

BREED IMPROVEMENT TEST (BIT)

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS rev 2/19/2005

Overview

This test serves the PCNA as a mechanism to improve the Pudelpointer breed. ***No Pudelpointer can be considered for breeding unless it has qualified in this test.*** Dogs are judged to Pass or Fail based primarily on hereditary ability performances, but a smaller part of trained performance is also judged.

Dogs will be evaluated in the following categories

Breed Improvement Test Segments

Use and Quality of Nose	Retrieve of shot bird	Desire to work
Co-Operation	Field Search	Steadiness
Pointing	Obedience	Tracking
Handling of Game	Stamina	Conformation
Search for a Duck	Temperament (Including gun-shyness)	Retrieve of duck from deep water

Note: In the order most convenient to the test area, weather condition and judging effort.

Test segments are similar to those found in NAE but these tasks are judged to a higher standard. All categories are of equal significance and judgment is always directed towards a dog's breedability, meaning it must possess attributes that the PCNA wishes to maintain or improve and pass on.

Test results are entered into the Pudelpointers official record. Defects, which exclude a dog from breeding, are also entered and the pedigree will be noted "NOT APPROVED FOR BREEDING".

Eligibility

Pudelpointers being considered for the BIT should have achieved a high score in a PCNA Natural Ability Evaluation (NAE) and must have had their hips officially certified to be free of Dysplasia (OFA – Guelph, Berlin – Penn-Hip)

A Pudelpointer may only run three times in the BIT without specific Judging Committee approval.

5 Year age limit: A dog is expected to be able to display enough development of its inherited values in that time.

Bitches in heat require special approval from the Field Chairperson to be admitted. They will be run last in each test segment on the last day of testing to avoid distraction to other dogs. Since the FIELD SEARCH portion of the BIT requires dogs to run in braces, bitches in heat present a major problem. In view of this circumstance, bitches in heat may be withdrawn from entry in the BIT without penalty and be eligible for a full refund of test fees. At the judges' discretion, bitches in heat may be run with a bracemate that is not under test evaluation. The Field Chairperson and

the judges are responsible to ensure that the presence of a bitch in heat does not adversely affect the performance of the other dogs.

Braces will be selected by random public drawing held on the evening prior to the test and the running order will be prominently posted before the testing begins. Handlers entering multiple dogs will redraw to avoid consecutive running & brace conflicts.

Judging

Three judges should officiate. One judge will be designated as Senior Judge for the evaluation and will be responsible for adherence to the BIT guidelines. A judge may not judge his own dog. It is important to remember that the judging team will be observing a Pudelpointers performance with an eye for those characteristics and actions which exemplify desirable genetic traits that are to be passed on to progeny. Of importance as a genetic factor is the dog's willingness to co-operate with handler and brace mate.

Senior Judge will verify and sign the test results and directly deliver these to the club secretary for recording.

Temperament

Temperament and shyness, including aggression, gun-shyness and gun sensitivity, will be determined and noted on the scorecard. Reaction to judges' physical examination will also be evaluated

Gun Sensitivity is present when a dog is temporarily inhibited from its task by a gunshot and is able to quickly regain its work rhythm.

Gun Shyness is present when a gunshot disables the dog from completion of its task. Examples of this include signs of fright and disorientation, a dog which looks to its handler or other people for protection, or runs away, making evaluation difficult, or impossible.

Note: a) *Any sign of mental instability that is unmistakably noticed throughout the testing day, (for example: shyness, environmental, hyper-nervousness, fear of live game, aggression, etc.) will be recorded since it will exclude the dog from any breeding program*

b) Severe punishment inflicted on a dog in an evaluation will disqualify the handler from the event, hence the dog is also disqualified. Burying of game by a dog will also result in disqualification of the dog.

Throughout all the evaluations the judges have the prerogative of recalling any dog to repeat a sequence in any category. Usually this is done after all other dogs have been evaluated.

The owner of each dog entered in a BIT will receive an official score record from the PCNA. BIT records will be filed in the PCNA Studbook according to Studbook number.

Field Search

The field search will be a minimum of 60 minutes, with a bracemate, over typical hunting terrain. Both Pudelpointers will be judged in all aspects of fieldwork such as, *search – use & quality of nose – desire to work - pointing – retrieve of shot bird – co-operation – steadiness & stamina* and

*the ability to find game at the end of an hours search in the field. **Backing 1[2]** is a desired, genetic, cooperative effort and will be judged when observed.*

Field Marshals will be responsible for timely planting of birds as dogs are coming to the end of the field search. Response to the handler and co-operative independence is also noted. *Willingness to penetrate cover* during the field search is a desirable trait, which will be evaluated. There is no competitive judgment and both dogs will be assured of first bird contact.

Obedience to commands, cooperative independence, and responses to handling, will be evaluated and noted.

Production of game is paramount and all judgment points in this direction in the SEARCH. Thus, the area covered by a Pudelpointer's body and nose in an efficient manner that results in finding game receives the highest score.

Dead bird find: 2 dead birds, in good condition, will be placed openly, approximately 10 ft. apart, in a marked, designated area. Each dog will be allowed to pass this area as an opportunity for a **"Random Find 1[3]"**

Designated gunners 3[4] will be used to harvest game – SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Pointing

Convincing intensity, staunchness and productivity in POINTING receives the highest score. Relocations to maintain contact with moving birds are rewarded when executed in a co-operative and productive manner. Under normal circumstances a dog never leaves point until the bird is flushed. *In some very rare cases, a dog may leave a point in heavy cover to find the handler and "announce" the find and lead the handler to the bird. This is a highly cooperative performance.* It is most common to find a dog staunchly on point in heavy cover in a fine execution of obedience and cooperation.

No certain style is favored but "intense" is the watchword – ears forward, body rigid. Turning head toward handler then turning back to game while remaining steady and intense is cooperative and will be rewarded.

Steadiness

Steadiness through flush is required. Obvious flushing of the bird by the Pudelpointer before the handler reaches the dog requires a penalty in co-operation and/or obedience. A Pudelpointer which leaves at wing will not be penalized but a dog that remains steady through fall and waits for the command to retrieve exhibits high co-operation and obedience (trainability).

1[2] *Backing is not pass/fail but points will be awarded when it is observed. The BIT is expected to incorporate a formal, judged backing sequence in the future (projected for 2005) details will be announced when decision is finalized. Not pass/fail – steadiness will be judged*

2[3] *The purpose of this segment is to provide judges with an opportunity to observe a dogs "cooperative handling of a random-find". Cooperation is a highly-desired, genetic trait and will be judged when observed. **No command should be given during this sequence.***

3[4] *Gunners will be assigned by the Test Field Marshal and selected for competency, experience & safety.*

Retrieve of Shot Bird

This task should be *determined*, with convincing cooperation. Encouraging voice from the handler is permitted. Judges will watch for signs of excessive hard-mouth, willful mutilation, plucking, biting or eating after dog lays bird down. Highest score will be awarded to dogs that retrieve promptly to hand.

Tracking Live Game Bird

The object of this portion of the test is to evaluate the Pudelpointers usefulness as a tracker of crippled game. The dog is to find the bird by using its concentration and use of nose skills to TRACK a moving bird. This test mirrors the Natural Ability Evaluation except that the BIT dog is expected to display a more purposeful attitude and is expected to retrieve the bird when contacted, as in a real hunting situation. Helter-skelter finding of the bird, regardless of how efficient, is not tracking. TRACKS observed in the FIELD SEARCH may add to the score but may not substitute for this test segment unless well displayed and observed by all judges.

Retrieve of a Duck from Deep Water

This sequence demands the most obedience in BIT and it is a test of a dog's genetic usefulness in retrieving waterfowl from swimming depth water. It requires a combination of MARKING – DESIRE – COOPERATION – STEADINESS – OBEDIENCE and RETRIEVING. The handler brings his Pudelpointer to the edge of swimming depth water and commands the dog to stay. A dead duck is thrown into deep water, in sight of the dog, to create the required 30 to 40 yard retrieve. While the duck is in the air the handler fires a blank shell in the direction of the duck. The dog should remain until commanded to retrieve the duck. When the dog is approximately 10 yards into the retrieve, a designated diversionary gunner (usually a judge) will fire a blank shell into the air. The dog should be unaffected by this in his desire to make the retrieve.

The dog, which retrieves the duck promptly and efficiently to the handler, can receive the highest score. The dog is permitted to lay the duck down momentarily only to re-grip the bird and improve the hold. The dog is not penalized for using a land route to return to the handler, if this route is equally as efficient, or more so, than using a water route. During delivery, the dog should hold the bird until the handler commands the release to hand.

Search for the Duck in Deep Water

This is a test of a dog's ability to locate wounded waterfowl, it tests USE of NOSE - COOPERATION - DESIRE and PERSEVERANCE. Though a command is given to find and retrieve a flightless duck, it is its scent that is the driving force of the search.

The ideal test site should provide limited open water (some swimming depth), sufficient vegetation cover, natural obstacles and no flowing current. A healthy, well-watered, flightless duck is released into the reeds in full sight of the dog. The dog should remain reasonably calm or controlled. After the duck is out of sight, the dog should be led away from the release spot and brought back after 30 seconds. The collar should be removed, handler will fire a blank shot over the reeds and send the dog for the duck. The dog should penetrate the cover and demonstrate desire, independence and persistence in its effort to contact the duck. The handler is asked to remain quietly at the release point. *The handler may redirect the dog once without penalty either verbally or with hand signals.*

No retrieve is required unless the dog is positively observed to have caught the duck, in which case it is required to retrieve to hand. The handler may verbally encourage the dog.

Each dog is allowed a minimum of 8 minutes to search out the duck. (*sight-chases in open water do not count*). The capable dog will find the scent path and, conditions permitting, use his nose to

find the duck. Should the scent path be lost, the dog should resort to a systematic, ever expanding search for more scent. Aimless milling around or non-productive repeated coverage of an area is undesirable, nor are long pauses looking for help, or extensive dry-land coverage. Searches which are abbreviated by an uncooperative duck, or adverse conditions, will require repeat testing after an appropriate rest period.

Judgment requires an adequate demonstration of a dog's genetic gifts of NOSE – DESIRE – PERSEVERANCE and COOPERATION to complete the task at hand.

If conditions demand it, all dogs may start and finish at the same spot.

Judged Throughout

Use and Quality of Nose

This genetic aspect of the dog's quality as a hunting partner is evaluated during searching and during tracking a live game bird. The dog's nose and how it is used is the most important attribute of a versatile hunting dog. The quality and use of nose determines to a great extent the quality and usefulness of the dog. How well a dog can detect scent is dependent on many features of the environment as well as its innate scenting ability. Quality can be evaluated in a relative sense. How well the dog uses its nose can be judged in a more absolute sense. Long finds, Sure location and the Ability to resolve hot spots and move on without delay are sure indicators of a good nose.

Physical Attributes

All dogs will be evaluated in these areas (in most cases physical attributes are examined after water work)

Adult Coat (head first)

Color

WW = Wire / Wire

DB = Dark Brown

WS = Wire / Smooth

BR = Brown

WM = Wire / Medium

DU = Durrlaub

WR = Wire / Rough

BK = Black

MM = Medium / Medium

MR = Medium / Rough

SS = Smooth / Smooth

RW = Rough / Wire

RR = Rough / Rough

Eyes

Eyes should be examined immediately following the 1-hour field work portion of the test. Ectropic eyes will show evidence of foreign matter buildup (dirt or seeds usually)

Normal	Ectropic	Entropic	One eye
Dark Brown	Ectropic	Entropic	Both eyes, dog fails
Brown	Excessive Ectropic	- Eye collects dirt/seeds/debris	
Yellow			

Bite & Teeth

Normal

Undershot	Light	Heavy	Dog Fails
Overshot	Light	Heavy	Dog Fails
Butt Bite	Missing Molars		Dog Fails

Testes

Normal

Cryptorchid (Undescended testicle) Dog Fails

Monorchid (One Testicle) Dog Fails

Body Size & Structure 1 2 3 4 5 (5 being largest size)

Excessive Cowhock, Loose or steep shoulders, Splayed feet or other faults, except injuries, that hinder a dog's fluid motion and impair its stamina will fail the dog

Scoring the Breed Improvement Test

Each dog's performance will be scored as PASS/FAIL , based on a consensus score total and narrative observations

Category	Passing Score
NOSE & USE OF NOSE	9
FIELD SEARCH	9
SEARCH FOR DUCK / DEEP WATER	9
RETRIEVE OF DUCK / DEEP WATER	8
RETRIEVE OF SHOT BIRD	6
POINTING	9
TRACKING LIVE BIRD	6
DESIRE TO WORK	10
COOPERATION	6
STEADINESS	6
OBEDIENCE	6
STAMINA	9

Notes

HANDLING OF GAME

CONFORMATION & TEMPERAMENT

No Dog can PASS the Breed Improvement Test, if it is seen to

- *Show any kind of shyness (including gun-shyness)*
- *Be significantly Lacking in Desire or Stamina*
- *Be significantly Lacking in Pointing Instinct*
- *Be a Self Hunter*
- *Eat, Bury or Blink Game*
- *Refuse to enter or retrieve from heavy cover or water*
- *Exhibit significant temperament problems (including aggression)*
- *Have significant conformation defects*

These dogs will be categorized as "NOT APPROVED FOR BREEDING" and may not be re-tested in the Breed Improvement Test

Note: *Falsification of documents will result in disqualification from BIT and severe membership sanctions*

4[1] Including Retrieve of found dead Game and Willful mutilation which will disqualify. In willful mutilation the dog always lays bird down vs hard-mouth which is chewing without putting down. Hot weather retrieves sometimes lead to dogs rolling game in the mouth to aid breathing, this is not hard-mouth.

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