



Bavarian Mountain Hound Society of Great Britain: **Schweisshund Test Level 1 (3 – 5 hrs)**

General Rules

1. To compete in the Schweisshund Tracking Test, Hounds must be at least nine 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 which is to be decided by ballot prior to the test. Each hound will be given a maximum of forty five minutes to complete the track.
3. The Society will appoint two Judges, a Tracking Judge and a Reporting Judge, along with two Assistants (who can be Judge's in training), to judge each hound.
4. The Judges' decision is final.
5. Hounds on passing the test will be awarded a Diploma, with the grade of I, II or III, depending on the number of points obtained. Table of points and grades can be found at the end of the test rules.
6. All hounds must be worked on a tracking line 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 a boar 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 tracking stick, a cleave from one of the hind legs of a deer or a 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 a boar are used. Each limb can be used for a maximum of three tracks. The tracking stick and tracking shoes must be approved by the Society.
4. The blood should be dispersed using a 250ml bottle with a tapering nozzle 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 600 meters long.
7. The track begins with a marker, showing the direction of the track.
8. The track should be visible to the owner for the first 50meters. The rest of the track marking should be visible only to the judges.
9. Along the track there will be two severe turns (90 degrees). Other bends in the tracks are permitted to allow for the terrain, but must be shallow and gently curving.
10. A deer or boar carcass is placed at the end of the track.
11. The person who lay's the track writes and signs a plate with a number, date and time when the track was made and places it at the beginning of the track.

12. The distance between each track will be a minimum of 100 meters.

Working the Track

1. The track will be aged between three and five hours before the test commences.
2. The Reporting Judge and an Assistant will, after placing the carcass, move back from the track and hide so that the handler and hound cannot see them but they are in a good position to observe the work of the hound at the carcass.
3. The Tracking Judge and an Assistant, who are to observe the handler and hound, show the handler the beginning of the track and the track direction for the first fifty meters by means of a marker at the fifty meter mark.
4. On the handlers command, the hound should find the track, and start searching and work calmly with its nose to the ground.
5. The hound should keep on the track at all times and find all the bends.
6. 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. Taking small shortcuts on small bends is also not a mistake.
7. In the event of the hound losing the track without returning to the track over a distance of approximately seventy five meters, it can be taken back to the track a maximum of three times, each time it is to be returned to the place where it had lost the track. Every time the grade is reduced by one point.
8. Should the Tracking Judge feel that the hound is not capable of following the track, the hound will be disqualified.
9. The handler must not look for the markers showing the way of the track. Each time, the judges will give a warning to the handler about the reduction in the grade or may disqualify the handler and hound.
10. Any vocal encouragement given to the hound should be kept to a minimum. Over encouragement and shouting may result in points being deducted.

Behaviour by the Carcass

1. At a point fifty meters before the end of the track, the Judge will verbally stop the handler and his/her hound with instructions to remove the tracking leash and let the hound continue hunting the remainder of the track loose.
2. The hound should find the carcass unaided.
3. At the carcass the hound is allowed to bite and rag the carcass. Licking of the shot wound is allowed but attempts from the hound to eat the carcass will be penalised.
4. The handler is not to move forward until told to by the Judges at which time the handler can go forward praising his or her hound. If the hound reports, the handler should make the Judges aware of the fact so the hound can be given sufficient time to carry out the task.
5. If the hound guards the carcass not allowing the Judge to approach, it is not to be penalised unless it is guarding the carcass from its handler, at which point the hound will be disqualified.
6. Any vocal encouragement given to the hound should be kept to a minimum over encouragement and shouting may result in a points being deducted.

Discipline

1. **Sit and Stay** - The hound will be told to sit. The handler may leave an item (e.g. hat or roe sack) with his or her hound. The handler will then retreat thirty meters leaving the hound. If the hound lays down this is permissible as long as it doesn't move forward or start barking. After approximately ten minutes, on command from the Judge, the handler will recall his/her hound. Hounds should come in to their handler; those hounds which do not allow the handler's to fasten a leash for 10 minutes or run away will receive 0 grades. In the event of the hound running off, the hound should come back to its handler within 10 minutes. Any hound chasing domestic livestock will be disqualified.
2. **Walking with Handler** - This can be done on or off a short lead. The hound should walk next to or behind the handler in a controlled manner. On command from the Judge, the handler should take two double sharp left and right turns, stop two times, change speed and direction. The hound must walk with the handler acting as part of a team.

Scoring & Grading

Categories	Points	Index	Total
Discipline			
a. Sit and Stay	4	4	16
b. Walking with Handler	4	4	16
Working the Track	10	4	40
Behaviour at Carcass	7	4	28
Maximum Possible Points =			100

Points	Diploma Grade
60 - 69	III
70 - 79	II
80 +	I