

8 THE NOVICE HUNTING TEST (NHT)

8.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Novice Hunting Test (NHT) is to test for a basic level of functional hunting, pointing and retrieving from land and water. The test is suitable for young dogs that have received basic training and experience beyond the level required for the Natural Ability test, but not yet up to the level of the Advanced Versatile Hunting Test. Natural abilities will be apparent as training is not yet complete, however, some training should be in place and well advanced.

Dogs that pass this test will be useful hunting dogs, though not necessarily polished or finished hunting dogs. As such, this test is also suitable for older dogs that may not have received higher training or specific training for tests, but that have had at least a season or two of hunting experience.

8.2 Eligibility

Any of the versatile breeds, regardless of age or previous testing, are eligible for entry.

Should there be more entries than space available in the test, dogs that have not been tested previously in the Novice Hunting test will receive preference in entry to dogs that have been previously tested more than (3) times.

8.3 Overview

The NHT tests several important areas of functional hunting, pointing and retrieving abilities as well as natural abilities.

Dogs are tested in several phases in order to establish a comprehensive evaluation of performance. There is no set order in which to conduct the test, apart from the field phase, which must be conducted under optimum conditions as determined on the day.

Proper execution of the test requires large fields or lands, containing a sufficient number of gamebirds (and possibly rabbits), and an area with sufficiently large dams or rivers containing ample reed growth.

Dogs must be tested individually and thoroughly in all categories.

Field Phase

- Nose
- Search
- Pointing
- Gamebird drag (80-100m)

Water Phase

- Marked Retrieve from dense cover
- Semi-blind

Manner of Retrieving

Desire to Work

Cooperation

Obedience

SAVHDA
NOVICE HUNTING TEST (NHT)
Scoring System

~ Grading system: Very Good/Excellent = 4 Good = 3 Satisfactory = 2 Poor = 1 Insufficient = 0
 Not Tested = NT ~
 ~ In certain instances of exceptional merit (Nose, Search, Pointing) a score of 5 = Outstanding, may be given ~

| Test Category | Index Number (multiply x grade) | Maximum Pts Attainable | Prize I (minimum requirements) | Prize II | Prize III | Grade (actual) | #Points (X multiplier) |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Field | | | | | | | |
| Search | 5 | 20 | 20(4) | 15(3) | 10(2) | _____ | _____ |
| Pointing | 5 | 20 | 20(4) | 15(3) | 10(2) | _____ | _____ |
| Gamebird Drag (80- 100 m) | 2 | 8 | 6(3) | 4(2) | 2(1) | _____ | _____ |
| Water | | | | | | | |
| Semi-blind (30-40m) | 3 | 12 | 12(3) | 12(3) | 6(2) | _____ | _____ |
| Retrieve from Deep Cover (30-40 m) | 5 | 20 | 20(4) | 15(3) | 10(2) | _____ | _____ |
| Manner of Retrieving | 2 | 8 | 6(3) | 4(2) | 4(2) | _____ | _____ |
| (Average of all Retrieves - Feathered Gamebird _____ + Duck _____ + Duck _____ = _____ / 3 = _____) | | | | | | | |
| Judged Throughout | | | | | | | |
| Use of Nose | 6 | 24 | 24(4) | 18(3) | 18(3) | _____ | _____ |
| Desire to Work | 4 | 16 | 16(4) | 12(3) | 8(2) | _____ | _____ |
| Cooperation | 3 | 12 | 9(3) | 6(2) | 3(2) | _____ | _____ |
| Obedience | 2 | 8 | 6(3) | 4(2) | 2(1) | _____ | _____ |
| Gun Sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Stable | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Shy | Pass _____ | Fail _____ | | |

TOTAL Pts (sum of grades x multipliers) **148** **134** **102** **76** _____

Rabbit track, if observed: _____

Temperament: ___ Normal ___ Shy ___ Hand Shy ___ Game Shy ___ Timid of Strangers

Physical Attributes

- Coat Density: ___ Dense ___ Medium Dense ___ Open
- Coat Harshness: ___ Harsh ___ Medium Harsh ___ Soft
- Eyes: ___ Without fault ___ Entropic ___ Ectropic ___ Distichiasis ___ other
- Bite: ___ Without fault ___ Pincer ___ Wry/cross ___ Undershot ___ Overshot
- Missing Teeth: ___ Without fault Premolar faults _____ Molar faults _____
- Testicular Faults: ___ Without fault ___ Not palpable ___ Retained _____ Other
- Other significant physical faults: _____