

# Has your Bloodhound got what it takes to track the human scent?

## Why not try Bloodhound Trials!

### What are Bloodhound Trials?

A Bloodhound Trial is a challenging exercise for your Bloodhound, hunting a specially laid scent over vast areas of land. Bloodhound Trials require the dog to identify the human scent. The procedure is that 'a runner' leaves an article with his/her scent on it, attached to a flag at the start. He/she then 'walks the line' on a route predetermined on a map which is up to three miles long. The hound is then required to follow the line and find and identify the runner who waits at the end of the line.

### Reasons why you should do Bloodhound Trials

- If you love the great outdoors you will love Bloodhound Trials.
- Lose those pounds whilst working your hound.
- Develop what your dog was bred to do.
- There's a great social scene to be enjoyed.

### All you need to know is:

- Your dog must be a pure bred Bloodhound and must be registered with the Kennel Club.
- Competitors taking part in any Kennel Club licensed event must familiarise themselves with the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations beforehand. The Bloodhound Trial Regulations can be found in the Working Trial and Bloodhound Trial Regulations booklet which is available from the Kennel Club Publications Department.
- Dogs can start competing at 12 months of age.
- No previous experience necessary so contact the following Clubs today!

#### Association of Bloodhound Breeders

Miss J Corner  
Woodside, 6 Front Street,  
Kelloe, Durham DH6 4PD  
Tel: 01913 770 073

#### Bloodhound Club

Miss F McKenzie  
3 Milton Leaze  
Long Load, Nr. Langport  
Somerset TA10 9JJ  
Tel: 01458 241 080  
Email:  
secretary@bloodhoundclub.co.uk  
Web: www.bloodhoundclub.org.uk

### INFORMATION BOX

For a **Working Trial and Bloodhound Trial Regulations** booklet please call the Kennel Club publications department on **020 7518 1016**.

Trial listings can be found in the **Kennel Gazette**. To purchase the Kennel Gazette please contact the Kennel Club publications department on **020 7518 1016**.

Visit our website  
[www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)

*'Hunting the boot', as it is known, is a true country activity, offering great excitement whether carried out on a modest scale with one hound at Bloodhound Working Trials, or with a pack of Bloodhounds. It is a sport that can be enjoyed by anyone with a love of hounds and the countryside.*

**Leo Pogodzinski**

## Bloodhound Trials: Top Tips

### Stakes

There are four categories of competition known as 'stakes' starting with Novice and ending with Senior. The line for Novice is one mile long and laid half an hour before the dog works. The Senior Line is three miles long and laid two hours before the dog works. If you are new to Bloodhound Trials you would begin in the Novice Stake, and should your clever hound excel in this sport it would progress through to Senior.

Even if you do not own a Bloodhound any dog lover would be amazed and excited to see such special dogs in competition and excelling at what they were bred to do. A sight not to be missed!



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## Preparation for a Bloodhound Trial

- There's a great deal to think about before going to a Bloodhound Trial. Firstly, you must dress appropriately. You should wear plenty of layers of warm clothing, strong waterproof walking boots or Wellington boots, make sure that you also have wind proof and waterproof jackets. It is also important that your clothing compliments the countryside.
- With the vagaries of the British weather you are well advised to take a change of clothing with you, so that you are not faced with a cold and damp car journey home. Also pack food and drink for yourself, as you will not be near any shops. Judges lunches are provided by the hosting society.
- Bloodhound Trials usually mean a long car journey so think about your dog's needs too – a good strong travelling cage and plenty of water will make its trip comfortable. Often working dogs are not fed before a day's work but you should remember to pack your dog's bowls and some food as you may not return home from the Trial until late in the evening.
- Although the schedule/catalogue will tell you where the Trial is going to take place you should also take with you the recommended O/S map for the area. The meet for the Trials is advertised in the catalogue with O/S map reference numbers, it could be a different meet for each stake or it could be a village pub.

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dog's life the healthiest  
and happiest it can be.  
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## At the Trial

- You should allow yourself plenty of time to reach the meeting point. If you are late, or not present an hour before your hound is due to hunt, you could be disqualified and all your preparation and long journey will have been wasted.
- Once you have found the meeting point you should let the Bloodhound Trial Stake Manager know you have arrived. They will mark you as present on the card, which lists all competitors for that stake on that particular day. There will be a short briefing about the type of country they will be working in, also advice on parking, not to block farm gateways and entrances and that there could be activity on the land, farmers and landowners do not stop working because of Bloodhound Trials. It is also important to be courteous to all land owners, shepherds, game keepers and local hunt staff. Bloodhound Societies rely on the generosity of landowners to host Trials and keep the sport alive. It is vital, therefore, that you treat the countryside with respect and are always courteous to all staff and those who live in the countryside.

## Leaving the Trial

- At the end of the Trial all go back to a designated venue for the Judges summing up and presentation of prizes, all competitors are expected to stay for this, if for any reason a competitor is unable to stay then he/she must inform the judge with an apology. The Stake Manager will be in charge of the ceremonies and thank the hosts, line walkers and assistants to the Judge and the Judge.
- So, as you can see, there are many exciting and interesting challenges on the long road from basic training to Bloodhound Trial Competition. Careful preparation at every stage is vital. Put the effort in and you'll find it an enormously rewarding process.

## INFORMATION BOX

### Handling your dog

Attending your first Bloodhound Trial may cause your hound to behave differently than it does in training. Your Bloodhound in particular can be bothered by crowds or by the fact that he is travelling in a convoy, and if this is the case you can move away from other competitors, this can help to settle your hound, but do not lose sight of the convoy. Bloodhounds should be kept under good control at all times, both whilst waiting to compete and during the Trial. You should always be aware of how your hound is reacting and what it is doing. If it does misbehave, you should never handle your hound harshly, or use punitive correction during a Trial. All Bloodhounds should be trained and worked using plenty of encouragement. If for any reason you become aware that your hound is not working well, you should ask the Judge's permission to withdraw, and for the sake of the hound ask the route of the line so that the hound can be walked in and meet up with his runner. His reward is finding his runner.

