Haul for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 5, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hauling the loaded apparatus. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length. The dogs in the team are to traverse the distance course working together.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 5, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. If one member of the team consistently pulls less than its share, the team is considered to have failed the exercise. Judges should consider ages and sizes of dogs when judging the team's allocation of work.

### **Section 6 - Intriguing Distraction**

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of Exercise for the Intriguing Distraction for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 6, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the draft apparatus when the distraction occurs.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 6, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any member of the team is cause for failure for that exercise for the entire team.