



UNITED BLOOD TRACKERS, INC.

As of 03/11/2014

Introduction. As we train and work with our dogs, we are constantly evaluating our own performances. Because handlers usually work alone with their dogs, it can be difficult for a handler to know how a dog is progressing in its training or what its level of expertise is. The difficulty of a track can vary depending on a number of factors, including the age of the track, distance and amount of blood used. These tests, – UBT I, UBT II, UBT III - provide a standardized guide for assessing proficiency.

* The Aptitude Assessment (AA), is an evaluation for puppies, or dogs new to tracking. It may be useful in helping a handler determine if a dog has a future in tracking wounded game. Certificates will NOT be issued for a successful Aptitude Assessment.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. As tests are based on the tracking team's potential for recovering wounded game with hunters, the demonstration of acceptable behavior for this task by both the dog and the handler will be part of the assessment. In other words, the behavior of the tracking dog with people (the hunter, his family, and friends) and other dogs or animals, as well as the conduct of the handler, will be considered as part of the test.
- B. The handler is expected to lead the search, and may give directions to the gallery as they would to the hunter and friends during a natural search. In the same manner, the handler should take charge of the "find" at the end of the search and avert any situation that could occur with an overly possessive dog.
- C. Tests will be performed on lead. The handler must be an appropriate distance behind the dog to allow the judge or evaluator to assess with confidence that the handler is not guiding the dog.
- D. Tests *may* be performed off lead, in those states where off-lead tracking is allowed. Off lead evaluations will not be performed in states with a leashed tracking dog requirement, even if the dog is from an off lead state - the laws of the state where the evaluation is being conducted will always take precedence. Judges must take extra care in evaluating dogs off lead, and no exceptions will be made to the following:
 - a. The dog **must** be observed by the judge as positively following the track. Dogs that are unable to be sufficiently observed by the judge due to speed, ranging out of sight, or other circumstances, will not be passed even if they find the deer part at the end of the trail.
 - b. The handler **must** be observed by the judge as being a useful part of the tracking team.
 - c. The team **must** demonstrate acceptable behavior as noted in "A" above.
- E. Lines may be laid in any type of terrain in which natural tracking occurs. While the handler should function as an integral part of the tracking team, the dog must lead the handler through the track, rather than the handler guiding the dog. Judges should be sure of this when snow or the terrain allows the track to be seen by the handler. To the best of the tracklayer's ability, the handler should not know where the line is during the test (blind track).
- F. An apprentice, assistant, or judge may lay the UBT-I or UBT -II lines to be evaluated by the same or different judge, if they subsequently serve as the "track expert" and/or provide manual or electronic mapping. To appropriately evaluate the UBT-III track, judges should lay their own lines and manually or electronically mark challenges, as necessary.
- G. The AA Evaluation will be laid with a deer part drag. All tests will be laid with 8 ounces of blood, intermittently applied by any method, or tracking shoes and 3 ounces of blood, at the handler's choosing.
- H. The test may be terminated when the performance can no longer be considered successful.
- I. A suitable deer part will be placed at the end of the trail.
- J. Judges must be approved by the UBT Board of Directors.
- K. All tests may be conducted by one judge.
- L. Tests may be conducted by judges at events or individual evaluations may be arranged at the discretion, convenience and availability of the judge. UBT may assess fees, as determined by the Board of Directors, for testing. Additional fees may apply to individual evaluations, at the judge's discretion, for expenses.
- M. Handlers will be provided with a card for recording evaluations on the day of the test. This card may be used as a record of the test until a certificate is issued. Certificates will be issued for successful completion of UBT I, UBT II and UBT III tests. Upon successful evaluation of the UBT-II by a judge and a written report to the UBT Director of Testing documenting the recovery of a wounded deer which

required the use of the tracking dog, a Certificate of Usefulness will be issued. If the evaluation was conducted to fulfill a State testing or certification requirement, additional documentation can be provided, upon request of the handler.

- N. Handlers assume all liability for participation in UBT evaluations.
- O. There is no limit to the number of times a test may be taken.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- A. All breeds or combination of breeds of dogs are eligible to be evaluated.
- B. There is no age requirement for dogs to be evaluated.
- C. Bitches in season will not be allowed to interfere with other dogs being evaluated.
- D. A dog is not eligible to be entered under any judge that has bred, owned, boarded, trained, or handled the dog within 12 months prior to the date of the test.

3. PASS/FAIL

In addition to the General Provisions (above), the dog is expected to positively follow the track and indicate the deer part at the end of the trail. To pass a test, the judge must affirmatively answer the question, "Would you recommend this tracking team to your family or friends if they needed help in finding a wounded deer?"

EVALUATION	UBT – AA
PURPOSE	Aptitude assessment.
LENGTH	About 150 yards.
AGE	At least ½ hour.
OBSTACLES	One turn.
PREPARATION AND EXECUTION	A deer part is dragged along the course of the track. The handler will be shown the start and direction of the track.

TEST LEVEL 1	UBT – I
PURPOSE	The UBT-I demonstrates the basic skills necessary to track wounded game by assessing the ability of the handler/dog team to follow an artificial blood trail.
LENGTH	About ¼ mile (400-500 yards).
AGE	At least 2 hours.
OBSTACLES	Two approximately 90 degree turns. One wound bed. Wound beds will not be within 10 yards of a turn. Wound beds will be prepared with hair and an additional amount of blood and be clearly identifiable as different from the rest of the track.
PREPARATION AND EXECUTION	Approximately 8 ounces of blood, or 3 ounces of blood with the use of tracking shoes, will be used over the course of the track. The handler will be shown the start and direction of the track.

TEST LEVEL 2	UBT – II
PURPOSE	The UBT-II demonstrates more advanced skills necessary to track wounded game by assessing the ability of the handler/dog team to follow an artificial blood trail under more demanding conditions.
LENGTH	About ½ mile (800-900 yards).
AGE	At least 8 hours.
OBSTACLES	Three approximately 90 degree turns. Two wound beds. Wound beds will not be within 10 yards of a turn. Wound beds will be prepared with hair and an additional amount of blood and be clearly identifiable as different from the rest of the track.
PREREQUISITE	Successful completion of the UBT-I may be required, at the judge’s discretion.
PREPARATION AND EXECUTION	Approximately 8 ounces of blood, or 3 ounces of blood with the use of tracking shoes, will be used over the course of the track. The handler will be shown the start and direction of the track.

LEVEL 3	UBT – III
PURPOSE	The UBT-III demonstrates the ability to resolve situations often encountered on natural tracks. The test is designed to be both challenging and fun. Each test is likely to be unique, and handling teams may wish to take the test on multiple occasions.
LENGTH	About ½ mile (800 -1000 yards). The team’s solution to the Directional Challenge may have an impact on the distance traveled.
AGE	At least 4 hours. The emphasis of this test is the team’s ability to resolve challenging situations, not on tracking cold trails.
OBSTACLES	<p>Tracks may have 3-5 turns or arcs of any degree in addition to three of the challenges listed below.</p> <p>In addition, there will be 5 sign articles on the track. Examples of sign include bone fragment, hide, hair, blood on a broken branch, wound bed, etc. and will be indicated with a recoverable marker. The handler will pick up and return with any markers they encounter. A designation will be made on certificates issued to handling teams returning 3 or more articles.</p> <p>Judges will select one obstacle from each of the following categories (total of three), based on test site accommodations:</p> <p><u>Directional Challenges (select one):</u> star ★, circle ○ or spiral configuration © with random exit, loop with continuation ℓ, weaving up and down three or more standing corn or pine rows, back track or hairpin turn of 20 yards or more. Other challenging and realistic configurations may be used at the judge’s discretion.</p> <p><u>Surface Challenges (select one):</u> track will cross or follow - water (less than knee deep for handler), very rocky terrain, paved or gravel road, paved driveway or parking area, or at least 10 yards on - bare or plowed ground, marsh/wetland or mud. Other challenging and realistic surfaces may be used at the judge’s discretion.</p> <p><u>Distracting Challenges (select one):</u> Dead animal (deer part, road kill, etc.) or live animal (horse, goat, etc.) dragged/walked across the track after it has been laid, dog walked 25 yards out and back at the start of the track simulating another dog having been with hunter, stop and wait a minimum of 5 minutes at any point on the track at the judge’s command simulating waiting for permission to cross property lines then resume tracking, car horn honking nearby periodically for at least 3 minutes, handler leaves track by 10 yards and waits two minutes at the judge’s command simulating injury or equipment adjustment then regains line and resumes tracking, or dead animal or gut pile within 3 feet of track. Other realistic distractions that a tracking team might find in the area of the test that are legal and not dangerous to the team may be used.</p>
PREREQUISITE	Successful completion of the UBT-II may be required, at the judge’s discretion.
PREPARATION AND EXECUTION	Approximately 8 ounces of blood without the use of tracking shoes, or 3 ounces of blood with the use of tracking shoes, will be used over the course of the track. The handler will be shown the start, and given the general direction of the track.