

Retriever Bird Dog

Conditions

- A. In order to compete in a NADSR event, the dog must be registered with NADSR. The owner must show proof of registration in the form of a registration certificate or a photo ID. Registration forms will be available at each event for non-registered dogs. Registration forms and fees must be submitted to the affiliate club in order to receive points for the day's events.
- B. Bitches that are in any part of the heat cycle or pregnant will not be allowed to enter any NADSR event. She will be disqualified with no refund on entry fee if she is entered deceptively.
- C. Dogs that are aggressive or become aggressive will be disqualified.
- D. Equipment used during the event must be approved by the Judge.
- E. Dogs that are competing in any NADSR Event must do so in a flat nylon or leather collar. No E-collars, prongs or slip collars are allowed.
- F. Entry fees are non-refundable.

Testing Options and Titles

- A. There are 4 categories, 3 testing classes and 2 optional test:
 - 1. Canine Categories
 - a. Retrievers
 - b. Flushing Dogs
 - c. Pointing Dogs
 - d. Pointing Labs
 - 2. Classes
 - a. Novice
 - b. Intermediate
 - c. Finished
 - 3. Optional Test
 - a. Retrieving
 - b. Upland
- B. A dog may enter any class that the handler/owner feels the dog is capable. However, when the title is earned in that class, it is recommended that the dog be entered in the next higher class.
- C. Titles that may be earned for any type dog:
 - 1. Novice Hunter (NH)
 - 2. Intermediate Hunter (IH)
 - 3. Finished Hunter (FH)
- D. In order to earn a title and advance to the next class, a dog must earn a total of 100 points.
- E. A failure will occur if a dog commits some infraction. At that point the test will stop, but the points acquired will still be awarded to the dog. However, no title will be awarded until the dog can correct the infraction and has earned 100 points.
- F. Live, dead or artificial birds (primarily quail and duck) may be used in the retriever test. Live quail are used in all upland tests.
- G. Retrievers entered in the optional Upland Test for Retrievers will follow the guidelines for the flushing dog tests, except the retriever will not be required to hup or sit when a bird flushes or a gun fires. However, the dog must still remain stationary.
- H. THE DECISION OF THE JUDGE IS FINAL!

Retrievers

A. All Retrievers will be scored on style, drive, trainability, marking, nose and deliver.

B. Novice

1. This test consists of 4 retrieves – two land and two water. If it is deemed unsafe (presence of alligators or other unsafe water conditions that would cause harm to the dog) then two additional land retrieves will be done.

2. The dog is not allowed to break. If the dog breaks, the handler will have 2 more chances to re-start the dog.

3. The dog is not required to perform double, triple or blind retrieves. Only single marks will be done.

4. Out of sight of the dog, a dead bird will be thrown, a shot will be fired and the dog will be released to retrieve the bird.

5. The dog will be given a clear view of the mark, and 3 chances to mark the bird. If the dog fails to mark the bird after 3 tries, then the dog can no longer compete in land retrieves for the day.

However he may compete in water retrieves and/or the optional upland test.

6. The dog must deliver the bird to within 3 feet of the handler and stay.

7. If the dog runs away with the bird and does not deliver, the test is failed.

C. Intermediate

1. This test consists of 1 double mark on land, 1 double mark on water, 1 blind retrieve on land and 1 blind retrieve on water.

2. The handler can encourage and direct the dog, but non-productive handling of the dog that may delay or disturb the dog may cause the dog to fail the test.

3. Although a whistle sit is not necessary, it does indicate good positive training and will reflect the dogs' score.

4. The dog should not break when lined for a mark or blind retrieve. He should only leave when he is sent by the handler.

5. The dog should find the mark within the allotted time set by the Judge prior to the event.

6. The marks and blinds will be thrown a slightly longer distance than for the Novice class, but shall not be thrown in unreasonably dense cover.

7. If the dog switches on a double mark, he will be given 2 more chances. If he continues to switch, he will be marked failed.

8. The dog must give the bird to the handler with no reluctance or drop it at the handlers' feet.

9. The dog should not be overly coaxed to bring the bird to the handler, but should initially go directly to the handler.

10. Obedience and good manners should be demonstrated.

D. Finished

1. This test consist of: 1 triple on land, 1 marked double on water and 1 blind double on water.

2. A greater distance than was given in the intermediate test will be given to the retriever.

3. A diversionary bird will be thrown as the dog is coming back to the line. If the dog switches, he will fail, but the dog must also retrieve the diversionary bird.

4. The dog must deliver to hand and either sits or stands at the side or in front of the handler and not release the bird until requested to do so by his handle.

5. The dog must sit quietly, under control and patiently watch other dogs test in the field.

Flushing Dogs

A. Flushing Dogs will be scored on boldness to flush, drive, hunt ability, retrieving, style and trainability.

B. Novice

1. This test consists of 4 different bird finds by the dog.

2. The handler must hold the dog at the starting point until the Judge tells the handler to release.

3. The dog must begin the hunt with strong desire and independence or drive.

4. The dog should respond to the handler and show signs of quartering naturally.

5. Although the handler may encourage the dog to keep the dog in gun range, the fewer commands needed, the better it will reflect on the dogs score.

6. A failure will occur if the dog does not respond to the handler and stay in control.

7. The dog is not required to hup or sit and remain steady to wing and sit, but the less bird chasing the better it will reflect the dogs score.

8. If the gunner misses the bird and the dog chases the bird, then the dog must stop at a reasonable distance from the handler and come back to the handler on command.

9. If a bird is missed by the gunner, then an additional bird will be planted.

10. Birds must be planted away from one another.

11. If the dog bumps the bird and does not intentionally flush it, then the bird does not count as a find.

12. If the dog is out of control and bumps or flushes a bird, then the dog will be given one more chance. If it happens twice, then it is marked as a failure.

13. The dog must make an effort to retrieve the shot bird. If the dog runs away with the bird and refuses to bring it to the handler after repeated commands, the dog will be marked as failed.

14. The dog is required to return the bird to the general vicinity of the handler, but is not required to retrieve to the hand.

C. Intermediate

1. This test will consist of different bird finds in a thicker cover than the Novice dog.

2. The dog must show higher levels of drive, boldness of flush, hunt ability, trainability and retrieving than the Novice class.

3. If the dog hunts out of gun range and bumps a bird, refuses to flush, or does not find a planted bird, then the dog will be marked as a failure.

4. The dog is not required to be completely steady to wing and shot, but should not run out of control after the bird. This will mark him as a failure.

5. The dog must quarter or hunt in a zigzag pattern in front of the handler and cover the entire field.

D. Finished

1. This test consists of four different bird finds in a thicker cover than the Intermediate dog.

2. The dog must show higher levels of drive, boldness to flush, hunt ability, trainability, and retrieving than the previous class.

3. The dog must respond to the commands of the handler immediately, quarter in front of the handler, never being out of gun range and flush the bird boldly.

4. The dog should immediately sit or hup on the flush and remain sitting after the shot. The dog should not break until sent after the bird by the handler.

5. The dog should retrieve the bird immediately to hand.

Pointing Dogs

A. Pointing dogs will score on drive, style, hunt ability, staunchness to point, trainability and retrieving.

B. Novice

1. This test will consist of four birds to work and point.

2. Four solid points flushed by the handler will be required, but the dog is not required to steady to wing and shot.

3. Only one break by the dog will be allowed.

4. If the dog hunts too close to the handler he will lose points. However, he should hold a point and not bump the bird.

5. Creeping is allowed as long as it does not cause the bird to flush.

6. Two or more bumps of the bird marks a failure.

7. The dog is required to run alone and not in a brace.

8. The dog should allow the handler to walk in and to flush the bird.

9. The dog must respond to the handlers' commands.

10. The dog is not required to be steady to wing and shot, however, the dog should not put himself in harms way of the shot.

C. Intermediate

1. The dog should show a higher level of drive, hunt ability, staunchness to point, trainability, and retrieving than in the previous class.

2. This test consists of four different bird finds in a thicker cover than the Novice dog.

3. The dog is required to thoroughly cover the ground ahead of the handler, but should always be under control of the handler and range within the realm of common sense.

4. The dog is required to run alone.

5. If the find is not easy because of thick cover etc., or the bird is crippled, the dog should help to find the bird, and/or run down the cripple. Failure to do so will not result in a failed test, but will reflect in the dogs score.

6. The dog is required to be completely staunch on point.

7. If the bird moves, the dog can move up, but not to the point of flushing the bird. If the dog flushes the bird it will result in failure.

D. Finished

1. The dog must be under control of the handler and demonstrate a high level of experience, drive, hunt ability, and trainability.

2. The dog must approach a scented bird with caution, lock on a staunch point, and not break as the handler flushes the bird.

3. The dog must work the field at a range that is comfortable for dog and handler.

4. The dog must be completely steady to wing and shot.

5. The dog must be run in a brace. A sufficient amount of birds must be planted in order for the dogs to make at least 4 finds each.

6. All dogs are required to back and honor the other dog at least twice.

7. All dogs will be required to demonstrate retrieving ability by retrieving at least 2 birds to hand.

The Pointing Labrador

A. All 3 classes of Pointing Labrador will be run the same as the Pointing Hunter except for:

1. The NH will be expected to retrieve the downed bird to the general vicinity of the handler.

2. The NH and IH can flush the bird, but only after holding a point for several seconds. The longer the point, the higher the score.

3. The FH should hold the point until the handler flushes the bird, though flushing after a staunch point will not cause the dog to fail.

4. The NH must retrieve the bird to the general vicinity of the handler, but the IH and FH must retrieve to hand.