



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

# **Rules for the Conduct of Endurance Test**

**(Effective from 1 January 2024)**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Ltd 1996**

**[formerly ANKC Regulations Part 12]**

**Revised**

**1999**

**2008**

**2009**

**2018**

**2023**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Limited**

(Australian National Kennel Council Ltd trading as Dogs Australia)

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## **DISCLAIMER**

Dogs Australia does not accept any liability for death or injury to any dog or handler for whatever circumstances may arise from this event and entering the test is the total responsibility of the handler or owner.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Where referred to in the rules the words Canine Control shall mean the Controlling Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

These rules are binding on Member Bodies of Dogs Australia.

Interpretation of these rules should not be necessary, however should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification, application must be made by the Canine Control to the appropriate Committee of Dogs Australia, whose decision shall be binding.

## **DECISIONS**

- a) Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting a trial shall be subject to appeal to the Canine Control in the State or Territory in which the Trial is conducted.
- b) The Rules of the Canine Control shall apply to all Endurance Tests and to any Affiliate conducting an Endurance Test and in the event of any inconsistency, the Rules of the Canine Control shall prevail.
- c) Anyone taking part in a Test that openly impugns the actions or decisions of the judge shall render himself liable to be debarred from further participation in the Test and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Canine Control.

## **OBJECT**

The Endurance Test shall demonstrate the dog's ability to work after being subject to a certain degree of physical strain without showing signs of undue stress or lack of constitution.

Due to the dog's physical structure, such a test can only consist of a dog travelling at a suitable pace for a performance of some lengthy duration, which, it is known places an increasing load not only on its internal organs, such as the heart and lungs, but on many other aspects of the dog's physical structure and temperamental characteristics.

The effortless accomplishment of such a test shall be the evidence as to the physical fitness of the dog.

## **GENERAL SAFETY**

Safety of the competitors, their dogs and officials is paramount, therefore the following points must be observed at all times. When working and conducting an Endurance Test, high visibility clothing and head light (if dark) must be worn by competitors, stewards, judges and any officials. A FIRST AID KIT must be available and may be carried by a steward or appointed official.

Communication between home base, lead bike rider (or steward) and judge should be organised by the Affiliate conducting the test. They must be able to make contact with the judge via a communication device e.g. phone or walkie talkie.

A safety steward at the judge's direction may position themselves with the lead competitor and at the end of the competitors within the vicinity of the group.

The responsibility of the safety steward is to alert the judge or officials of any impending hazards, e.g. vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians, accidents or incidents so that, if required, evasive action can be taken.

Additional safety stewards may be appointed at the judge's discretion.

The end of the group may be followed by a vehicle, which may be made available in case of accidents or incidents.

Where a test is conducted on a public road then this must be in accordance with relevant Federal, State and/or Territory laws. Local police should be informed.

Where a test is conducted in an urban area, the adjacent residents and local police should be advised prior to the event that a sanctioned event will be conducted.

Any incidents that may arise during a test, including accidents, near accidents, interaction between competitor/and/or dog/s and the public, should be reported as per incident reporting procedure for the relevant Member Body.

All high visibility clothing and helmets used in the test must comply with Australian Safety Standards.

## **TITLE**

- (1) To qualify for the title of Endurance Test ("ET") the dog must have passed the endurance test held by an affiliate of the Member Bodies of the A.N.K.C., subject to the approval of the State or Territory canine controlling body (hereafter called the "Control"). Upon application to the Control and production of the qualifying certificate and prescribed fee, the letters "ET" will become part of the registered name of the dog.
- (2) After qualifying for the "ET" title, it is deemed to be a domestic matter whether or not dogs with a title are allowed to continue to compete.
- (3) The judge's sheet must be completed, signed and sent to the Control within seven (7) days of the test.
- (4) A qualifying certificate from the Affiliate holding the test shall be presented for each dog passing the test, signed and dated by the officiating judge on the day.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- (1) The dog must wear a fixed collar or suitable harness. No neck chains, slip collars, spiked collars, muzzles or head control collars shall be permitted.
- (2) The leash must be long enough to be held in either hand so that the dog may adjust itself to the cyclist or runner. The dog shall travel at a suitable pace on the leash on the left hand side of the handler or bicycle.
- (3) The handler may jog the distance, ride a push bicycle or tricycle or one powered by battery, provided the required speed is maintained. Use of any other motorised mechanical vehicle will not be permitted unless pre approved by the Judge. The handler when riding must wear enclosed shoes and a helmet. The springer device for attachment to a bicycle is not permitted
- (4) No protective clothing shall be worn by the dog.

## THE TEST

- (1) There shall be four (4) veterinary checks - before starting the Willingness test then after the completion of each leg. All exhibits shall be examined by the veterinary surgeon and/or veterinary team, covering such things as the general fitness, temperature, standing heart rate, condition of the pads. (Each bitch must be examined at the first check to ensure that she is not in season).

The temperatures and all examinations of the dog will be taken by the veterinary team at the trial with the equipment provided by the Veterinary team or the Affiliate at the direction of the Veterinary Team.

- (2) Prior to the commencement of the 20 km run, a short Willingness test will be conducted (to include a recall) on or off the lead. At the completion of the run and after the final 15 mins rest period, a short Willingness test will be conducted (to include a recall) on or off the lead.
- (3) The test shall be a 20 km run to be covered in three legs 8 kms, 6 kms, and 6 kms,
- (4) At completion of each leg there shall be a rest period of 15mins, 20 mins, 15 mins.
- (5) Handlers shall wear a catalogue number and proceed in single file, in numerical order, following the pacemaker. The dog is permitted to pull slightly but continued lagging may incur disqualification. Handlers are only permitted to handle one dog at any one time.
- (6) The distance is to be completed in 2 hours and 35 minutes, including the two intermediate breaks, but excluding the final rest period ie. the test is to be conducted at an average of 10 kms per hour.
- (7) Dogs reluctant to go with handlers are to be disqualified.
- (8) Dogs may stop to relieve themselves but handlers and dogs must make up the test time and regain their position in the line. Handlers must carry implements for cleaning up after dogs and must clean up before returning to the test.
- (9) After the first 8 kms, there shall be a rest period of 15 mins, during which time the veterinary team, veterinary surgeon and/or judge shall examine all exhibits. Two or more officials are normally required to assist with the taking of temperatures, looking at pads and recording thereof.
- (10) Dogs showing any undue stress, badly worn pads or a high temperature or any bitch that has come into season prior to the continuation of the test, shall be eliminated by the judge and/or veterinary surgeon.

The judge to consult with the veterinary surgeon if the dog registers a high temperature only and is not showing any signs of distress, as to whether the dog continues the test.

- (11) After a further distance of 6 kms a rest period of 20 mins shall be taken during which time the same procedure as in (9) above shall be carried out.
- (12) After the final 6 kms there shall be a further rest period of 15 mins. During this period dogs shall be allowed to move about freely or relax.
- (13) At the end of the final rest period the fourth veterinary check shall be undertaken. No extra time is to be given if the dog fails to meet the test criteria.
- (14) After this final veterinary check the Willingness test will be conducted.
- (15) A certificate will be issued for each qualifying dog.
- (16) A dog will have failed the test if it:
  - (a) lacks physical condition, or
  - (b) shows signs of undue stress or tiredness, or
  - (c) fails to complete the distance within the allotted time, or
  - (d) requires artificial means to reduce its body temperature, or
  - (e) fails to complete the Willingness exercises.

- (17) A dog which fails an Endurance Test may compete within the rules at a later date.
- (18) Reprimands shall not under any circumstances be used during the period. A reprimand means either verbal or physical.
- (19) The Control, Affiliate, handlers and judges should comply with all relevant requirements governing the use of "public roads prior to or during the test."
- (20) There will only be only one Handler for each dog at any time during the Test. Handlers may be changed for each dog at any stage during the Tests at the discretion of the Judge, including the Willingness Test.

## **INSPECTION**

- (1) A veterinary certificate, issued within fourteen (14) days immediately prior to the date of the test, must be submitted for each dog on the day. It shall cover such things as the general fitness, temperature, standing heart rate, condition of the pads and muscle tone of the dog. (For bitches the certificate is to state also that the bitch is not in whelp).
- (2) A veterinary team shall be appointed to each vetting station to undertake the veterinary examination of the exhibits. A veterinary surgeon must be in attendance to supervise.
- (3) All dogs and bitches are to be examined by the veterinary team, veterinary surgeon and/or judge, prior to the commencement of the test (before the Willingness test) and after the completion of each leg and may be excluded from taking part at any stage, if in their opinion, they are considered to be unfit - the decision of the judge and veterinary surgeon is final.
- (4) Bitches in season or in whelp are not permitted to participate.

## **EXHIBITS**

- (1) The Endurance Test shall be open to all dogs eligible for inclusion in the Register of the Control in which the event is conducted.
- (2) The test is open to dogs aged between two (2) and under eight (8) years but must not have reached the birth date of eight.

## **JUDGING**

- (1) Judges must be licensed with the Control in their respective State or Territory to judge Endurance Tests.
- (2) The judge shall judge no more than twenty (20) dogs and must travel with the dogs, ensuring that they can observe all dogs and competitors closely at all times.  
The judge must travel either walking, bike riding, jogging, or using any battery powered bicycle or tricycle.

## **TERRAIN**

The test shall be carried out over three varying surfaces such as bitumen, unsealed roads, dirt tracks, grass etc, such that the total distance of the course shall be twenty (20 kms).

## **GUIDE TO JUDGES**

- (1) The Willingness test is to be conducted in groups of approximately four (4). The test is to consist of heeling forward a short distance, followed by a right about turn and continued heeling for a short distance before coming to a halt. It is not necessary for the dog to sit. The dog must show a willingness to remain with and obey the handler. The heeling is to be followed by a short recall, on or off the lead. The judge shall keep in mind that this is a test of the dog's willingness to work and to obey the handler, not an obedience test. The standard of the work after the 20 kms must be similar to that before the start of the test. If the dog works on or off the lead for the Willingness test prior to the 20 kms, it is to be the same for the second Willingness test.
- (2) The judge shall be guided by the veterinary surgeon's opinion of the fitness of any dog to commence or continue the 20 km test. The judge's decision shall be final.
- (3) During the 20 km test, the judge shall follow the group over a clearly defined course.
- (4) The dog is permitted to pull slightly but continued lagging will incur disqualification.
- (5) The judge shall mark 'pass' or 'fail' only for each entrant and his/her decision is final.
- (6) The Canine Control may modify these rules to the extent necessary to permit disabled persons to compete, provided that they can negotiate the exercises unassisted.

## **REMOVAL OF A DOG**

The judge must order the removal and disqualification from all trial competition on the day, of any dog that attacks, and must lodge a report with the Canine Control. The judge may order the removal from competition any dog which does not obey its handler, who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor's dog, or whose behaviour is objectionable, and must exclude from competition any dog which the judge considers unfit to compete.

## **GENERAL RULES**

- (1) The test is to be conducted by an Affiliate or a Control only, providing the Affiliate has approval of the Control.
- (2) The time of the year for the conducting of the test is to be deemed a domestic matter for determination by the Control in which the test is to be conducted.
- (3) The date of the proposed test is to be submitted to the Control at least sixty (60) days prior to the conduct of the test.
- (4) Entries are to be completed on official entry forms.
- (5) The date set for the closure of entry shall be a domestic matter determined by the Control in which the test is to be conducted.
- (6) All officials, except veterinary surgeons and veterinary teams, must be financial members of a controlling body.
- (7) If the climatic temperature reaches 24°C. the test is to be cancelled, regardless of what stage the test has reached.