

Regulations for Autumn Test - SOLMS -

from 17. March 2007

I. Purpose of the Test (Zweck der Prüfung)

- (1) The Solms test is a breeding test, an addition to and expansion of the spring breeding test.
- (2) The purpose of the Solms-test, similar to the Derby, is to assess the level of the dog's natural abilities in regards to suitability and future use in versatile hunting and breeding, as well as to determine the parent's breeding value.
- (3) Particular attention is paid in general to the dog's mental stability and temperament.
- (3) The young dog's training for practical use in hunting in the field and water must essentially be completed by this time. The judges must be **particularly careful** to determine **natural abilities**, which are often masked due to the completed training.
- (4) Required for proper execution of the test are: large fields, containing a sufficient number of game birds and rabbits, and a sufficiently large water area with ample edge cover.
- (5) The recognition of the parent's breeding value and that of the dog being tested is facilitated by testing as many littermates as possible.

II. Organization of the Test (Veranstaltung der Prüfung)

§ 1

The Autumn Breeding Test - Solms - may only be held in the autumn. Execution is the responsibility of the clubs.

§ 2

- (1) Admitted to the test are all Deutsch-Kurzhaars born after 30. September of the year before last. They must be registered in the Deutsch-Kurzhaar Breedbook (Zuchtbuch DK). Other pointing dog breeds with FCI-pedigrees are also admitted.
- (2) If more than 3 dogs over the age of 20 months are present, then they should be tested together in one group.

§ 3

- (1) Fundamentally, the testing should be conducted in individual test category groups. However, the clubs may exercise their own discrimination.
- (2) If one judging group tests its designated group dogs in all individual categories, then no more than 6 dogs may be tested in one day.

III. Execution of the Test (Durchführung der Prüfung)

General (Allgemeines)

§ 4

(1) Dogs must be tested individually and thoroughly in all categories. Each dog should be given several opportunities to prove itself. The judge's report (form) must contain all relevant details.

(2) The dogs can be tested in all categories in one group or also separately in the categories of field and water. If they are tested separately, the score for Nose and Obedience is assessed by the field work judges under consideration of the water work judge's evaluation.

The Individual Categories (Prüfungsfächer) § 5

The Solms is divided into these categories:

1. Fieldwork:
Nose
Search
Pointing
Work on winged partridge (pheasant), including retrieving, or: searching and retrieving a freshly shot partridge (pheasant) that was not seen falling by the dog, or retrieving game bird on the drag.
2. Water work:
Blind retrieve from water with dense cover
Search behind the duck in water with dense cover
3. Furred game drag (Hare/rabbit)
4. Manner of retrieving
Hare or rabbit
Duck
Partridge/Pheasant/Pigeon/Duck
5. Cooperation
6. Obedience
7. Desire to work
8. Manner of hunting (gives tongue on track, gives tongue on sight, silent or questionable)

The manner of hunting (gives tongue on track, gives tongue on sight, silent, questionable or dog barks without presence of game (waidlaut)) should be determined, if possible. Giving tongue on track, giving tongue on sight, or silent can only be evaluated when following hare or fox. Shown manner of hunting on other furred game is to be recorded on the score sheet and signed by the test director.

When evaluating the performance in the categories Nose, Obedience and Cooperation the separate judging groups must come to an agreement. In case of doubt, the field work judges tip the scales.

Field work (Feldarbeit)

The main emphasis is the determination of nose quality, sure and fast finding of game, and a fluid, persistent, methodical search. In order to fairly judge the Solms dog's inherited talents, generally advanced maturity and greater experience (as opposed to a Derby dog) must be considered.

Nose (Nase):

(1) The judgement of the quality of the nose is the most important and at the same time the most difficult part of the field test. In general, the nose quality can only be indirectly determined by closely observing a

multitude of signs. Therefore, the judges need great knowledge and experience in order to consider the respective circumstances, such as vegetation, wind conditions, etc. Dogs with a fine nose exhibit a markedly **nose-dominated manner of work**. These dogs "lean" into the wind with their noses, briefly mark game and game bird scents, chew the scent during pointing, find quickly and stay in scent-contact with moving game and are able to produce the game. A sign of a good nose is the more horizontal than vertical head position and could serve as an indication of the quality of the nose.

Search (Suche):

(2) The search should be brisk, roomy, methodical, fluid and persistent but never hectic, erratic, without concentration or vision dominated. **The manner of the search should be determined by the use of the nose and willingness to find game**. The search that is more adapted to the terrain and wind direction is rated higher. The use of a good search pattern, correct turning into the wind, and proper approach of the ground cover are as important as speed adapted to the terrain and vegetation or a fluid, ground covering persistent gait. The style of the search allows valuable conclusions as to the character, temperament, and inner balance of the dog.

Pointing (Vorstehen):

(3) The dog should point or lie in front of tight sitting, **unmoving** game birds until the handler approaches and flushes the game, or until the game breaks out of the cover by itself. The pointing should be expressive. Short marking is not sufficient. Only positive pointing of actual game is rated as pointing. Signs of good pointing include judgement of the distance, independent scent following of moving game and purposeful rounding-up of moving game. Repeated intense pointing without game present is a sign of unsure pointing and must be rated as a fault.

If there are insufficient game birds, pointing of furred game may be rated accordingly.

(4) If possible, a bird should be shot over the dog; or a shot must be fired during the search when the dog is not in contact with game. The purpose of the shot is to prove gunfire tolerance of the dog in the field. The steadiness to shot is not to be evaluated.

(5) The dog should preferably retrieve a freshly shot bird:

a) work on the winged partridge is evaluated as such if the dog works out the partridge's or pheasant's track, finds it, and brings it to the handler.

b) If the opportunity to track and retrieve a winged bird does not exist, the free search and retrieve of a freshly shot bird may be evaluated if the dog did not mark where it fell into cover. It's at the judge's discretion to call up another dog for this work if the currently working dog saw the bird fall.

The handler is shown the approximate location where the partridge (pheasant) fell. The dog must be unleashed and sent to search and retrieve about 40 m from this location.

The dog should search closely in front of the handler under the shotgun, and should demonstrate by its controlled gait and low nose (close to the ground) that it wants to find the game.

The rating of this work is dependent on the way the dog complies with the task.

c) Under circumstances where opportunities for a) or b) are not present, or where the dog failed to find the bird while performing b), the dog is given a **feathered game bird drag** (partridge, pheasant, pigeon or duck).

1) The drag must be laid by a judge, downwind in vegetation with two blunt angles and must be 150 m long. The distance between the individual drags must be at least 100 m at all points. At the end, a preferably freshly shot bird is laid openly on the ground (not covered or in a depression). Then the judge continues far enough in extension of the drag to be able to hide, so the dog will not see him. There he puts down openly on the ground and in front of him the dragged game bird after releasing it from the drag string. He may not prevent the dog from retrieving this bird. The dog is not allowed to see the laying of the drag. The handler may request that the dragged bird be placed at the end of the drag for the dog to retrieve. If the handler chooses this option, he/she must inform the judges prior to the drag work.

Upon the handler's request, drags can be laid with one animal of respective species. In any case, the dragged animal must be freed of the drag string before the dog starts to work.

2) The handler may work the dog on a leash for the first 20 m, then he has to unleash the dog and remain in place. If the dog returns without having found game and does not resume the track of the drag independently, the handler may restart the dog twice. A restart is any kind of influence that the handler may exert over the dog to take up the trail again.

3) Required is willing, quick and independent locating, quick grasping and eager retrieving of the game bird without further handler influence. The drag work is not rated as tracking. It is designed to determine the dog's willingness and enthusiasm for finding and retrieving. The dog is judged on its ability to adapt to the task - whether it wants to search and retrieve and deliver the game bird to its handler at all.

4) The manner of retrieving under conditions - parts

a), b) and c) (how the dog grasps, carries and delivers the game) is scored under "Manner of Retrieving" (Art des Bringens) (see § 9).

5) If the dog is interrupted by unusual circumstances in his work on the drag or while retrieving, the judges may grant him a new drag. In this case, the first performance is not rated.

6) If a dog already performed in retrieving a partridge from the cover, or on the game bird drag, and later brings his handler a winged partridge (pheasant), showing good or very good work, the later, more valuable performance counts.

Water work (Wasserarbeit)

§ 7

The following subjects are tested in this sequence:

Gunfire tolerance, blind retrieve from water with dense cover, search behind duck in water with dense cover, manner of retrieving duck.

If a dog has a previous passing score for the search behind the duck in dense cover, the best score is to be used.

If the dog happens to find a live duck at any point during its water test, this work must be scored for the respective test. In this case, no previous scores are copied and they have no influence on the result of the current test. Such an occurrence must be recorded separately in the general test report.

1. Gunfire Tolerance (Schussfestigkeit)

(a) A dead duck is thrown as far as possible into open water within the dog's sight, and the dog is commanded to retrieve. **A dog that does not enter the water within one minute after being commanded to retrieve may not continue to be tested in water work.**

(b) While the dog swims toward the duck, a shotgun discharge is fired into the water in the direction of the duck. **The dog must now independently retrieve the duck** (without the handler influencing or correcting the dog's mistakes). **If the shot does not hit the water, the procedure has to be repeated**, even if the dog retrieved the duck.

(c) **A dog that fails here cannot continue to be tested in water work.**

(d) If the dog is gunfire sensitive, the degree is to be determined as described in the General Regulations, Appendix 1.

2. Blind Retrieve from Water with Dense Cover

(Verlorensuchen im deckungsreichen Gewässer)

(a) The blind water retrieve with dense cover takes place immediately following the test of gunfire tolerance.

(b) For this purpose, a freshly shot duck is thrown into cover without the dog being able to see either the throw or the duck in the water from the bank. The duck is to be placed in such a way (island, opposite bank, reed area) that the dog must be sent through an area of open water to the cover.

(c) From a location greater than 30 m away from the duck, the handler is given the approximate direction of where the duck lies. The dog **should independently search for the duck** from this point, and must find the duck and **retrieve** it to the handler **independently** (without the handler influencing or correcting the dog's mistakes).

(d) The handler may support and guide his/her dog, but constant influencing or shots or stone throwing reduce the score.

(e) **A dog that does not achieve a minimum rating of "satisfactory" in this subject cannot continue the test in water work.**

(f) **A dog that does not independently retrieve a duck** after finding it for the first time (without the handler influencing or correcting the dog's mistakes) **can-**

not pass the test. In this case also the blind retrieve from dense cover is to be evaluated with "insufficient". As soon as the dog senses the duck, it is considered found.

(g) If the dog happens to find a live duck during this work, then the proceeding is as described in 3. and the performance is evaluated in the subject "Search Behind the Duck in Water with Dense Cover". Should the performance be rated with at least "satisfactory", then the **subject "Blind retrieve from water with dense cover"** is tested, **using the same duck that was originally placed for this dog.**

3. Search Behind the Duck in Water with Dense Cover (Stöbern mit Ente im deckungsreichen Gewässer)

(a) A duck is released into cover without marking a starting spot. **The dog must not see these preparations.**

(b) After the duck has been released, the judges guide the handler to a point at shotgun range from release location or from the duck, and indicate the direction of the duck. Here, the handler commands his dog to retrieve.

(c) The dog **should independently search for the duck.** The handler may support and guide the dog during the work, however constant influencing reduces the score.

(d) As soon as the dog pushes the duck from cover and pursues it on sight, the handler or another designated and authorized person must shoot the duck, without endangering the safety of the dog or people.

(e) **The dog must independently retrieve** the shot duck (without the handler influencing or correcting the dog's mistakes).

(f) The judges should terminate a dog's work as soon as they have come to a conclusive judgement. This also applies if the duck has not been shot in front of the dog or the judges have concluded that the dog does not satisfy the requirements. In the first case, a dead duck is to be thrown into the water circa 30 meters within the dog's sight, which the dog must **retrieve independently** (without the handler influencing or correcting the dog's mistakes).

(g) **A dog that fails to independently retrieve a duck** (without the handler influencing or correcting the dog's mistakes) **that was shot in front of it, or caught independently or was thrown within sight of the dog** after finding it for the first time **cannot pass the test.** In this case, "Blind retrieve in water with dense cover" as well as "Search behind the duck in water with dense cover" are failed. As soon as the dog senses the duck, it is considered found.

4. Retrieving of the Duck (Bringen von Ente)

(a) For the final score, all of the dog's retrieves during water work are taken into account. The performance of the retrieve as an expression of the trained ability, i.e., the grasping, carrying (holding) and delivery, is to be scored under the subject "Manner of Retrieve".

(b) If the dog drops the duck, perhaps to shake, then the maximum score for this retrieve is "good". If, however, the dog initially grasps the shot or thrown duck awkwardly (i.e. at the head, wing, or leg) and subsequently improves the hold on land without shaking and

continues to retrieve, sits down and deliver correctly, the score may only be lessened for the reason of improving the hold if a live duck could have escaped.

(c) The dog may not be faulted for shaking if he keeps the duck firmly in the mouth.

(d) For the evaluation of the retrieve it is important to observe if the dog carries the duck to the handler properly, sits down and delivers correctly. For the final score, **all retrieving** performances of a dog during the water work must be considered.

(e) If a single duck retrieve is scored "poor", "insufficient" or "not tested", the overall score for retrieving the duck can only be "insufficient" or "not tested".

(f) **During the water work the dog must independently retrieve every found or caught duck** (without the handler influencing or correcting the dog's mistakes). Praising the dog or getting the dog's attention while the dog is retrieving shall not be deemed prohibited handler influence if the dog is working correctly at that time.

(g) If **unusual circumstances disturb** the dog's retrieve, it is at the judge's discretion to give the dog a **further opportunity** to retrieve a duck that was placed for the dog or shot in front of it.

Furred game drag (Haarwildschleppe) **§ 8**

(1) The furred game drag is tested with a preferably fresh shot hare or rabbit. A judge lays the drags in open terrain with two blunt angled turns, preferably downwind with a distance of 350 meters. The distance between individual drags must be greater than 100 m. The dragged animal or a fresh one of the same species is placed on the ground at the end of the drag (not covered or in a depression). Then the judge continues far enough in extension of the drag to be able to hide, so the dog will not see him. There he puts down openly on the ground and in front of him the dragged animal after releasing it from the drag string. He may not prevent the dog from retrieving this bird. The dog is not allowed to see the laying of the drag. The handler may request that the dragged animal be placed at the end of the drag for the dog to retrieve. If the handler chooses this option, he/she must inform the judges prior to the drag.

Upon the handler's request, drags can be laid with one animal of respective species. In any case, the dragged animal must be freed of the drag string before the dog starts to work.

(2) The handler may work the first 50 m of the drag on leash, then he has to unleash the dog and remain in place. If the dog returns without having found game and does not resume the track of the drag independently, the handler may restart the dog twice. A restart is any kind of influence that the handler may exert over the dog to take up the trail again.

(3) Required are willing, quick and independent locating, quick grasping and eager retrieving of the furred game without further handler influence. The drag work is not rated as tracking. It is designed to determine the dog's willingness and enthusiasm for finding and retrieving. The dog is judged on its ability to adapt to the task - whether it wants to search and retrieve and deliver the furred game to its handler at all. Regarding

extraordinary circumstances, the rules for the feathered game bird drag (§ 5 5) apply.

(4) The way of performing the retrieve, carrying and delivery are scored under "Manner of Retrieve".

Retrieving (Bringen) **§ 9**

(1) The manner of retrieving is scored by the execution of the retrieve, that is, the learned skill of how the dog grasps, carries and delivers the game.

(2) The dog exhibits the correct grasping and carrying by adjusting the grip to weight and kind of game. Inappropriately strong or weak grip, hold or carrying is faulty. Hard mouth must be noted and must be recorded on the score sheet.

(3) The correct delivery to hand is demonstrated if the dog comes to the handler with the game, sits without a command or after a simple - never loud! - command by the handler and holds the game until the handler has taken hold of it in a calm, never hasty manner and commands the dog to release with the appropriate command.

(4) All three retrieving subjects (partridge/ pheasant/pigeon/duck, duck and furred game) are scored separately. From these primary scores an average score is calculated. If this average is a fraction between two scores, the rounding must be orientated towards the retrieving score for the furred game drag.

Example 1: Average score 3.3, with a score of 2 or 3 for furred game drag, the resulting overall score for "Manner of Retrieving" is 3.

Example 2: Average score 3.3, with a score of 4 for furred game drag, the resulting overall score for "Manner of Retrieving" is 4.

(5) **The dog must have shown performance in each subject.**

(6) Dogs that eat or bury game, as well as extremely hard mouthed dogs that chew or pluck game must be eliminated from further testing.

(7) Similarly, a dog that fails to retrieve any game (feathered game and furred game) after finding it for the first time is also eliminated from the test.

Cooperation (Führigkeit) **§ 10**

Cooperation is an innate predisposition producing useful teamwork between the handler and the dog in all phases of hunting. The manner of cooperation is evident in the willingness of the dog to readily stay in contact with the handler and be manageable and how it is willing to be of service to the handler.

Obedience (Gehorsam) **§ 11**

(1) Obedience differs from cooperation in that it requires a form of direct submission, resulting from upbringing or training. The handler demands it from the dog in a one-way communication.

(2) Obedience without game contact is exhibited by the manageability of the working dog and by the obedience to follow the handler's command willingly and immediately (voice, whistle, or gestures) once it has

noticed and understood it. It also shows in the dog's restraint during other dog's work, thereby showing that he will not disturb his handler or other fellow hunters during a hunt.

(3) Obedience in the presence of game is only required to the degree that the dog does not chase flushed birds. Repeated, long lasting hare chasing is judged as a fault, because it withdraws the dog from testing in the main field subjects on feathered game. If this happens repeatedly, the dog may be eliminated from the test.

(4) Obedience is the expression of efficient and thorough training. It is a prerequisite for any kind of utilization for hunting. The testing of obedience thus is of utmost importance.

Desire to work (Arbeitsfreude)

§ 12

Desire to work is exhibited by the enthusiasm and untiring eagerness with which the dog performs the various tasks. It is determined and scored by close observation throughout the whole test.

Hare Track (Hasenspur)

§ 13

(1) If a dog intentionally or by chance shows at least satisfactory work in tracking an unseen hare or fox, then this is to be recorded on the score sheet.

(2) Very good work in tracking will be marked by the customary Andreas Star (*). This performance, however, does not influence the general evaluation.

(3) The handler cannot request work on a hare track.

(3) The only criterion to be evaluated is the natural ability of willingness to track and track sureness. Shown tongue (Art des Jagens) is to be noted.

IV. Basis of Evaluation (Bewertungsgrundlagen)

§ 14

(1) The evaluation of the performance in the individual subjects is in adherence to § 11 of the "General Regulations" where the evaluation criteria are defined.

(2) If other groups have the opportunity to judge the dog's nose performance (e. g. the water group during the search behind the duck), they should make their judgement available to the field group during the final judge conference. The field group will determine the final evaluation for the category "Nose". Work on the drag may not be included in this evaluation.

(3) Cooperation, obedience and willingness to work are evaluated by all judging groups and averaged in the final judge's conference. In case of fractions, the field group will determine the rounding off of the score.

(4) The score "excellent" (hervorragend) may only be awarded in the natural ability subjects of the field and water work.

(5) A ranking of the dogs within their prize categories will not be conducted.

(6) Dogs that successfully pass a Solms in their first year (breeding year), receive the notation (J) for youth behind their assigned category (e.g. S1 (J)).

§ 15

Following are the minimum grades required for the individual prize classifications.

Minimum requirements (Mindestbedingungen)

	1 st Prize	2 nd Prize	3 rd Prize
1. Fieldwork			
Nose	4	3	2
Search	4	3	2
Pointing	4	3	2
Work on winged partridge/pheasant or blind search and retrieve partridge/pheasant or game bird drag (partridge/pheasant, pigeon, duck)	3	3	2
2. Water work			
Blind water retrieve with dense cover	3	3	2
search behind the duck in water with dense cover	4	3	2
3. Furred Game Drag (hare/rabbit)	3	3	2
4. Manner of Retrieving			
Hare/Rabbit	3	2	2
Duck			
Partridge/Pheasant/Pigeon/Duck			
5. Cooperation	3	3	2
6. Obedience	3	3	2
7. Desire to work	3	3	2

The annual general meeting of the Deutsch-Kurzhaar-Verband approved these regulations on 17. March 2007. They became effective on 1. April 2007.