



FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER SOCIETY OF CANADA

National Specialty
July 18 – 22, 2012
Vancouver, BC

Working Certificate Test Requirements

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The Canadian Kennel Club booklet “Working Certificate Test Rules & Regulations”, January 1, 2011, contains the requirements for the three test levels – Working Certificate, Working Certificate Intermediate and Working Certificate Excellent – plus all the rules and regulations. The rule book is available on-line to CKC members; it can be ordered by calling the CKC at 1-800-250-8040. I encourage you to become familiar with the test requirements, standards and guidelines for your event... and beyond.

To earn any Working Certificate title a dog must receive one passing ribbon at a test held under the WC rules; in addition the dog must be registered with the CKC or have an Event Registration Number. (Details about the ERN follow). Dogs must progress through all levels – WC, then WCI, then WCX. A dog cannot skip to advanced levels. Since we will be holding WC tests on Saturday and Sunday, handlers who anticipate their dog has the skills to run at more advanced levels can enter their dog in the entry level for both days, run the dog at the first level, qualify at that level, then move the dog up to run the next level on Sunday. For example – enter the WC level both days; qualify at WC on Saturday, then move the dog up to run the WCI level on Sunday. Or, for a dog that has a WC title, – enter WCI both days, successfully complete the WCI on Saturday then move the dog up to the WCX level for Sunday. The test secretary will have “move up” forms at the field headquarters table; forms must be submitted to the secretary prior to the start of test. Note – move ups from WC to WCI will incur an additional \$5.00 entry fee.

Spend time reading the rules and regulations that apply to the test level you are considering – in addition to discovering what skills are being tested, learn about the differences between the WC program and hunt tests and read about the various levels of faults. At WC tests handlers are allowed to point out the gunners to the dog, similar to line procedures seen at field trials. Pointing out gunners is not allowed at hunt tests. Learn what faults will result in failure (serious faults - e.g. breaking) and what faults may result in failure if they are repeated (moderate faults – e.g. controlled break or minor faults – e.g. sloppy bird handling).

Following is a summary of skills required for each level. Note – this summary is intended as a guide only and is not complete! You will need to read the details in the rule book!

Skills required at the Working Certificate level

- Dog does not need to be steady and can be held by lead, collar or hand. Dog cannot wear a collar when retrieving. Dog should deliver to hand and must bring the bird across the line.
- Back to back singles on land– at least 90 degrees between falls; bird to land in light to moderate cover; distance 45 to 68 meters (50 to 75 yards).
- Back to back singles on water - at least 90 degrees between falls; line to be at the edge of the water; birds to land in open water or at the edge of reeds but should not be hidden; distance 23 to 37 meters (25 to 40 yards). Test set up should not encourage shore running. No decoys are used.



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Skills required at the Working Certificate Intermediate level:

- Dog walks off leash from the final holding blind to the line (up to 25 yards).
- Dog must be steady as marks are thrown and until released by the judges. Dog must deliver to hand
- Double marks on land - at least 90 degrees between falls; birds to land in moderate to moderately heavy cover and not visible from the line; distance 68 meters (75 yards).
- Double marks on water - at least 90 degrees between falls; birds to land with a visible splash; one bird to land in cover; distance 37 to 46 meters (40 to 50 yards). Decoys are used – singly anchored and centrally located between the 2 marks.
- Dog must honour as a land double is thrown for a working dog.

Skills required at the Working Certificate Excellent level:

- Walk-up test of 14 meters (15 yards) to a land double or a land / water double – at least 45 degrees between falls; first bird thrown is about 91 meters (100 yards) and second bird about 46 meters (50 yards) in moderate to heavy cover. If judges choose to have a land / water double the water bird should be the shorter bird. Handler carries a replica gun.
- Honour on the walk up, 14 meters (15 yards). Dog shall honour after they have run the mark. Both honour and working dogs shall stop when the first gun is fired; handlers may quietly tell and/or whistle their dogs to sit and stay. Both handlers carry replica guns.
- Double marks on water – about 90 degrees between falls; birds to land with a visible splash in light cover; distance up to 46 meters (50 yards). Decoys are used – singly anchored and in front of the line, but not in a direct line to either fall. Handler shall point a replica gun towards the marks; a designated gunner discharges a gun from the line for one mark.
- Land blind – about 46 meters (50 yards) in length; in moderate cover; and should have a natural obstacle about 5 meters (15 feet) in front of the line. Open, flat terrain should be avoided. A shot is discharged at the line before the dog is sent.
- Water blind – maximum of 46 meters (50 yards); running line not more than 5 meters (15 feet) from the water's edge; must be a direct, not an angle entry. If decoys are used they should be at least 3 meters (10 feet) off the direct line to the blind and not closer than 3 meters (10 feet) to the shore or the blind.



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Classification of Faults

Serious faults can be sufficient to fail a dog:

- Returning to the handler without a bird or without being called in
- Switching birds
- Blinking a bird
- Unwilling to release a bird on delivery
- Retrieving a decoy
- Hard-mouth or badly damaging the bird
- Breaking at the WCI and WCX level
- Touching or holding a dog to prevent it from breaking in the WCI and WCX
- Breaking on the honour in the WCI and WCX or other interference with the working dog
- Handling in the WC
- Failure to bring the bird across the line

Moderate faults – repeated or a combination of moderate faults may convert the total infraction into a serious fault. Usually 2 moderate faults result in elimination of a dog from the test:

- Failure to make the area of fall, requiring handling
- Not stopping for direction after 2 or 3 whistles in WCX
- Controlled break in WCI and WCX or going before being sent in WC
- Reluctance to enter rough cover, water, mud, etc
- Moderate whining of short duration
- Reluctance to give up bird in WCI or WCX

Minor faults – several or repeated minor infractions may convert into a moderate or even serious fault

- Poor line manners – heeling poorly, dropping a bird at delivery, jumping after a bird, not remaining quietly on line after delivery
- Sloppy bird handling
- Unsteadiness, including creeping on line in WCI or WCX
- Failure to deliver to hand in WC