**DOGS QUEENSLAND**

**TRICK DOG TEST RULES SUBMISSIONS**

**NEW RULE**

Throughout the rule book there are many instances of the wording Trick Dog tests. This should be Trick Dog Tests (a capital ‘T’ for tests) as that is the actual name of the discipline.

**RATIONALE**

Editorial change.

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

**NEW RULE**

“Stance”: Stance means the dog in a ‘sit’, ‘stand’, or ‘down’. Unless specified it will be handler’s choice.”

“Location”: Where the handler/dog will be in relation to each other and/or in relation to a piece of equipment.

**RATIONALE**

Throughout the descriptions of the tricks the word ‘stance’ and ‘position’ (and occasionally ‘location’) has been used. This has caused much confusion as the word ‘position’ has a different meaning in other dog sport disciplines as opposed to the meaning in tricks. Therefore, it is proposed that the word ‘position’ be changed to ‘location’ and these two definitions be added to 1.0 DEFINITIONS.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES:**

The word ‘position’ will need to be changed to ‘location’ in Tricks:

S.15, N.13, N,18, N.19, I.2, I.18, A.1, A.2, A.4, A.7, A.13, A.14, A.19, A.20, A.22, A.23.

The word ‘position’ removed in Tricks:

N.6, N.10, N.14, N.16, N.17, I.12.

**NEW RULE – 3.0 TRICK DOG TESTS**

That the Title of ‘Trick Dog Champion’ be introduced. To gain the title of Trick Dog Champion (TK. CH) the dog, once it has achieved a Trick Dog Advanced title, must gain a further ten (10) qualifying scores of ninety (90) or above in the Advanced Class. These ten (10) qualifying scores must be gained under at least three (3) different judges.

**RATIONALE**

Dogs Qld proposes that the title of ‘Trick Dog Champion’ be added. This title be added in a similar format to that of Rally Champion and require additional qualifications, under a minimum of three (3) judges, with a higher score requirement.

Whilst some may feel the sport is too new for Trick Champion to be added we believe if we follow successful criteria set in other sports as a guide we will be creating a sound structure. We also believe that it would be a shame to see those dogs that have been ambassadors and leaders in our sport, providing inspiration and guidance to those just beginning their trick journey, unable to attain such a title given the next review would be in five years’ time. We think the success of the sport would be enhanced with the additional challenge rather than losing those competitors who choose to pursue other sports due to the lack of the ability to obtain a champion title in our sport.

Given the commitment and devotion to the sport that it would take, along with demonstrating a higher level of teamwork and skill, to achieve the proposed Champion title we believe the criteria outlined above would provide a sufficient requirement of combinations to earn the distinction of Trick Dog Champion.

We believe adding Trick Champion is the logical next step in the growth of our fantastic sport.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES**

**3.0 TRICK DOG TESTS**

The scheduling of any Trick Dog test shall be subject to the approval of the relevant member body. An Affiliate conducting a Trick Dog test shall offer all of the titling classes listed in section 3.1 below.

**3.1 Titling Classes**

The following titling classes are available in Trick Dog tests.

(a) **TRICK DOG STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.

1. **TRICK DOG NOVICE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Starter’

(TK.S.).

1. **TRICK DOG INTERMEDIATE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Novice’ (TK.N.).
2. **TRICK DOG ADVANCED**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Intermediate’ (TK.I.).

(e) **TRICK DOG CHAMPION:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Advanced’ (TK.A.).

**4.0 TITLES**

**4.1 Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must, at the one test -

1. gain a score of at least five (5) points out of ten (10) points on the number of tricks for which qualifying scores are required at the relevant level; and
2. achieve the minimum total score;

as set out in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** |
| Number of tricks for which qualifying score must be achieved | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Minimum total score | 45 | 60 | 65 | 85 | 90 |

**4.2 Trick Dog titles**

4.2.1All dogs eligible to be entered in a Trick Dog test in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.

4.2.2The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

1. ‘TK.S’ signifying Trick Dog Starter in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Starter class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

(b) ‘TK.N’ signifying Trick Dog Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

(c) ‘TK.I’ signifying Trick Dog Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of six (6) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

(d) ‘TK.A’ signifying Trick Dog Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, under at least three (3) different Judges.

(e) ‘TK.CH’ signifying Trick Dog Champion in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of ten (10) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class, under at least three (3) different Judges.

4.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Trick Dog title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** |
| **Title** | TK.S | TK.N | TK.I | TK.A | TK.CH |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| **Minimum number of Judges** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

**OLD RULE**

**3.2 Progression through titling classes**

3.2.1 A dog shall not be entered for any class without previously having qualified, and an application having been lodged, for the title at the level of the previous class.

3.2.2 A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for any title other than Trick Dog Advanced (TK.A) shall not be eligible to compete in any further class at that level except in a test for which entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was gained.

3.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division.

**NEW RULE**

**3.2 Progression through titling classes**

3.2.1 A dog shall not be entered for any class without previously having qualified, and an application having been lodged, for the title at the level of the previous class.

3.2.2 A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for any title other than Trick Dog Intermediate (TK.I) or Trick Dog Advanced (TK.A) shall not be eligible to compete in any further class at that level except in a test for which entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was gained. A dog may only enter in a single class at one Test.

3.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division.

**RATIONALE**

To accommodate dogs of all types and abilities it is felt that enabling dogs to continue to compete in

either Intermediate or Advanced gives more opportunities in the sport.

**OLD RULE**

**4.2 Trick Dog titles**

4.2.2The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

(d) ‘TK.A’ signifying Trick Dog Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in the

Advanced class in the relevant division, under at least three (3) different Judges.

**NEW RULE**

**4.2 Trick Dog titles**

4.2.2The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

(d) ‘TK.A’ signifying Trick Dog Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class ~~in the relevant division~~, under at least three (3) different Judges.

**RATIONALE**

Extra wording that does not apply to Tricks. Missed when the DWD Rule Book was adapted for Tricks.

**OLD RULE**

**5.0 RINGS**

5.1 Except with the approval of the relevant member body, the ring shall be a minimum of 10 metres by 10 metres or an area of 100 sq. metres. Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.

**NEW RULE**

**5.0 RINGS**

5.1 Except with the approval of the relevant member body, the ring shall be a minimum of 12 metres by 12 metres or an area of 144 sq. metres. Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.

Rationale:

The present size of 10m x 10m has shown to be too small for the amount of equipment or distances which can be required to perform the selected tricks. This especially applies to the higher classes of Intermediate and Advanced. Not only does the ring become very cluttered and confusing for the dog, but the equipment can cause trip hazards for both the handler and the judge. In the event of this submission failing there is an alternative submission under 9.4 EQUIPMENT – 9.4.3.

**OLD RULE**

**6.3 Handler attire and trick selection/nomination**

Handlers should wearsome type of appropriate[[1]](#footnote-1) footwear that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.

**NEW RULE**

**6.3 Handler attire ~~and trick selection/nomination~~**

Handlers should wearsome type of appropriate[[2]](#footnote-2) footwear that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.

**RATIONALE**

There is only comment on Handler attire in this. Trick selection/nomination is covered under 9.3.

**NEW RULE**

**6.5 Welfare of Dogs**

**6.5.4 New Addition as part of 6.5**

Listed below are those areas of which the handler must be aware when doing a Trick Dog Test. Where any of these areas are not adhered to the Judge will order the Handler to cease the trick (no retry permitted).

1. Health and safety of the dog. When choosing their tricks, the Handler has considered the capabilities of the dog and does not demand of it anything that would cause it harm or discomfort. The dog is physically and mentally able to easily perform all the tricks asked. The Handler has taken into consideration the surface of the ring and the speed of the dog when choosing their tricks. The dog must appear stable and in control of its body when performing any tricks. In the case of injury; if the dog is injured during the routine, the Judge can stop the runout.
2. Equipment is stable and without any obvious danger so that the tricks can be performed safely.
3. The dog does not show sign of excessive stress or significant signs of physical exertion. It is important that the Judge be able to differentiate between when the dog is over-excited and happy from when the dog is over-excited and stressed and begins to struggle in their confident performance.
4. Partnership. If the dog struggles in anyway during the tricks, the Handler must offer support without delay. Companionship is reflected in the atmosphere of the team working together; there is nothing harsh or forceful about the handling; and the team displays mutual respect towards one another.

Rationale:

In today’s world the general public perception of any dog sport is paramount to the continuing acceptance and high regard of our activities. To encompass such rules as above will help in assuring that our sport is accepted as being both responsible and respectful of our dogs. Similar rules are already in the FCI Dog Dancing Rules.

**OLD RULE**

* 1. **Selection of tricks**

9.3.1 A handler may select tricks from those set out in Appendix A for the relevant class level.

* + 1. Subject to Rule 9.3.3, at every level, the team will perform each nominated trick once only.
    2. At the Starter and Novice level, the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

**NEW RULE**

* 1. **Selection of tricks**

9.3.1 A handler may select tricks from those set out in Appendix A for the relevant class level. The order in which the Handler does the tricks may be determined by the Handler and must be clearly marked on the Judge’s Mark sheet prior to their entry into the ring.

**RATIONALE**

Giving Handlers the opportunity to order their tricks has been tested in many states since the

introduction of Trick Dog Tests and has proved very successful. It gives Handlers the facility to order

tricks so that they flow in a natural manner in regards to each dog’s abilities.

**NEW RULE**

* 1. **Selection of tricks**

9.3.1 A handler may select tricks from those set out in Appendix A for the relevant class level.

* + 1. Subject to Rule 9.3.3, at every level, the team will perform each nominated trick once only.
    2. At ~~the Starter and Novice~~ all levels, the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

**RATIONALE**

As the complexity and difficulty of tricks rises through the levels and to qualify, the team must score at least 50% in every trick, it is considered to have the ability to re-try a trick once right throughout the levels is a fairer option for all.

**Consequential Change:**

**11.3 Penalties**

11.3.4 Undertaking a retry ~~in Starter or Novice class~~ shall incur a penalty of 2 points. If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non-qualifying score.

**APPENDIX 3 - GUIDE TO SET UP AND PERFORMING TRICK DOG TESTS**

1. **Retry**
   1. In ~~Starter and Novice~~ all classes, up to one retry is allowed in the entire test.

**OLD RULE**

**9.4 EQUIPMENT**

9.4.3 Any equipment required by the handler must be placed in the ring before commencement of the test. The handler is responsible for the security of their dog while setting up and/or removing equipment from the ring.

**NEW RULE**

**9.4 EQUIPMENT**

9.4.3 Any equipment required by the handler must be brought into the ring prior to the commencement of the test. Handheld equipment will be placed on the table, larger items will be set in place. At the completion of the trick handheld equipment will be replaced on the table. Larger equipment which has altered in placement during the performance of the trick may be either left in place or moved out of the way. The handler is responsible for the security of their dog whilst setting up, relocating, and/or removing equipment from the ring.

Rationale:

The 10m x 10m ring has proved to become very cluttered when equipment is moved during the performance of a trick e.g. carpet unrolled, objects pushed or pulled a required distance. Not only can it cause hazards for the dog performing further tricks but also for the handler and the judge as they navigate around the ring. Objects which have been moved or altered should be able to be relocated to the edge of the ring or returned to the table if they are likely to cause possible hazards.

**OLD RULE**

10.4 **Cues and encouragement**

10.4.1 Verbal cues and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and shall not be penalised at any level.

**NEW RULE**

10.4 **Cues and encouragement**

10.4.1 ~~Verbal cues~~ Praise and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and shall not be penalised at any level.

**RATIONALE**

Verbal cues are dealt with under 10.4.3. With having Verbal cues mention in 10.4.1 where it talks

about not being penalised at any level and then talking about repeated verbal cues in 10.4.3

being penalised is confusing for handlers.

**OLD RULE**

**10.5 Rewards**

10.5.1 Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station in Starter and Novice class following completion of a trick.

10.5.1.1 Any food must be in a sealed container.

10.5.1.2 Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use.

10.5.2 There will be one (1) reward station in each of Starter and Novice classes.

10.5.4 The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of 6 visits to the reward station in Starters class and a maximum of 8 visits in Novice Class. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly.

10.5.5 A handler may use one type of reward only for any trick, but may use a food reward for some tricks and a toy reward for other tricks.

**NEW RULE**

**10.5 Rewards**

10.5.1 Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station in ~~Starter and Novice class~~ all classes following completion of a trick.

10.5.1.1 Any food must be in a sealed container.

10.5.1.2 Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use.

10.5.2 There will be only one (1) reward station ~~in each of Starter and Novice~~ in all classes.

10.5.4 The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of 6 visits to the reward station in Starters class, maximum of 8 visits in Novice Class, maximum of 4 visits in Intermediate and Advanced class. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly.

**RATIONALE**

In keeping with the rationale behind the introduction of Trick Dog Test and with the developments in

other disciplines it is both feasible and encouraging to provide the possibility of rewards in all classes.

**OLD RULE**

10.5.5 A handler may use one type of reward only for any trick, but may use a food reward for some tricks and a toy reward for other tricks.

**NEW RULE**

10.5.5 A handler may use one type of reward only for any trick, but may use a food reward for some tricks and a toy reward for other tricks. No item used as an object utilised for a trick may also be used as a reward for that or any other trick.

**RATIONALE**

If an object is used as the equipment for a trick it should not then be used as a reward. E.g. tug toy

used for Stationary Hold then used as a reward in a tug game at the reward table. Rewards are to be

placed on the reward table before commencement of the runout and must remain within that one

metre of the reward table.

**OLD RULE**

**11.3 Penalties**

11.3.1 The penalties referred to in this rule relate to a deduction from the total score

awarded by the Judge.

**OLD RULE**

**11.3 Penalties**

~~11.3.1 The penalties referred to in this rule relate to a deduction from the total score~~

~~awarded by the Judge.~~

**RATIONALE**

This is not correct as some of the penalties listed do relate to individual trick scores.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE**:

Subsequent rules in 11.3 to be renumbered.

**OLD RULE**

**11.3 Penalties**

11.3.2 Barking may incur a penalty of up to four (4) points. Continuous barking shall result in disqualification. Barking which is cued and is obviously part of a trick shall incur no penalty.

**NEW RULE**

**11.3 Penalties**

11.3.2 Barking may incur a penalty of up to four (4) points per trick. Continuous barking shall result in disqualification. Barking which is cued and is obviously part of a trick shall incur no penalty.

**RATIONALE**

It is not currently clear whether the penalty of up to 4 points applies per occurrence, per trick or as a single deduction across the entire test runout. If it were per occurrence, it could be interpreted as each individual bark which could be overly severe. If it were only 4 points across the entire runout, it would be insufficient, compared with a dog that barks continuously, incurring disqualification. It is suggested that up to a 4 point deduction per trick would clearly indicate that the behaviour is unacceptable, while providing a contrast with a dog that truly does bark non-stop throughout the entire test. It would also provide greater consistency with Rule 11.3.8 which provides for a penalty of up to 4 points for each occurrence of the dog disconnecting from the handler.

**OLD RULE**

**11.3 Penalties**

11.3.4 Undertaking a retry in Starter or Novice class shall incur a penalty of 2 points. If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non-qualifying score.

**NEW RULE**

**11.3 Penalties**

11.3.4 Undertaking a retry in Starter or Novice class shall incur a penalty of 2 points. If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non-qualifying score. The penalty (-2 points) is shown under deductions for the total test, not for the individual trick.

**RATIONALE**

The intent is that while there is a penalty for doing a re-try, that penalty should not influence the individual score for that trick. Scoring for the trick should reflect the work demonstrated for that trick.

**OLD RULE**

**11.3 PENALTIES**

11.3.8 Failure to comply with a direction from the Judge in relation to the use of rewards or to move on to the next trick will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.

**NEW RULE**

11.3.~~8~~9 Failure to comply with a direction from the Judge in relation to the use of rewards or to move on to the next trick will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.

**RATIONALE**

To correct numbering error. There are two 11.3.8.

**OLD RULE**

**11.4 DISQUALIFICATION**

(f) (i) using a real or replica weapon5 of any kind;

(ii) using any piece of equipment in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, or other violence or aggression;

**NEW RULE**

(~~f~~) ~~(i) using a real or replica weapon of any kind;~~

~~(ii)~~  (f) using any piece of equipment or any part of the handler’s body in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, or other violence or aggression.

**Rationale:** Clarification and simplification on what is acceptable. In today’s Society perception of any type of ‘harm’ to the dog must be discouraged.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

Delete footnote 5.

**NEW RULE**

**11.4 DISQUALIFICATION**

**11.4.1 (e)** any action by the handler or dog which the judge considers unsafe or contrary to the welfare of the dog.

**RATIONALE**

There could be instances where unexpectedly a competitor does something that the judge thinks is unsafe – for that dog in that circumstance.    Clauses (c) and (d) are very much on the spot decisions and reactions by the judge, and it should be the same if the Judge saw something unsafe happening.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE**

Add to Deductions Table

Reletter following clauses in 11.4.

**OLD RULE**

**11.5 Marks and placings**

11.5.2 In determining placings, Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores.

**NEW RULE**

11.5.2   In determining placings, Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores.  Competitors that are disqualified are not eligible for a place.

**RATIONALE**

For clarification. Dogs which have been disqualified should not be eligible for a place.

**TRICK DESCRIPTIONS**

**PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS**

**OLD RULE**

1. The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencement of the first trick. The set-up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. (See also Rule 9.4.3)

**NEW RULE**

1. The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencement of the first trick. The set-up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. (See also Rule 9.4.3)

Any equipment which remains stationary during execution of the trick will remain in position throughout the test.

Larger items of equipment should be placed in position before the handler enters the ring to commence the test. Smaller items of equipment should be placed on the table until needed and may be replaced on the table at the completion of the trick.

The handler may move any item of equipment which has moved during the performance of the trick and which at the completion of the trick may impede movement around the ring or is a potential safety hazard in the ring. Such items may be moved to near the boundary of the ring or to the reward/equipment table after use. This must be undertaken by the handler, and it is not permitted for another person to assist in this regard. The dog must accompany the handler while any such rearrangement is undertaken and the dog cannot be left unattended (eg in a stay) in the ring while the handler undertakes any set up or rearrangement of equipment.

**RATIONALE**

There has been quite a bit of confusion about the placing of equipment, especially those smaller items which are held by the handler (e.g. article for retrieve tricks). Also, there has been concern about the safety of moving around the ring with multiple pieces of equipment. This is particular relevant in the higher classes. Clarification is required to ensure all judges and handlers understand the procedure.

**APPENDIX B – TRICK DOG LIST AND JUDGE’S MARK SHEET – ADVANCED CLASS**

There is a typing error in the Trick numbers. There are two A.6 instead of A.6 and A.7.

**TITLE CERTIFICATE:**

**Watermark required.**

**RATIONALE**

All other dog sport title certificates have a watermark on the certificate. This was something which was overlooked in the introduction of Trick Dog Tests. We propose that the generic dog used in Dogs Australia documentation in a Bow pose be used as the watermark for Title Certificates.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)