



Hunt Test Marshal Seminar 2014

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Duties of a Hunt Test Marshal



Conducted by Dale Tolmsoff

What is a Site Marshal?

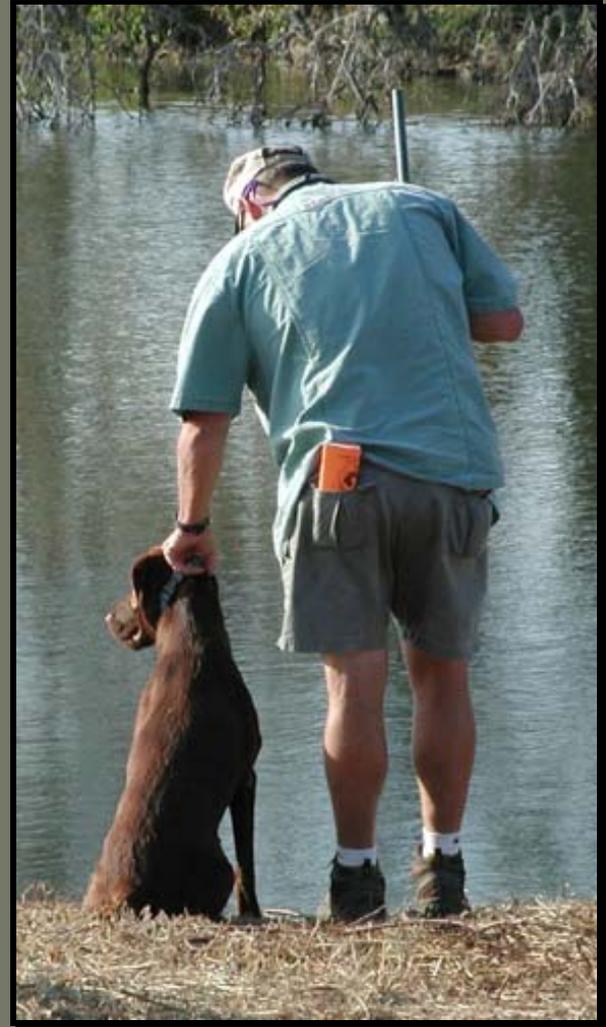
A site marshal is a club member who is responsible for keeping his/her assigned hunt test running promptly and smoothly, which includes, but is not limited to the following tasks:

- The marshal must know and understand the test rules, meet with the judges the day prior to the test for determining proper set up of equipment, set up the test equipment according to the judges' instructions, supervise the bird technicians and gunners, and maintain the running order of the dogs during the test.
- The marshal is expected to maintain cell phone contact with headquarters, the head marshal, the hunt test chairman, and other sites during the test as needed. Radios may be necessary for communication at each site between workers and the judges.
- Marshals are also responsible for making sure all workers are provided food and drinks as needed. Once the test is finished, the marshal must make sure all test equipment is broken down, gathered, and returned to the club trailer.



What to do before the test:

- Marshals are encouraged to contact his/her judges prior to the test for proper introduction and obtain any pre-test instructions.
- It is the responsibility of the marshal to arrange for a test dog before the test, and arrange for a “bye” dog, if needed during honor situations. The head marshal will assist in finding a test dog if necessary.
- Site marshals should make themselves available to meet with their judges around 2:00 pm the day prior to the test to help formulate plans. This is a very important duty as a marshal because it provides him/her the opportunity to put together a written list of equipment and workers necessary to successfully perform the test. If a marshal is not able to meet with the judges, he/she should inform the head marshal in advance so alternate plans can be made.



What to do the morning of the test:

- Marshals will meet at the club equipment trailer at 6:30 am the morning of the test. Typically the Equipment Manager will have all equipment laid out and marked for each flight, but Marshals should be aware in advance their equipment needs and inform the Equipment Manager if any additional equipment is needed. They also should know in advance who their live gunners are and coordinate with the Bird Steward for transportation of live birds to the field. See the HT Secretary to get your running order list, along with the judges' books. Marshals are responsible for handing the judges' books to the judges at the test site. Before departing, meet with the assigned bird technicians to review gun safety and provide them directions to the test site. Usually, the Head Marshal or qualified member will gather all the bird-boys for a hands on demonstration on the wingers and popper guns before sending them off to their tests. Be prepared to take the equipment and birds to the field by 7:00 am, never later than 7:15 am.
- Marshals...do not forget to load an ice chest filled with soft drinks and water to serve your judges and workers. And don't forget to stake the signs to your site!



AKC Gun Safety

All persons firing a popper gun or live rounds are required to view this video before working an AKC hunt test.

What to do to set-up the test:



- Marshals should make a point to be at the test site by 7:00-7:15 am. Do not set up equipment until judges have had the chance to evaluate morning weather conditions and made any necessary adjustments to the test, after which you can begin unloading equipment and direct the workers where to place the equipment. Take advantage of any down-time by meeting with the bird-boys and other workers to make sure any questions are answered and everyone knows what to do. Phone the Head Marshal if any additional equipment or personnel are needed, or if any equipment or personnel can be relieved. Once the judges are ready to set things up, supervise the installation of the equipment. Decide on the best location for parking vehicles by discussing with your judges and considering land owner instructions, preferably, on one side of the road. The judges will also tell the Marshal where to they want to set up the gallery.
- Maintain a pleasant atmosphere and emphasize to all the workers to be safe, pay attention, and have fun! The goal is to have the test go without incident, according to plan, and on time.

Hunt Test Supply List and Demo



How to run the test:

- Everything from this point is in the command of the judges. The marshal, for the most part, subordinates to them. The judges will notify the marshal when they are ready to hold the handler's meeting to discuss the test set up, after which, the "test dog" will run the course, testing the mechanics of the test. Adjustments might be necessary, and some equipment might need to be moved. After this point, the test is ready to begin.
- The running order - Marshals are provided with a running list, which provides the running number and name of each dog, along with the handler's name. The list can also be used keep up with who is at the test site. As handlers start to show up, ask for their name and place a mark beside it, indicating they are present. Effort should be made to run dogs in the order they appear on the list. Here are some factors that will likely cause a Marshal to have to modify the running order:
 - **Multiple dog handlers** – If a handler needs more time between his dogs, Marshals may spread them out in the order. However, handlers running multiple dogs must run them in the sequence they appear on the running list.
 - **Handlers running in other tests** – Frequently, handlers will have dogs in more than one test. They are most often professional trainers and may ask if they could be moved up in order to keep from holding things up in the other tests. The Marshal may opt to insert them when they show up, placing them with as much space between their dogs as they might require.
 - **Miscellaneous reasons** – No shows, a scratched dog, a no-bird call by a judge, or two dogs with the same call name being placed side-by-side for an honor.

Note: it is not permitted to place a dog ahead of another dog that has been called to the final holding blind. Once a dog has entered that blind, his next step is the line.

- The Marshal is responsible for making sure that every dog entered has either run, been scratched, or was a “no show”, and this should be indicated on the running order list. The judges should be informed if there is any dog unaccounted for. On an AKC test, the judges may choose to place the handler “on the clock”, in which case, the dog must be called, an announcement must be made that the dog is “on the clock” and has 15 minutes to show up or be disqualified. The Headquarters must be contacted with this information, along with all other sites. Make note of the time the dog was placed on the clock and the time the dog was recorded as disqualified.



Running Order Example

1. Pretty Boy Floyd	Joe Blow
2. My Sweet Dog	Kathy Kanine
3. King of Chase	Chase Smith
4. Marking Fool	Howie Didit
5. Try-N-Again	Howie Didit
6. Stretch and Fetch	Amanda Smart
7. Little Boy Blue	Hunter Green
8. Couch Potato	Slim Pickins
9. Watch Me Mama	Jenny Johnson
10. Take to the Hills	Jenny Johnson

Place a check mark beside the number of the dog as the handler checks in, indicating they are at the site. For this example, we'll assume that everyone was at the site when the handler's meeting began. Mark and Jenny are riding together and Mark has to run a dog at Master/Finished as well. Mark has requested to be able to run as #1. Notice that Howie has two dogs and he is alone, so he needs to have several dogs placed between his runs to allow him time to get back to his truck and prepare his 2nd dog before returning to the line. The running order should be modified to look like this:

10 9 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 5

Write the new order at the bottom of your running order list, leaving room for additional modifications, if necessary.

Work out a system that works best for you so you can easily track who has checked-in, who is running, who is at the holding blind, and who is preparing to hold. For instance, place a circle around the numbers as they are called, put a dot over the number as the dog is called to the line, and strike through the number as the dog leaves the line.

It's a good idea to announce the order as the test is running. For example, for the above test an announcement should be made after the test dog runs, "we'll have #10 in the holding blind, #9 behind the red truck, #1 and #2 getting ready!!" Then, call out "#10 to the line, #9 to the holding blind, #1 behind the red truck, and #2 and #3 get ready!!"

During the test, some handlers that missed the handler's meeting will ask the Marshal to describe the test, so be familiar with the sequence of events. These handlers can also observe the test from the gallery by watching a run or two.

Marshals are responsible for making sure winger stations are re-birded and workers are available to plant blind-birds. Usually, the breaks to re-bird are welcome, but they must be short!

Snacks will be brought to your site around mid morning, and again early afternoon for the judges and workers.



What to do during the first series

Each test will have both a land and water series. AKC tests will also include a land/water combo. The judges will determine which will be held first. At the end of each AKC series, the judges will prepare a call back list to determine who passed the previous series and qualifies to run the next series. While they are working on the list, the Marshal should be breaking down the 1st test and preparing the stake for movement to the next site; including arranging transportation for the bird boys and equipment. On HRC tests there are no call backs and all handlers are allowed to complete the next series. If things work out well, the time frame between the first and second series for both AKC and HRC would be a good time to break for lunch.

Lunches – Headquarters is usually pretty good about contacting the test sites for headcounts when lunch time rolls around. If your site is not contacted by them, call headquarters by cell phone or radio and inform them your site is ready to eat. Lunches will be brought to your site for you. If possible, all tests should take a reasonable lunch break.



What to do during the next series

AKC Test - After the judges finish scoring all the results from the previous series, they will hand their Marshal a “call back” list. By this time, anxious handlers are waiting to hear the results, and are gathered at the test site to see whether they will have the chance to run their dog(s) in the next series. Marshals will announce the call back numbers and prepare a new running order list. The sequence should be based on the original running order of the dogs. Again, Marshals may use the same guidelines for modifying the running order that applied to the previous series.

The judges will notify the Marshal when they are ready to hold the handler’s meeting for the next series; after which, the test is ready to start. Things from this point are pretty much handled the same as they were in the morning.

Once the last dog has run, the Marshal needs to instruct his/her workers to break the equipment down and where to put it. Be sure to go over the test site thoroughly to make sure all equipment is picked up and nothing is left behind. All trash and ejected shells must be picked up and properly disposed of. Check with your Head Marshal whether empty shells should be returned for re-loading. Remove any flagging tape and all directional signs. Make sure the test site is as clean as when you started, if not cleaner (the same rule hunters should follow). Make sure the workers have transportation back to the headquarters and all equipment is returned. Have your workers help unload equipment and hang the birds in drying racks at HQ and you should be done for the day! (Maybe)



The Ribbons/Points Receipts Ceremonies

The final fun fling for each day will be when the ribbons/points receipts are presented. This is usually a time of good fellowship and fun. It is considered customary and polite for the Marshal(s) to introduce themselves and the judges to the audience as it is their turn to present their awards.



Thank you!

Members of the Bryan-College Station Retriever Club truly appreciate your efforts toward improving the quality of hunting tests across our region.

Be sure to get other retriever lovers involved in local club activities to assure that our children, and grandchildren, and their retrievers will be able to continue enjoying the sport of Hunt Tests for years to come.

