

Seminar Questions as Presented

by JGHV Director of Testing Uli Augstein

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I. General Questions on VJP and HZP Tests

Question 1: During a Breed Test, is it permissible, between evaluation phases, for a choke chain collar or martingale collar to be used on the dog. An example would be when the dog is walking on lead as part of the drive line when looking for hare/rabbits, or when walking on lead in the field while waiting for a field search opportunity.

Answer 1: No, it is not permissible. The test is deemed to have started when the dogs are called. As of this point in time, the use of training collars is not permitted. Whether the use of a Martingale collar with a limited choke action is permitted has to be decided on a case to case basis. If the limited choke action is delayed, the effect is the same as a regular choke collar and hence prohibited.

Question 2: Is a moving bird or game the only situation that would constitute an 11 in point?

Answer 2: The dog must show something "special" to receive 11 points in pointing. Such a special demonstration is almost always the case when game is moving. However, it is also possible for a dog with a keen nose to begin pointing at a far distance from the game and showing good manners behind game by cautiously moving towards the game. The end result is the same, meaning the dog showed something special. Difficult circumstances (very windy, hot, dry conditions, etc) can also allow a dog to show a special pointing ability.

When evaluating the subject pointing, it is not important whether the dog points 2 or 10 times, but how the dog is pointing!

Question 3: At a VJP, a dog points at the edge of a hedgerow. A rabbit flushes and runs out the other side of the cover. The dog follows through the cover, and after a brief chase, follows the scent track of the rabbit into another patch of cover. The dog is not heard to bark. The judging team records the manner of hunting as “stumm” based on this single encounter.

Was this correct?

Answer 3: In light of such a brief chase, the dog is not to be marked "stumm".

If the dog has no other opportunity to demonstrate manner of hunting, the dog is to be marked "fraglich" (questionable)".

Question 4: Dog chases a hare for a few hundred meters and no bark is heard. Should the dog be marked as "stumm" based on this single encounter?

Answer 4: The VJP is a natural ability test and the dogs under evaluation are still fairly young. A dog at this test should not be marked "stumm" (silent) unless this manner of hunting has been determined without question. When the chase is brief, the young dog often cannot demonstrate loud hunting. Most dogs will begin hunting loud when the chase lasts longer. When a young dog has not shown loud hunting, it should be given a second opportunity; then a definitive determination can be made.

Question 5: Judges observe a hare track and start a dog, but the dog only goes a few meters and will not go farther on the track.

Is it permissible to start another dog on this same track at the beginning?

Answer 5: Yes, another dog may be started on this track. It is within the judges' discretion.

Question 5 cont'd: Is it permissible to start another dog on this same track at a point past where the first dog went?

Answer: Yes, that is possible. It is within the judges' discretion.

Question 5 cont'd: If this is permissible, would the score of the second dog be Not Sufficient if it was not able to take the track forward?

Answer: No, the track is then deemed "not picked up". The performance will **not** be evaluated!!

II. Questions on HZP Tests:

Question 6: In order for a dog to receive an 11 or 12 in search behind the live duck is there a minimum amount of time the dog must search and work?

Answer 6: The search behind the live duck may not exceed 15 minutes. If the judging team thinks it has arrived at an evaluation of the dog, it can terminate the dog's work earlier. The dog **must** produce the duck to receive 12 points, **but the duck does not have to be shot**. A dead duck is thrown into the water for the dog to retrieve if the dog has searched for the duck for an adequate time and has not produced it. No FETCH command may be given by the handler at this time. **But the handler may praise his dog as long as the dog is working correctly !!**

On the other hand, a dog might be able to seize the duck in the cover and deliver correctly within 9 minutes. It is certainly possible for a dog to deliver a very good performance within such time frame. If this is the case, the dog must receive an appropriately high score.

If the dog seizes the duck immediately after being sent from the shore (≤ 2 min), the search is not to be evaluated and a fresh duck can be released for this dog. However, if a previously released duck is present on the pond a fresh duck does not have to be released. The search is then started again from the beginning (similar to a replacement drag). The dog's performance from the 1st search will not be considered for the score. Since the dog already performed a retrieve on the 1st duck, the dog does not have to perform a 2nd retrieve unless its second duck was caught or shot. Then the dog must correctly retrieve this duck as well, and a total of 4 duck retrievals will be averaged for a final duck manner of retrieve.

Question 7: An HZP dog is returning from a water retrieve with a duck in its mouth, and while still swimming a live duck flushes from cover in close proximity to the dog and swims off. The dog sees this fleeing duck, releases the duck in its mouth and chases after the live duck.

Would this dog fail the retrieve in progress, or because of extra ordinary circumstances be given another chance to complete the retrieve?

Answer 7: The dog can work the live duck. If the dog delivers a performance that can be evaluated, the appropriate score must be entered in the score sheet! After the dog has completed the work behind the live duck, it must retrieve the duck which the dog previously let go. For this subject, the handler is allowed to start his dog again.

Question 7: If this retrieve was on the blind retrieve, would you start the blind retrieve completely over?
cont'd

Answer: No; a new dead duck will not be placed. The subject "Blind Retrieve from Dense Cover" will be continued after the dog finished the work with the live duck which it encountered by chance. For the continuation of the blind retrieve, the handler is allowed to command his dog to fetch the dead duck.

If the dog catches the live duck, it must first retrieve this duck to the handler and then enter the water again to retrieve the dead duck that it previously let go. Both manner of retrievals have to be scored. The handler may send his dog again for the dead duck retrieve.

If the handler supports his dog during the blind retrieve by throwing a stone in the direction of the placed duck, the score will be lowered as long as the dog was able to see the stone hit the water. The same applies if the

handler fires a shot into the direction of the placed duck. If the dog does not see the stone or the shot hitting the water, the score will not be lowered.

Question 7: If this retrieve was on the search behind living duck would you completely redo the search behind living duck, or simply make the dog retrieve the bird it left?

Answer: The dog only has to retrieve this duck. The handler is allowed to restart his dog for the retrieve.

Question 8: What is appropriate noise and handler movement when a dog is returning with game and behaving correctly?

Answer 8: Normal hunting behavior

Question 9: Is arm and hat waiving allowed and if so to what distance?

Answer 9: Yes, the handler is allowed to address his dog as long as the dog is working correctly. In terms of distances: beginning at approximately 50 m for a 300 m drag, or for water retrieve work: as soon as the dog swims towards the handler.

Question 10: Is clapping allowed?

Answer 10: Yes, for the drags when the dog is approximately 50 m in front of the handler. For water work, as soon as the dog has seized the duck and is swimming back towards the handler. Most important is the rule that the dog must be working correctly for the handler to be allowed to address his dog.

Question 11: Is leg patting allowed?

Answer 11: Yes, for the drags when the dog is approximately 50 m in front of the handler. For water work, as soon as the dog has seized the duck and is swimming back towards the handler. Most important is the rule that the dog must be working correctly for the handler to be allowed to address his dog.

Question 12: Is calling the dog's name allowed, in close or distant proximity?

Answer 12: It depends. More important than the distance is the tone of voice.

Question 13: Is saying good boy or girl allowed?

Answer 13: YES

Question 14: At an HZP and VGP, **must or should** the person placing the duck for the blind retrieve return from that place?

Answer 14: The person must hide after placing the duck. He must be able to observe from his hiding place whether the dog seizes the duck or leaves it at the placed location.
The judge must return if it is possible to observe the dog from the starting point.

Question 14 cont'd: **Should or must** the person placing the dead duck for the blind retrieve NOT be seen on his way back by the dog to be evaluated on that placed duck?

Answer: No, the dog must not be started until the judge who placed the duck has returned.

Question 15: At the HZP, if a searching dog comes upon a live game animal, catches and eats the game is the dog failed even if the animal was not one of the 5 scored HZP retrieves?

Answer 15: Failed. Game eaters cannot pass the test.

Question 15 cont'd: If, during the field portion, the searching dog comes upon live game and catches it, is the dog required to bring this game to the handler?

Answer 15: No, but the dog may not eat, severely crunch or bury game. If the dog catches a live bird during the field search, it does not have to retrieve this bird to the handler.

When the young dog catches game during the VJP and buries, crunches or eats it, this behavior will not result in the dog being failed. This applies only to VJPs!

Question 16: How close does a dog need to return with game before dropping the game for the retrieve to be judged complete? 1 meter, 5 meters, 10 meters, 20 meters?

Answer 16: Approximately 10 m.

Question 16 cont'd: **Is there a difference between land and water?**

Answer: No, but the dog must be out of the water, meaning approximately 10 m to one side of the handler or the other on land. If the duck is dropped at the edge of the water as the dog is leaving the water, the duck must be dropped in close proximity to the shore and be within easy reach for the handler.

Question 16 cont'd: Is there a difference in allowed distances from HZP to VGP?

Answer: No

Question 17: If a dog dropped a live bird in close proximity to the handler and the dropped bird escaped, would this dog fail the retrieve?

Answer 17: The dog is not required to retrieve live game during the field work. The dog is allowed, for example, to seize and kill game during the field search. The dog is not required to bring this game to the handler. But the dog must not bury or eat such game.

Question 17: Would the dog fail the retrieve if it dropped a live duck during water work cont'd in close proximity to the handler and it escaped?

Answer: In this case, the dog does not pass because the retrieve of live ducks has already been worked during training. The correct retrieve is a fundamental requirement for water work! **And for that reason, a dog that does not correctly retrieve during either the gun sensitivity test at the water or the blind retrieve portion, may not be tested with a live duck!!**

Question 18: Dog stops on retrieve and drops the game. The dog stands over the game and no commands are given by the handler. After a short time the dog picks up the game on its own accord and successfully delivers the game to the handler.

Does this dog still pass this retrieve?

Answer 18: Yes, the dog passes, but the “manner of retrieve” score will be lowered. Most importantly, at no point may the dog leave the game!!

Question 19: At an HZP, a dog is sent on the blind retrieve. Before reaching the placed dead duck, he encounters a live duck, which escapes. The dog is evaluated in the subject of duck search, as per VZPO §14B(2)(g). He searches through the cover and works the scent trail of this duck, succeeds in producing the duck so that it may be shot, and retrieves the shot duck to the handler. After the retrieve is complete, the handler is told by the judges that his dog now needs to complete the blind retrieve, but that he may not give any command to send the dog, since one had already been given for the blind retrieve.

Was this correct?

Answer 19: **The judges were wrong.** The handler is allowed to start his dog again and support it.

Question 20: At an HZP, a dog performs in a very good manner during the duck search, diligently following the scent trail across open water and through heavy cover. He eventually follows the track up onto the opposite bank, where he disappears for several minutes. He reappears with the live duck at the edge

of the water, and after quite a bit of hesitation re-enters the water and slowly makes his way back to his handler with obvious reluctance. He circles around in the water and mouths the duck on his way back. The dog does eventually bring the duck to his handler without intervention, although once back on land the manner of retrieve continues to deteriorate, and the dog receives a score of “Sufficient” - 4 points - for this retrieve. The judges evaluate the duck search as “Good” - 7 points - because of the dog’s reluctant return to his handler with the duck, citing the fact that if the dog had failed to retrieve the duck, it would have received an “Insufficient” – 0 points – in the duck search as well as manner of retrieve. The predicates for Cooperation and Obedience are also lowered, despite a very good performance in the field.

Is it appropriate to take into account Manner of Retrieve while scoring Duck Search, Cooperation and Obedience?

Answer 20: The judges evaluated the manner of retrieve correctly!

If the dog performs with at least sufficient (3 points) in the manner of the duck retrieve, then the subject “search behind live duck” must be scored separately from the retrieve and from cooperation and obedience. In the case at hand, the dog’s performance was weak in the retrieve of the seized duck, yet the dog scored 4 points for the performance; the score for the natural ability subject “search behind live duck” may not be lowered based on the dog’s weakness in the retrieve.

The dog already receives a lesser score with its retrieve performance being evaluated only “sufficient”. The retrieve performance has no influence on cooperation and obedience.

The final score in “Manner of Retrieve” is made up of three (3) retrieve performances. As an example, these are:

Furred game drag (hare/rabbit) 10 points

Feathered game drag 10 points

Water retrieves

- Gun sensitivity test 10 points
- Blind retrieve 10 points
- Search behind live duck retrieve 4 points

Subtotal water retrieves 24 points

The average score of the water retrieves is therefore 24 points divided by 3 = 8 points.

The total balance of the 3 manner of retrieves (2 drags and 1 water average) is **28 points** divided by **3 = 9.33 points**.

Hence, the overall score for the manner of retrieve for this dog is **9 points**.

Question 21: During the feathered game drag at an HZP, a dog returns happily and willingly to his handler with the game. The handler holds his hand close to this chest with his index finger pointing upward as the dog approaches, and then gives a soft command to sit. The delivery is completed flawlessly. The judges score the manner of retrieve as “Good” – 8 points – and tell the handler that the hand signal used with the spoken “Sit” counted as two separate commands and therefore lowered the predicate.

Was this correct?

Answer 21: The judges were wrong!! The handler is allowed to act in precisely the described manner. The judges should advise the handlers before the drags begin of what exactly they are allowed to do.

Question 22: At an HZP, the dog returned from a hare drag, happily and willingly, and sat with just one not loud command (“Hold”), and sat less than one step behind the handler, facing away from the handler. The dog was scored 9 in Manner of Retrieve of the Hare, with the judges explaining that using the command “Hold” showed a lack of confidence in the dog and in not facing the handler the dog was avoiding the handler.

Was this lowering of the score to a 9 correct for the above reasons?

Answer 22: Lowering the score was correct. However, before each test subject begins, the judges should advise the handlers of what is expected of the dog and what assistance the handlers are allowed to give their dogs. The judges should, in particular, explain to the handlers that they are allowed to praise their dogs as long as they are working correctly (distance at which handler may talk to dog is approximately 30 m for the drags).

Question 23: At an HZP, how many times can a handler give a command to send his dog into the water after the duck is thrown into the water at the gun sensitivity portion of the test?

Answer 23: The handler can command his dog to fetch. After the command, the dog has approximately one minute to enter the water. The dog must retrieve independently each and every duck that it observes being thrown. Minimal handler support within the one minute from the command is okay (such as pointing towards the duck or encouraging words).

Question 23 cont’d: Can a handler throw a rock or another object into the water if the dog isn’t entering the water?

Answer: No; the dog saw the duck being thrown. What more stimulation could there be? Throwing a stone is not considered minimal support!

Question 23 cont'd: Can the handler enter the water and then give the dog commands to enter the water?

Answer: No; the hunter remains on land.

Question 24: At the gun sensitivity portion of the HZP, the dog has entered the water & is swimming towards the duck and the shot is fired into the water. The dog first swims past the duck to the shot blast on the water to investigate the disturbance and then swims back and picks up the duck and completes the delivery to the handler.

Is this dog failed for swimming past the duck to the shot blast and then returning to the duck to make the delivery?

Answer 24: As long as the handler does not interfere, the dog passes the test.

Question 24 cont'd: Can the handler say anything to the dog as it approaches the duck, or if it swims past the duck?

Answer: While the dog is swimming towards the duck, the handler must remain absolutely quiet. Not until the dog has seized the duck and is swimming back towards the handler, may the handler praise his dog, as long as the dog is still working correctly.

Question 24 cont'd: Is there any difference as to what the handler can do between the HZP and VGP?

Answer: There is no difference in handler behavior towards his dog.

III. Questions on VGP Tests

Question 25: How fast can a dog work a blood track and still be eligible to receive a score of 4?

Answer 25: Handler and judges must be able to keep up with the dog by following behind in a calm manner. Dogs that are tracking too fast cannot receive very good.

Question 25 cont'd: Must the handler still be moving at a walking pace?

Answer: No, walking pace is not mandatory. However, the dog should work the track with concentration and confidence. This is especially evident in how quickly the dog adapts to a change in direction.

Question 25 cont'd: Is the dog working too fast to receive a 4 if the handler and judges are having a hard time keeping up with the dog?

Answer: Yes, it lowers the predicate.

Question 26: At the VGP the dog is entered as a Bringselverweiser and has successfully completed the off lead blood tracking portion and led the handler to the carcass. Does this dog afterwards still have to be tested in Behavior at the Carcass?

Answer 26: No, the dog is not tested in behavior at the carcass. As dead game guides and bayers, the dogs are at the carcass without supervision and could eat the game.

Question 27: During a VGP a dog is tested in the subject heeling on lead through the forest. The dog performs very well and is scored as Very Good. But during the rest of the test the dog constantly pulls on the leash, even pulling the handler into the water at the blind retrieve and again at the search behind the duck.

When finalizing the scores, one of the judges thinks the heeling on lead score should be lowered to reflect overall heeling performance for the entire test. The other two judges say the subject heeling on lead was finished in the forest, and that the remainder of the work should be scored as General Behavior - Obedience.

Should the score be lowered for Heeling on Lead, or for General Obedience, or for both subjects (which seems like “double jeopardy”)?

Answer 27: Heeling on lead is to be observed over the entire test. The predicate for General Obedience is not lowered – the dog must not be subject to double jeopardy.

Question 28: At a VGP, the dog returned from a hare drag, happily and willingly, and sat with one, not loud command (“Hold”), slightly behind (so close the handler did not turn feet) facing the same direction as the line on which it had returned. The dog was scored 3 in Retrieve from Hare Drag, with the judges explaining that in VGP the dog is expected to deliver facing the handler.

Was this lowering of the score to a 3 correct for the above reasons?

Answer 28: It is within the judges’ discretion. However, before each test subject begins, the judges should advise the handlers of what is expected of the dog and what assistance the handlers are allowed to give their dogs. The judges should, in particular, explain to the handlers that they are allowed to praise their dogs as long as they are working correctly (distance at which handler may talk to dog is approximately 30 m for the drags).

Question 29: Is it mandatory to shoot and kill birds during steadiness portion of the test?

Answer 29: No, it is not mandatory; a shot fired in the air is sufficient. For the purpose of evaluating the dog's steadiness to the shot, the dog can be tested on furred game which is running off – if feathered game is not available. **If a bird is shot, the dog must find and retrieve it. If the dog does not find the game or does not retrieve it, it cannot pass the test.**

Question 30: If birds are shot and killed during the steadiness portion, does the dog have to be steady to the fall of the bird and does the handler have to command his dog to retrieve the bird after the dog saw the fall?

Answer 30: The dog may not chase when the shot is fired. If the dog starts to chase and the handler gives a correction, the predicate will be lowered (in the test with birds). A dog that runs off chasing – with or without handler correction – receives 0 points.

Examples: If the dog chases, meaning runs off, 0 points;

If the dog does not chase and the handler does not have to interfere, 4 points.

If the dog does not chase, but the handler interfered once, 3 points.

If the dog does not chase, but the handler interfered twice, 2 points; and so forth.

The handler may send his dog to retrieve after the dog has demonstrated steadiness.

Question 31: If birds are going to be shot and killed in the field portion of any test must it be advertised as such?

Answer 31: Yes, it must be announced. And each handler must be given the opportunity to shoot feathered game if such game is present.

Question 32: While working a blood track, if the handler is called back by the judges, is he taken back to the place he left the track, or to the last place he marked blood, even if that was 200 or 300 meters back on the track?

What if he hasn't marked any blood, where is he taken back to?

Answer 32: When it is **the judges who** call back handler and dog, then the judges have to show the handler the spot where he and his dog went off the track. (lowers the predicate)

When it is the handler himself who casts back, then the judges **must** take the handler back to the place where the handler last called blood or wound bed. The handler can mark the spots with a handkerchief at the time that he there calls blood. This way, he will be able to find the spot again quickly.

As long as the judges have the impression that the handler is confident, the predicate is not lowered. If the handler casts back several times and does not appear confident, the predicate can be lowered. The judges may go as far as terminating the blood tracking work early if they have the impression that handler and dog do not meet the requirements of blood tracking!

As a rule: A dog that shows little confidence in tracking, tracks too fast or without concentration **is not** to be scored “very good”.