



Airedale Terrier Club of America
Hunting and Field Committee

Fur Tracking/Trailing Test Regulations

Revised 3/2019

GENERAL:

Bitches in season shall not be eligible for entry in any hunt test and shall not be allowed on the grounds of the tests.

Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming in season, or for a dog withdrawn because of an injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full. Prior to paying such a refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate.

Two judges shall judge all tests levels (Junior Senior or Master), a starting line judge and a tree judge. When both judges grant qualifying scores to a dog that has not previously passed a particular fur test level, the dog will earn the title granted for that test.

Judges shall not enter or handle any dogs in the tests they are judging.

Fur Tracking/Trailing Tests shall simulate as nearly as possible the conditions met in hunting situations in the region of the country that the test is held. The judges shall determine the tests to be given and shall design those tests in order to approximate as nearly as possible the conditions met in true hunting situations. In keeping with this aim, the judges shall design and enhance the tests by utilizing, as naturally as possible, equipment that would be found in a true hunting situation. Handlers, judges, workers and other participants shall be attired as they would be in a hunting environment.

Judges shall have the authority to disqualify a dog that is not present within 15 minutes after it is called to run by the judges.

The Test Committee and the judges shall not permit training or disciplining of dogs on any part of the test grounds during the test. Further, there shall be no training of dogs on the grounds of the test within 24 hours of the commencement of the event, or at any time during the event.

Dogs on the test grounds shall not wear electronic collars, either dummy or live, as well as prong or pinch collars during the event. Electronic bark collars are permitted while a dog is contained in a vehicle.

The premium list/entry information shall specify the type of fur animals being used for the test.

If a test is held in a state that does not permit the use of live caged game for such tests, the test committee and judges shall make a decision as to whether to use 'roadkill' carcasses, skins, or drags for



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the quarry. Every effort shall be made to simulate live quarry in a hanging cage. The premium list shall state if live game will not be used.

Only .22 caliber or 209 primer blank pistols shall be used in the Senior and Master Fur Tracking/Trailing Tests.

ENTRIES and MOVE-UPS:

A dog may not be entered in more than one level of a test. A dog may be 'moved-up' and run in the next level if the dog has passed the lower level prior to the higher level test.

Each entry form shall be completed in full.

Running order shall be decided by a drawing and the running order will be posted prior to the test. Dogs handled by the same person shall be separated when possible. Dogs may be run in a different order than drawn if, in the opinion of the judges or test committee, the change will result in a reasonable and desirable savings of time in the conduct of the event.

A catalog shall be provided for every Fur Tracking/Trailing Test event.

A dog is not required to earn any title as a prerequisite for earning a higher title.

TITLES:

Junior Fur Tracker	JFT
Senior Fur Tracker	SFT
Master Fur Tracker	MFT

COURSE SET UP:

Dogs are hunted alone for the Fur Tracking and Trailing Tests.

Scent is to be laid down over varied terrain at least fifteen minutes prior to the test. (Varied terrain could include crossing a shallow creek, finger of a pond, marsh, swamp, etc.) There shall be a half-hour recess whenever it is necessary to lay new scent along the entire length of the track. At the discretion of the judges, the starting scent pad and the first portion of the dragged track (up to 25 yards) shall be refreshed at more frequent intervals if needed. The one-half hour recess will not be required after refreshing the start of the track. The preferred way to lay down scent is with a commercial-type leather drag, or equivalent.

It is permissible to re-scent the track when, in the opinion of the judges, conditions warrant re-scenting the track.



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Judges and handlers following the dog shall remain behind the dog, outside of the boundary. This parallel line shall be no closer than fifteen yards to the actual track, although there are conditions (such as dense woods, steep terrain, creeks, etc.) that may require this line to be closer. When plotting this parallel trail, the judge shall consider the effects wind direction, terrain and cover conditions shall have on the actual track.

The caged raccoon (or other quarry) is to be secured to the back of the tree (out of sight) to prevent the test dog from sighting the game until the dog has followed the trail to its end. The caged raccoon must be secured well out of reach of the test dogs.

The judges shall instruct the handler not to approach within 30 feet of the home tree until so directed.

Dogs shall be stock-broke. Evidence of running and/or treeing off-game are all grounds for the dog being disqualified in a Fur Tracking/Trailing test.

In any test level, at the handler's option, the dog may be run with a flat collar.

STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE:

Junior Level:

The dog shall demonstrate the ability to locate a trail left by furred game over a course of approximately 100 yards, pursue it in a decisive and energetic manner until the quarry is treed, and remain at the tree announcing the location by repeated barking. Multiple false dead-end trails shall be used to simulate true-to-life hunting situations. The handler shall not encourage his/her dog along the track, and shall remain with the line judge, outside the boundary formed by the line flags. Handlers must stay behind the dog at all times.

The dog shall bark 'treed' to the satisfaction of the judges within 2 minutes of the dog's arrival at the tree.

Senior Level:

A Senior dog shall show all the attributes of a Junior level dog. At this level the dog will be expected to do everything that a dog at the junior level shall do, plus the following:

The trail shall be approximately 200 yards in length and shall follow a zigzag path; multiple false dead-end trails shall be used to simulate true-to-life hunting situations. The scent shall touch the bottom of more than one tree, and a crossing trail of another animal scent (examples: deer, fox, mink, Groundhog) shall be laid. The dog may investigate the 'off' scent but shall quickly return to the test track.



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The handler shall not encourage or assist the dog either while on the track or at the tree. The dog shall bark 'treed' to the satisfaction of the judges within 2 minutes of its arrival at the tree. The handler shall fire 2 shots from a .22 blank pistol while the dog is barking 'treed'.

Master Level:

Dogs at this level are finished hunting dogs and will be expected to do everything that a dog at the senior level is required to do, plus the following:

The track shall be laid over varied and some difficult terrain for at least 300 yards. The dog, handler, and judge shall approach the test track perpendicular to the course and at least 40 yards past the beginning of the track. There shall be at least two crossing trails of other 'off' game scent (examples: deer, fox, mink, skunk, opossum) and one of these shall have a caged live animal (examples: fox, mink, skunk, opossum or other fur-bearing animal native to the locality) secured on the 'off' track within fifteen yards of the test track. This caged animal shall be a fur-bearing animal, indigenous to the area of the test. The dog may investigate the 'off' scent but shall quickly return to the test track. If the dog discovers the 'off' game animal, the dog shall immediately leave it and return to the raccoon scent. Multiple false dead-end trails shall be used to simulate true-to-life hunting situations.

The dog shall bark 'treed' to the satisfaction of the judges. The handler shall fire 2 shots from a .22 blank pistol while the dog is barking 'treed'.

STANDARDS FOR GRADING PERFORMANCE:

The dog must locate and follow a trail, pursue it in a decisive and energetic manner until the treed quarry is found, and remain at the tree announcing the location by repeated barking. The judge scores the following five ability categories on a basis of "0" to "10".

- **Striking Ability:** In order to locate a trail left by game, a dog shall show an aptitude to recognize promising locations and demonstrate eagerness to explore the terrain, regardless of hazards or discomfort.
- **Tracking Ability:** The trail shall be followed in a manner that shows both control and progress. The trail shall be pursued rather than merely followed, and the dog's behavior shall indicate a determined effort to make progress in the surest, most sensible manner by adjusting speed to correspond to conditions and circumstances. A dog may run open or silent. A dog that is called back to the track after leaving it will not qualify. Example: The commands 'Come,' 'Here,' or 'Come Here' as given in obedience training would be considered calling a dog back to the track. A warning such as 'Get back to work' will result in a deduction, possibly up to the point of non-qualifying.
- **Treeing Ability:** The dog shall mark the location of game by repeated barking. An intelligent and accurate dog will not be misled by any ruse that the game shall employ. The dog shall be confident that it has located the game; the proper use of voice reflects this ability of the dog. The dog shall clearly indicate that he has found the quarry without human assistance.



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- **Staying Ability:** After accurately locating the quarry, a dog shall show willingness and determination to continue to mark the location. Repeated intense barking indicates this as well as remaining in restricted proximity of the tree. The dog shall continue barking at the location to the satisfaction of the judge.
- **Determination:** This essential quality shall be observed in all aspects of the dog's performance (striking, trailing, treeing, and staying treed.) Determination is desire in its most intense form. A talented dog shall be less useful if it is deficient in this quality.

SCORING INSTRUCTIONS:

Judges evaluate the performance of dogs and then score the individual dog's abilities on a scale of “0” to “10” in each ability element: striking, trailing, treeing, staying, and determination.

The judges determine the “Official Score”. In order to receive a qualifying score, a dog shall not have received a score lower than 5 in any element. In addition, the overall average of all abilities shall be at least 7.