

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

**Rules for the Conduct of**

**TRICK DOG TESTS**

**(Effective from 1 January 2024)**

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**RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF**

**TRICK DOG TESTS**

**Rationale:**

To help maintain the present growth and development of the Trick Dog discipline, it is proposed to add a separate division comprising four (4) extra classes. As well as being a natural progression from the current Trick Dog requirements, the extra division is designed to facilitate the handler and dog moving into the sport of Dances With Dogs as well supporting other disciplines e.g. Agility, Rally, Obedience - any discipline in which a dog is required to perform a number of linked behaviours. Trick Dog Tests will continue to facilitate those handlers who need to regroup and reward after each trick, while Trick - Sequence will encourage handlers to gain confidence in linking behaviours and rewarding at the end once they have finished and left the ring.

This proposal mirrors many of the specifications for Trick Dog Tests in the rules below. Any changes relating to Trick Dog Tests are likely to warrant parallel changes in relation to Trick Sequence requirements.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 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.

1.2 Trick Dog Test encompasses two separate divisions: (a) Trick Dog Test and (b) Trick

Sequence. Dogs may compete in both divisions at the same Test.

1.3 The objective in Trick 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 teams to improve communication and thereby increase the bond with their dogs.

1.4 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***.***

1.5 Any person making an entry in a Trick Dog Test does so at their own risk.

1.6 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***.***

1. **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 area[[1]](#footnote-1) set up by the Affiliate and approved by the Judge, for use in Starter and Novice classes in the Trick Dog Test division.

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

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 may offer either or both Trick Dog Test and Trick Sequence. Any division scheduled shall offer all of the titling classes listed below for that division.

**3.1 Titling Classes**

3.1.1 The following titling classes are available in Trick Dog division:

1. **TRICK DOG STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the ‘Trick Dog 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.).

3.1.2 The following titling classes are available in Trick Sequence division:

(a) **TRICK SEQUENCE STARTER (TKS.S):** For dogs that have not qualified for the ‘Trick Sequence Starter’ title.

(b) **TRICK SEQUENCE NOVICE (TKS.N):**  For dogs that have qualified for the title of Trick Sequence Starter (TKS.S).

(c) **TRICK SEQUENCE INTERMEDIATE (TKS.I):** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Sequence Novice’ (TKS.N).

(d) **TRICK SEQUENCE ADVANCED (TKS.A):** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Trick Sequence Intermediate (TKS.I).

**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 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.~~

3.2.2 A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for any Trick Dog or Trick Sequence title other than Intermediate (TK.I or TKS.I) or Advanced (TK.A or TKS.A) shall not be eligible to compete in any further division/class at that level except in a test for which entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was gained. Dogs which have achieved an Intermediate (TK.I TKS.I) or Advanced (TK.A or TKS.A) title may continue to compete in either the Intermediate or the Advanced classes in the relevant division.

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.

**3.3 Non-titling Classes**

An Affiliate conducting a Trick Dog Test may, at its discretion, offer non-titling classes.

**4.0 TITLES**

**4.1.1 Qualifying Certificates – Trick Dog Test**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate in the Trick Dog division, 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** |
| Number of tricks for which qualifying score must be achieved | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| Minimum total score | 45 | 60 | 65 | 85 |

**4.1.2 Qualifying Certificates – Trick Sequence**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate in the Trick Sequence division, a competitor must, at the one test –

(a) complete the number of required tricks for that class;

(b) gain a score of at least ten (10) points out of twenty (20) points in each of the

categories; and

(c) achieve the minimum total score;

as set out in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| Number of linked tricks | 6 (minimum) | 8 (minimum) | 8 (minimum) | 10 (minimum) |
| Total Score  Categories:  Content – 20  Execution – 20  Flow – 20 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Minimum total score | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 |

Rationale:

The number of linked tricks in Trick Sequence has been kept in line with the number of tricks required in Trick Dog. A minimum has been stated as, at times, it may be difficult for a handler to keep the flow of the tricks while only doing a set number of tricks. The importance of Trick Sequence is the team performing the tricks in a continuous motion. A minimum provides more flexibility in linking the tricks performed. As the scoring is the same for all class levels (only the amount of work performed increases) the pass rate has also been kept the same. This is in keeping with the method of scoring in Dances With Dogs as well as other disciplines such as Obedience etc.

**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) ‘TKS.S’ signifying Trick Sequence Starter in connection with, and after the

name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in

the Trick Sequence Starter class, under at least two (2) different judges.

(f) ‘TKS.N’ signifying Trick Sequence Novice in connection with, and after the

name of, each dog, which has gained a total of five (5) Qualifying Certificates in

the Trick Sequence Novice class, under at least two (2) different judges.

(g) ‘TKS.I’ signifying Trick Sequence Intermediate in connection with, and after

the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of six (6) Qualifying Certificates

in the Trick Sequence Intermediate class, under at least two (2) different

judges.

(h) ‘TKS.A’ signifying Trick Sequence Advanced in connection with, and after the

name of, each dog, which has gained a total of eight (8) Qualifying Certificates in

the Trick Sequence 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.

**TRICK 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 |

**TRICK SEQUENCE**

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

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.

**4.3 Decisions**

4.3.1Decisions 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.

**5.0 RINGS**

5.1 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.

5.2 Where tests are held indoors, it is the responsibility of the affiliate conducting a test to ensure flooring is suitable[[2]](#footnote-2).

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]](#footnote-3)

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.

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.

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.

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.

**6.0 EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

**6.1 Eligibility of exhibits**

Trick Dog Tests are open to dogs that are:

(a) registered with the relevant member body;

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

**6.2 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.

For Trick Dog, 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.

6.2.3A dog may be entered in both Trick Dog and Trick Sequence divisions but shall be entered in only one class within a division 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.

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

Handlers should wearsome type of appropriate[[4]](#footnote-4) footwear that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.

**6.4 Registration and attendance**

6.4.1 Handlers are responsible for registering their presence with the Secretary or nominee prior to the commencement of the test, as specified in the Schedule.

* + 1. The handler and dog shall be available to the ring steward at the conclusion of the test of the competitor prior to them.

**6.5 Welfare of Dogs**

6.5.1 The welfare of dogs competing in Trick Dog Tests under these Rules is the primary consideration.

6.5.2 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.

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

**6.6 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.

**7.0 REMOVAL OF A DOG**

7.1 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.

7.2 The Judge –

(a) may order the removal from the 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

(b) shall exclude or order the removal from the test of any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete.

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1. **WITHDRAWAL OF A DOG**

8.1 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.

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.

8.3 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**

9.1.1The 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.

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

**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.

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.

9.2.4 A dog may not be artificially coloured.

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.

* 1. **Selection of tricks – Trick Dog**

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

* + 1. Subject to Rule 9.3.3, at every level, the team will perform each nominated trick once only.
    2. 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.

**9.4 Selection of Tricks - Trick Sequence**

9.4.1 In each class the handler and dog must execute at least the required number of tricks linked together to form a sequence of tricks.

9.4.2 Each trick must flow from one to the next in a continuous action.

9.4.3 The difficulty of the tricks executed is expected to increase through the classes.

9.4.4 Tricks may comprise of any of those listed in the class lists in Appendix A or as determined by the handler.

9.4.5 All tricks undertaken must be done in a safe manner for dog and/or handler.

9.4.6 Any equipment to be used must be checked by the Judge prior to commencement.

**9.5 Equipment**

9.5.1 It is the responsibility of the handler to provide any equipment required for performance of any or all tricks.

9.5.2 A Judge may disallow use of a piece of equipment if it is deemed unsafe or inappropriate.

9.5.3 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.

9.5.4 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.

**10.0 COMPETING**

10.1 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.

10.2 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.

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.

10.4 **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.

10.4.2 In Trick Dog, physical touch as encouragement or reward between tricks shall not be penalised at any level. In either division, 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 or sequence.

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 sequence, 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.

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

**10.5 Rewards – Trick Dog division**

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 only, 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 one (1) reward station in each of Starter and Novice 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 and may issue such 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 and a maximum of 8 visits in Novice class. Delivery of the reward should be undertaken briskly and quietly.

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.

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.

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

**10.6 Rewards – both divisions**

10.6.1 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.

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

**10.7** **Other requirements**

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

10.7.2 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 Test as stated in these rules.

10.7.3 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 or sequence be offered to the competitor.

10.7.4 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).

10.7.5 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*.*

**11.0 JUDGES AND JUDGING**

**11.1 Judges**

11.1.1 Each class will be judged by one licensed Trick Dog Judge.

11.1.2 A Judge must have been approved by the relevant member body for judging at the relevant level.

**11.2 Judges’ marking criteria**

**11.2.1 Trick Dog**

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.

**11.2.2 Trick Sequence**

The judge will allocate a score out of 60 for each sequence, having regard to:

(a) the selection of tricks in the sequence;

(b) the degree of difficulty of each trick in relation to the class entered;

(c) the accuracy of the dog’s performance and speed in responding to the handler’s cues;

(d) the extent of mistakes and/or refusals;

(e) the flow of each trick to the next;

(f) the extent to which teamwork and enjoyment are demonstrated between the dog and

handler.

Part points may be allocated.

**11.3 Penalties**

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

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.

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 In Trick Dog division, 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.

11.3.5 In Trick Dog division, 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 If the required number of tricks is not attempted in Trick Sequence, a non-qualifying score will be awarded.

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

11.3.8 Repetition of cues, slow responses to cues or, in the case of Trick Dog division, 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.

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

11.3.10 In Trick Dog division, 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.

**11.4. Disqualification**

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

**(**a) a dog fouling/eliminating at any point between entering and exiting the ring;

1. 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;
2. harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the test ring;
3. excessive physical manipulation of the dog in the test ring;
4. any violation of the rules relating to dog attire including artificial colouring;
5. (i) using a real or replica weapon[[5]](#footnote-5) 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;

(g) any violation of Rule 10.5;

(h) 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;

(j) continuous barking***.***

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

**11.5 Marks and placings**

11.5.1 The 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.

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

11.5.3In 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.

**TRICK SEQUENCE**

**JUDGES’ MARK SHEET**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | | **Date** | | | |
|  | | **Handler number** | | | |
| **Judge** | **Judge’s Signature** | | | | |
| **Judging category** | | | **Maximum points available** | **Score** | **Sub-total** |
| **CONTENT (Max 20)** | | | | | |
| Type/variety of tricks according to the class entered | | | 10 |  |  |
| Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of tricks | | | 10 |  |  |
| **Sub-total Content** | | |  |  |  |
| **EXECUTION (Max 20)** | | | | | |
| Accuracy of execution of tricks | | | 10 |  |  |
| Extent of mistakes and /or refusals | | | 10 |  |  |
| **Sub-total Execution** | | |  |  |  |
| **FLOW (Max 20)** | | | | | |
| The flow of each trick to the next | | | 10 |  |  |
| Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler | | | 10 |  |  |
| **Sub-total Flow** | | |  |  |  |
| **SUB-TOTAL** | | |  |  |  |
| **Deductions** | | |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | | |  |  |  |

**QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE AND TITLE CERTIFICATE:**

The same as presently used for Trick Dog but with the words Trick Sequence instead.

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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For indoor venues, competitors may bring non-slip mats to ensure dog welfare in their chosen tricks.*.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Excludes thongs, scuffs and bare feet. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Toy weapons may be used. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)