

## Guide to assessors trainers and competitors – Field Trial Beginner Gold (FTBG)

Note :These is not “obedience” tests but assess the dog for readiness to start gundog trials at a novice level  
Note: No food to be taken on to testing ground. Treats must be fed off the grounds.

### Obedience

#### ***Section One – Heelwork:***

Without the lead, the dog must be in acceptable heel position at all times during the test, close to and alongside the handler and despite minor distractions. ‘About turns’ and changes in direction will be required. The handler will be required to ‘heel’ the dog past an assistant, to remain at heel whilst the assistant rolls a ball or dummy across the path of the dog and handler ( 10 to 15 metres from the dog), and past dummies lying on the ground.

*Note-* The assessor may incorporate heelwork into the other aspects of the tests as he sees fit, he or she will record the dog correctly completing neat left and right turns, and at least two 180 degree about turns without losing the correct heel position at any time.

Watch: Gr 3 Retriever: Pass: <https://youtu.be/7IEKH6dGMSo>

#### ***Section Two – Sit and Stay:***

The ‘stay’ will be four minutes in duration. Dog may be seated or lying down but should not change attitude during exercise. During this four minutes that dog will be tested as follows:

- Steadiness to fall – an assistant will throw two dummies within 10 metres of the seated dog. The handler to be at least 20 metres from the dog at this time.
- Handler out of sight – The handler must be out of sight for at least 10 seconds during the course of the stay
- Handler distance – the handler must walk 50 metres from the dog at some point during the stay, the

dog should be able to see the handler clearly during this exercise

- The order in which these distractions are presented is at the discretion of the assessor.

**Section Three – The stop** The dog must stop quickly to whistle whilst hunting the area of fall as follows:

An assistant will throw a mark at 25 metres from and in clear view of the 'dog at heel'. The handler will turn the dog and walk away whilst the assistant removes the dummy. The assessor will ask the handler to send the dog to the area of fall, and to stop him there by whistle.

**Section Four – Recall:**

There are two recalls.

- After the stay ( 50 metres )
- After the stop ( 25 metres)

The dog should return directly to the handler when recalled and on arrival return to the heel position without delay.

*Each obedience section is worth 20 marks – total 80*

## **Retrieving**

**Section One – Marking, Memory, Nose and Persistence**

Marked retrieves:

Two singles mark on land at 70 – 80 metres. To land in cover\* concealed from view.

The dummy should be in light cover and the dog should not be handled onto the mark.

The dog will be scored for accurate marking & lining, effective persistent hunting, holding the area of fall, style/speed, and delivery

A straightforward water mark at up to 35 metres. Dog should be able to swim. Retrieve can be on or over water

## **Section Two – Directional Control**

Blind retrieves: Handling will be tested with two simple short blinds as follows

Back 30 metres – single retrieve

Either a Left or a right 20 metres – single retrieve

Handler to give directions from a distance of ten metres from the dog. Blinds will be set up using visual guidelines such as a fence or barrier.

*Each of the retrieves is worth up to 20 marks – total 100*

## **Spaniel**

### **Obedience**

#### **Heeling**

Heelwork is carried out off the lead in two parts with the 'stay' in between

- HEEL 1: The handler is required to walk his dog at heel without a lead from the line to the 20-yard sit marker. *Spaniel heelwork is not expected to be precise.* But the dog must be clearly under control and not forging ahead of the handler. Points will be lost for repeated commands from the handler, or poor control of the dog. Maximum points for the first heel - 3.
- SIT & STAY: The handler is required to sit the dog at the 20-yard marker with a single sit command and to return to the line without the dog. The dog must remain seated for two minutes. Points will be lost if the dog stands up, or creeps. No further commands may be given. Maximum points for the stay - 10.
- HEEL 2: The handler will return to the dog and heel the dog 20 yards back to the start line. As the dog and handler approach the Assessor, a dummy will be thrown at right angles to the dog. The dog must remain at heel throughout this distraction, heelwork standards as above. Maximum points for the second heel – 7

#### **Field Skills**

### ***Hunting, retrieving, response to whistle commands***

CONTROLLED HUNTING: For the main body of the field skills section, the dog will hunt closely in front of the handler whilst the handler walks forwards for a distance of approximately 50 yards. The handler must demonstrate close control over the dog with appropriate use of the turn whistle. The terrain will consist of moderate cover.

- RECALL: The dog will be tested on the recall whistle once during hunting on the direction of the assessor.
- STOP WHISTLE: The dog will be tested on the stop whistle twice during hunting, each stop to be followed by a dummy throw and shot, once the dog is firmly seated. (i.e. this is **not** a 'drop to fall' test, but steadiness to fall is required).
- RETRIEVING: Three marked retrieves to be carried out - the first two as follows: The assessor will direct the handler to go out to the dog after each stop whistle test and once steadiness to fall is demonstrated. The dog will be sent for each of the marks from the handler's side. Delivery to hand is essential. For the third and final marked retrieve, the dog will be sent across a minor obstacle such as a small stream or ditch. Swimming is not required. The final retrieve may be carried out separately from the hunting test if the terrain requires it.

For Standard of marking watch

Gr 3 Spaniel: Distinction: <https://youtu.be/hQ1WfhVDkds>

### ***Introduction to live bird***

The dog is expected to range and flush 2 birds in radio controlled traps. Interest and enthusiasm must be shown by the dog and flushing is expected. The dog is not expected to be steady and is allowed a short chase. Dog may drag a long line if required

Points for field skills will be allocated as follows:

Hunting - maximum 50 points

- Quartering pattern/ground coverage - 15 points
- Response to the whistle (turn/recall) - 15 points (10/5)
- Speed/style - 5 points
- Steadiness to fall - 15 points

Retrieving - maximum 30 points

Each retrieve - 10 points

## **HPR**

### ***Obedience***

Heelwork is carried out off the lead in two parts with the 'stay' in between

- HEEL 1: The handler is required to walk his dog at heel without a lead from the line to the 20-yard sit marker. *HPR heelwork is not expected to be precise.* But the dog must be clearly under control and not forging ahead of the handler. Points will be lost for repeated commands from the handler, or poor control of the dog. Maximum points for the first heel - 3.
- SIT & STAY: The handler is required to sit the dog at the 20-yard marker with a single sit command and to return to the line without the dog. The dog must remain seated for two minutes. Points will be lost if the dog stands up, or creeps. No further commands may be given. Maximum points for the stay - 10.
- HEEL 2: The handler will return to the dog and heel the dog 20 yards back to the start line. As the dog and handler approach the Assessor, a dummy will be thrown at right angles to the dog. The dog must remain at heel throughout this distraction, heelwork standards as above. Maximum points for the second heel - 7

### ***Hunting, retrieving, response to whistle commands***

- CONTROLLED HUNTING: For the main body of the field skills section, the dog will hunt at some distance (depending on cover density) in front of the handler whilst the handler walks forwards for a distance of approximately 50 yards. The handler must demonstrate close control over the dog with appropriate

use of the turn whistle. The terrain will consist of light to moderate cover.

- RECALL: The dog will be tested on the recall whistle once during hunting on the direction of the assessor.
- STOP WHISTLE: The dog will be tested on the stop whistle twice during hunting, each stop to be followed by a dummy throw and shot, once the dog is firmly seated. (i.e. this is *not* a 'drop to fall' test, but steadiness to fall is required).
- RETRIEVING: Three marked retrieves to be carried out - the first two as follows: The assessor will direct the handler to go out to the dog after each stop whistle test and once steadiness to fall is demonstrated. The dog will be sent for each of the marks from the handler's side. Delivery to hand is essential. For the third and final marked retrieve, the dog will be sent across a minor obstacle such as a small stream or ditch. Swimming is not required. The final retrieve may be carried out separately from the hunting test if the terrain requires it.

**Introduction to live bird**

The dog is expected to range and point 2 birds in radio controlled traps. Interest and enthusiasm must be shown by the dog and pointing is expected. The dog is not expected to be steady on release of bird and is allowed a short chase. Dog may drag a long line if required. Bird will be released if dog approaches closer than 5 metre

Points for field skills will be allocated as follows:

Hunting - maximum 50 points

- Quartering pattern/ground coverage - 15 points
- Response to the whistle (turn/recall) - 15 points (10/5)
- Speed/style - 5 points
- Steadiness to fall - 15 points

Retrieving - maximum 30 points

Each retrieve - 10 points

<b>Summary of points awarded</b>		
<b>Retriever</b>		
Obedience	Heelwork	20
	Sit stay	20
	Stop	20
	Recall	20
Retrieving	Retrieve 1	20
	Retrieve water	20
Directional control	Blind 1	20
	Blind 2	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>
	distinction	>144
	merit	>127-143
	pass	>=78-126
	Not yet	<78

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	ready	
<b>Spaniel</b>		
Obedience		
heelwork	Heel 1	3
	Heel 2	7
	Sit stay	10
Field work/hunting	Whistle turning	10
	Ground treatment	15
	Speed/style	5
	recall	5
retrieving	Retrieve 1	10
	Retrieve 2	10
	Retrieve 3	10
	Live bird	Complete/nyr
	Total	85
	distinction	>76
	merit	68-75
	pass	>50-67

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	Not yet ready	<=49
<b>HPR</b>		
Obedience		
heelwork	Heel 1	3
	Heel 2	7
	Sit stay	10
Field work/hunting	Whistle turning	10
	Ground treatment	15
	Speed/style	5
	Stop whistle	7.5
	Stop whistle	7.5
	recall	5
Retrieving	Retrieve 1	10
	Retrieve 2	10
	Retrieve 3	10
	Live bird	Complete /nyr
	Total	85



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	distinction	>76
	merit	68-75
	pass	>50-67
	Not yet ready	<=49