



NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

WATER TEST REGULATIONS

Revised December 1, 1998



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 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 ONE General Regulations

Section 1. Application for 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 sponsor a water test. Application must be made using an approved WDC application. Application packets, which include a list of approved judges, are available from the designated Working Dog Committee member who processes water test applications. The completed application and a required fee (payable to NCA) must be mailed to the designated Working Dog Committee member a minimum of four (4) months, but not more than twelve (12) months, prior to the date of the proposed test. A self-addressed, stamped postcard must be included if verification of application received is requested.

The WDC's approval or rejection of the Water Test Application is usually communicated to the water test chairperson by the designated Working Dog Committee member 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.

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. The premium list must include the following information:

1. The date and location of the water test 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.
2. The judges' names.
3. 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 Section 12 Entry Limitation.
4. The beginning date for accepting entries, which must be no less than ten (10) days after the mailing date of the premium list.
5. The closing date for accepting entries.
6. A statement regarding entrant's responsibility for obtaining the current NCA Water Test Regulations.
7. 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.
8. The name and address of the Water Test Secretary to whom the entries shall be sent.
9. Additional information such as the following: officers and directors of the NCA and regional club; awards; accommodations; directions to test; advertising; any special events and additional activities.
10. An official NCA entry form containing the notice that a copy of the entered dog's AKC, ILP, or foreign registration paper must be attached.

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

After the closing date for entries, the 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.

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, entrant evaluations, judges' evaluations, marked catalogs, premium lists, and any other materials requested by the WDC.

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. The designated Working Dog Committee member may grant an extension provided he/she is contacted prior to the deadline and there is a valid reason.

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.

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 the water test judge, or to any member of such person's immediate family, shall be entered in any water test at which such person officiates. Lamé 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

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

1. Any dog which its handler cannot control.
2. Any dog which attacks a person or dog on test grounds.
3. Any handler who deliberately interferes with another handler or dog.
4. 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.

Section 7. Handling a Dog

Each dog shall be handled by the same handler for all exercises.

Section 8. Bitches in Season

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, 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.

Section 9. Unentered Dogs

The appointed Safety Officer is responsible for ensuring 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 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 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 mailing of the premium list.

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.

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

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

Section 13. Entry in Junior Division

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

1. Any eligible dog that has not yet earned a WD title may enter the Junior Division.
2. 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.
3. Any dog that has earned a WRD 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.
4. 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 available 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. If there is no space available in the Junior Division and the handler chooses not to change the entry to Senior Division, then the entry fee will be returned to the entrant.

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 p.m. the night before the test.

A dog that has earned a WRD 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. 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.

Section 16. 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 judging, 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 17. 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:

1. The steward(s) has cared for the dog within the past year.
2. The steward(s) has trained with the dog frequently within the past year.
3. 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 18. Test Site Conditions

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. 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 19. 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 20. 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 21. 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 and some form of foot protection.

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.

CHAPTER TWO

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 NCA Water 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 to or delete from the requirements of the water tests. Judges must act in a professional, impartial, and pleasant manner.

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.

Section 2. Failed Exercises and Re-judging

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.

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.

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 Evaluation

The Water Test Committee will provide each entrant with a Test Evaluation Form. Entrants are encouraged to complete the forms before leaving the test site and return them to the Water Test Secretary. Forms not returned at the site should be mailed within ten (10) days to the Working Dog Committee member in charge of test evaluations whose name and address appears on the form.

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".

Section 7. Use of Leash

All dogs at an NCA Water test are tested off leash. All dogs must be held on leash or securely crated unless being tested.

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, 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 in place for safety reasons, and the boat bumper may have a short line attached to facilitate throwing.

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

1. A buoyant boat bumper, canvas or plastic.
2. An eight (8) foot floating line with plastic or canvas boat bumper attached.
3. A floating line (may be knotted at one end), minimum length of seventy-five (75) feet.
4. 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).

SENIOR DIVISION EQUIPMENT

1. Canoe or raft paddle of wood or plastic, at least two and one half (2 1/2) feet in length.
2. An eight (8) foot floating line with plastic or canvas boat bumper attached.
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. 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.

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

1. An approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device for all water stewards.
2. 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.
3. Rope, tape, fencing, or appropriate material to mark off the test area.
4. 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. They should be unobtrusive, visible to the entrants but unattractive to the dogs.

5. Shore markers. Three shore markers spaced thirty (30) feet apart; 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.
6. Two (2) whistles for judges.
7. Two clipboards for judge.
8. Stopwatch.
9. First aid kit.
10. Backboard-recommended.
11. A canoe or kayak to be used for the placement of the articles in the Junior Drop Retrieve and Senior Double Retrieve Exercises.
12. Cellular phone (if a public telephone is not available on the 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. 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 an exercise, will result in the failure of the team.

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 thirty (30) 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 a retrieving article, but no other equipment may be used. During the Senior Division pre-swim, dogs are permitted to get on and off the beached boat in addition to the use of a retrieving object.

Junior Division dogs will be provided a thirty (30) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Junior Division judging. Senior Division dogs will be provided a thirty (30) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Senior 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. If the judging schedule permits, they may allow a reasonable opportunity for a handler to assist a dog in completing the exercise that has been failed.

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. The NCA board will deal with discipline, as a result of a grievance, in accordance with the NCA Constitution and By-laws.

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. (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.

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 and Senior 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 THREE **Standards 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.

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.

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".

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 FOUR

Standards 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 LIFERING

Standard of Performance

The lifering 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 lifering 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 lifering 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 lifering.
2. The dog goes to the person in distress.
3. The dog comes close enough for the "victim" to grab hold of the lifering.
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 dog will willingly accompany the handler into the water. The handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The point of the dog's elbow will measure the required depth. When dog and handler are in position, 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.

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

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.