

ASSOCIATION OF BLOODHOUND BREEDERS WORKING PERMIT AND STOCK TEST PROCEDURE

The Association encourages members to train their hounds to hunt the 'clean boot'. This is vital if the breed is to maintain its accepted prowess at hunting a human quarry on a cold line.

Before competing at Working Trials, hounds have to obtain a working permit.

The Association of Bloodhound Breeders now has a standard procedure in place for the testing of hounds for working permits to enable those interested to compete in the twice yearly Champion Bloodhound Trials. The procedure for a hound applying for a full permit remains the same. The hound will be asked to hunt a line one mile long, half an hour cold, going across country and if possible hunting through farm stock, in particular sheep. The hound will also be required to be seen running free through sheep.

A hound holding only the first part of a permit, who comes back at a later stage for a stock test, will be asked to fulfil part two of the procedure.

Part Two of the permit - the Stock Test - requires the hound to hunt a line half a mile long and half an hour cold, through a substantive number of sheep, without chasing or worrying the sheep. After successfully hunting through the sheep the hound is then taken back into the sheep unleashed and some of the sheep are driven across in front of the hound. The handler must remain silent and the hound must not chase the sheep.

Application for a permit test must be made in writing to the Secretary. Telephone applications will be accepted but written confirmation must be sent to the Secretary before the test takes place. The Secretary will then make arrangements with an approved judge and inform the owner of the hound accordingly. A Working Permit card will be sent by the Secretary to the Judge concerned prior to the permit test unless the hound already has part one in which case the owner must take the permit card to the test. The Judge will be asked to report back to the Secretary the result of the test.

A.B.B. and B.C. permit cards are not to be mixed, a hound must have both parts approved by the same club.

The Association has a number of experienced judges with access to sheep in sufficient numbers for stock tests. The Secretary will endeavour to use a venue as convenient as possible for the handler but this will depend on circumstances prevailing at the time.

A judge may ask a handler to remain silent during a stock test

Hounds can take Part One of the working permit after they reach the age of six months however hounds must be twelve months old before they can take Part Two of the working permit.

Should a hound fail its stock test there will be a one month cooling off period before the hound is re-tested. It is preferred that a re-test, especially for the stock test, should be carried out by the same judge whenever possible. This procedure should also be followed in the case of a hound that has had its full permit revoked.

Permit tests are free to members of the Association, there is a £5 fee for non members.

Approved Judges for the A.B.B. Are:- Any experienced and active Judge approved by the Association.

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