

Scoring Guidelines

Chase retrieve:

5=Immediate and energetic pursuit and engagement of the towel

3=Lackadaisical pursuit or drops towel after picking it up, shows some distraction from task

1=Slow or no pursuit, does not engage the towel, must be walked up and shown the towel

Hidden Grass:

5=Immediate and energetic pursuit and engagement of the towel

3=Lackadaisical pursuit or drops towel after picking it up, shows some distraction from task

1=Slow or no pursuit, does not engage the towel, must be walked up and shown the towel

Hidden 1:

5=Hits the odor on the 1st or 2nd pass, goes immediately to pot and engages reward

3=Passes the odor several times, handler and tester must take several steps to narrow the search area, shows some distraction from task

1=Shows little or no interest in searching. Has to be shown location. Does not engage reward

Hidden 2:

5=Hits the odor on the 1st or 2nd pass, goes immediately to pot and engages reward

3=Passes the odor several times, handler and tester must take several steps to narrow the search area, shows some distraction from task

1=Shows little or no interest in searching. Has to be shown location. Does not engage reward

Mental possession:

5= Dog's head stays forward on the person hiding the reward towel

3= Dog keeps attention about half the time

1= Dog shows little or no interest in the person hiding the towel

Physical possession:

5= Dog forcefully pulls to keep possession of the towel

3= Mouthy or gives up easily after showing some tug

1= Dog either shows no tug or is never in possession of the towel to test tug

Independent possession:

5= Dog maintains possession of the towel until it is physically taken away

3= Dog carries the towel about half the time

1= Dog shows little or no interest in carrying the towel.

Activity

5= Full energy and activity

3= Dog completes tasks but sits or lays down frequently

1= Dog is listless and not willing to perform (most often impacted by illness or extreme temperatures)

Notes on the Test Process

Chase retrieve- most dogs will chase something they see you throw. This step builds desire for the target object and starts to build an association with odor. A white cotton towel rolled like a retrieve bumper should be easy to see, pick up, carry and tug on.

Hidden Grass- Building from the open retrieve we now see if a dog can pursue something thrown that leaves the dog's field of vision.

Hidden 1- The towel is now hidden from view (only slightly showing for the 3 month test, completely under the pot for 6/9/12). The first time the person hiding remains at the far end of the overturned pots, serving to attract the dog through the scent cone of the towel.

Hidden 2- The person hiding returns, looking neutral/no longer possessing the towel, and stands quietly behind the dog and handler.

Each of these steps builds on the last. CR introduces the scented towel as a fun thing to play with. HG encourages the dog to associate searching for odor with finding the fun towel. The walk over to the pots continues to build the odor=towel=fun association. In H1, the presence of the person at the end of the pots draws the dog through the scent cone and we are looking to see if, on encountering odor, the dog follows it and persists until they get the towel. With H2

we are looking for the dog to *independently* go looking for odor and the accompanying fun towel. Since we do NOT train on the pot test regularly, the only way the dog will know what game we're playing (find odor=towel=fun) is if we've worked through all the steps in order.

Mental possession- Assesses how well the dog focuses on the person hiding the towel on hidden 1 and hidden 2.

Physical possession- Assessed any time the towel must be taken away after performing an exercise (After CR, after HG, before Hidden 1, before hidden 2 and then when the dog has returned to the car). Getting to the next step quickly is not NEARLY as important as giving the dog the chance to show physical and independent possession!

Independent possession- Evaluates what the dog does with the towel anytime between exercises

Activity- General impression of the dog's energy/excitement level.

How it translates practically

Chase retrieve- Search reward object interest. Often tested at procurement with throw in open area, into rooms, and into rooms with barriers and distractions.

Hidden Grass- Broken visual interest, sometimes done by throwing and then turning the dog around, can be performed by throwing reward object into an area cluttered with distractions.

Hidden 1- Task to demonstrate the general idea of an odor emanating from one of many identical hiding areas, luggage, boxes, nine-hole variable, NORT/ORT testing

Hidden 2- Same as Hidden 1 but adds the element of independence

Mental possession- This is tested at procurement in a number of ways. Dog being teased around a corner with the person teasing hiding the object in a room without the dog seeing the hiding. Often tested with attention toward a static reward object (staring at non moving reward for 10-60 seconds).

Independent Possession and Physical Possession- Always used to evaluate the value of the reward to the dog. Relative importance of tug versus carrying varies widely from one agency to another.

Activity- does the dog regulate its energy to best accomplish the task?