

7.2 Rescue a stranger fallen from a boat at 25 metres

Exercise D2

Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and jump from a boat and tow a stranger back to the boat without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will enter the boat and be taken 25 metres from the shore with the handler, two stewards one of which is a stranger to the dog, the Helmsman and a Judge.
- b) The handler will ensure that the dog is under control while in the boat and does not impede the stewards.
- c) The Helmsman will continue to hold the boat in position (preferably anchored) and NOT allow the boat to drift.
- d) When given the signal to begin the steward who is a stranger to the dog will fall noisily overboard and position himself 5 metres from the boat, where he will be vertical in the water, facing/looking at the boat, calm and silent.
- e) The stranger should be on the side of the boat furthest from the test area shore, but this may depend on prevailing weather conditions.
- f) The Judge will as soon as possible give the command to release the dog, as soon as it is safe to do so.
- g) The dog will enter the water, swim to the stranger and affect a safe tow.
- h) The dog will tow him to a position close enough to the boat so the handler and steward can pull the stranger to the side of the boat. The Handler must touch the drowning stranger before the stranger can let go of the dog.
- i) The handler should be involved in ensuring the stranger is safely alongside the boat and should not be solely dealing with the dog during this time.
- j) The dog will be required to swim to the opposite side of the boat to the stranger.
- k) The dog will present itself sideways along the side of the boat opposite to the stranger & will be held via the harness for 3 seconds by both the handler & a steward
- l) Once judges indicates test is over, the dog is to be returned to shore by one of the following methods
 - With the handlers permission tow the stranger back.
 - Swim back with rope
 - Handler to swim back with dog
- m) Handler must inform and receive permission from the judges at the start of the exercise which method they will use.

Point Scoring

One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:

- Not entering the boat safely at the shore.
- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water when commanded.
- Not swimming directly to the stranger.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the boat.
- Not bringing the stranger to the position indicated by the handler
- Handler not assisting with re-boarding of stranger.
- Not swimming calmly while waiting for the stranger to be taken aboard.

Notes:

1. The dog must wear a water harness or floatation coat (see Explanatory Notes page 14 section 3.2 reference f).

2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area. A steward will call the dog to shore if using option 2.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The stranger role will be played by a competent steward; the steward will be a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group.
5. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.
6. The dog is permitted to swim around the boat as many times as is necessary without incurring any points.
7. The judges must advise the stewards which of the options is going to be used when returning to shore.
8. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element
3. Not exiting the boat in the first 45 seconds of the element.
4. Physical contact (ref 3.1q) with the dog leaving the boat.
5. Attempting to climb on the stranger.
6. Attempting to re-enter the boat. Physical redirection.
7. No articles (coil of rope, toy, tow rope etc.) are to be used to assist in controlling the dog, whilst the stranger is being pulled to the side of the boat. The handler must control the dog by using visual/audible commands only.
(Please see explanatory notes page 13 section 3.1 reference h)

Disqualification:

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.