



Airedale Terrier Club of America Gun Dog Test Guidelines for Judges

OVERVIEW: The Airedale Terrier Club of America's Gun Dog (GD) Test is akin to the Working Dog (WD) Test sanctioned by many AKC spaniel breed clubs. In the Airedale Terrier community however, the working dog designation is used to describe dogs used in Shutzhund type working competitions.

The Gun Dog Test, like a spaniel Working Dog Test, is a test which allows participants' dogs the opportunity to demonstrate the abilities expected of a companion hunting dog. While no portion of the test may be failed in order to qualify for the GD or GDX title, the judge should consider the overall performance of the dog to be of greater importance than minor flaws in any one aspect of the test.

STEADY ON THE LINE – LAND: At the start of the field portion of the test, the dog should sit and stay unleashed beside the handler for a short time until the judge instructs the handler to proceed. To receive a Satisfactory score, the dog should make no more than minor movements. Excellent: The dog stays in place quietly with a minimum of commands until released by the handler. Poor: The dog fails to stay and can't be immediately brought back under control, and/or whines and barks excessively.

QUARTERS THE FIELD EFFICIENTLY: As the judge instructs the handler to proceed, the handler sends his dog into the field and walks behind, directing the dog on the course. The dog should immediately begin to cover ground and quarter the field (zig-zagging or ranging side-to-side down the hunting course). As the dog covers the course it should display its scenting ability and use of the wind to find birds.

For a Satisfactory score, the dog should hunt quietly and consistently while staying within gun range (not more than 30 yards in front of the handler) responding to handler commands and demonstrating quartering ability. Excellent: The dog performs as above, but with great enthusiasm and in a superlative manner. Poor: The dog works out of gun range (more than 30 yards), it requires undo urging or direction. (excessive handling), it covers ground too slowly, it works behind the handler, it stays only in one portion of the field, it consistently works less than 10 yards from the handler, it goes out in a straight line, it tracks the bird planter or shows little evidence of being in control.

FINDS AND FLUSHES BIRD: For a Satisfactory score, the dog should have sufficient hunting and scenting ability (nose) to independently find and put up game without undue urging. Excellent: The dog performs this with enthusiasm and in a superlative manner. Poor: The dog displays lack of nose, requires extensive urging to flush or avoidance of the bird.

MARKS AND RETRIEVES BIRD: Dogs are not required to be steady to flush or shot. For a Satisfactory score, the dog should mark the fall of the game and retrieve it to within the close proximity of the handler (within a couple of steps). The handler may direct the dog to the fall if the dog has not marked it due to a reasonable circumstance. Excellent: The dog marks well, retrieves the bird enthusiastically and delivers

the bird to hand. Poor: The dog refuses to retrieve or require excessive urging.

DOG UNDER HANDLER'S CONTROL: At the judge's instruction the handler "sends" the dog and walks behind the dog on the course as necessary. Satisfactory: The dog shows fairly reasonable, not necessarily immediate response to whistle and/or command. Excellent: The dog demonstrates superlative responsiveness to the handler with a minimum of direction. Poor: The dog is out of control, continually running out of gun range or constantly ignoring commands.

STEADY ON LINE – WATER: Dogs should not go into the water to retrieve until sent by the handler. For a Satisfactory score, the dog may be held on leash by the handler or by collar until the judge directs the handler to send the dog. To receive an Excellent score, the dog must be line steady (sit and stay unleashed beside the handler). Poor: The dog struggles against being gently restrained by leash or collar, or if unleashed, the dog fails to stay until commanded to retrieve.

RETRIEVES BIRD FROM WATER: For a Satisfactory score, the dog should mark the fall of the bird, enter the water and swim without undue urging to retrieve the bird out of the water within close proximity of the handler (within a couple of steps). Excellent: The dog marks well and retrieves the bird enthusiastically to the hand of the handler. Poor: The dog refuses to swim, refuses to retrieve or requires excessive urging.

NO DISPLAY OF GUN-SHYNESS: For a Satisfactory score, the dog should display enough hunting desire that he shows little reaction to gun shots. Excellent: The dog has such intense desire that it takes no notice of the gun, or the shot even increases his willingness and enthusiasm to retrieve and hunt. Poor: The dog displays a shy or fearful reaction to the gun.

NOTE: "Hardmouth" is a serious fault. If a dog delivers a damaged bird – meaning chewed or crushed by the dog (not damaged by gunshot) such that it is either not suitable for the table or it cannot be used in a training session for another dog, he will not qualify, even if it has fulfilled all other test requirements.

AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES: An Airedale that completes all parts of the test in a creditable manner, i.e. (ALL SATISFACTORY SCORES or higher) should be awarded the GUN DOG (G.D.) certificate. An Airedale that completes all parts of the test in a superior manner, i.e. (ALL EXCELLENT SCORES) should be awarded the GUN DOG EXCELLENT (G.D.X.) certificate.

JUDGE CERTIFICATION OF GUIDELINES: Judge's signature that he/she understands the expectations of the test. This copy to be sent to the ATCA along with completed Judging form (overleaf).

Signed _____ (Judge)

Date: _____

Approved by ATCA Board September 2012

ENTRY FORM – JUDGING SHEET
GUN DOG CERTIFICATE TEST
For Airedale Terriers ONLY
The Airedale Terrier Club of America
Please print and fill in completely – use black ink

NAME OF DOG: _____ AKC NO: _____

DOG'S CALL NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

SIRE: _____ DAM: _____

BREEDER: _____ OWNER: _____

OWNER'S ADDRESS: _____

Tests offered by (club or group): _____

TEST CHAIRMAN: _____ TEST LOCATION _____

TEST CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS: _____

JUDGE'S REPORT

FAILED **SATISFACTORY** **EXCELLENT**

_____	_____	_____	<u>STEADY ON THE LINE - LAND:</u> Sits unleashed beside handler until ordered to seek game.
_____	_____	_____	<u>QUARTERS EFFICIENTLY:</u> Covers ground in A workman-like manner within gun range, displaying scenting ability and use of wind.
_____	_____	_____	<u>FINDS AND FLUSHES BIRD:</u> Flushes without urging.
_____	_____	_____	<u>MARKS AND RETRIEVES BIRD:</u> Finds and picks up bird, returning it to handler.
_____	_____	_____	<u>DOG UNDER HANDLER'S CONTROL:</u> Dog shows response to handler's commands.
_____	_____	_____	<u>STEADY ON THE LINE – WATER:</u> Dogs shows control at the water.
_____	_____	_____	<u>RETRIEVES FROM WATER:</u> Voluntarily enters water, swims to bird and returns it to handler.
_____	_____	_____	<u>GUN-SHYNESS:</u> Dog not gun-shy.

_____ **NOT QUALIFIED: "Hard Mouthed", delivered damaged (chewed/ crushed) bird.**

_____ **NOT QUALIFIED: One or more of the above sections marked FAILED.**

_____ **GUN DOG (G.D.):** Dog displayed behavior which would make him a satisfactory companion hunter for a day in the field. He worked within gun range of the handler, was under reasonable control and was never a nuisance. He is capable of finding and flushing birds, then retrieving them on land or from water to the handler. He does not display gun-shyness or a hard mouth.

_____ **GUN DOG EXCELLENT(G.D. X.):** Dog displayed all of the qualities of the G.D., but in a superlative manner.

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE: _____ PRINT NAME: _____

Chairman or secretary of officiating club or group shall, WITHIN ONE WEEK OF TEST, send all completed Entry/Judging forms, signed by judges to CHAIRMAN OF THE ATCA HUNTING AND FIELD COMMITTEE, SCOTT LICHTY, 8343 Emerson Avenue South, Bloomington, MN, 55420 so that certificates may be confirmed and issued to qualifying dogs.