

MIDLOTHIAN DOG TRAINING CLUB TESTS

BEGINNER

The purpose of this test is to assess the relationship between dog and handler and the dog's basic obedience and social skills.

1. Dog Walks to Heel on Lead – 20 Points

The judge will be looking for good rapport between dog and handler, for relaxed walk and prompt response to commands.

Dog and handler will be required to cover the width of the hall with the dog **Walking to Heel** close beside the handler and on a loose leash. Reaching the far side dog and handler will perform a right about turn and make their way back to the start. In the course of the walk, the handler will be asked to put the dog once in a **Sit** and once in a **Down**. The dog will be expected to finish in a Sit.

Points will be deducted for a tight lead at any time, for the dog being too far from the handler, that is, more than 50 centimetres, either walking or in either of the stationary positions and for late response to commands.

2. Social Behaviour – 10 Points

This exercise is to demonstrate that the dog can wait quietly while the handler is busy and avoid distraction.

The steward will instruct the dog and handler to walk across the hall and in the course of the walk a steward will come and talk to the handler. The dog will be required to wait quietly in *any position*, without jumping up or barking. The handler will be expected to calm the dog easily if the dog jumps up or barks without pulling hard on the leash but there should be no clapping or handling of the dog during the exercise.

Points will be deducted for the dog failing to settle, for jumping up or barking at the stranger, for trying to wander off or for over-reacting to the stranger's attention.

3. Recall – 20 points

The judge will be looking for attention to the handler, a speedy return to the handler off lead and a stop when getting there (does not need to be a formal sit in front) and no resistance to the lead being put on.

The judge will ask the handler to unclip the lead and the steward will hold the dog by the collar while the handler goes to the centre of the width of the hall. On the instruction of the steward, the handler will **Recall** the dog to the front and put on the lead.

Points will be deducted for dog's failure to respond to call, for slow return (making allowance for age and build of dog), for getting up before called, for dog overshooting the handler or resisting the lead being put on. If the dog runs off, there will be no points for this task.

4. One Minute Sit Stay – 25 Points

The purpose of this exercise is to see whether the dog will obey the command promptly and remain quiet until released.

On the instruction of the steward, the handler will remove/drop the dog's lead and command the dog to **Sit** and **Stay**. The handler will then move one metre away from the dog and face the dog. The steward will tell the handler to return to the dog after one minute and tell him/her to stand in front of the dog. The dog should not get up until the steward has said that the exercise is complete.

Points will be lost for the dog failing to obey or shifting position during the minute. If the dog fails to sit or to stay at all, no points will be given for this task.

5. Two Minute Down Stay – 25 Points

The purpose of this exercise is to see whether the dog will obey the command promptly and remain quiet until released.

On the instruction of the steward, the handler will remove/drop the dog's lead and command the dog to the **Down** and **Stay**. The handler will then move *5 paces* away from the dog. The steward will tell the handler to return to the dog after two minutes. The dog should not get up until the steward has said that the exercise is complete.

Points will be lost for the dog failing to obey or shifting position during the two minutes and if there are too many commands. If the dog fails to lie down or to stay at all, no points will be given for this task.