



# Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club

## WORKING CHESAPEAKE TESTS

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The Working Chesapeake Tests are a series of tests run by the Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club (CBRC) with the aim of encouraging owners to develop the natural working ability of their dogs. They are non-competitive pass/fail tests, set at three levels of increasing difficulty. The tests are designed to show the dog's desire to retrieve, its marking ability, its desire to hunt an area, and, in later tests, its willingness to obey instruction.

Level 1 (WCT1) aims to demonstrate the natural retrieving ability of a dog, and involves four single retrieves using dummies, two on land and two on water. Dogs may be held on a lead until sent.

Level 2 (WCT2) again involves four retrieves, completed as a land double and a water double, and at greater distances than in WCT1. Dogs need to be steady to shot, retrieve the dummy they are sent for, and retrieve to hand.

Level 3 (WCT3) demonstrates a greater level of ability and training, with seven retrieves of cold game (dead birds), including seen and blind retrieves, on land and water, with one retrieve being a triple.

## Working Chesapeake Test – LEVEL 1

- This test will be run on dummies, with gunshot.
- Dogs are not required to be steady and may be held on a slip lead while the shots are fired and the dummies thrown.
- Collars must be removed.
- Controlled breaks are allowed, i.e. where the dog runs in a short distance, but the handler is able to stop and recall it immediately.
- The dog must return the dummy to within 2 yards of the handler.
- Handling is allowed at the judge's discretion.
- Excessive noise from the dog is a fail.

### Test Description

The aim of the tests is to demonstrate the dog's marking ability, its willingness to hunt for and retrieve the dummy, and its willingness to enter water.

#### 1 *Land Singles*

This test consists of two consecutive single marked retrieves. There will be a shot and then a dummy will be thrown, preferably into light cover. The second marked retrieve will be at least 90° from the first retrieve. The distance for the retrieves will be approximately 30 yards.

#### 2 *Water Singles*

This test consists of two consecutive single marked retrieves. There will be a shot and then a dummy will be thrown. The second marked retrieve will be at least 90° from the first retrieve. The distance for the retrieves will be approximately 30 yards.

## Working Chesapeake Test – LEVEL 2

- This test will be run on dummies, with gunshot.
- Dogs are required to be steady. Running in and controlled breaks are classed as a fail.
- Dogs are required to deliver to hand.
- Any noise made by the dog, i.e. whining or barking, will be classed as a fail.
- Handling is allowed at the judge's discretion. Excessive/noisy handling will be classed as a fail.
- A dog must have passed WCT Level 1 before progressing to Level 2.

### Test Description

The aim is to demonstrate that the dog can mark, has a good nose and is willing to hunt, and will follow instruction from the handler.

#### 1 *Land Double*

A shot will be fired and a dummy thrown into light to medium cover at a distance of approximately 80 yards. Another shot will be fired and the second dummy also thrown into light to medium cover, again at approximately 80 yards. The angle between the dummies will not be less than 90°.

Before sending the dog, the handler will specify which dummy the dog will retrieve first.

#### 2 *Water Double*

A shot will be fired and a dummy thrown into water, at a distance of 50 yards. Another shot will be fired and a second dummy thrown, again at 50 yards. Both water retrieves will be from water deep enough for swimming, but the 50 yards need not be all water. The angle between the dummies will not be less than 90°.

Before sending the dog, the handler will specify which dummy the dog will retrieve first.

## Working Chesapeake Test – LEVEL 3

- This test will be run on cold game (dead birds), with gunshot.
- Dogs are required to be steady and quiet.
- Dogs are required to deliver to hand.
- Handling is allowed at the judge's discretion but excessive/noisy handling will be classed as a fail.
- A dog must have passed WCT Levels 1 and 2 before progressing to Level 3.

### Test Description

#### 1 *Land Double*

A shot will be fired and a bird will be thrown into medium cover; another shot will be fired and the second bird will also be thrown into medium cover. The distance of the retrieves will not be less than 80 yards. The angle between the birds will not be less than 45°. Before sending the dog, the handler will specify the order of the retrieves.

#### 2 *Land Blind*

A bird will be placed into light to medium cover at a distance of 100 yards. A shot will be fired. A minor obstacle (e.g. a ditch or bank, a change of direction for entry into the cover, or changes in the cover) will be incorporated into the test to encourage handling.

#### 3 *Water Blind*

This is a 70 yard retrieve, of which at least 50 yards is swimming water. A shot will be fired. The dog should be sent from no less than 2 yards away from the bank.

#### 4 *Combination Triple*

This is a triple mark with two land retrieves and one water retrieve. The land birds are to be thrown first, at distances of 100 yards and 50 yards, accompanied by gunshot. The angle between the birds will not be less than 45°. The water retrieve will be thrown last, at a distance of 50 yards, also accompanied by gunshot. The handler will specify the order of the retrieves before sending the dog.

## Notes for Handlers

1. On arrival, report to the steward who will give you a running number.
2. Your dog must be on a lead at all times except when running in the tests.
3. Allow your dog to toilet prior to running in the tests. Do not allow your dog to play, bark or disturb other dogs running in the stakes.
4. Before each test begins, the judge will explain the rules of that test to all handlers.
5. If you do not understand the test then ask the judge to clarify.

### *Procedure for running in the tests*

6. Be aware of what is going on around you, and be ready for when the steward calls your number. Walk to the judge with your dog at heel on a lead.
7. Approach the judge, give them your number, and listen to the instructions from the judge.
8. The judge will tell you when to take off the dog's lead. Put your lead away in your pocket, out of the way (do not put it on the ground). Once the lead is removed, do not touch your dog.
9. Indicate to the judge that you are ready.
10. If the test is a double or triple then after the first retrieve is thrown and the dog has marked it, you may turn towards the next retrieve to get the dog in to position to mark the fall. The judge will signal for the next retrieve.
11. When the judge says your number you can send your dog. Take your time and make sure the dog is looking in the right direction. If necessary you can point in the direction of the retrieve with your arm or take a step towards it.
12. In Level 1, if the dog breaks (i.e. goes before you have sent it), then stop it and call it back.
13. Do not threaten or intimidate your dog at any time.
14. If the dog does not find the retrieve, the judge will tell you to call the dog back.
15. If the dog drops the retrieve to adjust its grip before it has returned then you can encourage the dog to pick up the retrieve. Multiple drops of the retrieve will be classed as a fail. In Level 1, which does not require delivery to hand, if the dog drops the retrieve within 2 yards of you, then you may pick up the retrieve.
16. When the dog returns with the retrieve, take it from the dog and hand it to the judge.
17. If the test is a double or triple, after the first retrieve you can line the dog up for the next retrieve by patting your leg and/or giving a one word command, but do not touch your dog. In your own time, send the dog for the next retrieve. Do not touch the dog between retrieves.
18. Put the lead back on the dog, thank the judge, and leave the line when finished.

### *General notes*

19. The welfare of the dogs is each handler's responsibility. Each handler should ensure that their actions do not compromise the health and safety of their dogs or of other dogs.
20. Do not leave dogs in cars on hot days without sufficient ventilation, i.e. leave tailgates or doors open.
21. Bitches in season are not allowed at the venue. No mating of dogs is allowed at the venue.
22. No aggressive dogs are allowed. The judge or event organiser can order the removal of dogs deemed to be aggressive.
23. No harsh handling or punitive correction is allowed.
24. All handlers should display polite and courteous behaviour at all times.
25. All handlers are expected to follow the judge's instructions.
26. Handlers will be disqualified and asked to leave the venue if they interfere with the running of another handler's dog.