



REGULATIONS

PART 11

EARTHDOG TESTS FOR SMALL TERRIERS AND DACHSHUNDS

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CONTENTS

Page No

CHAPTER 1 – Regulations for Earthdog Tests for Small Terriers & Dachshunds

1.1 Purpose	4
1.2 Earthdog Tests Defined.....	4
1.3 ANKC LTD Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline	4
1.4 Eligibility of Dogs	4
1.5 Eligibility to Hold Earthdog Tests	5
1.6 Veterinarian	5
1.7 Refusal of Entries	5
1.8 Risk.....	5
1.9 Schedules	5
1.10 Closing of Entries, Running Order.....	5
1.11 Submission of Records	6
1.12 Disturbances.....	6

CHAPTER 2 – Instructions for Test Committees and Judges

2.1 Approval of Judges	6
2.2 Judges Decisions, Responsibilities	6
2.3 Judges and Test Committee's Responsibilities.....	6
2.4 Judge's Stewards and Apprentices	7
2.5 Retesting	7
2.6 Scoring, Announcement of Score.....	7

CHAPTER 3 – Classes, Qualifying Scores, Awarding of Titles

3.1 Classes.....	7
3.2 Earthdog Instinct Test Class and Title (EIC)	7
3.3 Novice Earthdog Class and Title (NE).....	7
3.4 Senior Earthdog Class and Title (SE).....	8
3.5 Master Earthdog Class and Title (ME)	8
3.6 Earthdog Champion Title ED. CH.....	8

CHAPTER 4 – Den Specification, Running and Judging, Test and Performance Descriptions

4.1 Test Area Conditions and Dimensions 9

4.2 Quarry Requirements and Care 10

4.3 Qualifying Performances 10

4.4 Earthdog Instinct Test..... 10

4.5 Earthdog Instinct Test – Den Design..... 10

4.6 Earthdog Instinct Test – Qualifying Performance 10

4.7 Novice Earthdog Test 11

4.8 Novice Earthdog Test – Den Design 11

4.9 Novice Earthdog Test – Qualifying Performance 11

4.10 Senior Earthdog Test..... 12

4.11 Senior Earthdog Test – Den Designs 12

4.12 Senior Earthdog Test – Qualifying Performance 13

4.13 Master Earthdog Test – Test..... 14

4.14 Master Earthdog Test – Den Design 14

4.15 Master Earthdog Test – Qualifying Performance 14

CHAPTER 5 – Strong Dog Earthdog Test

5.1 Strong Dog Earthdog Test..... 15

5.2 Strong Dog Earthdog Title (SDE) 15

CHAPTER 1

Regulations for Earthdog Tests for Small Terriers and Dachshunds

Wherever the word “dog” is used in these Regulations it includes both sexes.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of non-competitive earthdog tests is to offer breeders and owners of small Terriers and Dachshunds a standardised gauge to measure their dogs natural and trained hunting and working abilities when exposed to a hunting situation. The non-competitive program begins with a basic introduction to den work and quarry and progresses through gradual steps to require the dog to demonstrate that it is capable of being trained to follow game to ground and work its quarry.

Earthdog tests are a sport and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and outside the test field.

1.2. Earthdog Tests Defined

An earthdog test is a test at which qualifications for titles are awarded, given by a club or association, which is a member of the ANKC Ltd.

1.3. ANKC Ltd Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline

All of ANKC Ltd Rules applying to Registration and Discipline shall apply to all earthdog tests held under these Regulations.

1.4. Eligibility of Dogs (Amended 10/14, 6.9)

Dogs six months of age or older and registered with the ANKC Ltd are eligible to participate in earthdog tests, as are spayed and neutered dogs with Limited Registration provided they are classified as eligible breeds.

A dog of an eligible breed with an accepted foreign registration number is eligible to participate subject to Chapter 11, Section 1 of the Dog Show Rules.

The following breeds are classified as eligible to participate in ANKC Ltd earthdog tests:

Dachshunds, Australian Terriers, Australian Silky Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Fox Terriers (Smooth and Wirehaired), German Hunt Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Jack Russell Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Tenterfield Terrier, Welsh Terriers and West Highland White Terriers.

Dogs on the Associate Register that are of earthdog type are also eligible to participate.

These dogs must have successfully qualified in the Earthdog Instinct Test on at least one occasion prior to being eligible to enter the Novice Earthdog Test.

In as much as Dachshunds and Terriers are hunting dogs, dogs disfigured as the result of accident or injury but otherwise qualified shall be eligible provided that the disfigurement does not interfere with functional movement. Dogs that are blind and deaf shall not be eligible. Blind means without useful vision, and deaf means without useful hearing.

A dog is not eligible to enter a test if the Judge of that test or any member of that Judge's family owns or co-owns the dog. The word “family” shall include a spouse, a brother or sister, a parent or a child, whether natural or adopted of the Judge in question but shall not extend to other blood or legal relations.

Bitches in season shall not be eligible to enter the test. Entry fees paid for a bitch that comes into season shall not be refunded.

1.5. Eligibility to Hold Earthdog Tests

The ANKC Ltd will only grant permission to clubs and associations to hold earthdog tests that are affiliated with the ANKC Ltd.

1.6. Veterinarian

Every club holding a test shall arrange to have a veterinarian in attendance throughout the duration of the test. The club may elect to have a veterinarian "on call" but must ensure that veterinary assistance will be available should it be needed. The schedule must state whether the veterinarian will be in attendance or "on call".

1.7. Refusal of Entries

A Test Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from the event for any reason, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for doing so.

1.8. Risk

Owners or handlers entering dogs in a test do so at their own risk and agree to assume responsibility for any damage caused by them or by their dogs. They also agree to abide by all of the Rules and Regulations of the ANKC Ltd.

1.9. Schedules

Schedules of events must be published in the official journal of the controlling body according to the rules and requirements of that body.

1.10. Closing of Entries, Running Order

The closing time for entries and the location which entries shall be taken shall be printed in the schedule. Entries for a test may close at any time prior to the start of each test level.

If entries are to be limited, the numerical limitation(s) must be stated in the schedule and entries will close when the numerical limits have been reached.

A club or association holding a test shall not accept any entries received after the closing date and time specified on the schedule.

At the option of the test-giving club, dogs may be run in the order that entries are received or the running order may be established by a random drawing of entries in each class. In either case, multiple entries from the same handler should be separated when possible. The Test Committee or the Judges may modify the running order to expedite the running of the test.

Each entry in a test must be made on an official ANKC Ltd entry form. Each entry form must be completed in full and must be signed by the owner or his agent duly authorised to make the entry, and the information given on the form must be that which applies to the entered dog.

1.11. Submission of Records

Clubs holding tests must utilise the standard ANKC Ltd official judges report sheets which will be automatically supplied to the Test Secretary following approval of the judging panel.

1.12. Disturbances

Barking dogs outside the test area are to be removed from the area but should not be disciplined for barking.

The Judge must promptly remove from participation any dog which cannot be controlled, and may excuse any dog he or she considers unfit to participate.

The Judge must also promptly remove any handler who wilfully interferes with another dog or handler, or abuses his or her dog in the test area, or in any way displays conduct prejudicial to the sport of pure-bred dogs.

CHAPTER 2

Instructions for Test Committees and Judges

2.1. Approval of Judges

Judges officiating at tests must be approved by the ANKC Ltd. A club or association may submit the name of any approved Judges for approval to have the Judge officiate at the test. Such approved Judges may enter dogs in any classes, which they are not judging and for which they are not advertised as Judges.

2.2. Judges Decisions, Responsibilities

The decisions of the Judge shall be final in all matters relating to the performance of the dog. Full discretionary power is given to the Judge to withhold any and all qualification for want of merit.

The Judge is responsible for making the test meaningful and challenging, but never out of reach of the dog and handler who, at an introduction to Quarry test may never have been presented with an open earth test before. The Judges function is to educate as well as evaluate.

The Judge is responsible for ensuring compliance with these Regulations throughout a test and for ensuring that the quarry is properly cared for during the event.

2.3. Judges and Test Committee's Responsibilities

The Test Committee and officials of the club holding the test are responsible for providing the quarry, den liners, test material, facilities and equipment which meet the requirements of the Regulations.

The Judge must check the quarry, test layout and den liners before starting the test. The Judge shall also supervise the scenting and covering of the dens before starting the test. If the Judge deems the facilities, test layout, or den construction inadequate for the event and no corrections or modifications can be made; the Judge shall cancel the event. Entry fees shall be refunded by the Test Committee.

2.4. Judge's Stewards and Apprentices

Each Judge shall have assigned to him or her a Judge's Steward. Test Stewards should also be appointed to assist in the conduct of the event and in control of the test area. At the Judge's discretion, an apprentice Judge may be in the test area and may score the dogs independently but the apprentice Judge's scores shall not be considered in determining whether a dog passes or fails. They may listen as the Judge explains the results of the test to the participants. Only one apprentice Judge may be permitted in the test area at one time. An apprentice Judge may serve as the Judge's Steward.

Apprentice Judges score sheets shall not be distributed to participants and must be filed with the Test Secretary at the conclusion of the test.

2.5. Retesting

If, in a Judge's opinion, a dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the dog may be retested either immediately or later in the day at the discretion of the Judge.

2.6. Scoring, Announcement of Score

The tests shall be scored on a pass (qualifying) or fail (non-qualifying) basis in accord with the qualifying performance descriptions in Chapter 4 of these Regulations.

CHAPTER 3

Classes, Qualifying Scores, Awarding of Titles

3.1. Classes

Clubs may offer any or all classes at events. All classes are open to all eligible dogs (see 1.4) except as specified in 3.4.

Classes are run in the order determined by the Test Committee, but the Master Earthdog Test should be run before the other classes.

3.2. Earthdog Instinct Test Class and Title (EIC)

The Earthdog Instinct Test Class is open to all eligible dogs (see 1.4)

In order to be recorded as having an Earthdog Instinct Certificate, a dog must be registered in the ANKC Ltd Register and must have a record of having qualified in the Earthdog Instinct Test in two (2) ANKC Ltd tests under two different judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an ANKC Ltd Earthdog Instinct Certificate (EIC) will be issued to the owner and the dog shall be identified with an Earthdog Instinct Certificate in all official ANKC Ltd records by the suffix title (EIC).

3.3. Novice Earthdog Class and Title (NE)

The Novice Earthdog class is open to all eligible dogs (see 1.4)

In order to be recorded as a Novice Earthdog, a dog must be registered in the ANKC Ltd Register and must have a record of having qualified in the Novice Earthdog test in two (2) ANKC Ltd club tests under two different Judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an ANKC Ltd Novice Earthdog (NE) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog shall be identified as a Novice Earthdog in all official ANKC Ltd records by the suffix title (NE), which shall supersede the EIC title. **(Amended 10/12, 6.9)**

A dog that has been recorded as a Novice Earthdog may continue to enter the Novice Earthdog test, but no further Novice Earthdog certificates will be issued.

3.4. Senior Earthdog Class and Title (SE)

The Senior Earthdog class is open only to dogs that have acquired the Novice Earthdog title.

In order to be recorded as a Senior Earthdog, a dog must be registered in the ANKC Ltd Register, and must have a record of having qualified in the Senior Earthdog test at three (3) ANKC Ltd club tests under two different Judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an ANKC Ltd Senior Earthdog (SE) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog shall be identified as a Senior Earthdog in all official ANKC Ltd records by the suffix title SE, which shall supersede the NE title.

Dogs that have qualified in the Senior Earthdog test at an ANKC Ltd test are ineligible to enter Novice Earthdog tests.

3.5. Master Earthdog Class and Title (ME)

The Master Earthdog class is open only to dogs that have acquired the Senior Earthdog title.

In order to be recorded as a Master Earthdog, a dog must be registered in the ANKC Ltd Register and must have a record of having qualified in the Master Earthdog test at four (4) ANKC Ltd club hunting tests under two different Judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an ANKC Ltd Master Earthdog (ME) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog will be identified as a Master Earthdog in all official ANKC Ltd records by the suffix title ME which shall supersede any ANKC Ltd earthdog test title that may have been previously earned.

Dogs that have qualified in a Master Earthdog test at an ANKC Ltd club test are ineligible to enter Novice Earthdog tests.

3.6. Earthdog Champion Title ED. CH. (Amended 10/13 – 6.8, Amended 03/04 – correct errors)

The Earthdog Champion Title is open only to dogs that have acquired the Master Earthdog title.

In order to be recorded as an Earthdog Champion, a dog must have a record of having qualified in the Master Earthdog Test a further 5 times, and in the Senior Earthdog Test a further 5 times. All of these qualifications must have been received after the dog has achieved the title of Master Earthdog and must have been received under at least two different judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an ANKC Ltd Earthdog Champion certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog will be identified as an Earthdog Champion in all official ANKC Ltd records by the prefix title ED. CH.

CHAPTER 4

Den Specification, Running and Judging, Test and Performance Descriptions

4.1. Test Area Conditions and Dimensions

The test area for the Introduction to Quarry test shall be no less than 12 metres x 12 metres (40 feet by 40 feet), with no portion of the den including the point of release less than 3 metres (10 feet) from the side of the test area.

The test area(s) for the Novice, Senior and Master tests shall be of a size sufficient to contain the dens, with no portion of the den including the point of release less than 6 metres (20 feet) from the edge of the test area.

Clubs should use a barrier or otherwise demarcate a test area to prevent spectator interference with the work of the dogs.

The earth shall be prepared to look as natural as possible. Brush and other natural material may be used to prepare the earth but should not block the entrance to the earth. The entrance should look as inviting to the dog as possible. The test area for all tests shall be clearly marked, shall not contain unsafe conditions and shall be free of dangerous materials.

The liners for the dens shall be constructed to ensure a safe and danger free environment for dogs, quarry handlers and Judges. The basic den construction allows for a tunnel approximately 22.8 centimetres x 22.8 centimetres (9 inches by 9 inches), which is a large enough for all dogs in the eligible breeds.

The liners shall be set in the ground or on top of the ground. When the liners are set in the ground, the top surface must be flush with the ground and must not be visible. When the liners are placed on top of the ground they must be fully covered with natural materials so that none of the liner is visible. In both cases the appearance should be as natural as possible to simulate an actual den.

The dens shall be located so as to minimise outside distractions. The earth may be dug the day before the trial, but no dog shall be allowed to enter the earth before judging begins. The Judge shall oversee the placement of the liners and scenting of the den on the day of the test. Only the dog currently being tested shall be allowed in the test area. Under no circumstances shall more than one dog be allowed in the test area at any time. Spectators shall be allowed outside the test area provided that they are quiet and do not distract the dogs. The dogs shall be allowed in the area immediately adjacent to the test area. The dogs waiting to be tested shall be kept at least 30 metres (100 feet) approximately from the perimeter of the test area, in a holding area so designated.

The dens shall be scented, using a specified scent to simulate an actual den. In the Introduction to Quarry and Novice Earthdog tests, the entire length of the den must be scented no more than one hour before the start of the test. In the Senior and Master Earthdog tests, the scent line shall be laid only on the primary quarry trail.

Extreme care must be taken not to allow false trails to receive any scent, which may unnecessarily confuse the dogs. The Judge shall be responsible for overseeing the correct scenting of the dens.

The scent trail shall be laid evenly from a point under the quarry cage to a point 61 centimetres (2 feet) past the entrance of the den. If, in the opinion of the Judge, the scent trail has weakened due to the number of dogs entering the earth, the Judge shall direct the Test Steward to lightly re-scent the den, using a spray bottle or scent drag. Care should be taken by those actually scenting the earth to lay the scent trail in a manner consistent with real life conditions.

4.2. Quarry Requirements and Care

This must satisfy the requirements of the State Government Act pertaining to Animal Welfare that applies at the time. Non-live quarry should appear as natural as possible; examples include carcasses, skins, tails, fake quarry (with or without sound/mechanisation).

4.3. Qualifying Performances

The Judge's certification of a qualifying performance for any dog constitutes certification to the ANKC Ltd that the dog on this occasion has evidenced abilities at least in accordance with minimum standards and that the abilities demonstrated justify the awarding of the title for the class. A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog, which has not exhibited abilities that meet the minimum requirements.

4.4. Earthdog Instinct Test

This test is a simple instinct test requiring no exposure to earthwork. It is not a pre-requisite for the Novice Earthdog Test except in the case of Associate Registered dogs (see 1.4 Eligibility of Dogs, Paragraph 4).

Young dogs, dogs with no previous working experience and novice handlers are encouraged to enter. In as much as it may be the first den experience for some dogs, the Judge and the handler shall do their utmost to assure that it is a positive experience for the dog. The Judge shall be allowed to use discretion in encouraging the dog by scratching or moving the cage, or some other method felt necessary to get a true reaction from the dog.

The dog shall be brought to the test area entrance on a lead. The Test Steward shall instruct the handler to remove the collar and lead and the handler shall carry the dog to the starting marker. The handler may encourage the dog up to this point. The judge must make sure that each handler understands the test requirements before starting the dog.

4.5. Earthdog Instinct Test – Den Design

The den for the test shall have standard liners approximately 22.8 centimetres x 22.8 centimetres (9 inches), set so as to provide a tunnel approximately 3 metres (10 feet) in length with one 90 degree turn. The handler shall release the dog from a point directly in front of the den, approximately 3 metres (10 feet) from the entrance. The Judge and Steward shall attempt to provide as little distraction as possible.

4.6. Earthdog Instinct Test – Qualifying Performance

The Judge shall direct the handler to give the dog one command to release the dog. The handler shall release the dog from a point no higher than waist level. Placing the dog on the ground before release is permitted. Throwing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted and shall cause the dog to fail. The handler may give one short command, but shall remain silent with no further command or signal until instructed otherwise by the Judge. Further encouragement may cause the dog to fail. The handler may walk to the den entrance and quietly stand at the den entrance.

The Judge or the Judge's Steward shall time the test. The time shall start when the dog enters the earth. The dog shall be allowed 2 minutes from the time it first enters the earth to begin working the quarry.

The dog may exit and re-enter the earth during the time allowed, provided it has not started working the quarry. (**Note:** In all tests the quarry is in a protective cage and cannot come into contact with the dog.)

The dog shall not qualify if it requires over 2 minutes to reach the quarry.

Once the dog begins working the quarry, the Judge or Judge's Steward shall begin timing the working time and shall continue timing until the dog quits or the time limit is reached.

Once the dog begins working it must work continuously for 30 seconds, with no encouragement to qualify. Work is defined as digging, barking, growling, lunging, biting at the quarry or any other action which, in the opinion of the Judge, indicates the dog's interest in the quarry. Any definite break in the dog's work shall stop the time, but a change from one form of work to another shall not stop the time as long as the dog continues working in a natural manner.

If, in the Judge's opinion, the dog is not reacting to the presence of the quarry, the Judge may attempt to interest the dog with no penalty to the dog. This may include shaking the quarry cage; tapping or scratching the cage, or use of a noisemaker, but should cease as soon as the dog begins working. Since the test is designed for dogs with little or no experience, mild encouragement by the Judge shall not cause a failure.

Dogs which reach the quarry within two minutes and work continuously for 30 seconds shall qualify.

At the completion of the test, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs which have qualified. The test-giving Club may award prizes or trophies to the dogs that have qualified.

4.7. Novice Earthdog Test

The evaluation of a dog's ability can never be precise. However the primary purpose of the small Terriers and Dachshunds is to pursue quarry to ground, hold the game and alert the hunter where to dig, or to bolt. Whether the dog is successful in its primary purpose is determined by its possession of a unique set of natural abilities. This test is designed to help evaluate these natural abilities.

The test shall consist of two parts, (a) the approach to the quarry and (b) working the quarry. In order to qualify, a dog must pass both parts of the test.

4.8. Novice Earthdog Test – Den Design

The den for the Novice Earthdog Test shall be constructed using the standard liners approximately 22.8 centimetres x 22.8 centimetres (9 inches by 9 inches), set in such a manner as to provide a tunnel approximately 9 metres (30 feet) in length with three 90 degree turns. The tunnel shall have an entrance at one end and a quarry area at the other end, which shall provide the Judge a view of the dog during the working portion of the test. The dogs should be removed from the den by way of the exit provided at the quarry end of the den. The den shall have no additional entrances, exits or dead ends.

4.9. Novice Earthdog Test – Qualifying Performance

Each dog shall be brought to the test area entrance by the handler who shall remove all leads, collars, harnesses, etc before entering the test area. The handler shall carry the dog into the test area and stand at the designated starting point, a point directly in front of the den entrance at a distance of approximately 3 metres (10 feet). Upon instructions from the Judge, the handler shall release the dog. The handler may, at the time of release, give the dog one short command with no penalty. The dog should be released no higher than waist level and may be placed on the ground prior to release. Throwing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted and shall cause the dog to fail.

After releasing the dog, the handler shall quietly stand at the release point with no further command or signal and shall not move until instructed by the Judge. Further actions on the part of the handler during the time the dog is being tested could result in failure.

The timing of the dog shall start when the dog is released by the handler. The dog has 90 seconds to reach the quarry, provided that it is continuously searching during that time. It may enter and leave the den without penalty, but must reach the quarry within the 90 second time limit. Dogs reaching the quarry within the 90 second time limit, which have not received any encouragement from the handler shall pass this portion of the test.

Once the dog has reached the quarry it must remain with the quarry until the test is completed. Should the dog leave the quarry area during the test period it shall fail. The Judge shall allow the dog 30 seconds from the time it reached the quarry to begin working. If the dog fails to begin working within 30 seconds the dog shall fail this portion of the test.

The work must begin and for the most part continue at a point within approximately 30 centimetres (1 foot) from the quarry. Once the dog begins working the quarry it must work continuously for 45 seconds for non-live quarry - 60 seconds when live quarry is permitted to be used. Work shall be defined as barking, growling, digging or any form of activity which, in the Judge's opinion, indicated the dog's interest in the quarry. A change from one form of work to another shall not be considered as a break. Lunging and clearing dirt shall be considered work, as long as the dog stays with the quarry. Intense staring and / or sniffing the quarry should not be considered working. If in the opinion of the judge the dog is not reacting to the presence of the non-live quarry, the judge may attempt to interest the dog with no penalty to the dog. This may include manipulating the non-live quarry or the use of noise-makers or voice encouragement.

Dogs, which work the quarry continuously for 45 seconds for non-live quarry - 60 seconds when live quarry is permitted to be used, shall pass this portion of the test. Upon completion of the test, the Judge should allow the handler to retrieve the dog from the earth. The dog should be removed by way of the top opening at the quarry end of the earth. The dog shall be carried from the test area as soon as possible and not be allowed to investigate the test area.

The Judge shall mark the judging form with the time indicating whether the dog passed or failed and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward and collected only by the Test Secretary.

At the completion of the test, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs which have qualified. The test-giving Club may award prizes or trophies to the dogs that have qualified.

4.10. Senior Earthdog Test

This test is designed to present the experienced hunter with a more realistic den situation. In the wild few natural earths are simple tunnels, they are complex, multiple entrance designs. The dog must be able to not only follow the quarry to ground and mark the game for the handler, but also be able to determine the correct direction taken by the quarry. If the quarry has bolted (removed) the dog must leave the den when called by the hunter.

The Senior Test shall consist of three parts:

1. The approach to the quarry
2. Working the quarry
3. Leaving the den on command

4.11. Senior Earthdog Test – Den Designs

The den shall be constructed using the standard liners approximately 22.8 centimetres x 22.8 centimetres (9 inches by 9 inches). The liners shall be set in such a manner as to provide a main tunnel approximately 9 metres (30 feet) in length with three 90 degree turns, a false exit and false den. The false exit shall be approximately 2 metres (7 feet) in length with one 90 degree turn and set in such a manner as to not be visible to the dog or handler when standing at the point of release.

The false den shall be a side tunnel with no exit, approximately 1.2 metres (4 feet) in length with a 30.5 centimetre x 20.3 centimetre (12 x 8 inch) door located at the top not less than 7.6 centimetres (3 inches) from the end of the tunnel. Directly beneath the door shall be a pile of bedding material, i.e. straw, dry grass, heavily scented to simulate the litter/bedding area found in most natural dens.

The false exit and false den shall be set at the second and third 90 degree turns off the main tunnel, the order and placement of which shall be at the club's discretion.

The entrance to the main tunnel shall be marked at a mound of dirt at least 10.1 centimetres (4 inches) higher than the top of the liner, thus providing a steep entrance to the den of at least 45 degree incline into the earth. The dirt mound may be camouflaged by natural cover, provided the cover does not restrict entrance to the earth.

4.12. Senior Earthdog Test – Qualifying Performance

Each dog shall be brought to the test area entrance by the handler who shall remove all leads, collars, harnesses etc before entering the test area. The handler shall carry the dog into the area and shall stand at the release point designated by the Judge (a point no less than 4.5 metres (15 feet) from the edge of the area, at a point marked by the Judge. This release point shall be approximately 6 metres (20 feet) from the entrance to the earth). Upon instruction from the Judge, the handler shall release the dog. The handler may, at the time of release give the dog one short command with no penalty. The dog shall be released not higher than waist level and may be placed on the ground before release. Throwing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted and shall cause the dog to fail. After releasing the dog, the handler shall quietly stand at the release point with no further command or signal and shall not move, until instructed by the Judge.

Timing of the dog for the approach portion of the test shall start when the dog is released by the handler. The dog has 90 seconds from the time of release to reach the quarry, provided that it is continuously searching during that time. The dog may enter and leave the den, provided it has not reached the quarry.

Once the dog has reached the quarry, it must remain with the quarry until the working portion of the test is completed. Should the dog leave the quarry area during the test it shall fail. The Judge shall allow the dog 15 seconds from the time it reached the quarry to begin working. If the dog fails to begin working within 15 seconds the dog shall not qualify.

Work shall be defined as barking, growling, digging, or any other form of activity which, in the Judge's opinion, indicates the dog's interest in the quarry. A change from one form of work to another shall not be considered as a break. Lunging and clearing dirt shall be considered work. Intense staring/or sniffing the quarry should not be considered working.

Once the dog has started to work, it must work the quarry continuously for 60 seconds for non-live quarry - 90 seconds when live quarry is permitted to be used. If in the opinion of the judge the dog is not reacting to the presence of the non-live quarry, the judge may attempt to interest the dog with no penalty to the dog. This may include manipulation of the non-live quarry or the use of noise-makers or voice encouragement. Dogs that work for less than the required time shall not pass.

Once the dog has completed the working portion of the test, the Judge shall seal the viewing area, remove the quarry and seal the quarry area and have the caged quarry removed a sufficient distance so as not to be a distraction. The Judge shall then instruct the handler to recall the dog. The handler may go to the entrance of the den to call the dog and may use a whistle. NO bait, hides, noisemakers or toys may be used to recall the dog from the den. The handler is permitted to reach into the entrance of the den to retrieve the dog.

Dogs, which exit the den (from any exit) and are retrieved by the handler within 90 seconds from the recall, shall pass this portion of the test. The handler is positioned at the den entrance and may leave the den entrance to retrieve the dog once it has left the den. Dogs which exit the den in more than 90 seconds shall not pass.

The dog shall be carried from the test area as soon as possible and should not be allowed to investigate the test area.

Dogs must pass all three parts of the test in order to qualify.

The Judge shall mark the judging form to indicated pass or fail and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward and collected only the Test Secretary.

At the completion of the test, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs, which have qualified. The test-giving club may award prizes or trophies to the dogs that have qualified.

4.13. Master Earthdog Test

This test is designed to come as close as possible to a natural hunting situation. On a natural hunt the dog is expected to locate the den and enter without encouragement. It should remain in the den working the quarry in a manner that will allow the hunter to locate both the dog and the quarry. If the quarry is unreachable by the hunter eg in a rock or a den located in the mountainside, or if the quarry is not to be taken by the hunter, the dog must leave the quarry and exit the den when called by the hunter.

4.14. Master Earthdog Test – Den Design

The suggested Senior earthdog tunnel is used for the Master Test with modifications discussed below.

The den entrance shall not be readily visible and shall be blocked with a removable object. A scent line of approximately 6 metres (20 feet) shall lead to the entrance. An unscented false den entrance (visible to dogs) is located midway along the scent line, at least 1.5 metres (5 feet) from the scent line.

There must be a constriction point and an obstruction in the tunnel, neither of which shall be placed within 1.5 metres (5 feet) of the entrance or the quarry. The constriction point consists of boards or slats approximately 3.8 centimetres wide (1.5 inches) and 45.6 centimetres (18 inches) long placed opposite each other to narrow the tunnel opening to approximately 15.2 centimetres (6 inches). The ends of the boards or slats should be bevelled or rounded.

The obstruction should be 15.2 centimetres (6 inches) diameter PVC pipe placed crossways in the tunnel and loosely mounted on a 2.54 centimetre (1 inch) dowel so that it is movable (it should move approximately 6.3 centimetres (2.5 inches) each way). The portion of the liner above the obstruction (22.8 centimetres (9 inches) on each side of the pipe's centre line for a total of 45.6 centimetres (18 inches) is elevated at least 15.2 centimetres (6 inches) over the main liner and naturally covered or otherwise camouflaged.

4.15. Master Earthdog Test – Qualifying Performance

The handler is positioned with the Judge, and they proceed in the direction of the scent line from a release point approximately 100 metres (328 feet) from the real den entrance before the Judge (generally the Judge should reach the den in about 60 seconds). Dogs barking at the false den cannot qualify. The dog must indicate the real tunnel entrance before the Judge reaches the tunnel entrance. If the dog does not indicate the tunnel entrance it cannot qualify, but can continue to be tested.

The entrance obstruction is now removed.

A Dog must reach the quarry within 90 seconds and work the quarry for 60 seconds for non-live quarry-90 seconds when live quarry is permitted to be used. When the dog is working the quarry the Judge will create a distraction in the working area by lightly striking the top of the working area for 30 seconds with a piece of wood to simulate digging sounds. If in the opinion of the judge the dog is not reacting to the presence of the non-live quarry, the judge may attempt to interest the dog with no penalty to the dog. This may include manipulating the non-live quarry or the use of noise-makers or voice encouragement.

The dog should continue working and ignore the overhead distraction. The handler then removes the dog from the working area without injury to the handler.

Dogs must pass all parts of the test in order to qualify.

The Judges shall mark the judging form to indicate pass or fail and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed form may be held by the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward and collected by the Test Secretary. At the completion of the test the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs who have qualified. The test-giving Club may award prizes or trophies to the dogs that have qualified.

CHAPTER 5

Strong Dog Earthdog Test

The Strong Dog Earthdog Test is designed to test an earthdog's ability to draw quarry from a den.

Dogs must have achieved the title of NE to be eligible to enter this test.

THIS TEST SHALL CONSIST OF TWO PARTS:

- A. approaching the quarry;
- B. drawing the quarry from the den to be retrieved by the handler.

The quarry shall consist of a weighted pelt. The weight of the pelt shall be between 3kg and 4kg.

5.1. Strong Dog Earthdog Test

The test shall be conducted using the normal novice earthdog den design, i.e. nine metres {thirty feet} long with three ninety degree turns. The dens may be either buried or above ground. The weighted quarry shall be placed at the end of the den and the full length of the den scented. The dog shall be given the opportunity to identify the scent just prior to being entered by the handler. The handler shall enter the dog at the entrance to the den and the dog shall be allowed one minute to locate the quarry. The dog may give voice while locating the quarry but must remain silent once it has latched onto the quarry. The dog shall be allowed five minutes to draw the quarry to the entrance of the den where the handler shall retrieve the quarry from the dog. The handler may give verbal commands to the dog throughout the test.

5.2. Strong Dog Earthdog Title (SDE)

The dog must complete both parts of the test within the time limits in order to qualify.

The title shall be awarded to any dog which qualifies on three separate occasions under at least two different earth dog judges.

All Earthdog judges licensed prior to 2009 shall be eligible to judge the Strong Dog Earthdog Test. From 2009 onwards, the curriculum for aspiring Novice Earthdog Judges shall also include the Strong Dog Test.