

Group North America of the Verein Deutsch-Drahthaar e.V.
Director of Testing and Vice Chairman/Director of Judge Development

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TO: Performance Judges, Test Directors and Performance Judge Apprentices.

It is that time of year again; I'm sure you're busy making your preparations to begin our 2015 fall testing season. Your time and effort as Judges, Test Directors and Apprentices is greatly appreciated by all of us who own, train and test our dogs within the JGHV system. To help insure effective management of our 2015 fall testing season, we are highlighting below several items that we hope will help all of our tests run smoothly, and insure that our great dogs are evaluated consistently, according to the most current JGHV regulations.

All Performance Judges and Apprentices:

You have four sources to find the most current JGHV testing regulations and how to interpret them:

1. The most current JGHV Regulations for Association Breed Tests (VZPO) is labeled on the cover as the "3rd Edition" for 2011, but it is actually the 1st Edition approved 2011 and states this correctly on the first inside page. This edition is effective through December 31, 2016. Printed regulation booklets are available through our GNA Documents Distributor, Lona Kluck.
2. The most current JGHV Regulations for Association Utility Test and Association Test after the Shot (VGPO/VPSO) is labeled 1st Edition - 2012 and is valid through December 31, 2017. Printed copies are available through our GNA Documents Distributor, Lona Kluck.
3. The latest version of Questions and Answers on VZPO & VGPO Test Practice, as developed with Uli Augstein, Vice Chairman for JGHV (see attached) should be used to assist with interpretation of the VZPO & VGPO. Please read, and review again before you judge. There are a few new items included in red that may be new from previous versions.
4. And all judges should review the videos available on our member's webpage at *Home / Testing / Judge Information / Apprentice & Judge Information / Seminar Videos*. These seminars were presented by Uli Augstein at the 2013 VDD-GNA annual meeting, and at the 2013 Armbruster, where he provided answers and interpretations to Questions for Test Practices.

We hope you use all three of these sources as guidance on how to conduct our JGHV tests. We think Herr Augstein gave some particularly useful advice in his seminar videos, where he emphasized repeatedly that we are evaluating hunting dogs, and should always strive for applying consistent standards, but also incorporate an evaluation of dog performance as would be appropriate in hunting scenarios.

Please remember and apply these items as well when it comes to conducting our HZP & VGP tests.

- 1) The Questions and Answers are an official supplement to our VZPO & VGPO. We are aware of several instances last fall and this past spring in which VR's had yet to read or failed to reference the Q's & A's, and as a result judging outcomes were not consistent. This is not good and as a VR & RA it is your responsibility to be aware of additions to the VZPO & VGPO that are included in the Questions and Answers!

Examples; a dog in the search behind the living duck needs to be given an additional search opportunity if its first search is terminated by the catching or shooting of the duck in less than about 2mins., Q & A #6. A dog can receive an 11 in pointing under circumstances other than just moving game, Q & A #2. If birds are shot as part of the steadiness at the VGP and the dog does not find and retrieve the shot bird then it unfortunately fails, Q & A #29.

- 2) HZP dogs that eat, bury or severely pluck/crunch game cannot pass, but can continue to test. If the fault occurred during water work it may not continue the remaining water items, but can continue to test otherwise. VGP dogs must be excluded from all further testing if they eat, bury or severely pluck/crunch game. Dogs that eat, bury or severely pluck/crunch game are not excluded from the breeding program if they meet breeding requirements.
- 3) The blind retrieve for each individual dog must immediately follow gun sensitivity in both the HZP and VGP. This means do dog one in the gun sensitivity and blind retrieve, then move on to dog two, three, etc. Do not do all the dogs in the group in gun sensitivity, then all of them in blind.
- 4) In the VGP, Free search & retrieving of a freshly shot or placed bird a handler can and can support his dog during the search by hand singles and words such as "hunt close", etc. Once the dog finds the bird it must then independently retrieve it.
- 5) In the VGP there is not a field evaluation of gun sensitivity. Therefore, we do not need to check gun sensitivity in the field.
- 6) At the HZP or VGP the holding of a "treat" in the hand by a handler as the dog is returning from a retrieve is not permissible. That would be considered a training aid. Likewise, a handler should not be rustling its hand in a pocket simulating the action of getting a treat. Once a retrieve or test item is complete, and the game is out of hand and the dog is leashed then it is okay to treat the dog if so desired by the handler.
- 7) Please remember to liberate birds in as natural of a manner as possible. If this means having to purchase a few more birds for the test then that is fine.
- 8) Multiple opportunities need to be given for natural ability subjects.
- 9) Blanks/poppers should be used for field gun sensitivity, drive hunt, Ablegen & Buschieren. Two shots do not have to be fired by the handler for the Buschieren.
- 10) Handlers should carry a gun and shoot the two field gun sensitivity shots in the HZP. If it is deemed that a handler cannot do this safely, then a judge should fire the shots. The judge should be walking next to the handler and not at a distance behind the handler.
- 11) Two different searches both of the very good nature need to be done if a dog is to be awarded an 11 in search.

- 12) Pointing - don't put birds down hard unless you absolutely need to for a dog. A bird doesn't have to be seen by judges either from a flush or after dog is removed to validate the point. Some hunting sense and experience needs to be used about seeing the bird or not. If we know a bird was in the area we should be able to determine if the dog was pointing sent without actually seeing the bird every time. The handler does not need to pick up the dog or come right up next to it in order to receive an 11 (translation in VZPO is not a good one and must not be taken literally). To award an 11, some degree of difficulty or special circumstances needs to exist, the dog must also have at least one additional point scored in the "very good" predicate.

In recent years, we have heard from VDD-GNA members, judges and Chapter Test Directors that our group should work more diligently toward insuring performance test standards are applied consistently across all of our tests. We feel this is very important as well, and think these concerns are a normal byproduct resulting from the growth of our Group and periodic changes in the regulations by JGHV.

GNA has addressed these concerns by increasing and improving the quality of continuing education for our judges, and by requiring more of our judges to work outside of their local Chapter, where they can work with a new judge team to share thoughts with new partners. We believe as we mix it up, share our views, and build consensus within judge teams across the country we will greatly improve our ability to give solid, consistent evaluations of a dog's performance. To that end:

- Test Directors, as you organize your weekend of testing remember you need to have at least one Out-of-Chapter judge. If applicable, the Out-of-Chapter judge should be the senior judge. Judging teams, including out-of-chapter judges, should not be repeated from one year to the next and need to be different than last year's. On test day, all judges should jointly engage in pre-test judge conferences; and
- Make sure to conduct a Judge Team meeting prior to the start of the test, to make sure you have concurrence on test management and rules interpretation. Also insure handlers have a good understanding of how their dogs will be evaluated. These discussions at the judge team level, and the judge team / handler level should be open and complete, making sure all questions are answered, and all concerns resolved. Open judging is required throughout the test.
- Also remember that some dogs you evaluate this year may have identification chips instead of Tattoos. All dogs produced by GNA breeders will have tattoos, but dogs born elsewhere may only have the chip. So you will need a chip reader at any test where these imported dogs will be tested. Each Chapter Breed Warden has a chip reader. TD's, as your entries come in identify whether a dog was born here in North America or in Germany. Don't wait until test day to find out that you need a reader!
- All test reporting is to be done using the PAPK system. All dogs to be tested this season should already be loaded in the system, as well as all judges. Please contact Faith Wood if you wish to do a PAPK tutorial, or if you have any difficulties entering test information. PAPK will generate all necessary Formblatts for test day. Please use care when entering scores, attributes of the dogs, etc. The system will generate correct paperwork if you enter the information correctly. If you will not have internet service or a printer available at the test site, print Formblatt 5s & 7s from PAPK and bring them to the test site where you can complete them by hand upon completion of the test. You must then enter the scores and attributes of the dogs in PAPK when you return to a

location where you do have internet service. When you have completed data entry in PAPK, export the test in the system and email the GNA Director of Testing (see below if you are judging in the Atlantic or Heartland Chapters) to alert him that the reports are complete and ready for transmission to Germany. Package the original Formblatt 1s for all handlers in a Flat-Rate Priority Mail envelope and mail to the GNA Director of Testing (see below if judging in Atlantic or Heartland Chapters) within 1 week of completing your test. If you are judging in the Atlantic Chapter or Heartland Chapter, please alert Chris Jones (Atlantic Chapter Director of Testing) or Tom Whitmarsh (Heartland Chapter Director of Testing), as appropriate, that you have exported the test in PAPK and send original Formblatt 1s to Chris or Tom.

Senior Judges and Test Directors:

- No more than **two** Apprentices per judging group is allowed. Unless there is a very good reason a judging team and test director should always allow two Apprentices.
- Apprentices must have a different Sr. Judge for **each** of their minimum 6 required tests.
- Apprentices are to complete and submit their apprentice report to you **within 2 weeks** of the test date. If a report is late please make note of this in your evaluation. If the report is more than one week late, without an extension being asked for by the Apprentice you can refuse the report.
- Please **do not** sign an Apprentices Green Card until you have received and reviewed their report.
- Test reports should be well written by the Apprentice, and **must** contain details on all testing events so that the Apprentices knowledge and judgment of the dog can be easily understood
- Please give fair, accurate and detailed evaluations of GNA's Apprentices and their reports whether they are good or bad! Giving marks of "Very Good" with an evaluation of "With more experience the individual will make a good judge" or "Individual will make a good judge" does not give enough detail on the Apprentices ability, good or bad. If more room is needed for remarks, include them on a second piece of paper. **Reports should not be riddled with mistakes, but should also not be rejected because they are not fully punctuated or without any grammatical errors. They need to contain good detail and explanation of scores.**
- Please be sure to include Apprentices during data entry in PAPK.

Apprentices:

- Out of group requirement: If your apprenticeship began after January 1st, 2012 you have to apprentice at an Out of Group VJP, HZP and VGP. Apprentices registered prior to January 1st, 2012 have to apprentice at an Out of Group HZP and VGP, but can still do their 2nd VJP within a different Chapter in GNA.
- JGHV does not allow "**planted**" birds so if birds are liberated for pointing work please do not use the word "planted" in your report.
- You **must** submit your report to the Sr. Judge **within 2 weeks** of the final day of testing. A report submitted after 2 weeks can be refused; ask for an extension if needed!
- You **must** mail **2 hard copies** of your report and your **Green Card** to the Senior Judge. You must also submit a **Formblatt 54** with the following items **completed**; apprentice information, senior judge information and test information. You must also include a self-addressed stamped envelope for your green card to be mailed back to you, **and an addressed stamped envelope** for the Sr. Judge to mail a copy of your report and

evaluation to the DoJD. Be sure that you have the right amount of postage on the envelopes, and that they are the right size. These are your responsibilities, **not** the Sr. Judges!

- Take good notes as they are critical for you being able to write a good report. The quality of your report is **extremely** important! One line and vague descriptions of a dogs work is not acceptable.
- Please be sure to participate with the completion of **all** test paperwork at the end of a testing day. You will be asked to complete various test paperwork as part of your final written requirements so it is important that you know how to properly complete all test paperwork.
- In order for a dog to count towards your apprenticeship the dog must complete the entire test. They do not have to pass, but they do have to complete all phases. If they fail the last item tested then they are considered to have completed the test.

Judges, thank you very much for your time and dedication to the JGHV testing system and to Group North America of the Verein Deutsch-Drahthaar. Your work with our Apprentices is greatly appreciated! Apprentices, you have put forth a lot of time and effort to join the apprentice program and we thank you for doing so! Please continue to put forth the same time and effort as you proceed through the program.

Sincerely,

Geoff Mathews and Mark Heuer
GNA DoT, GNA Vice Chairman/DoJD
Cc: GNA Ex. Board
GNA Chapter Leadership