

Regulations for the Spring Test - DERBY -

March 17, 2007

I. Purpose of the Test (Zweck der Prüfung)

(1) The Derby is a breed test along with a natural ability test. Its purpose is to determine the young dog's natural abilities in the most important field categories and to assess the breeding values of the young dog's parents.

(2) This test serves its purpose best when on the one hand the training and preparation of the young dog are sufficiently advanced that its natural abilities have been developed and can be evaluated, but on the other hand, the handler's influence does not overly cover or mask the young dog's natural ability. From past experience, testing during the first spring, best shows the dog's natural abilities regarding the acuity of nose, finding ability, a smart search with the purpose of finding game, as well as pointing and relocating feathered game.

(3) The Derby training will be most successful if the young dog's wild passion for hare and tracks has been sufficiently restrained during winter and early spring, so that his attention can be focused on game birds when they start pairing in spring before nesting. Therefore, the Derby does not require work on the hare's track. However, upon occasion shown manner of hunting and very good work on a hare track are to be documented.

(4) Required for proper execution of the test are: large fields, that contain a sufficient number of game birds.

(5) The parents' breeding values are easier to recognize by testing as many littermates as possible.

(6) Clubs and judges must be equally concerned with setting high, but reasonable standards for the young dog's work in order to ensure the significance of the awarded Derby prizes and that the Spring Breeding Test - Derby - remains a valuable breeding instrument.

II. Organization of the Test (Veranstaltung der Prüfung)

§ 1

The Spring Breeding Test - Derby - may only be held in the spring. 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 Breed book (Zuchtbuch DK).

Other pointing dog breeds with FCI pedigrees may also be admitted.

(2) If more than 3 dogs over the age of 15 months are present, they should be tested together in one group.

§ 3

(1) No more than 6 dogs should be tested by one judges' group in one day.

(2) The test director may grant an exception of up to 8 dogs if the test fields have a very good game bird population.

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) Afterwards, the dogs selected by the judges may be tested in pairs, in order to determine under the most equal circumstances possible, which dog knows best how to use his nose and therefore finds more game faster. The distance between the two dogs is not to be so wide-ranged that the judging group would have to split up.

The Individual Categories (Prüfungsfächer) § 5

The main emphasis of the Spring Breeding Test - Derby- is the determination of nose quality, how fluid, persistent, and systematic the search is, how quickly game is found, the steadiness of pointing, and the manner of cooperation. Also, the assessment of the dog's mental stability, temperament, and maturity is very important.

The following will be tested:

Nose
Search
Pointing
Cooperation

The following will be observed and rated:

Desire to work
Obedience

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 natural abilities of the Derby dog, it is essential to consider the youth and lack of experience of the dog as well as any obvious beneficial or detrimental handler influence.

Nose: (Nase)

(1) The judgement of the quality of 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 scent, chew the scent during pointing, find quickly, scent game from a long distance, 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 that 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 to 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. Only positive pointing of actual game is rated as pointing. Signs of very good pointing are firm intense pointing as well as independent scent following 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

Cooperation: (Führigkeit)

(4) The manner of cooperation is evident in the willingness of the dog to readily stay in contact with the handler and to be of service to the handler.

Obedience and Desire to work:

(Arbeitsfreude und Gehorsam)

(5) The desire to work and the obedience of a dog must be determined by careful observation during the entire test and must be considered when using discretionary freedom in assigning the score.

Obedience: (Gehorsam)

(6) 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.

At the Derby, the required obedience entails that the dog responds willingly to the handler's command or whistle, returns to the handler when called, and can easily be leashed, as long as it is not currently distracted by presence of game or scent.

Desire to work: (Arbeitsfreude:)

(7) The desire to work is demonstrated in the ambition and enthusiasm with which the dog performs the required tasks.

Evaluation of Faults and Gunfire Tolerance:

(Feststellung von Fehlern und Schussfestigkeit)

(1) The following is considered a fault:

1. Intentional avoidance of game (blinking).
2. Repeated, convincing point without game present.
3. Flushing of feathered game without prior marking, or overrunning game, if both are caused by insufficient nose quality.
4. Repeated, long lasting rabbit chasing, whereby the dog withdraws itself from the testing procedure in the main categories of field work on game birds.
5. Flushing feathered game after having marked the scent from afar due to incomplete Derby training. This can often be used to evaluate nose quality.

2) To determine possible gun-shyness or gun-sensitivity, at least 2 shotgun discharges must be fired during each dog's search, within at least 20 seconds of each other, from a distance not exceeding shotgun range. § 11, Number 5, 7 and 8 of the General Regulations must be observed.

§ 6

Rabbit Track: (Hasenspur)

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

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

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

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

IV. Prize Assignment (Preiszuteilung)

§7

(1) A Prize I, II and III will be awarded.

(2) In order to qualify for a Prize I, the dog's performance in the categories of Nose, Search and Pointing must be rated as "very good" and in the category of co-operation as "good". For a Prize II all performances must have been at least "good" and for a Prize III at least satisfactory.

Hence, the following minimum scores are required in each prize category

Test Categories	Performance Factors		
	Prize I	Prize II	Prize III
Nose	4	3	2
Search	4	3	2
Pointing	4	3	2
Co-operation	3	3	2

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

(4) Dogs that successfully pass a Derby in their first year (breeding year), receive the notation (J) for youth behind their assigned category (e.g. D1 (J)).

The annual general meeting of the Deutsch-Kurzhaar-Verband approved these regulations on 17. March 2007.

They became effective on 1. April 2007.