

## **AMERICAN BLOODHOUND CLUB**

### **TRAILING TRIAL EVENT STANDARD**

**September 1997**

**Revised June 1999**

**Revised September 2000 - December 2001**

### **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.

**AMERICAN BLOODHOUND CLUB  
TRAILING TRIAL EVENT STANDARD**

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## CHAPTER 1

### GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR ABC-SANCTIONED TRAILING TRIAL EVENTS

#### Section 1: Making Application for Trailing Trial Events

##### 1.1 Individuals and Groups Eligible to Make Application

Any member in good standing or regional group belonging to the American Bloodhound Club (ABC) may request and be granted permission to hold a trailing trial event. The trailing trial event may be held in conjunction with a National Specialty or Regional Specialty or held as an independent event.

Other organized groups, such as a breed club or other specialized group, also may request and be granted permission to hold a trailing trial event. At least one person in the group must be an ABC member in good standing. The ABC member will be responsible for ensuring that the event is held in compliance with ABC regulations, and that all required applications, fees, and reports are submitted as required.

##### 1.2 Paperwork Required to Make Application

A sponsoring individual or group that is interested in holding a trailing trial event must request an application packet from the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson. Forms used for making application, and during the course of the trailing trial event, must be forms previously approved and recognized by the ABC Trailing Trial General Committee.

Requests to hold trailing trial events must be submitted to and approved by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson at least **six months (180 days)** prior to the first-choice date selected for the event. The number of trails requested on the application cannot be changed and should reflect the site and number of judges selected. The completed application packet must contain:

- a. a clear general map of the site; tentative locations of trails; number of trails offered for each trailing level;
- b. the number of judges needed for the trial; signed judges agreements
- c. a draft copy of the premium list with participant information;
- d. the name, address, and phone number of the Trailing Event Chairperson and Event Secretary (see section 2)
- e. budgetary information.

The ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson will review all submitted documents and application information to determine whether the planned event meets all requirements of this standard.

### 1.3 Grounds for Disapproval of Application

An application for a trailing trial could be rejected, returned for additional or missing information, denied sanctioning, or otherwise disapproved if any one of the following conditions occur:

- a. the site for the event is not specified;
- b. the site chosen for the event is not appropriate for the event as planned;
- c. the number of judges needed is not included or is insufficient to judge the number of trails offered;
- d. a person is selected to judge who is not currently an ABC-approved trailing judge;
- e. a person is selected to judge who is not qualified for the level assigned;
- f. the number of trails offered is not specified;
- g. the names of the Trailing Event Chairperson and Event Secretary are not specified;
- h. the planned event does not conform to the requirements of the standard;
- i. the application for the event is submitted too late.

## **Section 2: Duties and Responsibilities of Sponsoring Individuals / Groups**

### 2.1 General Duties of the Sponsoring Individual / Group

The sponsoring individual or group will be responsible for all costs and equipment as specified (see Section 2.2). The group should designate sections of the event site for each level offered, ensuring sufficient space for that level's requirements. The sponsoring individual or group will ensure that judges selected are currently approved to judge in accordance with the rules and regulations. The sponsoring individual or group will appoint a Trailing Trial Event Committee, a Trailing Event Chairperson, an Event Secretary, and a Transportation and Logistics Chairperson.

### 2.2 Event Equipment Required

The sponsoring group will provide the following required equipment:

- a. two-way portable radio or working cell phone for the event base;
- b. two-way portable radio or working cell phone for each judging team per trail;
- c. two judges' worksheets (per judge per trail);
- d. scent articles;
- e. packaging materials for scent articles;
- f. two markers per trail;
- g. one map of the area;
- h. one map for each specific trail marked with the path of the runner;
- i. writing materials (paper, pens or pencils);
- j. one clipboard per trail.

Sponsoring groups are strongly encouraged to provide the following additional equipment:

- a. beverages and water for event participants and staff;
- b. basic first aid kit;
- c. table and chairs for judges to complete reports;
- d. extra copies of each trail map;

- e. extra scent article kits (clean article / material packaging elements);
- f. additional judges' worksheets, pens, pencils, blank paper.

### 2.3 The Trailing Trial Event Committee

A Trailing Trial Event Committee must be appointed by the sponsoring individual or group. This committee will consist of at least three persons, not including the chair, and will exercise all the authority vested in a dog show bench committee (see AKC requirements). If a trailing event is held in conjunction with a specialty, either national or regional, the Trailing Trial Event Committee will have sole jurisdiction only over those dogs entered in the trial and their handlers and/or owners: provided, however, that if any dog is entered in both the trailing trial and in the specialty breed classes, the Trailing Trial Event Committee will have jurisdiction over such dog, the owner or exhibitor only in matters pertaining to the trial event, event rules and regulations. The Bench Show Committee will have jurisdiction over such dog, owner and/or exhibitor in all other matters.

### 2.4 Event Staff and Duties: Trailing Event Chairperson, Event Secretary, Transportation and Logistics Chairperson

A sponsoring group will be required to appoint one person for each of the following responsibilities:

- Trailing Event Chairperson;
- Event Secretary;
- Transportation and Logistics Chairperson.

The Trailing Event Chairperson is responsible for overseeing the entire event, including making sure that judges and runners have been assigned to each trail, that each trial adheres to the requirements of this standard, and that all selected judges have been approved by the ABC. During the event, the Trailing Event Chairperson is also responsible to confer with judges in cases of dogs' lameness or injury (see Section 12.6) and to preside over any hearings concerning issues that might arise during the course of the trailing trial event (see Section 12.9 and Chapter 2).

The Trailing Event Chairperson is also responsible for fully documenting the trailing event and for completing and submitting a final event report, which must be received by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson no more than 30 days after the event takes place. If the report is not received by the deadline, a fine of \$50 + \$5/day will be assessed against the sponsoring group or individual until such time that the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson receives the report. The event report will include copies of all entries, copies of all judges' sheets and trial maps, signed judges' agreements for every judge, a financial report with all expenditures and income, and the original of any Event Entry Certification Test certificates along with the proper fees.

The Event Secretary is responsible for all moneys received and disbursed and will ensure that all entries are accounted for, will receive all entries and send out entry confirmations, will ensure that the premium list is accurate, will ensure that all trophies, ribbons and certificates are on hand, and will distribute and collect all trail maps, scent articles, and judges' worksheets. The

secretary also must ensure that the event agenda is posted, and that judges have been confirmed and accounted for prior to the event.

The Transportation and Logistics Chairperson is responsible for obtaining all event equipment, including stakes, flags, radios, etc., and for ensuring that the event equipment is accounted for and in good working order. The Transportation and Logistics Chairperson will also arrange for transportation needs and schedule vehicles so that runners, judges, dogs, and handlers will be transported to the start of assigned trails and picked up at the trails' end.

### **Section 3: Levels of Competition Offered at Trailing Trial Events**

#### **3.1 Three Levels of Trailing Competition**

Three levels of trailing competition are offered at trailing trial events:

- Mantrailer (MT)
- Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI)
- Mantrailer Excellent (MTX)

#### **3.2 Mandatory Number of Mantrailer-Level Trails**

Every ABC-sanctioned trailing trial event must offer at least two Mantrailer-level trails. At least one alternate Mantrailer-level trail will also be laid for use if an original trail cannot be used or in the event of a protest.

### **Section 4: Determining Eligibility to Enter Trailing Trial Events and Specific Trailing Levels**

#### **4.1 Event Entry Certification Test Required**

All dogs must pass the Event Entry Certification Test (EECT: formerly known as formerly the Instinct Certification Test) to be eligible to enter the Mantrailer test. The EECT must be staged and judged in strict accordance with the rules of this standard. The minimum age for dogs entered in an 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.

#### **4.2 Event Report Required for Titles to Be Valid**

Any title won during an event will not be registered or valid until a completed trailing trial report has been received and accepted by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson. Therefore, any dog that has not yet passed a given certification level may not be entered prematurely in the next higher level. A dog must pass the MT level to be eligible for the MTI; a dog must pass the MTI to be eligible to enter the MTX level. All such successful trails are required to be passed at ABC-sanctioned trailing trial events. All dogs must pass each level in the order prescribed; no dogs will be permitted to skip a level for any reason.

#### 4.3 Thirty Days of Continuance in Entering Trailing for Levels Awarded

With the exception of the EECT, a dog may continue to be entered in any one level for 30 days after the owner and/or exhibitor has been notified that the dog has successfully completed a qualifying trail in that level. A dog will be entitled to awards, titles and/or certificates for each specified level of competition providing that:

- a. The dog successfully qualifies on the trail; AND
- b. No two levels are judged by the same judging team (two judges may work as a pair on one trail; each judge will then be paired with a different judge for the second level); AND
- c. No one person may judge the same dog in all three advanced levels (EECT not included).

#### 4.4 Judges, Dogs, and Handlers Who Are Ineligible to Compete

No person selected and approved to judge at a specific trailing trial event will be permitted to enter or to exhibit a dog in that event. No dog bred by or belonging, either wholly or in part, to a judge may be judged by that judge at any level, including the Event Entry Certificate Test. The Trailing Event Chairperson and the Event Secretary are prohibited from entering or handling a dog in the trailing trial event.

### **Section 5: Selecting Judges**

#### 5.1 Minimum Number of Judges

The sponsoring group will select the minimum number of judges as well as two alternates. Selection will be made only from the approved judges' list, which is available from the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson.

The minimum number of judges will be requested and scheduled based on the total distance of trails offered, the number of trails offered, and the level of trails offered. One ABC-approved judge is required to judge each Event Entry Certification Test (EECT). Two ABC-approved judges are required to judge each MT, MTI, and MTX trailing test.

#### 5.2 Approval of the Judging Slate

The Event Secretary will document the names of those judges selected and send a copy of the slate to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson for final approval. The Trailing Event Chairperson is responsible for ensuring that judges selected are approved to judge at the levels needed. No judge will be assigned to judge more than four miles of trails per event day.

After entries close for the trailing event, the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson will return to the Trailing Event Chairperson a list of verified entries and the names of judges who judged each entrant on prior successful trails. A judge is ineligible to judge a specific dog if that judge has previously judged the dog on two successful trails (i.e., where titles were earned). The Event Entry Certification Test will not be counted as one of the two successful trails.

Such information may be sent via mail, computer email (if available), facsimile, or other written manner. A copy of the information will be placed in the event file kept by the Trailing Event Chairperson.

### 5.3. If Additional Judges are Needed

If, after the entries have closed, due to extenuating circumstances such as a judge's inability to fulfill his or her judging assignment, the sponsoring group must immediately contact the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson and request permission for the selection of additional judges or for assistance in locating additional or substitute judges for the event.

If no additional judges are available, the sponsoring group will determine the number of trails and levels that can be judged and notify the entrants of the limitation. A lottery will be conducted to choose entrants (see Section 9); those entries not drawn for available trails will be used to establish a list of alternates. Limiting the number of previously published trails offered, although permitted, should be done only as a last resort.

## **Section 6: Notifying the ABC Board of Directors**

TTC receives the completed Trailing trial Application, reviews and sends it to the Trailing Committee for approval/disapproval/approval with conditions.

Upon approval by the Trailing Committee, the TTC sends the Trial information to the Newsletter editor for inclusion in the Vote-By-Mail section of the next available Newsletter.

After the mandated 30 days, the Recording Secretary shall notify the TTC of the results of the ABC Board decision to approve/disapprove/or table the proposed event.

## **Section 7: Creating Premium Lists — General Contents**

### 7.1 Premium Lists

The premium list will specify the dates and times when entries for the trailing trial event will open and close. The premium list will specify the names and addresses of the Trailing Event Chairperson and Event Secretary, who will be responsible for receiving entries. The premium list will include the names and addresses of scheduled judges and the specific level or levels to which judges are assigned. The premium list will include at least one entry form that conforms to the requirements of this standard (see Section 8) and required equipment for dogs and handlers (see Section 7.3 and Section 11). The premium list may not be released, mailed out, or given to exhibitors more than sixty days prior to the event.

### 7.2 Limitation of Number of Trails Offered

The ABC Trailing Trial General Committee strongly encourages trailing trial event sponsors to limit, based upon the site and resource capacity, the number of trails offered in trailing levels and events. Prominent notice of such limited entry must appear on the title or cover page of the trailing trial event's premium list. The premium list for a limited entry will not be released, mailed out, or given to exhibitors more than sixty days prior to the event.

### 7.3 Required Equipment for Dogs

The event premium list will contain a list of any special or required equipment for entrants. A harness and lead are required for any dog entered. The lead used will be of a length long enough to prevent an exhibitor's leading or guiding of the dog (six feet minimum). A collar may be worn by the dog but is not required. Corrective, prong, or pinch collars, as well as electronic collars, are prohibited from use on any trail offered in the event and on the event grounds.

### 7.4 Fees

Entry fees will be determined by the Trailing Event Chairperson and the sponsoring group. Entry fees will be set to defray the actual costs of the event. Checks for entry fees are to be made payable to the sponsoring group.

Each entry for the Mantrailer (MT), Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI) and Mantrailer Excellent (MTX) will include a \$5.00 (U.S.) fee to be deposited in the national trailing trial general fund account. Each Event Entry Certification Test will include a \$10.00 (U.S.) fee. EECT fees will be forwarded to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson, who will then forward them to the ABC Treasurer to be deposited and held as a "seed money" account for events.

### 7.5 Trailing Awards

The premium list will list all trophies, ribbons, prizes, and certificates to be awarded to successful entrants. Should any award, ribbon, or prize be donated by a specific person(s), such donation will be noted in the premium list. The Event Secretary will be responsible for procuring flat ribbon or rosette prizes for all levels with the exception of the EECT, for which no ribbon prize is awarded. The ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson will provide signed American Bloodhound Club trailing certificates to the Event Secretary. The sponsoring group or committee may elect to award special ribbons or prizes, but other such prizes will be offered in addition to the ABC awards.

Each ribbon or rosette must be at least two inches wide and at least eight inches long and must bear the ABC seal and the trailing level passed on the face of the ribbon / rosette.

## **Section 8: Entering Trailing Trial Events — Forms, Contents, and Regulations**

### 8.1 Official Entry Forms

To be acceptable, entries must be submitted with any entry fee on an official trailing trial entry form signed by the owner or duly authorized agent and must include all of the following information:

- a. name of the club, group or agency sponsoring the event;
- b. date and time of the event;
- c. date and time event entries close;
- d. location of the event;
- e. sex of dog entered (include notation of a spayed or neutered dog);

- f. date of birth of the dog entered;
- g. complete name of the level entered;
- h. full registered name of the dog entered;
- i. full AKC registration number, litter number, ILP number of the dog entered;
- j. name and address of the actual owner(s);
- k. name and address of the person handling the dog at this event;
- l. liability waiver as specified by the standard;
- m. a waiver of liability and signature blank;
- n. a signature of the person handling the dog.

## 8.2 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.

Spayed bitches, neutered males, monorchid or cryptorchid dogs are eligible for entry. Classes and levels will not be divided by sex or age of the dog entered.

## 8.3 Entry Deadlines

The closing date for a trailing trial event will be no later than thirty days prior to the event. The closing time will be no later than 5:00 PM. No entry will be accepted unless it is received by the Event Secretary prior to the closing date and hour as published in the premium list. No entry will be accepted that specifies any condition(s) as to the entry’s acceptance.

## 8.4 Changes In or Cancellations of Entries

No entry will be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received, in writing, by the Event Secretary prior to the closing date and hour as published in the premium list except that a correction may be made when the dog has successfully completed the level entered at another sanctioned event held prior to the closing. Such exception will be made only if the change or move-up is received in writing prior to the close of the entries as specified above. Facsimile (fax) changes are acceptable. No fees will be refunded for dogs withdrawn from competition.

## 8.5 Determining the Correct Trailing Level for Entries

A dog must successfully pass the EECT, judged by an approved judge, and have received a certificate signed by the EECT judge(s), to enter the Mantrailer level. A judging form signed by the trail judges and a certificate signed by the ABC President, indicating the dog has passed the Mantrailer level, will be required for entry in the Mantrailer Intermediate level, and judging forms signed by the judges and an MTI certificate signed by the ABC President will be required for entry in the Mantrailer Excellent level. It is the responsibility of the person making the entry to enter the correct trailing level.

## 8.6 Submittal of Entry Information for Verification of Eligibility

Within one day of the trailing trial event's closing date, the Event Secretary will send a copy of all entries received by the deadline to the Trailing Event Chairperson for verification of eligibility for all levels except the Event Entry Certification Test.

## **Section 9: Assigning Trails by Lottery**

### 9.1 Trail Assignment by Lottery

Trailing assignments will be determined by conducting a lottery when the number of entries in a given trailing level exceeds the number of trails available for that level.

### 9.2 Lottery Procedure

After the event entry closing date has passed, the Trailing Event Chairperson will separate the entries received into their respective categories: Mantrailer (MT), Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI), Mantrailer Excellent (MTX), and Event Entry Certification Test (EECT: if offered).

When all entries have been separated into their respective categories, the Trailing Event Chairperson and the Event Secretary will determine if there are any excess entries for a specific category. If there are more entries than available trails, the Event Secretary will conduct a lottery for the available trails. Those entries left after all trails in the level have been assigned will become alternates and eligible, in lottery order, for a trail should one of the selected entries cancel, withdraw, or fail to appear at the time of the event. No more than three alternates will be drawn for each trailing level.

The Event Secretary will notify all entrants of their standing (confirmed entry vs. alternate status). All entries over and above confirmed and alternate status will be returned to those persons submitting the entries.

If there are no extra entries for a given level, the Event Secretary will draw one entry at a time and assign each trail in chronological order (i.e., the first entry drawn will be the first team to run a trail for that level).

## **Section 10: Preparing and Distributing Event Judging Schedules**

Any group granted permission to hold a sanctioned event must prepare, after the entries have closed, an event judging schedule showing the time scheduled for judging each trail. The Event Secretary will mail a copy of this agenda to the owner of each entered dog and to each judge prior to the event date. The schedule will also be printed in the event catalog. The trailing event judging schedule will be based on each judge's judging of no more than four miles of trails per event day. No judge will be scheduled to exceed this daily total.

## **Section 11: Preparing to Stage Trailing Trial Events**

### **11.1 Risk and Hold-Harmless Agreements**

Owners, agents, exhibitors, event staff and event participants or observers who enter, judge, or otherwise participate in any sanctioned trailing trial event do so at their own personal risk. Such participation will require the signing of an agreement to abide by all rules and regulations of the event and all rules and regulations pertaining to trailing trial events.

### **11.2 Trail Conditions**

Trails used in this event will conform to these rules and regulations and will not contain known hazards or dangerous obstacles that could endanger any dog, exhibitor, runner, observer, or assigned judge. Dangerous obstacles include, but are not limited to, busy roadways, unstable surfaces, electric fences, and ground that has been treated with any pesticide or related chemicals.

### **11.3 Runners**

Trail runners are selected by the sponsoring group. Runners must follow the specific direction of one of the judges assigned to the same trail. Runners may alter a trail only with the judge's explicit permission. Runners are not allowed to give any information or instructions to any exhibitor, owner, or spectator. Handlers will not be given any information about runners or cross-runners for the assigned trails.

Runners will be responsible for obtaining, wearing, and packaging their scent articles. The runner will be given two "Ziploc" bags. The scent article will be placed in one "Ziploc" bag; then, that bag will be placed inside the second bag (see Section 11.5).

### **11.4 Marking and Mapping Trails**

Each trail will be assigned two markers, stakes, or flags: one to be placed at the start of the trail and the other at the finish. Trail markers must be clearly visible from a short distance away (10-20 feet); markers will not be placed under debris, ground cover, or other cover. Maps will be plotted clearly, indicating the entire path of the trail from start to finish.

### **11.5 Scent Articles**

Scent articles for a trailing trial event will be of a consistent for all trails offered. The specific scent article choice will be one of the following:

- a sterile gauze pad, 4" x 4", worn by the runner, next to the skin, for at least one hour; OR
- a sheet of clean cotton cloth, 4" x 4", worn by the runner, next to the skin, for at least one hour.

The Event Secretary will be responsible for marking each outer bag with number of the trail to which it corresponds. Bagged scent articles will not be tampered with in any manner. The Trailing Event Chairperson will be responsible for securing the articles until they are given to the trail judge(s) for a specific trail. Judges will give handlers their scent articles when they conduct trail

briefings, which will take place no more than thirty minutes prior to the scheduled starting time for a specific trail.

#### 11.6 Required Equipment for Exhibitors / Identification Prohibited for Handlers

Exhibitors are required to wear clothing appropriate for the environment and the terrain features of the event site. Handlers are strongly encouraged to wear boots, protective clothing, and gloves. No personal badges, club jackets, coats bearing kennel names thereon or ribbon prizes will be worn or displayed, nor will other visible means of identification be used by any exhibitor prior to or during the start of the specific trail assigned.

### **Section 12: Staging Trailing Trial Events**

#### 12.1 Un-entered Dogs Prohibited in the Field

No un-entered dogs will be permitted in the field at the event site; they must be confined to a crate or vehicle for the duration of the event. Un-entered bitches in season will not be permitted on the grounds until the event has closed.

#### 12.2 Confining Entered Dogs

Handlers, event staff, and observers are required to confine their dogs at all times to a vehicle, crate, building, or other structure, except during the running of their assigned trails. No dog will be tied to a fixed object, structure, or vehicle. At no time may anyone permit a dog off lead for any reason until the event has closed. When exercised, all dogs will be on lead and under the direct control of the owner, exhibitor, or designated person.

#### 12.3 Bitches in Season

Bitches in season are not permitted to begin a trail until the other entered dogs have finished running their trails. The exhibitor of a bitch in season will confine the bitch away from the event grounds until 15 minutes before the scheduled trail's start time.

#### 12.4 Other Disturbances, Abuses, or Interference

In collaboration with the Trailing Event Chairperson, judges must disqualify from competition any dog whose exhibitor cannot control the dog, any exhibitor who abuses a dog, or any exhibitor who interferes with any entered dog or any trail. Excused dogs will be removed from the event area immediately. In all such instances, entry fees will not be refunded. (See Chapter 2 for additional information.)

#### 12.5 Catalog Order

Dogs will be judged in catalog order within a particular level to the extent that it is practical. An exhibitor may request a later starting time, providing that the requested start time is within the time allotted for the type of test scheduled. Such a request to delay a starting time must be made in writing, and such a request must be received by the Trailing Event Chairperson at least thirty minutes prior to the opening of the event. A judge will not hesitate to disqualify any dog that

does not appear within ten minutes of the expiration of the designated time for that level of testing.

In the event of a no-show, disqualification, excused dog, or withdrawal on an entry, the entry fees will be forfeited without recourse, and the judging form for that test will be marked accordingly. The trail will then be available for an alternate team to work.

## 12.6 Disqualifications

A dog will be disqualified from a trailing trial event if:

- a. The person(s) listed as the owner(s) of any dog is not the person(s) who actually owns the dog at the time of the trial and is not listed as agent(s) for the owner.
- b. A dog is run on a trail for which the dog was not entered.
- c. The entry form is deemed invalid by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson due to inaccurate or incorrect information.
- d. A dog is judged at any trailing level by a person who bred, owns, co-owns, or who, at any time, owned or co-owned the dog.
- e. A dog is disqualified or failed by the judges during competition.

In all such instances, entry fees will not be refunded.

## 12.7 Ineligibility / Inability to Compete

A dog that is lame, limps, or appears injured at the time of the assigned trail may not be permitted to compete. Before the start of a trail, it is the assigned judges' responsibility, in collaboration with the Trailing Event Chairperson, to determine if a dog is lame. A veterinarian's evaluation is not required. If, in the judges' and chairperson's opinion, the dog is lame and unable to start or complete the trial, they will mark the judges' report as "Dog unable to compete due to lameness / injury."

If, in the process of working the assigned trail, a dog becomes injured or lame and is unable to complete or should be prevented from completing the assigned trail, the judges will stop the trail, and after noting the time the trail was stopped, mark the judges' form to indicate the reason the dog was not permitted to continue.

No bloodhound will be permitted to attempt an assigned trail if it is taped, bandaged in any way, or is wearing any device for medical or corrective purposes. In all such instances, entry fees will not be refunded.

## 12.8 Dropping the Lead

Handlers are not permitted to work their dogs off-leash while running trails. If entanglement occurs, the leash may be dropped briefly and unsnapped if necessary, but must be retrieved and re-attached as soon as possible. In cases of entanglement, the trail will be stopped, and the dog must be under the complete control and in close proximity (within 10 feet) of the handler. Should the

handler drop the lead when not entangled, the judge(s) must warn the handler that a second loss of control of the dog will result in failure.

### 12.9 Qualifying Trails

A qualifying trail will be recorded when a dog successfully finds the correct runner, as identified by the handler, at the end of a trail that was set up, assigned, worked, and judged according to the provisions of this standard. If the dog goes up to the correct runner but the handler does not identify the runner, and/or the handler pulls the dog off or away from the correct runner, the trail will be ended, and the dog and handler team will be failed.

### 12.10 Decisions

Decisions of the judge(s) are final in any matter affecting how a dog is worked by the exhibitor. The Trailing Trial Event Committee will adjudicate other matters arising at the event, including protests regarding trail assignment and interference of dogs and handlers, subject to the regulations governing the trailing events. The Trailing Event Chairperson will preside over any hearings and will make the final decision on issues that arise (see Chapter 2).

## CHAPTER 2

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS / COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS, AND APPEALS

#### Section 1: Disciplinary Proceedings for Conduct Prejudicial to the Sport

##### 1.1 Conduct Prejudicial to the Sport

Persons conducting themselves a manner that is prejudicial to the sport must be dealt with promptly, preferably before the event closes. Conduct considered prejudicial includes, but is not limited to, abuse of a dog, severe punishment of a dog, subjecting a dog to a life-threatening situation, drilling of any dog whether entered or not, an exhibitor who is under the influence of illicit or illegal drugs or alcohol, or an exhibitor who has been charged with falsifying written protests, complaints, or entry information.

##### 1.2 Eligibility to File Complaints

Any ABC member in good standing, participant, judge, or observer attending a trailing trial event may file a complaint with the Trailing Event Chairperson concerning conduct prejudicial to the interests of bloodhounds and trailing trial events. All complaints must be in writing, must be signed by the person making the complaint, and must be received by the Trailing Event Chairperson before the close of the event. The Trailing Event Chairperson is required to accept a written complaint or protest submitted prior to the close of the event; any complaint received after the close of the event will be rejected.

##### 1.3 Complaint Investigation Required

The Trailing Event Chairperson and designated event staff will form a Hearing Committee to investigate complaints fully and actively. Such investigation will include written statements obtained from the complainant, witnesses, and the owner/exhibitor. In addition, evidence such as photographs, videotape, drawings, or other items may be collected to assist in investigating the report. When statements and evidence have been gathered, a hearing will be scheduled to take place at the end of judging and before the event closes.

##### 1.4 Procedure for Disciplinary Hearings

Hearings will be closed to all persons except the Hearing Committee, persons lodging complaints, persons against whom complaints have been lodged, and witnesses. When the hearing has been convened and all required persons are present, the charge(s) will be read aloud. Persons lodging complaints will then present any evidence and explain the situation. Next, other statements, evidence or information will be presented. Persons charged with complaints will then present their own statements, witnesses, and evidence.

After all statements and evidence have been presented, the Hearing Committee will adjourn to a private area to deliberate. During deliberations, the hearing will be closed to all except those members of the Hearing Committee, who will determine if the subject of the complaint has or has not committed a violation. Findings will be based solely on the information and evidence presented.

### 1.5 Hearing Committee Decisions

If persons charged with violations are found innocent, the Hearing Committee will immediately notify the accused in writing of such a decision. A written copy of the entire complaint, statements, evidence, and detailed notes regarding the evidence and decision process will be sent, within 72 hours of the hearing, to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson for review. The ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson will forward a copy of the proceedings to the ABC Board of Directors. (See Section 3 of this chapter for disciplinary sanctions in cases involving findings of guilt.)

## **Section 2: Lodging Protests / Appeals of Trails**

### 2.1 Grounds For Protests or Appeals

Persons filing protests or appeals of a trail or other activity directly related to a trailing trial event will be limited to the following grounds for filing:

- a. A person who judged the trail was not eligible to judge.
- b. The runner was not at the end of the trail, as designated by the judges.
- c. The crossing runner was not at the end of the MTI or MT- level trail.
- d. The trail was aged more than the level permits.

### 2.2 Eligibility to File Protests / Appeals

Persons may file protests or appeals if they believe that grounds exist for such protests / appeals as described in Section 2.1. Protests or appeals must be in writing and must be delivered to the Trailing Event Chairperson for action before the event has closed.

### 2.3 Protest / Appeal Investigations Required

In the event of a protest or appeal initiated by an exhibitor, the Trailing Event Chairperson will obtain a written statement, before the close of the event, from the exhibitor filing the protest or appeal. In addition, the Trailing Event Chairperson will contact any witnesses, judges, or other persons involved and inform them that a hearing will take place. The Trailing Event Chairperson will collect evidence, if any, as presented by either side and also will convene a Hearing Committee, comprised of the Trailing Event Chairperson, the Event Secretary, one judge not involved in the dispute, and one exhibitor not involved in the dispute.

### 2.4 Procedure for Protest / Appeal Hearings

Hearings will be open only to those persons directly involved in the dispute (exhibitor, judge, witness, etc.) and will be closed to all other persons. The Trailing Event Chairperson will desig-

nate one person to take detailed notes throughout the proceedings. The Trailing Event Chairperson will then present the issue of protest or appeal, and information from both sides will be heard. After all statements and evidence have been presented, the Hearing Committee will adjourn to a private area to deliberate.

When the Hearing Committee has reached a decision, involved parties will be instructed to return, and the decision of the Hearing Committee will be announced. The decision of the Hearing Committee will be final; no further appeals are available.

### **Section 3: Disciplinary Sanctions / Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Should a person be found guilty of an incident, the Hearing Committee will consider appropriate the following sanctions to recommend to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson:

- a. written letter of reprimand;
- b. disqualification of the dog entered by the person and forfeiture of title or prize won;
- c. suspension of eligibility to participate in all trailing trial events for a specific period of time;
- d. permanent suspension of eligibility for participation in trailing events.

A complete written account of the hearing, including copies of all statements, judging forms, maps, or other evidence in the issue, is required as part of the final event report.

Any handler who continues to grieve, either verbally or in writing, the results of any hearing may be charged with unsportsmanlike conduct. A hearing to consider the charge of unsportsmanlike conduct may be convened at any time within 30 days of the close of the event. If found guilty, the handler will be suspended from further competition for a period of one year. A handler found to have committed unsportsmanlike conduct two times will be suspended from trailing event competition for a period of no fewer than three years; a handler found to have committed unsportsmanlike conduct three times will be suspended permanently from trailing event competition.

## 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.