

# Bloodhound Trials

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

John Leslie/The Kennel Club ©

### 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 TAKE PART IN 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.

**Great for Fitness**  
*with Your Dog!*



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### ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 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 Working Trial and Bloodhound Trial Regulations booklet is available to buy from the Kennel Club Publications Department.
- Dogs can start competing at 12 months of age.
- No previous experience necessary so contact a Club today!

### 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. 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.

**Get started today!**

For more information about getting started with Bloodhound Trials visit  
[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/bloodhoundtrials](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/bloodhoundtrials)

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## BLOODHOUND TRIALS: TOP TIPS

### Stakes

#### Levels of Competition

Each hound at a trial has its own line, if possible starting somewhere near to where the previous line finished. The ground used for a Bloodhound Trial may be agricultural land, moorland, woodland or open hill country. Hounds need to be able to negotiate a variety of terrain and to be able to deal with fences, hedges, ditches, water, road crossings and stone walls. Distractions encountered can include farm workers, tractors, crop spraying, muck spreading and livestock, and of course natural hazards such as game, deer, foxes and hares. A good hound will ignore all other scents and not change from the scent of the 'runner'. For a successful Bloodhound Trial approximately ten thousand acres of land is required.

Bloodhounds work using air scent ('hunting'), rather than following a line of disturbance on the ground ('tracking'), as most other breeds do. This frequently enables them to work at a faster speed than tracking dogs.

John Leslie/The Kennel Club ©



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**Hounds compete at ascending levels called 'Stakes'. In order, the Stakes are:**

**Novice Stake** - working a line one mile long and at least half an hour cold; once a hound has won a first or second place in a Novice or Junior Stake, or first in an Intermediate or Senior Stake, it can no longer compete in a Novice Stake.

**Junior Stake** - working a line two miles long and at least an hour cold; hounds must have won a first or second place in a Novice stake to enter. They can no longer enter a Junior Stake after winning a first or second in a Junior Stake or first in an Intermediate or Senior Stake.

**Intermediate Stake** - working a line two and a half miles long and at least one and a half hours cold; hounds must have gained a first or second place in a Junior Stake to enter. They can no longer enter an Intermediate Stake once they have won first place in an Intermediate or Senior Stake.

**Senior Stake** - working a line three miles long and at least two hours cold; hounds must have won first place in an Intermediate Stake to enter, and must have been stock tested so that they can be hunted free (off leash).

**ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR FIRST BLOODHOUND TRIAL?**

Email [workingtrials@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:workingtrials@thekennelclub.org.uk) to find all you need to know about entering a trial!

**Get started today!**

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