

Provisions for Disabled Handlers

The following provisions were approved to make it possible for more Newf owners to participate in draft tests who may have been unable to do so in the past. As a courtesy, entrants who wish to avail themselves of these accommodations should notify the test committee and the judges in advance.

1. Disabled handlers should be allowed to utilize whatever devices are needed to aid their mobility, such as a cane, crutch, or wheelchair, but these devices must not be used to control the dog in any way.
2. Certified assistance dogs should be allowed to wear a medpack and/or pull handle if such equipment is worn during the normal course of duty as an assistance dog, as long as they do not interfere with the performance of the harness and draft equipment.
3. The draft equipment and harness may be modified to accommodate the handler's disabilities and to permit him/her to harness and hitch the dog without assistance, as long as the modified equipment is safe and comfortable for the dog.
4. A disabled person may bring an attendant, knowledgeable in assisting the handler with his/her disabilities, to accompany the handler on the maneuvering and freight haul exercises. The role of the attendant is to assist the handler with mobility, if needed, due to the rough or uneven terrain of the course, and to look out for the person's safety. The attendant should walk slightly behind the handler on the right side, to be in a position to provide assistance, yet out of the line of sight of the dog, and on the opposite side from the handler's official test steward. The attendant may not touch, speak to, or interact with the dog in any way.
5. The AKC Guidelines for accommodating disabled handlers in Obedience will apply for the Basic Control Exercise.