



Bavarian Mountain Hound Society of Great Britain

Schweisshund Aptitude Test

General Rules

1. To partake in the Aptitude test, Hounds must be at least six months of age on the day of the test. Handlers should be fully paid up members of the Bavarian Mountain Hound Society of Great Britain.
2. Hounds will work singly, in an order decided by ballot prior to the test. Each hound will be given a maximum of thirty minutes to complete the track.
3. The Society will appoint a judge. Each hound will be judged by a single judge and an assistant (who can be a judge in training).
4. The judge's decision is final.
5. Hounds on passing the test will be awarded a Aptitude Test Diploma.
6. All hounds must be worked on a tracking line of no less than six meters and wear a suitable tracking collar or harness.
7. In the event of snow cover the test will be cancelled.

Creation of the Track

1. For the laying of the track, cleaves of a deer or boar and hair from the appropriate animal are used along with 250ml of the appropriate blood.
2. The cleaves are attached to purpose made tracking shoes or purpose made tracking stick with a cleave attachment. The cleaves will be no older than 24 hours old, either from a carcass or freshly defrosted.

3. For the tracing stick, a cleave from one of the hind legs of a deer or boar must be used and for the tracking shoes a cleave from a foreleg and a cleave from a hind leg of a deer or boar are used. Each limb may be used for a maximum of three tracks. The tracking stick and tracking shoes must be approved by the Society.
4. The blood will be dispersed by a 250ml bottle approved by the Society.
5. The person who lay's the track should be unknown to the hound which is going to work the track.
6. The track will be approximately 150 meters long.
7. The track begins with a marker, showing the direction of the track.
8. The track should be visible to the handler for the first 20 meters. The rest of the track marking should be visible only to the judges.
9. The track will compromise of one turn of approximately 45 degrees – 60 degrees, not before 80meters into the track or after 120 meters into the track.
10. A deer or boar head/skin is placed at the end of the track.
11. A person who lay's the track writes and signs a plate with a number, date and time of when the track was made and places it at the beginning of the track.

Working the Track

1. The track will be aged 2 and 4 hours before the test commences.
2. The tracking Judge and Assistant, who are to observe the handler and hound, show the handler the beginning of the track and the track direction for the first twenty meters by means of a marker at the twenty meter mark.
3. On the handlers command the hound should find the track and start to follow the track with it's nose to the ground.
4. The hound should keep to the track at all times, following around the turn.
5. It is permissible for the hound to show the handler other tracks. If the hound starts to follow other tracks for a short distance but then corrects itself, it is not to be taken as a mistake
6. In the event of the hound loosing the track it may be taken back to the track a maximum of two times. On the third time the hound will be disqualified.
7. Should the Judge feel that the hound is incapable of following the track, the hound will be disqualified.
8. Vocal encouragement is permissible.
9. Scoring and Grading is either a Pass or Fail by the decision of the Judge.