

## Stake Marshal's Responsibilities, Day of the Test

The Stake Marshal is a key volunteer. He/she serves as the interface between the Judges and all the other Hunt Test officials, workers, and entrants. The Stake Marshal should be dressed in camouflage or dark attire.

Stake Marshals should know basic rules and requirements for their stake. (Junior, Senior, Master, WC/WCX). It's a good idea to read the rule book a week or so before the test. For example, no training is allowed on the test grounds; no electric, pinch, or choke collars are allowed on dogs on the test grounds. No dogs can run with bandages without committee approval. Stake marshal should bring this to attention of chairman. Stake Marshals should report to the Chairman any problems that arise, such as misconduct or dog fight.

Ideally, the Stake Marshal will have been present at the prior day's set up, walking the test grounds with the Judges, and jotting down their directions (including what equipment they'd like, and where they want marks set up). Otherwise, the Stake Marshal should have arranged for someone else who is going to present at the set up of the test to take down the pertinent information. Usually, this is the Chief Marshal of the event.

On the morning of the test, the Stake Marshal should arrive at least an hour before the start of the test. He/she collects the equipment for the stake from the Equipment steward (radio, popper ammo, shotguns for poppers, ear protectors, bird bags, handlers' shotguns, decoys, blinds - and whatever else the Judges may have specified for the first series.)

Double check with the Game Steward to make sure birds are being delivered to the area where the stake is being run.

The Stake Marshal also collects the Judges' Books, copies of the catalog, and Marshal's clipboard from the Test Secretary if they have not already been picked up by the Judges (Some judges like to get their own book the day before). Check with the Test Secretary to determine if there have been any last minute scratches.

Along with the Chief Marshal, locate and organize stake workers to set up the first series, under the direction of the judges. The Stake Marshal should stick close to the judges to get any changes/additions to their equipment needs, make sure there are sufficient workers to set up the line and the areas of the marks (for example, blinds) as directed by the judges. If anything is needed, radio the appropriate person (such as the Equipment Steward).

Locate and alert the test dog and handler.

Arrange to have holding blinds set up - the number and location will depend on the area of the test. If they have not given directions on this, ask the judges if they have any preference as to the location of the holding blinds and the approach of the handlers.

While the test is being set up, an Assistant Marshal can be checking handlers in, and keeping them back and out of the way of the Judges.

When the Judges are ready, they will ask for the handlers to the line for the briefing. Your goal should be to have the test set up and ready so that the briefing is called ten minutes before the scheduled test starting time. The Marshal calls the handlers to the line. No dogs - except the test dog - should be in the area. As an exception, some experienced handlers who are running in the first few numbers may opt to skip the Judges' briefing and get their dog set up in a holding blind. This is permitted. At this time, the Marshal should make certain that the test dog and handler are present and ready to run.

After the Judges' briefing and questions, the Judges will call for the test dog.

Once the test dog has run, the Marshal and Assistant Marshal should get the first group of dogs ready to run. The first handler should be given reasonable time to collect his/her dog, and the second, third and fourth handlers, as a minimum, should be getting ready and placing themselves in the appropriate holding blinds.

After the start of the test, every effort should be made to keep the handlers coming in catalog order, and with no delays between dogs. If there is a need to run out of catalog order, make sure all affected handlers understand why. You'll need to be flexible, since some handlers may be running dogs in different stakes. Master stake should run in order to the extent possible. If the handler is needed to run in Master, then Marshals at the Junior and Senior Stakes should adjust running order to accommodate.

Once a handler is in a holding blind, according to AKC Regulations, he/she cannot be removed from that blind to let another handler run first!

As the stake progresses, the Judge may have directions, such as when to re-bird, or to make an adjustment in a throwers technique. Be alert to anything the judge needs done that affects the line, the running order, or a need for equipment. Also be attentive to the Judge's need for refreshment. Hospitality will have provided a small cooler for drinks. If the Judges need anything special, relay the need via radio to the Hospitality at Headquarters.

Marshals also control the gallery. The Judges will direct where the gallery can observe the test. The Marshal politely reminds anyone who strays out of the permitted area. The Marshal will also remind the gallery if it gets too noisy while a dog is setting up to run. The Marshal will also be alert for distractions (people wearing bright white clothing who are in the sight line of a dog being handled, for example).

If there is a need to change out workers, let the Judge know so the transition can be done smoothly and with the Judges' permission.

If any handler has a special need or request, it must come to the Marshal, who will relay it to the judge. In no case is a handler permitted to approach the Judges without having their permission, granted via the Marshal.

At the end of the first series, organize the workers to disassemble the set up/equipment and prepare to move to the next series. Repeat the set up for the second (and all subsequent series).

Also at the end of the first series (and subsequent series), the Judges will decide on their "call backs," the dogs which will be invited to participate in the next series. The Stake Marshal will get the list of these call backs, assemble the handlers to hear "Call Backs," and read the list of numbers aloud. If there is any question about a dog being called back or not, the Marshal, not the handler, relays the message to the Judges, double checks the number involved, and notifies the handler of the Judges' response.

Handlers do not have a "right" to challenge the Judges' decision. Usually, most Judges are willing to chat with a handler after the Test, but that is the Judges' call. After the test, a handler is allowed to see the scores his/her dog earned, but isn't allowed to question the Judges' decisions.

At the close of the test, clear the site and get the equipment back to the headquarters location. Double check to make certain all popper guns, ammo, blinds, and other equipment is accounted for.

At the end of the test, the Judges will make their decisions regarding dogs that have Qualified for a leg. They may or may not ask you to add up scores. Usually, Judges' retire alone to have their discussions, coordinate their decisions, and end up giving you a list of numbers for the Qualifiers. Make sure you can read all the numbers with no question.

The Judges will give you back the Judges' Books. These have to be turned in to the Test Secretary. Find the Test Secretary, and the two of you will mark the official AKC copy of the catalog, indicating those dogs that have qualified and those that have not. You must then find your judges and have them sign the official copy (we ask them to sign two - one for AKC and one for the Club records). Return the signed catalogs immediately to the Test Secretary.

The Test Chairman usually officiates at the Ribbon Ceremony. The Stake Marshal usually reads the name of the dogs and handlers who qualify, after the Judges have been asked to say a few words and have been given their gifts. Someone else usually helps by having the rosettes and bird bands ready to hand to the qualifiers.

If there is ever any question, ask - somebody will know the answer!

Stake Marshal's Responsibilities, After the Test

Make certain the Chief Marshal knows the name of any worker volunteer who wasn't already on the list.

Update this Job Description to add anything important that was missing or should be clarified.