

Changes to the NCA Water Test Regulations proposed by the NCA Working Dog Committee April 2011

The NCA board initially approved the Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX) test and regulations for a period of five years with the stipulation that after five years the WDC would review the test and regulations. In 2009 the WDC surveyed the membership asking for their comments and suggestions. For the last two years the WDC has been reviewing those surveys and discussing any changes that should be made to the regulations. The following is a proposal, not a final document, by the WDC with their suggested changes to the WRDX test and regulations based on the survey results. There were many opposite opinions voiced by the membership so it will not please everyone but the WDC put the safety of the dog and steward first and the majority of the survey comments second.

One major change being suggested is to include WRDX in the regular water test so that it would all become one test, with clubs having the option of offering the WRDX division. In doing so the general regulations would need some updating to include the WRDX regulations. The following document has a copy of the proposed, updated, general Water Test regulations, the proposed WRDX exercises and a list of reasons why these changes were made. The WDC will continue to ask for comments on this proposal and asks that the membership try these exercises this summer and report back to us. The WDC's goal is to collect comments throughout the summer of 2011 and to use those comments to update this proposal to a final document which will be sent to the NCA board for a final vote at their fall face to face meeting.

Thank you for your comments. We appreciate your participation in this important project.

Your NCA WDC



Newfoundland Water Rescue
Water Dog, Water Rescue Dog & Water
Rescue Dog Excellent Regulations

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Newfoundland Club of America Water Tests

Purpose

The NCA Water Tests are a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the abilities of purebred Newfoundland dogs in an aquatic environment. Historically, the Newfoundland has functioned as a working companion to humans in draft and water rescue work. Members of the breed have participated in many heroic water rescues. NCA water tests are not a competition; rather, they demonstrate natural ability and skills acquired through training, and they emphasize teamwork between dog and handler in simulated work and rescue situations. **The NCA Water Rescue Dog Excellent division furthers that vision by providing multi-task exercises that require advanced training, constant teamwork, and physical stamina. Not all dogs who have earned other water rescue titles will be able to attain this level of expertise. Instead, a Water Rescue Dog Excellent Newfoundland will demonstrate superior natural ability, training, and efficiency in simulated rescue situations.** The ideal working relationship is a balance of controlled performance and natural independence. Dogs should display not only efficiency in accomplishing their tasks, but also willingness and enjoyment in their work.

Chapter I - General Regulations

Section 1. Application for Water Tests

A Water 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 host a Water Test. Application must be made using an approved WDC application form.

Application forms are available from the Water Test Applications Secretary and the NCA website where toolkits are available in the working dog section. The completed application must be sent to the WDC Water Test Applications Secretary whose name is available on the web site. The application must contain the following information:

1. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses of the Water Test Chairperson, the Water Test Secretary, and a third Water Test committee member from the test giving club. All must be NCA members.
2. The names of **all judges, as well as the division in which they will judge and** their Judges' Acceptance Forms completed and signed.

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 Water Test regulations will be followed.
5. The date(s) of the Proposed Water Test(s), the test site address, and a description of the site, including a detailed site map **if the site has been used less than 3 times**. The WDC recommends that Water Test dates be coordinated with neighboring Regional Clubs to avoid conflicting dates within 300 miles.
6. The signatures of the Water Test Chairperson, the Water Test Secretary, the third Water Test committee member and a member of the Regional Club's Board of Directors signing on behalf of the Regional Club.

A completed application, which includes judge's acceptance forms, must be mailed to the Water Test Applications Secretary a minimum of four (4) months, but not more than twelve (12) months, prior to the date of the proposed test. The WDC Water Test Applications Secretary usually communicates the WDC's approval or rejection of the Water Test Application to the Water 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 Water Test, the committee considers any past violations of the Regulations at its previous tests. An email address must be included if verification of application received is requested.

*An application that is received late will be assessed late fees. **Any part** of the test application received up to 5 days after the deadline will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Fully completed test applications received 6-30 days late will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee. Test applications received more than 30 days after the deadline will not be approved. Late fees must be paid by the regional club prior to approval of any further working event.*

In the event the WDC denies permission for holding the test, the water test committee may appeal to the NCA Board. The Working Dog Committee shall supply the NCA Board their reasons, in writing, for not approving the requested test. The final decision shall be that of the NCA Board.

Section 2. Duties of the Water Test Committee

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

The Water Test Committee will prepare a premium list for the water test to distribute to those who request it. It should also be posted on the Regional club's web site.

The premium list must include the following information:

The date(s) and location of the water test(s) with a detailed description of the test site and other features specific to the test site. This must include information regarding water conditions and the distance from shore where the average Newfoundland dog begins swimming.

The judges' names, including the name of any observer judge, if known.

The entry limit, that there will be an alternate list if the entries exceed the limit, and the method for determining alternates as specified in the NCA policy on handling entries, refunds and alternates listed in Section 12 Entry Limitation.

The beginning date for accepting entries, which must be no less than ten (10) days after the premium list has been made available.

The closing date for accepting entries.

The levels divisions (WD, WRD, WRDX) being offered at the test and the days and order in which they will be judged.

The approval date of the Water Test Regulations being used at the NCA Water Test.

A statement regarding entrant's responsibility for obtaining the current NCA Water Test Regulations.

The name and address of the WDC Publications Secretary from whom entrants can order the NCA Water Test Regulations and notification that the Regulations are also available on the NCA website as well as any updates made to the regulations.

The name and address of the Water Test Secretary to whom the entries shall be sent.

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.

Additional information such as the following: officers and directors of the NCA and regional club; awards; accommodations; directions to test; advertising; meals; any special events and additional activities. **Any event, other than an NCA event, being publicized in a water test premium or catalog must include a statement indicating that the event is not an NCA event.** For example: an ad for an all breed test following the NCA test must clearly state "This is not an NCA event".

Whether or not there will be practice allowed at the site and the times, if allowed.

The Premium List must not be made public before the regional club receives approval from the NCA WDC to conduct the test(s).

After the closing date for entries, the Water Test Secretary will notify each exhibitor, at least ten days before the test, of the following information: water test location (including a map and/or written directions), judging time, judges' names, exhibitor number, and any changes in the water test information that occurred since the premium list was sent. If entries exceed the published entry limit, the Water Test Secretary will notify alternates of their position on the alternate list as per the NCA policy on entries, refunds and alternates.

The Water Test Secretary will keep a copy of the current NCA Water Test Regulations and Grievance Procedures at the test site for reference.

The Water Test Chairperson will appoint a safety officer. The Safety Officer will be responsible for ensuring that no unentered dogs are permitted in the main testing area at a water test. The Safety Officer will see that all personnel are properly equipped with approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation devices and are wearing adequate foot protection prior to entering test waters. Each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own flotation device as well as proper footwear.

The Water Test Chairperson and Water Test Secretary must each submit reports to the designated Working Dog Committee member within thirty (30) days after the test. The Chairperson's report will include a description of the test, a summary of any problems or complaints registered with the Water Test Committee, and other information requested by the WDC. The Secretary's report will include the judges' report sheets, Entry Forms with AKC registrations, two (2) copies of the premium list, four (4) copies of the marked catalog and any other materials requested by the WDC. Entrant and judges evaluations should not be included. The WDC Water Test Records Secretary will send one copy of the marked catalog to the NCA Database Committee and one to the NCA Historian.

All required reports submitted to the designated Working Dog Committee member must be postmarked within thirty (30) days from the date of the test in order to receive approval for a subsequent test. Completed paperwork that is postmarked 1-5 days late will have the regional club assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Completed event paperwork postmarked 6+ days late will have the regional club assessed a \$50.00 late fee. Late fees must be paid by the regional club prior to approval of any further working event.

Section 3. Qualifications of Judges

Before the Water Test Committee applies for permission to sponsor an NCA Water Test, it must select a judging panel from the list of judges who have met the qualifications approved by the WDC and the NCA Board. A current list is available from the designated Working Dog Committee member who maintains the judges'

qualifications records **and on the judge's page of the** ~~en~~ NCA web site. **Criteria for choosing judging panels are also on the judge's page. One or two different judges may be chosen for the WRDX division.** Judges whose names are "flagged" on the judges list cannot accept assignments until they exhibit at a test and will not be approved on a judging panel.

Section 4. Dogs Eligible to Compete

The NCA Water Tests shall be open only to purebred Newfoundland dogs at least six (6) months of age by the date of the test. As used in these regulations, the word "dog" refers to either sex. All entries must have an AKC individual or litter registration number, an ILP number, or a foreign individual or litter registration number.

Section 5. Dogs that May Not Compete

No dog belonging wholly or in part to a Water test judge or to any member of such person's immediate family, including in-laws, can be exhibited under the judge. Lame dogs or dogs that have been taped or bandaged in any way, or have anything attached to them for medical purposes, shall be ineligible to be tested.

Section 6. Test Disqualifications and Ineligibility

Judges must immediately disqualify and remove the following from further competition:

Any dog which its handler cannot control.

Any dog which attacks a person or dog on test grounds.

Any handler who deliberately interferes with another handler or dog.

Any handler who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in or outside the testing area. (Unsportsmanlike behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following: directing angry or abusive language at a person or dog, mistreating a dog, showing discourtesies to judges, test officials, stewards or others.)

The judges will mark the dog disqualified and state the reason on the official judges' form. The Water Test Secretary will also note the disqualification in the test report to the WDC.

The Working Dog Committee and the NCA have adopted the AKC official policy concerning dog attacks that lead to an injury, either to a person or to another dog. Also, Water Test judges may excuse, and even ask to have removed from a test site, if necessary, any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or persons. Actual reports of dog attacks causing injury to either a dog or a person would go directly through the grievance process. The grievance may be filed by the person injured, the person whose

dog was injured, or any witness to an attack causing injury. The dog in question should be removed from the test site and cannot be entered in any subsequent NCA working event pending the completion of the grievance hearing process through the WDC, with subsequent action by the Board. Any test the dog is entered in already would have to be forfeited with the dog in question banned from the test site pending completion of the grievance process. The recommendation of the WDC will be sent to the Board following the grievance hearing, which would end the WDC jurisdiction. The Board will need to form a committee whose purpose it is to deal with reinstatement requests after the Board has denied further exhibition privileges for any Newfoundland.

AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows: Chapter 11, Section 15- Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or dog at an AKC event, resulting in an injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Section 7. Handling a Dog

Each dog must be handled by the same handler for all exercises. Handlers may be substituted after the test closes but the secretary must be informed of the change before the test begins.

Section 8. Bitches in Season

Bitches in season may participate in NCA Water Tests. Bitches in season will be kept out of the test area and away from all other dogs until called for by the judges. They may perform the Basic Control Exercise after all other dogs have been judged on that exercise. At least one other "volunteer" female will perform the One Minute Down with the bitch in season.

Bitches in season shall be judged on the water exercises at the conclusion of judging for that day. When Junior and Senior Division entries are judged on the same day, any Junior Division bitches in season shall be judged after other regular judging for both divisions has been completed, including post entries, followed by the Senior Division bitches in season. This applies to two (2) day tests which are held back to back as well. For two (2) day tests where the Junior Division entries are judged on one day and the Senior Division entries on another, any Junior Division bitches in season will be judged at the conclusion of the Junior judging and any Senior Division bitches in season will be judged at the conclusion of the Senior Division judging. **Test committees have the OPTION to judge WD/WRD bitches in season at the end of the WD/WRD divisions even if they are followed by a WRDX division.**

Section 9. Unentered Dogs

The appointed Safety Officer is responsible for insuring that all unentered dogs are kept outside and away from the designated test area.

Section 10. Entering at Own Risk

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

Section 11. Judges' Decisions

At the Water test, the decisions of the judges are final in all matters affecting the scoring and working ability of the dogs and their handlers. The judges are in sole charge of the Water Test area until their assignment is complete. A dog must be marked passing on every exercise by both judges in order to qualify for a WD, ~~or~~ a WRD **or a WRDX** title.

Section 12. Entry Limitation

Once test approval is received from the NCA Working Dog Committee, the Water Test Committee can determine the date it will accept entries, and the date will be published in the premium list. This date must be at least ten (10) days after the premium list is made public.

Maximum entries to be judged are thirty (30) dogs per test day. If a water test committee anticipates an entry in excess of its facilities for a water test, it may limit entries to less than thirty (30). In setting entry limits, a test committee should consider that, on the average, judges can usually judge five (5) Junior Division entries per hour, ~~and~~ three (3) Senior Division entries per hour **and two (2) Excellent Division entries per hour**. Test Committees may also decide on a minimum number of entries to hold the test as long as it is published in the premium list.

A prominent announcement of such limits must appear on the title or cover page of the Water test premium list. 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 and must show a postmark.

Accepting Entries:

Test premiums will list an opening and closing date for entries. The opening date is the earliest date an entry can be sent as indicated by the postmark of the entry; the closing date is the last day an entry can be received by the test secretary and is unrelated to

the postmark. The test will not close officially until the published closing date, even if the entries exceed the limit before the closing date.

No dog will be allowed to enter more than one division, **in which they have not already earned a title**, in a test or on the same day, with the exception of post entries.

Do not assign final entries until the closing date. This will accommodate entries that arrive on different dates but that have identical postmarks. Open all envelopes before assigning entries, because some envelopes may contain more than one entry and some may be entering only one day of a two-day test weekend.

When the test closes, if the entries exceed the maximum limit, follow the procedure listed below. If a lottery is required as specified below, a separate lottery **MUST** be held for each of the two days of a two-day test weekend. (Note: An efficient and unbiased way to do a lottery is to number each entry and put the corresponding numbers on small, individual pieces of paper. Randomly select the papers to determine the status of each entry.) There must always be at least two people present to witness the lottery, at least one of which is not entered in the test.

Assigning Entries:

1. Assign a spot in the test to each entry postmarked with the first allowed entry date; assign a spot in the test to each entry postmarked with the second allowed entry date; continue as above until all spots in the test are full.

2. If at any time there are more entries with identical postmarks than spots available in the test, conduct a lottery to determine which entries are accepted into the test. Those not assigned spots become alternates.

Example 1: If the entries received with the first allowed postmark exceed the test limit on the closing date, conduct a lottery with all of the entries with that postmark. Those not chosen become alternates. Continue to do a lottery for each postmarked date to determine the order of the alternate list.

Example 2: There are openings in the test for entries postmarked with the first and second allowed date. Five entries are postmarked with the third allowed date and there are two openings left. Conduct a lottery with those five entries—two will be entered in the test and three will become alternates as will any entries with later postmarks.

Example 3: If the limit is 25, and there are 30 entries with the first postmark, the first 25 randomly selected in the lottery will be assigned spots in the test and the remaining entries will be pulled as first alternate, second alternate, third alternate, etc. Assign other entries with later postmarks as alternates in the same way doing a lottery for each postmarked date.

3. Add requalification entries to the alternate list after all untitled dogs on the list. Requalification entries should be added by postmark and by lottery, as necessary.

Withdrawing Entries and Refunds:

To withdraw an entry, the entrant must notify the test secretary by telephone, email, or U.S. mail. The secretary must confirm receipt of such notifications. The entrant will receive a full refund of the entry fee if the notification is received prior to the closing date for entries. After the closing date has passed, no refunds will be given, even if an alternate was tested in their place, with the exception of alternates that did not get into the test. In addition, an entrant with one dog in the test and another on the alternate list may not substitute one dog for the other. If the entrant must pull the entered dog, then the first dog on the alternate list will fill the opening.

Alternates and Refunds:

If an entrant submits an entry to a water test but is not assigned a place in the test, the test secretary must notify the entrant immediately after the closing date and give the entrant the option to be placed on the alternate list. If the entrant prefers not to be on the alternate list, he or she will receive a full refund. If the entrant chooses to stay on the alternate list and pulls their entry at a later date they will not receive a refund.

Once the closing date listed in the premium has passed, if an entrant notifies the secretary that they are withdrawing their entry or have passed at a previous test, all entrants on the alternate list must be notified that their ranks have changed. If a space does not become available for an alternate on or before the day of the test, the alternate will receive a full refund.

Example: If a test limit is 25 dogs and 25 dogs are tested, but none of the five dogs that were on an alternate list were tested, the five alternates would receive refunds after the test. If 20 original dogs and three alternates were tested, but two alternates did not attend the test, the handlers of those two alternates would not receive refunds because had they attended, they would have been tested.

If an entrant has been assigned a spot in the test but their dog passes at a previous test, the handler must notify the test secretary by 6 pm the night before the test as to whether they will move their entry to another division (i.e., WD to WRD or WRD to WRDX), withdraw from the test, or requalify in the same division if the test is not full. If the test is full they have the option of being moved to the end of the alternate list to requalify. This overrides Section 4.4.B, of the current water test rules.

Section 13. Entry in Junior Division

Entry in Junior Division is open to dogs with the following stipulations:

Any eligible dog that has not yet earned a WD title may enter the Junior Division.

Any dog that has earned a WD may enter as a requalifying WD. However, if the dog passes the Junior Division, the dog may not be post entered in Senior Division at the

same test. Any entry for requalification will be accepted only if the limit for the test (overall limit or division limit, as listed in the premium list) is not exceeded.

Any dog that has earned a WRD or WRDX may enter as a requalifying WD. If the dog passes Junior Division, the dog may not be post entered in Senior Division at the same test.

If a dog earns its WD after the closing date of a subsequent test in which it is entered, the handler may choose to requalify the dog in the Junior Division at the future test if these conditions exist: A.) There are no untitled alternates waiting to fill the dog's space, and B.) The entry as a requalifier will not exceed the maximum entry limit of the Junior Division, if a limit is stated in the premium list.

Section 14. Entry in Senior Division

Only dogs which have passed the Junior Division shall be eligible to be tested in the Senior Division.

If a dog entered in the Junior Division has passed a Junior Division test after the closing date for entries, the entry may be transferred from the Junior to the Senior Division. To transfer the entry from Junior to Senior Division, the handler must submit to the Water Test Secretary a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Water Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners. A change of entry from Junior to Senior must be received by 6:00 pm. the night before the test.

A dog that has earned a WRD or WRDX may enter as a requalifying WRD. Any entry for requalification will be accepted only if the limit for the test (overall limit or division limit, as listed in the premium list) is not exceeded.

Dogs which successfully fulfill the requirements for a Water Dog title at a test may be post-entered in the Senior Division at that test and will be tested at the conclusion of Senior Division judging. There will be an additional entry fee. The handler will be allowed to test his dog only until it fails an exercise.

Section 15. Entry in Excellent Division

Only Dogs which have passed the Senior Division shall be eligible to be tested in the Excellent Division.

If a dog entered in the Senior Division has passed a Senior Division test after the closing date for entries, the entry may be transferred from the Senior to the Excellent Division, as long as the Excellent Division is being offered at the test. To transfer the entry from Senior to Excellent Division, the handler must submit to the Water Test Secretary a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Water Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners. A

change of entry from Senior to Excellent must be received by 6:00 pm. the night before the test.

A dog that has earned a WRDX title may enter as a requalifying WRDX. Any entry for requalification will be accepted only if the limit for the test (overall limit or division limit, as listed in the premium list) is not exceeded.

A dog earning his WRD title during a water test is not permitted to post enter to the WRDX Division being held on the same day due to time constraints. .

WRDX dogs may be tested as part of a WD/WRD/WRDX water test or a WRDX test may be held as a stand alone event. Judges for the WRDX Division of any water test must meet the criteria listed on the NCA web site.

Section 16. Requalifications as Multiple Division Entries

Multiple Division requalifications will be allowed at NCA Water Tests. Dogs may be entered in more than one division on the same day but only if they have already qualified, at previous tests, in all of the divisions entered. Each entry must be sent on a separate entry form. If the entry for the test exceeds its limit and a lottery is necessary the dog may not get into each division entered. There will be no substitutions for dogs to change divisions if their entry is chosen for one division but not the other in a lottery. Judges must excuse any dog not in condition to finish the division entered and, if so, the dog will not be able to continue in any other division entered that day. Entry fees will not be refunded for dogs that are excused. Entrants are discouraged from pushing their dogs beyond their limits.

Section 17. Qualifying Performance & Awards

For a dog 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 Junior Division is entitled to use the title "Water Dog" in any Newfoundland Club of America activity. "WD" is the abbreviation for the Water Dog title. A dog receiving a qualifying performance in the Senior Division is entitled to use the title "Water Rescue Dog" in any activity. "WRD" is the abbreviation for the Water Rescue Dog title. A dog receiving a qualifying performance in the Excellent Division is entitled to use the title "Water Rescue Dog Excellent" in any activity. "WRDX" is the abbreviation for the Water Rescue Dog Excellent title. A dog requalifying at **any** level can add the number of times they have requalified after the title such as WD1 for a dog that has earned a WD and requalified at the junior level once, or a WRD3 for a dog that has earned a WRD title and requalified at the senior level three times.

Section 18. Changes of Judges, Water Test Officials, or Site

If a Water Test Committee is informed at any time prior to the opening of its water test that an advertised judge cannot fulfill his/her engagement to judge, the Water Test Committee will substitute a judge from the NCA WDC Approved Judges List. The

designated NCA Working Dog Committee member (who processed the water test application) or the WDC Chairperson (in case the designated person cannot be reached) must be notified to approve the substitution. This may be done by phone, mail or electronic means; however, if the request is made by phone, a follow-up letter must be sent to the designated NCA Working Dog Committee member (who processed the water test application) with a full explanation. The designated member must notify the other WDC members of the change and the reason for the request. If time permits, a written notice should be mailed to the exhibitors.

In the unlikely event that a judge becomes ill or is unable to fulfill the judging assignment on the day of a test or during a test, and the designated WDC member or Chairperson cannot be reached according to the procedures described above, the test committee may substitute an Approved Water 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 water test training and exhibiting experience (See Chapter Two, Section 1, paragraph 2 on Qualifications of Judges) may be appointed by the Test Committee to fulfill the assignment. The designated WDC member 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 Water Test Committee should make every effort to secure a suitable site within twenty-five 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 19. Stewards

Stewards assist the judges, and they may act only on the judges' instructions. Stewards will 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 the judge. Exhibitors are not permitted to give instructions to the stewards. Any harassment of stewards must be reported immediately to the judges.

Care must be exercised to ensure the calling steward(s) are not overly familiar with a dog being tested. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

The steward(s) has cared for the dog within the past six months.

Calling stewards may be part of the same training groups of handlers and dogs in a given summer. However, calling stewards must avoid direct contact with the dogs they will call for at tests in that summer training season. It is therefore recommended that clubs intending to host Water Tests should consider appointing their calling stewards as early in the season as possible to avoid potential conflicts.

The steward(s) has trained the dog for obedience, conformation, or working events.

In no case should a member of the owner's or handler's immediate family steward exercises for their own dog, a dog they co-own, or for one with which they are overly familiar.

For consistency in the test, calling steward(s) should be prepared to steward for the entire test. Changes of stewards should be limited to substitution for a steward that is ill or in distress.

Section 20. Test Site 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 area designated for water testing shall be sectioned off in some way. The usable waterfront must be a minimum of seventy-five (75) feet, **one hundred (100) feet for WRDX**. The water should extend at least 200 feet from the shore. The testing area should have a gradual drop off and must permit the dogs to be swimming within twenty (20) feet of shore. If water depths change due to unforeseen circumstances, after the site has been approved, the required distances for an exercise will be increased up to twenty (20) feet, as needed, so that the dogs will be swimming as prescribed in the exercises. Markers will be moved to reflect the change in distances. If time permits, exhibitors will be notified of the change of distances in advance. Water must be free of unmarked hazardous objects. There must be an area suitable for the underwater retrieve.

There must be a shaded area provided for entered dogs to be crated or confined when they are not being tested.

Section 21. Spectators

Since Newfoundlands working under natural conditions may be in places where there are extraneous sounds, spectators are encouraged to applaud and cheer for performing dogs as they return to shore with the article or rescue victim. However, spectators must not interfere with the performance in any way. Judges may use their discretion to determine what constitutes interference.

Section 22. Emergency Provisions

The Water Test Committee should take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of all involved. There must be a telephone available at the test site. It is recommended that the services of a veterinarian be available during the water test. The veterinarian may be "on call" if services are available within a short distance of the test site; otherwise, the veterinarian must be on site. Information regarding after hours emergency care for dogs and people should be available to entrants and committee members. A first-aid kit is required, and a backboard is recommended.

Section 23. Personal Flotation Devices

It is mandatory that any person entering the test water or embarking on a water craft must wear an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, in good condition, and some form of secure foot protection, "crocs" are not permitted.

The Water Test Committee is responsible for equipping their stewards and personnel with these devices. The safety officer is responsible for ensuring the compliance with the above regulations. The judges shall mark any exhibitor who refuses to comply with these regulations "excused" from further testing.

Section 24. Canceling a Test

If a Water test is canceled due to insufficient entries the WDC Water Test applications person must be notified immediately.

Section 25. Entry of Other Breeds

Test committees may accept the entries of breeds other than Newfoundlands to be judged after their test under the following conditions: The test must not be full, the judges and committee must agree to accept the entry, the entry will not be judged until after all Newfoundlands have been judged and the Newfoundland test is considered finished including bitches in heat, there must be a "volunteer" dog to participate in the long down if the other breed is to be judged in basic control since it is considered a group exercise.

Chapter II - Regulations for Performance and Judging

Section 1. Standardized Judging and Qualifications of Judges

Standardized judging is of great importance. There shall be two judges for **each Division of an NCA Water Test. The WRDX Division may have a different judging panel than the rest of the test.** It is recognized that the water tests are intended for performance on natural bodies of water and beaches and may require minimal adaptation to fit the site available. In no case, however, are judges to add, delete, or change from the

requirements of the water tests. Judges must act in a professional, impartial, and pleasant manner in accordance with the NCA Judges Code of Ethics.

Judges selected by a Water Test Committee for a water test should be chosen for their ability to judge Newfoundland dogs working in the water. Judges should possess thorough knowledge of the water test rules, a sense of fairness, and consideration for the efforts of dogs and handlers. The NCA designated Working Dog Committee member maintains a copy of the Qualifications for Water Test Judges and a current list of approved judges, which is also available on the NCA web site.

Section 2. Failed Exercises and Re-judging

During the **WD/WRD** Water test, judges may permit a handler one try to assist his dog in completing a failed exercise. Only gentle guidance by the dog's collar is permitted as discipline. **During the WRDX Division once a dog has failed an exercise they must move on to the next exercise immediately.**

If a dog has failed a particular exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged. However, if the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar or unusual circumstances, the judges may, at their discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise, but not a portion thereof. If the judges rejudge a dog on an exercise, they should explain the reason on the Judges' Record Form. The reason for the rejudging should be announced to the spectators. Exhibitors should not be failed for personal ideas that are not within the regulations.

Section 3. Dog or Person in Distress

If at any time during a Water test, it becomes apparent to either the handler or the judges that a dog or person is in distress, the exercise shall be immediately terminated. If the judges determine that the cause of the distress was due to an unusual circumstance, they may permit the dog or handler a reasonable period to recover before resuming testing. The dog and handler will be re-judged on the entire exercise, not a portion thereof. If the dog or person has not recovered sufficiently to continue testing within a reasonable time, the judges shall 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' Record Forms

The judges will record the pass or fail performances of each dog on the Judges' Record Forms following the conclusion of the test. Any significant comments on the judges' score sheets must be transferred to the Judges' Record Forms. Score sheets should be made available to the exhibitors at the conclusion of the test, unless the judges wish to maintain copies as a personal record. In that case, the Water test secretary must make copies to send to the exhibitors following the test.

Section 5. Entrant's and Judge's Evaluations

The Water Test Committee will provide each entrant and judge with a Test Evaluation Form. These forms should be completed and mailed within ten (10) days to the Working Dog Committee member in charge of Water test evaluations whose name and address appears on the form and on the NCA web site. These evaluations may also be filled out electronically on the NCA web site under the Water Test page of the Working Dog section. If it is a two day test with the same site and judges, entrants will only have to complete one evaluation. If the two day test has different sites or at least one different judge then entrants should complete two evaluations, one for each day. The WDC compiles information from these evaluations to send anonymous feedback to judges and test committees. Please remember to complete these evaluations they are very important.

Section 6. Catalog Order

Handlers and dogs must exhibit in catalog order unless otherwise allowed by the judges. Catalog order will be determined by the order in which the entries are received by the Test Secretary. A handler with more than one dog may request that his entries not be judged consecutively. Bitches in season are judged as stated in the Chapter 1, Section 8, "Bitches in Season". 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.

Section 7. Use of Leash/Harness

All dogs at an NCA Water test are tested off leash. All dogs must be held on leash or securely crated unless being tested. At the end of their testing dog's must leave the beach area leashed and under control. **In the WRDX Division use of a safety harness for the dog is permitted (as long as it is not a flotation device of any kind).**

Section 8. Required Equipment

All equipment to be used by the handlers at a Water test, including that provided by the test committee, shall be thoroughly inspected by the judges for suitability. Individual equipment will be checked on the day of testing prior to the start of each division. Once inspected, substitutions are not permitted without the judges' approval.

The handlers at a water test will provide a leash and collar. A dog entered in the water test must wear a well-fitted plain buckle, slip, or snap-around collar while on the test grounds. Fancy collars, prong training collars, halter collars or collars that are improperly fitted, are not permitted. There shall not be anything hanging from the collar.

Standardized equipment, including bumpers, boat cushions, life jackets, life rings, and paddles, may not be altered from their original state, except that the cushion or vest straps may be tied or stitched, not taped, in place for safety reasons, and the boat bumper may have a short line attached to facilitate throwing. Remember that over use of an article may alter its state so that it is not in the condition to do the job it was originally intended to do. The overall appearance of the articles should be as they were purchased from the store, and should meet the intent of the Regulations for their use as close as possible. Scuffing and teeth marks are not considered an alteration.

Handlers will provide their own equipment for use during the test. However, they may share a set of equipment during testing, as long as the equipment is presented to the judges during the equipment check.

JUNIOR DIVISION EQUIPMENT

A buoyant boat bumper, canvas or plastic. Fire hose material is acceptable but may not contain squeakers.

An eight (8) foot floating line with plastic or canvas boat bumper attached.

A floating line (may be knotted at one end), minimum length of seventy-five (75) feet.

An approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) boat cushion and an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) life jacket (loose straps may be tied or stitched).

In addition, each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, as well as suitable foot protection that can be worn in the water. Crocs are not allowed.

SENIOR DIVISION EQUIPMENT

Canoe or raft paddle of wood or plastic, at least two and one half (2 1/2) feet in length. A slight variance of ¼ to ½ inches is allowed.

An eight (8) foot floating line with plastic or canvas boat bumper attached.

An approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) boat cushion and an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) life jacket (loose straps may be tied or stitched).

A ring-type life preserver, minimum diameter of twenty (20) inches, (American or Canadian Coast Guard approved or made to Coast Guard specifications) with a three (3) to five (5) foot line attached. The line may be knotted at the end to facilitate carrying.

An underwater retrieve article that is no more than twelve (12) inches long and four (4) inches tall. When submerged, it should extend no more than four (4) inches from the

bottom and should be weighted evenly so that it will sink immediately. The underwater retrieve article may be painted or taped to increase its visibility.

In addition, each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, as well as suitable foot protection that can be worn in the water. Crocs are not allowed.

EXCELLENT DIVISION EQUIPMENT

An eight (8) foot floating line knotted at one end for the Abandoned Boat exercise.

A fifteen (15) foot floating line knotted at one end for the Boat to Raft Rescue.

In addition, each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, as well as suitable foot protection that can be worn in the water. Crocs are not allowed.

WATER TEST COMMITTEE

The Water Test Committee will provide all of the equipment necessary to run a Water test. This includes the following equipment:

An approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device for all water stewards.

A rowboat rated for three (3) or more persons with a non-slip surfaced platform securely mounted on the stern to permit a dog to safely enter and exit the boat without contacting the gunwales. The platform should be large enough for the handler and dog to maneuver into position and ride together on it.

Rope, tape, fencing, or appropriate material to mark off basic control and the test area.

Two (2) sets of three (3) floating markers. These markers will be placed at 30', 50', and 75' from shore on each side of the water testing area for WD/WRD and 75', 100' and 150' from shore for WRDX. They should be unobtrusive, visible to the entrants but unattractive to the dogs. **In the WRDX division, should the dog bring in any of the distance markers, rather than the object or person(s) the exercises require; that dog will be deemed to have failed the exercise.**

Shore markers. Three shore markers spaced thirty (30) feet apart **for WRD and thirty five (35) feet apart for WRDX.** These will be of such a height and color as to allow the stewards for the Senior Division Life Ring exercise to maintain their positions in the water. **It is strongly recommended that the 3 flags have identical poles placed behind them for the stewards to use to line up and better hold their position.**

Exhibitor numbers

Two (2) whistles for judges.

Two clipboards for judge.

Stopwatch.

First aid kit.

Backboard-recommendeded.

A canoe or kayak to be used for the placement of the articles in the Junior Drop Retrieve, Senior Double Retrieve Exercises, **and to tow the raft for the WRDX Boat to Raft Rescue exercise.**

Cellular phone

For the WRDX Division only:

Appropriate hand and arm protection for the steward in the Unconscious Victim exercise. The protection should include heavyweight neoprene dry suit (OMS 5MM) "exposure protection" diving gloves for both hands, extending up towards the elbows. Uniform, heavyweight hand/arm protection may be obtained from diving shops or from websites, such as www.leisurepro.com. Wearing of a full wet suit is required for the Unconscious Victim exercise, weather permitting. This requirement may be waived by the judges should the weather be too warm/hot for this to be feasible.

An inflatable boat/raft, rated for 4 or more persons for use in the Boat to Raft Rescue exercise. The shape of the inflatable boat must be such that permits the shore side of the raft to be flush with the surface of the water where required by the designated exercise. No "bowing" should occur.

An anchor system that will allow the rowboat to be held in one place by anchor, if needed. Such a system will require ease in mooring and unmooring as indicated and defined in each exercise.

Two cones: one at the center of the beach and the other 30 feet to one side of the center cone. They should be 10 to 20 feet from the shore line.

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

Section 9. Commands, Signals and Encouragement

Handlers' commands to their dogs may be given by voice, arm signal, and/or whistle. The use of multiple commands and signals is permitted except in those Basic Control Exercises where they are specifically prohibited. When one command only is specified for an exercise, it may be a voice, hand, or simultaneous voice and hand command. Handlers may not assist dogs by marking objects to be retrieved by any method other than voice, arm signal, and/or whistle. While an entrant may encourage the dog in a pleasant, upbeat manner, undue or harsh 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 of the dogs are allowed between and after each exercise. **In the WRDX Division praise is limited to open handed touching of the dog, not the collar, one hand at a time. There can be no restraint, correcting, guiding or physically directing the dog by the hand or collar.** A handler shall not carry or offer food during the exercises, or in the testing area.

Section 11. Handling Between Exercises

In Junior and Senior Division, dogs may be guided gently by the collar and physically praised between exercises. The use of physical guidance other than that specifically allowed, either during an exercise or between exercises will result in the failure of the team. **WRDX Division dogs may only be controlled verbally while being tested. The handlers will otherwise have their hands off the dogs, both on the boats, as well as on the beach except for brief petting between exercises are described in Section 10.**

Section 12. Pretest Swim and Training on the Grounds

All dogs may participate in a pre-swim, except for bitches in season, which will be given a pre-swim just prior to their judging. The pre-swim is a fifteen (15) minute session prior to the start of judging during which the dogs and handlers may familiarize themselves with the test waters. The purpose of this period is familiarization only and is not intended for last-minute training. No food may be carried or offered. During the Junior Division pre-swim, handlers may use only one retrieving article. No other equipment may be used. During the Senior **and Excellent** Division pre-swims, dogs are permitted to get on and off the beached boat in addition to the use of only one retrieving article.

Junior Division dogs will be provided a fifteen (15) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Junior Division judging. Senior Division dogs will be provided a fifteen (15) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Senior Division judging. **Excellent Division dogs will be provided a fifteen (15) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Excellent Division judging.**

Any physical abuse or harsh training of the dog while on test grounds will result in excusing the dog and handler from the test.

During judging, the judges may terminate an exercise once a dog has failed. In the WD/WRD Division if the judging schedule permits, they may allow one try for a handler to assist a dog in completing the exercise that has been failed by taking it gently by the collar. Judges will ask the stewards (if applicable) to move in closer as well.

Section 13. Interference and Double Handling

A judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the test area, must act promptly to stop any double handling or interference. If, in a judge's opinion, the circumstances warrant, he shall mark the dog failed for the exercise during which the aid was received.

Section 14. Complaints and Discipline

Complaints against judges, exhibitors, or members of the test-giving committee will be dealt with according to the NCA Working Dog Committee Grievance Policy. The Test Committee is required to have copies of the Grievance Procedure with the approved forms at the Water Test. Any person attending a water test may obtain a copy of the NCA WDC Grievance Procedure and forms from the Water Test Chairperson. All complaints must be filed with the Test Chair within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the test. The WDC and the NCA Grievance Policies are also available on the NCA web site.

Section 15. Qualifying and non Qualifying Performance

Dogs are to be judged on their performance of the assigned tasks. A dog that completes an exercise within the prescribed time limit, and in accordance with the Standards of Performance for that exercise, should be scored as passed.

Each judge shall independently indicate that a dog has passed or failed upon completion of each exercise. The following whistle signals are recommended:

One short blast... Pass

One long trill... Fail

Three short blasts... judge wants your attention.

Failures common to all exercises:

1. A dog is not under the handler's control.
2. The dog leaves the test area while being tested except where permitted in the water exercises.
3. The handler enters the water except as allowed in a specific exercise.
4. The dog fails to complete the exercise within the required time, unless additional time is granted by the judges for an unusual situation or the dog has continued to work the entire time. (See Section 16. Suggested Time Limits)
5. The handler physically guides or controls the dog after the exercise begins.
6. The dog leaves the water before completing an exercise except as allowed in a specific exercise.
7. A handler abuses the dog or fails to show consideration for the dog's welfare.

Where delivery to hand is required, if the dog drops the article on land or water before it completes the delivery, the handler may direct the dog to pick it up. If the dog does so and completes the delivery within the suggested time, it will not fail.

When the word "directly" is used in an exercise, it does not necessarily mean in a straight line, since some dogs naturally swim in an arc to reach a destination.

Physical guidance or assistance means restraining, pushing, or pulling the dog by its collar, fur, or body, or the use of hands, legs, or any part of the handler's body in a manner that is not allowed.

Once the judge states or signals "You may begin", the handler must keep his/her hands off the dog.

"The dog enters the water" means that the dog has committed itself to the exercise and has at least 3 feet in the water.

"Dog leaves the water" means the dog has committed itself to leaving the water by having at least 3 feet out of the water.

Section 16. Suggested Time Limits

Suggested time limits for each Junior, Senior and **Excellent** Exercise appear at the conclusion of each exercise. Under no circumstances will time limits less than those suggested be imposed. The limits may be extended by the judges for extreme or

unusual conditions and situations. If adverse site or weather conditions exist, and the judges feel that extended time is needed to complete a particular exercise, they should state the time limit that will be used prior to judging. Judges may also extend a time limit for an individual dog, but only if the dog began working immediately at the start of the exercise and continued actively working during the entire exercise.

At any time, the judges shall retain the discretion to whistle off as "failed" any dog that does not demonstrate an understanding of an exercise.

Judges are to report the reasons for any change made in the suggested time limits to the Test Chairperson, to be included with the Test Chairperson's report. Judges must note any modifications made on the Judges' Evaluation Forms.

Chapter III - Standard of Performance - Junior Division

BASIC CONTROL

Dogs with AKC or CKC Companion Dog titles are exempt from the Basic Control exercises. Such dogs will receive a passing score from each judge in this exercise.

Basic Control will be performed off lead in a ring about 40 x 50 feet. There are three parts to the Basic Control: Controlled Walking, a Recall, and a One-Minute Down. The dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. Extra hand signals, verbal commands, and other encouragement are allowed on the motion exercises.

If a Test Committee schedules the Basic Control Exercise on the day preceding the water exercises, it must also offer Basic Control on the day of the Water test for anyone who is unable to attend the previous day.

Controlled Walking: The dog must walk with the handler in response to the commands given and should remain within arm's reach of the handler at all times. The handler must not touch the dog, but may command and encourage the dog. The dog is not required to remain in any particular position, but should remain within arm's reach.

During this exercise one judge will call commands, but both judges will score. The commands from the judge will include: forward, left turn, right turn, about turn, halt, and exercise finished. It is the judge's option in what order he calls the commands but the calling judge will call the same pattern for each dog and handler.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog will respond to his handler's commands and walk in a controlled manner.

2. The dog will walk within arm's reach of the handler.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

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

Recall: The recall is performed the full length of the ring. The judge will instruct the handler to "Sit your dog" and will ask "Are you ready?" The judge will then instruct the handler to "Leave your dog". The handler must give only one stay command. The stay command can be given by both voice and hand simultaneously. The dog must stay until called by the handler. The handler will walk to the opposite side of the ring, turn, face the dog, and remain in place until the exercise is finished. The judge will instruct the handler to call the dog. A signal, verbal command, or simultaneous commands may be used to call the dog. Extra hand signals and vocal commands are allowed after the dog begins to move. The dog must respond within 10 seconds. The dog will come close enough to be touched by the handler and should sit facing the handler. The judge's commands to the handler are "Sit your dog", "Leave your dog", "Call your dog", and "Exercise finished". (the dog is not required to finish).

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog will remain in place until called by the handler. "Stay" may be both verbal command and/or signal.
2. The dog will respond within ten (10) seconds.
3. The dog will come within arm's reach of the handler.
4. The handler will remain in place until the exercise is complete.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises

(Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog does not stay in place (changing position from the sit to a down will not be a failure)
2. The handler gives more than one "stay" command or more than one "come" command. (Hand signals and voice commands must be given at the same time to be considered "one command".)
3. The dog does not respond to the "come" command within 10 seconds.
4. The dog does not come.
5. The dog does not go to the handler.
6. The dog goes to the handler but remains out of reach.
7. The dog fouls the ring.

One Minute Down: The One Minute Down is a group exercise performed with the handlers across the width of the ring. The judges will keep each group to a maximum of ten (10) dogs. The handlers and their dogs (on lead) will enter the ring and line up along one side as instructed by the judge. The handlers will remove the leads and place them behind their dogs. When in position, the judge will ask "Are you ready?" and will then say "Down your dogs". The handlers may manually put their dogs down. The judge will instruct the handlers to "Leave your dogs". Handlers will give one (1) command to stay. The stay command may be a verbal command, hand signal, or a simultaneous verbal and hand signal. The handlers will walk to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and face their dogs. After one minute, the judge will say "Return to your dogs". The handlers will walk around the dog and return to heel position. The dog must remain down until the handler returns to the heel position. The handlers will not release their dogs until the judge says "Exercise finished".

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The handler will down the dog.
2. The handler will give the dog one (1) command to stay, leave the dog, and walk to the opposite side of the ring. (Simultaneous voice and hand signal permitted.)
3. The dog will remain down until the handler returns to the heel position.

4. The handler will release the dog when the judge says "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

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

SINGLE RETRIEVE

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. The judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will throw the bumper at least thirty (30) feet out from shore and into swimming depth water for the dog. The bumper may have a short line attached to facilitate throwing. Anticipation is allowed. The handler sends the dog with voice commands, hand signals, and/or whistle. The dog swims out to the bumper, retrieves it, and brings it to the handler on the shore. The dog must deliver the bumper to hand. Verbal encouragement, extra commands, and whistles are allowed as the dog is working. The dog need not sit to deliver the bumper to the handler. A "finish" is not required.

If the throw is not of adequate distance, the judges will instruct the handler to throw the bumper again. The test committee will appoint a steward to serve as a designated thrower in the event one should be needed.

The dog may bring the bumper to the closest point of land; in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The point of land at which the dog delivers the bumper may be outside the marked test area. If the dog fails to retrieve on the first command, it may be redirected by the handler with voice commands, hand signals, and/or whistle to retrieve the bumper.

The judges will signal completion of the exercise when the dog has delivered the bumper to hand, or when the dog has failed the exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog is sent to make the retrieve.
2. The dog retrieves the bumper that was thrown into swimming depth water and delivers it to hand.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises

(Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog does not retrieve the bumper.
2. The dog gets the bumper but drops it and refuses to pick it up.
3. The dog refuses to deliver the bumper to hand.
4. The handler assists the dog in marking the bumper by throwing objects.
5. The dog leaves the water without making the retrieve.

Suggested Time Limit: Sixty (60) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

DROP RETRIEVE

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. Stewards will paddle across the test site approximately fifty (50) feet from shore. Upon a signal from a judge, a steward will quietly place an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) life jacket or an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) boat cushion in the water on the seaward side of the watercraft, making no effort to attract the dog's attention to the drop. The judges will select the article the morning of the test, and it will be the same for all dogs. After the watercraft has cleared the area, a judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will send the dog with voice commands, hand signals and/or whistles in the direction of the floating article. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed as the dog is working. The dog swims out to the article, retrieves it, and returns it to the handler on shore. The dog must deliver the article to hand. The dog may bring the article to the closest point of land; in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The closest point of land may be outside the marked

test site. No sit or finish is required. The exercise is finished when the dog delivers to hand, or when the judges indicate the dog has failed. The judges will signal a completed exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The steward drops a floating article on the seaward side of the watercraft without attracting the attention of the dog.
2. The dog takes direction.
3. The dog locates the article and delivers it to hand.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog does not retrieve the article.
2. The dog gets the article, drops it, and will not pick it up.
3. The dog fails to deliver the article to the handler.
4. The handler aids the dog in marking the article by throwing objects.
5. The dog leaves the water without making the retrieve.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

TAKE A LINE

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. The land steward will give the handler one end of the line. Before the exercise begins, the calling steward, on the direction of the judge, will walk up to the dog, pet it briefly and ask its name. The steward will swim away from shore into position at the fifty (50) foot mark. When the steward is in position, a judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. As soon as the judge signals the beginning of the exercise, the steward will begin calling the dog. The steward will use the dog's name and must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

After the judge says "You may begin", the handler gives the dog one end of a seventy-five (75) foot floating line. The line may be knotted at one end to facilitate carrying. The

handler may gently place the line in the dog's mouth, entice the dog to take the line, or command the dog to take the line. The line may not be tossed into the water for the dog to grab. If the line is dropped prior to the dog committing to the water, the handler may pick it up and start again. Once the dog has committed to the water, the handler may command the dog to pick it up but may not touch the line.

The dog will hold the line in its mouth, and on voice commands, hand signals, and/or a whistle from the handler will enter the water and carry the line to the steward. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed as the dog is working. The handler may play out the line to avoid entanglement but will keep one end on shore. The dog must bring the line close enough for the steward to reach it without changing his/her location in the water. The dog must hold the line in its mouth until the steward can grasp it, but the dog does not have to relinquish the line to the steward. The steward will hold the line up for the judges to see. The exercise is finished when the steward has hold of the line, or when the judges indicate the dog has failed. The judges will signal completion of the exercise. The handler will then call the dog to shore. The dog may continue to hold the line in its mouth and accompany the steward to shore.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog will hold the line in its mouth.
2. The dog will leave the handler.
3. The dog will deliver the line to the steward.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The handler physically guides the dog any time after the exercise has begun.
2. The dog leaves the water after it has been sent, and before it delivers the line to the steward.
3. The dog does not come close enough to the steward to allow the steward to take hold of the line while the dog is holding it.
4. The handler tosses the line in the water for the dog to retrieve

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

TOW A BOAT

Standard of Performance

The dog will remain on shore with the handler. The handlers' 8-foot floating line with attached boat bumper will be placed in the boat by a steward. The stewards will be positioned in an approved rowboat fifty (50) feet from shore. The dog and handler will approach the water, and the judge will ask, "Are you ready? The judge will instruct the handler "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. As soon as the judge signals the beginning of the exercise, a steward in the boat will attract the team's attention by calling the dog's name and splashing the bumper next to the boat. The dog should swim to the boat, take the bumper or line from the steward, and tow the boat to shore. The steward will splash the bumper close to the boat but may not throw it in front of the dog. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed as the dog is working. The dog may hold either the line or the bumper. The dog may bring the boat to the closest point of land, in which case, the handler may move along the shore to meet the dog. The handler will not enter the water until the dog is at wading depth for the dog. The dog must pull the boat until it touches the bottom, at which time the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog will take direction and swim to the boat upon command.
2. The dog will take the bumper or line its mouth from the steward.
3. The dog will tow the boat to shore and beach it.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog does not swim out to the boat.
2. The dog refuses to take the bumper or line from the steward.
3. The dog does not pull the boat to shore.
4. The dog drops the equipment and does not respond to the handler's commands to pick it up.
5. The dog comes out of the water prior to completion of the exercise, unless dog is actively in the process of towing and beaching the boat in order to complete the exercise

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

SWIM WITH HANDLER

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler are on shore at a spot designated by the judges. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. Dog and handler will approach the water and wade out together to swimming depth for the dog. The dog and handler will swim together for twenty (20) feet. The prescribed distance is not judged until both the handler and the dog have begun swimming. The dog may swim in any position within a four-foot (4) radius of the handler. The dog may not swim on top of the handler nor otherwise impede the handler from reaching the prescribed distance. A judge will signal when the required distance is reached. The handler will stop swimming and command the dog to turn toward shore. The handler may not physically turn the dog. The handler then holds onto the dog and encourages the dog to tow him to shore. The dog is to do so promptly, although one or two circles by the dog for orientation with the shoreline are allowed. The dog may tow the handler by having the handler hold onto the dog or by the dog holding the handler by the arm. If the dog holds the handler by the arm, some protection on the arm is permitted. This protection will be flush with the skin and there will be nothing dangling from it.

The handler must be free floating and allow him/herself to be towed by the dog. A small amount of motion by the handler for balance is allowed. Once the dog has reached wading depth, the handler may stand and walk to shore with his/her dog. The judges will signal completion as soon as the dog is walking.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog is willing to accompany the handler into the water.
2. The dog is willing to swim with the handler the prescribed distance.
3. The dog is willing to tow the handler to shore.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises

(Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog must be physically guided into the water or while swimming.
2. The dog leaves the four-foot (4) radius of the handler and does not immediately return to the handler on command.

3. The dog physically interferes with the handler's ability to swim the prescribed distance.
4. The dog refuses or is unable to tow the handler to shore.
5. The handler makes swimming strokes that are interpreted by the judges as assisting the dog.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

Chapter IV - Standard of Performance - Senior Division

DOUBLE RETRIEVE

Standards of Performance

The two articles to be retrieved will be an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) boat cushion and an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) life jacket. With the dog and handler on shore facing the water, a judge will ask, "Are you ready?" Stewards will paddle across the test site and drop two articles fifty feet (50 feet) from shore and fifty (50) feet apart on the land side of the watercraft. The articles will be splashed two or three times to attract the dog's attention.

When the articles are in place, the stewards will paddle clear of the site, and a judge will tell the handler which is the first article to be retrieved. It will be the same order for each dog unless conditions necessitate a change. A judge will then instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The dog and handler must start from the center of the test area; however, once the judges indicate the start of the exercise, the dog and handler are allowed to move along the beach. The handler sends the dog for the first article from any point on the shore with voice commands, hand signals, and/or whistles. Extra commands and voice encouragement are allowed as the dog works. The dog must retrieve the article and deliver it to the hand of the handler on shore. The dog may bring the article to the closest point of land, in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The closest point of land does not have to be within the marked test area. The handler may pat and praise his dog before he sends it for the second article; no other physical manipulation of the dog is allowed. The dog will be directed for the second article from any point on the beach. When the second article is delivered to hand on shore in the same manner as the first one, the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog takes direction and retrieves both articles in the specified order.
2. The dog is sent for the first article and returns it to the handler on shore, delivering it to hand.
3. The dog is then sent for the second article and returns it in the same manner.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises.

(Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog gets the wrong article.
2. The dog does not retrieve both articles.
3. The dog does not deliver both articles to hand.
4. The dog comes out of the water prior to completion of the first retrieve.
5. The dog comes out of the water after it has been sent for the second retrieve without the article.
6. The handler assists the dog in marking an article by throwing objects.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

RETRIEVE OFF A BOAT

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler will be on shore. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler "You may proceed". At that point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The dog will board a boat and travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have thirty (30) seconds to board and be ready for departure. The thirty (30) second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the retrieve.

The dog must willingly board the platform on the boat without physical assistance from the handler within the 30-second time limit and remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. The dog must exit from the platform. The handler is responsible for placing the paddle on the platform and is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water.

The dog and handler go out in the boat rowed by a steward. The handler may place an arm on the dog on the ride out as long as he/she is not restraining the dog. They go out fifty (50) feet from shore, and the boat is positioned parallel to shore. A judge will signal "You may begin" by an arm signal or one short blast on a whistle. At that signal, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. Upon the signal from the judge, the handler throws a canoe or raft paddle at least ten (10) feet from the boat. The judges must be able to see the paddle thrown to judge the 10-foot distance. When the paddle is in the water, the dog must jump willingly from the platform of the boat, within thirty (30) seconds, to retrieve the paddle. The dog must return the paddle to the boat and relinquish it to either the handler or the steward. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed while the dog is working. . The handler is allowed to splash the water to attract the dog's attention when the dog is returning the paddle to the boat. When the dog has relinquished the paddle to the handler or steward, the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

- 1.The dog will board the board willingly, without physical assistance, within the thirty (30) second time limit for boarding.
- 2.The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit.
3. The handler will throw the paddle at least ten (10) feet.
4. The dog will wait on the boat until the paddle is in the water.
5. The dog will jump from the boat within thirty (30) seconds from the time the oar is in the water.
- 6.The dog will retrieve the paddle.
- 7.The dog will return the paddle to the boat and relinquish it to the handler or the steward.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog refuses to willingly board the boat.
2. The dog refuses to jump from the boat within thirty (30) seconds.
3. The dog jumps before the paddle hits the water.
4. The dog refuses to return the paddle to the handler or the steward.

5. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under control on the platform during the exercise.
6. The dog is restrained while on the boat.
7. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds is allowed to complete the entire exercise: however, the dog must jump within thirty (30) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

TAKE A LIFE RING

Standard of Performance

The life ring is attached to a line three (3) feet to five (5) feet in length. The line may be knotted in some fashion to facilitate the dog holding and towing it. One of three water stewards will be designated as the "victim", and this steward will assume the same position in the water for each dog.

The dog and handler will wait on shore in the center of the test area. A judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and will then instruct three stewards to enter the water and swim out to a point approximately seventy-five (75) feet from shore. When they have reached the 75-foot distance, they will be spaced at thirty-foot (30) intervals. The thirty-foot (30) intervals shall be measured on shore and marked in a visible fashion to enable the stewards to maintain their positions. A judge will indicate to the designated "victim" the start of the exercise by a hand signal or one short blast on his whistle. That steward will begin to splash and call for help but may not call the dog by name. The other two stewards shall quietly tread water, remaining in position and watching the "victim".

A judge will then instruct the handler "You may begin". At that time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. Once the judges indicate the start of the exercise, the handler and dog may move to any position on the beach before the dog is sent. The handler will give the line attached to the life ring to the dog. The dog will take it on command without the handler having to physically put it into the dog's mouth. The handler will send the dog to the "victim" in distress by voice commands, hand signals, and/or whistles. If the dog drops the line, the handler may command the dog to retake it, but the handler may not pick up the line and start again.

The dog is to swim "directly" to the calling person in the water and carry the life ring close enough so that the "victim" may grab hold of it. The word "directly" does not necessarily mean in a straight line, since some dogs naturally swim in an arc to reach a destination. If a dog appears to start toward the wrong steward and can be verbally redirected by the handler to go to the designated "victim", the dog will pass. As long as

the dog is working, it should not fail until it delivers the life ring to the wrong steward or exceeds the time limit for the exercise. The steward must not use swimming strokes to reach for the life ring and is required to hold the life ring while being towed to shore. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed as the dog is working. When the dog and "victim" reach wading depth water for the dog, the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog will hold the line attached to the life ring.
2. The dog goes to the person in distress.
3. The dog comes close enough for the "victim" to grab hold of the life ring.
4. The dog tows the "victim" to shore.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog refuses to hold the line.
2. The dog goes to the incorrect steward.
3. The dog fails to bring the ring close enough for the "victim" to reach it.
4. The dog fails to tow the "victim" to shore.
5. The dog drops the equipment, and the handler assists the dog in marking the equipment by throwing objects.
6. The dog leaves the water prior to completion of the exercise.

Suggested Time Limit: Two (2) minutes. Timing starts when the judge instructs, "You may begin".

UNDERWATER RETRIEVE

Standard of Performance

This exercise starts on the beach. The judge will state "Are You Ready" and "You may proceed into the water". The dog will willingly accompany the handler into the water. The handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar at this time. The point of the dog's elbow will measure the required depth. When dog and handler are in position, at depth, a judge will ask, "Are you ready?" A judge will then instruct the

handler, "You may begin". The handler will toss the object into the water at least three (3) feet in front of the dog and parallel to shore. The object to be retrieved will be no more than twelve (12) inches long and 4 inches tall. When submerged, it should extend no more than four (4) inches from the bottom and should be weighted evenly so that it will sink immediately.

The handler may not touch the dog after the object is thrown. The handler may be beside the dog so that the dog can immediately deliver the object to hand. The handler's position should not block the view of the judges. The dog will have a total of three minutes from the time the object is first thrown to retrieve it from the bottom and deliver it to the handler.

The handler has the option of throwing the object as often as necessary, but the total time for the entire exercise is not to exceed three minutes. Each new throw must be at the required depth and at least three (3) feet in front of the dog. The judges will signal completion of the exercise.

A dog may paw or submerge its head on this exercise, but it must pick up the article and deliver to hand.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog and handler enter water elbow deep for the dog.
2. The handler throws the object at least three (3) feet in front of the dog.
3. The dog is sent to retrieve the object.
4. The dog retrieves and delivers it to the handler who may be standing beside the dog as it retrieves.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog does not retrieve the object thrown at the required depth and/or distance.
2. The dog does not deliver to hand.
3. The dog drops the article and fails to retrieve it again.
4. The handler touches the dog.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. Timing starts when the object is first thrown.

TAKE A LINE/TOW A BOAT

Standard of Performance

A steward will be waiting in a rowboat seventy-five (75) feet from shore. The dog and handler will approach the water, and a judge will ask, "Are you ready?" Then a judge will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will give the dog an eight (8) line with a bumper attached. The dog may hold either end of the equipment, the line or the bumper. The dog will take the equipment on command. The line may not be tossed in the water for the dog to grab. If the dog drops the line or bumper, the handler may command it to retake it, but the handler may not pick up the line or bumper and start again.

The handler sends the dog with voice commands, hand signals, and/or whistles to swim to the steward in the boat. The steward will attract the dog's attention by calling the dog, but not by name, and by splashing the water. While the handler is commanding the dog to swim out to the boat, he/she may not step into the water. The dog will swim out to the boat and come close enough to deliver the bumper or line to the steward in the boat. The steward shall not leave the boat to grab the line. The steward will reach for the bumper or line from the side from which the dog is approaching and hold onto it. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed as the dog is working. The dog may bring the boat to the closest point of land, in which case, the handler may move along the shore to meet the dog. The handler shall not enter the water until the dog is at wading depth for the dog. The dog must pull the boat until it touches bottom, and the judges will signal completion of the exercise at that time.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog will take the bumper or line on command.
2. The dog will deliver the bumper or line to the steward in the boat.
3. The dog will tow the boat to shore

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog refuses to take the bumper or line in its mouth.
2. The dog refuses to deliver the bumper or line to the steward in the boat.
3. The dog does not tow the boat to shore.
4. The dog drops the equipment and will not pick it up when directed by the handler.

5. The dog drops the equipment and the handler assists the dog in marking the equipment by throwing objects.

6. The dog comes out of the water prior to completion of the exercise, unless it is actively towing and beaching the boat to complete the exercise.

Suggested Time Limit: Two (2) minutes. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

RESCUE

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler will be on shore. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" and will then instruct the handler "You may proceed". The dog will willingly board the platform on the boat and travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have thirty (30) seconds to board and be ready for departure. The thirty (30) second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the rescue.

The dog must remain under control and on the platform during the exercise until required to exit. The dog must exit from the platform. The handler must not restrain the dog on the boat. The handler may place an arm on the dog on the ride out as long as the dog is not being restrained.

Handler, dog, and oarsman row out about fifty (50) feet from shore. The boat is positioned parallel to shore. When in position for the rescue, a judge will signal "You may begin" by either a hand signal or one short blast on his whistle. The handler falls or jumps into the water in any manner he/she chooses. Judges may not require that handlers exit in a prescribed manner unless safety considerations warrant it. The dog has 30 seconds to jump, and timing starts when the handler is in the water. The dog must not anticipate the rescue and jump before the handler, jump simultaneously with the handler, or jump onto the handler. Voice encouragement is allowed, but the dog may not be pushed or thrown from the boat.

The dog will swim directly to the handler and tow him to safety. The dog may circle for orientation. The handler has the option of how the dog will tow him. If the dog tows by an arm, some form of protection is allowed on the arm. This protection will be flush with the skin and there will be nothing dangling from it. Some arm or leg motion for balance is allowed, but the handler is to be primarily free floating.

The dog may tow the handler to shore or back to the boat. It is the steward's responsibility to keep the boat within the test site in case the dog elects to take its handler to the boat. The exercise is complete when the dog tows the handler to the boat or reaches wading depth water near shore. The judges will indicate completion of the exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, within the thirty (30) second time limit.
2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit.
3. The dog sees the handler leave the boat.
4. The dog will jump within thirty (30) seconds after the handler is in the water.
5. The dog comes to the rescue promptly.
6. The dog goes to the handler and tows the handler to shore or to the boat.

Failing Performance: The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 15) and if:

1. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.
2. The dog is restrained while on the boat.
3. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under control on the platform until required to exit.
4. The dog jumps before, simultaneously, or onto the handler.
5. The dog does not jump to rescue the handler within thirty (30) seconds.
6. The dog does not go to the handler.
7. The handler makes swimming strokes that are interpreted as assisting the dog.
8. The dog refuses to tow the handler to shore or to the boat.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds is allowed to complete the entire exercise; however, the dog must jump within thirty (30) seconds.

Chapter V - Standard of Performance - Excellent Division

Reality vs Test

These exercises are designed to test the intelligence, instinct and stamina of the Newfoundland in a series of simulated rescue situations. Due to test conditions and restrictions these exercises cannot be executed as they would be in realistic situations. These exercises simulate real life rescue situations safely within the constraints of the test site.

Comfort Breaks

A dog will not fail who relieves himself on the beach or in the water. Because of the amount of water that might be taken in by a dog working at the WRDX Division, the judges will permit one "comfort break" during testing, should it be requested by the handler. The dog is to be taken just outside the testing area and allowed a very brief period of time in which to relieve himself, if necessary.

Wading Depth for the Dog/Steward Comfort

Prior to each WRDX dog being tested, the judges will determine an appropriate depth for each handler to wade into for the rescue exercises, so that the dog and victims will be met by the handler **PRIOR** to the dog reaching wading or standing depth. This will be for the comfort of the stewards, since the towing angle by the dog changes dramatically once the dog reaches standing depth. It is recognized that the distance into the water may be different for each handler, depending on height, etc.

Exercise #1 Unconscious Victim

Purpose:

This exercise will demonstrate the Newfoundland's ability to perform a rescue without the victim indicating that rescue is needed and without hurting the victim.

Standard of Performance

The handler may take his/her dog to the water to get wet as soon as the dog before them is on leash. (The first dog may get wet as soon as the judges indicate they are ready to start the division) The handler will then exit the water and walk to the "gate" of the test area. As soon as the dog and handler leave the water the steward will swim out and get into position but stay upright to watch for the judge's signal. Once the steward is ready the judge will indicate that the dog and handler may enter the test area and the steward lays back into floating position. The dog and handler proceed to the side cone off leash and hands off. The judges will signal the handler to start the exercise.

The handler is permitted to pet and praise the dog between exercises, but must otherwise keep hands off the dog and/or his collar.

Steward Note: When the dog and handler leave the water the steward will quietly swim away from shore into position at the 75ft. mark in the center of the test area. The steward **MUST** be wearing neoprene dry suit, Exposure Protection dive gloves on both hands extending up toward the elbows, and wetsuit material protection from wrists to elbows, on both arms. A complete wetsuit is required for the steward, weather permitting. When the judges indicate that the steward lay back the steward must float naturally on his/her back starting out with feet pointed towards shore, letting the current turn and move him/her. The steward's arms and legs should be floating as still as possible on top of the water with no motion made by strokes or kicks. The hands of the steward will be "palm up" on the surface of the water. The steward will not speak to the dog or make eye contact. Every attempt should be made by the steward to keep his/her eyes closed.

After the judges signal the start of the exercise, the handler and dog will proceed to the center cone. The handler will command the dog to stay within arm's reach as they walk together to the center cone. Once the handler passes the cone he/she may release the dog to go to the steward's rescue, using voice commands, and signals and/or a whistle. The dog will enter the water, committing to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the first command by the handler to swim towards the steward and will swim directly to the steward floating in the water. The word "directly" does not necessarily mean in a straight line, since some dogs naturally swim in an arc to reach a destination. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed while the dog is working. However, the dog is not permitted to turn and swim back towards the handler without having the steward in tow. Upon reaching the steward, the dog **MUST** take either of the protected arms or hands, or the lifejacket of the steward into its mouth, using a gentle hold, and will tow the steward to almost wading depth for the dog. The dog may not push the steward in to shore without having the stewards hand, arm or lifejacket in their mouth. The dog may circle the steward once or twice to find a protected arm/hand, or to obtain proper grip on the lifejacket. The dog may swim over the steward's submerged legs but must not climb on their body. The dog may let go of the steward to adjust its grip; but must immediately take hold again. The steward must remain still, free floating, and may not make any swimming strokes. The handler will enter the water to assist the steward and the dog as

the dog is returning with the steward in tow. The handler will wait at a depth just prior to dog's wading depth, as approved by the judges. When the handler has a hand on the steward, the judge will signal completion of the exercise.

If at any time the dog's grip becomes painful the steward must signal to the judges and stop the exercise. The handler must immediately enter the water and quickly reach the dog and steward to release the dog's grip if the dog does not respond to a command to do so.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The steward (who is not overly familiar with the dog) will swim out and float in the water without attracting the dog's attention.
2. The handler will notice the steward and maintain control of the dog until the handler has passed the center cone and will then send the dog to rescue the steward.
3. The dog will swim to the steward, will take hold of the protected arm/hand or lifejacket of the steward, and, using a gentle hold, will tow the steward to just prior to wading depth for the dog.

Failing Performance:

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises in the general Water Test Regulations, and if:

1. The dog does not wait until the handler has passed the cone to start the rescue.
2. The dog requires the handler's physical assistance at any time.
3. The dog fails to commit to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the handler's first command to start the rescue.
4. The dog does not swim directly to the steward.
5. The dog refuses or is unable to tow the steward to shore.
6. The dog climbs on or otherwise jeopardizes the steward's safety, other than crossing over the legs.
7. The dog takes hold of the steward by other than a protected arm, hand or lifejacket.
8. The dog lets go of the steward's hand/arm or lifejacket and leaves the steward before the handler has contact with the steward.
9. The dog turns back and swims toward shore without completing the rescue.
10. The dog grasps the steward too firmly, causing pain, discomfort or potential injury.

Suggested time Limit: Two and one half (2.5) minutes. Timing starts when the handler gives the first command to start the rescue.

Exercise #2 Multiple Person Rescue

Purpose:

This exercise will demonstrate the superior physical fitness of the Newfoundland while simulating an open sea rescue of multiple persons in distress. The safety of the dog is of paramount importance. Due to the length of time the dog is continually swimming without the break of reaching wading depth, the judges will terminate the exercise at any time a dog is deemed to be in distress or appears to be experiencing difficulty in completing the rescue of the three stewards. The decision of the judges with regards to the safety and ability of the dog to complete the exercise is final. A grievance is not applicable when a decision is rendered by either judge with regards to the safety or perceived distress of the dog.

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler will be on shore in the center of the test area. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler to proceed. The handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. This includes while the dog and handler are on the boat. The dog will board the boat and will travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have 30 seconds to board and to be ready for departure. The 30 second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the rescue. The dog must willingly board the platform of the boat without physical assistance from the handler and within the 30 second time limit, and will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. The handler is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water. The boat is rowed out and anchored into position 150 feet from shore in the center of the test area. The rowing steward may also use the oars to keep the boat in place and platform facing the shore.

Three stewards, who are not overly familiar with the dog, will be designated as the "victims" and must remain the same, if at all possible, for each dog entered. While the boat is being rowed out into position the stewards will swim out to their designated locations as follows:

The calling stewards will be positioned, forming an irregular diamond shape with the boat, in these locations:

Steward #1 – At 100ft. from shore in line with the left marker on the shore.

Steward #2 – At 75ft. from shore in line with the center marker on the shore.

Steward # 3 – At 100ft. from shore in line with the right marker on the shore.

The stewards must watch the rower throughout the exercise for signals provided by the judges, since they are facing away from the judges. Once the boat is anchored into position and the stewards are in place the judge will ask the handler if he/she is ready, at which point the judge will signal the beginning of the exercise by using an arm signal or one short blast on a whistle directed towards the stewards. The stewards will immediately splash and call for help. The stewards will not use the dog's name and will call continuously, in a manner consistent with being in distress. The stewards need not call in the same manner as one another, and are discouraged from doing so, as there are differences in the condition and mannerisms of those needing rescue.

The handler will command the dog to jump from the boat and to rescue the stewards. The dog must jump willingly from the platform of the boat within fifteen (15) seconds from the time the handler gives the first command to jump. The dog cannot anticipate and jump before being commanded to do so. The dog will swim directly to each steward, recognizing that dogs may swim in a straight line, or in an arc, according to their instincts, although it should be clear that the dog is swimming towards or closely around each steward. It is up to the dog to determine the order in which each steward is rescued. Verbal encouragement only, as well as extra commands given by the handler, is allowed while the dog is working. The dogs may need to orient themselves either after the jump from the boat, or after each rescue with the boat, handler and the group of

stewards in the distance. The dog may turn back to the handler at the boat for further encouragement and direction until the judges deem the dog to have committed to the field of stewards by virtue of swimming at least halfway towards the field of stewards. Once the dog has committed to halfway between the boat and the stewards, the dog is not permitted to turn back and begin swimming towards the handler and boat without having a steward in tow. The dog is not permitted to swim past a steward, towards shore, unless circling the steward. The dogs should swim close enough to the steward so that the steward may grab the dog without moving from his/her position. The dog is considered committed to a steward when he swims close enough for the steward to take hold of the dog. The handler is permitted to splash in the water to encourage the dog to return to the boat. The dog is permitted to bring to the boat one, two, or all three stewards at a time. The judges will determine whether the dog is physically able to tow multiple stewards without undue stress, taking into consideration both wind and current at a given test location.

Unless it is obvious that the dog is heading for another steward, once the dog has made an actual pick up of a steward, any remaining stewards will soften their voices and splash less but must continue to call and splash. The dog must tow each steward back to the boat, where the handler waits on the platform. Each steward must make physical contact with the handler, i.e. touches hands or hand to arm. The stewards will then hold the lip of the boat, away from and behind the platform area to make room for the remaining stewards to make contact with the handler, and wait quietly until the exercise is complete. Once the dog and steward(s) reach the boat and are touched by the handler, any remaining stewards will resume their original calling. The dog is permitted to check all sides of the boat and rescued stewards before and between each rescue attempt. The exercise will be signaled complete when the final steward has made the defined physical contact with the handler.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, and within the thirty (30) second time limit for boarding.
2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit.
3. The dog will jump from the platform of the boat within fifteen (15) seconds from the time the first command to jump is given by the handler.
4. The dog will swim directly to each steward and will tow the steward(s) directly back to the boat.
5. The dog will swim close enough to the boat for the handler to make physical contact with each steward.

Failing Performance

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises in the general Water Test Regulations, and if:

1. The dog refuses to willingly board the boat.
2. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.
3. The dog requires physical restraint by the handler, either on the beach or on the boat.
4. The dog anticipates and jumps before being commanded to do so.
5. The dog refuses to jump from the boat within fifteen (15) seconds.

6. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under verbal control on the platform during the exercise.
7. The dog does not swim directly to each steward.
8. The dog swims back towards the boat without a steward in tow after having swum more than halfway towards the field of stewards, or swims past the stewards towards the shore without attempting to pick up a steward.
9. The dog does not tow the steward(s) directly back to the boat.
10. The dog does not come close enough for the handler to make contact with each steward.

Suggested Time Limit: Six (6) minutes are suggested for completion of the entire exercise. However, the dog must jump within fifteen (15) seconds. The timing starts when the handler gives the first command for the dog to jump.

Exercise # 3 Boat to Raft Rescue

Purpose:

This exercise simulates some rescues that Newfoundlands have actually made historically, taking a line from a boat and making a connection with another boat or to the shore to assist in the rescue of the passengers of one or both boats.

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler will be on shore in the center of the test area. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler to proceed. The handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar at all times. This includes while the dog and handler are on the boat. The dog will board the boat and will travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have 30 seconds to board and to be ready for departure. The 30 second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the exercise. The dog must willingly board the platform on the boat without physical assistance from the handler within the 30 second time limit and remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. The handler is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water. The handler will have a fifteen (15) foot line, knotted at one end, which the handler has brought with him/her to the boat. The dog and handler will be rowed out one hundred (100) feet from shore, and 35 feet to either side of the center of the test area, where the boat will be turned parallel to shore with the platform facing the center of the test area. The judges will decide which side of the test area is appropriate for the test site conditions. The rowing steward will hold the rowboat in that position, or an anchor system may be used, if conditions warrant.

At the same time, an inflatable raft, rated for four (4) persons, with one steward aboard will be towed into the test area and positioned seventy five (75) feet from shore and anchored in the center of the test area. For the safety of the dog, there should be no lines hanging down on the outside of the raft. When the raft is in position the steward in the raft will signal the judge that he/she is ready. The judges will signal the handler to begin the exercise with an arm signal or one short whistle blast. The handler will command the dog to voluntarily take the line and then to jump from the boat. The dog must willingly take the line and exit from the platform of the boat with the line in his mouth, within fifteen (15) seconds of the first command to take hold of the line. The handler may offer the line to the dog again, should the line be dropped by the dog onto the platform prior to the dog jumping from the boat. The handler is not permitted to toss the line into the water for the dog to retrieve. The dog may not anticipate and leave the boat prior to taking the line in his mouth, or prior to the handler's command to jump. Should the dog drop the line into the water as it jumps from the boat, or as the dog lands in the water, the handler may verbally (only) command the dog to pick up the line. The dog is permitted to orient itself in order to locate the dropped line, or in case the dog goes under the surface of the water after jumping from the platform. **Once the dog is in the water** the steward in the raft will call and splash as if in distress. The steward will not call the dog by name and will not be overly familiar with the dog. The dog will swim directly to the raft while carrying the knotted line. The dog may swim in a straight line, or in an arc, according to its instincts. The dog may look back towards the handler for further encouragement and direction, however, the dog is not permitted to begin swimming back to the boat or towards shore without having the raft in tow. As the dog approaches the raft the steward will release the anchor. The dog must get close enough to the raft for the steward to reach the line without leaving the raft. Once the

dog has delivered the line to the steward in the raft the steward stops calling and the handler will command the dog to tow the raft to shore.

A designated steward will be waiting on shore to meet the dog. The steward on shore will not call the dog and will not be overly familiar with the dog. The dog may swim towards shore in a straight line, or in an arc, according to his instincts; but must swim directly to shore. The handler may continue to direct the dog verbally as the dog works. The dog is not permitted to turn and swim back towards the handler prior to delivering the line to the shore steward. The dog may pause and look back toward the handler once he reaches his wading depth. It will not be the responsibility of the shore steward to direct the dog to hold onto the line. The dog will get close enough to shore for the shore steward to put a hand on the line without entering the water. The steward may move down the shore line to meet the dog. The dog does not have to relinquish the line to the shore steward. The exercise will be complete when the dog delivers the line to the steward. When the whistle is blown by the judges to signal completion of the exercise, the shore steward may enter the water to be sure the raft does not hit the dog and will hold the dog gently by the collar until the handler returns to shore.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, within the thirty (30) second time limit for boarding.
2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit.
3. The dog will wait on the platform of the boat until instructed to take the line and then to jump by the handler. The dog will willingly take the offered line from the handler when commanded to do so.
4. The dog will jump from the platform of the boat within fifteen (15) seconds from the time the command to take the line, is first given.
5. The dog will swim directly to the raft with the line in his mouth and get close enough to the raft for the steward to reach the line.
6. The dog will tow the raft to shore.
7. The exercise will be complete when the dog delivers the line to the steward waiting on shore.

Failing Performance

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises in the general Water Test Regulations, and if:

1. The dog refuses to willingly board the boat.
2. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.
3. The dog requires physical restraint by the handler, either on the beach or on the boat.

4. The dog will not willingly take the line when commanded to do so by the handler.
5. The dog anticipates and jumps before having been commanded to do so.
6. The dog refuses to jump with the line in its mouth within fifteen (15) seconds.
7. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under control on the platform during the exercise.
8. The dog fails to take the line to the raft and swims toward shore.
9. The dog does not get close enough to the raft for the steward to reach the line.
10. The dog does not tow the raft to shore.
11. The dog fails to deliver the line to the steward waiting on shore.
12. The dog begins swimming back towards the handler at any time before delivering the line to the raft or shore steward, other than during obvious attempts to orient himself with the boat and shoreline after jumping into the water.

Suggested Time Limit: Three and a half (3.5) minutes are suggested for completion of the entire exercise. However, the dog must jump within 15 seconds. The timing starts when the handler gives the command for the dog to take the line.

Exercise #4 Rescue of Hidden Victims

Purpose:

This exercise will demonstrate the Newfoundland's ability to search for and rescue victims that are in distress but are not in sight.

Standard of Performance

Two stewards will be rowed out 75ft. from shore. The boat will then be attached to a stationary anchor, or an anchor will be dropped from the boat, positioning it parallel to shore. The oars will rest in the boat where they will remain during the exercise. The two stewards will quietly exit the boat, one at a time from the platform. They will then move to the seaward side of the boat, where they will hold onto the lip of the boat, with one steward at one end of the boat and the other towards the other end. After having given a brief arm signal to the judge that the stewards are in place, the rower will remain quietly in the middle of the boat primarily facing away from the dog at work.

The dog and handler are waiting at the cone at the side of the test area. A Judge will signal the stewards to begin calling for help. The rower will relay this signal to the stewards. The stewards will call for help in a manner realistic with being stranded and as if their boat had overturned. Stewards will call and splash and may bang on the boat. However, stewards and their splashing must not be visible from shore. The stewards will not use the dog's name and the stewards will not be overly familiar with the dog.

After the judges signal the stewards to begin calling, the handler and dog will proceed to the center cone. The handler will command the dog to stay within arm's reach as they walk together to the center cone. Once the handler passes the cone he/she may release the dog to go to the steward's rescue, using voice commands, and hand signals and/or a whistle. The dog will enter the water, committing to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the first command by the handler to swim towards the boat and will swim directly to the boat. The word "directly" does not necessarily mean in a straight line, since some dogs naturally swim in an arc to reach a destination. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed while the dog is working. The dog may look back towards the handler for further encouragement and direction, however the dog is not permitted to turn back and begin swimming towards shore without having the steward(s) in tow. The dog is to swim close enough for the steward to reach out and take hold of the dog while still having hold of the side of the boat. It is the dog's option to bring in one or both stewards at the same time. If the dog swims close enough to the second steward while towing the first steward towards shore, so that the second steward is able to reach out and take hold of the dog while still having hold of the side of the boat, the dog will be deemed to have opted to bring in both stewards at the same time. If the dog brings in both stewards at the same time, the stewards will take hold of each side of the dog, towards the dog's hindquarters.

The stewards are not to hold on to each other, and they should not speak during the time they are being towed to shore. Should the dog opt to bring in one steward at a time, the dog will tow the steward back to just prior to wading depth for the dog. The second steward will quietly hold onto the boat, having ceased calling for help as soon as the first steward has a hold of the dog and the dog has committed to shore. The handler

will enter the water as the dog is returning towards shore with a steward in tow. The handler will assist the steward and the dog at the point just prior to the dog having reached its wading depth, previously designated for each dog and handler by the judges. Once the steward grasps hands with the handler and is helped to their feet, the handler will send the dog for the second steward from that point in the water. The handler may remain at the point just prior to wading depth for the dog for the second steward to be brought in. Since the second steward may not be able to see when the assistance is given by the handler to the first steward, the judge will signal to the rower to notify the second steward to begin calling again. The rescue of the second steward is to be executed in the same manner as for the first steward. When the handler has taken hold of the hand of the second steward (whether the dog has brought in one or two at a time) and helped them to their feet the exercise is finished and the judge will so signal.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. Two stewards are calling for help out of sight on the far side of a rowboat
2. The handler will hear the stewards and maintain control of the dog until the handler has passed the center cone and will then send the dog to rescue the steward.
3. The dog enters the water on command and swims to the stewards.
4. The dog swims close enough for the stewards to reach the dog without losing their grip on the boat.
5. The dog tows each steward in turn, or both at the same time, to just prior to wading depth for the dog, as designated by the judges.
6. The handler enters the water to meet the dog and each steward prior to the dog reaching wading depth, and helps each steward to stand.
7. The exercise is finished when the second steward is helped to stand.

Failing Performance

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises in the general Water Test Regulations, and if:

1. The dog does not wait until the handler has passed the cone to start the rescue
2. The dog requires the handler's physical assistance at any time.
3. The dog fails to commit to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the handler's first command to start the rescue.

4. The dog does not swim directly to the boat or turns back and begins swimming towards shore without a steward in tow after having been sent to rescue the calling stewards.
5. The dog does not swim close enough to the stewards so that they can take hold of the dog without losing their grip on the boat.
6. The dog does not commit to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the command to complete the rescue of the second steward.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. Timing starts when the handler gives the first command to start the rescue.

Exercise #5 Abandoned Boat

Purpose:

This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability to follow its handlers commands and retrieve a boat without someone calling from the boat.

Standard of Performance

The boat shall remain in place as it was in Exercise #4. The boat steward shall remain in the boat and ensure that they lower themselves in the boat and not be sitting upright/making eye contact with the dog.

The handler must immediately send the dog from the dog's wading depth in the water after the passing whistle is given on exercise #4 even though the stewards may not have cleared the water. The handler does not have to wait for a signal from the judges. Should the dog fail exercise #4, the handler and dog will remain in the water at wading depth until such time that the stewards have returned to shore and the judge signals that they may begin exercise 5. Timing begins after the passing whistle for exercise 4 or, if exercise 4 was failed, from the judge's command to start. The handler will send the dog to search for the line. The dog must commit to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the passing whistle for exercise 4 or, if exercise 4 was failed, the judges command to start. The dog must swim directly to the boat. The dog may swim in a straight line, or in an arc, according to their instincts. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed while the dog is working. The line shall be an 8 foot knotted, floating line (no bumper attached) attached to the bow of the boat. The boat steward shall place the line on the seaward side of the boat when the handler gives the first command to the dog to begin the exercise. Prior to the dog approaching the boat, the boat steward shall bring up or detach the anchor system. Verbal, hand signal and/or whistle encouragement is allowed by the handler while the dog is working. The dog will tow the boat to shore by the line attached to the bow of the boat. The dog will beach the boat. Should the dog swim back towards shore without the boat, the dog may be redirected by the handler after the dog has reached its wading depth. The dog has 10 seconds to respond to the redirect command by turning and swimming back to the boat. The dog is not permitted to swim towards shore a second time without bringing in the boat.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The dog is sent to the abandoned boat from the dog's wading depth at the conclusion of exercise #4
2. The dog finds the knotted line and uses it to tow the boat.
3. The dog tows the boat to shore and beaches it.

Failing Performance

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises in the general Water Test Regulations, and if:

1. The dog returns to shore without the boat after 1 redirect.
2. The dog does not beach the boat.
3. The dog does not commit to the redirect command within 10 seconds.
4. The dog does not begin swimming within 20 seconds of the passing whistle for exercise 4 or, if exercise 4 was failed, the judges command to begin.
5. The dog requires the handler's physical assistance at any time.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. Timing begins after the passing whistle for exercise 4 or, if exercise 4 was failed, from the judge's command to start.

Exercise #6 Capsized Raft

Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to search for a victim trapped under a boat and to have to dive under the boat and back out to rescue the victim.

Standard of Performance

The dog and handler are waiting at the cone at the side of the test area. The handler must have hands off the dog, other than for petting and praising between exercises. The steward will hold the already upside down four (4) person rated raft (additional raft details below) and be towed 50 feet from shore. For the safety of the dog, there should be no lines hanging down on the outside of the raft. When the inflatable raft is in position (50 feet out from the center of the test area, parallel to shore), the craft used for towing will very quickly exit the testing area, but will remain ready to retrieve the raft at the conclusion of the exercise. One Judge will be positioned near the center of the test area and one Judge will be positioned as far down the beach as possible to view the dog if it goes behind the raft. (Judges may even go out onto a dock, if available).

At a signal from the judge, the calling steward will yell loudly as he/she lifts the raft high and flips it over his/her head while immediately beginning to call for help. The steward will adjust his/her position beneath the overturned raft so that he/she is toward the stern of the raft. The steward should hold the shore-side of the raft with his/her hand, raising it approximately 3 inches from the surface of the water in order to be certain the raft is oriented parallel to shore and to adjust his/her position as needed. The steward will call for help while under the raft, although not calling the dog by name. The steward will not be overly familiar with the dogs being tested.

After the Judges signal the steward to begin calling, the handler and dog will proceed to the center cone. The handler will command the dog to stay within arms reach as they walk together to the center cone. Once the handler passes the cone he/she may release the dog to go to the steward's rescue, using voice commands, hand signals and/or a whistle. The dog will commit to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the first command swimming directly towards the raft. The dog may swim in a straight line, or in an arc, according to its instincts. Verbal encouragement and extra commands are allowed while the dog is working. The dog may look back towards the handler for further encouragement and direction however, the dog is not permitted to turn back and begin swimming towards shore without having the steward in tow. The steward will drop the shore side of the raft to level with the surface of the water once the dog is approximately 10 feet from the raft. Upon reaching the raft, the dog will swim in under the raft from any direction, whereupon the steward will immediately take hold of the dog. The dog will then exit from under the raft in any direction. The steward must not assist the dog under the raft or lift the raft to allow the dog to go under or exit. **Once the dog has exited** from under the raft, the steward is permitted to raise the raft on the way out, if necessary for safety, and to protect the steward from catching his/her life jacket on the handles of the raft. The handler will wade into the water to the depth just prior to the dog's wading depth, as previously determined by the Judges, when the dog is in the process of towing the steward back towards shore. The dog will tow the steward to just prior to wading depth for the dog, at which time the handler will touch hands with the steward. The judges will then signal the completion of the exercise. The canoe or rowboat will retrieve the inflatable

raft and will remove it from the testing area.

Raft Requirements: The raft must be a four person raft that does not bow when inflated. It must sit flat on the surface of the water when upside down. Judges must check the raft to be sure that it stays properly inflated throughout the test.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The steward flips the raft over his/her head and begins to call for help.
2. The handler will see and hear the steward and maintain control of the dog until the handler has passed the center cone and will then send the dog to rescue the steward.
3. The dog enters the water, committing to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the first command of the handler to start the rescue, and swims to the aid of the steward beneath the capsized raft.
4. The dog swims under the raft from any direction, at which time the steward takes hold of the dog, who exits out from under the raft, towing the steward with him. The dog is permitted to both enter and exit the raft from any direction.
5. The exercise is complete when the dog reaches just prior to wading depth for the dog with the steward in tow and the handler touches hands with the steward.

Failing Performance

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises in the general Water Test Regulations, and if:

1. The dog does not wait until the handler has passed the cone to start the rescue.
2. The dog does not commit to swimming depth within 20 seconds of the first command given by the handler.
3. The dog does not swim directly to the raft or turns back and begins swimming towards shore without the steward in tow.
4. The dog requires the handler's physical assistance at any time.
5. The dog does not swim under the capsized raft to rescue the steward.

Suggested Time Limit: Two (2) minutes. Timing starts when the handler gives the first command to start the rescue.

Reasons for proposed WRDX changes

Beach set up

The cones on the beach were our solution to the instinct vs control argument. A lot of people feel the dogs should be able to react on instinct at this level but just as many people feel that the dogs should be even better under control at this level so that they could be stopped if they were heading into a dangerous situation. Our solution was to offer an opportunity for a little of both. When the dog walks from one cone to the other, they must be kept under control, once the handler reaches the second cone they can be released with a command to work on instinct.

All One Test

Having the WRDX division as a separate test was causing some problems in areas such as when to judge the bitches in season and whether entrants were allowed to move up. We thought there would be less confusion if it became part of the regular water test but left it optional for clubs to hold the WRDX level.

Exercise Name Changes

Several complaints mentioned that the names of the exercises were too long and hard to remember so we shortened the names.

Exercise 1 Unconscious Victim

It was felt that by moving this to the first exercise we could avoid having the dog watch the set up of the exercise. Most people did not want to have the dog see the steward get into position. Once the steward is in position the dog will move onto the beach area to the side cone. We made one clarification and that is that the dog is allowed to swim over the stewards legs because the dogs can only see the toes and body and they don't realize there are legs under the water between the toes and body. They can cross over the legs but not climb on the body or they can try to cross over the legs and when they realize the legs are there they can choose to go around the feet or head. We discussed having this be a team rescue with the handler swimming out with the dog in control and the dog towing them back in but it seemed too similar to a simple Swim with Handler exercise.

Exercise 2 Multiple Person Rescue

The only changes here are a clarification that the handler can splash in the water to attract the dog when they are returning to the boat with a steward and some clarification of the stewards calling. We had a few comments about the middle steward being as close to shore as to the boat and wanting that to be changed. We thought moving the steward closer to the boat did not work for the purpose of this exercise. Some comments asked why the stewards could not be seaward of the boat so that the lure of shore wouldn't be an option. Every test site differs. Some have a lot of boat traffic and this positioning would put the stewards and dog at risk. This is a simulation of an open sea rescue but due to the difference of test sites we felt this was the only way to keep it safe.

Exercise 3 Boat to Raft Rescue (was Line to Shore)

This exercise has the most changes. Many of the comments we received stated that this exercise was too easy. Also, we received many comments that wanted some kind of a boat to boat exercise. We thought that by adding another boat to this exercise we would be making the exercise more difficult and create a boat to boat exercise. We decided not to use the 125 ft rope because we were afraid that the dog could get tangled in it if he headed back to the first boat or circled the second boat. Again, this is a test situation, not reality, if we could make changes that may not be realistic but kept the dog safe we opted for the dog's safety. We went with a 15 ft line because we wanted it short enough that the dog needed to get pretty close to the raft but long enough that the raft wouldn't bump or run over the dog while the dog is towing it to shore. We decided to use the raft as the second boat because clubs would already have it available and it would be easier to tow than a canoe or kayak. We decided that the first boat would be to one side of the test area so that judges could pick the side that would work best for the conditions at the test site. We chose the center 75 foot area for the second boat because there will already be an anchor there. We wanted the dog to continue to have to take the line and jump from the boat without someone calling him because it is a new skill they have to learn for this division. Also, the dog will have to tow the raft to shore without a steward calling for him. We thought that this would also add some difficulty to an easier exercise and that the dog would have to take direction from his handler. We did not want the dog to have to beach the raft because some sites may be rocky and the raft could be damaged.

Exercise 4 Hidden Victims

The only change in this exercise is a clarification; the stewards and their splashing must not be visible from the shore. The exercise ends the same as before but, if completed, will now run into the start of Exercise 5. Some comments mentioned that this exercise is unrealistic because the stewards could move to the side of the boat where they could be seen. The purpose of the exercise is for the dog to make a rescue of victims that he can hear but not see. This is the best way to set up such an exercise under test conditions.

Exercise 5 Abandoned Boat

We had a lot of comments that this exercise was too easy. We discussed the possibility of combining it with the Hidden Victims exercise to make it all one exercise but did not want to have to develop a completely new exercise to make a sixth exercise for the test. Instead we opted to change the start of the exercise so that Exercise 4 flows into Exercise 5 which makes it more realistic. We also decided to remove the bumper from the line which also makes it more realistic and more difficult. If a boat broke loose from its mooring and were floating away it may have a line hanging off its bow but probably not a bumper. The knotted end of the line may drift under the boat, as did the bumper, but the dog will have to be taught to take the line from the front of the boat, if necessary.

Exercise 6 Capsized Raft

We heard three complaints about this exercise over and over. It is not safe for the steward under the raft, clubs are having trouble finding stewards willing to steward for this exercise because of the flip and the safety issues once under the raft and stewards cheating by lifting the back of the raft to assist a dog to go under the raft. We tried to find a way to improve these three areas. First, we removed the flip, though exciting for the spectators we need to put steward safety first. Second, we moved the exercise to 50 feet from shore instead of 75 feet so that the steward may be better able to hear the judges and vice versa. Third, we positioned a judge further down the beach to give a better view of the back area of the raft so that they can tell if the dog is lifting the raft from behind or the steward is doing so.