

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a trailing trial is to certify the bloodhound's abilities for trailing and correctly identifying a specific person in a field setting. When participating in a trailing trial, the bloodhound should show willingness and aptitude for the exercise, and the handler should demonstrate competence and naturalness in handling the bloodhound. To earn a qualifying score, the field performances of both bloodhound and handler, as demonstrated in a trailing trial event, must conform to the trailing trial regulations and standards described in this document.

Four levels of certification, each with its own abbreviated title, are described in this standard:

- Event Entry Certification Test (EECT), formerly the Instinct Certification Test;
- Mantrailer (MT);
- Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI); and
- Mantrailer Excellent (MTX).

Each title, as awarded, specifies the level of certification for which the bloodhound has qualified.

Levels of certification, as described in this standard, are for the sole purpose of titling a bloodhound in a sporting event and should not, in any manner, be considered a qualification for police or search and rescue work. All trailing trial participants should be guided by the principles and regulations of teamwork between handler and dog and by good sportsmanship.

CHAPTER 3

EVENT ENTRY CERTIFICATION TEST REQUIREMENTS

Section 1: Event Entry Certification Test General Guidelines

1.1 Eligibility for Entry

As used in these regulations, the word “dog” refers to either sex but applies only to the bloodhound that is purebred and eligible for registration in the American Kennel Club (AKC) Stud Book or for an Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP) with the AKC. The minimum age for dogs entered in an Event Entry Certification Test (EECT) will be six months on the date of the event. Dogs determined to be less than six months old on the date of the event will be prohibited from competing, and any title will be canceled immediately.

1.2 No Waivers of Event Entry Certification Tests Allowed

No waiver of the EECT will be permitted regardless of any other titles earned by a dog and/or exhibitor.

1.3 Trail Criteria / Runners

The EECT will consist of a trail that is approximately one-quarter mile (440 yards) and at least one hour old. The test will last no more than one hour from the time the dog is started until the time the dog either successfully finishes the trail or the judges stop the trail because time has expired or because the dog is working 180 degrees off the trail in the wrong direction.

EECT trails will have one runner, will follow a “natural wandering path” with no abrupt or about-turns, and no water crossings, will be located in an area with light vegetation, and will not be laid totally on a paved roadway. EECT trails should be roughly in the shape of a “J,” using the terrain features as a guide. Runners are not to cross moderately heavy or heavily traveled roadways and should not include steep climbs or areas of poor footing in EECT trails.

1.4 Required Number of Judges

EECT trails will be judged by at least one ABC-approved judge.

1.5 Criteria for Passing Performance

Successful completion of an EECT trail requires that a dog find the correct runner at the end of the trail and that the handler indicate to the judge that the trail has ended. Prior to the start of testing, an EECT judge will ask an exhibitor how the dog indicates a find (i.e. sitting, jumping up on the find, barking, etc.), or the exhibitor may choose to provide this information in writing. An

EECT judge will pass a dog if the dog works from the starting stake to the trail's end and the handler identifies the runner. Dogs are not required to follow the exact trail.

Section 2: Event Entry Certification Test Procedures

2.1 Dates for Event Entry Certification Tests

The EECT may be scheduled for any time and date mutually agreed upon by the exhibitor and the judge and does not require advance permission from the ABC or the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chair.

2.2 Fees

The individual judge, sponsoring individual, or group may designate a specific EECT fee, provided that the fee includes a \$10.00 (US) per test fee, which will be remitted to the ABC. Judges will collect EECT fees prior to the beginning of EECT trails; fees will not be refunded if a dog fails to qualify. Checks will be made out to the American Bloodhound Club and will include the date of the EECT, the dog's name, and the judge's last name. Event sponsors or judges are allowed to retain any fees over and above the \$10.00 fee.

2.3 Event Entry Certification Test Certificates and Re-Testing

The EECT judge will complete one four-part EECT certificate for each successful test. The exhibitor will be given the three "NCR" copies, and the judge will mail the original, the map, and the required \$10.00 per trail fee to the ABC Trailing Trail Committee Chair. The ABC Trailing Trail Committee Chair will record and file the EECT certificate and forward the fee to the ABC Treasurer, to be deposited as directed by the ABC Board of Directors.

EECT certificates issued will have no expiration date. However, should any dog be unsuccessful after attempting the Mantrailer (MT) level on three different occasions, the dog will be required to successfully complete a second EECT, under a different judge, prior to entering the next MT class. Exhibitors may request additional EECT trails, provided that a \$10.00 fee is collected for each test.

2.4 Judges Required To Submit Judging Forms and Test Results

EECT judges will complete and sign all judging forms and maps, as required, prior to the close of the event. EECT trailing results conducted by approved judges will be documented and forwarded to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson for recording purposes. The event sponsor will be required to duplicate necessary forms if needed. EECT judges must also forward to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson copies of judging forms and maps for all unsuccessful tests.

CHAPTER 4

MANTRAILER TEST REQUIREMENTS

Section 1: Mantrailer Test General Guidelines

1.1 Eligibility for Entry

Mantrailer-level (MT) trails are open to all dogs that are at least six months old and have successfully passed the Event Entry Certification Test (EECT) and have received the EECT certificate documenting completion.

1.2 Trail Criteria / Runners

The MT will consist of a trail that is approximately one-half mile (880 yards) long and no more than three-quarters mile (1320 yards) long. MT trails will be at least four hours old but no more than six hours old and will include one change of direction in the form of a turn or curve that is no less than 90 degrees. MT tests will last no more than one hour from the start time. Start and finish times will be recorded on the judging form; judges will stop the trail and disqualify a dog that has been unable to find the runner within the required time limit or because the dog is working 180 degrees off the trail in the wrong direction.

MT trails will have only one runner. The runner must walk the trail on the day of the test and must be stationed at the end of the trail when the dog starts the test. The runner will stand or sit in plain sight and is not allowed to be partially or totally obscured by brush or debris.

1.3 Required Number of Judges

MT trails will be judged by two ABC-approved judges.

1.4 Criteria for Passing Performance

Successful completion of an MT trail requires that a dog find the correct runner at the end of the trail and indicate to the exhibitor and judges that the trail has ended. Prior to the start of testing, judges will ask an exhibitor how the dog indicates a find (i.e. sitting, jumping up on the find, barking, etc.), or the exhibitor may choose to provide this information in writing. MT judges will pass a dog if the dog works from the starting stake to the trail's end and identifies the runner within the allotted time limit. Dogs are not required to follow the exact trail.

Section 2: Mantrailer Test Procedures

2.1 Fees

A recording fee of five dollars will be required for each trail in the MT level. This fee will be remitted to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson with the event report for forwarding to the ABC Treasurer. This fee will be collected from each entry. Any fees over and above the \$5.00 fee may be retained by the event sponsor.

2.2 Use of Scent Articles

Scent articles may be carried by exhibitors or left at the starting stake. Exhibitors may re-scent their dogs at any time along the trail at their discretion. If scent articles are left at the starting stake, exhibitors must ensure that articles are returned to the containers where they were originally stored.

2.3 Restarts Requested by Exhibitors and Judges

MT trails may be restarted one time, whether by exhibitors' request or judges' direction. No more than one restart per trail is permitted.

Exhibitors will be allowed, at their discretion, to return one time to the starting stake to restart. In these instances, exhibitors must inform the judges that the dog is off the trail and must request to return to the starting stake. Judges will tell exhibitors how much time is remaining and, if exhibitors request to return to the start, the judges will accompany the team back. The time limit will not be extended should the exhibitor restart the dog.

If, in the judges' opinion, a dog is 180 degrees off the trail, judges may direct exhibitors to restart at the starting stake. Judges will direct a restart only once. If the dog returns to a point 180 degrees from the actual trail for no apparent reason such as wind, the exhibitor may be stopped and the dog disqualified and failed, or the judges may permit the dog to continue working for the duration of the time limit.

2.4 Runner Error

Should the runner be waiting at the wrong place, away from the marked end of the trail, judges will:

- stop the dog out of sight of the trail's end and direct the runner to the correct location; or
- if the dog works to where the trail should have ended, stop the dog and direct the runner to the correct location to determine if the dog will identify the runner.

Judges may elect to pass the dog if the dog can identify the runner correctly, given that the dog was passing the test at the time the end of the trail was reached.

2.5 Disqualifications and Failing Performance

Exhibitors and dogs will be automatically and immediately disqualified or failed for:

- a. an exhibitor's failure to report for the assigned trail within ten minutes of the scheduled

starting time;

- b. an exhibitor's restarting of the dog more than once;
- c. an exhibitor's leading, directing, or guiding of the dog;
- d. a dog's menacing, attacking, snapping, growling, lunging, or attempting to bite or attack any exhibitor, judge, event staff, or spectator;
- e. a dog that appears injured or lame;
- f. a dog that becomes injured or lame during the trail;
- g. a dog's failure to find the correct runner within the allotted time period;
- h. a dog's failure to meet the minimum passing requirements.

CHAPTER 5

MANTRAILER INTERMEDIATE TEST REQUIREMENTS

Section 1: Mantrailer Intermediate Test General Guidelines

1.1 Eligibility for Entry

Mantrailer Intermediate-level (MTI) trails are open to all dogs that are at least six months of age and have successfully passed the Mantrailer test and received the Mantrailer certificate documenting completion.

1.2 Trail Criteria / Runners

The MTI will consist of a trail that is approximately one-half mile (880 yards) long and no more than three-quarters mile (1320 yards) long. Trails will be run in an area of moderate contamination (school yard, parking area, etc.) that has moderate access during all phases of the test (laying and running of trails). MTI trails will be at least eight hours old but no more than eighteen hours old and will follow a “natural wandering path,” including two changes of direction, one of which must be a turn of at least 90 degrees. MTI tests will last no more than one hour from the start time. Start and finish times will be recorded on the judging form; judges will stop the trail and disqualify a dog that has been unable to find the runner within the required time limit or because the dog is working 180 degrees off the trail in the wrong direction.

MTI tests will have two runners. The primary runner must be at the end of the trail before the dog is started. The runner will stand or sit in plain sight at the end of the trail and is not allowed to be obscured behind brush or debris.

The second runner, called the crossing runner, will cross the primary runner’s trail only once and as close to the trail’s halfway point as possible. To permit access to and exit from the primary runner’s trail, the crossing runner may parallel the primary runner’s trail, provided that the parallel trail is no closer than ten yards from the primary trail and downwind from the primary trail. The crossing runner will be stationed at the end of the trail parallel to the primary runner and separated from the primary runner by fifteen feet.

1.3 Required Number of Judges

MTI trails will be judged by two ABC-approved judges.

1.4 Criteria for Passing Performance

Successful completion of an MTI trail requires that a dog find the correct runner at the end of the

trail and indicate to the exhibitor and judges that the trail has ended. Prior to the start of testing, judges will ask an exhibitor how the dog indicates a find (i.e. sitting, jumping up on the find, barking, etc.), or the exhibitor may choose to provide this information in writing. MTI judges will pass a dog if the dog works from the starting stake to the trail's end and identifies the correct runner within the allotted time limit. Dogs are not required to follow the exact trail.

Section 2: Mantrailer Intermediate Test Procedures

2.1 Fees

A recording fee of five dollars will be required for each trail in the MTI level. With the event report, this fee will be remitted to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson to be forwarded to the ABC Treasurer. This fee will be collected from each entry. Any fees over and above the \$5.00 fee may be retained by the event sponsor.

2.2 Use of Scent Articles

Scent articles may be carried by exhibitors or left at the starting stake. Exhibitors may re-scent their dogs at any time along the trail at their discretion. If scent articles are left at the starting stake, exhibitors must ensure that articles are returned to the containers where they were originally stored.

2.3 Restarts Requested by Exhibitors and Judges

MTI trails may be restarted one time, whether by exhibitors' request or judges' direction. No more than one restart per trail is permitted.

Exhibitors will be allowed, at their discretion, to return once to the starting stake to restart. In these instances, exhibitors must inform the judges that the dog is off the trail and must request to return to the starting stake. Judges will tell exhibitors how much time is remaining and, if exhibitors request to return to the start, the judges will accompany the team back. The time limit will not be extended should the exhibitor restart the dog.

If, in the judges' opinion, the dog is 180 degrees off the trail, judges may direct exhibitors to restart at the starting stake. Judges will direct a restart only once. If the dog returns to a point 180 degrees from the actual trail for no apparent reason such as wind, the exhibitor may be stopped and the dog may be disqualified and failed, or judges may permit the dog to continue working for the duration of the time limit.

2.4 Runner Error

Should runners be waiting at the wrong place, away from the marked end of the trail, judges will:

- stop the dog out of sight of the trail's end and direct runners to the correct location; or
- if the dog works to where the trail should have ended, stop the dog and direct runners to the correct location to determine if the dog will identify the correct runner.

Judges may elect to pass the dog if the dog can identify the correct runner, given that the dog was passing the test at the time the end of the trail was reached.

2.5 Disqualifications and Failing Performance

Exhibitors and dogs will be automatically and immediately disqualified or failed for:

- a. an exhibitor's failure to report for the assigned trail within ten minutes of the scheduled starting time;
- b. an exhibitor's restarting of the dog more than once;
- c. an exhibitor's leading, directing, or guiding of the dog;
- d. a dog's menacing, attacking, snapping, growling, lunging, or attempting to bite or attack any exhibitor, judge, event staff, or spectator;
- e. a dog that appears injured or lame;
- f. a dog that becomes injured or lame during the trail;
- g. a dog's failure to find the correct runner within the allotted time period;
- h. a dog's failure to meet the minimum passing requirements.

CHAPTER 6

MANTRAILER EXCELLENT TEST REQUIREMENTS

Section 1: Mantrailer Excellent Test General Guidelines

1.1 Eligibility for Entry

Mantrailer Excellent-level (MTX) trails are open to all dogs that are at least six months of age and have successfully passed the Mantrailer Intermediate test and received a Mantrailer Intermediate certificate documenting completion.

1.2 Trail Criteria / Runners

The MTX will consist of a trail that is approximately one-half mile (880 yards) long and no more than three-quarters mile (1320 yards) long. Trails will be run in a heavily contaminated area (mall, school yard, public park, forest, industrial area or similar heavily used area) that has unlimited access and heavy traffic during all phases of the test (laying and running of trails). MTX trails will be at least twenty-four hours old but no more than thirty-six hours old and will follow a “natural wandering path,” including two changes of direction, one of which must be a turn of at least 90 degrees. MTX trails will also include no more than three obstacles consisting of roads, a water crossing (water that can be walked through), a bridge, cross tracks, a contaminated area with another person in it, or a terrain change. MTX trails will last no more than one and one-half hour (90 minutes) from the start time. Start and finish times will be recorded on the judging form; judges will stop the trail and disqualify a dog that has been unable to find the runner within the required time limit or because the dog is working 180 degrees off the trail in the wrong direction.

MTX tests will have two runners. The primary runner must be at the end of the trail before the dog is started. The runner will stand or sit in plain sight at the end of the trail and is not allowed to be obscured behind brush or debris.

The second runner will follow the primary runner for at least half the trail and then parallel or cut away from the primary trail and finish the trail at the same location as the primary runner. The second runner will be stationed at the end of the trail within approximately fifteen feet of the primary runner and is not allowed to be totally obscured by brush or debris.

1.3 Required Number of Judges

MTX trails will be judged by two ABC-approved judges.

1.4 Criteria for Passing Performance

Successful completion of an MTX trail requires that a dog find the correct runner at the end of the trail and indicate to the exhibitor and judges that the trail has ended. Prior to the start of testing, judges will ask the exhibitor how the dog indicates a find (i.e. sitting, jumping up on the find, barking, etc.), or the exhibitor may choose to provide this information in writing. MTX judges will pass a dog if the dog works from the starting stake to the trail's end and identifies the correct runner within the allotted time limit. Dogs are not required to follow the exact trail.

Section 2: Mantrailer Excellent Test Procedures

2.1 Fees

A recording fee of five dollars will be required for each trail in the MTX level. With the event report, this fee will be remitted to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson to be forwarded to the ABC Treasurer. This fee will be collected from each entry. Any fees over and above the \$5.00 fee may be retained by the event sponsor.

2.2 Use of Scent Articles

Scent articles may be carried by exhibitors or left at the starting stake. Exhibitors may re-scent their dogs at any time along the trail at their discretion. If scent articles are left at the starting stake, exhibitors must ensure that articles are returned to the containers where they were originally stored.

2.3 Restarts Required by Exhibitors and Judges

MTX trails may be restarted one time, whether by exhibitors' request or judges' direction. No more than one restart per trail is permitted.

Exhibitors will be allowed, at their discretion, to return once to the starting stake to restart. In these instances, exhibitors must inform the judges that the dog is off the trail and must request to return to the starting stake. Judges will tell exhibitors how much time is remaining and, if exhibitors request to return to the start, the judges will accompany the team back. The time limit will not be extended should the exhibitor restart the dog.

If, in the judges' opinion, the dog is 180 degrees off the trail, judges may direct exhibitors to restart at the starting stake. Judges will direct a restart only once. If the dog returns to a point 180 degrees from the actual trail for no apparent reason such as wind, the exhibitor may be stopped and the dog may be disqualified and failed, or judges may permit the dog to continue working for the duration of the time limit.

2.4 Runner Error

Should runners be waiting at the wrong place, away from the marked end of the trail, judges will:

- stop the dog out of sight of the trail's end and direct runners to the correct location; or
- if the dog works to where the trail should have ended, stop the dog and direct runners to the correct location to determine if the dog will identify the correct runner.

Judges may elect to pass the dog if the dog can identify the correct runner, given that the dog was passing the test at the time the end of the trail was reached.

2.5 Disqualifications and Failing Performance

Exhibitors and dogs will be automatically and immediately disqualified or failed for:

- a. an exhibitor's failure to report for the assigned trail within ten minutes of the scheduled starting time;
- b. an exhibitor's restarting of the dog more than once;
- c. an exhibitor's leading, directing, or guiding of the dog;
- d. a dog's menacing, attacking, snapping, growling, lunging, or attempting to bite or attack any exhibitor, judge, event staff, or spectator;
- e. a dog that appears injured or lame;
- f. a dog that becomes injured or lame during the trail;
- g. a dog's failure to find the correct runner within the allotted time period;
- h. a dog's failure to meet the minimum passing requirements.