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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

**Rules for the Conduct of**

**TRICK DOG TESTS**

**(Effective from 1 January ~~2020~~2024)**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the Australian National Kennel Council Limited 22 June 2019**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the Australian National Kennel Council Limited**

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Check Member Body details

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**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL**

**RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRICK DOG TESTS**

* 1. **INTRODUCTION**
  2. Trick Dog tests encourage owners and handlers to teach their dogs skills and to display various behaviours in a positive and fun environment. The rules are designed in such a way that handlers and dogs of all abilities are able to compete on an equal footing.
  3. The objective in Trick Dog training and competition is for the dog and handler to perform a selection of tricks, presented with obvious cooperation between a dog that is willing and working well and a supportive handler. Tricks allow us to improve communication and thereby increase our bond with our dogs.
  4. In the event that interpretation of these Rules is required, clarification should be sought, in writing, through the relevant member body or from the National Dances with Dogs Committee of the ANKC, the decision of which will be binding***.***
  5. Any person making an entry in a Trick Dog test does so at their own risk.
  6. The National Dances with Dogs Committee shall review and may recommend to the ANKC change(s) to these Rules two years from their date of implementation. Thereafter, the rules shall be reviewed at five-yearly intervals***.***

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

* 1. **INTRODUCTION**
  2. Trick Dog tTests encourage owners and handlers to teach their dogs skills and to display various behaviours in a positive and fun environment. ~~The rules are designed in such a way that handlers and~~ ~~dogs of all abilities are able to compete on an equal footing.~~
  3. The objective in Trick Dog training and competition is for the dog and handler to perform a selection of tricks, presented with obvious cooperation between a dog that is willing and working well and a supportive handler. ~~Tricks allow us to improve communication and thereby increase our bond with our dogs.~~ Tricks is a lead-in to competitors entering Dances with Dogs competitions.
  4. In the event that interpretation of these Rules is required, clarification should be sought, in writing, through the relevant member body or from the National Dances with Dogs Committee of the ANKC, the decision of which will be binding***.***
  5. ~~Any person making an entry in a Trick Dog test does so at their own risk.~~
  6. ~~The National Dances with Dogs Committee shall review and may recommend to the ANKC change(s) to~~ ~~these Rules two years from their date of implementation. Thereafter~~, The rules shall be reviewed at

five-yearly intervals***.***

**Rationale 1.0**

The first amendment corrects a grammatical error that appears throughout the current rules where the word ‘test’ appears without a capital “T”.

The introduction should be as short as possible to encourage competitors to read the rules. Changes to 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 reflect this.

1.2 We want Trick Dog Tests to be a lead-in to encouraging people into DWD and as tricks falls under the auspices of DWD this should be reflected in the introduction.

1.4 is deleted as this is not relevant to an introduction to the sport.

1.5 has a slight change for brevity and clarity.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

Throughout the rule book there are many instances of the wording Trick Dog tests. This should be Trick Dog Tests (a capital ‘T’ for tests) as that is the actual name of the discipline.

**RATIONALE**

Editorial change.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

Where referred to in these Rules, the following words will have the meanings assigned to them below:

“Affiliate”: a member of a Canine Control conducting a Trick Dog test.

"ANKC Ltd member body" or "member body": the ANKC Ltd member body in each State or Territory of Australia.

“Reward station”: a defined area1 set up by the Affiliate and approved by the Judge, for use in Starter and Novice classes.

“Toy”: in any case where use of a toy is permitted as a piece of equipment or a reward, it must be a silent training toy which does not emit any sound.

“Trick Dog”: an ANKC approved canine sport conducted under these Rules.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

Moved from Appendix A

APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

(d) Reference to the ‘start point’ is the start point for the relevant trick.

**New Rule**

2.0 **DEFINITIONS.**

“Start Point”: The ‘start point’ is the start point for the relevant trick.

**Rationale:** This rule is a definition and as such should be under 2.0 DEFINITIONS.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New Rule**

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**“Position”: The dog will take up the position of the handler’s choice, close to the handler or as stipulated in the description of the exercise. The dog takes up “Position” means sit, stand or down.  
  
Remove all reference to the word STANCE and replace with POSITION.

**Rational (for “Position”).** Throughout the Rules the word STANCE is used, which is confusing and not used in any other ANKC discipline. The constant word used in Performance disciplines is POSITION.

The word STANCE is confusing to handlers new to the sport of Tricks and as the word stance is not used in any other discipline, handler’s crossing over to compete in Tricks also find it confusing. Moreover, consistency in wording should also be for handler’s wishing to embrace other disciplines. After all, we are working towards encouraging handlers to compete with their dogs in any and all dog sports.   
  
 The dog may be in a sit or stand position in front of the handler.  
 “The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice….”  
  
 For uniformity   
   
 The dog will be in position of the handlers choice.  
 The dog will be in a down “position”.  
 The dog will be in a stand.  
  
EG: N15 The dog will be in a stance of the handler’s choice and be beside the handler.

CHANGE TO - The dog will be in a POSITION of the handler’s choice and be beside the handler

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New Rule**

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

“Set Up”: The Set Up is the positioning of dog and Handler in relation to each other and any equipment before being asked by the judge if they are ready. It includes the start point of the Trick.

“Cue”: The Cue is the instructions - verbal and/or physical that the handler gives the dog in order for it to perform the trick, given after the judge has signalled the start of the trick.

“Action”: The Action is whatever the team must do in order to complete the trick in according to the relevant Trick

description.

**NO RATIONALE**

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

**NEW DEFINITION**

“Stance”: Stance means the dog in a ‘sit’, ‘stand’, or ‘down’. Unless specified it will be handler’s choice.

“Location”: Where the handler/dog will be in relation to each other and/or in relation to a piece of equipment.

**RATIONALE**

Throughout the descriptions of the tricks the word ‘stance’ and ‘position’ (and occasionally ‘location’) has been used. This has caused much confusion as the word ‘position’ has a different meaning in other dog sport disciplines as opposed to the meaning in tricks. Therefore, it is proposed that the word ‘position’ be changed to ‘location’ and these two definitions be added to 2.0 DEFINITIONS.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES:**

The word ‘position’ will need to be changed to ‘location’ in Tricks:

S.15, N.13, N,18, N.19, I.2, I.18, A.1, A.2, A.4, A.7, A.13, A.14, A.19, A.20, A.22, A.23.

The word ‘position’ removed in Tricks:

N.6, N.10, N.14, N.16, N.17, I.12.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**New Rules**

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

“Body length”: refers to the length of the dog from the withers to the base of the tail.

“Defined area”: includes a box, suitcase, hula hoop, laundry basket, baby bath, obedience utility box, or

“Disconnecting”: When a dog is not responding to handler’s cues or its focus is elsewhere (beyond the handler and the necessary props).

“Position”: means the location of the dog in relation to the handler, ie. the dog is in front, behind, to the left, or the right, of the handler.

“Retrieve object”: A toy (as defined above) ball, dumbbell, or similar item and must be proportionate to the size of the dog.

“Reward station”: a table ~~defined area~~1 set up by the Affiliate and approved by the Judge, for use in Starter and Novice classes.

‘Stance’ – in relation to the dog means the dog is in a stand, sit or drop.

“Toy”: in any case where use of a toy is permitted as a piece of equipment or a reward, it must be a silent ~~training toy~~ it must not not emit any sound.

**Rationale 2.0**

The definition of ‘body length’ is added here as we propose that Appendix A be removed.

Definition of defined area for the purposes of the sendaway tricks has been added in the definition section for clarification rather than appearing as a footnote in the various sendaway tricks. (Note the definition has not changed, just its location in the rules.)

‘Disconnecting’ can incur deductions, as in 11.3 (f), but in SA competitors wanted clarity on what disconnection was. This glossary addition is an attempt to define disconnection. Considering that 4 points can be removed for a dog who is disconnecting, having a definition is considered to be important.

Position is defined in the definition section to clear up the ambiguity as to what these terms mean.

S.14, N.15, I.s and I.11 all require the dog to have something in its mouth. Some but not all reference a toy and some but not all have a footnote. We propose to standardise the definition of a retrieve object a for consistency and clarification. We have added the qualification that the retrieve object must be proportionate to the size of the dog so that this applies across all tricks.

The definition of reward station is amended to state it MUST be a table – it is not feasible to be using bins or anything else for the reward station. The footnote is therefore deleted as a consequential amendment.

Stance is defined in the definition section to clear up the ambiguity as to what these terms mean.

The definition of toy is simplified to just state it must be make any sound. This is done as part of the ‘streamlining’ of these rules and is on the basis that rules must be easily written and understood by competitors. The definition of ‘trick dog’ is removed – it was an error as if that definition defined anything it was a ‘Trick Dog Test”, not a ‘trick dog”.

**Consequental Change:**

1 ~~The reward station will normally consist of a table, elevated bin or other suitable container on or in which the competitor will place~~ ~~any toy or food rewards for use in accordance with Rule 10.5.~~

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **TRICK DOG TESTS**

The scheduling of any Trick Dog test shall be subject to the approval of the relevant member body. An Affiliate conducting a Trick Dog test shall offer all of the titling classes listed in section 3.1 below.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE – 3.0 TRICK DOG TESTS**

That the Title of ‘Trick Dog Champion’ be introduced. To gain the title of Trick Dog Champion (TK. CH) the dog, once it has achieved a Trick Dog Advanced title, must gain a further ten (10) qualifying scores of ninety (90) or above in the Advanced Class. These ten (10) qualifying scores must be gained under at least three (3) different judges.

**RATIONALE**

Dogs Qld proposes that the title of ‘Trick Dog Champion’ be added. This title be added in a similar format to that of Rally Champion and require additional qualifications, under a minimum of three (3) judges, with a higher score requirement.

Whilst some may feel the sport is too new for Trick Champion to be added we believe if we follow successful criteria set in other sports as a guide we will be creating a sound structure. We also believe that it would be a shame to see those dogs that have been ambassadors and leaders in our sport, providing inspiration and guidance to those just beginning their trick journey, unable to attain such a title given the next review would be in five years’ time. We think the success of the sport would be enhanced with the additional challenge rather than losing those competitors who choose to pursue other sports due to the lack of the ability to obtain a champion title in our sport.

Given the commitment and devotion to the sport that it would take, along with demonstrating a higher level of teamwork and skill, to achieve the proposed Champion title we believe the criteria outlined above would provide a sufficient requirement of combinations to earn the distinction of Trick Dog Champion.

We believe adding Trick Champion is the logical next step in the growth of our fantastic sport.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES**

**3.0 TRICK DOG TESTS**

The scheduling of any Trick Dog test shall be subject to the approval of the relevant member body. An Affiliate conducting a Trick Dog test shall offer all of the titling classes listed in section 3.1 below.

**3.1 Titling Classes**

The following titling classes are available in Trick Dog tests.

(a) **TRICK DOG STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.

1. **TRICK DOG NOVICE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Starter’

(TK.S.).

1. **TRICK DOG INTERMEDIATE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Novice’ (TK.N.).
2. **TRICK DOG ADVANCED**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Intermediate’ (TK.I.).

(e) **TRICK DOG CHAMPION:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Advanced’ (TK.A.).

**4.0 TITLES**

**4.1 Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must, at the one test -

1. gain a score of at least five (5) points out of ten (10) points on the number of tricks for which qualifying scores are required at the relevant level; and
2. achieve the minimum total score;

as set out in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** |
| Number of tricks for which qualifying score must be achieved | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Minimum total score | 45 | 60 | 65 | 85 | 90 |

**4.2 Trick Dog titles**

4.2.1All dogs eligible to be entered in a Trick Dog test in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.

4.2.2The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

1. ‘TK.S’ signifying Trick Dog Starter in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Starter class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

(b) ‘TK.N’ signifying Trick Dog Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

(c) ‘TK.I’ signifying Trick Dog Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of six (6) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

(d) ‘TK.A’ signifying Trick Dog Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, under at least three (3) different Judges.

(e) ‘TK.CH’ signifying Trick Dog Champion in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of ten (10) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class, under at least three (3) different Judges.

4.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Trick Dog title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** |
| **Title** | TK.S | TK.N | TK.I | TK.A | TK.CH |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| **Minimum number of Judges** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE – 3.0 TRICK DOG TESTS**

~~The scheduling of any Trick Dog test shall be subject to the approval of the relevant member body.~~

~~An Affiliate conducting a Trick Dog test shall offer all of the titling classes listed in section 3.1 below.~~ All classes listed in 3.1 must be available for competition unless special permission is sought and obtained from the Member Body.

**Rationale 3.0**

Reworded for clarity and brevity (no meaning change).

**RULES CONTINUE**

**3.1 Titling Classes**

The following titling classes are available in Trick Dog tests.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 3.1

The following ~~titling~~ classes are available in Trick Dog ~~t~~Tests.

(SA) Rationale Change 3.1

As all classes are titling classes, defining it as such is redundant. Grammatical/consistency change - all Trick Dog Tests to be capitalised.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed New Rule under 3.1 (a)

1. **TRICK DOG PRE-STARTER CLASS**: For dogs 6 months of age or over who are not eligible for the TK.S title. A dog which has gained a qualifying score in the TK.S class is not eligible to compete in the Trick Dog Pre-Starter class,

**Rationale New Rule under 3.1 (a)**

This submission calls for the introduction of a new “Pre-Starter class”. Trick Dog Tests are attracting highly experienced obedience/agility/DWD competitors with either newer dogs or their older dogs who can easily enter the Starter class.

However, this new discipline is also attracting competitors who have not entered any ANKC competitions before and who are finding working their dogs off-lead challenging. We support the introduction of a class, with a refined list of tricks based on the Starter class that will enable people who are newer to competitions to enter and gain some experience in competitions before they are required to take their dog off-lead. We would for example draw the analogy to Novice Rally where the dog is on-lead and it is only in the Advanced class that the dog is then working off-lead.

However, we recognise that for more experienced competitors /experienced dogs the pre-starter class is not necessary and these competitors should be able to enter directly into the Starter Class. We draw the analogy of the CCD/CD class in Obedience Trials where the handler can elect to go into either class.

Note we have defined this rule as 6 months here, as we have also proposed changing the minimum age for competing to 6 months. Pre-starter class could start at 12 months, like classes currently, if the 6 month rule did not come into effect.

**Consequential Change – renumber rules.**

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. **TRICK DOG STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.
2. **TRICK DOG NOVICE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Starter’ (TK.S.).
3. **TRICK DOG INTERMEDIATE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Novice’ (TK.N.).
4. **TRICK DOG ADVANCED**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Dog Intermediate’ (TK.I.).

**3.2 Progression through titling classes**

3.2.1A dog shall not be entered for any class without previously having

qualified, and an application having been lodged, for the title at the level

of the previous class.

3.2.2 A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for any title

other than Trick Dog Advanced (TK.A) shall not be eligible to

compete in any further class at that level except in a test for which

entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was

gained.

3.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the

necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after

the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher

class in the relevant division.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**3.2 Progression through titling classes**

3.2.1 A dog shall not be entered for any class without previously having qualified, and an application having been lodged, for the title at the level of the previous class.

3.2.2 A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for any title other than Trick Dog Intermediate (TK.I) or Trick Dog Advanced (TK.A) shall not be eligible to compete in any further class at that level except in a test for which entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was gained. A dog may only enter in a single class at one Test.

3.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division.

**RATIONALE**

To accommodate dogs of all types and abilities it is felt that enabling dogs to continue to compete in

either Intermediate or Advanced gives more opportunities in the sport.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**New Rule**

* 1. **Progression through ~~titling~~ classes**
     1. Except in the case of Trick Dog Pre-Starter class or Trick Dog Starter Class, a dog shall not be entered for any class without previously having qualified, and an application having been lodged, for the title in ~~at the level of~~ the previous class.
     2. A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for any title (other than Trick Dog Advanced (TK.A)) shall not be eligible to compete in that same class at any further ~~class at that~~ level except in a test, except in the case that ~~for which~~ entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was gained.
     3. At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, where a dog has gained sufficient ~~a competitor who~~ ~~completes the necessary~~ Qualifying Certificates for a title and the owner has applied for that title after the closing of entries, the competitor may request the dog ~~an~~d be transferred to the next higher class. ~~in the relevant division~~.

**Rationale Changes to 3.2**

Title: Removed ‘titling’ as redundant (i.e. all classes are titled, so there is no need to specify).

3.2.1 The wording has been amended to reflect the introduction of the optional Pre-Starter class.

Level and class are used interchangeable throughout. We have preferried to refer to classes where possible. The change in 3.2.1 is an attempt to reduce use of the word ‘level’. (Note that South Australia didn’t strongly feel that level or class was more appropriate, but would like it to be consistent regardless of term used.)

Change to 3.2.2 is also to remove the term ‘level’ and instead use class.

* + 1. Has been amended to reflect the fact that it is the dog (not the competitor) who achieves the qualifying certificates and to remove the reference to ‘the relevant division’ as that would appear to be a legacy from DWD which has two divisions, but has no relevance to Tricks.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Proposed amendment

3.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division. A competitor may be required to show proof of application to their relevant Canine Member Body. Receipt of application from the relevant Canine Member Body is not required.

Rationale

To enable interstate competitors to be transferred to the next higher class whilst competing in multiple Trick Dog Tests over a period of days.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed New Rule 3.2.4

* + 1. The tricks expected in each trick class are of a more difficult level than the class before. For example, the tricks a dog is expected to perform at Novice are more complex than those they are expected to perform at Starter.

**Rationale New Rule 3.2.4**

To make it clear to competitors that difficulty is expected to increase through the classes.

(Not that level here is referring to the scale of difficulty, not to the individual classes, and so its use is not inconsistent.)

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Non-titling Classes**

An Affiliate conducting a Trick Dog test may, at its discretion, offer non-

titling classes.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

* 1. **~~Non-titling Classes~~**

~~An Affiliate conducting a Trick Dog test may, at its discretion, offer non-~~

~~titling classes.~~

**Rationale 3.3**

This rule is removed in its entirety on the basis that it is not necessary to draw a distinction between titling and non-titling classes. In the event it is considered necessary for competitors to be able to compete in a non-tilting class, this can be addressed through the introduction of Not For Competition classes which is something for the State Member Body, not for these rules. In South Australia our Member rules provide for Not for Competition at specified levels in the sports of obedience, rally and agility and so we think this is best left to the State Body.

Note we have also removed references to ‘titling classes’ throughout for consistency.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **TITLES**
  2. **Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must, at the one test –

(a) gain a score of at least five (5) points out of ten (10) points on the number of tricks

for which qualifying scores are required at the relevant level; and

(b) achieve the minimum total score; as set out in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CLASS** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| Number of tricks for which qualifying scores must be achieved | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| Minimum total score | 45 | 60 | 65 | 85 |

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**New Rule**

* 1. **Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a ~~competitor~~ dog must, at the one test –

(a) gain a score of at least five (5) points out of ten (10 points on the numbers of tricks

for which qualifying scores are required ~~at~~ in the relevant ~~class~~ level; and

(b) achieve the minimum total score; as set out in the following table:

**(SA) Rationale 4.1**

Is amended to make it clear that it is the dog and not the competitor who must achieve these scores.

1. Is amended to change level to class.

**Consequential Change/s:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Pre-starter** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of tricks for which qualifying score must be  achieved | 6 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Minimum total score | 45 | 45 | 60 | 65 | 85 | 90 |

The table is amended to include the Pre-Starter Class (see above for rationale for the introduction of this class). The table is also amended to include a Trick Dog Champion, with the following rationale:

* + We think a Champion title should be introduced to ensure we keep competitors in this sport and give them an additional title to aim for with their dogs. The dog must achieve the Advanced title first and then must achieve a further 10 qualification certificates with the higher score of 90 /100. This is analogous to the Rally Champion and we believe sets an appropriately high standard to be worthy of the title of Champion. (Note if we are thinking that champion is too ‘easy’, then increasing difficulty at each class could be advantageous, instead of making champion harder. This minimum score of 90 makes this champion level sufficiently difficult in our opinion.)
  + We have added the requirement that the qualifications for the title of Champion must include trick A.25 Handler’s choice. As tricks falls under the auspices of DWD we see this as part of the relationship between tricks and DWD.
  + Note that if we miss this opportunity to introduce a champion class, it will be 7 years before we can get a champion class. There’s a risk of losing people from the sport if we don’t have a champion class.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Trick Dog titles**
     1. All dogs eligible to be entered in a Trick Dog test in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule
     2. below.
     3. The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:
        1. ‘TK.S’ signifying Trick Dog Starter in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Starter class, under at least two (2) different Judges.
        2. ‘TK.N’ signifying Trick Dog Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class, under at least two (2) different Judges.
        3. ‘TK.I’ signifying Trick Dog Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of six (6) Qualifying Certificates in the

Intermediate class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

* + - 1. ‘TK.A’ signifying Trick Dog Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, under at least three (3) different Judges.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**4.2 Trick Dog titles**

4.2.2The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

(d) ‘TK.A’ signifying Trick Dog Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class ~~in the relevant division~~, under at least three (3) different Judges.

**RATIONALE**

Extra wording that does not apply to Tricks. Missed when the DWD Rule Book was adapted for Tricks.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Changes 4.2 – multiple changes

* + 1. All dogs eligible to be entered in a Trick Dog ~~t~~ Test in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive ~~Title~~ Qualifying Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.
    2. The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

(a) TK.PS signifying Trick Dog Pre-starter in connection with, and after the name of each dog which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificate in the Pre-starter class under at least two (2) different judges.

* + - 1. ‘TK.S’ signifying Trick Dog Starter in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Starter class, under at least two (2) different Judges.
      2. ‘TK.N’ signifying Trick Dog Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class, under at least two (2) different Judges.
      3. ‘TK.I’ signifying Trick Dog Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of ~~six (6)~~ five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class, under at least two (2) different Judges.
      4. ‘TK.A’ signifying Trick Dog Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class ~~in the~~ ~~relevant division~~, under at least three (3) different Judges.
      5. TK CH to be used before the name of the dog and signifying Trick Dog Test Champion where the dog, having achieved its TK.A title, gains a further ten (10) qualifying certificates in the Advanced Class with a score of 90 points or more, under at least three (3) different judges. All 10 qualifications for the title of TK Ch must include trick A.25 Handler’s choice. (The qualifying certificate must include reference to the inclusion of A.25.)

**Rationale Changes 4.2 – multiple**

4.2.1 Amended the grammatical “T” error and changed the reference to “Title certificates” to Qualifying Certificates. The ANKC calls the certificate a “Qualifying Certificate” so this term should be used throughout the rules.

In 4.2.2, we have added the Pre-starter and the Championship titles.

The change to 4.2.2, (c) fixes the inconsistency between classes. (It seems unusual to have so much variation between number of qualifying performances for each class.)

For administrative purposes, we have proposed that the TK CH qualifying certificate refers to the inclusion of A.25.

**Consequential changes – renumber clauses**

**RULES CONTINUE**

* + 1. The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Trick Dog title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| **Title** | TK.S | TK.N | TK.I | TK.A |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| **Minimum number of Judges** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 4.2.3**

* + 1. The following is a summary of the requirements for titles ~~at~~ in each ~~level~~ class. Only the highest Trick Dog title ~~in each division~~ awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Pre-Starter** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Advanced** |
| **Title** | TK.PS | TK.S | TK.N | TK.I | TK.A | TK. CH |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 3 | 5 | ~~6~~  5 | 8 | 10  subsequent to Advanced title with a score of 90 points or more |
| **Minimum number**  **of Judges** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

**Rationale 4.2.3**

Changing all levels to classes.

The reference to ‘in each division’ which is irrelevant to tricks, has been deleted.

We have changed the table so that it reflects 5 certificates for Intermediate (which is what the clause (c) above it, states).

We have added in the Pre-starter and Championship. (Note the Champion states “Advanced” as the class because we are not proposing the introduction of a separate “Champion” class, rather the dogs compete for Advanced and Championship titles in the SAME class. This is consistent with obedience and rally champion titles.)

**RULES CONTINUE**

4.2.4 **Application for title**

Applications for all titles must be submitted in the appropriate format, accompanied by the prescribed fee. Upon approval by the member body, a title certificate authorising the use of the letters concerned will be issued to the applicant.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 4.2.4

**~~4.2.4 Application for title~~**

~~Applications for all titles must be submitted in the appropriate format, accompanied by the~~ ~~prescribed fee. Upon approval by the member body, a title certificate authorising the use of the~~ ~~letters concerned will be issued to the applicant.~~

4.2.4 The Member Body shall receive applications for the title of “Dual Champion” in accordance with each dog which has gained its conformation Champion Title and Trick Dog Champion Title.

**Rationale 4.2.4**

The existing rule is deleted in its current form as it duplicates the content of the existing 4.2 and as such is unnecessary.

However, as rule 4 deals with “Titles” we have added a new rule 4.2.4, which recognises the concept of a Dual Champion and is consistent with the same rule in the Obedience trial rules. (ANKC regulations part 6 #7 dual specifies dual champion is only for a conformation champion and another sport, not two sports.)

**RULES CONTINUE**

**4.3 Decisions**

4.3.1 Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting any Trick Dog

test shall be subject to appeal to the relevant member body in

accordance with the rules of that member body.

4.3.2 The rules of the member body shall apply to any Trick Dog test

and to any Affiliate conducting tests. In the event of any

inconsistency, the member body rules shall prevail.

4.3.3 Anyone taking part in a test who openly impugns the actions or

decisions of the Judge shall render themselves liable to be debarred

from further participation in the test and may be ordered from the

grounds and further dealt with in accordance with the rules of the

relevant member body.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 4.3 – Make it a new Section

**4.~~3 Decisions~~ 5. Decisions**

~~4.3~~5.1 Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting ~~any~~ a Trick Dog Ttest shall be subject to appeal to the relevant member body in accordance with the rules of that member body.

~~4~~5.2 The rules of the member body shall apply to any Trick Dog Ttest and to any Affiliate conducting tests. In the event of any inconsistency, the member body rules shall prevail.

~~4.3~~5.3 Anyone taking part in a test who openly impugns or criticises the actions or decisions of the Judge shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the test and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with in accordance with the rules of the relevant member body.

**Rationale 4.3**

Changing this to #5 as it is not related to titles, and therefore it’s fitting to be in a section by itself. The rest are renumbered in keeping with this. Note the whole rules document will need to be renumbered as a result of this, but we have not done this as we anticipate renumbering of the whole rules document may be necessary once all rules are determined.

The change from any to a to improve clarity.

Change from Trick Dog test to Trick Dog Test for consistency.

An amendment is also suggested to add ‘criticise’ so that it is clear to all competitors what this means.

**Consequential Change – renumber all rules.**

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **RINGS**
  2. Except with the approval of the relevant member body, the ring shall be a minimum of 10 metres by 10 metres or an area of 100 sq. metres. Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**5.0 RINGS**

5.1 Except with the approval of the relevant member body, the ring shall be a

minimum of 12 metres by 12 metres or an area of 144 sq. metres.

Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.

**Rationale:**

The present size of 10m x 10m has shown to be too small for the amount of equipment or distances which can be required to perform the selected tricks. This especially applies to the higher classes of Intermediate and Advanced. Not only does the ring become very cluttered and confusing for the dog, but the equipment can cause trip hazards for both the handler and the judge. In the event of this submission failing there is an alternative submission under 9.4 EQUIPMENT – 9.4.3.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 5.1

5.1 Except with the approval of the relevant member body, the ring shall be a

minimum of ~~10~~ 15 metres by 10 metres or an area of ~~100~~ 150 sq. metres.

Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.

**Rationale 5.1**

The minimum ring size should be increased to better allow bigger dogs to compete.

**RULES CONTINUE**

5.2 Where tests are held indoors, it is the responsibility of the affiliate

conducting a test to ensure flooring is suitable2.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 5.2

Where tests are held indoors, ~~it is the responsibility of the affiliate conducting a test to ensure flooring is suitable~~

2~~.~~ the ring must be a non-slip surface.

**Rationale 5.2**

Simply to say the surface must be non-slip and remove the footnote.

**RULES CONTINUE**

5.3 Ropes or markers indicating the ring perimeter must be highly visible

to handlers and the Judge.

5.4 Unless otherwise specified in the schedule, all ring equipment necessary for the

proper conduct of a test shall be provided by the Affiliate conducting the test.3

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 5.4**

5.4 Unless otherwise specified in the schedule, all ring equipment necessary for the proper conduct of a test shall be provided by the Affiliate conducting the test.3

**Rationale 5.4**

Remove the footnote – it is the responsibility of the club to provide the equipment. The reward table is a piece of equipment so the footnote is not necessary.

**RULES CONTINUE**

5.5 When there are multiple rings operating at the one test, a distance of at

least two (2) metres shall be maintained between the ring ropes of

adjoining rings.

5.6 There will be an exclusion zone of at least one (1) metre from the ring

perimeter around the ring area (whether a single or multiple rings).

Spectators must remain outside the exclusion zone.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes 5.5 and 5.6**

5.5 When there are multiple rings operating at the one test, a distance of at

least two (2) metres shall be maintained between the ~~ring ropes~~ perimeter of

adjoining rings.

5.6 There will be an exclusion zone of at least ~~one (1)~~ two (2) metres from the ring

perimeter around the ring area (whether a single or multiple rings).

Spectators must remain outside the exclusion zone.

**Rationale 5.5 and 5.6**

This amendment is to make it clear that there must be two metres between the rings and to ensure spectators and competitors respect this area, leaving a good clear area around the ring.

We have increased the exclusion zone to two metres to allow dogs more room to work away from spectators.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

2 ~~For indoor venues, competitors may bring non-slip mats to ensure dog welfare in their chosen tricks.~~

3 ~~This includes a reward station for Starters and Novice class and a table on which items to be retrieved may be placed~~**~~.~~** ~~See,~~

~~however, Rule 9.4 regarding responsibility of competitor to provide all equipment required for tricks to be performed.~~

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Proposed Amendment:

5.5 When there are multiple rings operating at the one test, a distance of at least four (4) metres shall be maintained between the ring ropes of adjoining rings.

Rationale:

Some dogs and some handlers may be easily distracted by nearby sounds such as voices and barking as well as movement. The voices of some handlers when giving commands can project far more than others. The creation of additional space between rings would go in some way to lessen the possibility of such distractions from a nearby ring.

No other current rule is affected by this change.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Proposed amendment:

**5.6** There will be an exclusion zone of at least two (2) metres from the ring perimeter around the ring area (whether a single or multiple rings). Spectators must remain outside the exclusion zone.

**Rationale:**

Some dogs and some handlers may be easily distracted by nearby sounds such as voices and barking as well as movement. The voices of some handlers when giving commands can project far more than others. The creation of additional space between rings would go in some way to lessen the possibility of such distractions from a nearby ring.

No other current rule is affected by this change.

**RULES CONTINUE**

5.7 The Judge will be positioned in the ring and will be free to move around the ring as appropriate in order to view the performance of the relevant tricks.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 5.7**

~~5.7 The Judge will be positioned in the ring and will be free to move around the ring as appropriate in order to view~~ ~~the performance of the relevant tricks~~.

**Rationale 5.7**

This rule deals with judging and is not suitable for inclusion in a rule dealing with the ring.

**RULES CONTINUE**

5.8 The ring entrance and assembly area must be kept free from spectators throughout the test.

5.9 Dogs, other than exhibits, must not be within four (4) metres of the test ring perimeter.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 5.9**

Dogs, other than ~~exhibits~~ the next dog to compete in the ring, must not be within four (4) metres of the test ring perimeter.

**Rationale 5.9**

The reference to exhibit is removed as this term is not defined and is not used elsewhere in the rules.

Our amendment makes it clear that only the next competing dog is to be any closer than 4 metres from the ring. We want to ensure every competitor has the best possible opportunity in the ring, and so having multiple dogs nearby could be a distraction.

**RULES CONTINUE**

5.10 At the discretion of the Affiliate, the ring may be available for access by competitors prior to commencement of the test, as advised by the Test Manager or nominee in consultation with the Judge. No food, training toy or motivator shall be taken into the ring.

5.11 No dog or handler shall be permitted to enter the test ring after the Judge has confirmed the suitability of the ring, except for the purpose of test.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 5.10 and 5.11**

5.10 ~~At the discretion of the Affiliate, the ring may be available for access by competitors prior to~~ ~~commencement of the test, as advised by the Test Manager or nominee in consultation with the Judge.~~ ~~No food, training toy or motivator shall be taken into the ring.~~

5.11 No dog or handler shall be permitted to enter the tTest ring, except for the purposes of setting up the ring, ~~after the Judge has confirmed the suitability of the ring, except~~ and for the purpose of tTest.

**Rationale 5.10 and 5.11**

Except for the purpose of assisting with setting up the ring for the test, no handler should be in the ring and certainly no dog should be taken into the ring. If a dog urinates in the ring before hand it leads to complaints from other competitors who do not believe their dog is being give a fair go. The ring should be kept as clean and clear as possible from scents and smells and anything that can then distract a dog from working.

Our ongoing grammatical change from ‘test’ to ‘Test’ also exists here.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

MOVED FROM APPENDIX E

**New Rule:**

5.12If trick titles are held in the same ring as any other discipline, it is  
 recommended that the classes of that other discipline/s are judged first, followed by the Trick Dog titling class/es.  
 **Rationale:** This Rule should be situated in the Ring section of the Rules.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**
  2. **Eligibility of exhibits**

Trick Dog tests are open to dogs that are:

1. registered with the relevant member body;
2. 12 months of age or over on the first day of a sanctioned event which includes a Trick Dog test.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 6.1**

* 1. **Eligibility of exhibits**

Trick Dog Ttests are open to dogs that are:

1. registered with the relevant member body;
2. 12 months of age or over on the first day of a sanctioned event which includes a Trick Dog Ttest.

**Rationale 6.1**

Amends the grammatical errors.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 6.1 (b)**

(b) ~~12~~ 6 months of age or over on the first day of a sanctioned event which includes a Trick Dog test.

**Rationale 6.1. (b)**

We are aiming to encourage new people to participate in training for and competing in dog-sports, initially Tricks, hopefully leading into DWD for which 12 months is the required minimum age, so it seems logical to set the entry age lower than for DWD. Obedience and Rally already offer the opportunity for a dog to compete from the age of 6 months, and so could attract handlers away from DWD if they’re unable to enter Tricks at that same age.

People introduce tricks ( with a small ‘t’) when their puppies are very young, and may indeed not focus on them as much later when other disciplines become available to them, so it seems a waste of that initial interest to not guide them into Tricks during their first flush of enthusiasm and achievement. Some Tricks,

e.g. the jump, should not be available to those under 12 months.

See below other sports that allow 6 month old dogs to compete:

**From the Obedience Rules 2021**

(a) COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS: For dogs, six months of age or over, and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of ‘Community Companion Dog’ (C.C.D.). Under no circumstances except where an application for a C.C.D. Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog, which has gained a qualifying score in a Novice Class, be eligible to compete in the Community Companion Dog Class. A dog is not permitted to compete in the Community Companion Dog Class and a Novice Class at the same trial.

**and from Rally Rules 2021**

Rally Novice

For Dogs six months of age or over and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of Rally Novice (RN). Under no circumstances except where an application for a RN Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog which has competed in a Rally Advanced A Class be eligible to compete in the Rally Novice Class.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**6.2 Entries**

6.2.1 All entries must be made on the ANKC entry form or in a format providing the required data and in accordance with the Member Body rules and the timelines and/or other requirements published in the Schedule.

Handlers must nominate their chosen tricks on the trick list for the relevant class, including the trick number and title and, where relevant, the trick option selected, as specified in the Schedule. Handlers Choice Tricks, when used, must be briefly described.

DOGS NSW PROPOSALnn

6.2.1 All entries must be made on the ANKC entry form or in a format providing the required data and in accordance with the Member Body rules and the timelines and/or other requirements published in the Schedule.

Handlers must nominate their chosen tricks ~~on~~ from the trick list for the relevant class, including the trick number and title and, where relevant, the trick option selected, as specified in the Schedule. Handlers Choice Tricks, when used, must be briefly described.

Add

The Affiliate must clearly state on their Schedule whether the competitor is permitted to perform their tricks in their choice of order. Competitors will perform their tricks in the order listed on their entry. (see 10.3)

**Rationale.**At present there is inconsistency throughout the States as to how the tricks are presented, with some  
States insisting the tricks are performed in numerical order and others permitting the handlers to select their own order.

**RULES CONTINUE**

6.2.2 A separate entry must be submitted in accordance with the Schedule for each dog and class entered.

6.2.3 A dog may be entered in only one class at any Trick Dog test.

6.2.4 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling classes when the latter are offered by the Affiliate conducting the test.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**PROPOSAL MOVE FROM APPENDIX E:**

**4.2** At the conclusion of all official classes an Affiliate may offer non-titling classes.

**AND ADD TO:**

**New Rule:**

6.2.4 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling classes when the latter are offered by the Affiliate conducting the test. Non- titling classes may be offered at the conclusion of all official classes**.**

**Rationale:** This Rule should be added to Rule 6.2.4 and REMOVED FROM APPENDIX E

**RULES CONTINUE**

3 This includes a reward station for Starters and Novice class and a table on which items to be retrieved may be placed**.** See, however, Rule 9.4 regarding responsibility of competitor to provide all equipment required for tricks to be performed.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes 6.2**

* 1. **Entries**
     1. ~~All entries must be made on the ANKC entry form or in a format providing the required data and~~ in accordance with the Member Body rules and the timelines and/or other requirements ~~published in the Schedule.~~

~~Handlers must nominate their chosen tricks on the trick list for the relevant class, including~~ ~~the trick number and title and, where relevant, the trick option selected, as specified in the~~ ~~Schedule. Handlers Choice Tricks, when used, must be briefly described.~~

* + 1. ~~A separate entry must be submitted in accordance with the Schedule for each dog and class~~ ~~entered.~~

~~6.2.3 A dog may be entered in only one class at any Trick Dog test.~~

~~6.2.4 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling classes when the latter are offered by the~~ ~~Affiliate conducting the test.~~

* + 1. All entries must be made in a format that accords with the Member Body rules.
    2. A separate entry form must be submitted for each entry.
    3. A dog may be entered in only one class at any Trick Dog Test.

**Rationale 6.2**

The current wording is confusing. Our draft simplifies and streamlines the rule.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Amendment:**

6.2.3 A dog may be entered in only one class level at any Trick Dog test. Multiple classes may be

offered at the same Trick Dog Test event.

**Rationale:**

The current wording could be construed that multiple rings (and hence classes) cannot be offered and hence entered at a Trick Dog Test event. I believe this makes the intent of the rule clearer.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Handler attire and trick selection/nomination**

Handlers should wear some type of appropriate4 footwear that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**6.3 Handler attire ~~and trick selection/nomination~~**

Handlers should wearsome type of appropriate[[1]](#footnote-1) footwear that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.

**RATIONALE**

There is only comment on Handler attire in this. Trick selection/nomination is covered under 9.3.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 6.3**

**6.3 Handler attire ~~and trick selection/nomination~~**

Handlers must ~~should~~ wear ~~some type of~~ appropriate~~4~~ footwear excluding thongs, scuffs or barefeet, while competing~~that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.~~

**Rationale 6.3**

As this rule only deals with footwear, the reference in the heading to trick selection has been removed.

The wording has been tidied up and a positive obligation imposed on the handler by the use of the word MUST.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Registration and attendance**
     1. Handlers are responsible for registering their presence with the Secretary or nominee prior to the commencement of the test, as specified in the Schedule.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 6.4.1**

6.4.1 Handlers must pass the checkpoint ~~are responsible for registering their presence with the~~ ~~Secretary or nominee prior to the commencement of the test,~~ as specified in the Schedule. Unless proof of desexing has been provided with the entry, bitches must be presented for vetting.

**Rationale 6.4.1**

Proposed amendments make it clear that dogs must pass the checkpoint and bitches who have not provided proof of desexing must be vetted.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* + 1. The handler and dog shall be available to the ring steward at the conclusion of the test of the competitor prior to them.
  1. **Welfare of Dogs**
     1. The welfare of dogs competing in Trick Dog tests under these Rules is the primary consideration.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

4 ~~Excludes thongs, scuffs and bare feet.~~

* + 1. All handlers whose dogs are entered at a member body sanctioned event shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog are met, and shall not put their dog’s health or welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise.

6.5.3 Exhibits may be required to be inspected in accordance with the requirements of the relevant member body.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**6.5 Welfare of Dogs**

**6.5.4 New Addition as part of 6.5**

Listed below are those areas of which the handler must be aware when doing a Trick Dog Test. Where any of these areas are not adhered to the Judge will order the Handler to cease the trick (no retry permitted).

1. Health and safety of the dog. When choosing their tricks, the Handler has considered the capabilities of the dog and does not demand of it anything that would cause it harm or discomfort. The dog is physically and mentally able to easily perform all the tricks asked. The Handler has taken into consideration the surface of the ring and the speed of the dog when choosing their tricks. The dog must appear stable and in control of its body when performing any tricks. In the case of injury; if the dog is injured during the routine, the Judge can stop the runout.
2. Equipment is stable and without any obvious danger so that the tricks can be performed safely.
3. The dog does not show sign of excessive stress or significant signs of physical exertion. It is important that the Judge be able to differentiate between when the dog is over-excited and happy from when the dog is over-excited and stressed and begins to struggle in their confident performance.
4. Partnership. If the dog struggles in anyway during the tricks, the Handler must offer support without delay. Companionship is reflected in the atmosphere of the team working together; there is nothing harsh or forceful about the handling; and the team displays mutual respect towards one another.

**Rationale:**

In today’s world the general public perception of any dog sport is paramount to the continuing acceptance and high regard of our activities. To encompass such rules as above will help in assuring that our sport is accepted as being both responsible and respectful of our dogs. Similar rules are already in the FCI Dog Dancing Rules.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 6.5.2 and 6.5.3

* + 1. All handlers whose dogs are entered ~~at a member body sanctioned event~~ in a Trick Dog Test shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog are met, and shall not put their dog’s health or welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise.
    2. ~~Exhibits may be required to be inspected in accordance with the requirements of the relevant~~ ~~member body.~~

**Rationale 6.5.2 and 6.5.3**

The proposed amendments limits this rule to Trick Dog Tests – it is beyond the scope of these rules to extend to ‘ a member sanctioned event’. 6.5.3 is removed as this has been incorporated into 6.4.

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

**Addition 6.5.4**

**Welfare of the Dog**

It is important that no moves in DWD or Tricks be used that may cause an injury to the dogs. Any moves that are not natural (see list below) and not good for the dogs structure and conformation or indeed degrade the dogs must be avoided and if put into a routine will cause the judges to demand immediate removal of the dog from the ring.

The following are examples of types of tricks which are likely to be unsuitable for the vast majority of dogs:

* The dog balanced on handler’s shoulders while the handler is standing;
* Dog Standing on Hindlegs for more than 30 Seconds at any one time during the routine
* The  dog being carried on the handler’s back and being asked to jump off at head height;
* A head stand (also known as tripod) or any variation of it, whereby the dog is balanced on his nose and front feet with his back feet off the ground;
* A hand stand or any trick where the dog is independently balanced on his front feet, either moving or statically;
* The dog sitting  on the handler’s upturned feet or performing any other behaviour in that position, and having no contact with the floor;
* Forward or backward roll/somersault (eg where the dog turns head over heels in the air or on the ground and lands or finishes on their feet);
* Other moves which may be viewed as potentially harmful or injurious to the dog.

**Rationale:** We wish to promote at all times the safety of the dog whilst competing, making it clear to competitors unsafe moves will not be tolerated

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Bitches in Oestrum**

Bitches in oestrum or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in any test or to remain within the precincts of the test venue.

* 1. **REMOVAL OF A DOG**
  2. Any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog shall be removed and disqualified from all tests on the day, and the matter shall be addressed in accordance with the incident reporting procedures of the member body.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 7.1**

7.1 The judge must order the removal and disqualification from all Tests on that day of any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog and must lodge a report with the member body within 7 days. ~~shall be removed and disqualified from all tests on the day, and the matter~~ ~~shall be addressed in accordance with the incident reporting procedures of the member body.~~

**Rationale 7.1**

This amendment imposes a positive obligation upon the judge to report and disqualify any dog that displays aggressive behaviour. In this day and age the safety of our dogs from attack is paramount.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. The Judge –
     1. may order the removal from test of any dog which is deemed disorderly or unmanageable, or any handler who interferes wilfully with another handler or any dog or whose behaviour is objectionable; and

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 7.2 (a)**

(a) may order the removal from the tTest of any dog which is deemed disorderly or unmanageable, or any handler who interferes wilfully with another handler or any dog or whose behaviour is objectionable; and

**Rationale 7.2 (a)**

The insertion of the word ‘the’ is to fix the grammatical error. Changing of test to Test for consistency.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* + 1. shall exclude or order the removal from the test of any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete.
  1. **WITHDRAWAL OF A DOG**
  2. A handler may withdraw a dog before or during judging but, following such withdrawal, that handler/dog team will not be able to take any further part in that class of the test, unless the Judge, in exceptional circumstances, otherwise approves.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 8.1**

A handler may withdraw a dog before or during judging but, following such withdrawal, ~~that handler/dog team~~ the dog will not be able to take any further part in ~~that class of~~ the test, unless the Judge, in exceptional circumstances, otherwise approves.

**Rationale 8.1**

It is the dog that is withdrawn and our amendment reflects that.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. If, for any reason, a handler requests that their test be stopped and that they be allowed to leave the ring, then the handler is regarded as having withdrawn. A handler who wishes to withdraw must provide a clear indication of this intention to the judge and may not thereafter continue.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 8.2**

~~8.2 If, for any reason, a handler requests that their test be stopped and that they be allowed to leave the ring, then the~~ ~~handler is regarded as having withdrawn~~. A handler who wishes to withdraw must provide a clear indication of this intention to the judge and may not thereafter continue. [This line is added to rule 8.1.]

**Rationale** 8.2 - Largely duplicates the content of 8.1. Our amendment deletes the first sentence, leaving the last sentence to be added to 8.1.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. If a handler withdraws, no scores will be allocated for any further tricks and the score sheet shall be marked “Withdrawn (W/D)”. If a handler withdraws, no placing shall be awarded to that entry.

**9.0 THE TEST**

**9.1 Test criteria**

9.1.1 The standard and quality of the work presented by the handler and dog team should be higher and, shall be judged accordingly, as they progress through the classes.

9.1.2 The test must start, continue, and finish within the confines of the ring and be undertaken at a brisk pace.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 9.1.2**

~~9.1.2 The test must start, continue, and finish within the confines of the ring and be undertaken at a brisk~~ ~~pace.~~

**Rationale 9.1.2 -** Is deleted as it has no relevance. If a dog/handler leaves the ring then the penalty for this is set out in Appendix C. It does not seem necessary to require the test to be taken ‘at a brisk pace’.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**9.2 Dog attire**

9.2.1 During the test, a dog must have a slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog’s neck and which must remain on the dog at all times. Collars which give additional head control are not permitted.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 9.2.1 and 9.2.2**

* + 1. ~~During the test,~~ a dog must have a slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog’s neck or a harness. This ~~and which~~ must remain on the dog at all times. Collars which give additional head control are not permitted.
    2. ~~A dog may, when entering and exiting the ring, wear a collar or harness with lead attached, or slip~~ lead.

**Rationale 9.2.1**

Amended to allow a dog to wear a harness.

There is no reason to draw a distinction between the collar the dog wears when entering the ring to when performing the tricks and so we suggest 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 be rewritten to state this.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Amendment:**

9.2.1 During the test, a dog must have a harness, limited slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog’s neck or body and which must remain on the dog at all times. Collars which give additional head control are not permitted.

**Rationale**: Provides for more flexibility for handlers as many use harnesses on their dogs. ‘Limited’ added for clarification.

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.2.2 A dog may, when entering and exiting the ring, wear a collar or harness with lead attached, or slip lead.

9.2.3. A dog must not wear any kind of shock, prong or pinch collar (made of chain or any other material) anywhere in the precinct of the test venue.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Amendment:**

9.2.3 A dog must not wear any kind of shock, correction, prong or pinch collar (made of chain or any other material) anywhere in the precinct of the test venue.

**Rationale:** To eliminate the use of check collars

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.2.4 A dog may not be artificially coloured.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 9.2.4**

~~9.2.4 A dog may not be artificially coloured.~~

**Rationale 9.2.4 -** We propose this rule be deleted. Provided the colouring of the dog does not propose a threat to the safety of the dog we see no reason to exclude this.

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.2.5 A hair band (on the head) for long coated dogs is allowed in order to permit the dog to see clearly. The purpose is primarily to improve visibility for the dog, and the hairband should not be considered decoration.

**DOGS ACT PROPOSAL**

**Proposed amendment**

9.2.5 ~~A hair band (on the head) for long coated dogs~~ Hairband/s to keep the hair away from the face and eyes is allowed in order to permit the dog to see clearly. The purpose is primarily to improve visibility for the dog, and the hairband should not be considered decoration.

**Rationale -** Multiple breeds including, but not limited to, Poodles, Bearded Collies, Old English Sheepdogs, Briards, Pulis, and Tibetan Terriers may require multiple hair bands to ensure the dog can see and perform safely.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 9.2.5**

9.2.5 A hair band (on the head) for long coated dogs is allowed in order to permit the dog to see clearly. ~~The~~ ~~purpose is primarily to improve visibility for the dog, and the hairband should not be considered~~ ~~decoration.~~

**Rationale 9.2.5** - Delete the explanation – it is sufficient to say a hair band is allowed.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**Additional Rule**:

9.2.6 A dog may wear a cool coat in the summer months and a warm coat in the winter months in the ring.

**Rationale:** Welfare issue and allows more dogs to compete in the more extremes of weather.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes - 9.3 and New 9.4**

* 1. **~~Selection of tricks~~ Judges orders**
     1. When invited into the ring by the judge, the competitor will enter the ring with the dog under control and on lead and take up their position for their first trick. At this point the dog is under the judge’s control and judging has commenced. The judge will invite the handler to remove their lead. At the conclusion of the tricks, the judge will advise the handler that the test is complete and the handler must put the dog back on lead. The dog must leave the ring under control and on lead.
     2. The Judge will:

1. indicate to the handler the name of the next trick
2. ask if the handler is ready
3. instruct the handler to proceed
4. advise when the trick is deemed finished

(f) advise if the trick is considered “Complete/Incomplete”

* + 1. The trick descriptions list:

1. Setup
2. Cue
3. Action

The Action will occur once the judge has instructed the handler to proceed.

* + 1. ~~A handler may select tricks from those set out in Appendix A for the relevant class level.~~
    2. ~~Subject to Rule 9.3.3, at every level, the team will perform each nominated trick once only.~~
    3. ~~At the Starter and Novice level, the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only.~~ ~~A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.~~
  1. **Retry**

In every classl, the trick will be performed once only, unless the competitor has exercised their right to a re-try. Handlers who are considered to be training their dogs in the ring by performing the trick prior to judging commenced, will be disqualified and asked to leave the ring. The handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only where the trick has been performed incorrectly. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

**Rationale 9.3 and 9.4**

**9.3** Current content is repetitious. This amendment proposes to rewrite this rule to clearly set out the procedure the judge will follow in the ring so that competitors can have clarity about the test. Although some of this content appears in Appendix A we think it is better placed in the substantive part of the rules, not in an Appendix.

We have added in 9.3.3 so that handlers are clear on what “Action’ to take and when to take it. Currently there is confusion with handlers not waiting for the judge and executing tricks before the judge says ‘ proceed’. To ensure the judge is ready to judge the trick this amendment makes it clear when the trick is to be executed**.**

**9.4** Extends the one retry to all classes. This is to provide more balance to the judging where a dog in Intermediate or Advanced has performed at a much superior level but has failed one trick, whereas a dog can simply ‘scrape through’ but provided they perform each trick will achieve a qualification. We note that rally provides for the retry at all levels. We think that the penalty that attaches to the retry (2 points) is already a sufficient penalty and should be available in the higher classes. This rule has also been amended to include a provision to stop handlers from training in the ring by executing tricks before asked to do so by the judge in an attempt to ‘warm the dog up’. Also, the retry cannot be used to improve the score for a trick, it can only be used where the trick was performed incorrectly.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**9.3 Selection of tricks**

9.3.1 A handler may select tricks from those set out in Appendix A for the relevant class level.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

9.3.1 A handler may select tricks from those set out in Appendix A for the relevant class level. The order in which the Handler does the tricks may be determined by the Handler and must be clearly marked on the Judge’s Mark sheet prior to their entry into the ring.

**RATIONALE -** Giving Handlers the opportunity to order their tricks has been tested in many states since the

introduction of Trick Dog Tests and has proved very successful. It gives Handlers the facility to order

tricks so that they flow in a natural manner in regards to each dog’s abilities.

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.3.2 Subject to Rule 9.3.3, at every level, the team will perform each nominated trick once only.

9.3.3 At the Starter and Novice level, the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

**DOGS ACT PROPOSAL**

**Proposed amendment**

**9.3.3** **~~At the starter and novice level,~~** The handler may request a re-try once only and for

one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed

trick, not later in the test.

**Rationale -** Tricks is designed to be a fun sport and adding flexibility at all levels removes stress and encourages enjoyment. This is common at all

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

9.3.3 ~~At the starter and novice level.~~ The handler may request a re-try once only and for one

trick only at all class levels except for those contributing towards a championship title.

A re-try must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

**Rationale for the Proposed Amendment**

We believe a re-try should be allowed for all class levels as a re-try is allowed in all Rally Obedience classes and mistakes in Dances with Dogs do not automatically lead to a disqualification. As some competitors travel very far to compete in Intermediate and Advanced Classes it is very demotivating to think that you can potentially not qualify for failing to properly execute just one trick without a re-try. I believe a re-try should not be allowed for teams qualifying for a championship title if it gets introduced.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

9.3.3 At ~~the Starter and Novice~~ all levels, the handler may request a re-try once only and for

one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick,

not later in the test.

**RATIONALE**

As the complexity and difficulty of tricks rises through the levels and to qualify, the team must score at least 50% in every trick, it is considered to have the ability to re-try a trick once right throughout the levels is a fairer option for all.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES: DOGS QUEENSLAND**

**11.3 Penalties**

11.3.4 Undertaking a retry ~~in Starter or Novice class~~ shall incur a penalty of 2 points. If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non-qualifying score.

**APPENDIX 3 - GUIDE TO SET UP AND PERFORMING TRICK DOG TESTS**

1. **Retry**
   1. In ~~Starter and Novice~~ all classes, up to one retry is allowed in the entire test.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Amendment:**

9.3.3 At the Starter, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced level the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

**Rationale**: To fail at one trick means they have failed, will allow handlers a better chance to pass their class. To allow a less severe transition from Novice to Intermediate & Advanced levels.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

\*\* Affects 11.3.4, Appendix E 3.1 and Appendix A (Preamble) 5 (d)

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

9.3.3 At the **Starter, Novice, Intermediate and Advance** level, the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

**Rationale**: There is already an increased difficulty and length of time being in the ring, so to continue to encourage participation we would in keeping with the ethos of the sport and believe that a retry is valid in all classes.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Equipment**
     1. It is the responsibility of the handler to provide any equipment required for performance of any or all tricks.
     2. A Judge may disallow use of a piece of equipment if it is deemed unsafe or inappropriate.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**9.4 EQUIPMENT**

* + 1. It is the responsibility of the handler to provide safe and appropriate ~~any~~ equipment required for performance of any or all tricks.
    2. A Judge ~~may~~ must disallow use of a piece of equipment if it is deemed unsafe or inappropriate.
    3. Any equipment required by the handler must be placed in the ring before commencement of the test. At the conclusion of the test the handler is to remove their dog from the ring. Then the handler or a nominated helper return to remove their equipment. The handler is responsible for the security of their dog while setting up and/or removing equipment from the ring.
    4. ~~If equipment is used, it must be an integral part of the execution of the trick and must be used by~~ ~~the handler and/or dog. Violation of this rule shall result in a one (1) penalty point deduction per~~ ~~piece of equipment. The Judge shall deduct such point(s) in the ‘Deductions’ section on the score~~ ~~sheet.~~

**Rationale 9.4**

* 1. **Equipment T**he safety of the welfare of the dog is the primary consideration, as required by rule 6.5, and these amendments reflect that. A positive obligation is imposed on the judge to disqualify any competitor using unsafe or inappropriate equipment. Our amendment makes it clear that the handler must leave the ring with the dog and then return to remove their equipment.
     1. Is modified to include instructions on how a handler exits the ring, and the process with their props. This prevents a handler attempting to leave the ring with their props *and* their dog. It also specifies that this is not the steward’s job (as part of the COVID-19 response).

**9.4.4** Is deleted as being of no relevance.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**Amended Rule:**

9.4.2 Any piece of equipment may be inspected by the Judge to ensure its

safety for the dog. A Judge may disallow use of a piece of equipment if it is deemed unsafe

or inappropriate.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

Old Rule

(a) The handler will provide any equipment required for a trick. Any piece of equipment may be inspected by the Judge to ensure its safety for the dog. (See also Rule 9.4)

**Rationale:** The first sentence of (a) is already Rule 9.4.1. Combining the second part of (a) with 9.4.2 places this rule in the relevant section of the rules and provides a better description of the rule.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* + 1. Any equipment required by the handler must be placed in the ring before commencement of the test. The handler is responsible for the security of their dog while setting up and/or removing equipment from the ring.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

(b) The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencement of the first trick. The set-up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. (See also Rule 9.4.3)

**New Rule:** (Delete current rule 9.4.3 and replace with):

9.4.3 The handler will place any equipment in the ring before the commencement of the first trick. The setup of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. Handlers are responsible for the security of their dogs while setting up and/or removing equipment from the ring.

**Rationale:** The new Rule provides a more precise explanation, and places the rule in the relevant section of the rules by combining the two existing rules, making them less likely to be misunderstood - plus there is a grammatical correction.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**AMENDED RULE**

**9.4 EQUIPMENT**

9.4.3 Any equipment required by the handler must be brought into the ring prior to the commencement of the test. Handheld equipment will be placed on the table, larger items will be set in place. At the completion of the trick handheld equipment will be replaced on the table. Larger equipment which has altered in placement during the performance of the trick may be either left in place or moved out of the way. The handler is responsible for the security of their dog whilst setting up, relocating, and/or removing equipment from the ring.

Rationale:

The 10m x 10m ring has proved to become very cluttered when equipment is moved during the performance of a trick e.g. carpet unrolled, objects pushed or pulled a required distance. Not only can it cause hazards for the dog performing further tricks but also for the handler and the judge as they navigate around the ring. Objects which have been moved or altered should be able to be relocated to the edge of the ring or returned to the table if they are likely to cause possible hazards.

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.4.4If equipment is used, it must be an integral part of the execution of the trick and must be used by the handler and/or dog. Violation of this rule shall result in a one (1) penalty point deduction per piece of equipment. The Judge shall deduct such point(s) in the ‘Deductions’ section on the score sheet.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New Rule:** 9.4.4 ~~If equipment is used, it~~ All must be an integral part of the execution of the trick and must be used by the handler and/or dog. Violation of this rule ~~shall result in a one (1) penalty point~~  ~~deduction per piece of equipment. The Judge shall deduct such point(s) in the ‘Deductions’~~  ~~section on the score sheet.~~ will result in a non- qualifying score.  
 **Rationale:**The new rule clarifies the need for the handler to plan the equipment required for each trick, correctly complete their Trick List and set-up in the Test ring. Handlers are prepared and bring only their necessary equipment, however, in the likely event that a handler set-up extra equipment to their need should not qualify.  
 **Consequential Changes:** To 9.4.4 and Deductions page

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **COMPETING**
  2. Competitors are under the jurisdiction of the Judge the entire time they are in the test ring, not just during the performance of their tricks.
  3. Any person who carries out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the test venue shall be reported and dealt with under the member body rules.
  4. Competitors will perform the tricks in the order listed on their entry. Competitors are expected to proceed briskly from one trick to the next.

**DOGS ACT PROPOSAL**

10.3 Competitors will perform the tricks in their chosen order, as listed on their entry. Competitors are expected to proceed briskly from one trick to the next.

**Rationale**

At higher levels competitors are expected to demonstrate flow and teamwork, and allowing competitors to choose the trick order facilitates these elements and allows for motivating dog.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.3**

~~10.3 Competitors will perform the tricks in the order listed on their entry. Competitors are expected to proceed briskly~~ ~~from one trick to the next.~~

10.3 The handler must be provided with the dog’s catalogue number which must be worn where it can be clearly seen. In the case of multiple entries, only the entry number pertaining to that particular entry is to be visible whilst in the ring.

**Rationale 10.3**

Deleted because there is no penalty in Appendix C regarding failure to perform tricks ‘briskly’.

This rule has been amended to deal with the wearing of the catalogue number which is particularly important that the judge has clear visibility of the number to ensure the score sheet and the number are a match. The proposed rule is a direct ‘take; from the obedience rules which express this clearly. In these rules this requirement (in a complicated form) appears in 10.8.5 under ‘other requirements’. Wearing the catalogue number is an essential part of competing and should be included in this rule.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

**OLD RULE – Appendix A 1(f)**

**New Rule:** 10.4 If no handler stance (POSITION) is specified, a handler may adopt a stance (POSITION) of his choice. This may include standing, sitting (including on a chair or stool), bent over or squatting. It is expected that the handler’s posture will be appropriate to the size/height of the dog.

**Rationale:** This rule refers to competing and as such should be under the heading 10.0 as should any rule regarding ‘ stance’, keeping all rules pertaining to competing together within the rules.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

**OLD RULE – Appendix A 1(e)**

(e) If no distance is specified, it will be at the handler’s discretion.

**New Rule** 10.5 If no distance is specified, it will be at the handler’s discretion.

**Rationale:** This rule refers to competing and as such should be under the heading 10.0 COMPETING, keeping all rules pertaining to competing together within the rules.

**Consequential Changes: Present 10.4 to 10.8 inclusive would require renumbering.**

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

**10.4 Cues and encouragement**

10.4.1 Verbal cues and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and shall not be penalised at any level.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

**Old Rule: 1(c)**

Any cue will be a verbal cue and/or physical signal to the dog. Additional cues and praise may be used

throughout the test. (See also Rule 10.4)

Any reference to the name of a cue is descriptive only; the handler may use a verbal cue of his choice,

provided that it is not offensive or sexually suggestive.

**New Rule:**

10.4.1 Verbal cues and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and shall not be

penalised at any level. Additional cues and praise may be used throughout the test. Any reference to the name of a cue is descriptive only; the Handler may use a verbal cue of his choice, provided that it is not offensive or sexually suggestive.

Rationale: Rule Appendix A 1(c) should be in the body of the rules, combined with the existing Rule 10.4.1, not a separate rule, in an appendix. Combining the rules makes them less open to misunderstanding.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

10.4 **Cues and encouragement**

10.4.1 ~~Verbal cues~~ Praise and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and shall not be penalised at any level.

**RATIONALE**

Verbal cues are dealt with under 10.4.3. With having Verbal cues mention in 10.4.1 where it talks about not being penalised at any level and then talking about repeated verbal cues in 10.4.3 being penalised is confusing for handlers.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

10.4.2 Physical touch as encouragement or reward between tricks shall not be penalised at any

level. If, in the opinion of the Judge, physical contact is being used to physically guide or

correct the dog, the dog will be non-qualified on that Trick.

10.4.3 Multiple cues (verbal and/or physical) may be used, but over-use (eg extended,

exaggerated or repeated signals) will be penalised. Repeated cues should not be

penalised where different cues are used for different components of a trick, or to continue

a smooth behaviour. Where a dog has clearly refused or halted a behaviour, they may be

penalised. Fewer and less obvious cues will be expected at the higher levels.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New Rule :**

**10.4.3** Multiple cues (verbal and/or physical) may be used. When during a Trick a move is to be repeated, the handler may repeat the chosen cue provided that the dog is obviously performing the behaviour cued. Repeated cues should not be penalised where cues are used for components of the trick, or to continue a smooth behaviour. Where a dog has clearly refused or halted a behaviour, he must be penalised. Repeating a cue due to the dog’s refusal or inattention is to be penalised.

Fewer and less obvious cues will be expected at the higher levels.

**Rationale.** The present rule has confused many competitors and contains contradictions. It has been taken, in part, from DWD Rules 10.2.1 - which contain a more easily understood, less confusing, explanation.

Many of the Trick Test Rules are identical to the Dances with Dogs Rules, therefore a precedent has already been set.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

10.4.4 Harsh cues and/or intimidating signals or physical guidance will be penalised.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.4.1-10.4.3**

* + 1. Verbal cues and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and shall not be penalised in ~~at~~ any level class.
    2. Physical touch as encouragement or reward between tricks shall not be penalised ~~at~~ in any level class. If, in the opinion of the Judge, physical contact is being used to physically guide or correct the dog, the dog will be non-qualified on that Trick.
    3. Multiple cues (verbal and/or physical) may be used, but over-use (eg extended, exaggerated or repeated signals) will be penalised. Repeated cues should not be penalised where different cues are used for different components of a trick, or to continue a smooth behaviour. Where a dog has clearly refused or halted a behaviour, they may be penalised. Fewer and less obvious cues will be expected ~~at~~ in the higher ~~levels~~ classes.

**Rationale 10.4.1-10.4.3** Changing all levels to classes.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.4.4**

* + 1. Harsh cues and/or intimidating signals or physical guidance will be penalised up to and including disqualification.

**Rationale 10.4.4 -** The reference to disqualification has been added in - this is consistent with Appendix C.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

**10.5 Rewards**

10.5.1 Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station

in Starter and Novice class following completion of a trick.

10.5.1.1 Any food must be in a sealed container.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New Rule:**

10.5.1.1 **Any food must be in a sealed container, excluding a plastic bag.**

**Rationale:** Plastic bags often do not reseal completely, and take time to reseal, and food spills onto the table and ground more easily.

**RULES CONTINUE**

10.5.1.2 Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use.

10.5.2 There will be one (1) reward station in each of Starter and Novice classes.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**DELETE 1.2 FROM APPENDIX E**

**NEW RULE**Add to:

10.5.2: There will be one (1) reward station in each of Starter and Novice classes. The reward station will be set up in the ring as directed by the Judge.

**Rationale:** This rule pertains to 10.5 Rewards and thus should be in that section.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**10.5 Rewards**

10.5.1 Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station in ~~Starter and Novice class~~ all classes following completion of a trick.

10.5.1.1 Any food must be in a sealed container.

10.5.1.2 Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use.

10.5.2 There will be only one (1) reward station ~~in each of Starter and Novice~~ in all classes.

10.5.3 Prior to entering the ring the handler will place any such rewards at a reward station which will be positioned in a location determined by the Judge. The Judge may inspect a handler’s rewards before commencement of the test any may issues direction to the handler in relation to the rewards as the Judge deems appropriate, in accordance with this Rule.

10.5.4 The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of 6 visits to the reward station in Starters class, maximum of 8 visits in Novice Class, maximum of 4 visits in Intermediate and Advanced class. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly.

**RATIONALE -** In keeping with the rationale behind the introduction of Trick Dog Test and with the developments in

other disciplines it is both feasible and encouraging to provide the possibility of rewards in all classes.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 10.5.1 and 10.5.2

* + 1. Rewards in the form of food or a ~~silent training~~ toy may be used at the reward station in Pre-starter, Starter and Novice class following completion of a trick.
       1. Any food must be in a sealed container.
       2. Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use.
    2. There will be one (1) reward station in each of Pre-starter, Starter and Novice classes.

**Rationale 10.5.1 and 10.5.2**

The words ‘silent training’ have been deleted as the word ‘toy’ is defined in the definition section of the rule.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Proposed Amendment:

10.5.1. Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station in Starter, Novice and Intermediate class.

10.5.1.1 Any food must be in a sealed container

10.5.1.2 Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use

10.5.1.3 Rewards may be used in Starter and Novice class

following completion of a trick

10.5.1.4 Rewards may be used in Intermediate class, **twice** only during the

duration of the test.

10.5.2 There will be one (1) reward station in each Starter, Novice and Intermediate classes

Rationale: To allow a less severe transition from Novice to Intermediate level

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES:**

\*\* Affects 10.5.2, 10.5.4 and 10.7. Also Appendix A (Preamble) 5(d) and Appendix E 1.2 and 1.3 .

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

10.5.1 Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station in ~~Starter and Novice~~ **in all classes** following completion of a trick.

10.5.2 There will be one (1) reward station in ~~each of Starter and Novice classes~~ **each class**

10.5.4 The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of 6 visits to the reward station in Starters class and a maximum of 8 visits in Novice class **a Maximum of 4 in intermediate and Advanced Class**. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly.

**Rationale**: Moving up to Intermediate and Advanced is already an increase in difficulty of tricks and the concentration of the dog has been increased. To now remove all rewards is slightly unfair so reducing the rewards in a gradual way seems fairer and in keeping with the ethos of the sport.

Having the possibility at some time during the round the dog can receive a reward seems fair.

The Pre-starter class has been added in 10.5.1 and 10.5.2, in line with our other suggested rule change.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

10.5.3 Prior to entering the ring the handler will place any such rewards at a reward station which will be positioned in a location determined by the Judge. The Judge may inspect a handler’s rewards before commencement of the test and may issue such direction to the handler in relation to the rewards as the Judge deems appropriate, in accordance with this Rule.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.5.3**

10.5.3 Prior to entering the ring the handler will place, from outside the ring, any such rewards at a reward station which will be positioned in a location determined by the Judge. The Judge may inspect a handler’s rewards before commencement of the test and may issue such direction to the handler in relation to the rewards as the Judge deems appropriate, in accordance with this Rule.

**Rationale 10.5.3**

Amended to include a requirement that the rewards be placed on the reward station from outside the ring. Food and toys should not be carried through the ring.

**RULES CONTINUE**

10.5.4 The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of 6 visits to the reward station in Starters class and a maximum of 8 visits in Novice class. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly.

**DOGS ACT PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Amendment**

**10.5.4** The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of 6 visits to the reward station in Starters class, a maximum of 8 visits in Novice class, a maximum of 5 visits in Intermediate class and three in Advanced class. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly. In Intermediate and Advanced levels, the use of rewards is at the handlers discretion, and may be used at any point in the trick sequences, after completion of an individual trick.

**Rationale**

There is already a sufficient progression of difficulty in tricks required at the higher levels and the complete removal of rewards is an unnecessary leap in difficulty.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES**

10.5.2 – remove starters and Novice classes

Footnote 3

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change**

**10.5.4** The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of 6 visits to the reward station in Pre-Starters, Starters class and a maximum of 8 visits in Novice class. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly.

**Rationale 10.5.4**

We have added a Pre-Starters class and the handler should be able to use the reward station in that class.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

10.5.5 A handler may use one type of reward only for any trick, but may use a food reward for some tricks and a toy reward for other tricks.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

10.5.5 A handler may use one type of reward only for any trick, but may use a food reward for some tricks and a toy reward for other tricks. No item used as an object utilised for a trick may also be used as a reward for that or any other trick.

**RATIONALE**

If an object is used as the equipment for a trick it should not then be used as a reward. E.g. tug toy

used for Stationary Hold then used as a reward in a tug game at the reward table. Rewards are to be

placed on the reward table before commencement of the runout and must remain within that one

metre of the reward table.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

10.5.6 Any reward must be delivered within one (1) metre of the reward station. Food rewards

must be delivered by hand and not placed on the ground. Toys and/or food may not be thrown or used to make a noise in the process of reward delivery.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change 10.5.6

10.5.6 Any reward must be delivered within one (1) metre of the reward station. Food rewards must be delivered by hand and not placed on the ground. Toys and/or food may not be thrown or used to make a noise in the process of reward delivery. The penalty for failure to comply with this rule is disqualification and the competitor will be asked to immediately leave the ring.

**Rationale 10.5.6**

As a breach of this rule (with food) potentially fouls the ring for every following competitor, competitions need to understand the heavy consequences that flow from breach of this rule. The penalty should be clearly spelt out and is added here so that competitors fully understand the consequences of breach of this rule.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

10.5.7 The Judge may direct the handler to leave the reward station and move on to the next trick.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

**Old Rule:**

3. When use is made of a reward station, the dog must move to the reward station with and under the control of the handler.

**New Rule:** 10.5.8 (existing numbering for Rule 10) When use is made of a reward station, the dog must move to the reward station with and under the control of the handler.

**Rationale** This rule should be included under 10.5.8 Rewards

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX E – RULE 3

GUIDE TO SET UP AND PERFORMING TRICK DOG TESTS

**Old Rule:**

3. Retry

3.1 In Starter and Novice classes, up to one retry is allowed in the entire test.

3.2 If after one retry a dog does still not pass the trick, it cannot qualify but may continue to finish the test.

**New Rule**Add to 10.0 COMPETING between existing 10.7 and 10.8 and renumber. ie: Retry10.?.1 In Starter and Novice classes, up to one entry is allowed in the entire test.  
10.?.2. If after one retry a dog does still not pass the trick, it cannot qualify but may continue to finish the test.

**Rationale:** This rule should be under COMPETING.  
 **Consequential Changes :** all sections under 10 COMPETING would need renumbering.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

**Old Rule:**

4. Where use is made of a toy as a reward or article used in a trick, the toy must not emit

any sound when touched or pressed.

**New Rule:** 10.5.9 (existing numbering for Rule 10 ) Where use is made of a toy as a reward or article used in a trick, the toy must not emit any sound when touched or pressed.

**Rationale:** This Rule pertains to the Rules regarding Rewards and as such, should be in section 10.5, Rewards.

**RULES CONTINUE**

10.6 Once a competitor has exited the ring, the next competitor at any level may use food, a training toy or motivator up to the ring entrance.

10.7 Apart from rewards allowed at reward stations for Starter and Novice classes, no food, training toy or motivator shall be left within six (6) metres of the test ring.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes 10.7**

10.7 Apart from rewards allowed at reward stations for Pre-starter, Starter and Novice classes, no food, training toy or motivator shall be left within six (6) metres of the test ring. The penalty for failure to comply with this rule is disqualification.

**Rationale 10.7**

Adds the Pre-starters class. Although this is already in 11.5, that is not being understood by competitors and adding the penalty here makes this very clear.

RULE **RULES CONTINUE**

**10.8 Other requirements**

10.8.1 After a dog has commenced competing in a class, no substitution of handler is permitted in that class.

10.8.2 Handlers with disabilities may compete, provided such handlers can move about the ring without physical assistance. The use of a wheelchair, crutches or cane is acceptable. The dog is to perform all necessary requirements of their tricks test as stated in these rules.

10.8.3 At the Judge’s discretion, if a dog’s performance was prejudiced by peculiar or unusual conditions, the Judge may determine that a re-run of some or all of the nominated tricks be offered to the competitor.

10.8.4 While on the grounds, all dogs must be on a lead (or otherwise restrained [e.g. in a crate]) except when competing. Dogs will enter and leave the test ring on lead under the control of the handler. The Judge will order when the lead is to be removed; the handler will then remove the lead and hand it to the ring steward who will return it to the handler on completion of the test. A dog who exits the test ring off lead at any time may be penalized, up to disqualification in accordance with Rule 7 and Rule 11.4.1(b).

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.8.4**

10 .8.4 While on the grounds, all dogs must be on a lead (or otherwise restrained [e.g. in a crate]) except when competing. Dogs will enter and leave the test ring on lead under the control of the handler. ~~The~~ ~~Judge will order when the lead is to be removed; the handler will then remove the lead and hand~~ it to the ring steward who will return it to the handler on completion of the test. A dog who exits ~~the test ring off lead at any time may be penalised, up to disqualification, in accordance with Rule~~ ~~7 and Rule 11.4.1(b).~~

**Rationale 10.8.4**

Deleted as this has previously been covered in our proposed 9.3.1. It should be dealt with as part of rule 9, not under ‘other requirements’.

**RULES CONTINUE**

10.8.5 The test Secretary will allocate handlers a test number for each entry submitted. Handlers are required to wear numbers during test. Numbers and names of the handler and dog, together with other relevant information, will be listed in the test catalogue and the catalogue number of the handler and dog will normally be announced as they enter the ring*.*

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.8.5**

~~10.8.5 The test Secretary will allocate handlers a test number for each entry submitted. Handlers are required~~ ~~to wear numbers during test. Numbers and names of the handler and dog, together with other~~ ~~relevant information, will be listed in the test catalogue and the catalogue number of the handler~~

~~and dog will normally be announced as they enter the ring~~*~~.~~*

**Rationale 10.8.5**

Deleted as this has been previously dealt with.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

**Old Rule:**

(f) If no handler stance is specified, a handler may adopt a stance of his choice. This may include standing, sitting (including on a chair or stool), bent over or squatting. It is expected that the handler’s posture will be appropriate to the size/height of the dog.

**New Rule:** 10.5 If no handler stance (POSITION) is specified, a handler may adopt a stance (POSITION) of his choice. This may include standing, sitting (including on a chair or stool), bent over or squatting. It is expected that the handler’s posture will be appropriate to the size/height of the dog.

**Rationale:** This rule refers to competing and as such should be under the heading 10.0 as should any rule regarding ‘stance’, keeping all rules pertaining to competing together within the rules.

**Consequential Changes:** Renumbering of Rule 10 sections will be required.

**Old Rule:**

(g) If no stance is specified for the dog, at the start of a trick, a dog may be in a stance of the handler’s choice.

**New Rule:** 10.6 If no stance is specified for the dog at the start of the trick, a dog may be in a stance of the handler’s choice.

**Rationale:** This rule pertains to competing and as such should be under the heading 10.0 COMPETING.

Consequential Changes: Renumbering of Rule 10 sections will be required.

**Old Rule:**

(h) Except where movement is required, the handler will normally remain approximately at the start point until the dog has completed the trick but is not required to maintain a rigid stance and can move and/or turn provided he remains at or near the start point.

**New Rule:** 10. 7 Except where movement is required, the handler will normally remain approximately at the start point until the dog has completed the trick but is not required to maintain a rigid stance and can move and/or turn provided he remains at or near the start point.

**Rationale:** This rule pertains to competing and as such should be under 10.0 COMPETING.

**Consequential Changes:** Renumbering of Rule 10 sections would be required.

**Old Rule:**

(i) Any duration specified will be the minimum duration required for performance of the trick.

**New Rule:** 10.8 Any duration specified will be the minimum duration required for performance of the trick.

**Rationale:** This rule pertains to competing and as such should be under 10.0 COMPETING.

Consequential Changes: Renumbering of Rule 10.0 sections would be required.

**Old Rule:**

(j) If no duration is specified, the test will be completed when the dog has performed the action described for the relevant trick.

**New Rule:** 10.9. If no duration is specified, the test will be completed when the dog has performed the action described for the relevant trick.

**Rationale:** This rule pertains to competing and as such should be under 10.0 COMPETING.

**Consequential Changes**: Renumbering of Rule 10.0 sections would be required.

**Old Rule:**

(k) Where reference is made to a distance in terms of metres or body lengths, it will be considered as an approximation only. ‘Body length’ refers to the length of the dog from the withers to the base of the tail.

**New Rule:** 10.10 Where reference is made to a distance in terms of metres or body lengths, it will be considered as an approximation only. ‘Body length’ refers to the length of the dog from the withers to the base of the tail.

**Rationale:** This rule pertains to competing and as such should be under Rule 10.0 COMPETING.

**Consequential Changes:** Renumbering of Rule 10 sections would be required.

**Old Rule:**

2. The Judge may delegate to a steward responsibility for verifying distances and/or timing the duration of tricks.

**New Rule:** 10.11 The Judge may delegate to a steward responsibility for verifying distances and/or timing the duration of tricks.

Rationale: This rule pertains to competing and as such should be under 10.0 COMPETING.

**Consequential Changes:** Renumbering of Rule 10 sections would be required.

**NOTE:** Consequential Changes within Section 10 would result in 10.4 becoming 10.12; 10.5 becomes 10.13; 10.6 becomes 10.14 ; 10.7 becomes 10.15; 10.8 becomes 10.16.

**Old Rule:**

3. When use is made of a reward station, the dog must move to the reward station with and under the control of the handler.

**New Rule:** 10.5.8 (existing numbering for Rule 10) When use is made of a reward station, the dog must move to the reward station with and under the control of the handler.

**Rationale** This rule should be included under 10.5.8 Rewards

**Old Rule:**

4. Where use is made of a toy as a reward or article used in a trick, the toy must not emit any sound when touched or pressed.

**New Rule:** 10.5.9 (existing numbering for Rule 10 ) Where use is made of a toy as a reward or article used in a trick, the toy must not emit any sound when touched or pressed.

**Rationale:** This Rule pertains to the Rules regarding Rewards and as such, should be in section 10.5, Rewards.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **JUDGES AND JUDGING**
  2. **Judges**
     1. Each class in a titling Trick Dog test will be judged by one licensed Trick Dog Judge.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 11.1.1**

* + 1. Each class in a titling Trick Dog tTest will be judged by an ANKC~~one~~ licensed Trick Dog Judge.

**Rationale 11.1.1**

Allowing a trick dog class to be split up and judged by different judges to cope with big numbers. Specifying just one judge means that people may have to be balloted out, while this rule change allows for more flexibility.

This also clarifies that the license is with ANKC and not another body.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* + 1. A Judge at any titling Trick Dog test must have been approved by the relevant member body for judging at the relevant level.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 11.1.2**

* + 1. ~~A Judge at any titling Trick Dog test must have been approved by the relevant member body for~~ judging at the relevant level.

**Rationale 11.1.2**

In this state judges are training for all classes at once, so 11.1.2 is not required.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New Rule  
11.1.3 Orders from the judge :**Next Trick is……  
Take up your position  
Are you ready?  
Start  
Time/Distance (where a time or distance is mandated and) and/or: Complete Correct/Incorrect.

**Rationale:**We have surveyed members who have competed in Trick Tests.The above is the majority opinion.  
The competitors and those who intend to compete would prefer to have standard orders from the judge as is the case in other disciplines. The Judge’s indicating that the duration or distance has been completed is necessary as some tricks have extra components to be completed before judging ceases for that trick: eg - S.5; N.6; N.15; I.5;  
I.11; I.16; A.16; A.18;  
They also have asked to be told whether the tricks were correctly/incorrectly performed in all classes.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**REMOVE FROM** APPENDIX A

TRICK DESCRIPTIONS PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

**Old Rule:**

5. The Judge will –

(a) indicate to the handler the name of the next trick;

(b) ask if the handler is ready to undertake the next trick;

(c) advise the handler when the trick is deemed to be finished;

(d) in the case of Starter and Novice classes (where one retry is allowed) advise the

handler if the trick has been performed incorrectly.

**New Rule:** 11.1.3 The Judge will-

(a) indicate to the handler the name of the next trick;

(b) ask if the handler is ready to undertake the next trick;

(c) advise the handler when the trick is deemed to be finished;

(d) in the case of Starter and Novice classes (where one retry is allowed) advise the

handler if the trick has been performed incorrectly.

**Rationale:** this rule should appear under the heading 11. Judges and Judging

**Consequential Changes:** renumbering of 11.1 (and the addition of 11.1.4 Orders from the Judge - see relevant proposed rule)

11.1.3

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Judges’ marking criteria**

Each judge will allocate a score out of 10 for each trick, having regard to:

1. the accuracy of the dog’s performance and speed in responding to the handler’s cues;
2. the extent of mistakes and/or refusals;
3. the extent to which the dog works in a natural and willing manner;
4. the extent to which teamwork and a strong relationship and enjoyment are demonstrated between the dog and handler.

Part points may be allocated.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 11.2**

* 1. **Judges’ marking criteria**

Each judge will allocate a score out of 10 for each trick, having regard to the deductions in Appendix C.

1. ~~the accuracy of the dog’s performance and speed in responding to the handler’s cues;~~
2. ~~the extent of mistakes and/or refusals;~~
3. ~~the extent to which the dog works in a natural and willing manner;~~
4. ~~the extent to which teamwork and a strong relationship and enjoyment are demonstrated between~~ ~~the dog and handler.~~

Part points may be allocated.

Where a trick comprises more than one component, all components selected must be completed satisfactorily in order to achieve a qualifying score for that trick

**Rationale 11.2**

Currently there is a ‘risk’ of doubling up on deductions, and so by including them on the judges sheet minimises this risk, and also gives more clarity.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Penalties**
     1. The penalties referred to in this rule relate to a deduction from the total score awarded by the Judge.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New rule with some altered numbering**  
The following are to be deducted from the total score.  
11.3.1. (was 11.3.2 ) Barking may incur a penalty of up to 4points. Continuous barking shall result in disqualification.

11.3.2. (was 11.3.3 ) Inclusion in the test of a piece of equipment which is not integral to, or not used by the Handler and/or dog during the test shall incur a penalty of 1 point per piece of equipment.

11.3.3 (formerly 11.3.6 ) Physical management, manipulation of the dog or harsh verbal cues or corrections in the test ring shall incur a penalty up to disqualification.  
  
11.3.4 (formerly 11.3.8) A dog disconnecting from the handler may incur a penalty of up to 4 points for each occurrence.

11.3.5 (formerly 11.3.8 - which should have been 11.3.9)  
 Failure to comply with a direction from the judge in relation to the use of rewards or to move on to the next trick will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.

The following are to be deducted from the score of the trick where they occurred.

11.3.6 (formerly 11.3.4) Undertaking a retry in Starter or Novice Class shall incur a penalty of 2 points. If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try, or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non- qualifying score.

11.3.7 (formerly 11.3.5 ) Where a trick comprises more than one component, all components selected must be completed satisfactorily in order to achieve a qualifying score for that trick.

11.3.8 (formerly 11.3.7 ) Slow responses to cues or the dog or handler being in a position other than specified in the Trick description will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.  
  
**Rationale**  
For the original sections numbered 11.3.2; 11.3.3; 11.3.6;  
11.3.8; 11.3.8; 11.3.8 ( should have been 11.3.9), the scores should be deducted from the total score.

For the original Sections numbered 11.3.4, 11.3.5, 11.3.7, the penalties should be deducted from the individual trick, affecting the score for that particular trick, not the total score. ie:

11.3.4 Competitors should not obtain full marks for a trick for which there was a retry.  
11.3.5 If all components of a trick were not completed, the points must be deducted from that trick.  
11.3.7 Deductions for slow responses etc should be applied to the specific trick.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**



11.3.2 Barking may incur a penalty of up to four (4) points. Continuous barking shall result in disqualification. Barking which is cued and is obviously part of a trick shall incur no penalty.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**



**RULES CONTINUE**

11.3.3 Inclusion in the test of a piece of equipment which is not integral to, or not used by the handler and/or dog during the test shall incur a penalty of 1 point per piece of equipment.

11.3.4 Undertaking a retry in Starter or Novice class shall incur a penalty of 2 points. If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non-qualifying score.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**



**RATIONALE**

The intent is that while there is a penalty for doing a re-try, that penalty should not influence the individual score for that trick. Scoring for the trick should reflect the work demonstrated for that trick.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.3.5 Where a trick comprises more than one component, all components selected must be completed satisfactorily in order to achieve a qualifying score for that trick.

11.3.6 Physical management, manipulation of the dog or harsh verbal cues or corrections in the test ring shall incur a penalty up to disqualification.

11.3.7 Repetition of cues, slow responses to cues or the dog or handler being in a position other than that specified in the trick description will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.

11.3.8 A dog disconnecting from the handler may incur a penalty of up to 4 points for each occurrence.

11.3.8 Failure to comply with a direction from the Judge in relation to the use of rewards or to move on to the next trick will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

11.3.~~8~~9 Failure to comply with a direction from the Judge in relation to the use of rewards or to move on to the next trick will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.

**RATIONALE**

To correct numbering error. There are two 11.3.8.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Changes 11.3

* 1. **~~Penalties~~ Deductions**
     1. The ~~penalties~~ deductions referred to in this rule relate to a deduction from the total score awarded by the Judge (not points lost) and may be deducted as follows:.

(a)Barking may incur a penalty of up to four (4) points. Continuous barking shall result in disqualification.

Barking which is cued and is obviously part of a trick shall incur no penalty.

~~11.3.3 Inclusion in the test of a piece of equipment which is not integral to, or not used by the handler~~ ~~and/or dog during the test shall incur a penalty of 1 point per piece of equipment~~.

1. ~~11.3~~.4 Undertaking a retry ~~in Starter or Novice class~~ shall incur a penalty of 2 points. (A retry can occur in all classes.) If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non-qualifying score.

~~11.3.5 Where a trick comprises more than one component, all components selected must be completed~~ ~~satisfactorily in order to achieve a qualifying score for that trick.~~

1. ~~11.3.6~~ Physical management, manipulation of the dog or harsh verbal cues or corrections in the test ring shall incur a penalty up to disqualification.
2. ~~11.3.~~7 Repetition of cues, slow responses to cues or the dog or handler being in a position other than that specified in the trick description will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.
3. ~~11.3.8~~ A dog disconnecting from the handler may incur a penalty of up to 4 points for each occurrence.
4. ~~11.3.8~~ Failure to comply with a direction from the Judge in relation to the use of rewards or to move on to the next trick will incur a penalty of up to 10 points for each occurrence.

**Rationale 11.3**

* 1. Name changed to keep language specific - the document refers to deductions and not penalties.
     1. is manded to clarify that those penalties appearing in this rule are deductions from the total score.
     2. Is deleted as it is of no relevance.
     3. Is amended in accordance with our proposal to allow a retry in each class.
     4. has already been described in 11.2 so should not be repeated here.

Note the numbering change from a point system to listing these as a, b, c, d, etc.

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

11.3.4 Undertaking a retry in **Starter, Novice, Intermediate and Advance** level shall incur a penalty of 2 points. If the dog fails to perform the trick on the second try or requires a retry on more than one trick, each such trick will incur a non-qualifying score.

If the retry is changed to all Starter, Novice, Intermediate and Advance classes then penalties will also need to be altered to all classes

**Rationale**: consequential change

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. **Disqualification**
     1. The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:
        1. a dog fouling/eliminating at any point between entering and exiting the ring;
        2. the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time during their test; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring during the test they will not be

penalised;

* + - 1. harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the test ring;
      2. excessive physical manipulation of the dog in the test ring;
      3. any violation of the rules relating to dog attire including artificial colouring;

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**11.4.1 (e)** any action by the handler or dog which the judge considers unsafe or contrary to the welfare of the dog.

**RATIONALE**

There could be instances where unexpectedly a competitor does something that the judge thinks is unsafe – for that dog in that circumstance.    Clauses (c) and (d) are very much on the spot decisions and reactions by the judge, and it should be the same if the Judge saw something unsafe happening.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE**

Add to Deductions Table

Reletter following clauses in 11.4.

**RULES CONTINUE**

(f) (i) using a real or replica weapon5 of any kind;

(ii) using any piece of equipment in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, or other violence or aggression;

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

(~~f~~) ~~(i) using a real or replica weapon of any kind;~~

~~(ii)~~  (f) using any piece of equipment or any part of the handler’s body in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, or other violence or aggression.

**Rationale:** Clarification and simplification on what is acceptable. In today’s Society perception of any type of ‘harm’ to the dog must be discouraged.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE**

DELETE FOOTNOTE 5

**RULES CONTINUE**

* + - 1. any violation of Rule 10.5;
      2. use of, or having on the person of the handler, during a test, any food or toy of any kind, other than as provided for in Rule 10.5;
      3. use of any human (other than handler) or animal prop;
      4. continuous barking***.***

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**New Rule:  
11.4.1** (k) Dogs must be under control at all times; this includes during the reward sections of the test. Any unmanageable behaviour will result in the dog being disqualified and the team will be excused from the ring.

**Rationale:** This Rule belongs in the section on disqualification.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 11.4.1 (e)-(p)**

1. any violation of the rules relating to dog attire ~~including artificial colouring~~;
2. (i) using a real or replica weapon5 of any kind;

~~(ii) using any piece of equipment in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening,~~ ~~attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, or other violence or~~ ~~aggression;~~

1. any violation of Rule 10.5;
2. use of, or having on the person of the handler, during a test, any food or toy of any kind, other than as provided for in Rule 10.5~~; (i) use of any human (other than handler) or animal~~ ~~prop;~~
3. (j) continuous barking***.***

**Rationale 11.4.1 (e)-(p)**

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Proposed Amendment:

11.4.1 The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:

(B) the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time after entering and before exiting the ring; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring after entering and before exiting they will not be penalised;

**Rationale**: To provide better clarity for the handlers

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

The following requires amendment -

**11.3 Penalties**

**11.4 Disqualification**

**Appendix C Deductions**

Rationale: They need to be uniformed and reflect the same penalties, deductions and disqualifications.

(e) Amended to delete the reference to colouring the dog as we don’t propose to DQ for this. (f)(i)(ii) Amended to delete the reference to weapons as this is not relevant to tricks.

(d) Similarly the reference to use of a human or animal prop is deleted as it is not relevant.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.4.2 If a competitor is disqualified, the score sheet must be marked “Disqualified (D/Q)”.

* 1. **Marks and placings**

11.5.1The results for each class must be displayed on the day and be accessible to all competitors. The displayed results will include the Judge’s name and the total score.

11.5.2In determining placings, Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

11.5.2   In determining placings, Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores.  Competitors that are disqualified are not eligible for a place.

**RATIONALE**

For clarification. Dogs which have been disqualified should not be eligible for a place.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.5.3 In the event of a tied score, the Judge will make a determination having regard to - .

* + - 1. timeliness and accuracy of responses from the dog to the handler’s cues;

(b) smoothness and gentleness of handling;

1. flow from one trick to the next; and
2. teamwork.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes 11.5.3**

11.5.3 In the event of a tied score, the Judge will make a determination having regard to -

1. timeliness and accuracy of responses from the dog to the handler’s cues;
2. smoothness and gentleness of handling;
3. ~~flow from one trick to the next; and~~
4. ~~teamwork.~~

**Rationale 11.5.3**

Deleted the reference in c) flow from one trick to the next and (d) teamwork. We believe (a) and (b) suitability capture what is sought in (c) and (d).

**RULES CONTINUE**

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

DELETE APPENDIX A AS A CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change - Delete Appendix A**

**~~APPENDIX A~~**

**~~TRICK DESCRIPTIONS~~ ~~PREAMBLE - ALL LEVELS~~**

1. ~~Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –~~
   1. ~~The handler will provide any equipment required for a trick. Any piece of equipment may be~~ ~~inspected by the Judge to ensure its safety for the dog. (See also Rule 9.4)~~
   2. ~~The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencement of the first trick. The set-up~~ ~~of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. (See also Rule~~

~~9.4.3)~~

* 1. ~~Any cue will be a verbal cue and/or physical signal to the dog. Additional cues and praise may be~~ ~~used throughout the test. (See also Rule 10.4)~~

~~Any reference to the name of a cue is descriptive only; the handler may use a verbal cue of his~~ ~~choice, provided that it is not offensive or sexually suggestive.~~

* 1. ~~Reference to the ‘start point’ is the start point for the relevant trick.~~
  2. ~~If no distance is specified, it will be at the handler’s discretion.~~
  3. ~~If no handler stance is specified, a handler may adopt a stance of his choice. This may include~~ ~~standing, sitting (including on a chair or stool), bent over or squatting. It is expected that the~~ ~~handler’s posture will be appropriate to the size/height of the dog.~~
  4. ~~If no stance is specified for the dog, at the start of a trick, a dog may be in a stance of the handler’s~~ ~~choice.~~
  5. ~~Except where movement is required, the handler will normally remain approximately at the start point~~ ~~until the dog has completed the trick but is not required to maintain a rigid stance and can move~~ ~~and/or turn provided he remains at or near the start point.~~
  6. ~~Any duration specified will be the minimum duration required for performance of the trick.~~
  7. ~~If no duration is specified, the test will be completed when the dog has performed the action~~ ~~described for the relevant trick.~~
  8. ~~Where reference is made to a distance in terms of metres or body lengths, it will be considered as an~~ ~~approximation only. ‘Body length’ refers to the length of the dog from the withers to the base of the~~ ~~tail.~~

1. ~~The Judge may delegate to a steward responsibility for verifying distances and/or timing the duration of~~ ~~tricks.~~
2. ~~When use is made of a reward station, the dog must move to the reward station with and under the contro~~l ~~of the handler.~~
3. ~~Where use is made of a toy as a reward or article used in a trick, the toy must not emit any sound when~~ ~~touched or pressed.~~
4. ~~The Judge will –~~
   1. ~~indicate to the handler the name of the next trick;~~
   2. ~~ask if the handler is ready to undertake the next trick;~~
   3. ~~advise the handler when the trick is deemed to be finished;~~
   4. ~~in the case of Starter and Novice classes (where one retry is allowed) advise the handler if the trick~~ ~~has been performed incorrectly.~~

**Rationale - Delete Appendix A**

Appendix A to be deleted. Almost all of the content appears elsewhere – duplication is not helpful. We have moved the definition of ‘body length’ to the definition section and we have incorporated the judges instructions in to the rule dealing with judges orders.

Note, if this was to stay, levels needs to be changed to class.

**APPENDIX A**

**TRICK DESCRIPTIONS**

* 1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

(a) The handler will provide any equipment required for a trick. Any piece of equipment may be inspected by the Judge to ensure its safety for the dog. (See also Rule 9.4)

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Proposed Amendment:

1. The handler will provide any equipment required for a trick. Any piece of equipment may be inspected by the judge to ensure its safety for the dog. (See also Rule 9.4).

The host club will determine how this is to be undertaken by the judges on the day.

Rationale: to ensure that handlers are not inconvenienced and that the process flows as smoothly & quickly as possible.

\*\* Affects Rule 9.4

**RULES CONTINUE**

(b) The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencement of the first trick. The set- up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. (See also Rule 9.4.3)

**DOGS ACT PROPOSAL**

(b) The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencement of the first trick. (See also Rule 9.4.3)

***Rationale***

Match wording to Rule 9.4.3 and allow simplified setting up and flow between competitors.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

1. The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencement of the first trick. The set-up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. (See also Rule 9.4.3)

Any equipment which remains stationary during execution of the trick will remain in position throughout the test.

Larger items of equipment should be placed in position before the handler enters the ring to commence the test. Smaller items of equipment should be placed on the table until needed and may be replaced on the table at the completion of the trick.

The handler may move any item of equipment which has moved during the performance of the trick and which at the completion of the trick may impede movement around the ring or is a potential safety hazard in the ring. Such items may be moved to near the boundary of the ring or to the reward/equipment table after use. This must be undertaken by the handler, and it is not permitted for another person to assist in this regard. The dog must accompany the handler while any such rearrangement is undertaken and the dog cannot be left unattended (eg in a stay) in the ring while the handler undertakes any set up or rearrangement of equipment.

**RATIONALE**

There has been quite a bit of confusion about the placing of equipment, especially those smaller items which are held by the handler (e.g. article for retrieve tricks). Also, there has been concern about the safety of moving around the ring with multiple pieces of equipment. This is particular relevant in the higher classes. Clarification is required to ensure all judges and handlers understand the procedure.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Proposed Amendment:

(b) The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencements of the first trick. The set-up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. Small items and all hand- held equipment must be placed on the equipment table. (See also Rule 9.4.3).

**Rationale:** Provides clarity to handlers as to what equipment goes where.

\*\* Affects Rule 9.4.3

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. Any cue will be a verbal cue and/or physical signal to the dog. Additional cues and praise may be used throughout the test. (See also Rule 10.4)

Any reference to the name of a cue is descriptive only; the handler may use a verbal cue of his choice, provided that it is not offensive or sexually suggestive.

1. Reference to the ‘start point’ is the start point for the relevant trick.
2. If no distance is specified, it will be at the handler’s discretion.
3. If no handler stance is specified, a handler may adopt a stance of his choice.  This may include standing, sitting (including on a chair or stool), bent over or squatting.  It is expected that the handler’s posture will be appropriate to the size/height of the dog.
4. If no stance is specified for the dog, at the start of a trick, a dog may be in a stance of the handler’s choice.
5. Except where movement is required, the handler will normally remain approximately at the start point until the dog has completed the trick but is not required to maintain a rigid stance and can move and/or turn provided he remains at or near the start point.
6. Any duration specified will be the minimum duration required for performance of the trick.
7. If no duration is specified, the test will be completed when the dog has performed the action described for the relevant trick.
8. Where reference is made to a distance in terms of metres or body lengths, it will be considered as an approximation only. ‘Body length’ refers to the length of the dog from the withers to the base of the tail.
9. The Judge may delegate to a steward responsibility for verifying distances and/or timing the duration of tricks.
10. When use is made of a reward station, the dog must move to the reward station with and under the control of the handler.
11. Where use is made of a toy as a reward or article used in a trick, the toy must not emit any sound when touched or pressed.
12. The Judge will –
13. indicate to the handler the name of the next trick;
14. ask if the handler is ready to undertake the next trick;
15. advise the handler when the trick is deemed to be finished;
16. in the case of Starter and Novice classes (where one retry is allowed) advise the handler if the trick has been performed incorrectly.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Additional Rule:

6. Judges will indicate when distance and/or duration is complete and when the trick is complete

Rationale: to make it clear to handlers that the judge is responsible for this task

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Additional Rule:

**7. Set Up** – all that is described must be done prior to the judge saying ‘Proceed’

**Cue & Action** – all that is described must be done post the judge saying ‘Proceed.’

Rationale: To provide clarity to handlers and judges

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

Additional Rule:

8. **Stance** refers to the position of the dog – stand, sit or drop

**Position** refers to the dog’s position in relation to the handler - in front, behind, left or right heel

Rationale: To provide clarity to handlers and judges.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**TITLE CERTIFICATE: Watermark required.**

**RATIONALE**

All other dog sport title certificates have a watermark on the certificate. This was something which was overlooked in the introduction of Trick Dog Tests. We propose that the generic dog used in Dogs Australia documentation in a Bow pose be used as the watermark for Title Certificate.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)