



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

Rules for the Conduct of

Draft Test

(Effective from 1 January 2022)

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Australian National Kennel Council Limited 2015**

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**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the
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PURPOSE

The purpose of a Draft Test is to preserve and develop the inherent skills in appropriate Draft breeds and to demonstrate their ability to perform the function for which they were originally bred.

A series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of a draft dog in a working capacity. Many breeds have historically functioned as a draft dog in various capacities and performance of these exercises is intended to demonstrate skills resulting from both inherent ability and training which are applicable to realistic work situations. Efficiency in accomplishment of tasks is essential. It is also desirable that the dog works with willingness and enjoyment.

Aims

- The dog's inherent drafting ability refined by training and teamwork.
- The handler to maintain control while encouraging their dog's natural abilities.
- The dog's readiness to work with his handler to accomplish the exercises efficiently.
- The dog's willingness and enjoyment of his work displayed by controlled teamwork with his handler.
- The handler's proper understanding of draft work, equipment and regulations.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

In order to differentiate Draft Tests from obedience competition the use of obedience equipment is not recommended. The Draft Test sponsoring club shall provide:

1. Ring gates, ropes, fencing or other barriers necessary to define a ring with a minimum of 930 square meters with no dimension less than 25 meters in length.
2. A minimum of four (4) markers to define the Maneuvering course. The markers should be large enough to be clearly visible to both handlers and spectators.
3. A gate or removable obstacle, ideally an object that might be found in everyday situations (e.g. a bicycle, tree branch).
4. A minimum of two (2) markers to define a narrow area. The markers must be no less than 50 centimeters high, with a recommended height of 90 centimeters to 1.2 meters, and must be 60 centimeters to 1.2 meters in length.
5. A lightweight load (e.g. a blanket, hat or book).
6. A 1.2 meter stick or dowel, clearly marked 30 centimeters from one end, for measuring the backing exercises.
7. A tape measure at least 2 meters in length.
8. A scale (such as a bathroom scale) which can weigh at least 80kgs, for verifying freight load weights.
9. Two distractions, one primarily auditory and one primarily visual. Clubs should offer more than one object for judges to choose from.
10. A stopwatch or watch to time stays and backing.
11. Markers for the Freight Haul course.
12. Exhibitor numbers and matching draft rig numbers.
13. A catalog identifying each entered dog; including registered name, call name, registration number and breed, sire, dam, date of birth, sex, breeder, owner.
For Open classes the catalog shall show the weight the dog(s) must pull in the Freight Haul.
14. A designated Equipment Check In area near the ring for the draft equipment and Freight Haul loads of all entrants. Number markers shall mark the place each exhibitor is to place their equipment. All such equipment and loads shall remain in this area pending use in the Test.

Recommended:

1. A system by which spectators may be silently informed whether each team passed or failed each exercise.
2. A diagram of the Maneuvering course clearly posted at ringside.

Stewards: Six to eight stewards shall be provided to assist the judges. The judges are in sole charge of the Draft Test area until their assignment is completed. Stewards may act only on the judges' instructions.

Veterinarian: The services of a veterinarian must be available during a Draft Test. Ideally the veterinarian should be present at a Draft Test and walk the Freight Haul course with the teams and judges. The veterinarian's professional opinion on the condition of any dog should be given precedence in determining whether the dog should continue to compete. If the veterinarian cannot be on site, the veterinary office must be within a short drive. The Draft Test Regulations have been devised to present a minimum hazard to dogs and handlers but Draft Test Committees are urged to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of all involved.

Notification of Changes: If the Draft Test Committee is informed at any time prior to the opening of its Draft Test that an advertised judge will not fulfill their engagement to judge, then the Draft Test Committee shall substitute a judge. The substitute judge must be approved by the relevant controlling body who shall be notified either by telephone, mail or email. The same shall apply to emergency changes of site or Draft Test officials. If the request is made by telephone, a letter or email must follow with a full explanation.

Prizes: Test sponsoring clubs are encouraged to offer ribbons and/or trophies for passing teams.

Limitation of Entries: The Draft Test Committee may limit the total Test entry. Novice Draft and Open Draft must be offered. Brace Novice Draft and Brace Open Draft may be offered. If entries are limited, the Draft Test Secretary must accept all complete entries received prior to the closing date. Additionally, entrants must notify the Draft Test Secretary if a dog has earned a title in the entered class, including if the title is earned after the entry has been submitted.

Entry priority shall be: Untitled teams have preference over titled teams, where 'title' means the title of the entered class. In the case of a brace, both dogs must be titled to be considered a titled team.

Entries exceeding the total Test limit shall be assigned to an alternate list in the order in which they were drawn. Alternates may compete if a slot becomes available because a team is absent or unable to compete. In the event that a dog earns its title after the draw and continues showing in that class (does not "Move-up" in the case of Novice), it shall be moved to the end of the appropriate titled group.

Final Jurisdiction: During the planning and conducting of a Draft Test all matters not related to the judging shall be resolved by the Draft Test Committee by direct reference to these Regulations. All situations not clearly resolved by these Regulations shall be resolved by reference to the ANKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations.

JUDGES AND JUDGING GUIDELINES

Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of great importance. Judges are not permitted to vary the exercises. In no case shall the judges add, delete, or change any requirements of the Draft Tests.

Pre-Judging Responsibilities

- A. Responsibilities: Judges are responsible for establishing the Maneuvering course, approving the Freight Haul course, and conducting the Equipment Check. The judges will give to the Draft Test secretary their drawn maneuver course on the day of the test.

- B. Explanation of Ring Procedure: Immediately prior to the start of judging, the judges shall explain ring procedures, and walk the Maneuvering and Freight Haul courses with all stewards and interested handlers. Handlers are not required to attend, but the walk-through may or may not be repeated at the judges' discretion.

Judging Guidelines

- A. Pass/Fail: All judging is on a pass/fail basis.
- B. Decisions: Two judges evaluate the teams. Judges shall reach a mutual decision regarding the passing or failing performance of each team. Judges' decisions are final in all cases.
- C. Excusing a Dog: The judges must excuse any dog that attempts to attack any person in the ring. The judges must excuse a dog that attacks another dog or that appears dangerous to other dogs. The judges must excuse any dog that in the judge's opinion is obviously physically impaired at that time, excluding deaf dogs, any team whose equipment is inadequate or faulty, any handler who willfully interferes with another team, or any handler who abuses their dog. A judge marking a dog "excused" must state the reason in the Judges' Report.
- D. Misbehavior: Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior of a dog such as snapping, barking or running away from its handler, whether it occurs before, during or between exercises, must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior and the judge may expel or excuse the dog from further competition in the class. A dog that fouls the ring or the Freight Haul course receives a failing mark.
- E. Group Exercises: A maximum of six (6) teams may be judged together in the group exercises. Novice and Novice Brace teams may be combined. Open and Open Brace teams may be combined.
- F. Evaluations: Dogs shall be judged for willingness, ability, enthusiasm, naturalness as a team, and smoothness of performance. Upon completion of all exercises, each handler shall receive a written evaluation from both judges of the team's performance in each exercise. Judges are encouraged to discuss evaluations with the exhibitors.
- G. Test Reports:
 - 1. The day of the test the judges must complete and sign the Draft Test Judges' Report which the Draft Test Secretary must return to the relevant controlling body.

ELIGIBILITY, CONDUCT AND EQUIPMENT

Section 1. Entry Requirements

- A. Definitions: The term "dog" applies to dogs of both sexes as well as individual dogs and both dogs of a brace. The term "brace" means a handler and two dogs. The term "team" means a handler and one or two dogs.
- B. Eligible Dogs
 - 1. Draft Tests are open to main register breeds, limited register breeds and associate register dogs.
 - 2. Age: Dogs must be at least two (2) years old on the day of the Draft Test.
 - 3. Deaf Dogs: Deaf and partially deaf dogs may enter Draft Tests.
 - 4. Dogs disfigured as the result of an accident but otherwise eligible, provided the disfigurement does not interfere with functional movement (i.e; four (4) working limbs) (Effective 01/01/17)
 - 5. Dogs that are lame shall not be allowed to compete in a draft test

- C. Dogs That May Not Compete
1. Bitches in Season: Bitches in season are not permitted to compete.
 2. No dog owned wholly or in part to a Draft Test Judge or to any member of their immediate family is eligible to enter in any Draft Test at which the judge is appointed to officiate.
 3. No Toy Breeds or miniature type breeds are eligible to take part in a Draft Test.
 4. In the six months prior to the date of the draft test that no dog owned, partly owned, handled or in the care of a draft judge appointed to officiate will be eligible to enter. No member of the immediate family of a draft test judge officiating will be eligible to enter.
- D. Weight Certificates: Each Open or Open Brace handler shall send a veterinarian's certificate(s) stating the dog's name and weight to the Draft Test Secretary with the entry form(s). This certificate must be dated within 60 days prior to the Draft Test date.
- E. Braces: The two dogs of a brace need not be owned by the same person or by the handler. A separate entry form shall be filled out for each dog of the brace and then submitted together.
- F. Acceptable Entries: No entry may be accepted unless the Test Secretary receives such entry prior to the closing date. Only complete entries may be accepted.

A complete entry includes:

1. A completed entry form.
2. Entry fee.
3. Weight certificates for Open or Brace Open entries.
4. For Brace entries, separate entry forms for each dog, submitted together.
5. Any additional requirements as set forth.

Section 2. Handlers

- A. On Time: Teams must be present with their equipment for their scheduled Equipment Check or forfeit their entry. Judges are not responsible for waiting for any handler or dog.
- B. Multiple Commands: Multiple commands, signals and verbal praise may be used in all the exercises of the Draft Test, except as specified. Between exercises verbal praise is allowed but physical praise is discouraged and if excessive may cause failure.
- C. Food and Toys: The carrying of food or toys during any Draft Test exercise shall result in a Failing Performance.
- D. One Handler: Dogs shall be exhibited by the same handler for all exercises except if a handler has two or more entries, each entry must have a separate handler for the group exercises when judged in the same group.
- E. Control Outside of Ring: All entered dogs must be on leash or crated when not competing.
- F. Training on the Grounds: Training on the Draft Test grounds is not permitted. Dogs, entered or not entered, may be hitched to draft rigs to aid in unloading and transport of equipment from vehicles to the competition area, as this is a typical and practical application of draft work.
- G. Warm-up: Entered teams are allowed a warm-up as permitted approximately 5 minutes, all on leash, not hitched to a draft rig -prior to the ring exercises. Prior to the group exercises dogs may be hitched to their draft rigs and warmed up on leash for an additional 5 minutes to verify and adjust the balance of the freight load.
- H. Risk: The handler entering a dog in a Draft Test does so at his/her own risk and agrees to abide by the Draft Test Regulations.

- I. No artificial cooling of the dog during any of the Draft Test exercises, doing so shall result in a Failing Performance. This includes but not limited to the wearing of cooling coats, icing down or hosing down of the dog.

- J. Responsibility: The handler is responsible for the dog's health, welfare, and safety. Handlers provide their own draft rigs, harnesses, Freight Haul loads, and means of securing loads. The condition of this equipment is the responsibility of the handler.

Section 3. Equipment

- A. Draft Rig: The same draft rig (i.e. cart and harness) must be used for all exercises. Lightweight decorations are allowed on or in the draft rig and are not considered part of the rig or load, therefore their loss or failure is of no consequence.

Any of the following draft rigs may be used: cart (two wheels), wagon (four wheels), sled, toboggan or travois. Each of these must be equipped such that the draft rig cannot run up on the dog when hauling downhill. The only acceptable brace hitch is one dog beside the other, coupled or uncoupled.

- B. Collars, Leashes and Couplers
 1. Collars: Dogs must wear a properly fitted buckle, slip or limited slip (martingale) style of collar. No special training collars or head halters.
 2. Leashes: Leashes must be of fabric or leather and need be only of sufficient length to provide adequate slack.

All dogs must be kept on leash except when in the ring, and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash, except that Open teams leave and return to the ring off leash for the Freight Haul. Dogs must be kept on leash when entering the ring for the Group exercises and to receive awards.

3. Couplers: In Brace classes the dogs may be unattached or coupled, and whichever method is used shall be continued throughout all exercises. The coupler shall be 15cm – 30cm in length. **(Amended 10/17, 6.9)**

- C. Freight Haul Load and Weights

Novice Draft: Each dog must pull ten (10) kilograms.

Brace Novice Draft: Each brace must pull twenty (20) kilograms.

Open Draft: Each dog must pull two thirds (2/3) of their body weight or a minimum of twenty (20) kilograms.

Brace Open Draft: Each brace must pull the sum of the weights that the individual dogs must pull in Open Draft.

The Practical Draft Work exercises may not be performed with the Freight Haul load. No person or animal may serve as a freight load.

COMPETITION SITE AND SPECTATORS

Section 1. Site

- A. Ring: The ring for all exercises except the Freight Haul shall be a minimum of 930 square meters with no dimension less than 25 meters. The ring area should be flat and shall be defined by ring gates, ropes, fencing or other barriers. The ring entrance shall be a minimum of two (2) meters wide or thirty (30) centimeters wider than the widest measurement recorded during the Equipment Check, whichever is the widest. Only members of the Draft Test Committee, judges and stewards shall have unlimited access to the ring. Handlers are permitted in the ring for the walk-through. Teams are permitted in the ring only when they are called for testing. Spectators are not allowed in the ring at any time. **(Amended 10/17, 6.9)**

- B. Maneuvering Course: The Maneuvering course shall be clearly defined with markers and may include signage directing handlers through the course.
- C. Freight Haul Course: The 1.6 kilometers Freight Haul course must be clearly marked and should ideally include both uphill and downhill slopes and changes of terrain.

Section 2. Spectators

- A. Applause: Because dogs working under natural conditions may often be in places where there are a variety of everyday sounds, spectators are encouraged to applaud and cheer for the performing dog. Spectators and dogs not entered are not to interfere with the performance in any way. Judges' discretion is to be used to determine interference.
- B. Dogs Not Entered: All dogs not entered in the Draft Test must be leashed or crated at all times.

PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULING

Section 1. Equipment Check

Judges shall check all draft equipment, collars, leashes, couplers and weights (General Regulations Section 3, B and C) to be used in the Draft Test. Measurements may be made by judges, committee members, or stewards. A judge must supervise all measurements. Dogs shall not be required at the Equipment Check. After the Equipment Check, no alterations or substitutions may be made to the equipment without the approval of a judge.

The following shall be recorded on the Draft Test Data Worksheet:

- 1) Class
- 2) Width of the widest part of the draft rig or the hitched dog(s)
- 3) Weight of dog(s) (Open classes only)
- 4) Weight and description of load. Opened or non-commercially labeled loads shall be weighed.

Multiple Equipment Checks may be held at the host club's discretion, with the judges' pre-approval. Each team will be assigned to a specific Equipment Check based on the judging schedule. The Test Secretary shall notify each exhibitor of the time of their Equipment Check when verifying their entry after the closing date.

Section 2. Order of Group Exercises

The Freight Haul shall immediately follow the Group Stay exercise and shall start and finish in the ring. Draft Test Committees should bear this in mind when laying out the ring location and Freight Haul course.

Section 3. Scheduling

The Draft Test Committee should plan for the judging of three (3) to four (4) teams per hour. This figure includes time for the Group Stay and the Freight Haul.

Section 4. Move-ups

Move-ups to a more advanced class are allowed after the close of entries under the following conditions:

1. A dog may be moved up from one individual class to another or from one brace class to another, but not between individual and brace classes.
2. The weight certificate(s) must be included with the Novice entry with notification to the Test Secretary that a move-up is possible.
3. The weight of the freight haul load must be printed in the catalog.

4. The Test Secretary must be notified of the move-up no later than 30 minutes prior to the first Equipment Check. The handler presents a Test catalog to the Test Secretary. The Test Secretary marks, signs and dates the move-up in the catalog and on the original entry form, and gives the catalog to the handler.

QUALIFYING PERFORMANCES AND TITLES

Section 1. Qualifying Performances

- A. Pass/Fail: A dog must pass all the exercises in a class at one Draft Test to qualify and earn a Draft title.
- B. Other Criteria: The primary quality to be emphasized in Draft Tests is ability to perform the assigned tasks. However, dogs are also to be judged for willingness and smoothness of performance. A dog that effectively completes the task within a reasonable time period and without physical assistance should be scored as passed if it has performed willingly. A dog that does everything correctly but appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler shall be scored as failed. Teams shall be evaluated the entire time they are in the ring or on the Freight Haul.

Section 2. Titles

- A. The following titles are earned after passing once in the respective class:
 1. Novice Draft Dog (NDD) in Novice Draft.
 2. Draft Dog (DD) in Open Draft.
 3. Brace Novice Draft Dog (BNDD) in Brace Novice Draft.
 4. Brace Draft Dog (BDD) in Brace Open Draft.
- B. The following titles are earned after passing the respective class five (5) times under at least seven (7) different judges:
 1. Advanced Novice Draft Dog (ANDD) in Novice Draft.
 2. Master Draft Dog (MDD) in Open Draft.
 3. Advanced Brace Novice Draft Dog (ABNDD) in Brace Novice Draft.
 4. Master Brace Draft Dog (MBDD) in Brace Open Draft.

REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING

Key Words

Section 1. Key Words Defined

Key words will always appear in bold.

- A. **Stay** -dog remains in the location and position (sit, stand, or down) indicated by the handler. Minor movements such as adjusting of feet or rolling to the opposite hip are acceptable. "Stay" is the concept being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any command they wish.
- B. **Wait** -dog remains in the same location but may shift its feet or change position (such as sit, stand, down, hip roll, etc.). "Wait" is the concept being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any command they wish.
- C. **Physically Guide** -contact of any part of the handler's body with the dog or draft rig with the intent of exerting control.
- D. **Slack/Loose Leash** -a slack or loose leash has a visible U or J shape between the dog and handler.

- E. **Leash Guidance** -a leash “guides” the dog as the slack is reduced. A tight or taut leash is only the most extreme example of leash guidance. Judges shall use common sense in evaluating whether the dog would have responded if the leash had not been there.
- F. **Command** – a verbal order which may begin or end with the dog's call name.
- G. **Signal** – a single, continuous motion of one or more body parts which must start in and immediately return to a natural position.
- H. **Command and/or Signal** – handler may give a command, a signal, or both a command and signal simultaneously.
- I. **Slow** -a pace distinctly different and slower than the pace immediately preceding, and followed by a return to the preceding pace or a halt.
- J. **Halt** -on the judge’s command the handler must command the dog to stop. The dog should start to respond to the handler promptly and the dog and draft rig should stop within a short distance. “Halt” is the concept being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any commands they wish.
- K. **Hover** -bending of the handler’s upper body directly over the dog.

Classes

Section 1. Classes Defined

- A. There shall be two classes for individual dogs.
 - 1. Novice Draft: The Novice Draft class shall be for all dogs regardless of prior titles. All exercises except the Recall, Harness and Hitch, and Group Stay are performed on leash. No leash guidance is allowed. The leash must be visibly slack. Leash guidance or physically guiding the dog and/or draft rig, except as noted, will result in a failing performance.
 - 2. Open Draft: The Open Draft class shall be for dogs that have earned the NDD title. All exercises are performed off leash. Physically guiding the dog and/or draft rig, except as noted, will result in a failing performance.
- B. There shall be two brace classes.
 - 1. Brace Novice Draft: Brace Novice Draft shall be for dogs that have individually earned the NDD title. All exercises are the same as those of Novice Draft except there will be no Basic Control.
 - 2. Brace Open Draft: Brace Open Draft shall be for dogs that have individually earned the DD title and the BNDD title. All exercises are the same as those of Open Draft.

DRAFT TEST EXERCISES

Section 1. Basic Control (Novice Draft Only)

Overview: Prior to hitching, the dog demonstrates willingness to work with and respond to the handler while in the vicinity of the draft equipment. The team is to demonstrate walking under control with changes of direction and speed, and a recall to the vicinity of the draft rig.

- A. Walking under Control
Prior to the start of this exercise the draft rig and harness will be brought into the ring and positioned by a steward.

The dog is expected to walk under control within arm's length of the handler at all times. The dog may work on either side, in front, or behind the handler but may not interfere with the handler's movement.

The handler may not physically guide the dog but may encourage the dog to remain within arm's length.

Judge's commands to the handler are: "Are you ready?", "Forward", "Slow", "Fast", "Normal", "Right turn", "Left turn", "About turn", "Halt", and "Exercise finished". Judges will determine the pattern and order of their commands.

Failing performance:

1. Dog does not walk under control within arm's length of handler at all times.
2. No change of pace.
3. Handler adapts to the pace of the dog.
4. Handler physically guides the dog.
5. Leash guidance.
6. Dog interferes with handler's movement.

- B. Recall: The recall is performed off leash (leash shall be given to a judge) and will be approximately 15 meters in length. The exercise may start with the dog in any position. The dog must execute the wait with a single command and/or signal. The handler leaves the dog, proceeds to a position close to the draft rig, and faces the dog.

At the judge's direction, the handler calls the dog with a single command and/or signal. After the dog has begun to move, additional signals, commands and praise are allowed. The dog is expected to come directly to the handler and stop near enough for the handler to touch.

Judge's commands or signals to the handler are: "Are you ready?", "Leave your dog", "Call your dog", "Exercise finished".

Failing performance:

1. Handler gives more than one wait command and/or signal.
2. Dog does not wait.
3. Dog does not come on first command and/or signal.
4. Dog does not come directly to handler.
5. Dog remains out of reach.
6. Handler physically guides the dog.

Section 2. Harness and Hitch

Overview: Dog demonstrates willingness to be harnessed and hitched to draft rig.

Novice: Dog remains off leash following the Recall and may receive gentle physical guidance to the vicinity of the draft rig. The judge places the leash in the draft rig.

Brace Novice: Prior to the start of this exercise the draft rig and harness will be brought into the ring and positioned by a steward. The team proceeds to the harness and hitch location designated by the judges. The leash is removed.

Open and Brace Open: The team proceeds to the harness and hitch location designated by the judges. The dog must wait while the handler leaves the ring and brings the draft rig and harness into the ring, and positions them close to the dog.

The handler harnesses and hitches the dog. The dog cooperates for the harnessing and hitching. All dogs may receive gentle physical guidance. When hitched, the handler indicates readiness to proceed (in the Novice classes by putting the leash back on the dog).

If the draft rig is a sled, toboggan or travois not designed for backing, the backing exercise (described below in Practical Draft Work, Basic Command -Section 3 A) shall be performed prior to hitching, backing into position to be hitched.

Judge's commands to the handler are: "Are you ready?" "Harness your dog," ("Back your dog"), "Hitch your dog", "Exercise finished".

Failing performance:

1. Dog does not wait while draft rig is brought into ring (Open).
2. Dog is uncooperative.
3. Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.
4. Rough handling of dog.

Examples:

Harness and Hitch

The position of the team relative to the draft rig for the Harness and Hitch is a set-up point, not a position to be judged. The exercise may not begin until the team is close to the draft rig. The judge may ask the team to narrow the gap without penalty to the team.

The leash must be off during the Novice Harness and Hitch. The exercise may not begin until the leash is removed. The judge may remind the handler to remove the leash without penalty to the team.

Section 3. Practical Draft Work

Overview: The team demonstrates working ability. The team encounters situations and distractions such as might be met under everyday conditions.

The handler may work beside, behind, or in front of the dog, or any combination of these. The key factor to be judged is the exhibition of teamwork as well as completion of the exercises and willingness, ability, enthusiasm, and smoothness of performance.

Judges may require the Practical Draft Work exercises to be performed in any order. The different components of each exercise do not need to be performed consecutively. At the beginning of these exercises the judge will ask "Are you ready?" and at the conclusion the judge will state "Exercise finished".

Except as specified, the Practical Draft Work exercises are performed with an empty draft rig.

- A. Basic Command: The Basic Commands are:
1) "Normal" 2) "Slow" 3) "Halt" 4) "Back"

Normal pace and halts will occur multiple times throughout the Draft Test. The slow and back shall each be required only once, but may be used elsewhere in the Draft Test at the handler's discretion.

The Basic Commands may occur in any order and in any order relative to the other Practical Draft Work commands.

Slow: The slow pace shall last for a minimum of three meters.

Back: Novice dogs must back the draft rig a distance of at least thirty (30) centimeters. Open dogs must back the draft rig a distance of at least one (1) meter.

The judge will ask the handler if they are ready for the backing exercise and then place the measuring stick at the point of the axle. The backing exercise begins when the judge gives the command "Back your dog." The measuring stick shall not be moved during the exercise. The direction of backing should be approximately straight. One minute shall be allowed for the backing exercise.

If the draft rig has a locking mechanism to assist in backing, the handler must notify the judges and time will be allowed for locking and unlocking the rig. If the draft rig is a sled, toboggan or travois not designed for backing, the backing exercise shall be performed prior to hitching by backing into position to be hitched.

Judge's commands, in any order, to the handler are: "Forward", "Slow", "Normal", "Halt", "Are you ready?", "Back your dog", "Exercise finished".

Failing performance:

1. No slow.
2. No halt.
3. Dog does not back up the required distance.
4. Dog substantially changes direction while backing.
5. Dog upsets draft rig.
6. Handler physically guides the dog and/or draft rig.
7. Leash guidance.

Examples:

Backing

Once the judge says "Back your dog", the exercise to back the required distance has begun. Should the dog move forward, it then has that distance plus the required distance to back. The backing exercise is not to be judged by dog movement (e.g. standing, sitting or any combination), but on the distance and direction of the draft rig's movement.

Hovering during Backing Excessive hovering to force the dog backwards may be failed based on General Regulations and Other Criteria, "... scored as passed if it has performed willingly," and "a dog that . . . appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler shall be scored as failed." A dog that must be intimidated into performing an exercise has not done so willingly.

Slow

If the handler is ahead of the dog, slows down and then finishes the exercise behind the dog, chances are good that only the handler has demonstrated a change of pace. The dog's change of pace is what is being judged.

Slow, Brace

The team must change pace and stay on course. If one dog demonstrates change of pace while the other does not and the rig veers or turns to one side, the team must be failed for either no slow or lack of control.

Halts, Body Blocking

Given that handlers may work beside, behind or in front of the dog, a handler may step in front of a dog for a halt or other maneuvers. However, if the dog collides with the handler, attempts to go around the handler, or if the handler is forced to back up, the dog should be failed for lack of control or no halt.

B. Control with Distractions:

While the team is working, two distractions, one primarily auditory and one primarily visual, shall occur approximately three meters from the working dog. When the distraction appears, the dog may stop what it is doing and/or watch but is not allowed to divert from the course it is following or to move the draft rig if the rig is at that moment stationary. The handler may speak to the dog with instructions concerning the distraction. If the dog has stopped to watch the distraction, the handler is to encourage the dog to proceed with the exercise. When the distraction has passed the handler is to instruct the dog to continue the exercise it may have stopped.

Distractions are to be arranged at the discretion of the Draft Test Committee and should be distractions that might occur in everyday situations. Judges must approve the distractions prior to the start of judging.

Possible appropriate distractions are:

Auditory ringing bell, radio, car or bicycle horn, banging pans, crinkly food bag, squeaky toys, musical instrument.

Visual camera flash, another animal on leash, ball or toy being thrown, person riding a bicycle person on horseback.

Stewards perform distractions under direction of the judges.

Failing performance:

1. Dog changes direction in response to a distraction.
2. Dog moves a stationary draft rig in response to a distraction.
3. Dog chases distraction.
4. Dog is fearful of distraction.
5. Dog upsets draft rig.
6. Handler physically guides the dog and/or draft rig.
7. Leash guidance.
8. Dog barks out of control or shows aggression.
9. Dog refuses to resume the exercise it was performing after the distraction is gone.
10. Dog gives a failing performance in reaction to a naturally occurring distraction, even though the dog passes the official distractions.

- C. Loading and Unloading: The team shall halt. The dog must wait in a stand, sit or down position. The individual dogs of a brace may be left in different positions. When the handler indicates readiness, a steward approaches, greets the handler, gives the handler a lightweight load (e.g. a blanket), and departs. The handler secures the load to the draft rig. The team then pulls the load to another part of the ring where they again halt. The dog must again wait, as above. When the handler indicates readiness, a steward approaches, greets the handler, greets and pats the dog, receives the load from the handler, and departs. If the load should shift the handler may stop to reposition and secure the load.

Judge's commands to the handler are: "Halt", "Load your draft rig", "Forward", "Halt", "Unload your draft rig".

Failing performance:

1. Dog does not halt on command.
2. Dog does not wait.
3. Dog refuses to pull loaded draft rig.
4. Load falls off of draft rig.
5. Dog does not wait when greeted and patted.
6. Dog shows aggression or shyness when greeted and patted.
7. Dog upsets draft rig.
8. Handler physically guides the dog and/or draft rig.
9. Leash guidance.

- D. Maneuvering: The team is required to perform:

1. Circular patterns to the right and left.
2. 90 degree turns to the right and left.
3. Movement through a narrow area that is thirty (30) centimeters wider than the widest recorded dimension for this team without touching the objects defining the narrow area. The handler, dog and draft rig must all pass through the narrow area.

4. Removable obstacle -the dog waits while the handler opens a gate or removes an obstacle such as a tree branch or child's toy. The team then proceeds through the gate or past the obstacle. The handler may be required to close the gate or replace the obstacle.

3. and 4. May not be combined.

Judges will direct handlers as necessary through the maneuvers. Judge's commands to the handler may include: "Right turn", "Left turn", "Right U turn", "Left U turn", "Circle right", "Circle left", "Weave", "Halt", "Remove the obstacle", "Forward".

Failing Performance:

1. All maneuvers not executed.
2. Any contact by the dog, handler or draft rig with the obstacle or the objects defining the narrow area or any other part of the course.
3. Dog does not wait while handler removes obstacle.
4. Dog upsets draft rig.
5. Handler physically guides the dog and/or draft rig.
6. Leash guidance.
7. Handler, dog, and draft rig do not pass through the narrow area.

Section 4. Group Stay

Overview: The dogs demonstrate their ability to remain on an off-leash stay while hitched to loaded draft rigs. This is a group exercise.

Novice Draft and Brace Novice Draft: The handler stands across the ring from the dog.

Open Draft and Brace Open Draft: The handler is out of sight.

The handler is responsible for the proper loading of the draft rig. (See Section 3 C Freight Haul Load and Weights) Stewards/volunteers may assist under the handler's direction. Judges must confirm the proper freight load from the Data Worksheet.

Dogs may be gently placed in a stand, sit or down. Draft rig shafts may be adjusted for the dog's comfort. Leashes are placed in the rig. The stay command and/or signal are given once and no other commands or signals may be given during this exercise. The stay is for three (3) minutes. The handlers shall return to the dog's side.

Judge's commands to the handlers are: "Are you ready?", "Position your dogs for the stay", "Leave your dogs", "Return to your dogs", "Exercise finished"

Failing performance:

1. Handler gives more than one stay command.
2. Dog changes position e.g. from a down to a sit or stand.
3. Dog moves out of place.
4. Dog barks or whines repeatedly.
5. Rough placement of dog.
6. Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched

Section 5. Distance Freight Haul

Overview: The teams traverse an outdoor course with the dogs hauling loaded draft rigs. This is a group exercise. The steward leads the freight haul and cannot be overtaken. The speed is to be a good walking pace.

A 1.6km course, beginning and ending in the ring, is traversed over the natural terrain of the area, ideally including uphill and downhill slopes and changes of terrain. The judges must accompany the teams. The judges have the authority to stop the exercise if the load is too great for the dog under the working conditions. Only with the approval of a judge may the handler physically guide the dog and/or draft rig in unusual trail conditions. Control is an important part of this exercise. Handlers should be prepared to slow down or stop and wait at the request of a judge or to remain part of a group. Any narrow areas on the Freight Haul course, such as between trees or through gates, must be as wide as or wider than the widest measurement recorded during the Equipment Check plus thirty centimeters. Only with the approval of a judge may the handler overtake another team during the Freight Haul.

No artificial cooling of the dog is allowed during the freight haul. This includes but not limited to the wearing of cooling coats, icing down or hosing down of the dog.

Test Committees should be aware of this when laying out Freight Haul courses and judges should watch for this when inspecting the Freight Haul course prior to judging.

Failing performance:

1. Handler loads draft rig in a manner that causes it to become significantly unbalanced when moving.
2. Freight load exceeds the dog's capacity to pull comfortably and safely.
3. Dog upsets draft rig.
4. Handler physically guides the dog and/or draft rig without judge approval.
5. Dog refuses to move the loaded draft rig.
6. Dog refuses to accompany handler.
7. Team does not complete the course.
8. Leash guidance.
9. Dog or draft rig collide with any object.
10. Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.
11. Any dog which becomes unfit during the draft test will be automatically disqualified.

TRADITIONAL DRAFT TEST BREEDS

Bernese Mountain Dog
Bouvier Des Flandres
Leonberger
Newfoundland
Pyrenean Mountain Dog
Rottweiler
St Bernard