3   THE JUNIOR VERSATILE HUNTING TEST (JVHT)

7.1 Purpose of the Test

The purpose of the Junior Versatile Hunting Test is to provide a means of assessing the principle inherited natural abilities which are required for the dog to be successful in its role as a versatile gundog. These abilities also yield valuable insight into the breeding success of the parents, and alternatively, the future breeding success of the individual. (Note: most of this section is identical to the NAVHDA Natural Ability Test and similar to the German VJP)

7.2 Eligibility

Dogs are eligible for the Junior Versatile Hunting Test up until and including the day they reach 16 months of age.

7.3 Overview

The Junior Versatile Hunting Test measures seven hereditary characteristics which are fundamental to the makeup of a good, reliable versatile hunting dog. The importance of this test cannot be overemphasized.

The natural, inherited abilities of a hunting dog usually manifest themselves at an early age, and it is desirealbe to take advantage of this fact by testing dogs while they are still youngs. By so doing, the owner or trainer gets an impartial evaluation of the dog's strengths and weaknesses and thus is better able to plan a future training program for the animal. If the dog displays serious defecienceies, the owner may whish to obtain a new propect. The concientious breeder will study the dog's record, along with the records of its littermates, with a view to making any changes in his breeding programme.

Although the Natural Ability Test is important, it should not be seen as an infallible gauge of a dog's future worth. Dogs mature at different rates, and they can have a bad day. There are early maturers and later maturers. The experience of the handler also plays a role. Therefore, it is encouraged that dogs be tested more than once if there are any questions about performance.

The attributes assessed are:
- Nose
- Search
- Pointing
- Tracking
- Water
- Desire to Work
- Cooperation

SAVHDA NATURAL ABILITY TEST SCORING SYSTEM

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

Test Category	Index Number (multiplier)	Maximum Pts Attainable	Prize I	Prize II	Prize III
			(minimum scores required)		
Search	5 (x grade)	20	20(**4**)	15(**3**)	10(**2**)
Pointing	4	16	12(**3**)	12(**3**)	8(**2**)
Tracking	2	8	6(**3**)	4(**2**)	2(**1**)
Water	5	20	15(**3**)	15(**3**)	10(**2**)
Use of Nose	6	24	24(**4**)	18(**3**)	18(**3**)
Desire to Work	4	16	16(**4**)	12(**3**)	8(**2**)
Cooperation	2	8	6(**3**)	4(**2**)	2(**1**)
TOTAL Pts (sum of grades x multipliers)		**112**	**99**	**80**	**58**

OTHER ATTRIBUTES ASSESSED DURING THE TEST:
- Gunshy or gun sensitive in field
- Temperament
- Physical attributes and Coat
- Retrieve, when applicable
- Rabbit track, when applicable