

Revisions/Corrections to the 2006 Edition of the VZPO

From emails of 9/27/06 and 10/03/06 to all judges:

As you might expect, the majority of the judges' seminar at this year's Armbruster was spent discussing the new VZPO. The seminar was conducted by Wolf Schmidt-Körby, with substantial contributions from Ulrich Augstein, Obmann für den Prüfungswesen of the JGHV, who attended the seminar and judged in Water Group 1 at the Armbruster. I would ask each of you to note the following changes to your test regulations. (We now have new regulations - the yellow book.)

Revisions/corrections:

- On page 21, §36(1)(b) should be revised by striking the phrase "influence or" in the parenthetical beginning on line 4. With the revision, the sentence should now read "The dog must retrieve the duck independently (without correction of the dog's mistakes by the handler)."
- On page 22, §36(2)(c) should be revised by striking the phrase "influence or" in the parenthetical beginning on line 5. With the revision, the sentence should now read "The dog is supposed to start from this spot, search for the duck independently, he must find it and must retrieve this duck independently (without any correction of the dog's mistakes by the handler)."
- §36(2)(f) on this page should also be revised by deleting the phrase "influence or" in the parenthetical beginning in line 2. With the revision, the sentence should read "A dog cannot pass the test if it does not retrieve the duck independently (without any correction of the dog's mistakes by the handler) and immediately upon finding it."
- Also on page 22, the reference to §36 in paragraph (g) should be changed to §37.
- On page 23, §37(1)(f) should be revised by replacing the word "shall" in line 5 with the word "must" and by deleting the phrase "influence or" in the parenthetical (last line of paragraph). As revised, this paragraph now reads as follows: "(f) The judges should terminate the dog's work as soon as they have arrived at a conclusive judgment. This applies also to situations in which the duck was not shot before the dog or the judges concluded that the dog does not satisfy the requirements. In the first case, a dead duck must be thrown within sight of the dog into the water some 30 meters in front of the dog, which the dog must retrieve independently (without any correction of the dog's mistakes by the handler)."
- Note: if a duck is to be thrown, it is to be thrown while the dog is working. If you have asked the handler to call his dog in, the duck can be thrown to the dog as it is swimming in. If the dog is working the cover along the shore, it can be thrown at that time - into the water. The regulations require that the duck be seen by the dog, so be sure to get its attention prior to tossing the duck.
- Also on page 23, §37(1)(g) should be revised by deleting the phrase "influence or" in the parenthetical beginning on line 3. As revised, the sentence reads "A dog that fails to independently retrieve a duck which was shot in front of it, or which it caught independently or which was thrown within sight of the dog (without any correction of the dog's mistakes by the handler) cannot pass the test."
- On page 25, §38(2)(b)(6) should be revised by deleting the phrase "influence or" in the parenthetical beginning on line 4. As revised the sentence reads "The dog must independently retrieve the found game (without any correction of the dog's mistakes by the handler)."
- On page 26, §38(2)(c)(13) should be revised by deleting the phrase "influence or" in the parenthetical beginning on line 3. As revised the sentence reads "He must independently retrieve the game (without any correction of the dog's mistakes by the handler)."

Other lessons to be applied:

I had the benefit of judging both days with Herr Augstein and during that time tried to clear up as many uncertainties as I was aware of. Here are several things I took away from the experience:

1. Handlers don't need to (and shouldn't) stand like statues while waiting for their dog to deliver game. A handler may move to his dog and may softly praise his dog as it is nearing the end of a retrieve. He can command the dog to sit and to deliver. As Herr Augstein said, "Geoff, we are hunting. We are not in a circus." Let's be real about moving to the dog, however. Clearly, it must be within reason. You can't go halfway around the pond. As judges, you should decide prior to the test what will be considered within reason and communicate it to the handlers.
2. A stone throw in either the blind retrieve or the search behind the duck automatically lowers the score a predicate.
3. The work in the fox over the obstacle results in a single score for that event. The manner of retrieve for the fox over the obstacle is factored into the overall fox over the obstacle score. The fox drag and manner of retrieve on the fox drag are scored separately. The dog must complete either the fox drag or the fox over the obstacle to pass the test. If he fails the fox drag, he also fails the manner of retrieve, so he must achieve a minimum of 2 in the fox over the obstacle to pass the test.

From email of 3/3/07 to all judges:

The sentence reading "Each individual retrieve subject must be scored with at least a "deficient" (1 point)." should be deleted from Section 40, subsection 5. Also, each individual duck retrieve must be scored 3 or higher for the dog to receive a passing score. I confirmed this with Uli Augstein this morning. So, to sum it up, a dog must receive a score of 3 or better on all 5 retrieves (hare, duck (3) and feathered game) in order to pass.

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