



TRIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE ENDURANCE TEST - AD (Ausdauerprüfung)

Purpose

The AD provides documentation that the dog is physically able to endure a certain amount of physical stress without showing significant signs of fatigue. Given the physical structure of the dog, only through running exercises can the required amount of strain be inflicted on the dog. As we know, running makes special demands on the inner organs, especially the heart and the lungs as well as the rest of the body. Other characteristics such as spirit and hardiness must be present as well. The effortless completion of the performance must be accepted as proof of physical health and the presence of the desired characteristics. Both are prerequisites for using a dog for breeding.

Entry Requirements

Prior to the examination, an identity check of the tattoo or microchip number must be performed on all dogs that are registered in the breed book of AKC, the VDH or another FCI Working Dog Breed Club (this means dogs with recognized AKC or VDH/FCI registration papers).

Titles are only recognized if obtained through a WUSV, AZG affiliated, or FCI recognized working dog association or recognized breed club for working dogs.

Entry

The AD is to be hosted by a local club. The GSDCA SV/WUSV Programs Office must be notified by completing the GSDCA Application for Club Event form.

Performance documents and score sheets must be ordered from the GSDCA SV/WUSV Programs Office. By submitting their paperwork, the local club agrees that during the summer months the event is only held during the early morning or late afternoon hours. The outside temperatures may not exceed 22 degrees Celsius (approximately 72 degrees Fahrenheit) or 24 degrees Celsius (approximately 75 degrees Fahrenheit) with judge approval.

Participation in the AD is voluntary. If during the course of the test, the dog or the handler is physically injured, neither GSDCA nor the hosting club will be held responsible.

Entry requirements for dogs

The minimum age is 16 months, the maximum age 6 years. A maximum of twenty dogs may be judged per day per judge. If over twenty dogs are entered, a second judge must be commissioned. For safety reasons only one dog per handler is allowed.

All dogs must be registered in an AKC or FCI recognized Breed Book or Performance Register. The dogs must be completely healthy and in good training condition. Sick, not adequately strong dogs, females in heat, pregnant or nursing females are not allowed to participate.

At the start of the test, when called, the handler will report to the officiating judge in a sportsmanlike manner with the dog in the basic position, by giving the judge his name as well as the dog's name. The scorebook must be presented as well. The judge and the trial secretary of the hosting club must verify that each dog is in good condition. Dogs that look tired or make a listless impression must be excluded from participating. The handler must conduct himself in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the event. Willful offenses against the regulations can result in disqualification from the examination. In any case, the decision is made by the judge and is incontestable.

Scoring

No points or grades are awarded, only the rating "pass" or "fail". Only dogs that receive a "pass" will receive the AD title.

Terrain

The test should be conducted on streets or roads of possibly various surfaces, such as asphalted, paved or unpaved streets or roads.

Conducting the Endurance Test

The dogs must run a total of 20 kilometers (approximately 12.5 miles) at an average speed of 12 to 15 kilometers per hour (approximately 7.7 to 9.5 miles per hour).

The Running Exercise

The dog must be kept on leash and move in a normal trot next to the bicycle. Overly fast running is to be avoided. The leash must be adequately long to give the dog the ability to adjust to any changes in speed. Devices used to attach the dog to the bike ("Springer") are permitted. Slight pulling on the leash (forging) is not faulty, however, continuous falling behind (lagging) of the dog is faulty. Upon the completion of 8 kilometers (5 miles), a 15-minute-long break is taken. During this rest period, the judge must examine the dogs for signs of fatigue. Tired dogs must be excused from the remainder of the test.

After the break, 7 more kilometers (approximately 4 ½ miles) must be completed and a 20-minute break is taken. During this break, the dogs must be given the opportunity to move about freely and relaxed but must be kept on leash. Shortly before the rest period is over, the judge must examine the dogs once more for signs of fatigue and sore paws. Overly tired dogs or dogs whose paws are sore must be excused from the remainder of the test.

Following the 2nd break the remainder of the 20km distance must be completed.

Upon completion of the running exercise, a 15-minute break is taken. During this break, the dogs must be given the opportunity to move about freely and relaxed but should be kept on leash. Again, the judge will examine the dogs for signs of fatigue and sore paws. The judge and the trial chairperson/secretary should accompany the dogs, if possible, on a bicycle or follow in a car. The judge will make notes about the condition of the dogs and all deficiencies. It is necessary that a car follows the handlers and the dogs so that dogs that show they are not able to cope with the strain can be transported by car.

Dogs that show more than normal signs of fatigue, that cannot keep up the required speed of 12 km/h and need significantly more time, cannot pass the examination.

Please Note!

The Trial Chairperson/Secretary must pick the meeting place (point of departure) so that all participants have approximately the same distance to travel, if possible. This is done so that no additional strain is inflicted on dogs that have a longer distance to cover. On their way, the handlers must give their dogs adequate opportunity to relieve themselves.