# Rules & Regulations

# Veteran Draught Test

## The Chocolate Kisses Award

Entry forms will be available on the day; entry fees will be stated on the entry form, with a keepsake included for successful completion.

Judges for Veterans Draught Award will be decided on the day from judges who are available and willing at the test. (One of the judges must be at level 2 or above).

Eligible dogs are those who are over 7 years of age at time of entering or, unable due to physical restrictions to complete some elements of the tests as laid down in the Joint Regulations. If dogs are veterans they are permitted to enter a certified level in draught at the same event; if they are entering due to physical restrictions, they may not enter a certified level at the same event.

Dogs with Sensory impairments can have an aid or the handler may touch the dog, but these can only be used to gain the dogs attention not to physically direct the dog.

During this trial, exercises will be taken from different Sections of the Draught tests with some additional tasks. A dog will have been deemed a pass if they have accumulated 20 points or less over the entirety of the test.

Points will be accumulated as follows:

**General Control**

One point will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- Incorrect harnessing.
- The dog not walking at the side of the handler and responding to their commands.
- General lack of control.
- Each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes.
- If the dog changes position during the halt or wait.
- The handler adapting their pace to that of the dog.
- Lack of control on turns, waits, stops, recalls and halts.

**Recall**

- Not removing the lead. 1 point.
- 2 or more resets on the recall. 1 point.
- >30sec to move. 1 point.

**Stays – in both the control and group.**

- The dog **moves from the spot**. Three points.
- The dog sits up and is reset. One point.

**Hitching / Unhitching**

- The dog not waiting calmly while they are hitched or unhitched at the beginning or end of the test. One point will be accumulated for each occurrence.

**Emergency Unhitch**

- Incorrect. 1 point.
- Not waiting calmly. 1 point.
- Cart hitting the dog. 5 points.

**FAILURE**

- Dog leaving the ring.
- Dog interfering with another dog in the down stay.
- Exceeding 20 points.

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**Manoeuvring Section**

Points will be accumulated for each occurrence of the following:

- Hitting any objects. 2 points.
- The dog not staying alongside the handler (unless the handler has positioned themselves to the back or the front of the cart and has instructed the dog accordingly). 1 point.
- Handlers holding on to any part of the cart or equipment unnecessarily, to control the dog. 1 point.
- Tight Lead. 1 point.

**Loading**

- Incorrect and/or unsafe loading. 1 point.
- Not waiting calmly. 1 point.

NOTE: Handler cannot be changed once exercise has started.

**Control Section**

Required performance:

A course will be set in the test area by the two judges.

There will be between 3 and 6 turns all at normal pace made up from:

- Between 1 to 2 left turns.
- Between 1 to 2 right turns.
- Between 1 to 2 about turns.

And:

- A wait at a junction for 5 seconds.
- A random, unexpected stop that may be different for each handler.
- 1 minute halt, any position of the handler's choice but the dog must remain in the same position (Standing, Sitting or Down).
- 1 minute down stay, off lead, the handler will be in sight of the dog, approximately 5 meters away, at 45 seconds the handler will be instructed to return and stand next to the dog; at the end of the one minute the instruction will be given that the exercise is complete.

The final 25% of the course will continue in normal pace with the following elements off lead:

- Recall on the move from 10 meters, while moving away from the dog incorporating a turn.

There will then be 3 turns made up from:

- 1 left turn.
- 1 right turn
- 1 about turn.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward.

The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position, as the handler wishes.

The handler will take the harness from the steward, who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog.

When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.

One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection. If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the Steward.

The exercise is complete when the call steward instructs the handler to return their dog to its lead after the off-lead section.

**Group Down Stay**

Required performance:

The Team will proceed to this element which is a group down-stay of 2 minutes duration, in a group of manageable size (recommended approximately 5 dogs).

The dogs will be 3 metres apart.

The handlers will be in sight of the dogs, approximately 5m away.

If the dog gets up while in the group down-stay; it must be calmly & quietly reset back into the down position and the Handler returns 5 meters away.

**Manoeuvring Section**

The manoeuvring should be setup in such a way to reflect the difficulty that would be encountered on a haul for the same given exercises but conducted in a 'safe' environment and with acknowledgment of impairments or hinderances that the dog may face.

A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges and will incorporate the following:

- Broad curves
- Narrow areas.
- A wait at a removal obstacle.
- A figure of 8.

This section will be concluded following the successful completion of the 4 elements and the load and unload task.

To commence the manoeuvring course, when instructed the handler alone will take the dog to the apparatus, harness and hitch in full sight of at least one judge.
When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection.
The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.
If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will procced to the loading section.

**Manoeuvring: Load and Unload.**

This section is in two parts and will be done at the beginning and the end of the manoeuvring section.

Equipment required: 3 plastic water containers [empty] or plastic cones or similar weightless objects. TM to supply.

**Part I To start: Load up.**

Handler and dog with cart, walk forward to a marker, 5 meters away from the objects.

Handler to put dog in a wait [any position sit, down, stand]

Handler will then load the cart with the three items one at a time and secure the load.

*Handler and dog will then complete the above sections for the manoeuvring.*

**Part II To finish: Unload**

The handler will place the dog in a wait [any position sit, down or stand] and they will again unload the items from the cart one at a time and place them 5meters away from the dog.

Once the cart is empty and the handler is back by the dog, the load and unload section is completed.

The test will be considered completed following an emergency un-hitch.

**FAILURE**

• If the dog leaves the ring.

• Interfering with another dog in the group down stay.