

9 THE ADVANCED VERSATILE HUNTING TEST (AdvHT)

9.1 Purpose of the Test

The Advanced Natural Ability tests 12 categories to establish a level of the dog's natural abilities in regards to suitability and future use in versatile hunting and breeding. During the test, other attributes are observed and recorded, and attention is paid to mental stability.

The young dog's training for practical use in hunting in field and water must be essentially completed by this time. Natural abilities should be apparent, however, these must be accompanied by enough preparation, exposure and training for the dog to be able to demonstrate a practical working performance under judgement. The judges should be particularly careful to determine natural abilities that often are masked by the completed training. (Note: most of this section is identical to the DKV Solms Test)

9.2 Eligibility

Dogs are eligible for the Advanced Versatile Hunting Test (AdvHT) up until and including the day they reach 24 months of age.

Dogs older than 24 months of age are eligible only for the Older Dog Advanced Versatile Hunting Test (OVHT).

Should there be more entries than space available in the test, dogs that have not been tested previously in the AdvHT/OVHT will receive preference in entry to dogs that have been previously tested more than (3) times.

9.3 Overview

Dogs are tested in several phases in order to establish a comprehensive evaluation of performance. There is no set order in which to conduct the test, apart from the field phase, which be conducted under optimum conditions as determined on the day.

Proper execution of the test requires large fields or lands, containing a sufficient number of gamebirds and rabbits, and an area with sufficiently large dams or rivers containing ample reed growth.

Dogs must be tested individually and thoroughly in all categories. Each dog should be given several opportunities to prove itself. The judge's report must contain all relevant details.

The test is divided into the following categories:

Field Phase

- Nose
- Search
- Pointing
- Gamebird drag

Water Phase

- Gunshyness test
- Blind retrieve from dense cover
- Search behind the Duck from cover

Hare or rabbit Drag

Manner of Retrieving

- Hare or a rabbit
- Duck
- Gamebird (Guinea Fowl-Partridge-Francolin-Duck)

Cooperation

Obedience

Desire to Work

Manner of hunting

(Gives tongue on track, gives tongue on sight, silent, or questionable)

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ADVANCED VERSATILE HUNTING TEST SCORING SYSTEM

Grading system: Very Good/Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Satisfactory = 2;
 Poor = 1; Insufficient/Failing = 0
 In certain instances of exceptional merit (Nose, Search, Pointing, Duck Search) a score of 5 = Outstanding,
 may be given

Test Category	Index Number (multiplier)	Maximum Pts Attainable	Prize I (minimum scores required)	Prize II	Prize III
Field					
• Search	5 (x grade)	20	20(4)	15(3)	10(2)
• Pointing	5	20	20(4)	15(3)	10(2)
• Drag (Feathered gamebird, 150m with two blunt turns)	2	8	6(3)	4(2)	4(2)
Water					
• Gunshyness Test **	P or F				
(only the manner of retrieve of duck is scored)					
• Blind Retrieve of Duck in dense cover	2	8	6(3)	6(3)	4(2)
• Search behind the Duck	5	20	20(4)	15(3)	10(2)
Hare or Rabbit Drag (350 meters, with two blunt turns)	2	8	6(3)	6(3)	4(2)
Manner of Retrieving					
• Average	2	8	6(3)	4(2)	4(2)
Of all retrieves: *Feathered gamebird *Duck *Rabbit/Hare					
Use of Nose	6	24	24(4)	18(3)	12(2)
Desire to Work	5	20	15(3)	15(3)	10(2)
Cooperation	3	12	9(3)	9(3)	6(2)
Obedience	2	8	6(3)	6(3)	4(2)
TOTAL Pts (sum of grades x multipliers)		156	138	113	78

OTHER ATTRIBUTES ASSESSED DURING THE TEST:

- Gunshyness or gun sensitivity
- Temperament
- Physical attributes and Coat
- Rabbit track, when applicable