



PREAMBLE

Club Committees and Triallists

The Executive have established a training program to prepare young dogs for competition.

We believe that a basic graded system of voluntary, training sessions will give competitors the tools to achieve at a novice level, and the motivation to stay in the sport and attempt higher levels with success.

This is available to clubs to take this on and be responsible for training, mentoring and assessment of those who participate.

The following graded system of training is based on a similar UK qualification that has been going since 2006.

We have established a qualification based on these grades that competitors can attach to their dog's pedigree – like what the NZKC Obedience and Agility have at present.

The qualifications will be:

- Novice Beginner Bronze (beginner trial dog grade 1)
- Novice Beginner Silver (beginner trial dog grade 2)
- Novice Beginner Gold (beginner trial dog grade 3)

Triallist may train their dogs themselves, train at their local Gundog club or even join an Obedience club.

Competitors must be assessed by assessors of suitable experience appointed by the club (Approved Judge)

The NZGTA Graded Gundog Training Scheme

Introduction

Based on the UK Gundog club (see <http://www.thegundogclub.co.uk/?p=1034>) introduced in 2006 and still going strong

- Helps support struggling and novice or new gundog owners.
- Non-competitive (achievement based)
- Assessments done by different person to trainer.
- Assessments and training are user paid.
- Has been very popular with pet dog owners helping them control and enjoy their gundogs (many of their owners have had no previous contact with hunting, working gundogs or the trialing community)
- Great incentive for those in show world (especially breeders who will encourage their puppy owners to achieve qualifications on their pedigrees)
- Gives public credit to dogs that have won novice, limit, and open trials (presently a dog can win novice limit and even a challenge without any credit to the dog's ability or success)
- Will enable new (and current) members to the NZGTA achieve more success with their dogs both in natural game trialing and pigeon trials.
- Will reward dogs that achieve the various levels to be awarded a certificate and a title beside the dog's name on their pedigree. Novice Beginner Bronze (NBB), Novice Beginner Silver (NBS), Novice Beginner Gold (NBG), leading on to Field Trial Novice (FTN), Field Novice (FN) for winning out of Novice, Field Trial Novice Advanced (FTN adv.) for winning out of Limit, then Field Winner (FW) or Field trial winner (FTW), followed with the present FCH or FTCH, GFTCH and GFCH)

How it can be managed

- Individual Clubs who choose to use the training scheme will be responsible for managing training and assessment.
- Enrollment –we would suggest that students will pay a fee for training and assessment, this is an opportunity for clubs to generate some income.
- Students can attend classes.
 - At gundog clubs training days
 - At obedience clubs for lower grades
 - Self-managed -Students may choose to train themselves if they have guidelines to follow (training guides- currently in development)
 - Can be put with a mentor to discuss problems.
 - Use Skype, go-pros, movie app on most cell phones to communicate with Mentor

- Assessments run by clubs
 - This could be retired trial judges, senior handlers, anyone that has been in a competitive environment that the club deems proficient and suitable. Preferably independent of the training.
 - Can be done any time when student feels they are ready
 - Have assessment times at training days/fit it in at trials?
 - Have clear achievement guidelines for assessors (see the video links to see level achieved in UK)
 - Clear standards to be achieved must complete and pass each and every part of the test to be awarded the Grade.

Summary of Training Achievement Grades

Grade 1 Summary	Retriever	Hunting retriever (spaniel)	Hunt point retriever (HPR)
obedience	1) Heel –loose lead 30 m 2) Sit 3) Stay 2 minutes 4)recall		
retrieving	1)Single marked retrieve clear view 15m 2)Single marked retrieve clear view 20m		
Hunting aptitude			Willingness to hunt and explore away from handler
Award: Novice Beginner Bronze (NBB) suffix			

Grade 2 Summary	Retriever	Hunting retriever (spaniel)	Hunt point retriever (HPR)
Obedience	1) Heel off lead 30 m 2) Sit 3) Stay 3 minutes 4) Recall 5) Stop on whistle command	1) Heel off lead 30 m 2)Sit 3)Stay 2 minutes 4) Recall 5) Stop on whistle command	1) Heel off lead 30 m 2) Sit 3) Stay 2 minutes 4) Recall 5) Stop on whistle or whoa command
Retrieving	1) memory retrieve 30 m 2) directional retrieve: 2 dummies left, and right-dog must retrieve nominated dummy		
Hunting aptitude		Dog must show interest in light cover	Dog must hunt light cover showing ranging (head wind)
Award: Novice Beginner Silver (NBS)			

Grade 3 Summary	Retriever	Hunting retriever (spaniel)	Hunt point retriever (HPR)
obedience	1) Heel –loose lead 30 m 2) Sit 3) Stay 2 minutes 4)recall		
Retrieving	1) Heel off lead work with changes in direction and minor distractions 2) Sit stay 4 minutes with distractions, handler out of sight 10 seconds, handler 50 m from dog 3) Stop in area of fallen dummy (removed) 4) After the stay at 50m 5) After stop 25 m (see below for details)		
Hunting aptitude	1) 2 singles 70-80 m in cover 2) Water retrieve 50 m 3) Directional retrieves -1 blind 50 m - either left or right single retrieve 10 m assessor to nominate		
		Dog to show pattern when ranging and interest in flushed bird	Dog to show pattern when ranging and whoa on planted bird
Award: Novice Beginner Gold (NBG)	The completion of these three grades should give the handler the confidence (and the dog the skills), to compete in novice/limit trials		

Summary of Field Trial Achievement Titles

AWARD: Field Trial Novice (FTN) Field Novice (FN)	Awarded when dog has won out of Novice
AWARD: Field Trial Novice Advanced (FTN adv.)	Awarded when dog has won out of Limit
AWARD: Field Trial Winner (FTW) Field Winner (FW) (in line with the UK)	Awarded when dog has won a Challenge Certificate (CC)
AWARD: Field Champion (FCH) Field Trial Champion (FTCH)	As at present
AWARD: Grand Field Champion (GFCH) Grand Field Trial Champion (GFTCH)	As at present