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Instructions to Station Workers

Neutral Stranger

On instructions from the chief tester, the dog/handler team moves toward the first marker(s). The neutral stranger approaches the team from the left front at a 45-degree angle, arriving at the marker(s) simultaneously with the handler. The neutral stranger stops within arm's length of the handler, shakes hands and engages the handler in conversation for approximately 10 to 15 seconds, ignoring the dog. The neutral stranger then returns to his /her starting point. The neutral stranger does not come from behind a blind. He/she should approach from the left front of the handler.

Friendly Stranger

On instruction from the chief tester, the team walks toward the second marker(s). The friendly stranger approaches the dog from the left front at a 45-degree angle in an enthusiastic, happy manner, verbally attracting the dog's attention, arriving at the marker(s) simultaneously with the dog. The friendly stranger is exuberantly friendly to the dog; ignoring the handler, he/she pets the dog for approximately five to ten seconds, but does not bend directly over the dog. The friendly stranger then returns to his/her starting point. He/she does not come from behind a blind, but should approach from the left front of the handler.

Hidden Noise

As the team comes to within 20 feet of the well-hidden assistant, the assistant begins to continuously rattle a metal bucket containing rocks or metal parts. When the dog is approximately 10 feet away, the assistant steps from behind the blind, still rattling the bucket, sets it smoothly on the ground, and disappears behind the blind. For dogs too small to put their heads inside the upright bucket, the assistant lays the bucket on its side with the opening toward the dog.

Gun Test

When the chief tester indicates the team proceeds to the next marker(s) and stands with their back toward the blind concealing the assistant. The assistant then fires three shots into the air. In the following manner: **SHOT – PAUSE – SHOT – SHOT**. The assistant should wear earplugs or other ear protection. When it is necessary to use the 2x4's, the station worker should clap them forcefully together in the same pattern as the gunshots.

Umbrella Test

When the chief tester indicates, the team proceeds toward the umbrella station. The assistant sits relaxed and motionless in the chair holding a man's black, normal-size self-opening (spring loaded) closed umbrella horizontally in front at a 90-degree angle to the path of the approaching team. The assistant is looking straight ahead showing no challenging behavior. When the dog is five feet from the umbrella, looking toward the umbrella, the assistant releases the catch and smoothly lowers the opened umbrella until it comes to rest with two points touching the ground. The assistant holds the handle firmly in the horizontal position, still at a 90-degree angle to the approaching team, with no further movement. The assistant may close the umbrella well after the team has left the station.

The Weird Stranger

The team walks to the last designated marker(s) and stops. The weird stranger is dressed in a floppy coat/overcoat, wears a wide-brimmed hat and has a hidden undergarment sleeve (no Schutzhund sleeve). He carries a riding crop (or a stick no heavier than a riding crop) no longer than four feet.

TEST 8: The hidden weird stranger first attracts the dog's attention with strange noises and unintelligible sounds (avoiding any influential words or commands). He/she immediately emerges from behind the blind, continuing to make weird sounds, staggering and stumbling (in a non-challenging manner) across the team's anticipated path to the first marker (approximately 38 feet from the stationary handler).

TEST 9: After crossing their path, the weird stranger turns toward the dog, hesitates briefly, and advances 10 feet toward the team (to the second marker) continuing to make weird sounds and motions, waving the riding crop above the shoulders.

TEST 10: The Weird stranger hesitates momentarily, continuing to make weird sounds and motions; he/she uses the riding crop to strike the ground 6 times as he/she advances an additional 10 feet to the third marker (18 feet from the handler). The weird stranger then backs away in a furtive, hesitant, and uncertain manner, looking once over his/her shoulder toward the dog while retreating behind the blind.

A SOUND MIND IN A SOUND BODY