

## CHAPTER 3 - THE TRACKING TESTS

As we train and work with our dogs, we are constantly evaluating our own performances. Because handlers usually work alone with their dogs, it can be difficult for a handler to know how a dog is progressing in its training or what its level of expertise is. The difficulty of a track can vary depending on a number of factors, including the age of the track, distance or length of the track, and amount of blood used over the course of the track. These tracking tests – UBT I, UBT II, UBT OL, and UBT III - provide a standardized guide for assessing proficiency.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. As tracking tests are based on the tracking team’s potential for recovering wounded game with hunters, the demonstration of acceptable behavior for this task by both the dog and the handler will be part of the assessment. In other words, the behavior of the tracking dog with people (the hunter, his family, and friends), as represented in tracking tests by the judge and gallery, and other dogs or animals, as well as the conduct of the handler, will be considered as part of the test. A team may be failed on the basis of this criteria.
- B. These tracking tests are for a dog and handler team, as such, the handler may not have an “assistant” working with them during the test.
- C. Dogs may wear tracking/training collars during testing, with tone, vibrate and stimulation modes allowed.
- D. Lines may be laid in any type of terrain in which natural tracking occurs. While the handler should function as an integral part of the tracking team, the dog must lead the handler through the track, rather than the handler guiding the dog. Judges should be sure of this when the terrain allows the track to be seen by the handler. To the best of the tracklayer’s ability, the handler should not know where the line is during the tracking test (blind track).
- E. The tracking test may be terminated when the performance can no longer be considered successful. The judge may, at their discretion, continue the track with the handler as a training opportunity.
- F. All tracking tests will be laid with 8 ounces of blood, intermittently applied by any method, or tracking shoes and 3 ounces of blood. Deer blood is preferred but can be from any hooved animal. The type of blood need not be advertised or announced.
- G. Event Testing, Group Testing and Individual Testing are not required to offer a choice of how tracking tests will be laid. If there is not a choice of how the tracking test will be laid, the method will be advertised or all participants will be notified at least 30 days in advance of what method will be used.

- H. When hooves are used, they must be fresh or fresh frozen. Hooves may not be used before the day of the tracking test. Hooves must be from the same deer, but do not have to be one front and one back. Hooves should be used in their natural state, i.e. the interdigital gland should not be scraped and blood should not be added to the hooves.
- I. A suitable deer part will be placed at the end of the trail.
- J. UBT I, II and III tracking tests are typically performed on lead. For on lead tests, the handler must be an appropriate distance behind the dog to allow the judge to assess with confidence that the handler is not guiding the dog. A handler may drop the leash at any time, but must remain in continuous control of his dog. The distance between the handler and the end of the leash, when dropped, may not exceed 10 yards except in those rare circumstances when the dog is negotiating an obstacle that the handler is unable to negotiate. A handler must be able to pick up the leash anytime directed by the Judge.
- K. UBT I, II and III tracking tests may be performed off lead, but are not allowed to be performed off lead in states where tracking has not been legalized yet. Judges must take extra care in evaluating dogs off lead, and no exceptions will be made to the following:
  - a. The dog must be observed by the judge as positively following the track. Dogs that are unable to be sufficiently observed by the judge due to speed, ranging out of sight, or other circumstances, must not be passed even if they find the deer part at the end of the trail.
  - b. The handler must be observed by the judge as being a useful part of the tracking team.
  - c. The team must demonstrate acceptable behavior as noted in "A" above.
- L. The UBT-OL is designed specifically as an off-lead tracking test and will follow the provisions listed in these guidelines. The UBT-OL is not allowed to be performed in states where tracking has not been legalized yet.
  
- M. Certificates will be issued for successful completion of UBT I, UBT II, UBT OL, and UBT III tracking tests. In any tracking test passed with zero call backs, the word "Excellent" will be added to the Certificate.
- N. There is no limit to the number of times a tracking test may be taken, however, if a test is failed there is a 30-day waiting period before the handler can re-test. Only the judge who failed the handler or the Director of Testing can waive the 30-day waiting period, and this should only be considered under special circumstances.

- O. A handler passing a UBT 1 tracking test may take the UBT 2 tracking test the same or next day. A handler passing a UBT 2 or UBT OL tracking test may not take the UBT 3 tracking test the same or next day.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HANDLERS**

- A. The handler is expected to lead the search, and may give directions to the gallery as they would to the hunter and friends during a natural search. In the same manner, the handler should take charge of the “find” at the end of the search and avert any situation that could occur with an overly possessive dog.
- B. Handlers under the influence of alcohol or recreational drugs at the time of their tracking test are prohibited from participating.
- C. The handler may:
  - a. Physically mark locations themselves using a biodegradable marking material;
  - b. Request the judge to mark locations designated by the handler with biodegradable marking material provided by the handler;
  - c. Use a phone or dedicated GPS to record their path and mark locations. Phone and GPS may not be used to question a judge’s evaluation of the tracking test.
- F. The handler must announce to the judge if they are going to stop the dog and move to a different location.
- G. The handler may offer the dog water at any time during the tracking test. The handler is not required to notify the judge that they are watering their dog.
- H. Handlers assume all liability for themselves and their dogs when participating in UBT tracking tests.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR JUDGES**

- A. Judges must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- B. All tracking tests will be conducted by one judge.
- C. Although the handler may give instructions to the gallery as they would to the hunter and friends during a natural search, the judge is ultimately responsible for the gallery. The judge should ensure the gallery is not a distraction to the tracking team, and remains within a reasonable distance of the line expert and/or judge.
- D. The line expert and/or judge should follow the tracking team, even when they are not on the track so they do not indicate to the handler that they have left the line.
- E. Judges should neither coach nor help the handler once the tracking test has started. The judge should closely follow the handler, and only speak to warn the handler if they are in danger of violating the rules or if a call back is

- necessary. One warning for a violation of the rules is allowed, but not required.
- F. Judges should take detailed notes when evaluating the tracking test so that they may give a comprehensive critique at the end of the test. Critiques should accentuate the positive, but also include any negative elements with possible solutions or training advice, if appropriate.
  - G. Judges must keep in mind that the tracking team is being judged – not just the dog. Before the start of the tracking test, the judge should give a clear description of the test to the handler. The judge should include general parameters from the tracking test descriptions regarding the distance, the type of track (dripped blood or blood and shoes), the number of turns, wound beds, time limit, and call backs allowed. It is very important for the judge to make it clear that the dog and handler are being evaluated as a tracking team.
  - H. The judge has the option of telling the handler a story about the deer they are tracking. This is not required, but it is traditional. If the judge tells a story, it may be realistic or funny. Stories may be humorous, but should not be over the top, and should not imply illegal or unethical circumstances. Stories should reflect situations that could actually happen.

#### **ELIGIBILITY FOR UBT TRACKING TEST ENTRIES**

- A. All breeds or combination of breeds of dogs are eligible to be evaluated.
- B. There is no age requirement for dogs to be evaluated.
- C. Bitches in season will not be allowed to interfere with other dogs being evaluated. Bitches in season may be run last in event or group testing, and may be given the last track with the other tracks remaining available for random draw. If there are multiple bitches in season, there may be a random draw for the last tracks amongst the in-season bitches. Bitches in season should be isolated from the tracking area(s) until such time as their track is to be run.
- D. A dog is not eligible to be entered under some judges (See CHAPTER 2 “Conflicts of Interest”).

## LEVEL 1 TRACKING TEST

### UBT 1

<u>Purpose</u>	The UBT-I demonstrates the basic skills necessary to track wounded game by assessing the ability of the handler/dog team to follow an artificial blood trail.
<u>Length</u>	About ¼ mile (400-500 yards).
<u>Age</u>	At least 2 hours.
<u>Obstacles</u>	Two approximately 90 degree turns. One wound bed. Wound beds will not be within 10 yards of a turn. Wound beds will be prepared with hair and blood and be clearly identifiable as different from the rest of the track.
<u>Blood:</u>	Approximately 8 ounces of blood, or 3 ounces of blood with the use of tracking shoes, will be used over the course of the track, including wound beds.
<u>Start</u>	The handler will be shown the start and direction of the track, as indicated by a flag or marker 30 yards from the starting point.
<u>Time Limit</u>	30 minutes
<u>Call Backs</u>	2 call backs are allowed
<u>Scoring</u>	Pass / Fail
<u>Prerequisite</u>	None. This is an entry level tracking test.

## LEVEL 2 TRACKING TESTS

### UBT 2

<u>Purpose</u>	The UBT-II demonstrates more advanced skills necessary to track wounded game by assessing the ability of the handler/dog team to follow an artificial blood trail under more demanding conditions.
<u>Length</u>	About ½ mile (800-900 yards).
<u>Age</u>	At least 8 hours. Tracks aged overnight may be up to 20 hours old when they are run. This may occur on any UBT 2 track, but occurs more frequently during event and group testing.
<u>Obstacles</u>	At least three approximately 90 degree turns. Two wound beds. Wound beds will not be within 10 yards of a turn. Wound beds will be prepared with hair and blood and be clearly identifiable as different from the rest of the track.
<u>Blood:</u>	Approximately 8 ounces of blood, or 3 ounces of blood with the use of tracking shoes, will be used over the course of the track, including wound beds.

<u>Start</u>	The handler will be shown the start and direction of the track, as indicated by a flag or marker 30 yards from the starting point.
<u>Time Limit</u>	60 minutes
<u>Call Backs</u>	1 call back is allowed
<u>Scoring</u>	Pass / Fail
<u>Prerequisite</u>	Successful completion of the UBT-I is required. The prerequisite may be waived by the judge conducting the test.

### **UBT OL**

<u>Purpose</u>	The UBT-OL demonstrates specific skills necessary to track wounded game off-lead by assessing the ability of the handler/dog team to follow an artificial blood trail utilizing a hand held device. The handler will demonstrate the ability to identify sign and direction of travel of wounded game, as well as identify property lines and barriers by interpreting dog actions and other indicators. The handler will demonstrate control over the dog, and communicate observations to the judge throughout the track.
<u>Length</u>	About ½ mile (800-900 yards).
<u>Age</u>	At least 4 hours. Tracks may be aged longer. This may occur on any UBT OL track, but occurs more frequently during event and group testing.
<u>Obstacles</u>	Three approximately 90 degree turns. Two wound beds. Wound beds will not be within 10 yards of a turn. Wound beds will be prepared with hair and blood and be clearly identifiable as different from the rest of the track. The handler should identify wound beds to the judge if/when they are indicated.

#### Additional challenges:

1. There will be one simulated property line, which may be at any point in the track. The tracking team must demonstrate a recall from the property line utilizing tone or vibration only from the hand held device – no stimulation (shock) may be used. The handler must demonstrate the ability to restart the dog after it has been recalled.
2. When game has been located, the handler will announce the find to the judge, and mark the find on the handheld device. The dog must either sit/stay at the find until the handler arrives at that location, or the dog may return to the handler and guide the hunter back to the game.

After announcing game has been located, the handler may only return to the location marked as the find, and may not continue to search.

<u>Blood:</u>	Approximately 8 ounces of blood, or 3 ounces of blood with the use of tracking shoes, will be used over the course of the track, including wound beds.
<u>Start</u>	The tracking team will search for the hit site from a starting point approximately 50 yards away. The handler will be shown the starting point, but will not be provided with the exact direction of the hit site.
<u>Time Limit</u>	The team must find the hit site and begin tracking in 15 minutes or less. The 15 minutes is included in the overall time limit of 60 minutes.
<u>Call Backs</u>	1 call back is allowed
<u>Scoring</u>	Pass / Fail
<u>Prerequisite</u>	Successful completion of the UBT-I is required. The prerequisite may be waived by the judge conducting the test.

### **LEVEL 3 TRACKING TEST**

#### **UBT 3**

<u>Purpose</u>	The UBT-III demonstrates the ability to resolve situations often encountered on natural tracks. The tracking test is designed to be both challenging and fun. Each tracking test is likely to be unique, however, judges should insure that each test is able to be passed with the right skills and resolution techniques. Due to the changing challenges inherent to this test, handling teams may wish to take the test on multiple occasions.
<u>Length</u>	About ½ mile (800-1,000 yards) if opportunities for the shortest trail are taken advantage of. Challenges may result in a longer trail.
<u>Age</u>	At least 4 hours. The emphasis of this tracking test is on the team's ability to resolve situations, not on the dog's ability to follow a cold trail.
<u>Obstacles</u>	Tracks may have 3-5 turns or arcs of any degree in addition to three of the challenges listed below. Tracks will have 5 articles of "sign". Examples of sign include bone fragment, hide, hair, blood on a broken branch, wound bed, etc. and will be an item or marker (such as a wooden clothes pin or other biodegradable item) that may be picked up by the handler. The handler will pick up and return with any markers they encounter. A designation will be made on

certificates issued to handling teams returning 3 or more articles.

Judges will select one obstacle from each of the following categories (total of three), based on tracking test site accommodations:

**Directional Challenges (select one):** star ★, circle ○ or spiral configuration ◎ with random exit, loop with continuation ℓ, track goes back and forth in three standing corn or pine rows, back track or hairpin turn of 20 yards or more. Other challenging and realistic configurations may be used at the judge's discretion.

**Surface Challenges (select one):** track will cross or follow - water (less than knee deep for handler), very rocky terrain, paved or gravel road, paved driveway or parking area, bare or plowed ground, marsh/wetland or mud. Other challenging and realistic surfaces may be used at the judge's discretion.

**Distraction Challenges (select one):** Dead animal (deer part, road kill, etc.) or live animal (horse, goat, etc.) dragged/walked across the track after it has been laid, dog walked 25 yards out and back at the start of the track simulating another dog having been with hunter, stop and wait a minimum of 5 minutes at any point on the track at the judge's command simulating waiting for permission to cross property lines then resume tracking, car horn honking nearby periodically for 3 minutes, handler leaves track by 10 yards and waits a minimum of two minutes at the judge's command simulating injury or equipment adjustment, or dead animal or gut pile within 3 feet of track. Other realistic distractions that a tracking team might find in the area of the tracking test that are legal and not dangerous to the team may be used.

Blood

Approximately 8 ounces of blood without the use of tracking shoes, or 3 ounces of blood with the use of tracking shoes, will be used over the course of the track.

Start

The hit site will be prepared to indicate the general direction of travel at the start. The handler will be shown the hit site, but will not be provided with the direction of the track.

Time Limit

60 minutes

Call Backs

1 call back is allowed

Scoring

Pass / Fail

Prerequisite

Successful completion of the UBT 2 or UBT OL is required. The prerequisite may be waived by the judge conducting the test.