



Ordnung für  
Purpose of the Association Utility Test (VGPO)  
und  
Test Regulations for Association Test After the Shot  
(VPSO)

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# VGPO/VPSO

## Purpose of the Association Utility Test {Verbandsgebrauchsprüfung}

The VGP is a performance test. Following Hegewald, von Sothen, von Löbenstein, Oberländer and other pioneers of the versatile dog movement, Dr. Ströse once said that the main purpose of a VGP is “to produce dogs for the ethical conduct of hunting and to foster the knowledge of training and handling of these dogs in the hunting community. This should be the exclusive purpose of the VGP...” “A dog that has passed this test - provided it is handled correctly and has appropriate practice - must be able to perform as a truly versatile utility dog {Gebrauchshund} in the hunting field. And this is what is most important”.

Nothing has changed in respect to these principles. They apply also to the Association Test After the Shot {VPS}.

## I. Organization of the Test

### § 1 General Guidelines {Allgemeines}

- (1) The General Guidelines of JGHV (the Versatile Hunting Dog Association) apply to all tests – see Appendix hereto.
- (2) Only JGHV Member Clubs, such as pointing dog breed associations and clubs, testing clubs (JGV and KJS) and hunters' associations, are authorized to conduct the VGP and the VPS. VPS tests may also be conducted by special breed clubs which include in their tests aspects of forest, water and retrieve work.
- (3)
  - a) A VGP/VPS may only be held on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b) It is not allowed to complete an entire VGP in a single day. At least four subjects must be reserved for the second test day. A VPS may be completed in a single day.
- (4)
  - a) The responsible and diligent conduct of a VGP is dependent on hunting grounds of a respectable size and with a good amount of small game for field and forest work. There also must be available a sufficiently large body of water with sections of thick cover. The same applies to a VPS. If the testing grounds allow the shooting of feathered game during the VGP, this must be indicated in the announcement. If so announced, the shooting of feathered game must be allowed for all handlers in the test.
  - b) It is the test organizers' responsibility when selecting the testing grounds that these requirements are met. The selected testing grounds and game presence must be appropriate for the number of dogs entered and admitted to the VGP/VPS test. The test must be announced for a minimum of 4 dogs.
- (5) A VGP/VPS can be held jointly by several member clubs. In that case, one member club must be responsible for the correct test preparation and execution, as well as the test reporting. The test is credited only to the responsible club.

- (6)
- a) The member clubs are free in their decision whether to form specialty judging groups for the VGP/VPS, or whether the judging groups evaluate all the dogs assigned to them in all subjects.
  - b) If the judges are divided in specialty groups, each judging group must evaluate all dogs assigned to them in their specialty subjects. The test director may make an exception for the field work.
  - c) If the VGP/VPS is conducted so that each judging group evaluates all dogs assigned to them in all subjects, not more than four dogs may be assigned to that group.

## **§ 2 Admission {Zulassung}**

- (1) Admission of dogs to performance Association Tests is regulated by JGHV By-laws and General Guidelines – see Appendix hereto.
- (2) The total maximum number of dogs permitted to enter a VGP/VPS test is 20.
- (3) Dogs, however, which were whelped in the same year as the VGP/VPS test, may not enter the test. A dog that has already successfully passed a VGP or GP {Gebrauchsprüfung} may not enter a VPS.

## **§ 3 Test Entry {Meldung zur Prüfung}**

- (1)
  - a) The owner or handler of the dog must submit the current version of Form 1 {Formblatt 1} for entry to a VGP/VPS.
  - b) The entries on the entry form must concur with the dog's up-to-date pedigree {Ahnentafel}. Entries must be made accurately and completely in legible block letters and reviewed by the test director for accuracy.
  - c) The test director must return or amend entry forms that are incomplete or illegible.
  - d) A copy of the pedigree that reflects all annotations to date, as well as copies of all previous Association test score sheets and performance awards must be attached to the entry form.
- (2)
  - a) The owner of the entered dog must be a member of a club affiliated with JGHV.
  - b) With the submission of the entry form, the owner and the handler accept the stipulations of these Test Regulations {PO}.

- c) A handler may not handle more than two dogs in a VGP/VPS test.
  - d) The test organizers are permitted to restrict the entry rights to members of their own club or give entry preference to their own members.
  - e) Only breed clubs holding a VGP/VPS test independently may restrict admission to dogs of their special breed. All other clubs must admit all dogs to their tests, including tests held jointly with a breed club, provided the breed clubs are members of JGHV.
- (3) The handler must show proof of having sufficient liability insurance for his dog.
- (4)
- a) Prior to the beginning of the test, the handler must submit to the test director the dog's original papers and vaccination records documenting that all legally required and effective vaccines have been given. The handler must further show for review his valid and current hunting license. Note the annexed guidelines for exceptions regarding "Handlers without Hunting Licenses." Non-compliance with the above requirements will result in the dog not being allowed to run and forfeiture of the entry fee. The test director must review the documents and entries in the pedigree for accuracy. If documents are found to be faulty, the dog can be excluded from the test, including forfeiture of the entry fee.
- The test director must review the documents and entries in the pedigree {Ahnentafel} for accuracy. If documents are found to be faulty, the dog can be excluded from the test, including forfeiture of the entry fee.
- b) Submitting the entry form for a dog mandates payment of the entry fee even if the dog is a no-show. This does not apply if the entry is pulled before the entry deadline. If the announced entry fee has not been paid prior to the entry deadline, no right to be admitted to the test exists. There will be no reimbursement of entry fees for dogs that were entered but failed to show up.
  - c) Form 1 must indicate whether the dog is to be tested in the blood tracking subject in on-leash work only or as a game bayer or game guide. Any later change to the type of blood tracking work is binding on the handler and must be indicated to the test director not later than the entry deadline. The entry form for the VPS must further indicate whether the dog is to be tested on the fox drag retrieve.

#### **§ 4 Rights and Duties of the Organizers {Rechte und Pflichten der Veranstalter}**

- (1) The Organizing Clubs must announce the planned test with sufficient advance notice to the Registry Office {Stammbuchamt} of JGHV, indicating test date and test terms, and must publish it in the Association publication. The announcement must state the specifics of the blood track (game blood and dab or drip method), the type of obstacle for fox over obstacle and the type of terrain and ground cover for the independent search.
- (2) The Organizers must appoint a test director who is responsible for the preparation and execution of the VGP/VPS test. The test director must be an Association Judge registered and listed on the current JGHV judges' list for the subjects in the VGP/VPS test. The test director can judge as an Association Judge in these tests.

- (3) The breed book number and, where applicable, the JGHV Studbook Registry number {DGStB}, of an entered dog and its parents must be listed in the test program. The test director is obligated to check that the tattoo or chip number and the numbers in the pedigree are identical.

## **§ 5 Association Judges {Verbandsrichter}**

- (1) Association Judges must be listed on the current JGHV Judges' list and must be authorized to judge the subjects to be judged (see § 6 [2] of the Regulations on Judgeship).
- (2) The chairman of the organizing club or, on his behalf, the test director select Judges and Senior Judges. Only a Judge who himself has trained several dogs and handled these successfully in breed and performance tests should act as a Senior Judge.
- (3) Only in exceptional cases due to an unexpected cancellation of a confirmed Judge, may an experienced hunter, who also is a versatile dog handler (possibly an apprentice judge), be used as a substitute - "Emergency Judge" {Notrichter} - in a judging group accompanied by two Association Judges. The reasons for this substitution must be stated on Form 2 – Test Report {Formblatt 2 - Meldung}.
- (4)
  - a) At least 3 Association Judges in each judging group must be present to judge all subjects. A Judge of a special breed club may judge in a judging group next to 2 regular Association Judges if he is authorized to judge these special subjects.
  - b) If a Judge is overruled in his judging group and if he thinks that this judgment is at variance with the spirit and substance of the Test Regulations, he must explain these facts to the test director in the closing Judges' Conference. The announcement of scores must be deferred until then.
  - c) The Senior Judge is responsible for his judging group. In particular, he sees to it that the rules of the Test Regulations are followed precisely and interpreted sensibly. The Senior Judge is the sole spokesman of the judging group. The remaining Judges may give explanations concerning the test to third parties only with the Senior Judge's permission.
  - d) As soon as a judging group has come to a mutual conclusion [about the performance of the dog], the Senior Judge or a Judge/Apprentice Judge designated by him must deliver a preliminary evaluation of the dog's demonstrated work to the handler and the spectators (open judging). Every handler can request from the Senior Judge in each respective judging group information on the awarded predicates and points after his dog's test was finished there.

## **§ 6 Judges' Conference {Richtersitzung}**

- (1) At the beginning of each test, a comprehensive Judges' Meeting, preferably in the presence of the handlers, must be conducted. The purpose is to extensively harmonize the standards of expectation of the dogs' performances in this test by which the judges and apprentice judges evaluate the dogs.



- (2) After the testing of all dogs is finished, a concluding Judges' Conference must be held if specialty judging groups were used, or the predicate "excellent" (4 h) was awarded, or disagreements within a judging group arose, or any other unusual events occurred. If the predicate "excellent" (4 h) was awarded, the Senior Judge of the awarding judging group must state the reasons for the predicate in writing.
- (3)
- a) Prior to the Judges' Conference, each judging group must determine the predicates for each dog they judged, with the reservation that their judgment may be amended by evaluations of use of nose, important obedience subjects and the manner of various retrieves. When predicates have been announced without reservation, the scores may only be changed afterwards if testing regulations were incorrectly applied.
  - b) If the test is conducted with specialty judging groups, the Senior Judges of each judging group read the predicates in the Judges' Conference. At this time, the Senior Judges of the other judging groups have to communicate their observations with respect to the dogs' performance in use of nose and the important obedience subjects. Their determinations in conjunction with the evaluations of the specialty judging group make the final determination of the predicates in the respective subjects.
  - c) The predicates of the dogs that were eliminated during the test - due to test failure, or because they were excluded from the test - are also to be read during the Judges' Conference, provided they were issued before the dog was eliminated. At this time, the respective Senior Judges involved must state the reason why, and in which subject the dogs were eliminated.
- (4)
- a) When the predicates are read, the corresponding work points {Leistungsziffer} behind each predicate must be stated.
  - b) The performance points must be entered as a whole number in the score sheet and multiplied with the respective multiplying factor {Fachwertziffer}. The result of this multiplication is the total score points {Wertungspunkte} which represent, for each subject, the combined product of the value of the work and the importance of the test subject.
  - c) The Judges' Conference determines at this reading for which of the three Prize categories each dog achieved the required minimum points in the individual subjects and if the minimum requirements for the individual Prize categories were fulfilled. Finally, all dogs tested and predicated at the respective VGO/VPS are ranked within a Prize category according to their total score.
  - d) If two dogs achieved the same total score in the same Prize category, the existing Hardness Certificate {Härtenachweis} and the age of the dogs, in this order, decide which dog is to be ranked higher. For this classification, the additional points of dead game bayer and guide, if they have at least scored "sufficient" for this performance, are counted.

- (5)
- a) Subsequently, the Judges' Conference determines the overall test result. The test certificate can only state "passed with .....prize..... points" {mit .....Preis..... Punkten bestanden}, or "not passed" {nicht bestanden} (with written specification of the reason).
  - b) The points and total score points determined in the Judges' Conference, as well as any comments, are entered for each dog on Form 7 – Score Sheet {Formblatt 7} and must be signed by three Judges and the Test Director.
- (6) The Test Director must enter the test result with location and date in the pedigree of the dog, provide it with the stamp of the organizing club, and sign it. If a dog was tested in the subject Independent Search Behind Duck in Dense Cover the score must be entered as well. In the case of a VPS, it must also be noted in the pedigree whether the dog was tested in the fox drag subject by making these entries: m.Fu. (with fox) {mit Fuchs} or o.Fu. (without fox) {o.Fu.}.
- (7) The Test Director is responsible that the above entries are made in the pedigrees of all dogs which participated in the test, even those who did not pass the test or whose handlers abandoned the test prematurely. In these cases, a note describing in words the reason for not passing must be recorded on the pedigree next to the result.
- (8) The score table and the pedigree must be handed over to the handler of each dog immediately during or after the award ceremony.

## **§ 7 Test Reporting {Berichterstattung}**

- (1)
- a) Using the current forms (available for download @www.jghv.de – Service – Formulare), the Test Director must submit all test documents to the Registry Office within three weeks after the test. If the test report, complete with all documents, has not been received by the Registry Office at the latest by November 15th, the organizing member club must pay a penalty to JGHV. This was decided by the JGHV Convention. (See JGHV Regulations, Chapter E Studbook Register [DGStB], Paragraph 8)
  - b) The Organizer and the Test Director are jointly and fully responsible for ensuring that the test reports arrive at the Registry Office by the stated deadline and that they are available to the Association publication for printing.
  - c) The Registry Office must return incomplete, incorrect or illegible forms to the Test Director to be corrected, or it may choose to make the corrections itself after having consulted with the appropriate parties.
  - d) The VGP/VPS will not be recorded in the Studbook Register {DGStB} if the penalty has not been paid.
  - e) Any damage or restitution claims by the affected handlers, owners and breeders deriving from a delayed registration or non-registration, are the responsibility of the organizing clubs.
- (2) The following documents must be submitted:

- a) A general report describing special events, any difficulties that may have arisen in interpreting the test regulations {PO}.
  - b) The Report {Meldung} (Form 2) {Formblatt 2}. All questions on this form must be completely and legibly (typewritten) answered. If the test was conducted jointly by several clubs, the responsible club must be identified on this form;
  - c) The entry forms {Nennungen} (Form 1) {Formblatt 1} of all entered dogs in the respective test, including those of late entries, of all dogs that did not show up, and dogs that did not pass the test;
  - d) Form 7 {Formblatt 7} for VGP or Form 10 {Formblatt 10} for VPS respectively (Prize certification and score sheet) in duplicate for all tested dogs;
  - e) Form 8 {Formblatt 8} for VGP or Form 11 {Formblatt 11} for VPS respectively (compilation of scores for all prized dogs in Prize descending order).
- (3) Dogs that passed the VGP will be published in Section Ia of the Studbook Register; dogs that passed the VPS in Section Ib.
- (4) After the Studbook Registry has reviewed the documents, it issues a Studbook number to those dogs that passed the VGP/VPS according to the Test Regulations herein and issues a certification on the successful test (VGP/VPS) to the dog's owner to be attached to the pedigree. This certification will be sent to the test organizer.
- (5) In the general information chapter for all Association Utility Tests {Verbandsgebrauchsprüfungen} in Section I of the Studbook Register, the Studbook Registry must list those dogs that were tested but did not receive a Prize. Each dog must be listed by name and breed book number, and the reason for the failure must be explained in writing. The same applies to dogs without a Prize in the VPS.

## **§ 8 Organizational Regulations {Ordnungsvorschriften} of the VGP/VPS Testing Regulations**

- (1) The Organizing Club and the Test Director are fully responsible for the proper execution of the test.
- (2) Tests that are not conducted in accordance with the guidelines and the stipulations of the VGP/VPS Test Regulations {VGPO/VPSO} cannot be recognized. The results of those tests will not be entered in the Studbook Register {DGStB}.
- (3)
- a) Bitches in heat will only be admitted to VGP/VPS tests by explicit approval of the Test Director. The handlers of bitches in heat are obligated to inform the Test Director and the judges of their group about their dogs' condition before the test has begun.
  - b) The Test Director, the judges and the respective handlers must ensure that the presence of a bitch in heat does not adversely affect the performance of other dogs.
- (4)
- a) Dogs may not be handled with training devices (e.g. training collars or imitations thereof). GPS devices may only be used during the independent search.

- b) During the test, all game must be stored and transported so that it cannot be contaminated by the smell of a different species.
- (5) During the VGP/VPS tests, the handlers must be equipped with a gun and carry sufficient shells and their valid hunting license. (Exceptions § 3 [4] a).
- (6)
- a) All persons participating in the test must obey the Test Director's, the judges' and the field marshals' instructions. No one is allowed to disturb the handler and dog while working nor hinder the judges engaged in the proper execution of judging the dogs.
  - b) Those dogs that are not working under evaluation must be leashed. Dogs that whine or are otherwise noisy must be taken out of earshot of the working dog. It is the handler's responsibility to arrive promptly with the dog when called to the test subject.
  - c) During the work of a dog under judgment, the spectators must remain far enough behind handler and judges so that the working dog is not disturbed.
- (7) A dog that does not meet the minimum requirements for a Prize III in one of the subject categories or fails to achieve the necessary minimum score points, should continue to be tested if the dog appears capable of achieving the level of certified Hunting Usability {jagdliche Brauchbarkeit}.
- a) Dogs that do not meet the minimum requirements in a subject category or fail to achieve the necessary minimum score points, and furthermore can no longer achieve the level of hunting usability, must be excluded from further testing.
  - b) Any of the following conditions will automatically exclude a dog from continued testing:
    - Game eater (type of game must be stated);
    - Game burrier (type of game must be stated);
    - Failure to independently retrieve small game after the dog has first found it;
    - Fur game chasers and totally disobedient dogs;
    - Gun shy, hand shy and game shy dogs and those with temperament faults;
    - Game blinker;
    - Dogs that severely pluck or hard-mouth game;
    - Dogs that fail any portion of the water test (gun sensitivity, blind retrieve in dense cover, failure to retrieve duck).
- (8) Any one of the following conditions may exclude the offender from the test and forfeit the entry fee {Nenngeld}:
- a) Intentionally making false statements on the entry form or any attempt at deceiving the judges;
  - b) Allowing one's dog that is not currently under judgment to roam free;
  - c) Being absent when called to a test subject;
  - d) Intentionally failing to disclose the condition that one's bitch is in heat;

- e) Failing to obey the special instructions given by the Test Director or by the judges.
  - f) Dogs whose handlers behave before, during or after the test in a manner damaging to the image of the versatile hunting dog movement (i.e. handler violates ethical hunting practices and animal welfare laws, insults judges or club officers etc.).
- (9) Each handler can demand information on his dog's individual scores from the Test Director as soon as the total test result has been determined.
- (10) Protests against a test result are governed by the Protest Regulations {Einspruchsordnung}.
- (11) Any attempt to dispute - at a later point in time - the decision by the judges or a decision by the Protest Panel {Einsprachskammer}, as well as any unfounded criticism challenging the objectivity of the Association Judges can be penalized by the organizing club with the loss of membership, or the temporary or permanent inadmissibility to future tests organized by this club. The JGHV Business Manager must be notified of any such procedure.

## **§ 9 Execution of the Test {Durchführung der Prüfung}**

### **(1) Must - and Should - Requirements**

- a) These Test Regulations contain "Must" and "Should" requirements.
- b) The MUST requirements, including those in their negative form – e.g. “must not” - must be adhered to unconditionally and in all detail during test procedures and also with regard to all other provisions of the Test Regulations.
- c) The non-compliance with a "SHOULD" requirement in the dog's work results in the appropriate lowering of the evaluation.

### **(2) Predicates and Work Points**

- a) The dog's performance in a subject must be rated within a predicate of very good, good, sufficient, deficient, not sufficient.
- b) The Association Judges must begin by first determining the predicate for the performance of each dog and write their conclusions in words (predicates) in their respective Judge Book {Richterbuch}. Using the corresponding work points for the predicates, these must be entered in Forms 7 and 8 for the VGP, and Forms 10 and 11 respectively for the VPS.
- c) Dogs pass the test only if they achieved the minimum requirements as listed in the "Overview of Classification into Prize Categories".
- d) Conformation and coat ratings from breed shows – where available – must be entered in the dog's score sheet.

e) Each predicate represents certain work points (whole numbers). These are:

Excellent { <i>hervorragend</i> }	=	4h
Very good { <i>sehr gut</i> }	=	4
Good { <i>gut</i> }	=	3
Sufficient { <i>genügend</i> }	=	2
Deficient { <i>mangelhaft</i> }	=	1
Not sufficient { <i>ungenügend</i> }	=	0

f) The predicate “Excellent” = 4h may only be given as an exceptional score if the dog shows truly outstanding performances under difficult conditions. This predicate may not be awarded in the subjects of game drags, retrieves or obedience. If this predicate is awarded, it must be justified in words in each single case on the score sheet (Form 7 for VGP and Form 10 for VPS). Simply entering this predicate without explanation will not suffice. If this predicate is not justified on the score sheet, the Studbook Registry is obligated to enter the work points 4 in the score sheet of the Studbook {DGStB}.

(3) Evaluation Points = Point numbers

- The work points (LZ) {Leistungsziffer} awarded for each subject are multiplied by a multiplying factor FwZ {Fachwertziffer} which corresponds to the significance and difficulty of the subject.
- From this multiplication result the score points UZ {Urteilsziffer} which represent the product of the value of the performance and the significance of the subject.
- The score points UZ {Urteilsziffer} are equal to the points {Punktzahl} which determine the Prize category of the dog.

(4) Overview of subject categories {Fachgruppen} and test subjects with their respective multipliers. Test subjects that belong together because of the hunting nature or which are tested on similar grounds – forest, water or field – or by nature of the subject – obedience and retrieves – have been combined in the VGP and VPS test regulations into four test categories.

### **I. Forest Work {Waldarbeit}**

1. Leash work - overnight track.....	FwZ 8
- day track.....	FwZ 5
Additional Dead Game Baying.....	FwZ 4
Additional Dead Game Guiding .....	FwZ 3
2. Retrieving of Fox over Obstacle (VGP only) .....	FwZ 3
3. Fox Drag (optional only in VPS) .....	FwZ 5
4. Retrieving of Fox on Drag Track (optional only in VPS) .....	FwZ 2
5. Hare or Rabbit Drag .....	FwZ 4
6. Retrieving of Hare or Rabbit .....	FwZ 2
7. Independent Search .....	FwZ 4
8. Dense Cover Search. ....	FwZ 3

### **II. Water Work {Wasserarbeit}**

1. Independent Search without Duck in Dense Cover.....	FwZ 3
2. Gun Sensitivity (not scored)	
3. Blind Retrieve from Dense Cover .....	FwZ 3
4. Independent Search with Duck in Dense Cover.....	FwZ 3
5. Retrieving of Duck .....	FwZ 2

### III. Field Work {Feldarbeit}

- 1. Use of Nose (VGP only) ..... FwZ 6
- 2. Search (VGP only) ..... FwZ 4
- 3. Pointing (VGP only) ..... FwZ 4
- 4. Manners Behind Game, incl. Relocating (VGP only) ..... FwZ 3
- 5. Free Search and Retrieve of Feathered Game
  - a 1. Work on Winged Partridge or Pheasant (VGP only) .... FwZ 4
  - 2. or Feathered Game Drag ..... FwZ 3
  - b 1. Free Search of a Freshly Shot Bird, which was not seen falling by the dog ..... FwZ 3
  - 2. or Free Search of a Placed Bird ..... FwZ 3
- 6. Retrieving of Feathered Game ..... FwZ 2

### IV. Obedience {Gehorsam}

- 1. General Behavior - Obedience. .... FwZ 3
- 2. Behavior During Drive Hunt. .... FwZ 2
- 3. Heeling on Leash ..... FwZ 1
- 4. Heeling off Leash ..... FwZ 2
- 5. Down Stay ..... FwZ 2
- 6. Steadiness to Wing (VGP only) ..... FwZ 2
- 7. Steadiness to Fur (VGP only). .... FwZ 3
- 8. Steadiness to Shot (VGP only) ..... FwZ 2

(5) Minimum performances {Mindestleistungen} and minimum points {Mindestpunktzahlen}

- a) In some subjects, minimum performances are required for each Prize category {Preisklasse}.
- b) In view of the necessary versatility of a hunting dog, each dog must show certain average point scores in all 4 subject categories (Forest, Water, Field, Obedience). Therefore, each Prize category has a certain minimum point requirement.
- c) Obedience is a basic requirement for the usefulness of a dog for hunting, hence the minimum points for this subject category are set appropriately high.
- d) In subject category Forest Work, possible bonus points for dead game baying or dead game guiding must not be included in calculations of minimum points for the respective Prize category.
- e) The minimum points and minimum performances for the three Prize categories are listed at the end of the Test Regulations for the individual subject categories.

(6) The dog that receives the minimum points of a Prize category in every subject category and meets the required minimum performances for this Prize category receives the respective prize.

(7)

- a) Qualified dogs are ranked within the individual Prize categories according to their total point score.
- b) For this ranking, the bonus points of the Dead Game Bayer and Guide must be added if the dog received at least the predicate "Sufficient" for these performances.

(8) Determinations to be made:

- a) Temperament and behavior of each dog in the test must be observed, in detail as much as possible, over the entire course of the test. Observations must be noted and entered in the score sheet, using the definitions in the VZPO/VGPO/VSPO Appendix on Temperament and Behavior Determinations to describe character features. The Appendix is attached to these Test Regulations.
- b) Physical defects (faults in bite, eye or testicles and other severe physical irregularities).
- c) Dog's identity (verify chip or tattoo number).



## **Test Regulations for Association Utility Test (VGP) {Verbandsgebrauchsprüfung}**

Regulations for individual test subjects, in order of subject categories with minimum points and minimum requirements:

### **I. Subject Category Forest Work**

The following subjects must be tested in this subject category:

1. Blood tracking of hoofed game on leash {Schweißarbeit auf Schalenwild als Riemenarbeit}, optionally with subsequent baying or guiding
2. Retrieving of fox over obstacle
3. Fox drag
4. Retrieving of fox on the drag
5. Hare or rabbit drag
6. Retrieving of hare or rabbit
7. Independent search
8. Dense cover search

### **§ 10 Blood Tracking {Schweißarbeit}**

#### **Preparation of the Blood Track**

- (1) Artificial blood tracks must be laid by especially experienced judges – special blood tracking judges {Sonderrichter Schweiß}.
- (2)
  - a) Blood tracks {Schweißfährten} must not be laid in the same terrain on two consecutive days. The minimum length for leash work {Riemenarbeit} is approximately 400 m, for the free work {freie Arbeit} of the Dead Game Bayer and Guide approximately 200 m.
  - b) Tracks {Fährten} must be laid in the forest or in densely covered brush land. It is permissible to start the track in an open field but not farther than approximately 100 m from the forest edge.
  - c) The start of the blood track must be marked by a sign and identified with the label: "Track No...., laid at ..... (hour)". The purpose of the track (= Leash Worker, Dead Game Bayer, Dead Game Guide) must be noted on this label.
  - d) The distance between the individual tracks must be at least 120 m throughout.
  - e) Two obtuse angles and one wound bed {Wundbett} must be included in each blood track. The end of the track for leash work must be marked. A second wound bed must be made at that spot for Dead Game Bayer and Guide.
  - f) For the off-leash work of the Dead Game Bayer and Guide, the track must be continued for approximately 200 m from the last wound bed.
  - g) The Test Director and the special blood tracking judge are responsible for the proper execution of the blood tracking.

- (3) Artificial blood tracks can be prepared by dabbing {Tupfverfahren} or by dripping {Tropfverfahren} blood. The manner of the track preparation must be indicated in the announcement of the test. Dripped tracks {Tropffährten} must be laid with transparent wash bottles {Tropfflaschen}, dabbed tracks {Tupffährten} with a dabbing stick {Tupfstock} and a sponge (approximately 6 x 6 cm square [2 3/8" x 2 3/8"] and 2 cm [3/4"] high) affixed at the end, or with a special dabbing stick with internal blood container {Tupfstock mit eingebautem Schweißbehälter}.
- (4)
- a) The blood used for tracks must be fresh. If not sufficient game blood {Wildschweiß} is available, fresh blood from domestic stock (cattle, sheep, pigs) or in mixture with game blood, can be used. The composition and origin of the blood or blood mixture must be the same for all tracks at a given VGP.
  - b) It is allowed to use blood that was frozen while fresh. Chemical additives are prohibited.
- (5)
- a) Blood tracks must be laid only in the direction from the starting point {Anschluss} to the carcass.
  - b) While laying a track, the judge and his assistants must walk in the same track. The layer of the track with the bottle or dabbing stick must always walk last in line.
  - c) Wound beds are to be prepared such that they are inconspicuous (trampling, increased amount of blood).
  - d) During the test, signs or markers must not be detectable by the handler.
  - e) It is extremely important that the blood track actually ends at the second, or respectively, at the third wound bed, and is not continued due to carelessness. There must not be any loss of blood after that.
- (6)
- a) A maximum of 0.25 liter (8.4 oz) of blood may be used for the approximately 400 m track and not more than 0.125 (4.2 oz) liter of blood for the subsequent approximately 200 m of the free work of the Dead Game Bayer or Guide.
  - b) A substitute track must be prepared for every test.
  - c) The aging period is at least 14 hours over night for the test on the overnight track and at least 2 to approximately 5 hours in the test on the day track.
  - d) The on-leash work must always be evaluated by three judges. The additional track for Dead Game Bayer and Dead Game Guide must be laid by one judge immediately after the successful leash work, and the behavior at the carcass must be evaluated by two judges.
- (7)
- a) A preferably freshly shot hoofed game animal (with bullet hole) is placed at the end of the artificial blood track (no fawn for Bayer or Guide).
  - b) The carcass must be laid out in the open, not in a depression, behind a tree etc. Openings created by field dressing or other injuries must be carefully stitched up. This does not apply to bullet entry and exit holes.

- c) The carcass is to be laid at the end of the track for the leash worker, for Bayer and Guide at the end of the additional track.
- d) The persons carrying the carcass also move the carcass from track to track; they must always leave in the opposite direction of the track and then on the downwind side after placing the carcass.
- e) The carcass must be carried to the end of the blood track in such a manner that the carcass does not create any distractions for the working dog.

### Execution of the Blood Tracking Work

(8)

- a) For the blood tracking work, the dog can do:
  - on-leash work only;
  - on-leash work with subsequent free search tracking {*Freisuche*} and dead game baying
  - on-leash work and subsequent free search tracking and dead game guiding.
- b) Prior to the beginning of the blood tracking work, every handler of a Guide must describe to the Senior Judge of the judging group how he can detect that his dog has found and how the dog should lead him to the carcass. This description is binding; subsequent changes are not permissible.
- c) The starting spot {*Anschluss*} and the direction of the track {*Fluchtrichtung*}) must be indicated to the handler by a broken twig {*Fährtenbruch*}.

(9)

- a) Every dog, even the Bayer and the Guide, must track on-leash a distance of at least 400 m which is to be judged equally for all dogs, and separately from any subsequent off-leash track {*freie Fährte*} that remains to be worked.
- b) The whole length of the tracking leash {*Schweißriemen*} must be available; it must measure at least 6 m [19 ft] in length. In principle, it must be given at a length of 6 m and the judges must indicate this to the handler. If the handler does not follow this regulation, the on-leash work can only be scored with "sufficient".
- c) A correct collar {*Halsung*}, harness respectively, is part of the tracking lead. Other collars must be removed during blood tracking. High visibility collars {*Warnhalsungen*} are allowed as additions.

(10)

- a) During the on-leash work all judges in the judging group, including the special blood tracking judge, must follow the dog. How the dog follows the blood track is important for the evaluation. The dog should work it calmly, concentrated and at a good pace, but not in a frantic manner. For a "very good" score, a calm and confident work by the dog is necessary. A hastily working dog will always fail in really difficult situations. Excessive and unrestrained speed lowers the predicate.
- b) The primary task of the judges is to identify those dogs that show the will to track and lead on, and who make an effort to find the track by casting backwards {*Bogenschlagen*} when they temporarily lost the track.

- c) The handler may temporarily stop or lay down the dog to look for blood by himself; he may also help the dog by casting forward or backward {Vor- oder Zurückgreifen} or with other appropriate aids. Only under these circumstances should the judges stop; they must never wait when they realize that the dog has gone off-track without the handler noticing this. On the contrary, the judges must follow the working dog to observe its work even when it has lost the track.
- d) The dog may be taken back on the track and restarted twice during the on-leash work. Only if the dog is restarted by the judges after deviating far (approximately 60 m) from the track, is it considered to be a true restart which lowers the predicate. It must be counted in favor of the dog if the errant dog corrects itself. The correction of the dog by the handler is not considered to be a restart. Necessary, repeatedly occurring corrections by the handler are considered a sign of lacking confidence of the dog and lower the predicate.
- e) The dog should find the wound beds; it is, however, not to be considered a fault if the dog works closely past the wound bed while working the direction of the blood track.
- f) A few spectators may follow the on-leash work, but only if the handler of the dog and the judges have no objection.

#### **Behavior at the Carcass {Verhalten am Stück}**

- (11) Dogs that eat from the carcass or bury it must be excluded from further testing. Dogs that work the on-leash portion of the blood tracking work only do not have to pass a separate behavior at the carcass test.

#### **Dead Game Baying {Totverbellen} and Dead Game Guiding {Totverweisen}**

- (12)
- a) Dead Game Bayers and Guides are released at the second wound bed. They must find the carcass placed at the end of the additional track in a free search. If the dog worked the blood track to the second wound bed without demonstrating that it has found the wound bed, the on-leash tracking work is completed and the judges must show the wound bed to the dog.
  - b) During the free work of the dog, the handler and one accompanying judge must stay at the second wound bed; the handler may not influence the dog with voice, whistle or other signals. Handler and judge must wait approximately 10 minutes for the working dog to bay or guide. If the dog is a Bayer, they should wait until the judges can determine whether the dog is baying with sufficient persistence.
  - c) After the judges observing at the carcass have ascertained that the carcass is placed properly, they must pick a location where the dog is not able to see, scent, or otherwise detect them, the person carrying the carcass, or possible spectators. However, they must be able to observe the behavior of the dog at the carcass (how it bays, guides, or if it eats the game, etc.)
  - d) As soon as these judges have taken their position and have communicated this with an agreed signal, the handler must release his dog.

- e) If Bayer or Guide do not find the carcass during the free work, they may be restarted twice from the second wound bed.
  - f) The performance of the Bayer or Guide includes the finding of the game and the behavior at the carcass or the guiding to the carcass. It can only be credited if it was at least scored with "sufficient". Whatever the predicate may be, it must be entered into the score table. If it is "deficient", no points will be credited.
- (13)
- a) The Dead Game Bayer must stay at the carcass after it has found, and must start baying within approximately 10 minutes after arrival. The dog should call its handler for approximately 10 minutes. The dog must demonstrate that it knows clearly not to leave the carcass.
  - b) The baying up to approximately 10 steps besides the carcass is not counted as leaving {Verlassen} of the carcass, but the loss of eye-contact [line-of sight] with the game when the distance exceeds approximately 10 steps is. If the dog exceeds this distance, but does not lose sight of the carcass, a lowering of the predicate will result. Momentary silence {Verstummen} of the dog to catch its breath or to look in the direction where it assumes its handler to be must not be counted as a fault.
- (14)
- a) The Dead Game Guide must leave the carcass it has found immediately in order to return to its handler and show him that it has found. The dog must lead its handler to the carcass in free guiding.
  - b) If the dog leads the handler to the carcass by taking the stick {Bringsel} or the end of the tracking lead into its mouth, it is considered to be free guiding; however, if the dog is collared and on the tracking leash, it is not considered free guiding.
  - c) Dead Game Bayer and Guides that fail in these subjects must lead the handler on-leash to the carcass without a recall, or they cannot pass the test. If a recall occurs, the entire on-leash work must be scored "not sufficient."

## **§ 11 Retrieving of Fox over Obstacle {Bringen von Fuchs über Hindernis}**

- (1)
- a) The retrieving of fox over obstacle is tested at a ditch, hurdles, etc. The dog must not be able to wade through or around the obstacle.
  - b) The obstacle must be located in the wild (freie Wildbahn) and - if possible - should be a natural obstacle, at least it should blend into the surroundings.
  - c) The ditch must be at least 80 cm (31 ½") deep and 1 m (39 ⅜") wide and must have steep walls.
  - d) The hurdle must be 70 - 80 cm (27 ½"-31 ½") high and built in such a way that the dog cannot become entangled in it with its legs.

- e) The handler leaves his dog at least 5 m away from the obstacle. After placing the fox behind the hurdle, he releases the dog from this place. After the first start, the handler must not reduce the distance to the obstacle from that point.
- f) The dog should clear the obstacle after one command, pick up the fox without any delay in a tight grip and retrieve it over the obstacle to its handler. If the dog drops the fox while jumping over the obstacle but immediately takes it again, it is not considered to be a fault, if the handler did not interfere.
- g) At this test the handler may start his dog maximally three times.
- h) The retrieving performances of a dog on the fox drag and in retrieving of fox over obstacle must be evaluated separately.
- i) A dog must receive at least the predicate "sufficient" in either the fox drag or the retrieving of fox over obstacle. Otherwise it cannot pass the test.

## **§ 12 Furred Game Drags {Haarwildschleppen}**

- (1) The work on the furred game drag is tested with fox and hare or rabbit. Foxes used at a VGP must weigh at least 3.5 kilograms (7.7 lbs) and must be in a natural state {naturbelassen} (with complete tail, but removal of the head is permissible; gutted foxes are not permissible).
- (2)
  - a) The game is dragged on a string from the starting point, which is marked with white belly hair. The drag must include two obtuse angles and must be approximately 300 m long. Then the dragged animal or another animal of the same kind is laid down [when the judge drags one animal and carries another].
  - b) The handler can request the dragged animal to be placed at the end of the drag, but he must indicate this to the judges prior to the laying of the drags.
  - c) If the handler desires, a drag can be prepared with only one animal of the respective species. In this case, the dragged animal must be placed at the end of the drag (approximately 10 – 15 m in front of the dragger) and not directly in front of the dragger. The drag line must be removed from the dragged animal before the dog begins the work.
  - d) Furred game drags belong to the forest work and thus must be laid in the forest. However, it is permissible to locate the starting point and the segment up to and including the first angle in open terrain (meadows, fields, young tree plantations without brush - but not over freshly plowed fields).
  - e) For every dog drags must be laid by a judge immediately before the dog is tested; the drags should be as similar as possible. The dog must not see the laying of the drag.
  - f) The drags must not be laid repeatedly in the same area on the same day.

- (3)
- a) The animal destined for retrieving must be laid at the end of the drag, not in a depression or behind a tree.
  - b) After the animal has been placed, the dragger must continue walking in the direction of the drag [without dragging an animal] and hide, so that the dog cannot see him from where the animal is placed. There the dragger must place the second animal (of the same species) in front of him if the drag is made with two animals. He must not prevent the dog from retrieving the dragged game if the dog comes to him and picks it up. He must not leave the cover until the judges remaining at the starting point of the drag have given a signal or he can see that the test is completed.
- (4) The distance between the individual drags must be at least 80 m throughout.
- (5)
- a) The furred game used for drags must be freshly shot. Above all, the placed game should be clean and must not be unsightly.
  - b) It is at the discretion of the club to allow the handler to bring a suitable fox that weighs at least 3.5 kg (7.7 lbs) for this test of his dog (also for retrieving of fox over obstacle). In this case as well, the dragger will place a second fox in front of him [unless the handler requested only one piece of game].
- (6)
- a) The judges are required to show the handler the marked starting point.
  - b) The handler unleashes his dog at the starting point. The handler may not follow his dog any further.
- (7)
- a) The scoring of the work on the drags is based on whether and how the dog keeps connection with the scent and if it wants to find (outbound).
  - b) The manner of the retrieving (inbound) as a pure training subject, that is how the dog picks up the game, carries and delivers, must be scored only under "Retrieving" in the respective column for fox, hare or rabbit.
  - c) Distractions by other scent do not warrant a replacement drag, because the VGP requires finished gun dogs.
- (8)
- a) The handler may start his dog on the drag three times. Every handler influence after the first start is considered to be a restart and lowers the predicate.
  - b) If the dog fails on the drag, regardless of whether it arrived at the game or not, it shall receive in the score sheet the predicate "not sufficient" for the fox drag, or the hare or rabbit drag.

### § 13 Retrieving {Bringen}

- (1)
  - a) A dog is excluded from the test if it fails to retrieve independently (i.e., without handler interference if the dog works incorrectly) at the first encounter of any small game animal {Nutzwild} that was captured live, freshly shot, placed or found at the end of the drag. The finding of one and the retrieving of another game on drags is not considered to be faulty. If the dog is working correctly, it is not considered an impermissible handler interference if the handler praises his dog and makes himself noticeable to his dog during the retrieve.
  - b) On the fox drag, the dog may be started for a total of three times, even if it does not retrieve the fox it has found.
- (2) Dogs which bury game or eat game must be excluded from continuation of the test.
- (3) Retrieving encompasses, aside from the act of carrying to the handler, the manner of picking up, carrying and delivering any kind of game at the test on the drags, during free searching or retrieving {Verlorenbringen oder Verlorensuchen} and during actual hunting at the test.
- (4)
  - a) The correct picking up and carrying are demonstrated in the dog's ability to adjust its grip to the kind and weight of the game. It is considered to be a fault if the grasp, hold, and carrying are either too strong or too weak.
  - b) The correct delivery is demonstrated when the dog comes with the game straight to the handler, sits down next to him without or with one -not loud- command, and keeps the game calmly in its mouth until the handler has grasped it without haste and takes it from the dog with the appropriate command. Dropping the game during the delivery lowers the predicate.
  - c) Hard mouth {knautschen} is considered a fault and lowers the predicate. Dogs that are severely hard mouthed or pluck {rupfen} heavily must be excluded from further testing.

### § 14 Independent Search {Stöbern}

- (1)
  - a) For the independent search, thickets and woodlots containing sufficient numbers of game must be chosen to give the dog the opportunity to show realistic independent search work behind game.
  - b) Alternatively, the independent search can be tested in corn fields (> 1 ha; [2.5 acres]) or cattail marshes that have dried out (> 1 ha; [2.5 acres]). The kind of testing area for the independent search must be specified in the test announcement.
  - c) The dog should search the assigned terrain thoroughly. The dog should give tongue when chasing found game.
- (2) Every dog should preferably have a new area and approximately 10 minutes to independently search it. If the dog encounters game during the independent search, it should be allowed sufficient time to move the game from its cover.



- (3)
- a) The independent search must be conducted such that the judges can arrive at a concluding evaluation of the dog's work. Above all, they have to find out whether the dog searches methodically.
  - b) At this test, the judges should distribute themselves well in a given area or surround a thicket to be able to evaluate the performance of the dog. They also must note whether the dog gives tongue when encountering game.
- (4) The handler can either start the dog from his assigned position, or command the dog to lie down, walk off towards his assigned position and then command the dog by hand or voice signal from a distance to independently search the cover.
- (5)
- a) If the dog gives tongue while working game that it has found, it must be marked as "lt" = loud {laut} in the score table.
  - b) If it is confirmed that a dog remains silent while chasing visible game, it must be marked as "st" = silent {stumm} in the score table. A silent dog cannot receive more than the predicate "good" in the subject "Independent Search" and not better than Prize II.
  - c) If, due to a lack of game, neither loud nor silent independent manner of hunting behind game during the search can be detected, the respective dog receives the notation "?" (questionable) on the score table.
  - d) The Senior Judge must ensure that notations on the manner of hunting of all tested dogs in his judging group are listed on the score table. (lt, st, wdl,?)
- (6) Brief pointing during the independent search does not lower the predicate. However, if the dog points for five minutes or longer the score can be lowered.
- (7)
- a) If the dog captures game during the independent search and retrieves it to the handler, the performance in the independent search cannot be scored less.
  - b) Such retrieving must be evaluated. The same applies to shot game which the dog retrieves. If the dog fails to retrieve captured or shot small game, it cannot pass the test.
- (8)
- a) The chasing of healthy [unshot] game far out of bounds into other areas during the independent search and failure to come back after an appropriate time - even after a whistle or voice signal of its handler - must be scored as faulty.
  - b) Disobedient dogs, which continue hunting independently outside the assigned search area and return only after long periods of time, do not satisfy the expectations for a dependable, versatile dog. Therefore, they must be excluded from further testing due to their continued disobedience.
- (9) If, during the forest work, outside the independent search area or during other tasks, over the course of the entire test, it is confirmed that the dog chases game giving tongue, the manner of hunting must be noted separately in the space for notations as:

Scent loud behind fox or hare, track loud behind hoofed game, sight loud behind furred game. The loud must be persistent.

### **§ 15 Dense Cover Search {Buschieren}**

- (1)
  - a) Dense Cover Search must be tested in young stands of forests [pole timber], in clear cuts or brushy areas.
  - b) For this subject, a sufficiently large area must be selected, which must be changed for every dog unless the nature of the test terrain and ground present insurmountable obstacles.
- (2)
  - a) Every dog must have the opportunity to thoroughly show the dense cover search as commonly practiced during hunting. The handler must fire at least one shot with a shotgun during the dense cover search when so ordered by the judges.
  - b) The dog should search under the gun and should handle with ease and without requiring many loud commands. The dog should search the dense cover calmly and methodically, so that the handler can follow his dog easily.
  - c) When evaluating this work, the judges foremost are to assess the good contact between the handler and his dog.
- (3) If it is possible to evaluate pointing, steadiness to wing or shot and retrieving during the dense cover search, they must be evaluated.

### **Minimum Requirements {Mindestbedingungen} and Minimum Points {Mindestpunktzahlen} for the Forest Work**

#### Test Subjects:

Blood Tracking, Retrieving of Fox over Obstacle, Fox Drag, Retrieving of Fox on Drag, Furred Small Game Drag, Retrieving of Hare or Rabbit, Independent Search and Dense Cover Search.

#### **For Prize I:**

Minimum requirements: Blood tracking on leash "very good", at least "sufficient" performances in the other seven subjects.

Minimum points: 90

#### **For Prize II:**

Minimum requirements: Blood tracking on leash "good", at least "sufficient" performances in the other seven subjects.

Minimum points: 80

#### **For Prize III:**

Minimum requirements: At least "sufficient" performances in all subjects with the exception of fox drag and retrieving of fox on drag, or retrieving of fox over obstacle.

Minimum points: 48

**Note:** Any additional points from a Dead Game Bayer or Guide performance do not count towards the minimum points of the individual Prize categories.

## **II. Subject Category Water Work {Wasserarbeit}**

### **A. General Part {Allgemeiner Teil}**

The ethical and conservative hunting of waterfowl demands the use of efficient utility dogs as specified by federal and state hunting laws.

The purpose of water work is to prepare the hunting dog for its future task of retrieving crippled or dead waterfowl out of the water, to prove the result of this preparation in a standardized test, and consequently to document it for breeding.

To fulfill this purpose of the water work and at the same time to conduct this test in conformity with legal regulations, the following conditions must be observed:

### **§ 16 Generally Binding Regulations {Allgemeinverbindlichkeit}**

(1)

- a) The following general rules Part A are binding for all Member Clubs which conduct tests using live ducks, however, under consideration of the varying regulations prevalent in different States.
- b) These rules must also be followed during training days organized by the clubs {Wasserübungstagen}, and it must be guaranteed that each dog is trained with not more than 3 ducks total.
- c) Intentional or grossly negligent violations of these regulations cause the immediate exclusion of the responsible persons from further training or testing activities. This is in addition to possible legal charges or internal disciplinary action by the Association.

### **§ 17 Bodies of Water {Gewässer}**

A test pond or lake must be sufficiently large (at least 0.25 ha surface area), wide (at least 6 m at some spots) and deep (to force dogs to swim), and it must have sufficient cover (ca. 500 square meters), so that the duck can fully utilize its capability to flee.

### **§ 18 Responsible Persons {Verantwortliche Personen}**

- (1) The member clubs designate one person for each test, who, as Senior Judge at the water {Obmann am Wasser}, is responsible for the exact compliance with all of the following regulations during the water work. The respective Senior Judge in the judging group can be that person.
- (2) In addition to the person specified in (1) above, the organizing club is similarly responsible for the compliance with these rules.

## **§ 19 Ducks {Enten}**

(1)

- a) For testing only fully matured mallards may be used which are temporarily incapacitated of flight by the method of Prof. Müller (paper strip around individual primaries of one wing).
- b) Ducks must be raised and kept in such a way that they are used to cover and water, and that they can swim, dive and hide in cover. These conditions must be certified by the outfitter. Ducks must have opportunity to preen and grease their feathers until shortly before the test.

(2)

- a) If it is not possible to maintain ducks under such conditions for acclimatization prior to the test, then these ducks must be transported directly to the test pond immediately before the test. They must be kept there unaffected by the test procedures.
- b) The test duration per duck may not exceed 15 minutes. Sight chases are undesirable and must be terminated as soon as possible.
- c) Ducks retrieved live by a dog must be humanely and immediately euthanized.
- d) Dead ducks are to be kept separate from live ducks.
- e) Duck crates are to be placed in such a manner that the working dog cannot find them.

## **§ 20 Nesting Season {Brutzeit}**

Water work with living ducks must not be practiced and tested during the nesting season.

## **§ 21 Prerequisites for the Complete Testing of Water Work {Voraussetzungen zur Durchprüfung am Wasser}**

The test behind the live duck must not be conducted until after the dog has passed a gun sensitivity test and after proving a reliable blind retrieve of a dead duck from dense cover.

## **§ 22 Dogs {Hunde}**

- (1) Dogs are admitted only if their handlers can produce a valid hunting license. Exceptions are allowed only in special cases when so permitted by the Test Director and when necessary for breeding or hunting for purposes. They must be specified.
- (2) Dogs which fail the subjects listed in § 21 or which have demonstrated gun shyness and/or fear of live game {*Schuss- oder Wildscheue*} at the given test (including during the field work) must not continue the test.
- (3) A tested, experienced dog must be available for possible retrieves at each test.

- (4) As a rule, each dog is given only one duck. The use of an additional duck is only allowed if the dog could not be tested with the previously released duck (i.e. if the released duck flies off prematurely).
- (5) Dogs which have passed once the subject „independent search behind duck in dense cover“ at a test with a score of at least “sufficient“ may not be tested again in this subject. This does not apply to further testing within a breeding selection or international test (e.g. Hegewald, IKP, or similar tests).
- (6) In case the dog fails, it may be re-tested only once.
- (7) The predicate awarded for the first passed test is copied into the score sheets of all future tests with the notation: ”... according to test on... at...“{laut Prüfung vom...}. A copy of this score sheet must be provided to the Test Director with the entry form. If the dog has already successfully passed multiple tests prior to this test, the best predicate achieved in the subject independent search with duck in dense cover will be used.
- (8) In addition to the total result of the respective test, every test in the subject “independent search behind duck in dense cover” must be entered (with the predicate and possible points) on the pedigree.

## **B. Special Part {Besonderer Teil}**

### **§ 23 General Regulations {Allgemeines}**

- (1) The following subjects are tested in this order:
  1. Independent search without duck in dense cover
  2. Gun sensitivity
  3. Blind retrieve in dense cover
  4. Independent search with duck in dense cover
  5. Retrieving of duck
- (2) If a dog is re-tested because it did not pass in a previous examination the entire water work sequence must be tested again at an Association test.
- (3) If a dog has passed the subject ”independent search behind duck in dense cover“ at a [German} State utility test, the notation ”BE“ (passed) without further points or score points is made on all score sheets in future tests. As a rule, predicates which may have been awarded at a State utility test are not transferred. The utility test certificate must be signed by 3 Association Judges, who are authorized to judge the subject water, with their respective judge numbers. The certificate must be submitted with the entry form.
- (4) In these cases, 6 points must be deducted from the respective Prize category when calculating the minimum points. (Example: The dog receives 30 points for the water test; it is thus entitled to Prize I regarding the water work.)

	Necessary Points for		
	Maximum points	Prize I	Prize II
Water work	44	36	30
		↓	↓
		-6	-6
		↓	↓
		Prize I	Prize II
Water work		30	24

#### **§ 24 Independent Search without Duck in Dense Cover {Stöbern ohne Ente im deckungsreichen Gewässer}**

(1)

- a) The dog should enter the water and independently search the cover upon a single command from its handler and without any further coaxing (stone, etc.).
- b) In this subject, the dog should show its will to find and its affinity for water, and search the assigned cover thoroughly. The handler may help his dog with hand and voice signals, but constant interfering lowers the predicate. This independent search should last maximally 10 minutes.
- c) If the dog encounters a live duck during its work under circumstances conforming with the test standards, in each such case, the dog's performance must be evaluated. The score of an earlier test is not adopted under these conditions.

#### **§ 25 Gun Sensitivity Test {Schussfestigkeit}**

(1)

- a) A shot duck is thrown as far as possible into the open water while the dog is watching; then the dog is commanded with a single command to retrieve. A dog that fails to enter the water, without further handler interference, within approximately 1 minute after the command must not continue the test.
- b) While the dog is swimming towards the duck and has covered approximately half of the distance, a shotgun shot [no blanks!] is fired into the water in the direction of the dead duck (right alongside or behind the duck). The dog must retrieve this duck independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly). If the shooter's shot fails to hit the water, the procedure must be repeated, even if the dog retrieved the duck.
- c) A dog that fails this test may not continue the test.

## **§ 26 Blind Retrieve from Dense Cover {Verlorensuchen im deckungsreichen Gewässer}**

- (1) The blind retrieve from dense cover is tested immediately following the gun sensitivity test.
- (2) A dead duck is thrown into the cover in the water in such a manner that neither the fall nor the duck can be seen by the dog. Every effort should be made to place the duck in such a location (island, opposite shore) that the dog must be sent across open water to reach the cover.
- (3) From a spot that is about 30 m from the location of the duck, the handler is informed of the approximate direction of the duck. From this spot, the dog should search independently for the duck. The dog must find the duck and must retrieve it independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly).
- (4) The handler may help and direct his dog, however, constant interfering or a shot/stone throw lessen the predicate.
- (5) A dog that fails to receive at least the predicate "sufficient" in this subject may not continue the water test.
- (6) If the dog encounters a live duck before it has found the duck placed for this test, then this work is to be scored. After the dog has finished this work, it must search and retrieve the previously placed duck. The dog must independently retrieve and deliver the placed duck (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly) even if the dog encounters a live duck during its return to the handler.
- (7) A dog that fails to independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly) retrieve the duck upon finding it for the first time cannot pass the test. In this case, the subject blind retrieve in dense cover must also be rated "not sufficient". If the dog senses the duck, it is deemed to have found it.

## **§ 27 Independent Search behind Duck in Dense Cover {Stöbern mit Ente im deckungsreichen Gewässer}**

- (1)
  - a) A duck is released into the cover without marking a starting spot. The dog must not see these preparations.
  - b) After the release, the judges lead the handler to a point ca. one shotgun distance away from the release site respective the duck and indicate the direction of the duck. At this point the handler commands the dog to retrieve {Nachsuche}.
  - c) The dog should search for and find the duck independently. The handler may help and direct his dog; however, constant interfering lessens the predicate.
  - d) As soon as the dog pushes the duck out of the cover and follows it by sight, the duck must be shot by the handler or a designated and authorized person, if this is possible without endangering the safety.
  - e) The shot duck must be retrieved by the dog independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly).
- (2)

- a) The judges should terminate the work of the dog as soon as they have come to a conclusive evaluation. This applies also to situations in which the duck was not shot in front of the dog, or the judges have concluded that the dog does not fulfill the requirements.
- b) A dog that fails to independently retrieve a duck upon finding it for the first time (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly) may not continue the test. In this case, the subject "search behind duck in dense cover" must be scored not sufficient as well. If the dog senses the duck, it is deemed to have found it.
- c) If the dog accidentally encounters another duck during this test, then this work is to be scored likewise.

## **§ 28 Retrieving of the Duck {Bringen von Ente}**

- (1) The performance of the retrieve is to be scored similarly to the rules specified in § 13.
- (2) If a dog drops the duck on land, perhaps to shake, the maximum score can only be "good". If, however, the dog improves the hold without shaking, the score may not be lessened. Similarly, the dog may not be faulted for shaking if it keeps the duck firmly in the mouth.
- (3) For the final score, all retrieving performances of the dog during water work must be considered. If one individual subject during water work was scored as "not sufficient" (0 points), the total score for retrieve of the duck can only be "not sufficient" (0 points).
- (4) The dog must retrieve every found or seized duck during the water work independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly). If the dog is working correctly, it is not considered an impermissible handler interference if the handler praises his dog and makes himself noticeable to his dog during the retrieve.

### **Minimum Requirements and Minimum Points for Water Work**

Test Subjects:

Independent search without duck in dense cover, gun sensitivity test (not scored), blind retrieve in dense cover, independent search with duck in dense cover, retrieving of duck

#### **For Prize I:**

Minimum requirements: Gun sensitivity test passed, at least "sufficient" performances in the other four subjects.

Minimum points: 36

Minimum points for BE (passed): 30

#### **For Prize II:**

Minimum requirements: Gun sensitivity test passed, at least "sufficient" performances in the other four subjects.

Minimum points: 30

Minimum points for BE (passed): 24

#### **For Prize III:**

Minimum requirements: Gun sensitivity test passed, at least "sufficient" performances in the other four subjects.

Minimum points: 22

Minimum points for BE (passed): 16



### **III. Subject Category Field Work {Fachgruppe Feldarbeit}**

In this subject category, the following subjects are tested:

1. Use of nose {Nasengebrauch}
2. Search {Suche}
3. Pointing {Vorstehen}
4. Manners behind game including relocation {Manieren am Wild und Nachziehen}
5. Free search and retrieve of feathered game {Verlorensuchen von Federwild}
  - a 1. Working of a winged partridge {geflügeltes Huhn} or pheasant {Fasan}, or
  2. Feathered game drag {Federwildschleppe}
  - b 1. Free search of a freshly shot game bird where the dog did not see the fall {Verlorensuchen und Bringen eines frisch geschossenen Stückes Federwild, dessen Fall der Hund nicht eräugt hat} - or -
  2. Free search and retrieve of a placed game bird {Freies Verlorensuchen und -bringen eines ausgelegten Stückes Federwild}
6. Retrieving of feathered game {Bringen von Federwild}.

#### **§ 29 General Regulations for the Field Work {Allgemeine Bestimmungen für die Feldarbeit}**

Every dog should have the opportunity to work multiple times on partridges or pheasants, to allow the judges to arrive at an appropriate judgment about the performance of the dog, especially about its use of nose.

#### **§ 30 Use of Nose {Nasengebrauch}**

- (1) Signs of a good use of the nose during the search are, among others, the advantageous use of the wind, quick and repeated finding of game, occasional marking of songbird scent, rapid locating and “pinning” of birds while relocating and scenting far away game early while adjusting the pace to cautiously track the scent.
- (2) If not all subjects are tested by the same judging group, the other judging groups have to communicate the nose performances they evaluated to the Judges’ Conference, so that the field judging group can form a complete judgment about the use of nose of the tested dogs.

#### **§ 31 Search {Suche}**

In the evaluation of the search, the main emphasis is placed on the dog’s will to find and also how systematic the search is. The search should also be swift and persevering. The search must be scored higher the more the dog adjusts to the terrain and ground cover, the prevalent type of game and to the wind, and whether the search speed is in harmony with the quality of the nose. In addition, the dog’s willingness to be handled and how it obeys handler commands that it noticed (voice, hand or whistle signal) must be considered. Every dog must be provided the opportunity to work in terrain with good cover.

#### **§ 32 Pointing {Vorstehen}**

- (1) Very good pointing is demonstrated if the dog points staunchly - by standing or lying - all tight sitting game until its handler approaches in a calm manner, arrives at the dog's side and can shoot without haste.
- (2) If the dog avoids game it apparently has noticed by scent repeatedly without indicating, it reveals itself as a blinker and must be excluded.
- (3) Multiple incidents of intense and persistent pointing without the presence of game or game scent (dog is lying) lessen the predicate.

### **§ 33 Manners Behind Game and Relocating {Manieren am Wild und Nachziehen}**

- (1) Next to pointing, relocating and beautiful manners behind game are valuable elements of the field work.
- (2) Good manners are revealed in the tense but elegant movements, and the impressive carriage of the dog's head, body and legs as soon as it scents game.
- (3) During the search, the dog should show relocating whenever it encounters a fresh bird track or when game birds are running ahead of him. The dog should demonstrate that it knows exactly how to produce game for the gun by calmly relocating and finally pinning the bird or by purposefully circling around the bird.
- (4) If the dog cannot show relocating because all encountered game is sitting tight, the predicate must not be lowered.

### **§ 34 Searching and Retrieving Shot Game Birds, {Verlorensuchen von Federwild}**

- (1) **a1 Working a winged partridge (pheasant) {Arbeit am geflügelten Huhn}**
  - a) The working of a winged partridge (pheasant) must be evaluated when the dog works the track of a winged partridge (pheasant), finds the bird (pheasant) and retrieves it to the handler.
  - b) A dog that finds a winged bird (pheasant) and does not seize and retrieve the bird must be excluded from further testing.
- (2) **a2 Feathered game drag {Federwildschleppe}**
  - a) If the dog has no chance to work in accordance with (1) a1 above or if the dog does not find the bird, the dog's performance must be tested on the feathered game drag (e.g. partridge, pheasant, duck, pigeon).
  - b) The drag must be laid by a judge. It must be approximately 200 m long, must lead across vegetated ground and must include two obtuse angles.
  - c) Regulations for the work on furred game drags (see §11, paragraphs 1-8) apply appropriately.
- (3) **b1 Free search and retrieve of a freshly shot bird {Freies Verlorensuchen und -bringen eines frisch geschossenen Stücks Federwild}**

- a) The free search and retrieve of a freshly shot bird must be evaluated, if a bird fell into cover, and the dog did not see the fall.
  - b) If the working dog saw the fall of the bird, the judges can allow another dog to search for and retrieve this bird, if this dog did not yet have an opportunity to retrieve a winged partridge (pheasant) or a freshly shot bird, and if this dog did not see the fall of this bird.
  - c) The approximate location of the fallen bird is shown to the handler from a distance of about 40-50 m and against the wind. The handler must release the dog for a free search. The dog shall search for the bird independently. The handler may walk behind his dog and support the dog.
  - d) The dog should search closely in front of the handler and show through a controlled speed and use of its nose that it wants to find the bird.
  - e) The evaluation of this performance depends on how the dog adapts and complies with the task.
- (4) **b2 Free search and retrieving of a placed bird {Freies Verlorensuchen und -bringen eines ausgelegten Stücks Federwild}**
- a) If the dog has no chance to work in accordance to (3) b1. above, or if the dog did not find the bird, the dog's performance in free searching of a shot bird must be tested on a placed bird.
  - b) For this test, a judge places a bird. The terrain must have sufficiently dense cover, where the dog is forced to find the bird by using its nose and where it can only see it at a close-up distance. The cover must be at least 80 m wide. The judge placing the bird must enter the cover with the wind in his back and leave it on the same trail, so that the dog cannot follow the human track. The dog must not see these preparations.
  - c) Not until the judge has placed the bird and has returned to the judging group, is the handler shown the approximate direction of the bird from a distance of approximately 40 - 50 m against the wind.
  - d) Now the handler must release his dog for the free search {Freiverlorensuche}. The dog should search the bird independently. The handler may walk behind his dog and support the dog. However, continuous interfering lowers the predicate.
  - e) The dog should search closely in front of the handler and demonstrate through its controlled speed and use of nose that it wants to find the bird.
  - f) The evaluation of this performance depends on how the dog adapts and complies with the task.
  - g) The judges can order the termination of the work, when they have gained the impression that the dog does not satisfy the requirements of this subject.

- (5) For the “work on the winged partridge (pheasant)” or on “feathered game drags”, or on “free search of a freshly shot bird” or “free search of a placed bird”, the score is based upon how the dog executes the work and whether the dog is willing to find and retrieve the bird, and if it delivers it to the handler.

### **§ 35 Retrieving of Feathered Game {Bringen von Federwild}**

- (1) The retrieving must be evaluated according to the principles of § 13, paragraphs (3) and (4).
- (2) For the evaluation, all retrieving performances of the dog with regard to feathered game during the field work have to be taken into consideration. A dog that has received a score of “not sufficient” (0) during any retrieves of feathered game can only receive a total score of “not sufficient” (0).

### **Minimum Requirements and Minimum Points for Field Work**

Test Subjects:

Use of nose, search, pointing, relocating and manners behind game, work on winged partridge (pheasant) or feathered game drag, free search of freshly shot or placed bird, retrieving of feathered game.

#### **For Prize I:**

Minimum requirements: At least the predicate “good” in the subjects: Use of nose, search and pointing, and at least “sufficient” performances in the other four subjects.

Minimum points: 85

#### **For Prize II:**

Minimum requirements: At least the predicate “good” in the subjects: Use of nose and pointing, and at least “sufficient” performances in the other five subjects.

Minimum points: 70.

#### **For Prize III:**

Minimum requirements: At least the predicate “sufficient” in all subjects.

Minimum points: 55.

#### **IV. Subject Category Obedience {Fachgruppe Gehorsam}**

**The following subjects have to be tested in this category:**

1. General Behavior {Allgemeines Verhalten} - Obedience
2. Behavior during drive hunt {Verhalten auf dem Stand}
3. Heeling on leash {Leinenführigkeit}
4. Heeling off leash {Folgen frei bei Fuß}
5. Down stay {Ablegen}
6. Steadiness to wing {Benehmen vor eräugtem Federwild}
7. Steadiness to fur {Benehmen vor eräugtem Haarnutzwild}
8. Steadiness to shot {Schussruhe}

#### **§ 36 Obedience {Gehorsam}**

(1)

- a) Obedience is the expression of proper and thorough training, and is a prerequisite for using the dog in any hunting situation.
- b) The evaluation of obedience during the test therefore has the highest priority among all other performances expected of the utility dog.
- c) When testing obedience subjects, it must be considered how much the handler behaves as if he/ she were hunting.
- d) A dog that evades the influence of the handler for a long period of time and therefore delays testing will not be tested any further.

(2) Testing by specialty judging groups {Fachrichtergruppen}

- a) Specialty judging groups test and judge obedience in all subjects assigned to them.  
Forest work:  
General behavior - obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, heeling off leash, down stay.  
Water work:  
General behavior – obedience  
Field work:  
General behavior - obedience, steadiness to wing, steadiness to fur, steadiness to shot.
- b) The predicate for the subject “General Behavior - Obedience” is determined after hearing all judging groups at the Judges’ Conference after the test.

#### **§ 37 Testing of All Subjects by One Judging Group {Prüfung aller Fächer durch eine Richtergruppe}**

Everything that applies to the specialty judging groups in the individual subject categories applies likewise. The judges not only are to gain an impression of the dog’s obedience in all test subjects, but also note occasional observations of the working and non-working dog during the test.

### **§ 38 General Behavior – Obedience {Allgemeines Verhalten - Gehorsam}**

- (1) Only the performance and behavior of the dog which are related to obedience and not included in other test subjects are to be scored here, e.g. primarily the behavior of the non-working dog.
- (2) Each dog's obedience is determined throughout the entire test and in all subjects of the VGP; the behavior of the currently working dog and that of non-working dogs as well must be scored.
- (3) Obedience is also demonstrated when the dog willingly follows the command to be leashed during forest, field and water work; when it remains calm during the work of other dogs, does not pull continuously at the leash, and does not whine or howl etc., and thereby proves that it does not disturb handler and other hunters during the hunt.

### **§ 39 Behavior During Drive Hunt {Verhalten auf dem Stand}**

- (1) To test behavior during drive hunt, all handlers with their dogs - on or off leash - are placed around a thicket or dense stand of forest as shooters, while other persons simulate drivers [beaters] with the customary noise. During the drive, several shots have to be fired by the beaters in the woods. The handler also must fire at least twice during this drive. The order for this must be given by a judge.
- (2) The dog should remain silent and calm during the test; it should not whine, must not bark, pull on the leash or leave the handler without a command.
- (3) The leashed dog cannot receive more than the predicate "good".

### **§ 40 Heeling on Leash {Leinenführigkeit}**

- (1) The dog which is leashed to a loosely hanging shoulder lead should start out by accompanying the handler without any disturbance on a path for approximately 50 m. Over this distance, the handler must change directions several times. Thereafter, the dog should follow the handler through stands of dense forests [pole timber] or young saplings without tangling with the leash and hindering the rapid progress of the handler. Repeatedly, the handler must pass closely by several trees to the left and right, and he must stop at least once.
- (2) Every tangling of the dog with the leash and every pulling at the leash lower the predicate for this performance.
- (3) The judges' observations in all subjects and during the entire test regarding the dog's behavior while on leash must be used when evaluating the dog's performance in this subject.

### **§ 41 Heeling off Leash {Folgen frei bei Fuß}**

- (1) Heeling off leash is tested on a forest road or stalking trail, where the unleashed dog should follow the handler closely at the side of or behind the handler's heel without loud commands.

- (2) The handler must walk a distance of at least 100 m over which he must vary his walking speed and come to a stop several times, upon which the dog should immediately stop, too. At the end of the required distance, the handler places his dog in a down position, either free or close to an object (e.g. backpack, hat, hunting pouch, folding seat, leash, etc.), so that the subject “down stay” can be tested. It is not permissible to place an object over or on top of the dog.

#### **§ 42 Down Stay {Ablegen}**

- (1) After the handler has placed his dog in a down position in the manner described above, he gives the dog a hand signal or quiet command to stay in this position. These activities must be carried out with the utmost silence.
- (2) The handler then walks away slowly, as if stalking, towards a previously assigned spot which is at least 30 m away and positioned such that the dog cannot see him or otherwise know of his location. While walking towards this spot, the handler should not turn around or give the dog a voice signal.
- (3) From there, the handler fires two shots with a shotgun, separated by at least 10 seconds.
- (4) During these activities, the dog must remain at its place until the handler picks him up. If the dog leaves the place, whines or barks, the performance must be assessed with “not sufficient”. The dog may raise its head and may sit up. Moving not more than approximately 5 m is not considered leaving the place, but it lowers the predicate.
- (6) Hunt-like behavior and calmness of the dog determine the predicate for this test subject.

#### **§ 43 Steadiness to Wing {Benehmen vor eräugtem Federwild}**

The dog should not chase game birds that are flying off and should not require handler interference for not chasing.

#### **§ 44 Steadiness to Furred Small Game {Benehmen vor eräugtem Haarnutzwild}**

- (1)
  - a) The handler should be able to stop the dog from chasing furred small game by voice, whistle signals or even repetitive and sharp commands.
  - b) A dog that is disobedient more than twice by chasing furred small game cannot receive a Prize I.
  - c) Compulsive chasers which cannot be called back by voice or whistle signal, or which come back only after a long period of time and can therefore not be tested properly and thoroughly, have to be excluded from the testing; they are not usable for hunting.
- (2) If the dog’s steadiness can only be tested on one kind of game, then this is enough. A dash must be entered in the score table for the subject that was not tested. If, however, the dog fails in one subject, the predicate “not sufficient” must be entered in the respective column.

## § 45 Steadiness to Shot {Schussruhe}

- (1) The evaluation of steadiness to shot can only be tested on flushing or fleeing game, which the dog has seen and on which the dog has previously demonstrated obedience.
- (2) To test steadiness to shot, game should be shot in front of the dog during the field work, if necessary by the judges.
- (3) Steadiness to shot is considered “very good”, when the dog does not chase flushing game after the shot. On birds, the handler should not interfere with the dog.

### Minimum Requirements and Minimum Points for Obedience

Test Subjects:

General behavior - obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, heeling off leash, down stay, steadiness to wing, steadiness to fur, steadiness to shot.

#### For Prize I:

At least “sufficient” predicates in the subjects general behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, heeling off leash, down stay; at least “sufficient” in either steadiness to wing, steadiness to fur or steadiness to shot.

Minimum points: 43

#### For Prize II:

At least “sufficient” in the subjects general behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt and heeling on leash; at least “sufficient” in either steadiness to wing, steadiness to fur or steadiness to shot.

Minimum points: 40

#### For Prize III:

At least “sufficient” in the subjects general behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt and heeling on leash; at least “sufficient” in either steadiness to wing, steadiness to fur or steadiness to shot.

Minimum points: 38 points

## VGP

### Achievable Maximum Point Scores

		Additional Points for Bayer or Guide	
Forest work	124	16	12
Water work	44		
Field work	104		
Obedience	68		
Total	340	356	352

Necessary minimum points and minimum requirements for the individual prize classifications are shown in the table below.



Overview of the Classification into Prize Categories VGP							
Subject	Maximum achievable points	Required minimum points for			Minimum requirements for		
		Prize I	Prize II	Prize III	Prize I	Prize II	Prize III
Forest	124 + 16 P. for dead game bayer* + 12 P. for dead game guide*	90	80	48	On-leash blood tracking "very good"; at least "sufficient" in the other 7 subjects	On-leash blood tracking "good"; at least "sufficient" in the other 7 subjects	At least "sufficient" performances in all subjects, except fox drag and retrieve on drag, or retrieve of fox over obstacle
Water	44	36	30	22	Gun sensitivity passed; at least "sufficient" in all subjects	Gun sensitivity passed; at least "sufficient" in all subjects	Gun sensitivity passed; at least "sufficient" in all subjects
Field	104	85	70	55	Use of nose, search and pointing at least "good"; at least "sufficient" in the other 4 subjects	Use of nose and pointing at least "good"; at least "sufficient" in the other 5 subjects	At least "sufficient" in all subjects
Obedience	68	43	40	38	General behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, heeling off leash and down stay at least "sufficient"; manners behind feathered game or furred game or steadiness to shot at least sufficient	General behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash at least "sufficient"; manners behind feathered game or furred game or steadiness to shot at least "sufficient"	General behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash at least "sufficient"; manners behind feathered game or furred game or steadiness to shot at least "sufficient"
Total	340	254	220	163			
* Neither score counts towards the minimum requirements							

# Test Report for Association Utility Test VGP



Jagdgebrauchshundverband e.V.

Formblatt 7

## Zensurentafel für Verbands-Gebrauchsprüfung (VGP)

Stand 2018-1

Test Report for VGP

Club's No. \_\_\_\_\_

EDV-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_

Verein: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organizing Club \_\_\_\_\_  
Prüfungsort: \_\_\_\_\_  
Test Location \_\_\_\_\_

Prüfungsdatum: \_\_\_\_\_  
Test Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Führer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Handler \_\_\_\_\_

PLZ: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Wohnort: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_

Name des Hundes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Dog \_\_\_\_\_

gew.: \_\_\_\_\_  
whelping date \_\_\_\_\_

Rüde  Hündin  
male female

Rasse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Breed \_\_\_\_\_

ZB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Breedbook No. \_\_\_\_\_

DGSb-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
German Versatile Dog Registry No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mutter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dam \_\_\_\_\_

ZB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Breedbook No. \_\_\_\_\_

DGSb-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
German Versatile Dog Registry No. \_\_\_\_\_

Vater: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sire \_\_\_\_\_

ZB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Breedbook No. \_\_\_\_\_

DGSb-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
German Versatile Dog Registry No. \_\_\_\_\_

I. Waldarbeit		Forest Work	LZ	FWZ	UZ
		work pts	multiple	score	pts
Riemenarbeit / Übernachtsfährte	on leash blood tracking/overnight tracking			8	
Riemenarbeit / Tagfährte	on leash blood tracking/day track			5	
Totverbellern (zusätzlich, Mindest - LZ 2)	dead game bayer (additional, min work pts 2)			4	
Totverweisen (zusätzlich, Mindest - LZ 2)	dead game guide (additional, min work pts 2)			3	
Bringen von Fuchs über Hindernis	retrieve of fox over obstacle			3	
Fuchsschlepp	fox drag			5	
Bringen von Fuchs auf der Schlepp	retrieve of fox on drag track			2	
Hasen- oder Kaninchenschlepp	hare or rabbit drag			4	
Bringen von Hase oder Kaninchen	retrieve of hare or rabbit			2	
Stöbern <input type="checkbox"/> lt <input type="checkbox"/> spl <input type="checkbox"/> wdl <input type="checkbox"/> st <input type="checkbox"/> ?	independent search			4	
Buschieren	Dense Cover Search			3	
Total score forest work		Summe Waldarbeit:			

II. Wasserarbeit		Water Work	LZ	FWZ	UZ
		work pts	multiple	score	pts
Stöbern ohne Ente im deckungs. Gewässer	independent search without duck in dense cover			3	
Verlorensuchen im deckungs. Gewässer	retrieve from dense cover			3	
Stöbern mit Ente	independent search with duck in dense cover			3	
oder lt, beil. Zeugnis vom <input type="checkbox"/>	or copy score in this subject from previously passed test			3	
Bringen von Ente	retrieve of duck			2	
Total score water work		Summe Wasserarbeit:			

Schußfestigkeit bei der Wasserarbeit:  Ja  Nein  
Gunfire stable at the water Yes No

Härtenacnweis des Stammbuchamtes hat vorgelegen:  Ja  Nein  
official hardness certificate was submitted Yes No

Formwert: \_\_\_\_\_  
Conformation rating (nur vorliegende Zuchtschaugergebnisse) enter only ratings from breed shows

Haarwert: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coat rating

Wesens- und Verhaltensfeststellungen  
Temperament and Behavior Determinations

Temperament:  teilnahmslos/phlegmatisch  ruhig/ausgeglich  lebhaft/temperamentvoll  unruhig/nervös/überpassioniert

Selbstsicherheit:  selbstsicher  schreckhaft/unsicher  ängstlich

Verträglichkeit:  sozialverträglich  aggressiv gegen Menschen  aggressiv gegen Artgenossen

Sonstiges:  handscheu  wildscheu

Körperliche Mängel (Gebiß-, Hoden-, Augenfehler):  
Conformational faults (bite, testicular, eye faults)

Bemerkungen:  
Additional remarks:

Preis  mit Übernachtsfährte  mit Tagfährte  
Prize  overnight track  day track

Nicht bestanden - Grund des Ausscheidens (in Worten beschreiben): Not passed - reason for failure (describe in words)

Prüfungsleiter Test Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Richter (RO) Senior Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Richter Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Richter Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

VR-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_ VR-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_ VR-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_ VR-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_

Zensuren: hervorragend =4 | sehr gut = 4 | gut = 3 | genügend = 2 | mangelhaft = 1 | ungenügend = 0 | nicht geprüft = -

Nachdruck, auch auszugsweise sowie Verarbeitung in elektronischen Systemen nur mit Genehmigung des JGHV

## **Test Regulations for Association Test After the Shot (VPS) {Verbandsprüfung nach dem Schuss}**

Regulations for individual test subjects, in order of subject categories with minimum points and minimum requirements:

### **I. Subject Category Forest Work {Waldarbeit}**

The following subjects must be tested in this subject category:

1. Blood tracking of hoofed game on leash {Schweissarbeit auf Schalenwild als Riemenarbeit} (overnight track) {Übernachtfährte}, optionally with subsequent baying or guiding.
2. Fox drag (optional)
3. Retrieving of fox on the drag (optional)
4. Hare or rabbit drag
5. Retrieving of hare or rabbit
6. Independent search
7. Dense cover search

### **§ 10 Blood Tracking {Schweißarbeit}**

#### **Preparation of the Blood Track**

- (1) Artificial blood tracks must be laid by especially experienced judges – special blood tracking judges {Sonderrichter Schweiß}.
- (2)
  - a) Blood tracks {Schweißfährten} must not be laid in the same terrain on two consecutive days. The minimum length for leash work {Riemenarbeit} is approximately 400 m, for the free work {freie Arbeit} of the Dead Game Bayer and Guide approximately 200 m.
  - b) Tracks {Fährten} have to be laid in the forest or in densely covered brush land. It is permissible to start the track in an open field but not farther than approximately 100 m from the forest edge.
  - c) The start of the blood track must be marked by a sign and identified with the label: "Track No...., laid at.... (hour)". The purpose of the track (= Leash Worker, Dead Game Bayer, Dead Game Guide) must be noted on this label.
  - d) The distance between the individual tracks must be at least 120 m throughout.
  - e) Two obtuse angles and one wound bed {Wundbett} must be included in each blood track. The end of the track for leash work must be marked. A second wound bed must be made at that spot for Dead Game Bayer and Guide.
  - f) For the off-leash work of the Dead Game Bayer and Guide, the track must be continued for approximately 200 m from the last wound bed.
  - g) The Test Director and the special blood tracking judge are responsible for the proper execution of the blood tracking.
- (3) Artificial blood tracks can be prepared by dabbing {Tupfverfahren} or by dripping {Tropfverfahren} blood. The manner of the track preparation must be indicated in the

announcement of the test. Dripped tracks {Tropffährten} must be laid with transparent wash bottles {Tropfflaschen}, dabbed tracks {Tupffährten} with a dabbing stick {Tupfstock} and a sponge (approximately 6 x 6 cm square [2 3/8" x 2 3/8"] and 2 cm [3/4"] high) affixed at the end, or with a special dabbing stick with internal blood container {Tupfstock mit eingebautem Schweißbehälter}.

(4)

- a) The blood used for tracks must be fresh. If not sufficient game blood {Wildschweiß} is available, fresh blood from domestic stock (cattle, sheep, pigs) or in mixture with game blood, can be used. The composition and origin of the blood or blood mixture must be the same for all tracks at a given VPS.
- b) It is allowed to use blood that was frozen while fresh. Chemical additives are prohibited.

(5)

- a) Blood tracks must be laid only in the direction from the starting point {Anschluss} to the carcass.
- b) While laying a track, the judge and his assistants must walk in the same track. The layer of the track with the bottle or dabbing stick must always walk last in line.
- c) Wound beds are to be prepared such that they are inconspicuous (trampling, increased amount of blood).
- d) During the test, signs or markers must not be detectable by the handler.
- e) It is extremely important that the blood track actually ends at the second, or respectively, at the third wound bed, and is not continued due to carelessness. There must not be any loss of blood after that.

(6)

- a) A maximum of 0.25 liters (8.4 oz) of blood may be used for the approximate 400 m track and not more than 0.125 liters (4.2 oz) blood for the subsequent approximate 200 m of the free work of the Dead Game Bayer or Guide
- b) A substitute track must be prepared for every test.
- c) The aging period is at least 14 hours overnight.
- d) The on-leash work must always be evaluated by three judges. The additional track for Dead Game Bayer and Dead Game Guide must be laid by one judge immediately after the successful leash work, and the behavior at the carcass must be evaluated by two judges.

(7)

- a) A preferably freshly shot hoofed game animal (with bullet hole) is placed at the end of the artificial blood track (no fawn for Bayer or Guide).
- b) The carcass must be laid out in the open, not into a depression, behind a tree etc. Openings created by field dressing or other injuries must be carefully stitched up. This does not apply to bullet entry and exit holes.
- c) The carcass is to be laid at the end of the track for the leash worker, for Bayer and Guide at the end of the additional track.

- d) The persons carrying the carcass also move the carcass from track to track; they must always leave in the opposite direction of the track and then on the downwind side after placing the carcass.
- e) The carcass must be carried to the end of the blood track in such a manner that the carcass does not create any distractions for the working dog.

### Execution of the Blood Tracking Work

(8)

- a) For the work of the blood tracking, the dog can do:
  - on-leash work only;
  - on-leash work with subsequent free search tracking {Freisuche} and dead game baying
  - on-leash work and subsequent free search tracking and dead game guiding.
- b) Prior to the beginning of the blood tracking work, every handler of a Guide must describe to the Senior Judge of the judging group how he can detect that his dog has found and how the dog should lead him to the carcass. This description is binding; subsequent changes are not permissible.
- c) The starting spot {Anschluss} and the direction of the track {Fluchtrichtung}) have to be indicated to the handler by a broken twig {Fährtenbruch}.

(9)

- a) Every dog, including the Bayer and the Guide, must track on-leash for at least 400 m which is to be judged equally for all dogs, and separately from any subsequent off-leash track {freie Fährte} that remains to be worked.
- b) The whole length of the tracking leash {Schweißriemen} must be available; it must measure at least 6 m [19 ft] in length. In principle, it must be given at a length of 6 m and the judges must indicate this to the handler. If the handler does not follow this regulation, the on-leash work can only be scored with "sufficient".
- c) A correct collar {Halsung}, harness respectively, is part of the tracking lead. Other collars must be removed during blood tracking. High visibility collars {Warnhalsungen} are allowed as additions.

(10)

- a) During the on-leash work all judges in the judging group, including the special blood tracking judge, must follow the dog. How the dog follows the blood track is important for the evaluation. The dog should work it calmly, concentrated and at a good pace, but not in a frantic manner. For a "very good" score, a calm and confident work by the dog is necessary. A hastily working dog will always fail in really difficult situations. Excessive and unrestrained speed lowers the predicate.
- b) The primary task of the judges is to identify those dogs that show the will to track and to lead on, and who make an effort to find the track by casting backwards {Bogenschlagen} when they temporarily lost the track.
- c) The handler may temporarily stop or lay down the dog to look for blood by himself; he may also help the dog by casting forward or backward {Vor- oder Zurückgreifen} or with other appropriate aids. Only under these circumstances should the judges stop; they must never wait when they realize that the dog has

gone off-track without the handler noticing this. On the contrary, the judges must follow the working dog to observe its work even when it has lost the track.

- d) The dog may be taken back on the track and restarted twice during the on-leash work. Only if the dog is restarted by the judges after deviating far (approximately 60 m) from the track, is it considered to be a true restart which lowers the predicate. It must be counted in favor of the dog if the errant dog corrects itself. The correction of the dog by the handler is not considered to be a restart. Necessary, repeatedly occurring corrections by the handler are considered a sign of lacking confidence of the dog and lower the predicate.
- e) The dog should find the wound beds; it is, however, not to be considered a fault if the dog works closely past the wound bed while working the direction of the blood track.
- f) A few spectators may follow the on-leash work, but only if the handler of the dog and the judges have no objection.

### **Behavior at the Carcass {Verhalten am Stück}**

- (11) Dogs that eat from the carcass or bury it must be excluded from further testing. Dogs that work the on-leash portion of the blood tracking work only do not have to pass a separate behavior at the carcass test.

### **Dead Game Baying {Totverbellen} and Dead Game Guiding {Totverweisen}**

- (12)
  - a) Dead Game Bayers and Guides are released at the second wound bed. They must find the carcass placed at the end of the additional track in a free search. If the dog worked the blood track to the second wound bed without demonstrating that it has found the wound bed, the on-leash tracking work is completed and the judges must show the wound bed to the dog.
  - b) During the free work of the dog, the handler and one accompanying judge must stay at the second wound bed; the handler may not influence the dog with voice, whistle or other signals. Handler and judge must wait approximately 10 minutes for the working dog to bay or guide. If the dog is a Bayer, they should wait until the judges can determine whether the dog is baying with sufficient persistence.
  - c) After the judges observing at the carcass have ascertained that the carcass is placed properly, they must pick a location where the dog is not able to see, scent, or otherwise detect them, the person carrying the carcass, or possible spectators. However, they must be able to observe the behavior of the dog at the carcass (how it bays, guides, or if it eats the game, etc.)
  - d) As soon as these judges have taken their position and have communicated this with an agreed signal, the handler must release his dog.
  - e) If Bayer or Guide do not find the carcass during the free work, they may be restarted twice from the second wound bed.
  - f) The performance of the Bayer or Guide includes the finding of the game and the behavior at the carcass or the guiding to the carcass. It can only be credited if it

was at least scored with “sufficient”. Whatever the predicate may be, it must be entered into the score table. If it is “deficient”, no points will be credited.

(13)

- a) The Dead Game Bayer must stay at the carcass after it has found, and must start baying within approximately 10 minutes after arrival. The dog should call its handler for approximately 10 minutes. The dog must demonstrate that it knows clearly not to leave the carcass.
- b) The baying up to approximately 10 steps besides the carcass is not counted as leaving {Verlassen} of the carcass, but the loss of eye-contact [line-of sight] with the game when the distance exceeds approximately 10 steps is. If the dog exceeds this distance without losing sight of the carcass, a lowering of the predicate will result. Momentary silence {Verstummen} of the dog to catch its breath or to look in the direction where it assumes its handler to be must not be counted as a fault.

(14)

- a) The Dead Game Guide must leave the carcass it has found immediately in order to return to its handler and show him that it has found. The dog must lead its handler to the carcass in free guiding.
- b) If the dog leads the handler to the carcass by taking the stick {Bringsel} or the end of the tracking lead into its mouth, it is considered to be free guiding; however, if the dog is collared and on the tracking leash, it is not considered free guiding.
- c) Dead Game Bayer and Guides that fail in these subjects must lead the handler on-leash to the carcass without a recall, or they cannot pass the test. If a recall occurs, the entire on-leash work must be scored “not sufficient”.

## § 12 Furred Game Drags {Haarwildschleppen}

(1)

- a) The work on the furred game drag is tested with fox and hare or rabbit. Foxes used at a VPS must weigh at least 3.5 kilograms (7.7 lbs) and must be in a natural state (with complete tail, but removal of the head is permissible; gutted foxes are not permissible).
- b) Fox drag and retrieve of fox are optional subjects. If a handler has entered his dog for these optional subjects, they become mandatory. The respective scores – even if the dog did not pass – must be entered in the score table. If these subjects are not tested, the notation “not tested” {nicht geprüft} (–) is entered. In addition, the pedigree is marked with “with fox” {mit Fuchs} (=m.Fu.) or “without fox” {ohne Fuchs} (=o.Fu.) The “fox drag” and the “retrieve of fox” are test subjects of the forest work which the dog must pass with at least “sufficient” performances if tested. If the dog fails to retrieve the fox on the fox drag, the dog cannot pass the test.

(2)

- a) The game is dragged on a string from the starting point which is marked with white belly hair. The drag must include two obtuse angles and must be approximately 300 m long. Then the dragged animal or another animal of the same kind is laid down.

- b) The handler can request the dragged animal to be placed at the end of the drag, but he must indicate this to the judges prior to the laying of the drags.
  - c) If the handler desires, a drag can be prepared with only one animal of the respective species. In this case, the dragged animal must be placed at the end of the drag (approximately 10 to 15 m in front of the drag layer) and not directly in front of the drag layer. The drag line must be removed from the dragged animal before the dog begins to work.
  - d) Furred game drags belong to the forest work and thus must be laid in the forest. However, it is permissible to locate the starting point and the segment up to and including the first angle in open terrain (meadows, fields, young tree plantations without brush - but not over freshly plowed fields).
  - e) For every dog drags must be laid by a judge immediately before the dog is tested; the drags should be as similar as possible. The dog must not see the laying of the drag.
  - f) The drags must not be laid repeatedly in the same area on the same day.
- (3)
- a) The animal destined for retrieving must be laid at the end of the drag, not in a depression or behind a tree.
  - b) After the animal has been placed, the dragger must continue walking in the direction of the drag [without dragging an animal] and hide, so that the dog cannot see him from where the animal is placed. There the dragger must place the second animal (of the same species) freely in front of him if the drag is made with two animals. He must not prevent the dog from retrieving the dragged game if the dog comes to him and picks it up. He must not leave the cover until the judges remaining at the starting point of the drag have given a signal or he can see that the test is completed.
- (4) The distance between the individual drags must be at least 80 m throughout.
- (5)
- a) The furred game used for drags must be freshly shot. Above all, the placed game should be clean and must not be unsightly.
  - b) It is at the discretion of the club to allow the handler to bring a suitable fox that weighs at least 3.5 kg (7.7 lbs) for this test of his dog (also for retrieving of fox over obstacle). In this case as well, the dragger will place a second fox in front of him [unless the handler requested only one piece of game].
- (6)
- a) The judges are required to show the handler the marked starting point.
  - b) The handler releases his dog at the starting point. The handler may not follow his dog any further.
- (7)
- a) The scoring of the work on the drags is based on whether and how the dog keeps connection with the scent, if it wants to find (outbound).



- b) The manner of the retrieving (inbound) as a pure training subject, that is how the dog picks up the game, carries and delivers, must be scored only under "Retrieving" in the respective column for fox, hare or rabbit.
  - c) Distractions by other scent do not warrant a replacement drag, because the VPS requires finished gun dogs.
- (8)
- a) The handler may start his dog on the drag three times. Every handler influence after the first start is considered to be a restart and lowers the predicate.
  - b) If the dog fails on the drag, regardless of whether it arrived at the game or not, it shall receive in the score sheet the predicate "not sufficient" for the fox drag, or the hare or rabbit drag.

### § 13 Retrieving {Bringen}

- (1)
- a) A dog is excluded from the test if it fails to retrieve independently (i.e., without handler interference if the dog works incorrectly) at the first encounter of any small game animal {Nutzwild} that was captured live, freshly shot, placed or found at the end of the drag. The finding of one and the retrieving of another game on drags is not considered to be faulty. If the dog is working correctly, it is not considered an impermissible handler interference if the handler praises his dog and makes himself noticeable to his dog during the retrieve.
  - b) On the fox drag, the dog may be started for a total of three times, even if it does not retrieve the fox it has found.
- (2) Dogs which bury game or eat game must be excluded from continuation of the test.
- (3) Retrieving encompasses, aside from the act of carrying to the handler, the manner of picking up, carrying and delivering any kind of game at the test on the drags, during free searching or retrieving {Verlorensuchen oder -bringen} and during actual hunting at the test.
- (4)
- a) The correct picking up and carrying is revealed in the dog's ability to adjust its grip to the kind and weight of the game. It is considered to be a fault if the grasp, hold, and carrying are either too strong or too weak.
  - b) The correct delivery is demonstrated if the dog comes with the game straight to the handler, sits down next to him without or with one -not loud- command, and keeps the game calmly in its mouth until the handler has grasped it without haste and takes it from the dog with the appropriate command. Dropping the game during the delivery lowers the predicate.
  - c) Hard mouth {knautschen} is considered a fault and lowers the predicate. Dogs that are severely hard mouthed or pluck {rupfen} heavily must be excluded from further testing.

## § 14 Independent Search {Stöbern}

- (1)
  - a) For the independent search, thickets and woodlots containing sufficient numbers of game must be chosen to give the dog the opportunity to show realistic independent search work behind game.
  - b) Alternatively, the independent search can be tested in corn fields (> 1 ha; [2.5 acres]) or cattail marshes that have dried out (> 1 ha; [2.5 acres]). The kind of testing area for the independent search must be specified in the test announcement.
  - c) The dog should search the assigned terrain thoroughly. The dog should chase found game giving tongue.
- (2) Every dog should preferably have a new area and approximately 10 minutes to independently search it. If the dog encounters game during the independent search, it should be allowed sufficient time to move the game from its cover.
- (3)
  - a) The independent search must be conducted such that the judges can arrive at a concluding evaluation of the dog's work. Above all, they have to find out whether the dog searches methodically.
  - b) At this test, the judges should distribute themselves well in a given area or surround a thicket to be able to evaluate the performance of the dog. They also have to note if the dog gives tongue while searching independently.
- (4) The handler can either start the dog from his assigned position, or command the dog to lie down, walk off towards his assigned position and then command the dog by hand or voice signal from a distance to independently search the cover.
- (5)
  - a) If the dog gives tongue while working game that it has found, it must be marked as "lt" = loud {laut} in the score table.
  - b) If it is confirmed that a dog remains silent while hunting visible game, it must be marked as "st" = silent {stumm} in the score table. A silent dog cannot receive more than the predicate "good" in the subject "Independent Search" and not better than Prize II.
  - c) If, due to a lack of game, neither loud nor silent independent search behind game can be detected, the respective dog receives the notation "?" (questionable) on the score table.
  - d) The Senior Judge must ensure that notes on the manner of hunting of all tested dogs in his judging group are listed on the score table. (lt, st, wdl, ?)
- (6) Brief pointing during the independent search does not lower the predicate. However, if the dog points for five minutes or longer the score can be lowered.
- (7)
  - a) If the dog captures game during the independent search and retrieves it to the handler, the performance in the independent search cannot be scored less.

- b) Such retrieving must be assessed. The same applies to shot game which the dog retrieves. If the dog fails to retrieve captured or shot small game, it cannot pass the test.
- (8)
- a) The hunting of healthy [unshot] game far out of bounds into other areas during the independent search and failure to come back after an appropriate time - even after a whistle or voice signal of its handler - must be scored as faulty.
  - b) Disobedient chasers, which continue hunting independently outside the assigned area and return only after long periods of time, do not satisfy the expectations for a dependable, versatile dog. Therefore, they must be excluded from further testing due to their continued disobedience.
- (9) If, during the forest work, outside the independent search area or during other tasks, it is confirmed that the dog chases game giving tongue, it must be noted separately in the space for notations as: scent loud behind fox or hare, track loud behind hoofed game, sight loud behind furred game. The loud must be persistent!

#### **§ 15 Dense Cover Search {Buschieren}**

- (1)
- a) Dense Cover Search must be tested in young stands of forests [pole timber], in clear cuts or brushy areas.
  - b) For this subject, a sufficiently large area must be selected, which must be changed for every dog unless the nature of the test terrain and ground present insurmountable obstacles.
- (2)
- a) Every dog must have the opportunity to thoroughly show the dense cover search as commonly practiced during hunting. The handler must fire at least one shot with a shotgun during the dense cover search when so ordered by the judges.
  - b) The dog should search under the gun and should handle with ease and without requiring many loud commands. The dog should search the dense cover calmly and methodically, so that the handler can follow his dog easily.
  - c) When evaluating this work, the judges foremost are to assess the good contact between the handler and his dog.

#### **Minimum Requirements {Mindestbedingungen} and Minimum Points {Mindestpunktzahlen} for the Forest Work**

Test subjects:

Blood Tracking (with additional Dead Game Baying or Guiding), Furred Small Game Drag, Retrieving of Hare or Rabbit, Independent Search and Dense Cover Search.

Optional subjects: Fox Drag and Retrieve of Fox.

#### **For Prize I:**

Minimum requirements: Blood tracking on leash “very good”, at least “sufficient” performances in the other subjects.

Minimum points: 71

**For Prize II:**

Minimum requirements: Blood tracking on leash “good”, at least “sufficient” performances in the other subjects.

Minimum points: 52

**For Prize III:**

Minimum requirements: At least “sufficient” performances in all subjects

Minimum points: 42

Note: Any additional points possible from a Dead Game Bayer or Guide performance as well as Fox Drag or Retrieving of Fox on Drag do not count towards the minimum points of the individual Prize categories.

## **II. Subject Category Water Work {Wasserarbeit}**

### **A. General Part {Allgemeiner Teil}**

The ethical and conservative hunting of waterfowl demands the use of efficient utility dogs as specified by federal and state hunting laws.

The purpose of water work is to prepare the hunting dog for its future task of retrieving crippled or dead waterfowl out of the water, to prove the result of this preparation in a standardized test, and consequently to document it for breeding.

To fulfill this purpose of the water work and at the same time to conduct this test in conformity with legal regulations, the following conditions must be observed:

### **§ 16 Generally Binding Regulations {Allgemeinverbindlichkeit}**

(1)

- a) The following general rules, part A, are binding for all Member Clubs which conduct tests using live ducks, however under consideration of the varying regulations prevalent in different States.
- b) These rules must also be followed during training days organized by the clubs {Wasserübungstagen}, and it must be guaranteed that each dog is trained with not more than 3 ducks total.
- c) Intentional or grossly negligent violations of these regulations cause the immediate exclusion of the responsible persons from further training or testing activities. This is in addition to possible legal charges or internal disciplinary action by the Association.

## **§ 17 Bodies of Water {Gewässer}**

A test pond or lake must be sufficiently large (at least 0.25 ha surface area), wide (at least 6 m at some spots) and deep (to force dogs to swim), and it must have sufficient cover (ca. 500 square meters), so that the duck can fully utilize its capability to flee.

## **§ 18 Responsible Persons {Verantwortliche Personen}**

- (1) The Member Cubs designate one person for each test, who, as Senior Judge at the water {Obmann am Wasser}, is responsible for the exact compliance with all of the following regulations during the water work. The respective Senior Judge in the judging group can be that person.
- (2) In addition to the person specified in (1) above, the organizing club is similarly responsible for the compliance with these rules.

## **§ 19 Ducks {Enten}**

- (1)
  - a) For testing only fully matured mallards may be used, which are temporarily incapacitated of flight by the method of Prof. Müller (paper strip around individual primaries of one wing).
  - b) Ducks must be raised and kept in such a way that they are used to cover and water, and that they can swim, dive and hide in cover. These conditions must be certified by the outfitter. Ducks must have opportunity to preen and grease their feathers until shortly before the test.
- (2)
  - a) If it is not possible to maintain ducks under such conditions for acclimatization prior to the test, then these ducks must be transported directly to the test pond immediately before the test. They must be kept there unaffected by the test procedures.
  - b) The test duration per duck may not exceed 15 minutes. Sight chases are undesirable and must be terminated as soon as possible.
  - c) Ducks retrieved live by a dog must be humanely and immediately euthanized.
  - d) Dead ducks are to be kept separate from live ducks.
  - e) Duck crates are to be placed in such a manner that the working dog cannot find them.

## **§ 20 Nesting Season {Brutzeit}**

Water work with living ducks may not be practiced and tested during the nesting season.

## **§ 21 Prerequisites for the Complete Testing of Water Work {Voraussetzungen zur Durchprüfung am Wasser}**

The test behind the live duck must not be conducted until after the dog has passed a gun sensitivity test and after proving a reliable blind retrieve of a dead duck from dense cover.

## **§ 22 Dogs {Hunde}**

- (1) Dogs are admitted only if their handlers can produce a valid hunting license. Exceptions are allowed only in special cases when so permitted by the Test Director and when necessary for breeding or hunting purposes. The reason for the exception must be specified.
- (2) Dogs which fail the subjects listed in § 21 or which have demonstrated gun shyness or fear of live game {Schuss- oder Wildscheue} at the given test (including during the field work) may not continue the test.
- (3) A tested, experienced dog must be available for possible retrieves at each test.
- (4) As a rule, each dog is given only one duck. The use of an additional duck is only allowed if the dog could not be tested with the previously released duck (i.e. if the released duck flies off prematurely).
- (5) Dogs which have passed the subject "independent search behind duck in dense cover" once at a test with the score of at least "sufficient" may not be tested again in this subject. This does not apply to further testing within a breeding selection or international test (e.g. Hegewald, IKP, or similar tests).
- (6) In case the dog fails, it may be re-tested only once.
- (7) The predicate awarded for the first passed test is copied into the score sheets of all future tests with the notation: "... according to test on.... at...." {laut Prüfung vom...}. A copy of this score sheet must be provided to the Test Director with the entry form. If the dog has already successfully passed multiple tests prior to this test, the best predicate achieved in the subject independent search behind duck in dense cover will be used.
- (8) In addition to the total result of the respective test, every test in the subject "independent search behind duck in dense cover" must be entered (with the predicate and possible points) on the pedigree.

## **B. Special Part {Besonderer Teil}**

### **§ 23 General Regulations {Allgemeines}**

- (1) The following subjects are tested in this order:
  1. Independent search without duck in dense cover
  2. Gun sensitivity
  3. Blind retrieve in dense cover
  4. Independent search with duck in dense cover
  5. Retrieving of duck

- (2) If a dog is re-tested because it did not pass in a previous examination, the entire water work sequence must be tested again at an Association test.
- (3) If a dog has passed the subject "independent search behind duck in dense cover" at a German State utility test, the notation "BE" (passed) without further points or score points is made on all score sheets in future tests. As a rule, predicates which may have been awarded at a State utility test are not transferred. The utility test certificate must be signed by 3 Association Judges, who are authorized to judge the subject water, with their respective judge numbers. The certificate must be submitted together with the entry form.
- (4) In these cases, 6 points must be deducted from the respective Prize category when calculating the minimum points. (Example: The dog receives 30 points for the water test; it is thus entitled to Prize I regarding the water work.)

	Necessary Points for		
	Maximum points	Prize I	Prize II
Water work	44	36	30
		↓	↓
		-6	-6
		↓	↓
		Prize I	Prize II
Water work		30	24

#### § 24 Independent Search without Duck in Dense Cover {Stöbern ohne Ente im deckungsreichen Gewässer}

- (1)
  - a) The dog should enter the water and independently search the cover upon a single command from its handler and without any further coaxing (stone, etc.).
  - b) In this subject, the dog should show its will to find and its affinity for water, and search the assigned cover thoroughly. The handler may help his dog with hand and voice signals, but constant interfering lowers the predicate. This independent search should last maximally 10 minutes.
  - c) If the dog encounters a live duck during its work under circumstances conforming with the test standards, in each such case, the dog's performance must be evaluated. The score of an earlier test is not adopted under these conditions.

#### § 25 Gun Sensitivity Test {Schussfestigkeit}

- (1)
  - a) A shot duck is thrown as far as possible into the open water while the dog is watching; then the dog is commanded with a single command to retrieve. A dog that fails to enter the water, without further handler interference, within approximately 1 minute after the command may not continue the test.

- b) While the dog is swimming towards the duck and has covered approximately half of the distance, a shotgun shot [no blanks!] is fired into the water in the direction of the dead duck (right alongside or behind the duck). The dog must retrieve this duck independently [without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly]. If the shooter's shot fails to hit the water, the procedure must be repeated, even if the dog retrieved the duck.
- c) A dog that fails this test may not continue the test.

## **§ 26 Blind Retrieve from Dense Cover {Verlorensuchen im deckungsreichen Gewässer}**

- (1) The blind retrieve from dense cover is tested immediately following the gun sensitivity test.
- (2) A dead duck is thrown into cover in the water in such a manner that neither the fall nor the duck can be seen by the dog. Every effort should be made to place the duck in such a location (island, opposite shore) that the dog must be sent across open water to reach the cover.
- (3) From a spot that is about 30 m from the location of the duck, the handler is informed of the approximate direction of the duck. From this spot, the dog should start to search independently for the duck. The dog must find the duck and must retrieve it independently to the handler (without interference by the handler when the dog works incorrectly).
- (4) The handler may help and direct his dog; however, constant interfering or shot/stone throw lessen the predicate.
- (5) A dog that fails to receive at least the predicate "sufficient" in this subject may not continue the water test.
- (6) If the dog encounters a live duck before it has found the duck placed for this test, then this work is to be scored. After the dog has finished this work, it must search and retrieve the previously placed duck. The dog must independently retrieve and deliver the placed duck (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly) even if the dog encounters a live duck during its return to the handler.
- (7) A dog that fails to independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly) retrieve the duck upon finding it for the first time cannot pass the test. In this case, the subject blind retrieve in dense cover must also be rated "not sufficient". If the dog senses the duck, it is deemed to have found it.

## **§ 27 Independent Search behind Duck in Dense Cover {Stöbern mit Ente im deckungsreichen Gewässer}**

- (1)
  - a) A duck is released into the cover without marking a starting spot. The dog must not see these preparations.
  - b) After the release, the judges lead the handler to a point ca. one shotgun distance away from the release site respective the duck and indicate the direction of the duck. At this point the handler commands the dog to retrieve {Nachsuche}.



- c) The dog should search for and find the duck independently. The handler may help and direct his dog; however, constant interfering lessens the predicate.
  - d) As soon as the dog pushes the duck out of the cover and follows it by sight, the duck must be shot by the handler or an authorized person, if this is possible without endangering the safety.
  - e) The shot duck must be retrieved by the dog independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly).
- (2)
- a) The judges should terminate the dog's work as soon as they have come to a conclusive evaluation. This applies also to situations in which the duck was not shot in front of the dog or the judges have concluded that the dog does not fulfill the requirements.
  - b) A dog that fails to independently retrieve a duck upon finding it for the first time (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly) must not continue the test. In this case, the subject "search behind duck in dense cover" must be scored not sufficient as well. If the dog senses the duck, it is deemed to have found it.
  - d) If the dog accidentally encounters another duck during this test, then this work is to be scored likewise.

## **§ 28 Retrieving of the Duck {Bringen von Ente}**

- (1) The performance of the retrieve is to be scored similarly to the rules specified in § 13.
- (2) If a dog drops the duck on land, perhaps to shake, the maximum score can only be "good". If, however, the dog improves the hold without shaking, the score may not be lessened. Similarly, the dog may not be faulted for shaking if it keeps the duck firmly in the mouth.
- (3) For the final score, all retrieving performances of the dog during water work must be considered. If one individual subject during water work was scored as "not sufficient" (0 points), the total score for retrieve of the duck can only be "not sufficient" (0 points).
- (4) The dog must retrieve every found or seized duck during the water work independently (without handler interference when the dog works incorrectly). If the dog is working correctly, it is not considered an impermissible handler interference if the handler praises his dog and makes himself noticeable to his dog during the retrieve.

### **Minimum Requirements and Minimum Points for Water Work**

Test Subjects:

Independent search without duck in dense cover, gun sensitivity test (not scored), blind retrieve in dense cover, independent search with duck in dense cover, retrieving of duck

#### **For Prize I:**

Minimum requirements: Gun sensitivity test passed, at least "sufficient" performances in the other four subjects.

Minimum points: 36

Minimum points for BE (passed): 30

**For Prize II:**

Minimum requirements: Gun sensitivity test passed, at least “sufficient” performances in the other four subjects.

Minimum points: 30

Minimum points for BE (passed): 24

**For Prize III:**

Minimum requirements: Gun sensitivity test passed, at least “sufficient” performances in the other four subjects.

Minimum points: 22

Minimum points for BE (passed): 16

**III. Subject Category Field Work {Fachgruppe Feldarbeit}**

In this subject category, the following subjects are tested:

5. Free search and retrieve of feathered game {Verlorensuchen von Federwild}
  1. Feathered game drag {Federwildschleppe}
  2. Free search and retrieve of a placed game bird {Freies Verlorensuchen und -bringen eines ausgelegten Stückes Federwild}
  
6. Retrieving of feathered game {Bringen von Federwild}.

**§ 34 Searching and Retrieving Shot Game Birds {Verlorensuchen von Federwild}**

- (1) Feathered game drag {Federwildschleppe}
  - a) The drag must be laid by a judge. It must be approximately 200 m long, must lead across vegetated ground and must include two obtuse angles.
  - b) Regulations for the work on furred game drags (see §11, paragraphs 1-8) apply appropriately.
  
- (2) Free search and retrieving of a placed bird {Freies Verlorensuchen und -bringen eines ausgelegten Stückes Federwild}
  - a) For this test, a judge places a bird. The terrain must have sufficiently dense cover, where the dog is forced to find the bird by using its nose and where it can only see it at a close-up distance. The cover must be at least 80 m wide. The judge placing the bird must enter the cover with the wind in his back and leave it on the same trail, so that the dog cannot follow the human track. The dog must not see these preparations.
  - b) Not until the judge has placed the bird and has returned to the judging group, is the handler shown the approximate direction of the bird from a distance of approximately 40-50 m against the wind.
  - c) Now the handler must release his dog for the free search {Freiverlorensuche}. The dog should search the bird independently. The handler may walk behind his dog and support the dog. However, continuous interfering lowers the predicate.
  - d) The dog should search closely in front of the handler and demonstrate through its controlled speed and use of nose that it wants to find the bird.

- e) The evaluation of this performance depends on how the dog adapts and complies with the task.
  - f) The judges can order the termination of the work, when they have gained the impression that the dog does not satisfy the requirements of this subject.
- (3) For the “feathered game drag” and “free search of a placed bird”, the score is based upon how the dog executes the work and whether the dog is willing to find and retrieve the bird, and if it delivers it to the handler.

### **§ 35 Retrieving of Feathered Game {Bringen von Federwild}**

- (1) The retrieving must be evaluated according to the principles of § 13, paragraphs (3) and (4).
- (2) For the evaluation, all retrieving performances of the dog with regard to feathered game during the field work (subjects feathered game drag and free search of a placed game bird) have to be taken into consideration. A dog that has received a score of “not sufficient“ (0) during any retrieves of feathered game can only receive a total score of “not sufficient“ (0).

### **Minimum Requirements and Minimum Points for Field Work**

Test Subjects:

Feathered game drag, free search of a placed bird, retrieving of feathered game.

#### **For Prize I:**

Minimum requirements: At least the predicate “sufficient” in all subjects.

Minimum points: 29.

#### **For Prize II:**

Minimum requirements: At least the predicate “sufficient“ in all subjects.

Minimum points: 24.

#### **For Prize III:**

Minimum requirements: At least the predicate “sufficient” in all subjects.

Minimum points: 16

### **IV. Subject Category Obedience {Fachgruppe Gehorsam}**

The following subjects have to be tested in this category:

1. General Behavior {Allgemeines Verhalten} - Obedience
2. Behavior during drive hunt {Verhalten auf dem Stand}
3. Heeling on leash {Leinenführigkeit}
4. Heeling off leash {Folgen frei bei Fuß}
5. Down stay {Ablegen}
6. Gun sensitivity {Schussfestigkeit} and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command {Hereinkommen auf Ruf und/oder Pfiff}

## **§ 36 Obedience {Gehorsam}**

(1)

- a) Obedience {Gehorsam} is the expression of proper and thorough training, and is a prerequisite for using the dog in any hunting situation.
- b) The evaluation of obedience during the test therefore has the highest priority among all other performances expected of the utility dog.
- c) When testing obedience subjects, it must be considered how much the handler behaves as if he/ she were hunting.
- d) A dog that evades the influence of the handler for a long period of time and therefore delays testing will not be tested any further.

(2) Testing by specialty judging groups {Fachrichtergruppen}

- a) Specialty judging groups test and judge obedience in all subjects assigned to them.

Forest work:

General behavior - obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, heeling off leash, down stay.

Water work:

General behavior – obedience

Field work:

General behavior - obedience, gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command

- b) The predicate for the subject "General Behavior - Obedience" is determined after hearing all judging groups at the Judges' Conference after the test.

## **§ 37 Testing of All Subjects by One Judging Group {Prüfung aller Fächer durch eine Richtergruppe}**

Everything that applies to the specialty judging groups in the individual subject categories applies likewise. The judges not only are to gain an impression of the dog's obedience in all test subjects, but also note occasional observations of the working and non-working dog during the test.

## **§ 38 General Behavior – Obedience {Allgemeines Verhalten - Gehorsam}**

- (1) Only the performance and behavior of the dog which are related to obedience and not included in other test subjects are to be scored here, e.g. primarily the behavior of the non-working dog.
- (2) Each dog's obedience is determined throughout the entire test and in all subjects of the VPS; the behavior of the currently working dog and that of non-working dogs must be scored.

- (3) Obedience is also demonstrated if the dog willingly follows the command to be leashed during forest, field and water work; if it remains calm during the work of other dogs, does not pull continuously at the leash, and does not whine or howl etc., and thereby proves that it does not disturb handler and other hunters during the hunt.

### **§ 39 Behavior During Drive Hunt {Verhalten auf dem Stand}**

- (1) To test behavior during drive hunt, all handlers with their dogs - on or off leash - are placed around a thicket or dense stand of forest as shooters, while other persons simulate drivers [beaters] with the customary noise. During the drive, several shots must be fired by the beaters in the woods. The handler also must fire at least twice during this drive. The order for this must be given by a judge.
- (2) The dog should remain silent and calm during the test; it should not whine, must not bark, pull on the leash or leave the handler without a command.
- (3) The leashed dog cannot receive more than the predicate "good".

### **§ 40 Heeling on Leash {Leinenführigkeit}**

- (1) The dog which is leashed to a loosely hanging shoulder lead should start out by accompanying the handler without any disturbance on a path for approximately 50 m. Over this distance, the handler must change directions several times. Thereafter, the dog should follow the handler through stands of dense forests [pole timber] or young saplings without tangling with the leash and hindering the rapid progress of the handler. Repeatedly, the handler must pass closely by several trees to the left and right, and he must stop at least once.
- (2) Every tangling of the dog with the leash and every pulling at the leash lower the predicate for this performance.
- (3) The judges' observations in all subjects and during the entire test regarding the dog's behavior while on leash must be used in the evaluation of the dog's performance in this subject.

### **§ 41 Heeling off Leash {Folgen frei bei Fuß}**

- (1) Heeling off leash is tested on a forest road or stalking trail, where the unleashed dog should follow the handler closely at the side of or behind the handler's heel without loud commands.
- (2) The handler must walk a distance of at least 100 m over which he must vary his walking speed and come to a stop several times, upon which the dog should immediately stop, too. At the end of the required distance, the handler places his dog in a down position, either free or close to an object (e.g. backpack, hat, hunting pouch, folding seat, leash, etc.), so that the subject "down stay" can be tested. It is not permissible to place an object over or on top of the dog.

### **§ 42 Down Stay {Ablegen}**

- (1) After the handler has placed his dog in a down position in the manner described above, he gives the dog a hand signal or quiet command to stay in this position. These activities must be carried out with the utmost silence.
- (2) The handler then walks away slowly, as if stalking, towards a previously assigned spot which is at least 30 m away and positioned such that the dog cannot see him or otherwise know of his location. While walking towards the judge, the handler should not turn around or give the dog a voice signal.
- (3) From there, upon instruction by the judge, he fires two shots with a shotgun, separated by at least 10 seconds.
- (5) During these activities, the dog must remain at its place until the handler picks him up. If the dog leaves the place, whines or barks, the performance must be assessed with "not sufficient". The dog may raise its head and may sit up. Moving not more than approximately 5 m is not considered leaving the place, but it lowers the predicate.
- (6) Hunt-like behavior and calmness of the dog determine the predicate for this test subject.

#### **§ 43 Gun Sensitivity {Schussfestigkeit} and Coming to Handler Upon Voice and/or Whistle Command**

- (1) Gun sensitivity is generally tested when the handler fires at least 2 shotgun shots at an interval of at least 20 seconds while his dog is searching close by (within shotgun range). If the dog's behavior cannot be assessed with certainty, the test must be repeated, but not sooner than 30 minutes from the first test.
- (2) During the gun sensitivity test in the field, the dog's reaction to the shot might be expressed in varying manners (positive/negative). The following distinctions are made when evaluating gun sensitivity:
  - Gunfire Stable
  - Slightly Gun Sensitive
  - Gun Sensitive
  - Severely Gun Sensitive
  - Gun Shy
  - (a) Gunfire Stable: The dog is gun stable when it demonstrates no negative reaction (intimidation/fearfulness) to the shot and happily continues the search.
  - (b) Slightly Gun Sensitive: The dog is slightly gun sensitive when it demonstrates not more than a generalized intimidation without allowing it to affect the continuation of its work (search).
  - (c) Gun Sensitive: The dog is gun sensitive when it is visibly fearful and looks to its handler for protection, or when it, under the negative impression of the gunfire, refuses to continue to work, but then resumes the work (search) within one minute. The gunfire has a negative impact on range and speed of the search.

- (d) Severely Gun Sensitive: The dog is severely gun sensitive when it is visibly fearful and looks to its handler for protection, or when it, under the negative impression of the gunfire, refuses to continue to work, but then resumes the work (search) after more than one minute. The gunfire has a negative impact on range and speed of the search.
  - (e) Gun Shy: The dog is gun shy when it, instead of seeking handler protection, runs away and thus removes itself from the handler's control and the work (search).
  - (f) Severely gun sensitive and gun shy dogs cannot pass the test.
  - (g) If the handler's carrying a gun leads to the dog not leaving his side or not going far enough away (shotgun range), it is considered "not fully tested". The same applies to dogs which – without signs of fearfulness – refuse to continue to work after the first shot has been fired. In these cases, the dogs cannot pass this test. In both cases, when in doubt, a minimum of 30 minutes must have passed before it is possible to repeat the test.
- (3) Upon instructions by the judge, the handler must call and/or whistle his dog to come and be leashed. Dogs that fail to come to their handlers upon voice or whistle call cannot pass the test.

### **Minimum Requirements and Minimum Points for Obedience**

Test Subjects:

General behavior - obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, heeling off leash, down stay, gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command.

#### **For Prize I:**

At least "sufficient" predicates in all subjects; gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command "passed".

Minimum points: 36

#### **For Prize II:**

At least "sufficient" predicates in the subjects general behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash; gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command "passed".

Minimum points: 27

#### **For Prize III:**

At least "sufficient" predicates in the subjects general behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash; gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command "passed".

Minimum points: 18

Necessary minimum points and minimum requirements for the individual Prize classifications are shown in the table below.

**VPS**  
**Achievable Maximum Point Scores**

		Additional Points for		
		Bayer	or	Guide
Forest work	84	16		12
Water work	44			
Field work	32			
Obedience	40			
Total without fox	200	216		212
Total with fox	228	244		240

Fox Subjects  
28

Necessary minimum points and minimum requirements for the individual Prize classifications are shown in the table below.



Overview of the Classification into Prize Categories VPS										
Subject	Maximum achievable points	Required minimum points for			Minimum requirements for			Prize I	Prize II	Prize III
		Prize I	Prize II	Prize III	Prize I	Prize II	Prize III			
Forest	84 + 16 P. for dead game bayer* + 12 P. for dead game guide* + 28 for fox subject *	71	52	42	On-leash blood tracking "very good"; at least "sufficient" in all other subjects	On-leash blood tracking "good"; at least "sufficient" in all other subjects	At least "sufficient" performances in all subjects			
Water	44	36	30	22	Gun sensitivity passed; at least "sufficient" in all subjects	Gun sensitivity passed; at least "sufficient" in all subjects	Gun sensitivity passed; at least "sufficient" in all subjects			
Field	32	29	24	16	At least "sufficient" in all subjects	At least "sufficient" in all subjects	At least "sufficient" in all subjects			
Obedience	40	36	27	18	General behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, at least "sufficient"; gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command passed	General behavior – obedience, behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, at least "sufficient"; gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command passed	General behavior – obedience behavior during drive hunt, heeling on leash, at least "sufficient"; gun sensitivity and coming to handler upon voice and/or whistle command passed			
Total	200 without fox. 228 with fox	172	133	98						
* Neither of the extra points counts towards the minimum requirements										

# Test Report for Association Test after the Shot VPS



Jagdgebrauchshundverband e.V.

Formblatt 10

Stand 2018-1

## Verbandsprüfung nach dem Schuß (VPS)

Verein: \_\_\_\_\_ Test Report for VPS Club's No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organizing Club: \_\_\_\_\_ EDV-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prüfungsort: \_\_\_\_\_ Prüfungsdatum: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Test Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Führer: \_\_\_\_\_ PLZ: \_\_\_\_\_ Wohnort: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Name des Hundes: \_\_\_\_\_ gew.:  Rüde  Hündin  
 Name of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_ whelping date: \_\_\_\_\_ male female  
 Rasse: \_\_\_\_\_ ZB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_ DGSTB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Breedbook No. German Versatile Registry No.  
 Mutter: \_\_\_\_\_ ZB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_ DGSTB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dam: \_\_\_\_\_ Dam Breedbook No. German Versatile Registry No.  
 Vater: \_\_\_\_\_ ZB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_ DGSTB-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sire: \_\_\_\_\_ Sire Breedbook No. German Versatile Registry No.

I. Waldarbeit Forest Work		LZ	FWZ	UZ
		work pts	multiple	score pts
Riemenarbeit als Übernachtfährte	on leash tracking overnight		8	
Totverbeilen (zusätzlich, Mindest - LZ 2)	dead game retrieval, additional, min work pts 2		4	
Totverweisen (zusätzlich, Mindest - LZ 2)	dead game birds, additional, min work pts 2		3	
Hasen- oder Kaninchenschleppe	hare or rabbit drag		4	
Bringen von Hase oder Kaninchen	retrieve of hare or rabbit		2	
Stöbern <input type="checkbox"/> lt <input type="checkbox"/> spl <input type="checkbox"/> wdl <input type="checkbox"/> st <input type="checkbox"/> ?	independent search		4	
Buschieren	dense cover search		3	
Fuchschleppe	fox drag		5	
Bringen auf der Fuchschleppe	retrieve of fox on drag track		2	
Total score Forest Work				
Summe Waldarbeit:				

III. Feldarbeit Field Work		LZ	FWZ	UZ
		work pts	multiple	score pts
Verlorensuchen von Federwild				
free search and retrieve of feathered game				
a. Federwildschleppe	feathered game drag		3	
b. Freies Verlorensuchen eines frisch geschossenen Stückes Federwild	free search and retrieve of a freshly shot bird		3	
Bringen von Federwild	retrieve of feathered game		2	
Total score Field Work				
Summe Feldarbeit:				

II. Wasserarbeit Water Work		LZ	FWZ	UZ
		work pts	multiple	score pts
Stöbern ohne Ente im deckungs. Gewässer	independent search without duck in dense cover		3	
Verlorensuchen im deckungs. Gewässer	retrieve of duck in dense cover		3	
Stöbern mit Ente	independent search with duck in dense cover		3	
oder lt. beil. Zeugnis vom	or copy score in this subject from previously passed test		3	
Bringen von Ente	retrieve of duck		2	
Total score Water Work				
Summe Wasserarbeit:				

IV. Gehorsam Obedience		LZ	FWZ	UZ
		work pts	multiple	score pts
Allgemeines Verhalten - Gehorsam			3	
general behavior - obedience				
Verhalten auf dem Stand			2	
behavior during drive hunt				
Leinenführigkeit			1	
heeling on leash				
Folgen bei Fuß			2	
heeling off leash				
Ablegen			2	
down stay				
Hereinkommen auf Ruf oder Pfiff				
coming to handler upon voice or whistle command				
Total score Obedience				
Summe Gehorsam:				
Total score points I through IV:				
Gesamt - Punktzahl I-IV:				

Härtenachweis des Stammbuchamtes hat vorgelegen  Ja  Nein  
 official hardness certificate was submitted Yes No

Formwert: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conformation rating

Haarwert: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coat rating (nur vorliegende Zuchtschausergebnisse)  
 (enter only ratings from breed shows)

### Wesens- und Verhaltensfeststellungen

Temperament and Behavior Determinations

**Temperament**  
 teilnahmslos/phlegmatisch  
 impassive / phlegmatic  
 ruhig/ausgeglichen  
 calm / even-tempered  
 lebhaft/temperamentvoll  
 lively / passionate  
 unruhig/nervös/überpassioniert  
 restless / nervous / hyper-excitable

**Selbstsicherheit**  
 Self-confidence  
 selbstsicher  
 self-confident  
 schreckhaft/unsicher  
 timid / insecure  
 ängstlich  
 fearful

**Verträglichkeit**  
 Adaptability  
 sozialverträglich  
 socially adaptable  
 aggressiv gegen Menschen  
 aggressive towards people  
 aggressiv gegen Artgenossen  
 aggressive towards other dogs

**Sonstiges** Other  
 handscheu  
 hand-shy  
 wildscheu  
 game-shy

Körperliche Mängel (Gebiß-, Hoden-, Augenfehler): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conformational faults bite, testicular, eye faults

Bemerkungen: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional remarks

Preis  mit Fuchs  ohne Fuchs  
 Prize with fox without fox

Nicht bestanden - Grund des Ausscheidens (in Worten beschreiben): Not passed - reason for failure (describe in words)

Prüfungsteiler Test Director Richter (RO) Senior Judge Richter Judge Richter Judge  
 VR-Nr.: VR-Nr.: VR-Nr.: VR-Nr.:

Zensuren: hervorragend = 4 | sehr gut = 3 | gut = 2 | mangelhaft = 1 | ungenügend = 0 | nicht geprüft = -

Nachdruck, auch auszugsweise sowie Verarbeitung in elektronischen Systemen nur mit Genehmigung des JGHV

## **VZPO/VGPO/VPSO Appendix: Observations on Temperament During Course of Test**

Next to the determination of the natural abilities and performance of our versatile hunting dogs, it is the awareness and documentation of characteristics in temperament and behavior that are of utmost importance for the breeding of efficient and mentally stable versatile hunting dogs. This task is a great responsibility for our Association Judges. Terminology respective of temperament and behavior characteristics is listed below. These terms must be considered and used for evaluating temperament and behavior.

Temperament and behavior of each dog in the test must be observed, in detail as much as possible, over the entire course of the test. Observations must be noted and entered in the score sheet.

To that end, observations must be made while the microchip/tattoo numbers are checked, while the dog is examined for bite, eyes and testicles faults, and other severe irregularities; and over the entire course of the test.

Any display of fear and skittishness or aggression towards people and other dogs, as well as nervousness and hyper-excitability, but also indifference must be noted. In contrast, display of all positive characteristics, such as calmness, even temperedness, self-confidence and social compatibility must be recorded.

When physical examinations for faults cannot be performed because the dog shows fearfulness, aggression etc., it cannot pass the test. The same applies to dogs which are hand-shy or game-shy. However, these dogs are to continue with testing in the interest of breeding, with the exception of the water work. Aggressive dogs (aggressive towards people and other dogs) can be excluded from continued testing.

The below listed multiple-choice terminology details the definitions to be used in the score sheet for determining a dog's temperament. More than one choice is possible and necessary for a more accurate description.

### **Temperament**

- a) impassive / phlegmatic
- b) calm / even tempered
- c) lively / passionate
- d) restless / nervous / hyper-excitabile

### **Self-Confidence**

- e) self-confident
- f) timid / insecure
- g) fearful

### **Adaptability**

- h) social adaptability
- i) aggressive towards people
- j) aggressive towards other dogs

### **Other**

- k) hand-shy
- l) game-shy

### **Temperament**

a) impassive / phlegmatic

Versatile hunting dogs are considered impassive / phlegmatic when they fail to show signs of excitement at the sight or scent of game and, hence, are without detectable passion.

b) calm / even-tempered

Calm and even-tempered dogs watch with interest the world around them while always remaining disciplined, focused and anxiety-free. They experience excitement at the sight and/or scent of game.

Leashed or in line waiting to be called, they always remain clam, and don't whine or howl – without handler influence.

c) lively / passionate

Versatile hunting dogs are considered lively / passionate when they watch the world around them with mental and physical intensity. Even during resting periods in the test or when they are waiting to be called, they remain tense and want to be in motion. They experience great excitement at the sight and/or scent of game. Leashed or in line waiting to be called, they nonetheless remain calm, don't whine or howl with brief and tactile handler interference.

d) restless / nervous / hyper-excitabile

Dogs are considered restless / nervous / hyper-excitabile when minor/few stimuli from the environment cause them extreme excitement. Restlessness and nervousness can manifest themselves in panting, drooling, whining and barking. These dogs often appear unfocused and under great physical tension. Even during resting periods in the test or while waiting to be called, they remain excited and unable to relax. They experience great excitement at the sight and/or scent of game, for some even the sight of working dogs. Leashed or, respectively, waiting in line to be called, they cannot remain calm, despite verbal or brief tactile handler influence, and instead whine and howl incessantly, or do so intermittently.

### **Self-Confidence**

e) self-confident

Versatile hunting dogs are considered self-confident when they master every situation in the normal course of the test fearlessly, independently and with self-confidence.

f) timid / insecure

Versatile hunting dogs are considered timid / insecure when they do not independently and self-confidently master extraordinary, not foreseeable and sudden situations and instead need a brief acclimatization phase and/or handler support before they again appear to be secure and relaxed.

g) fearful

Versatile hunting dogs are considered fearful when they allow environmental stimuli to create in them a level of insecurity and fearfulness greater than that of dogs in the timid / insecure category in that they discontinue their work and continue to appear insecure and tense despite an acclimatization phase and/or handler support.

### **Adaptability**

h) socially adaptable

Socially adaptable dogs behave without signs of aggression towards other non-threatening dogs and people.

i) aggressive towards people

Dogs are considered aggressive when they show aggression towards people - including strangers - who are neutral or friendly towards them. Included herein are dogs which bite (or try to bite) people without warning. Such dogs are defined as man-sharp.

j) aggressive towards other dogs

Dogs are considered aggressive when they show aggression towards other dogs which behave neutral or friendly toward them. Included herein are dogs which bite or try to bite other dogs without warning.

### **Other Characteristics**

k) hand-shy

Dogs are considered hand-shy when they show fear of their handler and his touch; they step back fearfully when the handler approaches. This is evident, in particular, when the dog is leashed.

l) game-shy

Dogs are considered game-shy when they avoid contact with live game showing signs of fearfulness and/or blink game. The cause for avoiding dead game is often found to be a training mistake, therefore the term "game-shy" may be used only in conjunction with live game.

## **JGHV General Guidelines Rev. 03/2017**

The following is a complete and current list of adopted General Guidelines; they apply to all tests and performance awards, and to all member clubs.

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Last</b>
• Handlers must have a hunting license 2015	by General Meeting
• Test repeats 1990	by General Meeting
• JGHV Test Regulations for Water Work Parts A & B 2017	by General Meeting
• Protest Regulations 2015	by General Meeting
• Admission to tests according to § 23 of JGHV By-laws 2010	by General Meeting
• Conflict of interest for Judges 2010	by General Meeting
• Judging engagements by Association Judges; 2015	by General Meeting
• Maximum number of dogs tested on a single day 2010	by General Meeting
• Compliance with respective state laws in Germany 2011	by General Meeting

### **A Valid Hunting License is Mandatory**

The handler must show proof of a valid hunting license. The test director may grant an exception in certain cases where such exception is necessary for reasons of breeding or hunting unless ruled out expressly by the applicable testing regulation.

### **Test Repeats**

A dog may not be tested more than twice in the same type of Association test. Subsequent participation in international tests does not count. This rule does not apply when the handler misses the test for reasons for which he is not responsible.

### **JGHV Test Regulations Part A – Water Work**

#### **A. General Part**

The ethical and conservative hunting of waterfowl as specified by federal law (§ 1[2] German Hunting Law) and amendments by individual state regulations demands the use of efficient hunting dogs.

The purpose of water work is to prepare the hunting dog for its future task of retrieving crippled or dead waterfowl out of the water, to prove the result of this preparation in a standardized test and, consequently, to document it for breeding. To fulfill this purpose of the water work and at the same time conduct this test in conformity with legal regulations, the following conditions must be observed when handling live ducks:

## § 35 (1) Generally Binding Regulations *{Allgemeinverbindlichkeit}*

- a) The following rules of the General Part A are binding for all member clubs which conduct tests using live ducks in compliance with the applicable regulations in their German State.
- b) These rules must also be followed during official training days organized by member clubs *{Wasserübungstagen}*, and it must be guaranteed that each dog is trained with not more than 3 ducks total.
- c) Intentional or grossly negligent violations of these regulations cause the immediate exclusion of the responsible persons from future training or testing activities. This is in addition to possible legal charges or internal disciplinary action by the Association.

### (2) Bodies of Water

A test pond or lake must be sufficiently large (at least 0.25 ha surface area), wide (at least 6 m at some spots) and deep (to force dogs to swim), and it must have sufficient cover (about 500 square meters), so that the duck can fully utilize its capability to flee.

### (3) Responsible Persons

- (a) The member clubs designate one person for each test, who, as "senior judge at the water" *{Obmann am Wasser}*, is responsible for the exact compliance with all of the following regulations during the water work. The senior judge of each judging team can function as the person responsible for water compliance.
- (b) In addition to the person specified in (a) above, the organizing club is similarly responsible for the compliance with these rules.

### (4) Ducks

- (a) For testing, only fully matured mallards may be used, which are temporarily incapacitated of flight using the method of Prof. Müller (paper strip around individual primaries of one wing).
- (b) Ducks must be raised and kept in such a way that they are used to cover and water, and that they can swim, dive and hide in cover. These conditions must be certified by the outfitter. Ducks must have opportunity to preen and grease their feathers until shortly before the test.
- (c) If it is not possible to maintain ducks under such conditions for acclimatization prior to the test, then these ducks must be transported directly to the test pond immediately before the test. They must be kept there unaffected by the test procedures.
- (d) The test duration per duck may not exceed 15 minutes. Sight chases are undesirable and must be terminated as soon as possible.
- (e) Ducks retrieved live by a dog must be humanely and immediately euthanized.
- (f) Dead ducks are to be kept separate from live ducks.
- (g) Duck crates are to be placed in such a manner that the working dog cannot find them.

### (5) Nesting Season

Water work with live ducks may not be practiced or tested during the nesting season.

**(6) Prerequisites for the complete testing of water work {Voraussetzungen zur Durchprüfung am Wasser}**

The test behind the live duck may be conducted only after the dog has passed the gun sensitivity {*Schussfestigkeit*} test and after proving capable of reliably retrieving a dead duck from cover {*Verlorensuchen und -bringen*}.

**(7) Dogs**

(a) Dogs are admitted only if their handler has a valid hunting license. Exceptions are allowed only in special cases for hunting or breeding purposes. The reason for the exception must be must be specified.

(b) Dogs which fail the subjects listed in (6) or which have demonstrated gun sensitivity or shyness of live game {*Schuss- und Wildscheue*} at this test before the water phase may not continue with the water test.

(c) A tested, experienced dog must be available at each test for possible retrieves.

(d) As a rule, each dog is given only one duck. The use of an additional duck is only allowed if the dog could not be tested with the previously released duck (i.e. if the released duck flies off prematurely).

(e) Dogs which have passed the subject "independent search behind live duck in densely vegetated water" {*Stöbern mit Ente in deckungsreichem Gewässer*} once at a test with a score of at least "sufficient" may not be tested again in this subject. This does not apply to further testing in a selective breed test {*Zuchtauslese*-} or international test (e.g. Hegewald, IKP, or others).

(f) In case of a failing score, the dog may be re-tested only once.

(g) The predicate awarded for the duck work at the first successfully completed test is copied into the score sheets of all future tests with this notation: "according to test on....." {*laut Prüfung vom...*}. A copy of this score sheet must be provided to the test director with the entry form.

(h) In addition to the total result of the respective test, each test in the subject "independent search behind duck in densely vegetated water" must be entered with the predicate (and possibly points) into the pedigree {*Ahnentafel*}.

- **Protest Regulations**

## **II. Protest Regulations**

- § 1 These Protest Regulations replace all protest stipulations in the regulations for Association Tests.
- § 2 Only the handler of a dog entered in the respective test has the right to protest.
- § 3 (1) Only errors and mistakes of the organizers, the test director, the judges and assistants in preparation and execution of the test can be the justification for a protest, provided that the handler with his dog was thereby disadvantaged or interfered with during their work.
- (2) Objections to the discretionary freedom of the judges cannot be subject of a protest except in the presence of misuse of the discretionary freedom. When the misuse of discretionary freedom is alleged, it must be substantiated with facts (see § 4 below). At no time can the difference of one predicate be used to substantiate the allegation of misuse of discretionary freedom.
- § 4 The protest with substantiating facts must be submitted in simple, written form to the test director or the chairman of the club, when present, or the senior judge of the judging team that evaluated the dog. Only protests accompanied by substantiating facts in writing and the payment of the protest fee in the amount of Euro € 50.00 will be considered.
- § 5 The protest period begins with the calling of the dogs to the test and ends ½ hour after the awards have been issued.
- § 6 The test director presents the protest to the judging team that evaluated the protest dog. The judging team has the possibility to remedy the protest.
- § 7 If the judging team does not remedy the protest, a Protest Panel must be formed immediately. The Protest Panel consists of a chairperson {Vorsitzender} and two associates {Beisitzer}. Any Association Judge listed as an active judge in the JGHV Judges' List and authorized to judge the test subject which is the focus of the protest, can be a Protest Panel member. Judges who evaluated the protest dog, and members of the JGHV Executive Committee and Studbook Commission cannot be members of the Protest Panel. The paragraph in the JGHV General Guidelines relative to judging conflicts must be observed.
- § 8 The person filing the protest and the organizing club each name one panel associate. The associates do not serve as advocates for the party that selected them. The associates agree on a chairperson. If the associates cannot agree on a chairperson, the organizing club designates the chairperson.
- § 9 (1) Minutes must be written on the proceedings of the Protest Panel. The minutes must contain the decision, the reason for the decision and the determination of the cost involved.
- (2) The Panel chairperson designates one of the associates to write the minutes.
- (3) Each member of the Protest Panel must sign the minutes.



- (4) The organizing club is responsible for submitting the written protest by the handler along with the test report to the Registry Office {Stammbuchamt}.
- § 10 The Protest Panel must hear the party filing the protest. If the protest appears to have substance, the judges of the judging team that evaluated the protest dog and any witnesses who might be present must be heard. There will be no further presentation of evidence. Exceptions to this rule are only permissible when circumstances exist which prevent the immediate presentation of evidence.  
The Protest Panel must hear the party filing the protest. If the protest appears to be justified, the judges of the judging group who evaluated the dog and – where available – witnesses must be heard. No additional evidence hearing will be permitted. Exceptions may be made when circumstances are such that the evidence cannot be brought forward at that point in time.
- § 11 (1) The Protest Panel's primary objective should always be the amicable resolution. If the issue cannot be settled amicably, the Panel's decision can entail:
1. Rejection of the protest;
  2. Correction of the scoring, if the test regulations were applied erroneously or the misuse of discretionary freedom is proven;
  3. Re-testing of the respective subject or of the subjects that were not tested as a consequence of test regulations having been violated. The test director must initiate and supervise the execution of the re-testing.
- (2) The re-testing does not have to be conducted by the judges whose decision was the subject of the protest. Members of the Protest Panel may not be involved in re-testing.
- § 12 If the Protest Panel rejects the protest, the party filing the protest shall bear the costs incurred. The protest fee shall go to the organizing club. In all other cases, the protest fee shall be returned to the party filing the protest and the organizing club shall bear all costs incurred.
- § 13 The party filing the protest and/or the organizing club can appeal the decision of the Protest Panel if they have been found at fault. The appeal must be filed in writing and state the reasons for the appeal; it must be addressed to Studbook Commission and be received there within one week of the test. The appeal will be considered only if the party filing the appeal pays the fee in the amount of Euro €150.00 to the JGHV Business Office.
- § 14 The decision by the Studbook Commission is by majority, in writing and final. The appellants do not have the right to further appeal under § 13 (4) of the JGHV By-laws.

## Allowable Test Entries in Accordance with § 23 of the JGHV By-Laws

### Applicable Segment of JGHV By-Laws § 23

#### Allowable Entries to Association Tests

- (1) Successful training and handling of healthy, mentally stable, socially adapted and dependable hunting dogs are facilitated by careful and objectively controlled breeding which incorporates established scientific facts. In doing so, the breeding of dogs serves to promote the interest of animal welfare, with regards to the game hunted as well as the hunting dog itself.

The testing system serves to determine the performance capability of the dogs with regard to hunting and the interests of breeding relative to the overall population of a certain breed, and thereby establishes the basis for valuations.

- (2) All clubs which are JGHV Member Clubs in accordance with § 3(1) no. 1 a) through e) of the By-laws are authorized by their membership status to conduct tests in compliance with the JGHV Test Regulations and General Guidelines.
- (3) There is a differentiation between:
  - a) Tests and Performance Awards with general applicability to all Member Clubs (such as Association blood tracking test [VSwP], Association test after the shot [VPS], retrieve reliability test [Btr], Armbruster Halt [AH], and others). Tests in this category are established and adopted by the General Meeting of JGHV;
  - b) Joint breed and utility tests for pointing breeds (such as VJP, HZP, VGP). These tests are to ensure that certain performance standards that are vital to hunting practices can be compared and sustained. Regulations for tests in this category are established and adopted during the General Meeting of JGHV by the pointing breed clubs and clubs that conduct the respective test regularly in at least 2-year intervals;
  - c) Other tests of breed clubs which are established by such clubs.
- (4) All **recognized** hunting dogs must be allowed to enter above tests (3). Recognized hunting dogs are defined as:
  - a) Hunting dogs which are registered in a breed book maintained by a breed club/association which is a JGHV and a VDH Member Club, as well as dogs bred in the club for hunting earth dogs {*Verein Jagdteckel*} and in the club for hunting beagles (VJB) (grandfathered protection);
  - b) Hunting dogs that have been bred in other countries and belong to a breed which is represented within JGHV by a club with a breed registry. Their pedigrees must show the F.C.I. stamp {*Fédération Cynologique Internationale*};
  - c) Hunting dogs that are registered with a breed club/association and are qualified by a registration document bearing the logo of the "*Sperlingshund*".
- (5) All performance tests (such as VGP, VSwP, VFSP, VStP) are further open to all **eligible** dogs. Eligible dogs are defined as:
  - a) Hunting dogs that have been bred in other countries, and their offspring which are outside the scope of 4(b) above, but which have a pedigree that is recognized by F.C.I.; the authenticity of such pedigree has been verified by VDH; and
  - b) Hunting dogs of certain breeds bred in Germany with a pedigree of a VDH breed club which is not a JGHV Member Club.

- (6) Transitional Provision: All the above will be valid beginning on 01-01-2011.

Entry eligibility by nature of JGHV's purpose statement is granted by the JGHV Executive Committee in coordination with VDH once for the respective breed until revoked.

### **Conflict of Interest in Judging Engagements**

An Association Judge / Apprentice Judge / Emergency Judge may not judge a dog that he trained or bred. The same rule applies to first generation offspring of such dogs, and to offspring by a stud dog (first generation). Special breed clubs have the right to take into account their breed specific needs. The JGHV Business Office must be notified in advance of such needs. The aforementioned judges may also not judge dogs of handlers, breeders, stud dog owners, or owners to whom he is related either by blood or marriage (past and present; and/or as remote as three times removed) or to whom he is or was married, or with whom he lives in a domestic partnership.

Test directors and/or Association Judges may not handle dogs at tests where they engage in test director or judging activities.

### **Judging Engagements by JGHV Association Judges**

Association Judges may judge only at tests that are organized by JGHV Member Clubs; included herein are official utility tests organized by the individual German states. The rules for judging engagements in other countries are established by the individual Member Club in sole responsibility. The Association Judge shall understand his acceptance of a judging invitation to be a binding commitment and consequently report to the test location to judge dogs that are recognized by JGHV or by the individual state's test regulations for utility tests.

Violations may be penalized in accordance with the JGHV Disciplinary Rules {*Disziplinarordnung*}.

Only a person who is listed as an active Association Judge on the current JGHV Judges' List can be test director or the responsible person at the water (see Water Test Regulation, paragraph 3 of Part A of the JGHV Water Test Regulations). The designated responsible water person must furthermore be an appointed Association Judge for the specialty subjects Water.

Maximum Number of Dogs per Day per Judging Group:

A judging group is allowed to judge, in a single day, dogs at different tests; i.e. *VJP/Derby*, *HZP/Solms*; *VGP/HZP*.

At a JGHV test, a judging group may not judge more than the maximum number of dogs allowed per judging group per day in accordance with the respective test regulation.

### **Compliance with German State Laws:**

JGHV tests are conducted in compliance with the laws of the respective German State.

– Released by JGHV Business Office –

# Performance Awards of the Jagdgebrauchshundverband

## The Armbruster Halt Award (AH) {Armbruster Haltabzeichen}

- (1) The foundation of the Armbruster Halt Award was adopted by resolution of the 57th General Membership Assembly of the JGHV on March 15, 1970 with all rights and obligations.
- (2) The Armbruster Halt Award will be granted contingent upon the following conditions:

At a JGHV test during the free search in the field according to §§11 and 13 VZPO, and § 31 VGPO respectively, the dog must be obedient on each hare it has seen, as specified in §96 (1) VGPO, while the dog is still within range of handler influence. During that time, the dog must once be at least approximately 20 m from its handler.
- (3) In addition, at the first suitable opportunity after the hare is out of sight, the dog must demonstrate a hare tracking performance {Spurarbeit} according to §11 or § 13 VZPO, which has at least been given the predicate "good".
- (4) These conditions can be met with only one hare. If hares are present repeatedly, only one tracking performance is sufficient.
- (5) The Halt Award cannot be granted if the dog was obedient on every visible hare, but did not receive at least a tracking predicate "good" at the first suitable opportunity for tracking.
- (6) The member club {Verbandsverein} conducting the test at which the dog fulfills these requirements requests the Halt Award from the Registrar {Stammbuchführer}, regardless whether the dog passed the test or not.
- (7) The application must be submitted within four weeks. If the application is received later an administrative fee of € 25.00 is due. A short report by the senior judge {Richterobmann} on the dog's performance must be enclosed.

## Toughness Certification {Härtenachweis}{/}

- (1) The legal destroying of predators and varmint, capable of defense, as part of hunting practice and animal welfare is first and foremost the obligation of the hunter with a gun. It is, however, considered ethical hunting, if the hunting dog has seized and immediately dispatched a predator or varmint before it was possible to shoot it with a firearm.
- (2) If such an independent performance of the dog has been credibly witnessed, the respective dog can be issued the performance award "toughness certificate" with the Jagdgebrauchshundverband. The member club must apply for the toughness certificate within 4 weeks after the performance from the Registrar {Stammbuchführer} on the appropriate form {Formblatt 22}. If the application is received later, an administrative fee of Euro € 25.00 is due. The member club submitting the application is responsible for the performance credibility. A self-addressed, postage pre-paid envelope must be enclosed with the application.

## **Certificate for Loud Hunting {Lautjagernachweis} (\)**

The certificate of loud hunting can be awarded for:

1. Scentloud tracking (only of fox or hare) at a VJP, HZP or VGP, or similar tests, or while hunting.
2. Scentloud independent forest search {lautes Stöbern} at a VGP/VPS, VStP or similar tests.
3. Scentloud independent forest search according to § 14 VGPO/VPSO, also during a hunt, if witnessed by two Association Judges {Verbandsrichter}.
4. Scentloud tracking during a Vbr performance.

The application must be submitted by the responsible member club on Form 23 {Formblatt 23} to the Registrar {Stammbuchführer} within 4 weeks. If the application is received later, an administrative fee of Euro € 25.00 is due.

The Registrar – after receiving the loud hunting certificates (loud hunting while hunting or during Association tests) – records the certificates and informs the respective breed clubs/associations.

If a separate certificate is requested by the member club on behalf of the handler, a self-addressed, postage pre-paid envelope must be included with the application {Formblatt 23}.

If this application is received by the Registrar later than 4 weeks after the performance, an administrative fee of € 25.00 is due.

## **Certificate for Retrieve on Natural Wound Track (Vbr) {Verlorenbringernachweis}**

- (1) The Vbr can only be achieved during actual hunting.
- (2) The dog must follow the track of a wounded hare or fox that it did not see for an observable distance of at least 300 m and must retrieve the hare or fox to its handler.
- (3) The Vbr certificate may not be requested if the dog showed negative performances on other wound tracks on the same day.
- (4) The manner of hunting (scentloud, sightloud, questionable or, where applicable, loud hunting without presence of game) {spl, sil, ? , waidlaut) is to be recorded.
- (5) The performance must be confirmed by witnesses comprising at least one association judge {Verbandsrichter} and one hunter.
- (6) The application {Formblatt 24, typewritten} must be submitted to the Registry Office {Stammbuchamt} by the respective member club within 4 weeks. If the application is received later, an administrative fee of Euro € 25.00 is due.

## **The Retrieving Reliability Test {Bringtreueprüfung} (Btr)**

- § 1 (1) Member clubs can conduct a test of retrieving reliability {Bringtreueprüfung}.
- (2) This test serves the purpose of documenting the special retrieving reliability of the versatile hunting dog. The dog proves this by finding, picking up and delivering to its handler any cold, dead game which was found accidentally and without any influence by the handler.
- § 2 The retrieving reliability test must be conducted in the forest during the months August through March in thickets which are as free of game as possible, or, if appropriate, in mature stands with thick undergrowth. The forest must have small openings which are suited to observe the dog's behavior.
- § 3 Foxes must be used for the retrieving reliability test which must conform with § 12 (1) VGPO. The organizing club can provide the foxes or request that each handler bring one fox to the test. In the latter case, the requirement must be included in the test announcement. The forest places which have been selected for the placement of the foxes will be assigned to the handlers prior to the test by luck of the draw.
- § 4 (1) Prior to the test, places suitable for placing the foxes must be identified and marked.
- (2) These places must be at least 50 m apart from each other, and at least 100 m from the edge of the forest stand where the dog is to be released for the test. Selection and preparation of these places should allow that the judges can well observe the dog's behavior at the fox, but that the dog cannot scent or see the judges. If possible, it is advisable to use tree stands, ladders, etc.
- § 5 The fox selected for the test must be placed at least 2 hours before the test in the open – i.e., not behind a tree or in a depression. The fox must be carried to the assigned spot. Under no circumstances may the fox be dragged or touch the ground while being transported. To avoid that the dog encounters human tracks during the test, the persons carrying the fox must walk in a wide circle, that is at least 200 m from the assigned spot of the fox, to the opposite side of the test grounds (relative to the spot from where the dog is to be released), and from there proceed in a straight line to the location where the fox is to be placed.
- § 6 (1) At a Btr test, three Association Judges {Verbandsrichter} must be present.
- Two of these judges observe from their prepared positions how the dog behaves when encountering the fox.
- (2) The third judge accompanies the handler of the dog under evaluation. He must ascertain that the regulations of §§ 8 to 10 are strictly followed in every detail.
- § 7 For purposes of communication among the judges, the use of 2-way radio or cell phone is recommended.

- § 8 (1) While his dog is under evaluation, the handler may not handle another dog. He may not be accompanied by anybody except the judge, to prevent disturbance of the working dog. While his dog is working, the handler may not leave his assigned spot with the accompanying judge. He must remain absolutely silent after the dog has been released.
- (2) If the handler does not follow these regulations, the dog must be excluded from the continuation of the test and must be immediately called back and leashed.
- § 9 (1) The handler can send his dog to search the cover either from his position, or he can command the dog to lie down at a certain distance from his position and then send the dog with a hand signal or voice command.
- (2) After both judges at their observation posts have indicated by the agreed signal that the test can begin, the judge accompanying the handler orders the release of the dog.
- (3) The handler must then send his dog into the thicket with a search command (not a retrieving command).
- § 10 From this moment on, the dog is allowed 20 minutes to find the fox in the thicket during its search, and to retrieve it to the handler. The dog can be commanded to search {Stöbern} as often as the handler desires with a low voice command suitable in hunting situations.
- § 11 The dog has passed the retrieving reliability test if it retrieves the fox to the handler within 20 minutes of the initial release.
- § 12 The dog is to be eliminated from the test and to be leashed immediately, if it arrives at the fox during the search but fails to pick up the fox and returns to the handler or continues the search.
- § 13 If a dog fails the Retrieving Reliability test, the fox can remain in place and a second dog can be released to search the same thicket. However, this dog must be started at least 50 m from the release point of the previous dog.
- § 14 The test director and chairpersons of the organizing club are fully responsible that the Btr test is conducted according to these regulations and that the regulations are strictly observed.
- § 15 Within four weeks, the test director must submit a test report to the Registrar {Stammbuchführer} using Form 25 {Formblatt 25}.

An administration fee of Euro € 25.00 per dog is due if, reports and paperwork is received by the Registry Office {Stammbuchamt} later than four weeks after the test, but not more than Euro € 150.00 for the entire test.

§ 16 Upon examination of the documents the Registrar issues the performance award "Btr" to those dogs that passed the retrieving reliability test in accordance with these test regulations, and issues a certificate of completion for the owner of the dog, to be appended to the pedigree {Ahnentafel}. The certificate is forwarded to the test organizer.