

COMPANION DOG TEST (BH)

Temperament Test

Before the entered dogs are allowed to start the BH examination, they must undergo a temperament test. This includes the identity check during which the tattoo number or microchip number is examined. Dogs that cannot be identified are not eligible to be entered in a trial.

The temperament of the dog is evaluated throughout the entire trial. Dogs that have already failed the temperament test are excluded from the rest of the trial. If a dog shows temperament faults during the trial, even though the dog passed the temperament test, the judge may expel the dog from the trial. The entry "Temperament Test/Behavior Evaluation not passed" will be made in the performance documents.

Scoring Dogs that do not receive the necessary 70% of the total points in part A, cannot go on to the traffic part of the test, which is conducted in a public area. No scores according to points are given at the end of the examination. The judge merely announces the rating "pass" or "fail". The title is awarded if the dog receives at least 70% of the total points in part A and if the judge assesses the performance in part B as sufficient. The awarded title is not a working title recognized for breeding, show, breed survey or exhibition purposes in accordance with the regulations of any VDH membership organization. There is no waiting period in between trials if the examination has to be repeated. Despite the outcome of the examination, the trial result must be entered in the corresponding performance documents.

PART A – EXAMINATION AT THE TRAINING FIELD – Total points 60

Each individual exercise begins and ends in the basic position. The dog sits in a straight position on the left side of the handler, whereas the dog's right shoulder blade is level with the handler's knee. It is permitted to obtain the basic position only once at the beginning of the exercise. The handler must attain the basic position in a sporty manner. It is not permitted to stand in a splay-legged stance.

The final basic position of the previous exercise may be used as the basic position of the start of the next exercise. It is not permitted for the handler to use body-help; this will lead to point deductions. Carrying of motivational objects or toys is not permitted. If a handler is not capable to perform part of an exercise correctly due to a physical handicap, he must bring this to the judge's attention prior to the start of the examination. If a handler is unable to heel the dog on his left side due to a physical handicap, it is permissible to heel the dog on the handler's right side.

The judge gives the signal for the start of each exercise. Everything else, such as about turns, halts, changes of pace, etc. will be carried out without signals from the judge. However, the handler is allowed to request instructions from the judge.

It is permitted to praise the dog after each exercise is completed. After the handler has praised the dog, a new basic position can be attained. In between praising the dog and starting a new exercise, a distinct pause (about 3 seconds) is to be observed. The dog must be in a heeling position in between exercises.

Heeling on leash (15 points)

Verbal command "Fuss" / "Heel" Out of the basic position, the dog is to follow the handler happily on lead, upon receiving the verbal command "fuss"/"heel". The dog wears a commercially available collar or harness, which must be in accordance with the animal protection laws. The leash must be attached to the dead ring.

At the start of the exercise, the handler and his dog move out 40-50 paces in a straight direction, without stopping. After demonstrating the about turn and an additional 10-15 paces the handler shows the fast and slow pace, at least 10 paces each. Then, at a normal pace, at least one right turn, one left turn and one about turn are to be demonstrated. At all times, the dog must remain on the left side of the handler with the dog's shoulder blade level with the handler's knee. The dog may not forge, lag or heel wide. The handler must demonstrate the about turn as a left about turn.

The handler is permitted to use the verbal command "fuss"/"heel" only when starting from the basic position or when changing pace. When the handler stands still, the dog must sit immediately and 2 without help from the handler. The handler may not leave his basic position for this exercise; he is not permitted to move closer to the dog if the dog is sitting at a distance from the handler. The leash must be held in the left hand and must have slack in it. On instruction by the judge, the handler moves forward and shows 1 left turn on the way to the group for the next exercise.

It is faulty if the dog is lagging, forging or heeling wide. Hesitant or slow turns on the handler's part are also faulty.

Group - The heeling through a group of moving people is to be shown both on-leash and off-leash. The handler must heel the dog around at least two persons, once to the left and once to the right (e.g. describing a figure-eight). Each time the handler walks through the group he has to halt at least once near a person. The judge is entitled to ask the handler to repeat the exercise. The dog may be praised after the group exercise is completed, but only after attaining the final basic position.

About Turn (180 degrees) - Two variations of the about turn are permissible. However, the about turn must always be shown as a left about turn. The dog may either circle around the handler from behind or demonstrate the about turn with the handler as a left turn (the dog stays on the left side of the handler).

Free heeling (15 points) - Verbal command "Fuss"/"Heel" On a signal from the judge, the leash is taken off while the dog is in the basic position. The handler either puts the leash over his shoulder or puts it in his pocket (always on the opposite side of the dog) and immediately enters the group again with the free-heeling dog. Handler and dog must stop at least one time in the group. After handler and dog leave the group, the handler attains the basic position and begins the free-heeling exercise. The pattern is the same as described in Exercise 1.

Sit out of motion (10 points) - Verbal command "Sitz"/"Sit" From the basic position the handler moves straight forward with his free-heeling dog. After a minimum of 10 paces and no more than 15 paces, the handler gives the verbal command "sitz"/"sit" and the dog must sit quickly without the handler altering his pace or looking back at the dog. After another 15 paces, the handler stops and immediately turns around to his dog. On a signal from the judge, the handler returns to his dog and attains the basic position on the dog's right side. If the dog does not remain in the sitting position but lies down or stands, 5 points will be deducted.

Down with recall (10 points) - Verbal commands "Platz"/"Down", "Hier"/"Come", "Fuss"/"Heel" From the basic position the handler moves straight forward with his free-heeling dog. After a minimum of 10 paces, the handler gives the verbal command "platz"/"down" and the dog must lie down quickly. Without influencing the dog in any other form and without looking back at the dog, the handler moves on another 30 paces in a straight direction and then immediately turns around to face the dog and stands still. Upon a signal from the judge, the handler recalls the dog. The dog must return happily and

at a fast pace to the handler and must come to a sit closely in front of him. Upon receiving the verbal command “fuss”/”heel”, the dog must attain a sitting position at the handler’s side. If the dog does not lie down but stands or sits, but the recall is without fault, 5 points are deducted.

Long down under distraction (10 points) - Verbal commands “Platz”/”Down”, “Sitz”/”Sit” Before the other dog starts the obedience exercise, the handler downs his dog with the verbal command “platz”/”down”, out of the basic position, in a spot designated by the judge, without leaving the leash or any other object with the dog. The handler walks 30 paces away and remains there with his back turned toward the dog. During the long down, the dog must remain calmly in the designated spot. Upon a signal from the judge, the handler returns to the dog and attains position at the dog’s right side. Upon another signal from the judge, the handler puts the dog in the basic position with the verbal 3 command “sitz”/”sit”. If the dog is restless while sitting, standing or lying down, partial points are given. A dog that gets up, sits up or removes itself by more than one body-length from the designated spot, has failed this exercise. Restless behavior of the handler or other hidden handler-help is considered faulty. Female dogs should be put in a separate spot from the males, if at all possible. A dog that does not receive at least 70% (42 points) of the total points is excluded from the rest of the examination.

PART B - TESTING IN TRAFFIC

General Provisions - The exercises listed below are not conducted at the training field but in a suitable public place. The judge and the trial chairperson decide where and how the traffic exercises (public streets, walkways or squares) are conducted. Public traffic may not be disturbed.

Due to the uniqueness of the traffic test, it takes a significant amount of time to conduct this part of the examination. The performance requirements may not be lowered by superficially examining a large number of dogs.

No points are given for the individual exercises in part B. In order to pass this part of the examination the overall impression concerning the dog’s behavior in traffic and public places is important. The exercises described below are examples and may be modified by the judge depending on the location in which the test is conducted. The judge is entitled to make dogs repeat exercises or to modify exercises, if he has any doubts regarding the evaluation of a dog. Execution

- 1) Encounter with a group of people. On the judge’s request, the handler and his dog walk along a designated stretch of the sidewalk. The dog is on a leash. The judge follows the team at an appropriate distance.
 - The dog should follow the handler willingly on the handler’s left side, on a loose leash with the dog’s shoulder blade level with the handler’s knee.
 - The dog must be indifferent toward pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - A passing pedestrian (a person that was signed up for this task) cuts off the handler. The dog must display neutral and unimpressed behavior.
 - Handler and dog continue to walk and approach a group of people. The group must consist of at least 6 people and the members of the group should not stand too close together. One of the persons in the group starts talking to the handler and greets him with a handshake. The handler gives the dog a command to either lie down or sit next to him. The dog must remain calm during the short conversation.
- 2) Encounter with bicyclists. The handler walks along a road/path with his dog on leash and a bicyclist passes him from behind. The bicyclist rings his bell while passing. In quite a distance,

the bicyclist turns around and comes toward the handler and his dog. The bicyclist rings his bell again. The bicyclist must pass the handler and his dog in such a manner that the dog is located between the passing bicyclist and the handler. The leashed dog must display a steady/indifferent behavior toward the bicyclist

- 3) Encounter with cars. The handler and his dog walk past several cars, with the dog on leash. The engine of one of the cars is started while the handler is walking by. The door of another car is slammed shut. As handler and dog walk on, a car stops next to them. The window is opened and the handler is asked for directions. The handler instructs the dog to either lie down or sit while this is going on. The dog must remain calm and display indifferent behavior toward the cars and any traffic noises.
- 4) Encounter with joggers or inline-skaters The handler and his dog walk along a quiet road, with the dog on leash. At least two joggers pass him, without reducing their speed. Once the joggers are gone another jogger runs toward the handler and passes him without slowing down. It is not mandatory that the dog performs correct on-leash heeling. However, the dog may not bother the persons that are passing or coming toward him. It is permitted for the handler to put his dog in a down or a sit during the encounter. Instead of the joggers, two inline-skaters may pass the handler and his dog and then turn around and come back.
- 5) Encounter with other dogs. Another handler with his dog passes the dog/handler team, turns around and comes back. The dog must show a neutral behavior toward the other dog. The handler may repeat the verbal command "fuss"/"heel" or may put the dog in a down or sit during the encounter.
- 6) Behavior of the leashed dog toward other animals when left alone in traffic for a short period of time On the judge's request, the handler walks with his dog along the sidewalk of a road with not too much traffic. The dog is on a leash. After walking a short distance, upon a signal from the judge, the handler ties the leash to a fence post or something similar. The handler moves out of the dog's sight, for example inside a store or a house entrance
 - The dog is permitted to stand, sit or lay down.
 - With the handler out of sight, a pedestrian (designated person) who is walking a dog on leash, walks by at a distance of approximately 5 paces to the dog that is to be examined.
 - The dog must stay calm while the handler is gone. He must let the other dog (do not use a dog-aggressive animal) pass by without showing aggressive behavior (e.g. heavy pulling on the leash, continuous barking). Upon a signal from the judge, the handler picks up his dog.

Note: It is up to the judge's discretion whether he lets each individual dog perform each exercise in each location or if he lets all dogs that are to be evaluated perform a selection of the exercises and then moves on to the next location and continues there with the examination in the same manner.