

REAL SOCIEDAD CANINA DE ESPAÑA



WORKING TEST REGULATIONS FOR SPANISH WATER DOG

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OBJECTIVES

The principal objective and finality of these Working Rules and Regulations is to assess the qualities of each dog in relation to the natural aptitudes and characteristics of the breed. The purpose of these working tests is to create situations similar to those found naturally in the environment.

By valuing these qualities by means of working trials it will be possible to select the best examples.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TRIALS

The Trials for the Spanish Water Dog will be organized by the Real Sociedad Canina de España (R.S.C.E.). The Asociación del Perro de Agua Español (A.E.P.A.E.) may hold Working Trials, once they have been authorized by R.S.C.E.

The annual calendar of the Trials will be approved at least 3 months prior to the scheduled date of the event. It is hoped that there will be at least one Trial annually.

The date for the event can be modified if it is justified.

The trials can be held in any month of the year as long as they obtain the corresponding permissions from the local council and the Autonomous Region where the trial will be held, together with a Public Liability Insurance.

Dogs not entered and participating in the trial and bitches in season that could distract the competitors will not be allowed, neither will other animals, vehicles or people not duly authorized by the organization.

The participants will follow the instructions of the judges in everything relating to the trial and respect the decision of the judge which is always final.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A WORKING TEST

Dogs wishing to compete should fulfil the following requirements:

1. They should be registered with the R.S.C.E. with L.O.E. or R.R.C. or with another K.C. recognized by the Fédération Cynologique International (F.C.I.)
2. Have obtained the minimum qualification of Apt in the TCAN (Test of Character & Natural Aptitudes)
3. Be at least one year old on the day of the Test.

The handlers of the dogs must be of age or have written permission, written by their parent or guardian to the R.S.C.E.

ENTRIES

The application for entry should be made to the R.S.C.E. at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of the Test.

The entry form should contain the following information: The name of the owner and the handler, the number of the L.O.E. or R.R.C. of the dog, its date of birth, sex, number of the microchip, together with the qualification obtained in the TCAN.

If the handler has any type of disability this must be reflected on the entry form with details of his/her disability and his/her requirements.

The application for entry will only be valid if accompanied by proof of payment sent to the Trial Organizers.

No entry fee will be reimbursed except in the cases contemplated in the Show Regulations of the R.S.C.E.

EXCLUDED DOGS

- Any dog owned by the acting judge or family member, or whose owner has economic ties, is a business partner, or joint partner in any type of business with the judge will not be eligible to participate.
- Any dog which is savage or in advanced stages of gestation will not be eligible to participate.



- Any dog which is trimmed except the typical working cut will not be eligible to participate.
- Any dog with physical or psychic defects which would place other participating dogs and handlers in danger or at risk or prevent the correct functioning of the Test will not be eligible to participate.

VETERINARY SERVICES AND IDENTIFICATION

The owners or handlers should provide proof of the vaccination of their dogs, according to the law, by presentation of their vet Passport or vaccination book.

The veterinarian can check the microchip number of the dog at any moment to ensure that it corresponds with the documentation supplied by the owner. If any anomaly is found, the judges are obliged to make it known to the Organizing Committee.

JUDGES

The judges will be designated according to the Judges Regulations of the R.S.C.E.

The judge has authorization to interrupt or finalize the Test at any time when safety and order is compromised.

The reimbursement of travel expenses shall be the responsibility of the Organizing Committee and shall be made according to the Regulations for Working and Show Judges of the R.S.C.E.

TRAINEE JUDGES

Trainee judges will be allowed to participate in the running of the Test if they have previous authorization from the R.S.C.E.

STEWARDS

The stewards will be designated by the Organizing Committee. They will aid the judges identify the handlers and their dogs, call the handlers and their dogs to participate, maintain the running order and keep of the spectators in order in the área of the Test if it were necessary for a better organization of the Test.

ORDER AND RUNNING OF THE TRIAL

The Organization will hold a draw to decide the order of the participation of the participants. This may be modified if necessary at the discretion of the judge.

The Organization will be responsible for guaranteeing the order and safety of all those concerned in the Test.

All participants will receive a number provided by the Organization.

The stewards or the persons designated by the Organization will be in charge of checking the microchips of the participants, before, during and immediately after each test.

If a handler does not respect the rules & regulations, welfare of the animals or good behaviour he will be excluded from the tests.

HANDLING THE DOGS DURING THE TESTS

The handlers and dogs must be present and ready at the meeting place when required by the judges. Any dog absent when called upon to compete may be disqualified.

There will be no substitution of handlers during the Test, except in exceptional circumstances and with previous authorization from the judge.

During the running of each test the dogs cannot be led on a lead during their participation (except in the first part of the tests) and the handler is not allowed to use any method of coercion or motivation. When they are under the orders of the judge the dog cannot wear any kind of collar.



REASONS FOR GENERAL DISQUALIFICATION DURING THE RUNNING OF THE TESTS

- Failing to obtain qualification of Apt in retrieving in wáter.
- Failing to obtain qualification of Apt in basic obedience.
- Being out of control.
- Bad temperament of the dog.
- Bad behaviour of the handler.
- For whatever serious reason that the judges appreciate before, during or after the realization of all and each one of the tests.

PROTESTS

Complaints can be made for misdemeanors, default or omissions produced during the Tests and can be lodged with the Organizing Committee and should be formulated by the claimant by a brief including proof, if there were any, and sent to the President of the Executive Committee of the Tests before it finishes or to the Social address of the Organizers not more than 8 days after the end of the Tests.

THE WORKING TEST BOOK

A Working Test Book is obligatory for the competing dogs. This can be obtained from the R.S.C.E. and should include the following details:

- Name and address of the owner.
- Name and address of the handler.
- Details of the dog: name, date of birth, L.O.E./R.R.C number, identification, microchip number and sex.
- Qualification mark of TCAN.
- Result of the Test: grade achieved, total number of points and classification achieved.
- Place and date of Test.
- Name and signature of judge.

GRADES OF THE TESTS

The Working Tests for the Spanish Water Dog will have three grades of difficulty (1, 2, 3) The different tests will increase in difficulty with the grades.

- Grade One - Low difficulty
- Grade Two - Medium Difficulty
- Grade Three - High Difficulty

Only one grade can be done in a single weekend.

QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications that can be given to the participating dogs are as follows:

FIRST GRADE

NOT APT (N AP)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained less than 48 points in total

SUFFICIENT (S)

This qualification will be given to a dog that has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 48 and 56 points in total

GOOD (B)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 57 and 65 points in total

VERY GOOD (MB)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 66 and 74 points in total.



EXCELLENT (EXC)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 75 and 80 points in total.

SECOND GRADE

NOT APT (N AP)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks with a total of less than 56 points.

SUFFICIENT (S)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 56 and 61 points in total.

GOOD (B)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 62 and 67 points in total.

VERY GOOD (MB)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 68 and 72 points in total.

EXCELLENT (EXC)

This qualification will be given to a dog which has fulfilled the tasks and obtained between 73 and 80 points in total.

Level 1. To pass a test the dog must obtain 60% of the points available in each task, otherwise they will be eliminated.

Level 2. A dog will pass the test when it has obtained 70% of the points available in each task, otherwise it will be eliminated.

SECTIONS OF THE TEST

The test will be divided into three main parts:

- a. Water tests (Grade 1, Grade 2)
- b. Land Tests (Grade 1, Grade 2)
- c. Pastoral Test (Grade 3)

At the end of each and every test the judges (at their discretion) may add from 0-3 extra points. These points are for overall general impression and can be given in the following manner.

- a. State of concentration of the dog in each test.
- b. Bond with the handler.
- c. Natural movements in the test.
- d. Flotability in tasks in the water .
- e. Accuracy in the execution of the different movements within a test.

WATER TESTS

1. Seek and retrieve in the water
2. Diving.





Dummy for the water tests

RETRIEVING AND SEEKING IN THE WATER

GRADE I: RETRIEVE IN THE WATER (Low difficulty with a maximum of 20 points)

Distance: approximately 20 metres

The execution of the task: The handler and the dog will be situated in a circle with a diameter of about two metres, approximately 2 metres from the water's edge. The dog will be next to the handler with no lead and will remain in a SIT HEEL.

The dummy will be thrown into the water by the judge, who will give the order to start the test with a whistle. The handler will give the command to the dog to enter the water, which it can do with a jump, running or walking. The dog must enter the water and seek the dummy with just one command from the handler and no other stimulus. If after 30 seconds from the whistle the dog has not entered the water it will be given the qualification of "Not Apt".

The dog will retrieve the dummy and immediately return it to the handler in the two metre circle, where he has stayed throughout the task. In grade 1 the dog will place the dummy at the feet, in front of the handler, always within the circle.

The handler cannot encourage the dog in anyway whether in water or out of the water. The handler must remain quiet throughout.

If 1 minute after the whistle the dummy has not been retrieved and placed in the circle at the feet of the handler the qualification will be "Not Apt".

If the weather is inclement with waves, currents or strong winds 15 – 30 seconds can be added to the time at the judges discretion.

The task starts with 20 points and points are subtracted for errors and/or faults that are committed.

PENALTIES

For not starting from a sit heel position at the handlers side	2 points
For entering the water after maximum time limit (30 seconds)	Disqualification
For retaining the dog with hand signals or other signals whilst sitting at the handlers side	5 points
For starting before command (signal from the judge or handler)	2 points
For not obeying the first command to enter the water (2 new orders)	2 points+1 each time
For swimming badly (splashing)	1 point
For Bad flotability	1 point
Encouragement (voice or other stimulus etc)	2 points each time
For arriving at the dummy late once given the command (30 seconds)	3 points
Dropping the dummy in the water (even if it is retrieved) and each time its left in the water	2 points each time
Dropping the dummy on land (even if it is retrieved)	1 point each time
Stopping at the waters edge (even if it arrives within the time limit)	2 points



For not returning the dummy in the circle
Defecate or urinate during the task

Disqualification
2 points

GRADE II – SEEK AND RETRIEVE (BLIND) (medium difficulty with a maximum of 20 points)

Distance: approximately 20 metres

The execution of the task: The handler and his dog will be situated in a circle of about 2 metres in diameter about 2 metres from the water's edge. The dog will be next to the handler with no lead and not be retained in any way in the position of "SIT HEEL".

The dummy will already be in the water (seek and retrieve blind). The judge will give the order to execute the task with a blow of the whistle. On a command from the handler the dog will enter the water, by a jump, walking or running. If after 30 seconds the dog has not initiated the retrieve the qualification will be "Not Apt".

The dog will retrieve the dummy from the water and immediately give it up to the handler within the circle. The dummy has to be returned to the hand of the handler, either from a heel position or sitting in front within the circle, where he must remain throughout.

When the dog is in front of the handler, the handler can give the order of "sit" or "heel".

The handler cannot encourage the dog in anyway whether in or out of the water. The handler must remain quiet throughout. The handler can only give commands to redirect the dog when it is going in the opposite direction to where the dummy is.

In the event of bad weather, waves, currents or high winds 15 - 30 seconds of time can be added at the judges discretion.

The task starts with 20 points and points will be subtracted for errors and/or faults as they are committed.

PENALTIES

For not leaving from a seated position next to the handler	2 points
For entering the water after the maximum time limit (30 seconds)	Disqualification
For retaining the dog with hand signals or other signals whilst sitting at the handlers side	Disqualification
For starting before the command is given (from the judge or the handler)	3 points
For not immediately obeying the command to enter the water (have 2 new attempts)	2 points each time
For swimming badly (splashing)	1 point
For bad flotability	1 point
Encouragement (by voice or other stimulus etc)	2 points each time
For arriving at the object to retrieve late once given the order (30 seconds)	2 points
For dropping the dummy in the water (even if it is retrieved)	3 points each time
For dropping the dummy on land (even if it is retrieved)	2 points each time
For stopping at the waters edge even if he finishes within the time	2 points
For failing to return dummy from a sit in front of the handler or sit heel to handler	3 points
Defecate or urinate during the task	2 points
For failing to return dummy in the circle	Disqualification

In these tasks of retrieving objects in the water, we must try to evaluate:

- Degree of obedience.
- Degree of flotability.
- Degree of impulse in the water (there are some dogs that only push with their front legs)
- Degree of persistence in the seek and retrieve of the object in the water.
- Degree of independence when the dog moves away in the water looking for the object.



DIVING EXERCISE

In this task we will appraise the inbred predisposition of this breed to dive and courage in submerging to retrieve a sunken object. We consider "diving" when three quarters of the dog is submerged. Obedience should be appraised.

GRADE I - DIVING (Low difficulty with a maximum of 20 points)

The task will be executed in clear water or in a swimming pool.

Depth: 50 cms.

The handler throws the dummy into the water when he hears the judge's whistle. When the dummy has sunk, from the water's edge, he orders the dog to retrieve it. He can throw objects in the water to encourage the dog to dive (upto 3 times). The maximum time for the task is 1 minute from the time the judge blows the whistle.

If the task is executed in a swimming pool the dummy can be retrieved and dropped upto three times, each attempt is penalized.

The task will be void if there is not at least one complete immersion.

The task starts with 20 points and will lose them as errors &/or faults are committed.

PENALTIES

If the dog submerges and retrieves on the first or second attempt with no help	20 points
If the dog submerges and retrieves after being helped once	18 points
If the dog submerges and retrieves after being helped twice	16 points
If the dog submerges and retrieves after being helped three times	14 points
If the dog submerges 2 or 3 times but does not retrieve	12 points
If the dog submerges once and does not retrieve	Not Apt
For exceeding the time limit of one minute	Not Apt

GRADE II - DIVING (high difficulty with a maximum of 20 points)

PUNCTUATION ACCORDING TO IMMERSION AND RETRIEVING

For submerging once and not retrieving

Elimination

The task is executed in clear water or in a swimming pool.

Depth: approximately 100 cms

The handler throws the dummy in the water, when he hears the judge's whistle and when the dummy has sunk, he sends the dog to retrieve from the water's edge or a ramp that is not less than 50 cms and not more than 1 metre high. The handler can encourage the dog throwing objects into the water (upto three times). If the task is executed in a swimming pool the dummy can be retrieved and dropped upto three times, each attempt will be penalized.

The maximum time for the task is 1 minute from the time the judge blows his whistle.

This task can be executed with the dog beginning by jumping into the water or by swimming.

PUNCTUATION ACCORDING TO IMMERSION AND RETRIEVE

If the dog submerges and retrieves the first time with no help EXCELLENT	20 points
If the dog submerges and retrieves the second time with no help	19 points
If the dog submerges and retrieves after being helped once	18 points
If the dog submerges and retrieves after being helped twice	17 points
If the dog submerges and retrieves after being helped three times	16 points
If the dog submerges 2 or 3 times but does not retrieve	14 points
If the dog submerges once and does not retrieve	Disqualification



For exceeding the time limit of 1 minute

Disqualification

In Grade II the only dogs obtaining an excellent are those who retrieve at the first attempt with no help. It is considered better for the dog to retrieve by swimming and then submerging rather than retrieving from a running jump.

LAND TESTS

1. Discrimination by scene
2. Obedience
3. Pastoral herding livestock



Dummy used for obedience:
Made of Wood
About 30 cms long
Weight between 450- 600 gr.

1. DISCRIMINATION AND SCENT

GRADE I - DISCRIMINATION OF AN OBJECT (low difficulty- 20 points)

During the exercise the handler will be given an object to handle and then after 5-10 minutes it will be returned to the judge who will handle it with gloves so as not to contaminate the scent.

The dog in a sit heel position with his handler (within a circle of approximately 2 metres) will be sent on an order from the judge to find the personalized object, this will be visible but with other similar objects. The dog must retrieve the object and return it to his handler.

In this first grade the object must be returned to the feet of the handler always within the circle.

PENALTIES

Not sitting to heel correctly	2 points
Retaining the dog with hand signals or any other signal whilst at heel with the handler	5 points
Starting before being given the order	2 points
Repeating the order	1 point
For deviating	2 points for each correction
For dropping the object on the return	2 points
Dallying with the object	2 points
Defecating or urinating during the task	2 points
Failing to return the object to the handler in the circle	Disqualification
Failing to bring the correct object	Disqualification
Failing to return the object	Disqualification

GRADE II - SEEKING AN OBJECT IN A BOX FROM A DISTANCE (medium difficulty máximo 20 points)

This exercise consists of seeking an object. The dog and the handler will remain with their backs towards the boxes whilst the object is hidden in one of the boxes. The object used will be a tennis ball. The Organization will give a tennis ball to each competitor 10 minutes before the start of the exercise.



The judge will hide the tennis ball in one of the five boxes used in the task. The boxes will remain scattered in a radius of not less than 10 metres. The handler with his dog will be situated at a distance of 25 metres from the boxes, with the dog sitting next to his handler. He will be sent to seek and the dog must mark the box where the tennis ball is. It can be marked by barking, scratching or merely sitting by the box. No help can be given to identify the box.

The boxes will be of plastic or something similar, the boxes will be changed as often as the organization sees fit.

The task finishes when the handler lifts his hand to signal that the dog has found the ball.

This task is appraised on the enthusiasm of the dog to seek, the harmony of movement and the use of scent. It must be fast and persistent.

Maximum time allowed 1 minute.

PENALTIES

Failing to beat heel at the start	3 points
Retaining the dog by hand signals or any other signal when he is at heel	Disqualification
Starting before the order of the handler	3 points
Deviating and not looking between the boxes	3 + 1 for each correction
Not fast or persistent	2 points
Defecating or urinating during the test	2 points
Handler marking wrong box	Disqualification
Failing to find the object in the time available (1 minute)	Disqualification

2. OBEDIENCE TESTS

In the obedience test we try to avoid forced rigid work and anything which annuls the happy natural manner of this breed whilst it is working.

GRADE I - BASIC OBEDIENCE ON THE LEAD (Low difficulty maximum 20 points)

Heelwork tracing a U after a signal from the judge	5 points
In a sit stay position	5 points
In a lie stay position	5 points
Recalled from 20-30 metres	5 points

The lead must not be taught during the task.

At the start of the task the handler will walk 40 – 50 steps in a straight line to a line marked on the ground, from this mark he must show a change of pace from quick to slow with a minimum of 20 paces in between each. All the instructions will be marked on the ground for a better functioning of the task and better assessment by the judges.

On arriving at the end an about turn of 180 degrees, without stopping turn right and after approximately 10 paces stop.

Immediately afterwards he will give the command to "sit" and after a signal from the judge will command the dog to "lie". Leaving the dog in this position he will walk away, 30 steps, always with his back towards the dog and without looking or influencing the dog in any way.

At the command from the judge, the handler will recall the dog, who will run happily towards the handler and sit in front of him. The handler may give the order "sit".

During the running of this obedience task hand signals can not be used to accompany the commands and no other body language will be permitted (for example, taking one step forward when the command is given etc), these will be penalized.



PENALTIES

Heelwork together incorrect with the lead taught	5 points
The dog cannot bark or cry during the task	For barking or crying 1 point If it continues 2 points
Accompanying commands with body signals	For each one 2 points
For correcting any position	For each correction 1 point
Incorrect lying position (rises) or repetition of command	For each correction 1 point
Correction of "Lying" position	For each command 1 point
Come at the recall and waste time in return	For each call 1 point
Come at the recall and fail to "sit" at first command	For each command 1 point

GRADE II - BASIC OBEDIENCE WITHOUT LEAD AND ON THE A FRAME (medium difficulty 20 points)

The handler with the dog at his heel without lead will walk 10 metres towards the A Frame. 3 metres from the A Frame he will give the command to halt, and "sit/lie". The handler will then place the official dummy 2 metres at the other side of the A Frame, and return to his position next to his dog. At a signal from the judge he will give the command to fetch the dummy, climbing the A Frame and returning the same way with the dummy. He will return the dummy to the hands of the handler from a "sit" in front of the handler and then return to "sit" at heel. The handler is allowed to indicate the "sit" in front and at heel.

During this task it is not permissible to give hand signals or body signals to accompany the commands (for example taking a step forward when the command is given) these will be penalized.

PENALTIES

For not walking to heel correctly	3 points
For barking or whining during the task	1 point If it continues 2 points
For using any other signals with the command	3 points each time
For not sitting or lying at the command from the handler	each repetition order 2 points
If dog leaves position	3 points
Failing to start from "sit" at handlers side	4 points
Delaying in going for dummy	NOT VALID
Failing to climb the A Frame (Slips on climbing) allowed 1 more try	2 points
For not jumping A Frame and going round it	DISQUALIFIED
For not climbing the A Frame to collect the dummy (2 tries, slips etc)	DISQUALIFIED
For returning without dummy	DISQUALIFIED
Delaying in returning dummy	DISQUALIFIED
Not returning the dummy correctly	DISQUALIFIED
Defecating or urinating during the task	DISQUALIFIED

3. PASTORAL TASKS - HERDING GOATS - 40 points

Because of the development of this discipline in the history of the Spanish Water Dog, the test with Livestock may be done independantly of the others. A dog may do this test (considered grade III) without detriment to participating in the land and water tests before or after.

This feigns what has been developing in the fields of Spain and particularly in Andalucia, over the years.

These tasks, contrary to those of other foreign pastoral breeds, have been explained by goatherds, who during decades, have used the inherent natural instincts of the Spanish Water Dog in a useful and practical manner.

The test has 3 phases:

- Through the gate (Take out the goats in 2 groups) Penalize 1 point for each time it is repeated.
- Maintain the line and drive the goats – 2 point penalization for every goat that crosses the line.
- Put in the pen - 2 points of penalization for every goat that remains outside the pen.



- a. Go through the gate: This consists in driving the livestock in an orderly manner to leave the pen through the gate.
- b. Maintain the line and drive the livestock. This is one of the most important and useful jobs for the goatherd. This consists of the dog accompanying the goatherd at the rear of the herd (or the handler at the front and the dog at the rear). The arable land in Spain has been divided into small and large tracts of land separated by boundaries and the livestock are always driven along an imaginary line which exists between the herd and the crops. The dogs are always heedful of the handlers when the goats threaten to cross this imaginary line which must exist between them and the crops.
This method is also used to drive the livestock along the edge of a railway line, making sure that no animal crosses the line, or to cross a road or just move the animals from one place to another.
- c. Put in a pen: As the name indicates this is to drive the animales into their pen at the end of a days work.

DISCRIPTION OF THE TEST (40 points)

Send the dog to herd the dogs to pass through the gate in an orderly manner . The handler will open and shut the gate and the animals will leave in two groups without too much pushing and shoving. The handler will send the dog to push (to feign going through the gate), at other times the dog will remain quiet.

After, whilst the dog is accompanied by the handler, an imaginary line is traced (that is similar to a track in the country) which the animals cannot go over (simulating maintaining the line)

Lastly at the end of this track where the dog has been maintaining the line, drive the herd (at the command of the handler) into another pen which has been prepared at the end of the track .This is to feign putting the animals in their pen at the end of a days work.

PENALTIES

Taking the animals through the gate	For every repetition 1 point
Maintain the line and drive the herd	For every goat that crosses the line 2points
Put in the pen	For every goat that remains out of the pen 2 points

A dog will be apt if it obtains 60% of the 40 points

Classification

Not Apt	Less than 24 points
Apt	24 – 27 points
Good	28 – 31 points
Very Good	32 – 35 points
Excellent	36 – 40 points

0 - 5 Points can be added to this punctuation by the judges on the general impression of the work of the dog.

Important: for anything not covered in these rules and regulations, the Regulations from R.S.C.E. will be applied

