



SBCA National Specialty Show Working Dog Guidelines

(Draft Test and Weight Pull)

The SBCA Working Dog Committee endorsed these Guidelines in October 2002

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Preparation:

Contact the SBCA Working Dog Chairman, previous National Specialty Working Dog Chairman and the SBCA Weight Pull Statistician to discuss the previous years tests, problems encountered and possible improvements to be implemented.

Necessary information to cover for both the Draft Test and the Weight Pull:

- A. Obtain a test application and necessary forms from the current SBCA Working Dog Chairman.
- B. Determine whom the judges, stewards and officials are to be.
- C. Determine what trophies and ribbons will be awarded.
- D. Evaluate the site requirements.
- E. Determine the equipment needed.
- F. How will the publicity be disseminated?
- G. Miscellaneous.

DRAFT TEST

1. Forms and information needed and to be provided:

- A. Obtained from the Working Dog Chairman.
 - 1) Application and Judges Profile-needs to be submitted four months in advance.
 - 2) Copies of Rules and Regulations.
 - 3) Judges' Record Sheets.
 - 4) Handler's Evaluation Forms.
- B. Determine who the Draft Test committee is and their duties.
- C. Entry forms-contact previous chairman for format.
- D. Premium list-contact previous chairman for format.
- E. Catalog-contact previous chairman for format.

2. Judges and stewards:

- A. Judges-There are two (2) judges. The Working Dog Committee (WDC) believes that the Draft Test Judges should thoroughly understand draft work and the physical conditioning necessary for draft and other types of pulling. It is recommended that both judges have earned a Draft title on a dog and at least one has judged at a sanctioned Draft Test. A list of qualified judges can be obtained from the Working Dog Chairman.
- B. Stewards-Each steward should be familiar with how a Draft Test is run and should be familiar with the Draft Test course. The stewards' duties are:
 - 1) A minimum of two stewards is needed for each exercise.
 - 2) Two stewards needed on the Distance Freight Haul to set a brisk pace, to clear a path through obstructions or to watch for traffic.
 - 3) During the Distance Freight Haul, a steward is needed for each dog/handler team for safety and at the judges' request, to monitor the handler's compliance with the regulations.

3. Trophies and ribbons:

- A. A rosette and trophy are to be given to each dog/handler team who qualifies. The color of

the rosette is generally immaterial, but it is recommended that they not be the color or combination of colors used in the regular AKC Obedience or Conformation classes.

Trophies may be the same as those given in conformation and obedience and should be at least equal to the first place winners of those classes.

- B. The SBCA logo, location of the event, the year and the words "Draft Test Qualifier" shall be printed on the rosette. The AKC symbol shall not be used, as this is not an AKC event.
- C. It is recommended that a small participation trophy be given to all entrants. This trophy may be the same small trophy that is given to exhibitors or class placements in the SBCA conformation and obedience classes.

4. Site Requirements:

The site should cover the natural terrain of the area, which might include places similar to a parade, a walk in the woods, a grocery store parking lot, bridges over a stream, and other natural occurring areas. There are three distinct areas required for the Draft Test:

- A. The Basic Control Exercise test requires a rectangular ring at least 45'X50'.
- B. The Maneuvering Exercise test requires an area where a course of a minimum of 150 yards of circular patterns, broad curves and narrow areas may be laid out.
- C. The Freight Haul must cover one mile over a course that may include sidewalks, safe streets, gardens, hills or woods.

5. Equipment Requirements:

Determine who will be responsible for bringing the following equipment to the test:

- A. Equipment to be used by the judges and stewards.
 - 1) Table and cover (small decorations, if appropriate).
 - 2) Chairs for the judges.
 - 3) Tape measure and rules.
 - 4) Bleach and water solution for covering an area a dog has fouled.
 - 5) Clipboards
 - 6) Pens and pencils.
 - 7) Current copy of the Draft Rules and Regulations.
 - 8) Score sheets.
 - 9) Armbands
 - 10) Stop watch to time the group stay.
 - 11) Rubber bands.
 - 12) Steward's check-in sheet or a catalog.
 - 13) Refreshments for the Judge and Stewards (available before and during judging).
 - 14) Ribbons
 - 15) Trophies
 - 16) Paperweights
 - 17) Measuring wheel or pedometer
- B. Equipment to be used for the test.
 - 1) Ring enclosures.
 - 2) Flags and/or orange cones and powdered chalk (to mark the curves and turns on the maneuvering course).
 - 3) Removable obstacle (a gate, lawn chair, board across two trashcans, a log etc.).

- 4) Objects to delineate a 6' long "low narrow" area (logs, boards, cones or other items that can be moved) and one "solid narrow area" (plywood, tables on their side, stacked bales of straw). Note: one side of the "narrows" must be adjustable to 12" wider than the widest point of each draft apparatus.
- 5) A scale to weigh any non-standard freight materials.
- 6) An intriguing distraction (a windup toy that makes some type of noise, a recording, a flapping umbrella, a bouncing ball, caged ducks or rabbits, children with food, etc.).

6. Publicity:

Advance articles about the test should be placed in the Saint Fancier, on the SBCA web site and local publications well in advance of the date to allow handlers and observers to make plans.

7. Miscellaneous:

- A Premium list should be mailed with the SBCA National premium list for conformation and obedience.
- B. Ensure that donations to the Working Dog activities for trophies and ribbons are acknowledged in the Specialty Catalog.

WEIGHT PULL

1. Forms and information needed and to be provided:

- A. Obtained from the Working Dog Chairman or the Weight Pull Chairman.
 - 1) Application and Judges Profile-needs to be completed and mailed to the Working Dog Chairman at least sixty days and preferably four months in advance.
 - 2) Copies of SBCA Weight Pull Regulations.
 - 3) Weight Pull Chart.
 - 4) Weight Pull Certification Forms (use as entry forms).
- B. Determine the members of the Weight Pull Committee and their duties.
- C. Premium list-contact previous chairman for format.

2. Weight Pull Officials:

- A. Judge- There is one (1) judge. The WDC believes the Weight Pull Judge should thoroughly understand weight pulling and the physical conditioning necessary. Therefore, it is recommended that the judge has earned a Weight Pull title on a dog, is eligible to judge with the International Weight Pull Association or has judged at a sanctioned weight pull. A list of qualified judges can be obtained from the Working Dog Chairman. The judge must be qualified by proof of practical experience, shall supervise the overall event and will make all final decisions.
- B. Chief Recorder-Responsible for the completion of all forms and information required by the SBCA, including the Weight Pull Chart and the individual Weight Pull Certification Forms. Additional responsibilities are to weigh each dog and record their weight on the Chart and Entry Form. See the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations for a description of additional duties.

- C. Chief Timer-Responsible for timing and announcing each dog's pull. See the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations for a description of additional duties.

3. Trophies and Ribbons:

- A. First through fourth place ribbons and trophies of the type offered for non-regular classes in Obedience shall be offered for each weight division or class (it is recommended that at least two divisions are offered). The SBCA logo, location, the year, the placement and the words "National Specialty Weight Pull" should be printed on the ribbon. The AKC symbol is not to be used, as this is not an AKC event.
- B. A dark green rosette should be offered for each dog that has a qualifying pull. The SBCA logo, location, the year and the words "National Specialty Weight Pull" and "Qualifying Pull" should be printed on the rosette. The AKC symbol is not to be used, as this is not an AKC event.
- C. A bi-color, three streamer, rosette should be offered for the highest percentage pulled and the highest weight pulled. The color combinations are not important, but it is recommended that they not be of the colors or combination of colors used in the regular AKC Obedience or Conformation classes. (A suggestion would be to use maroon and emerald). The SBCA logo, location, the year and the words "National Specialty Weight Pull" and "Highest Percentage Pulled" or "Highest Weight Pulled" should be printed on each of the rosettes. The AKC symbol is not to be used, as this is not an AKC event.
- D. It is suggested that a trophy for Highest Percentage Pulled and Highest Weight Pulled be offered. These trophies shall be of equal value.
- E. It is not recommended that cash prizes be offered, but if they are, any prize monies awarded must be distributed over fifty percent of the entries, with no one entry receiving more than twenty percent of the total purse.

4. Site Requirements:

The site area should be able to accommodate the four functions that must be accomplished for the weight pull:

- A. The registration and weigh-in area should be level and large enough to accommodate at least one table and the scale and the weight pull officials required to accomplish this task.
- B. The weight pull chute area shall be:
 - 1) Not less than 10' or greater than 20' wide and not less than 35' long.
 - 2) Open on the end toward which the pull is performed.
 - 3) As level as natural conditions permit. If there is any perceptible slope, the direction of the pull shall be toward the higher end.
 - 4) Such that the dogs shall achieve traction on the same surface as that on which the cart rides.
 - 5) A surface of grass, compacted dirt or gravel or carpet on a man-made surface. See SBCA Weight Pull Regulations for Snow Pull requirements.
- C. The holding area shall be:
 - 1) Large enough to accommodate all dogs participating in a division safely as the dogs must remain in the holding area until the completion of their division.
 - 2) Behind or to the side of the cart and weight area of the chute, not in front of the cart in the direction of the pull.

- D. The spectators' area shall be:
 - 1) Behind the physical barriers separating the spectators from the chute.
 - 2) Away from the open end of the chute.
 - 3) An area with bleachers or an open area for lawn chairs.
 - 4) Not in the holding area.

5. Equipment needed:

- A. Clipboards
- B. Table and chairs for the Chief Recorder and Judge.
- C. Pens, pencils and a calculator.
- D. Current copy of the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations.
- E. Weight Pull Chart and Weight Pull Certification Forms.
- F. Armbands, if used.
- G. Steward's check-in sheet or a catalog.
- H. Tape measure able to measure at least 35'.
- I. Stop watch.
- J. Refreshments for the Judge and Officials (available before and during judging).
- K. Ribbons and trophies.
- L. Paperweights.
- M. A platform scale capable of weighing the dogs.
- N. A sled (for snow pull) or a wheeled vehicle. (See regulations for a description of the vehicles.)
- O. Weights.
 - 1) Pre-weighed inert material suitable for safe stacking.
 - 2) A minimum of 3500 pounds in consistent increments.
- P. A physical barrier to separate the spectators from the chute.

6. Publicity:

Advance articles about the pull should be placed in the Saint Fancier, on the SBCA web site and local publications well in advance of the date to allow handlers and observers to make plans.

7. Miscellaneous:

- A. Ensure that donations to the Working Dog activities for trophies and ribbons are acknowledged in the Specialty Catalog.
- B. Ensure that the Weight Pull Chart, event report and individual dog Weight Pull Certification Forms are signed and mailed to the Weight Pull Statistician within thirty days of the event.