

Working Trials

Is your dog smart enough? Then Working Trials is for you!

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WHAT IS WORKING TRIALS?

Originally introduced for police dogs, Working Trials can be said to be 'CSI for dogs'! Working Trials are physically demanding, but are great fun and extremely rewarding. Dogs compete in ascending levels called 'stakes'. From the lowest stake, Companion Dog (CD), through Utility Dog (UD) and Working Dog (WD) to Tracking Dog (TD) and Patrol Dog (PD) at the very top. Exercises are divided into three sections; Nosework, Agility and Control. They comprise various tests, including heelwork, searching for hidden items, long jump and scaling a wall.

Great for Fitness *with Your Dog!*

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD DO WORKING TRIALS

- Give your dog the chance to show its intelligence.
- If you love the great outdoors you will love Working Trials.
- Your dog does not have to be a pedigree – all dogs can do Working Trials.
- Useful canine skills are developed – a Working Trial dog may even find those lost car keys for you!
- A real social scene to be enjoyed.

Suitable for both **Pedigree and Crossbreed Dogs**

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Your dog must be registered on the Kennel Club Breed Register or the Activity Register.
- 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 from the Kennel Club Publications Department.
- Dogs can start competing at 18 months of age.
- No previous experience is necessary so request a list of **Working Trial Clubs** today!

Register your dog on the Activity Register by downloading and completing **form 5** from www.thekennelclub.org.uk/form5



HANDLING YOUR DOG

Attending your first Working Trial may cause your dog to behave differently than it does in training. Your dog may be bothered by crowds, and if this is the case you can move away from other competitors. This can help to settle your dog. Dogs 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 dog is reacting and what it is doing. All dogs should be trained and worked using plenty of encouragement. If for any reason you become aware that your dog is not working well, you should ask the Judge's permission to withdraw.

Get started today!

To find a list of clubs or training classes near you visit www.findadogclub.org.uk

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WORKING TRIALS: TOP TIPS

Generally there are three main sections to a Working Trial:

Nosework

An area of land, approximately half a mile long is used as a track. The dog and handler follow the track in a pattern set by the judge and walked earlier by a 'tracklayer' to recover very small articles which have been placed there beforehand by the tracklayer. We've all heard about the dog's great sense of smell and it is amazing to see it in action in these trials.



The Kennel Club ©

Agility

The agility section will test the dog's ability to negotiate a long jump, a high jump and a six foot scale. Should the dog fail its first attempt it is only allowed one more chance, and it may end up losing valuable marks.



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Control

There are various exercises in this section. 'Heelwork', is when the dog must walk with its shoulder reasonably close to the handler, as the handler walks at normal, fast and slow paces through turns among and around people and obstacles. 'Sendaway' is when the dog will have to leave its handler and cross a distance whilst the handler redirects the dog through a series of commands.

The minimum distance is 50 metres but some sendaways at the highest levels can stretch to 300 metres. 'Retrieving a Dumbbell' is when the dog retrieves a dumbbell which has been thrown by its handler. The exercise should be completed at a smart pace without mouthing or playing with the item and only when the handler commands it.

'Down stay' is when the dog must stay in a down position while the handler is out of sight for a period of time. If the dog moves it will be penalised, and to really test the dog, the judge may use distractions. 'Steadiness to gunshot' is when the dog is tested on its reactions to gunshot. The dog will be penalised if it shows any sign of fear, aggression or if it barks. "Speak" on command' is when the dog is ordered to "speak" (or bark) and cease "speaking" whilst the handler uses a minimum of commands and/or signals. These exercises really do test your dog's ability.

Once your dog has progressed up to WD you can then enter a TD or PD Stake (the highest tests). In PD you and your dog will also be tested in Police Dog style exercises.

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR FIRST WORKING TRIAL?

Visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/workingtrials or email workingtrials@thekennelclub.org.uk to find all you need to know about entering a trial!