

HUNT POINT TEST GUIDELINES

(All Game)



INTRODUCTION

The emphasis of these tests is on the natural working ability of the dog on predominately open ground, although hedges and woodland will also be used. Assessment will be based on ground treatment, hunting and pointing with an element of steadiness. Dogs are run and graded individually and not in competition with other dogs.

CATEGORIES

The Tests are to be judged in two age categories:

Junior – For dogs over 6 months of age on the date of the test and under 2 years of age on the day of the test.

Adult – For dogs over 2 years of age on the day of the test.

Both categories to be judged on all game eg: Partridge, Pheasant, Snipe, Woodcock, Hare

BASIC REQUIRMENTS

Each dog shall run singly into the wind, quartering a beat of at least 100 metres when on open ground.

Each dog will be allowed one minute to settle unless out of control.

Dogs are required to hunt, point and hold game and flush on command.

Each dog graded is to be given a verbal critique by the judges and an Assessment Certificate at the end of the day.

ASSESSMENTS

On open ground assessment will be based on an ideal pattern when the dog is searching for game being in tune with the handler, running wide & flat, turning into the wind, has drive and purpose with good pace and generally covering the ground with style. All game birds on its beat should be pointed and other game honoured.

When hunting hedges & woodland assessment will be based on closer control, a slower pace as necessitated by the ground, again all game birds on its beat should be pointed and other game honoured.

CREDITS

- Good ground treatment/regular pattern
- Turning into the wind
- Natural ability to hunt without intervention
- Game finding ability
- Good Pace (individual styles of breeds taken into account)
- Steadiness to flush
- Quiet handling

Assessment of EXCELLENT or EXCELLENT with Credit

The dog must work to the ideal pattern and exhibit all credits. *With Credit* awarded to Adult dogs if Partridge pointed and to Junior dogs if other game birds pointed.

Assessment of VERY GOOD or VERY GOOD with Credit

The work must be of a good standard showing natural aptitude. *With Credit* awarded to Adult dogs if Partridge pointed and to Junior dogs if other game birds pointed.

Assessment of GOOD or GOOD With Credit

The work must be of a good standard showing natural aptitude. *With Credit* awarded to Adult dogs if Partridge pointed and to Junior dogs if other game birds pointed.

JUDGING NOTES

OPEN GROUND

Dog to quarter with its nose on the wind with correct head carriage, enabling it to make contact with game scent.

Quartering and turning on each flank into the wind.

Spending little or no time on ground or residual scent, giving only an indication of its presence.

Positive indication of game, ideally holding until handler is in close contact and working forward with determination to final point. With correct head carriage the dog should directly flush, not losing contact and not foot scenting the game.

Positive flush of game with dog steady. Game no to be chased in flight or on ground, exuberance in Junior dogs to be brought quickly under control.

A grading can be considered if birds flush off the dog's point of their own accord when the handler is not in close contact.

Dogs that complete the card in their first run and are graded will not be required to run again. Only dogs of sufficient standard, which have not obtained a grading in their first run, are to be considered for a second run. Judges should not be tempted to run a dog a second time to try and up grade it if they have able to give it a grading in its first run.

Faults – Stickiness on point – Persistent false pointing – Persistent pointing of “larks” – Persistently back casting on the wind – Unsteadiness – Catching healthy game.

Elimination Faults – Out of control – Failure to hunt or point – Not covering sufficient ground – Chasing game – Deliberately flushing game without pointing – Missing game birds on the beat – Whining or barking.