



Water Test Regulations

2022

These tests have been accepted by the Leonberger Club of Great Britain (LCGB) for all certified water tests and will come into effect on 1st January 2022

These regulations replace all previous versions and are the only standard against which all LCGB tests will be judged.

It is the intention of the LCGB to revise these tests every four years. These tests will remain in effect in their present format until at least 31 December 2025.

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INTRODUCTION

The Leonberger Club of Great Britain (LCGB) has accepted these Water Test Regulations. They will replace all previous Water Test Regulations, and are the only standard that all LCGB Water Tests will be judged against. All Tests must be organised and managed by an LCGB Working Group.

These Regulations will be open to revision on a 4 yearly cycle, and it is the intention to revise them towards the end of 2025.

The Leonberger is a member of the Working Group and, without wanting to put anyone in danger, their owners may wish to demonstrate their dog's working capability in the water. This set of exercises, which will test the dog at 5 levels, has been devised in order to provide a safe and consistent method of proving the dog's capabilities in a non-competitive environment. Owners do not have to train only to these exercises or even for the tests. The tests have been designed to encourage the dog and owner to work together as a team.

The tests, which are extensions to training, and not an end in themselves, are generally based on the building block principle. Skills learnt by owner and dog for the lower levels are repeated and refined or modified in higher level tests. Two examples of this building block approach are:-

Approaching a boat correctly is necessary for Section A, Exercise 1, but is also used in all subsequent sections;

The complexities of retrieving are gradually built over different distances and a variety of objects so the dog will eventually carry out a directed tow/retrieve of a person in Section E, Exercise 2.

It must be understood that it is necessary to master the lower levels first in order to proceed to the higher levels. If a problem arises with a certain exercise or part of it, then there will be a firm foundation to fall back on; if training is carried out inconsistently then a problem cannot be dealt with systematically. Thus dogs must pass each lower section before being permitted to attempt the next highest section, i.e. passing A & B before entering for C. It must be borne in mind that the exercises actually test the owner and dog partnership, not just the capabilities of the dog.

On a test day there will be two Judges and it is their desire for all the dogs to pass. Entrants, at all levels, may ask them questions throughout the test if they are unsure about the interpretation of the regulations or permitted actions. Judges may *volunteer* some advice to help entrants and their dogs during the first three test levels (A, B & C).

To guide entrants, a breakdown of the available points is shown within the exercises. The Judges will be using a scoring system for marking each performance. These marks are purely for their use and will not be divulged to entrants. The published results will only show whether the required standard was reached. The dog and owner must reach the required standard in each exercise, otherwise they will fail the test as a whole. A dog can fail through losing too many points, performing a failure action, or running out of time. At the conclusion of each test, the Judges will inform entrants whether they and their dog have passed or failed, and probably make some verbal comments. There will also be written comments to collect from the score steward, or these comment sheets may be posted at a later date. On the day the LCGB also present a rosette to those teams that achieve a pass. Printed pass certificates are distributed at the LCGB AGM or posted shortly after.

These tests are non-competitive. However, if a competitive trial, with dogs/owners being placed in order of competence, is being arranged then these regulations may be the basis for those trials.

A Test Day is for entrants to have FUN with their dogs and to delight in their joint achievements and those of fellow Leonberger owners. Even at a Test, remember never to become so serious that the fun goes out of working for either you or your Leonberger.

AGE RESTRICTIONS & GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Dogs must be at least 6 months old on the day of the test to enter for Section A; 9 months for Section B; 18 months for Section C and 24 months for Sections D & E. These ages have been set in the best interests of the dog, bearing in mind its physical and mental capabilities. Whilst it is beneficial to introduce young puppies to the water (once they have the appropriate vaccination protection), owners should be aware of both the physical and emotional requirements of these tests, and only introduce the test exercises when the puppy is capable of performing all elements without undue strain.

A dog can only be entered for one Section, which it has not previously passed, per event but may retake any Section for which it already holds a pass, i.e. one new (un-passed) Section in a day. If a dog fails a previously passed Section, it may only go on to take an un-passed Section the same day with the agreement of all judges concerned. When an event is held over two days, and a dog passes a previously un-passed Section on day one of the event, he may at the invitation of the Judges and Test Manager, take a second un-passed level on the second day of the event, if time and circumstances allow. Notwithstanding this, provided a dog passes Section A, if time and circumstances allow, it will be permitted to enter Section B on the day of the test, age permitting, at the judges invitation.

Owners are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. Exercising of dogs within the designated test area is prohibited. All dogs within 25 metres of the test area must be kept on a lead, tethered or caged/crated and must be under strict control.

Except for a dog under test, other dogs may only enter the water at a designated 'warm up' area (if available), at any time during the tests. Any entrant in breach of this regulation will be liable to disqualification. During an exercise spectators are requested to remain quiet so that the owner/handler can concentrate and give commands at the appropriate time.

No food or inducements, unless specified in Permitted Actions, are allowed in the test area throughout the testing procedure.

The dog may be worked through the tests with or without a collar. If a collar is worn it must be a plain non-checking collar. Dogs should either wear a suitable harness or a suitable well fitting float coat (floatation aid) - both should have suitable handles to enable the dog to be lifted into the boat, either as part of an exercise or in an emergency situation, and both should also provide a suitable handhold for a water steward.

The optional use of a float coat is intended only as a safety measure, and must not be used to allow a dog to enter a test if it is unfit or unsound. The dog should be physically capable of taking the test without the float coat, and judges may ask to see the dog swim without the floatation aid if they are uncertain that this is the case. This should be done in water just deep enough to allow the dog to swim, and the owner may walk beside with the dog on lead if they wish.

In the interests of safety, it is very important when training with a float coat, that you ensure your dog also learns to swim without one; a dog that has only swum with a float coat can become very reliant on them and may sink if they enter the water without one.

Dogs wearing a float coat will be judged in the same way as those wearing a harness, but the LCGB Working Records will show that a float coat was used, and the certificates will be marked accordingly.

If a Multi-Test Pass Certificate is awarded then this will also show a float coat was used, if one was worn in any of the qualifying tests.

Leonbergers will not be considered for the Water Champion Title, if they have worn a float coat in any of the three Section E qualifying tests.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LCGB WORKING SECTION SUB-COMMITTEE (WSSC)

1. Select or approve suitable dates and venues for water tests.
2. Select or approve potential Judges from the approved list.
3. Appoint or approve a proficient Test Manager.
4. Ensure that their appointed officials (Test Manager and Judges) are aware that safety is always the prime consideration and that they have a duty to call off a test if the conditions are, or become, unsuitable. It does not matter if one or more of the three officials (Judges & Test Manager) think they should carry on - if just one official is concerned that it is dangerous then the Section will be cancelled, halted or postponed. This likelihood of cancellation should be included in the schedule so that entrants are fully aware of such a possibility.
5. Regularly update and maintain the LCGB Water Test Judges List, ensuring the latest version is made available to the membership.

LIST OF JUDGES

The club will set up a list from which Judges for its events will be chosen.

The list will show the highest level that the person can judge - i.e. a Section D Judge can judge Sections A, B, C and D but not E.

Nominations for persons wishing to become Judges can be submitted to the WSSC, and depending on their suitability and experience, they may be added to the list, normally starting at the A level. Judges can be moved up the list, as their experience grows, at the recommendation of more experienced judges who have worked with them. Ideally this should be a progressive climb, where judges must have judged all lower levels to a satisfactory standard before being moved up the list - i.e. Section A as a junior judge followed by Section A as a senior judge before going on to judge Section B as a junior judge etc. If a Judge chooses to make an application to the WSSC to be moved up the list, this should be made in writing and accompanied by details of any relevant judging appointments, including number of dogs judged.

Poor performance or other misdemeanours could lead to a judge being moved down the list or be removed altogether. When a Judge's position on the list is altered then they will be notified by the secretary of the working sub-committee in writing before the list is changed.

Anyone on the Newfoundland water test judging lists may be considered for inclusion on to The Leonberger Club of Great Britain list at the level that they judge Newfoundlands.

WSSC approved Water Test Judges may be fast-tracked up this list via an approved LCGB Water Test seminar. Fast tracked judges may appear on the list in a Junior capacity at more than one level.

Judges should know the rules thoroughly, and conduct the tests in a consistent manner - they must judge according to the current LCGB Water Test Regulations as they are written, and not how they would like the Tests to be, or how they train their own dogs.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE JUDGES

1. Each test will have two Judges working in unison, with all decisions made jointly. It is the responsibility of the Judges to:
2. On invitation to judge a Test, forward a written response to the Test Manager. If after acceptance, a Judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason, then they must inform the Test Manager as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation to both the Test Manager and the WSSC.
3. Judge to the appropriate Water Test Regulations, including the prior inspection of the site, where necessary. If the Judges disagree over whether a team has performed sufficiently well to pass, then the joint decision will be a fail. If the Judges disagree over the interpretation of the regulations, the Referee will be called in.
4. Inspect the proposed venue/site for the Test to ensure that it is suitable before Tests start
5. Check with the Test Manager who is to be the Referee.
6. Provide, or arrange directly with the Test Manager to have provided, the necessary objects for any retrieve exercises that they may be judging, together with alternatives suitable for contrary weather conditions.
7. Having been briefed by the Test Manager on the peculiarities of the venue, brief the stewards as to their particular responsibilities. Judges may remind stewards that they are not to make comments direct to entrants, although they may bring to the Judge's attention any aspect of a completed exercise they feel might have been missed by the Judges.
8. Conduct a comprehensive Judges' Briefing before each Test Level commences. All entrants must attend the Judges' Briefing at the appointed time. This is essential so that entrants are fully aware of hazards and safety requirements. Entrants who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager and Judges
9. Judge fairly and impartially. They should be as helpful as possible, especially for a Section A Test. Judges may only *offer* advice to entrants at Levels A,B & C. Account must be taken by Judges of prevailing wind/current conditions in penalising dogs that do not return to the designated shore area. Exercises should be set up so that the dog has the best chance of achieving a pass.
10. Ensure that there are an appropriate number of stewards in the Test Area.
11. Judges should keep score using an approved score sheet, either jointly or separately. The score sheet will be for their use only, and any score totals will not be disclosed to any of the entrants.
12. If special circumstances make it necessary, then the Judges can allow a dog to retake a particular element of a Test. This should not be used for an attempt that had only just failed, but should be used where something unexpected happens which affects the dog adversely. The Judges alone will determine what is 'unexpected' and whether the exercise can be attempted again.
13. A dog that has taken a test and failed cannot retake that Test on the same day.

14. Allocate some time prior to the start of each test to inspect the harness or float coat, if worn. If the harness is deemed ill-fitting or unsafe in any respect, then it must be replaced or adjusted before commencing the test.
15. If the Judges feel circumstances dictate that it is necessary to change how an exercise is being set up then they should inform all the entrants why the change is being made, and include all the facts in their subsequent report. The Judges can use a capable non-competing dog to do a dummy run to check the change is reasonable.
16. Whilst there may be times when Judges should consult together in private, it is good practice to speak openly in front of stewards and even in front of entrants.
17. Judges will provide verbal comments to entrants immediately after their Test, and arrange for written comments to be supplied later.
18. Each judge must provide a legibly written report on the Test and entrants, which must be forwarded to the Test Manager within 14 days of the event. This may be forwarded by the Test Manager to be published in a suitable periodical.
19. If there are comments that the Judges wish to make but do not wish to be published, these are to be clearly marked as such, and on a separate sheet that will not be sent for publication. Judges can combine their reports for publication, but should report separately on matters not for publication.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEST MANAGER

1. Obtain approval from the WSSC for the date, venue and Judges for the Test Day. Advertise the Test Day via the LCGB social media and LCGB Working Groups individual social media pages, at least 6 weeks before the event, and via the LCGB Newsletter and Website if it is practical.
2. Invite judges from the LCGB approved list to adjudicate. All correspondence should be kept on file and passed to the Secretary of the WSSC after the event
3. Ensure that the location of the test is adequate for the tests to be held and, if necessary, obtain permission, in writing, to use the site from its owner(s) or their agents.
4. Although the Test Manager will lay out the site, it is the Judges who will decide if it is suitable.
5. Check that suitable access can be provided, especially for emergency services. Ensure that a local Veterinary Surgery has been asked, and has agreed in writing, to act as emergency cover for the event. This letter or email will be kept by the Test Manager and will be supplied to the WSSC on request. Publicise the telephone number and locations of emergency facilities (vet, hospital, etc.,) and also the locations of telephones to call these facilities.
6. Oversee the production of the schedule, ensuring it is submitted to WSSC for approval before distribution, checking that the address to which completed entry forms are to be sent is correct. The schedule will include the requirement to attend the Judges' Briefing, and that entrants who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager and the Judges.
7. If entries are to be limited, allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis, but with Leonbergers taking priority over any other breed, and if the test is still oversubscribed, then unqualified Leonbergers should take priority. Within 24 hours of close of entries, inform applicants if they are entrants or are on the reserve list.
8. Oversee the production of a catalogue or list of entrants for use on the day, together with blank score sheets, comment forms and pass rosettes.
9. Arrange sufficient suitably experienced stewards and strangers (see explanatory note 16) Depending on the event circumstances, the Test Manager can appoint a Chief Steward. NB In Section D, at least one steward must be capable of assisting an owner to lift a dog into the boat, if required and in Section, two stewards capable of lifting a dog into a boat may be required.
10. Preferably, the day before the tests, check the site for any last minute problems, and take any steps necessary.
11. Check the test site for any overnight changes that may pose a problem for the tests. Ensure that all the equipment is in place and ready for use at the start of judging. An example of all the stated equipment options for each Section scheduled should be available.
12. Brief the judges on the peculiarities of the venue. Brief the water and land stewards, and ensure the boat stewards are suitably experienced and familiar with the equipment to be used. Remind them it is their sole responsibility to control the boat during the exercises, and they must not perform any other role, except in an emergency.
13. Be available throughout the day to ensure the smooth running of the tests.
14. Ensure that no smoking takes place by anyone within the Test Area.

15. It is the Test Manager's responsibility to deal with any members of the Press or private photographers. Their requests should only be acceded to if they do not affect the smooth running of the tests - safety and the dogs always come first.
16. Appoint a suitably qualified Referee. This may be the Test Manager, unless they are already judging, or have entered/are working a dog in that particular section.
17. Within 14 days of the test, provide a legibly written report to the WSSC secretary (or record keeper if different), which includes the full names of the dog entered/passed/failed or disqualified, comments on the conduct of the tests, including constructive criticisms where appropriate, and copies of the judges reports, the entry forms (or copies of these), and a copy of the balance sheet showing income and expenses, including the relevant entry monies collected.
18. Within 21 days, send details of the Passes to the dog press breed correspondent, and to the LCGB newsletter editor, together with copies the Test Manager's Report and of any Judges' Reports meant for publication.
19. If the Test Manager is unable to meet their commitment for any reason, they must inform the Secretary of the WSSC as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF REFEREES

All Referees must be on the LCGB Judges List (ideally, though not necessarily, at the Level being judged) and have a full working knowledge of the current Water Regulations.

They do not have to watch the test for which they are adjudicating. In the event of a disagreement over the interpretation of the Regulations (not performance) between the Judges, the Referee will talk with them and attempt to conciliate with particular reference to the Regulations. They may also talk to the stewards in an attempt to resolve the matter. The Referee can order a retake of an exercise if the matter is not resolved in any other way.

If called upon to adjudicate on any matter, then the Referee will also supply a 'not for publication' report to the WSSC and the LCGB Main Committee within 14 days.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Any complaint should be made **in writing**, as soon as possible, to the Secretary of the WSSC of the LCGB, in accordance with its complaints procedure.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

A dog and its owner/handler will be immediately disqualified and be removed from the event, if the dog is in the opinion of the Test Manager or a Judge:-

1. Likely to be caused suffering if it continues to take part in the tests;
2. Known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious or contagious disease;
3. A bitch in season;
4. Interfering with the safety or chance of success of any other entrant;
5. Of such temperament or so much out of control as to be a danger to itself or any other animal or person;
6. If the owner/handler carries out any punitive correction or harsh handling at any time within the boundaries of the event.
7. If it is believed that the dog taking part in the test is not the dog actually entered on the entry form
8. If any food, treat, or other inducement (e.g. toys or clickers) is used by the handler during the Test

Any dog or handler being disqualified for any of the above reasons, will have any other Test passes from that event withdrawn, The Test Manager will also supply a report to the Secretary of the WSSC, so that the WSSC may decide if any further disciplinary action is appropriate.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Judges have the discretion, within the spirit of the Regulations, to make adaptations to the rules for the individual conditions of the test site and the weather on the day of the Test. Judges can change the Test Area during each exercise, or between entrants if conditions dictate.
2. In the following Leonberger Tests the term 'owner' has been used to describe the person who sends the dog; it may be the owner, friend of the owner or a steward. Equally the term 'handler' has been used to describe the person to whom the dog is expected to go to or 'retrieve'; it may be the owner, friend of the owner or a water steward. Once an exercise has been started then the roles of owner and handler cannot be switched. Please note: Whilst a steward may assist the 'owner' and or dog into and out of the shore area if conditions underfoot deem it necessary, they **MUST** clear the test area before the exercise commences. They may not assist the 'owner' to work or restrain the dog during an exercise, as only one person may perform the role of 'owner' of a dog in any exercise.
3. Within the test area marked on land for a certain length of bank, and in the water for a certain distance from the bank, there will be two areas:-

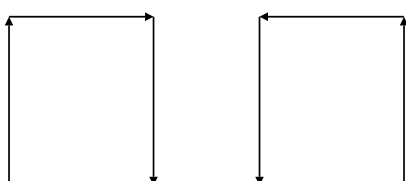
One is **the shore or shore area**; generally this will be dry land, but, depending on the location, the Judges may direct that a certain distance into the water will count as shore. This is likely to occur where the shore slopes gently into the water, and it would not be possible to bring the boat to dry land, but it would be possible to bring it to the edge of the designated shore area. This is generally accepted as the average person's knee depth. Unless specifically instructed otherwise, in the Desired Performance or Permitted Actions of each individual exercise, owners are permitted total freedom of movement in the shore area.

The second is **the water test area**. This is the rest of the test area in which the boat will float safely. Owners have limited access rights to the water test area.

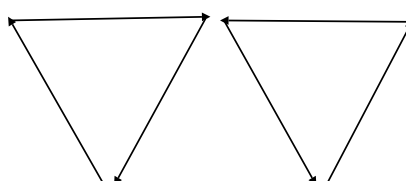
4. The Tests will be judged by two appointed persons working in unison. It will be necessary, particularly in the higher level tests, for the Judges to place themselves in advantageous positions, so that between them they will be able to see the performance of all the elements of the test. This position of advantage will be determined by the Judges depending on the Test environment and may be in a boat or in the water. If the Judge(s) decides to be in the test boat, then they will be in addition to the normal complement and not perform any dual role.
5. Some Leonbergers instinctively take the wrist when they want attention or want to guide a human in a particular way. This instinct also shows itself when the dog is being sent out to a person in the water - they will attempt to take hold of the person's hand or lower arm to tow them back to the shore. Some Leonberger owners have seen the French Lifesavers, either in real life or on video, and now teach their dogs to tow in a similar way. In fact, when a person is unconscious or simulating unconsciousness, it is only by the dog taking hold of clothing or the person that they can be towed. However, in view of the continuing controversy over 'dangerous' dogs, owners submitting their dogs to these tests are not expected to train their dogs to tow in this way by taking hold. In any test or trial, as long as a safe tow is performed, there will be no differentiation by Judges according to the method of towing - i.e. no extra marks for a hand tow and no loss of marks for a held tow. If dogs are likely to take the hand or arm, please make this known at the test briefing, to enable the water steward to wear gloves or sleeves if they wish.
6. In exercises where the dog is performing a retrieve, if the dog lets go to adjust its grip, then it will not be penalised for dropping the object.

7. For the sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.
8. The owner may always give unlimited audible/visual instructions and encouragement, but may lose marks if the dog does not respond. This can include the use of whistles, although it must be borne in mind that a whistle may also be used by a Judge or someone unconnected with the tests.
9. Unless specifically instructed otherwise, in the Desired Performance or Permitted Actions of an individual exercise, owners may enter the water with their dogs at the beginning of all exercises, starting from the shore until they reach waist depth. However, once the dog is 1 metre in front of them, they must return to the shore, even though they might not have reached waist depth. Once they are back over the shore line, they cannot re-enter the water test area without penalty. Any subsequent influence on the dog arising from the close proximity of the owner will be deemed physical redirection and will be penalised.
10. The owner shall return to the shore after any redirection, and may not swim alongside the dog (with the exception of the 'swim' exercises). The owner may also move, within the shore area, to collect the dog without penalty.
11. Physical redirection is any use of force, however slight, to control the dog. Therefore, an owner can walk their dog so far into the water and send them on their way (see note 9) but it is touching or intimidation after this that will be penalised. Intimidation is influence over the actions of the dog, which arises purely from the close proximity of the owner, and not from verbal or visual commands.
12. Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive *any* physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, owners can ask the Judges to start the exercise again, and, unless specifically instructed otherwise in the desired performance or permitted action of an individual exercise, may re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore fewer points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch.
13. Attempting to enter the boat is always penalised. However, a Judge can decide that an innocent touching of the boat whilst turning or reaching up to get a rope is not an attempt to enter the boat and thus the dog will not be penalised or automatically failed.
14. Explanatory diagrams of controlled swim shapes

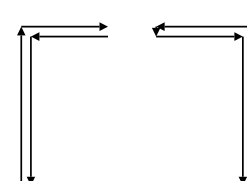
The “n”



The “Triangle”



The “L”



15. When swimming with the dog in Section B Exercise 5 and Section C Exercise 4, the owner should always swim on their front. Whilst it is acceptable for them to turn their head and shoulders to look at the dog whilst swimming, they should not turn their body to face the dog, ie swim on their back or side. (N.B. the use of back or side stroke involves turning the swimmer's whole body towards the dog, and could be seen as encouraging "chasing", so is not permitted)
16. If a dog enters the Test Area at the start of the test, with its owner, in a manner that causes concern to the Judges, the owner may be asked to demonstrate that the dog is sufficiently under control along the shoreline before the Test is allowed to continue.
17. For the purposes of these tests the definition of a stranger will be: the stranger should not be well known to the dog and will not be a member of the dog's own training group or family. In addition they should not have swum or trained with the dog during the previous 28 days and yet still be considered by the Test Manager and Judges to be appropriately experienced.
18. Leonbergers taking part in LCGB Water Tests must either wear a suitable harness, *OR* they may wear a suitable well-fitting float coat (buoyancy aid). As the float coat is replacing the usual swimming harness, it must be suitable to lift the dog into a boat if required, and must provide a suitable handhold for a water steward.

The optional use of a float coat is intended as a safety measure, and must not be used to allow a dog to enter a test that is unfit or unsound. The dog should be physically capable of taking the test without the float coat, and the Judges may ask to see the dog swim without the float coat if they are uncertain that this is the case. This demonstration should be on lead, parallel to the shore, with the owner walking alongside the dog.

In the interest of safety, it is very important when training with a float coat, that you ensure your dog also learns to swim without one. A dog that has only swum with a float coat can become very reliant upon them, and may sink when they enter the water without one.

Dogs wearing a float coat will be judged in the same way as those wearing a harness, but the LCGB Working Records will show that a flotation aid was used, and the certificates will be marked accordingly.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The test site must have sufficient shore space and water to carry out the tests. The shore should ideally slope gently into the water, without any sudden changes in depth, and dogs should be at swimming depth within 3 to 5 metres from the shore, if possible. The Test Manager should take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the site is suitable for the exercises to be undertaken. Natural obstructions are acceptable but, as with dangerous currents or the effects of cross winds, should be brought to the notice of all entrants by the Judges as they commence their Test.

An area of the shore needs to be roped or coned off, to separate the test area from the spectators/ waiting area.

Within the shore area, markers need to be set which show the permitted test areas for exercises within the various Sections, i.e. 20 metres of shore for Sections A and B entrants, 15 metres for Section C, and 10 metres for Sections D and E. Additional markers will be required 2.5 metres either side of the permitted test area for Section E Exercise 3.

Distance markers will be needed in the water to show 6, 15, 20, 25 and 30 metres from the shore. All measurements out into the water are to be taken from where an average dog starts swimming. They must be safe yet conspicuous enough to be seen from the shore. They should be placed to the side of the test area so as not to distract the entrants.

In the interests of water safety, life jackets/buoyancy aids **MUST** be worn by all Judges, owners, handlers, stewards and any persons entering the the Test Area or warming up area. Entrants should be notified in advance in the schedule that life jackets **MUST** be worn.

In the interest of safety, it is expected that on the day of a test, at least one boat will be manned and floating on the water alongside the shore area whilst the tests are in progress, but it does not have to be out on the water.

The equipment to be used in the tests:

- i. Hank of standard rope; between 5 and 10 metres of standard rope, tightly wound;
- ii. Half a life ring, Life buoy (including “torpedo” type)/nifty (doughnut) / lifejacket / buoyancy aid;
- iii. Single-ended paddle/oar;
- iv. Boat cushion;
- v. Piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope;
- vi. Coil of standard rope, constructed of approximately 14 metres of standard rope coiled into 9-10 loops and fastened so as not to unravel;
- vii. 2m of standard rope made from similar size and type as the coil;
- viii. 20m (minimum) of standard rope;
- ix. Boat(s) each with a standard tow rope, approximately 2m in length, electric outboard, two oars and an appropriate anchor. Mats (or similar) will be placed over both sides of the boat, to provide the dog with traction when entering or exiting the boat. A mat may also be required on the floor of the boat to prevent slipping. There should be no exposed loops or handles attached to the boat that a dog could become entangled in. The tow rope should never be secured to the boat.

NB 1. For Sections D & E the boat needs to be able to accommodate at least 5 persons and a large dog.

For Section D3, identical or very similar pairs of items (i) to (iv) will be required.

Care should be taken to ensure that the paddle or oars are safe for use.

Standard rope for the tests will be **10 to 20 mm diameter** floating rope, heat sealed where necessary, with nothing on the end other than a plain back-splice or whipping.

Equipment for the Judges/assisting stewards:

Rules/scoring sheets/comment Sheets;

Clipboards/pencils;

Whistles/stopwatch;

Table & chair(s);

Shelter/umbrella;

Results board.

Catalogue or list of entrants - giving details of the dogs taking part.

First aid for humans and dogs.

MULTI-TEST PASS AWARDS

Multi-test pass awards are of two types.

Certificates of Merit will be awarded to dogs that pass any of the Sections B to D inclusive five separate times, at three or more different venues, and involving at least four different Judges. If a floatation aid is used in any of the qualifying tests, this must be shown on these certificates.

This certificate is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner and the consistency of the dog in being able to perform at the pass level of B, C or D over a number of months and in differing circumstances.

A Diploma will be awarded to dogs that pass at Section E three separate times, at three different venues, and involving at least four different Judges. If a floatation aid is used in any of the qualifying tests, this must be shown on this diploma.

This diploma is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner, and the skill and training of the dog in being able to perform consistently at the highest level.

In the event of Kennel Club recognition it would be recommended that this Diploma be taken as equivalent to the title 'Water Work Champion' as long as the dog was **not** wearing a floatation aid in any of the three qualifying Section E tests

Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be awarded by The Leonberger Club of Great Britain. To give due recognition to the attainment, any Diplomas and Certificates of Merit should be presented at The LCGB Annual General Meeting.

Multi-test pass awards will not be awarded as of right. It will be the responsibility of the owner to apply to the WSSC in writing, including a list of the qualifying passes. The application will then be verified with the Club's record keeper and the applicant informed of the arrangements for presentation.

THE LEONBERGER CLUB OF GB WATER TEST SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT PERPETUAL TROPHY POINTS SYSTEM

Points can be gained from the Monday **following** the AGM to the Saturday prior to the **next** AGM (inclusive). Any Leonberger owned by a member will be eligible for this trophy. The dog may be handled by more than one person. When allocating these points, if a floatation aid is used, 2 points will be deducted per test, and 2 points will be deducted per multi test pass, if a floatation aid is used in any of the qualifying tests.

Section A Pass	5 Points	Section B Multi Test Pass	10 Points
Section B Pass	10 Points	Section C Multi Test Pass	20 Points
Section C Pass	20 Points	Section D Multi Test Pass	25 Points
Section D Pass	25 Points	Section E Multi Test Pass	30 Points
Section E Pass	30 Points		

SUMMARY OF TESTS

SECTION A (Dogs must be at least 6 months old on the day of the test) 20m of shoreline

Exercise 1 Swim out 15 metres to handler or stranger

Exercise 2 Swim out 15 metres to boat

Exercise 3 Retrieve familiar object from 6 metres

SECTION B (dogs must be at least 9 months old on the day of the test) 20m of shoreline

Exercise 1 Tow handler or stranger from 20 metres

Exercise 2 Tow boat back 20 metres

Exercise 3 Retrieve provided object from 6 metres

Exercise 4 Retrieve rope object from 20 centimetres under water

Exercise 5 Controlled swim

SECTION C (dogs must be at least 18 months old on the day of the test) 15m of shoreline

Exercise 1 Tow stranger from 25 metres

Exercise 2 Jump from boat and tow 30 metres to shore

Exercise 3 Retrieve object from 15 metres

Exercise 4 Controlled swim

SECTION D (dogs must be at least 24 months old on the day of the test) 10m of shoreline

Exercise 1 Take coil of rope out to a boat and tow it back to shore

Exercise 2 Tow stranger to a boat

Exercise 3 Directed retrieve of one of two objects

Exercise 4 Search for hidden stranger and tow to shore

SECTION E (dogs must be at least 24 months old on the day of the test) 10m of shoreline

Exercise 1 Take out life buoy/jacket to stranger

Exercise 2 Directed tow of one of two persons

Exercise 3 Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat

Exercise 4 Search for hidden rope and tow boat to shore.

SECTION A

EXERCISE 1 Swim out 15 metres to handler or stranger

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 15 metres out to a person, and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The handler or water steward will swim out at least 15 metres from the shore, turn and face the shore and wait. On being given the indication from the Judge, they will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the handler/water steward, and when within touching distance of them, turn and swim back to the shore either towing or being closely followed by them, or a combination of both. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back on shore and under control.

Scoring - The swim out and pick-up are the most important elements of the test with 14 points, with 7 points respectively being available for the entry into the water, the tow/return to shore within the test area, and the exit. The pass mark is 26 out of 35.

Points will be lost for:

- lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area:
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not leaving the water when instructed.
- owner leaving the test area

Failure - Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb on the handler or water steward.

Permitted actions - The dog must wear either a harness or a float coat, which must provide a suitable safe handhold for the handler/water steward to take hold of when being towed. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler/water steward is permitted to use the dog's name and to have the dog's own article. When approaching the handler/water steward the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for them to take hold or turn safely behind the person. If the handler or water steward is towed, either a harness or a rump tow maybe used.

SECTION A

EXERCISE 2 Swim out 15 metres to boat

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 15 metres out to a boat and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The handler/steward will be in the front of a boat, with the boat steward and safety steward. The boat will be anchored at least 15 metres from the shore. The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the boat, and either take the tow rope in his mouth and tow the boat to the shore, or, when within touching distance of the handler in the boat, turn and swim back to the shore, being followed closely by the boat, or a combination of the two. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back on shore and under control.

Scoring - There are 14 points available for the swim out, the most important element of the exercise, with 7 points respectively being available for the entry into the water, the return to shore within the test area and the exit. The pass mark is 26 out of 35.

Points will be lost for:

- lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- attempting to enter the boat;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog, as does holding the dog's harness to tow the boat.

Permitted actions – When attracting the dog's attention, the handler is permitted to use the dog's name and to have the dog's own article. If the boat is to be towed, the rope to be used to pull the boat can be provided by the owner, subject to the judges' approval. It is permissible for the **rump** to be held and thus for the dog to tow the boat indirectly with no loss of points.

SECTION A

EXERCISE 3 Retrieve familiar object from 6 metres

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to return a thrown object to its owner.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. In full view of the dog, the owner or steward will throw the article out at least 6 metres into the water test area. The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin. The dog will be sent to retrieve the object from the water and return it to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the object are back on shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The actual retrieve and bringing it back to the shore are equally important elements of the test with 12 points each, with a further 6 points being available for the entry into the water. The pass mark is 23 out of 30.

Points will be lost for:

- lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the object;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the object before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- having the object re-thrown *after* the indication that the exercise has begun*;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog.

Permitted actions - The object will be selected or provided by the owner, assisted by the Judges, if they so wish, from a hank of rope, a life buoy/life jacket/buoyancy aid, a single ended paddle/oar or other piece of equipment approved by the Judge prior to commencing the test.

*If the object has been incorrectly thrown, it can be re-thrown without penalty *before* the indication that the exercise has begun.

SECTION B

EXERCISE 1 Tow handler or stranger from 20 metres

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 20 metres out to a person, and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The handler or water steward will swim out at least 20 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait. On being given the indication from the Judge the handler/steward will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the handler/water steward, effect a safe pick-up and tow and return with him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the handler/water steward is in shallow water near the shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The pick-up and tow back are equally important elements of the test, with 8 points each, with 4 points being available for the swim out. The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the handler/steward within reach of the shore area;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb on the handler or water steward.

Permitted actions - The dog must wear either a harness or a float coat, which must provide a suitable safe handhold for the handler/water steward to take hold of when being towed. When attracting the dog's attention the handler/water steward is permitted to use the dog's name, but not have the dog's own article. When approaching the handler/water steward the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.

SECTION B

EXERCISE 2 Tow boat back 20 metres

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 20 metres out to a boat and then tow it to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. The boat will be positioned at least 20 metres from the shore, with the handler at the front of the boat. The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the boat, take the tow rope in his mouth and tow the boat to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the owner and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The swim out and the tow back are equally important elements of the test with 8 points each, with 4 points for the entry into the water. The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- attempting to enter the boat;
- not turning when instructed;
- not taking the rope when offered;
- not towing the boat with the rope;
- towing by rump rather than rope;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the boat within reach of the owner;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog or if the handler fails to offer the rope to the dog. Using the harness to tow the boat will fail the dog.

Permitted actions - The rope to be used to pull the boat can be provided by the owner, subject to the judges' approval; the rope must not be attached to the boat. Whilst points will be lost for not towing with the rope it is permissible for the **rump** to be held and thus for the dog to tow the boat indirectly.

SECTION B

EXERCISE 3 Retrieve provided object from 6 metres

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to return an unfamiliar object to its owner.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore with the owner until instructed to begin. In full view of the dog, the owner or steward will throw the article out at least 6 metres into the water test area. The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin. The dog will be sent to retrieve the object from the water and return it to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the object are back on shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The actual retrieve and bringing it back to the shore are equally important elements of the test, with 8 points each, with a further 4 points being available for the entry into the water. The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the object;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the object before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- having the object re-thrown *after* the indication that the exercise has begun*;
- not giving the object to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog.

Notes - The object will be selected by the Judge on the day from a hank of rope, a single ended paddle/oar, a half life ring/buoy, a life jacket/buoyancy aid or a boat cushion, and will be the same for each dog.

*If the object has been incorrectly thrown, it can be re-thrown without penalty *before* the indication that the exercise has begun.

SECTION B

EXERCISE 4 Retrieval of rope from 20 centimetres under water

Purpose - The purpose of the underwater retrieve is for the dog to demonstrate the ability to put its head in the water and retrieve a rope article clear of the water or to trawl the article clear of the waterline.

Desired performance - Once the judge has given the indication to begin, in full view of the dog, the owner will drop or throw the article into the water and allow it to sink, in accordance with the Judge's instructions. The dog will then be commanded to find the article and return it to the owner. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the article has been returned by the dog to the owner and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The submersion of the muzzle and/or trawling and actual retrieve are equally important elements of the test with 8 points each, with a further 4 points being available for the return of the article to the owner. The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not homing in directly to the article;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- owner re-dropping or replacing the article;
- dropping the object before returning it to the owner;
- not releasing the article to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise will fail the dog. The dog will also be immediately failed if the owner attempts to force the dog's head under water, however slightly.

Permitted actions - The underwater test article will be a piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope and will be the same for each dog. The dog is permitted to 'trawl' the object before retrieving it and returning it to the owner.

In accordance with the Judge's instructions, the object can be re-dropped or re-thrown but points will be lost each time

NB While the dog returning the article to the owners hand is the ideal conclusion to this exercise, this is not essential. The dog may trawl the article above the water line, to the owner, or carry it towards the owner and drop it close to the owner above the water line

SECTION B

EXERCISE 5 Controlled swim

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to swim safely with a person without interfering with them.

Desired performance - The dog (off lead) and owner (see Explanatory Note 2) will leave the shore together and swim out at least 25 metres straight out from the shore. The owner will swim on their front and the dog will swim at the side of the owner, close enough to be controlled, but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer. The dog will swim independently throughout this part of the test. It will not tow the owner during the controlled swim part of the exercise. On reaching the required distance, an indication by one of the Judges (by whistle, loud hailer, flag, etc), will deem the controlled swim part of this exercise complete and the clock will stop. Once the controlled swim part of the exercise has been completed, it is the owner's decision as to how they return to the shore - they may either swim back safely with the dog, have the dog called from shore and be towed back safely by the dog, or the dog can be called back to shore and the owner swim back independently. They will inform the Judge before the exercise of their chosen option. The test is complete when the dog and owner are on the shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - Owner and dog swimming side by side and the dog being under control are equally important elements of the test with 8 points each, with a further 2 points being available for the entry into the water and 2 points available for the return to shore. The pass mark is 14 out of 20.

During the controlled swim part of the exercise points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not being close enough to the swimmer;
- being too close to the swimmer, so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer;
- physically redirecting the dog;
- not turning when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed.

During the return to shore points will be lost for:

- refusal to return to shore
- climbing on, or endangering the owner

Failure - Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the controlled swim part of the exercise will fail the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb on the owner. The owner must swim on their front, they cannot swim on their back or side (see explanatory note 15) with the dog following them, neither is the dog allowed to swim off and the owner chase it or the owner swim off and the dog chase them.

Permitted actions - When entering the water together the owner may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming. The dog is permitted to circle the owner as many times as necessary but should not be more than 2 m (approximately) from the owner's head. The dog (but not the owner) is permitted to carry a small object, e.g. glove, whilst swimming. Human swim fins may be permitted during this controlled swim exercise, to enable weaker swimmers to maintain a normal/average pace, they are not intended to allow the swimmer to race with a dog that will not slow down and swim at a normal/average speed. The return to shore is a small part of the test and as long as the dog completes the requirements, remains under reasonable control and does not endanger himself or any person involved in the test it will not unduly influence the outcome.

NB The Judges will indicate a target to aim for, so that they can see that the dog and handler are swimming in the right direction, but there should be no buoys close to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog

It is the owner's responsibility to swim or provide a person to swim with their dog.

Explanatory note 15: When swimming with the dog in Section B Exercise 5, and in Section C Exercise 4, the owner should always swim on their front. Whilst it is acceptable for them to turn their head and shoulders to look at the dog whilst swimming, they should not turn their body to face the dog, ie swim on their back or side.

SECTION C

EXERCISE 1 Tow stranger from 25 metres

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim 25 metres out to a stranger, and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. The water steward, who is a stranger to the dog, (see explanatory note 17) will swim out at least 25 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait. On being given the indication from the Judge, they will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water. Upon command from the owner, the dog will swim directly to the steward, effect a safe tow and return with them back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the steward is in shallow water near the shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The pick-up and tow back/exit are equally important elements of the test with 10 points each, with 5 points being available for the swim out. The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb on the water steward.

Permitted actions - The dog must wear either a harness or a float coat, which must provide a suitable safe handhold for the water steward to take hold of when being towed. When attracting the dog's attention the water steward is NOT permitted to use the dog's name. When approaching the water steward the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, or turn safely behind him.

Explanatory note 17: For the purposes of these tests the definition of a stranger will be: The stranger should not be well known to the dog and will not be a member of the dog's own training group or family. In addition they should not have swum or trained with the dog during the previous 28 days, and yet still be considered by the Test Manager and Judges to be appropriately experienced.

SECTION C

EXERCISE 2 Jump from boat and tow 30 metres to shore

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and jump from a boat, then tow it 30 metres to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The dog and owner, in a controlled manner, will enter the boat containing a steward, the boat steward and a Judge. The boat will then be positioned at least 30 metres from the shore. When given the signal to begin, the dog shall enter the water, take the boat's tow rope in its mouth and tow the boat directly back to the shore. Until the dog has exited the boat, the shore handler must remain still and silent. The owners' instructions to the dog can be supplemented by splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water. The Judge will determine when to release the boat after the dog has jumped. The owner must remain in the boat until the test is completed. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the shore handler, boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water, and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The entry into the water and the tow back/exit are equally important elements of the test with 10 points each, with 5 points for the take up of the rope. The pass mark is 18 out of 25. Points will be lost for:

- not entering the boat safely at the shore;
- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the owner;
- hesitation in taking the rope when commanded;
- attempting to re-enter the boat;
- dropping the rope;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the boat within reach of the handler;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- not leaving the water when instructed.
- shore handler leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. If the dog does not exit the boat within the first 60 seconds of the exercise, it will fail. The dog will be failed if the owner physically assists in the exit from the boat. The dog will also fail if it does not tow the boat solely by holding the rope voluntarily in its mouth; one end of the rope must remain free i.e. the handler can only hold one end and cannot hold it in a loop however loosely.

Permitted actions - The tow rope must float and must not have anything at the towing end, other than a plain back-splice or whipping. The rope shall be between 10 and 20mm in diameter and heat sealed where necessary. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.

The owner must arrange for a handler to be present on shore to take control of the dog when it returns, the handler may call the dog to the shore once it has exited the boat.

SECTION C

EXERCISE 3 Retrieve provided object from 15 metres

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to return an unfamiliar object to its owner from a distance.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore. In full view of the dog, the steward will hold the article above their head, and then on the Judge's signal drop it into the water as they pass so that the dog will have to swim at least 15 metres to the article. The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area. The dog will be sent to retrieve the object from the water and return it to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog, the owner and the object are back on shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The actual retrieve and bringing it back to the owner on shore are equally important elements of the test with 10 points each, with a further 5 points being available for the entry into the water. The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the dog being physically redirected;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the object;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the object before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- not giving the object to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog.

Notes - The object will be selected by the Judge on the day from a hank of rope, a single-ended paddle/oar, a half life ring/buoy, a life jacket/ buoyancy aid or a boat cushion, and it will be the same for each dog. In selecting the article the Judge will take into account their suitability having regard to all the circumstances.

SECTION C

EXERCISE 4 Controlled swim

Purpose -To demonstrate a dog's ability to swim safely in the water with people without interfering with them.

Desired performance - During this exercise the dog and owner will be required to swim together for at least 45 metres and not more than 50 metres and perform a minimum of two turns so that they are swimming parallel to the shore for at least 15 metres. The route to be taken should be either:

- 'n' shaped with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 15 m parallel to the shore and then a further turn and swim back the last at least 15 m to the shore;
- or, a triangle with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 15 m parallel to the shore and then a further oblique turn and swim back the last at least 15 m to the entry point on the shore;
- or, an inverted 'L' with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 7.5 m parallel to the shore, then an about turn over the same route to return to the shore at the entry point.

The choice of route will be decided by the Judges, depending on the environment and weather conditions on the day of the test, and will be the same for each dog. The Judges may vary distances according to venue or conditions, but without reducing the overall distance.

The dog (off lead) and owner (see Explanatory Note 2) will leave the shore together and swim out following the route previously detailed by the Judges. The owner will swim on their front, and the dog will swim at the side of the owner, close enough to be verbally/visually controlled but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer. The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow the owner during the exercise. Note: The points at which to make turns will be clearly indicated audibly and/or visually by the Judges, e.g. whistle, loud hailer, flag, etc. The judge will indicate the exercise is over when both the dog and owner are on shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - 15 points are available for the swimming together, with the dog being under control whilst the other 10 points are available for turning together under control. The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not being close enough to the swimmer;
- being too close, so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer;
- physically redirecting the dog;
- not turning when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed

Failure - Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the exercise will fail the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb on the owner. The owner must swim on their front and cannot swim on their back or side (see explanatory note 15) with the dog following them, neither is the dog allowed to swim off and the owner chase or it, or the owner swim off and the dog chase them. Neither the owner or the dog is permitted to carry an object, e.g. glove, whilst swimming.

Permitted actions - When entering the water together the owner may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming. The dog is permitted to circle the owner as many times as necessary but should not at any time be more than 2 m (approximately) from the owner's head. Human swim fins may be permitted during this controlled swim exercise to enable weaker swimmers to maintain a normal/average pace, they are not intended to allow the swimmer to race with a dog that will not slow down and swim at a normal/average speed.

NB The Judges will indicate a target to aim for, so that they can see that the dog and owner are swimming on line, but there will be no buoys close in to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog. Distances will be measured from when the dog and owner start swimming.

For the turns to swim parallel to the shore and the return to shore the Judges will arrange in advance how they will signal to each other and the entrant - whistles may be reinforced with a visual signal.

A Judge may be in a boat at a safe distance from the dog and owner to give a better perspective to the actual swim. It is the owner's responsibility to swim or provide a person to swim with their dog.

Explanatory note 15: When swimming with the dog in Section B Exercise 5 and Section C Exercise 4, the owner should always swim on their front. Whilst it is acceptable for them to turn their head and shoulders to look at the dog whilst swimming, they should not turn their body to face the dog, ie swim on their back or side.

SECTION D

EXERCISE 1 Take coil of rope out to a boat and tow it back to shore

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and take an article to a stranger in a boat, then tow the boat safely to the shore.

Desired performance - The boat with a water steward, (who is a stranger to the dog, see explanatory note 17), the boat steward, a steward and a Judge will be positioned at least 25 metres from the shore. The boat steward will be solely concerned with the safety and position of the boat, and will not be concerned with handling the dog. The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. When instructed, the owner will command the dog to swim out directly to the boat with the coil of rope in its mouth, with the steward calling out for the dog to come to the boat. On reaching the boat the steward will attempt to take the coil of rope without endangering himself or the dog. Once he is holding the coil of rope, the steward will give the 'release' command, as notified to him by the owner before commencing the exercise, and will continue to do so until the dog voluntarily releases the coil of rope. The steward will not forcibly remove the coil of rope or continue to hold the coil of rope if it becomes unsafe to do so. The steward must not show the second rope to the dog until the coil of rope is inside the boat. The steward will then go to the front of the boat and offer a similar tow rope to the dog. The dog will then take this tow rope in its mouth and use it to tow the boat back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is within reach of the owner and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The entry into the water/take up of the coil of rope, and then its presentation to the steward are equally important elements of the test with 10 points each, with 5 points for the tow back and exit from the water. 5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12). The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- dropping the coil of rope during the swim out;
- not releasing the coil of rope to the steward on command;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the tow rope during the tow back;
- not bringing the boat within reach of the owner;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb in the boat or has to be physically redirected (explanatory note 11). The dog will also fail if it does not tow the boat solely by holding the tow rope voluntarily in its mouth; one end of the rope must remain free i.e. the steward can only hold one end and cannot hold it in a loop however loosely.

Permitted actions - The coil of rope will be made from about 14 metres of floating rope between 10 and 20 mm diameter and coiled so that there are 9 to 10 loops. The coil must be tied so that it will not unravel. The 2 metres of tow rope already on the boat will be prepared from a similar size and type of rope. The coil of rope can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 6 metres so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore. The dog may turn in front of the steward or may completely circle the boat. The owner may call the dog to the shore.

Explanatory note 11: Physical redirection is any use of force, however slight, to control the dog. Therefore, an owner can walk their dog so far into the water and send them on their way (see note 9) but it is touching or intimidation after this that will be penalised. Intimidation is influence over the actions of the dog which arises purely from the close proximity of the owner and not from verbal or visual commands.

Explanatory note 12: Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and unless specifically instructed otherwise in the desired performance or permitted actions of an individual exercise, may re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore fewer points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch.

SECTION D

EXERCISE 2 Tow stranger to a boat (person overboard)

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and jump from a boat and tow a stranger back to the boat without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The dog and owner will enter the boat containing a water steward (who is a stranger to the dog, see explanatory note 17), a steward, the boat steward and a Judge. The owner will ensure that the dog is under control while in the boat and does not impede the stewards. The boat will then be anchored approximately 25 metres from the shore. When given the signal to begin the water steward will fall noisily overboard and position himself at least 5 metres away from the centre of the side of the boat, where he will be vertical in the water, facing the boat, calm and silent. The water steward should be on the side of the boat furthest from the test area shore, but this may depend on prevailing weather conditions. When the water steward is in position and when instructed by the Judge, the owner will command the dog to exit the boat. The boat steward, with assistance from the steward if required, will continue to hold the boat in position and NOT allow the boat to drift. The dog will enter the water, swim to the water steward and affect a safe tow to a position close enough to the boat so the owner can simulate pulling the water steward aboard. The owner should be involved and should not be solely dealing with the dog during this time. The dog will be required to wait in the water or swim round the boat, until the water steward has either left the area, or is waiting quietly in a position close enough to the boat so as not to put either themselves or the dog in danger. Once the water steward is deemed to have left the area the Judge will tell the owner to continue with their chosen option to complete the exercise and shall indicate that the exercise is over when one of the following options has been completed.

Option 1- the dog will proceed to the boat where it will be pulled into the boat by the owner, assisted by the steward, and the timed portion of the exercise is completed. However the dog must remain under control until the boat has returned to shore and the dog and handler have safely exited the boat, to complete the exercise.

Option 2- the owner holds the dog by its harness sideways along the side of the boat for at least 3 seconds, then either:

2a - the dog can return to the shore with a shore handler calling, or

2b - the dog can be given the tow rope safely knotted to return to the shore with a shore handler calling, or

2c - the dog can tow the boat back to shore with the tow rope and a shore handler calling.

If any of the options 2 are taken, whilst the clock will stop once the dog is released after the 3 seconds, the exercise willingly be completed when the dog is back on shore and under control.

SECTION D

EXERCISE 2 Tow Stranger to a boat (continued)

Scoring - The pick-up and tow back to the boat and boarding (or return to shore if option 2 is chosen) are equally important test elements with 10 points each, with 5 points being available for the exit from the boat. The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- not entering the boat safely at the shore;
- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not turning when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the boat;
- not bringing the steward to the position indicated by the owner;
- owner not assisting with simulation of re-boarding of water steward;
- not swimming calmly while waiting during the simulation of the re-boarding of the water steward.

Option 1: not boarding calmly and safely or

Option 2a, 2b or 2c: not waiting calmly whilst being held by the harness, and not returning directly back to shore

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. Within the first 30 seconds of the exercise the dog must have exited the boat. The dog will be failed if the owner physically assists in the exit from the boat. It will also be failed if it attempts to climb on the water steward or attempts to re-enter the boat at the wrong time (including being lifted in before the water steward is safely out of the area) or has to be physically redirected. The use of any article to assist in controlling the dog will result in failure.

Permitted actions - The dog must wear either a harness or a float coat to provide a suitable safe handhold for the water steward to take hold of when being towed and be suitable to lift the dog into the boat. When approaching the water steward, the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, or turn safely behind him. The dog is permitted to swim around the boat as many times as is necessary without incurring any loss of points. Before the exercise begins the owner must advise both the judges and stewards which of the options is to be used for the completion of the exercise. Either option 1 or option 2a, option 2b or option 2c. This option choice cannot be changed once the exercise has commenced. If either option 2a, 2b or 2c is chosen, after the dog has been held alongside the boat for at least 3 seconds, a handler, chosen by the owner, may call the dog back to shore and may use his name. The dog must either

- 2a swim directly back to shore, or
- 2b be given a safely knotted tow rope to carry directly back to shore ,or
- 2c effect a safe rope tow of the boat directly back to shore

Under option 2a, 2b or 2c the exercise is only complete when the dog is safely on shore and under control.

NB As stated in Responsibilities of the Test Manager, a steward physically capable of assisting the owner to lift the dog into the boat must be available if Option 1 is chosen.

SECTION D

EXERCISE 3 Directed retrieve of one of two objects

Purpose – To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to return a specific object to its owner from a distance.

Desired performance – The dog will remain in the shore area, on dry land, under control at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. The Judge will inform the owner which article the dog has to retrieve. A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore. In full view of the dog, the steward will hold the articles above their head and then on the Judge's signals quietly place the articles in the water as it passes so that they are between 6 and 7 metres apart and the dog will have to swim at least 15 metres to them. The articles and their positions will be the same for all dogs in that test. Once the second article is in the water the Judge will give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area. The dog, from its position midway between the two articles, will be sent to retrieve the selected article from the water and return it to the owner on the shore. In this particular exercise the owner **must stay on dry land at the midway point**, directing the dog only by verbal/visual commands and not move until the dog has picked up an article, when they can then move freely in the designated shore area. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the owner with the object are back on shore and the dog is under control. The boat will then retrieve the other article.

Scoring – Swimming out to the correct article and the actual retrieve are equally important elements of the test with 10 points each, with a further 5 points being available for the return and presentation. 5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Expl. Note 12). The pass mark is 18/25. Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- not swimming directly to the correct article;
- not turning when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the article before getting it back to the shore within the test area;
- not giving the article to the owner when instructed;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure – Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will fail to pass if it takes hold of the wrong article or has to be physically redirected or if the owner moves from the land and/or leaves the midway point before the dog has taken hold of an article.

Permitted actions – The Judges on the day will select two hanks of rope, or two single-ended paddles/oars, or two half life rings/buoys, or two life jackets/ buoyancy aids or two boat cushions (which should be identical or very similar pairs). When making their selection, the Judges will take into account the suitability of the articles having regard to all the circumstances.

The first or the second object out of the boat will be randomly designated to be the actual item to retrieve and will not necessarily be the same for each dog. The owner will know which article (Left or Right) is to be retrieved as the boat is getting into position and before the articles are placed.

Explanatory Note 12 (second attempt) applies to this exercise.

12. Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and unless specifically instructed otherwise in the desired performance or permitted actions of an individual exercise may re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore fewer points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch

NB. The owner is not permitted to launch the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected object.

SECTION D

EXERCISE 4 Search for hidden stranger and tow to shore

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and search round a boat to find a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - Out of the view of the dog, the boat will be positioned at an anchor at least 25 metres from the shore with a water steward (who is a stranger to the dog, see explanatory note 17) in the water holding the boat in such a position that he cannot be seen by the dog on the shore. The boat steward, who will eventually handle the boat, must make himself as inconspicuous as possible so as not to attract the dog's attention in any way. The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. When instructed, the water steward will begin to shout and splash in the water and the owner will command the dog to swim out to the boat. On reaching the boat it will swim around the boat to find the water steward and effect a safe tow. Avoiding the boat, it will then return with him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the water steward is in shallow water near the shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The search and pick-up are worth 15 points whilst the swim out and tow back and exit are less important elements of the test with 5 points each. 5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12). The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- not circling close to the boat when instructed;
- not effecting a safe tow;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to enter the boat or climb on the water steward or has to be physically redirected.

Permitted actions - The dog is permitted to wear a harness to provide a safe handhold for the water steward to take hold of whilst being towed. The water steward is NOT permitted to use the dog's name. When approaching the steward the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, or turn safely behind him.

Explanatory Note 12 (second attempt) applies to this exercise.

12. Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and unless specifically instructed otherwise in the desired performance or permitted actions of an individual exercise may re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore fewer points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch

NB - 'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the owner and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the area while the exercise is set up.

SECTION E

EXERCISE 1 Take out life buoy/jacket to stranger

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and take an object to a stranger in the water then tow him back safely to the shore.

Desired performance - The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the owner until instructed to begin. The water steward (who is a stranger to the dog, see explanatory note 17) will enter the water from a boat at least 30 metres from the shore so that he is facing the shore. When instructed, the owner will command the dog to swim out to the water steward with the life buoy or life jacket. The dog will swim directly to him holding the article with its mouth. On reaching the steward it will swim close enough for him to take and keep hold. The dog will then use the article to bring him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the water steward is in shallow water near the shore and the dog is under control.

Scoring - The entry into the water/take up of the article, and then its presentation to the water steward are equally important elements with 10 points each, with 5 points for the swim back and exit from the water. 5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12). The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the water steward;
- not turning when instructed;
- not keeping hold of the article;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb on the water steward or has to be physically redirected.

Permitted actions - The Judge on the day will select either:

- a half life ring/buoy or
- a life jacket/buoyancy aid

This will be the article for the day and it will be the same for each dog. When making a selection the Judge will take into account the suitability of the article, having regard to all the circumstances.

The selected article can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 6 metres, so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore. The dog should preferably turn behind the water steward but it may turn in front or to the side; however it must be a close turn as the article must be presented within arm's reach of the steward so that he can easily take hold of it.

Explanatory Note 12 (second attempt) applies to this exercise.

12. Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and unless specifically instructed otherwise in the desired performance or permitted actions of an individual exercise may re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore fewer points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch.

SECTION E

EXERCISE 2 Directed tow of one of two persons

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and swim to a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

Desired performance - The exercise will be set up out of sight of the dog. When called forward the dog will remain at the midway point on dry land, under control, at the side of the owner until instructed to begin. Two water stewards (who are strangers to the dog, see explanatory note 17) will have entered the water so that they are both at least 30 metres out, about 10 metres apart and both vertical in the water, facing the shore. The Judge will inform the owner which steward the dog has to tow, this may be different for each entrant and decided by random selection ie the toss of a coin. Depending on random selection, both stewards will be either noisy and splash in the water or both will remain calm and quiet, this will be the same for all entrants. When instructed, the owner will send the dog from its position midway between the two water stewards to swim out to the randomly selected steward. In this particular exercise the owner **must stay on dry land at the midway point**, directing the dog only by verbal/visual commands and not move until the dog has picked up the water steward, when they can then move freely in the designated shore area. The dog will swim directly to the selected steward, effect a safe pick-up and return with him back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the water steward is in shallow water near the shore and the dog is under control. The other water steward will then return to the shore.

Scoring - Swimming out to the correct water steward and the pick-up are equally important elements with 10 points each, with 5 points available for the tow back/exit. 5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12). The pass mark is 18 out of 25. Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the owner;
- not swimming directly to the person;
- not effecting a safe pick-up;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- not bringing the water steward to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- Owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to climb on either water steward or has to be physically redirected. The dog will fail if it comes within arm's reach of the 'wrong' water steward. . The dog will fail if the owner moves from the land and/or leaves the midway point before the dog has picked up the water steward.

Permitted actions - Prior to the boat leaving the shore, the water stewards will find out if they are both to be noisy or quiet - this will be chosen by random selection and will be the same for all entrants. The steward to be collected (Left or Right) will be randomly selected for each entrant, and will be made known to the owner when they are called forward, after the test has been set up. The water steward to be collected will not necessarily be the same for each dog. The dog must wear either a harness or a float coat to provide a suitable safe handhold for the water steward to take hold of whilst being towed. When approaching the water steward, although the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, it is preferable for it to turn safely behind him.

Explanatory Note 12 (second attempt) applies to this exercise.

Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again, and, unless specifically instructed otherwise in the desired performance or permitted actions of an individual exercise, may re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore fewer points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch

NB The owner is not permitted to launch the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected water steward.
If the dog comes within easy reach of the 'wrong' steward then they must hold on and get towed back to the shore.

SECTION E

EXERCISE 3 Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to commands and to jump from a boat and take a rope to someone in another boat some distance away and then either be pulled into that boat or return to shore.

Desired performance - The dog will enter the boat (boat one) with the owner, the boat steward, a steward and a Judge. They will be taken to a position approximately 25 metres from the shore. Another boat (boat two) with a boat steward, a steward, a water steward, (who is a stranger to the dog, see explanatory note 16) and the other Judge will be positioned the same distance from the shore and at least 15 metres away from boat one. To ensure the boats remain in their set positions of at least 15 metres apart they will be anchored, where possible.

When given the signal to begin, the owner will command the dog to exit boat one. The dog will enter the water, be handed or take one end of the rope in its mouth, at which point the water steward in boat 2 will begin to call the dog. The dog will swim directly to boat two; the other end of the rope will be held securely by the steward in boat one. As the dog gets sufficiently near to boat two, the water steward will actively attempt to get hold of the rope but without endangering himself or the dog. When the water steward has the end of the rope, he will simulate securing it to the boat. While he is doing this the dog will be required to swim calmly in the water until instructed to approach the boat again. Whilst the dog is swimming calmly in the water, the judge will instruct the steward in boat one to pull the rope back to boat one without endangering or distracting the dog still in the water. The Judges shall indicate that the exercise is complete when one of the following options has been completed:

Option 1 - the dog will proceed to boat two where it will be pulled into the boat and the timed portion of the exercise is completed, however the dog must remain under control until the boat has returned to shore and the dog and water steward have safely exited the boat, to complete the exercise.

Option 2 - the dog is held by its harness sideways along the side of boat two for at least 3 seconds, then either 2a - the dog can return to the shore by a shore handler calling or 2b - the dog can be given the tow rope from boat two, safely knotted, to return to the shore with a shore handler calling, or 2c - the dog can tow boat two back to shore with the tow rope and a shore handler calling.

If any of the options 2 are taken the exercise will end when the dog is back on shore and under control.

Scoring - Taking the rope to the boat and waiting calmly in the water/ the boarding or the return to shore if option 2 is chosen are equally important elements with 10 points each, with a further 5 points for the boat exit. The pass mark is 18 out of 25.

Points will be lost for:

- not entering the boat safely at the shore;
- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the owner;
- not taking the end of rope when instructed;
- not swimming directly to the other boat;
- dropping the rope during the swim;
- not taking the rope directly to the steward;
- not swimming calmly whilst waiting during the simulation of securing the rope to the boat

Option 1: not boarding calmly and safely or

Option 2: not waiting calmly whilst being held by the harness, and not returning directly back to shore, shore handler leaving the test area.

SECTION E

EXERCISE 3 Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat (continued)

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. Within the first 30 seconds of the exercise the dog must have exited the boat. The dog will be failed if the owner physically assists in the exit from the boat. It will also be failed if it attempts to enter or re-enter either boat at the wrong time or has to be physically re-directed.

Permitted actions - The rope must float and not have anything at the end other than a plain back-splice or whipping. The rope shall be 10-20mm in diameter, heat sealed where necessary and be of sufficient length (at least 20 m) to reach between the two boats. The dog can be given the end of the rope before it jumps overboard or have its commands supplemented by splashing or tossing the end of rope into the water. The owner must remain in boat one until the test is completed. The dog is permitted to swim around the boat as many times as is necessary without incurring any loss of points. The dog must wear either a harness or a float coat to provide a suitable safe handhold when it is either held alongside the boat or to allow a safe lift if it is to be hauled into the boat. Before the exercise begins the owner must advise both the judges and stewards which of the options is to be used for the completion of the exercise. Either option 1 or option 2a, option 2b or option 2c. This option choice cannot be changed once the exercise has commenced.

If either option 2a, 2b or 2c is chosen, after the dog has been held alongside the boat for at least 3 seconds, a handler, chosen by the owner, may call the dog back to shore and may use his name. The dog must either:

- 2a) swim directly back to shore or
- 2b) he can be given a safely knotted tow rope to carry directly back to shore or
- 2c) he can effect a safe rope tow of the boat directly back to shore

Under option 2a, 2b or 2c the exercise is complete when the dog is safely on shore and under control.

NB Test Managers, as stated in Responsibilities of the Test Manager, two stewards, one of which must be a stranger, will be required who are physically capable of lifting the dog into the boat and must be available if Option 1 is chosen.

SECTION E

EXERCISE 4 Search for hidden rope and tow boat to shore.

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and search around a boat to find a rope and then use it to tow the boat back to the shore.

Desired performance - Out of sight of the dog, the boat will be positioned at least 30 metres from the shore with a boat steward holding the boat in position so that he cannot be seen by the dog on the shore. The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the owner, until instructed to begin. When instructed, the owner will command the dog to swim out to the boat. On reaching the boat, the dog will swim around the boat to find the tow rope that will be hanging loosely with the end in the water. The other end of the tow rope will be held by a steward hiding out of sight, the tow rope must not be tied to the boat. The dog will take up the rope and use it to tow the boat back to the shore. The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the boat is within reach of the owner and the dog is on shore under control.

Scoring - The search and then the take up and tow back are equally important elements of the test, with 10 points for each, with 5 points being available for the swim out. 5 points will be lost immediately a second attempt is started (see Explanatory Note 12). The pass mark is 18 out of 25. Points will be lost for:

- excessive anticipation or lack of control;
- hesitation in entering the water;
- the owner not returning to the shore area;
- not swimming directly to the boat;
- not circling close to the boat when instructed;
- not swimming directly back to the shore;
- dropping the rope on the swim back;
- not bringing the boat to shallow water;
- not leaving the water when instructed;
- owner leaving the test area.

Failure - Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise fails the dog. The dog will be failed if it attempts to enter the boat or has to be physically redirected.

Permitted actions - The tow rope shall be 10 – 20mm in diameter, must float and must not have anything at the towing end other than a plain back-splice or whipping and maybe heat sealed where necessary. The rope will be left loosely hanging over the side with at least the end in the water; the rope may not be over the side facing the shore at the start of the exercise. If the boat moves during the exercise and exposes the rope to the shore, the boat or rope must not be re-positioned.

Explanatory Note 12 (second attempt) applies to this exercise.

Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and unless specifically instructed otherwise in the desired performance or permitted actions of an individual exercise may re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This 'second attempt' will entail an immediate loss of 5 points; therefore fewer points can be lost whilst doing this second attempt to still obtain a pass. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and re-started from scratch

NB The boat steward should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extraneous ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.

Notes - 'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the owner and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the test area while the exercise is set up.

LEONBERGER CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



WATER TEST COMMENT SHEET

VENUE DATE

AGE

CALL NAME KENNEL NAME

HANDLER OWNER

TEST LEVEL	EXERCISE 1	EXERCISE 2	EXERCISE 3	EXERCISE 4	EXERCISE 5	OVERALL
SECTION A	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	N/A	N/A	PASS / FAIL
SECTION B	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL
SECTION C	PASS /FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	N/A	PASS / FAIL
SECTION D	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	N/A	PASS / FAIL
SECTION E	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	PASS / FAIL	N/A	PASS / FAIL

JUDGES COMMENTS

JUDGES SIGNATURES

JUDGES NAMES (please print)

THE LEONBERGER CLUB OF GB WATER TEST – SECTION A SCORE SHEET

VENUE

DATE

CALL NAME

AGE

NUMBER

POINT LOST FOR	A1	A2	A3
1. Lack of control			
2. Hesitation			
3. Physical redirection			
4. Owner not returning to shore area			
5. Not swimming directly out			
6. Climbing on boat or person	FAIL		N/A
7. Not turning when instructed			
8. Not swimming directly back			
9. Dropping object	N/A	N/A	
10. Having object re-thrown	N/A	N/A	
11. Not leaving water when instructed			
12. Owner leaving test area			
13. Exceeding time limit for exercise	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
TOTAL OF POINTS LOST			
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS	35	35	30
ACTUAL SCORE PER EXERCISE			
PASS MARK PER EXERCISE	26	26	23
RESULT PER EXERCISE	PASS/FAIL	PASS/FAIL	PASS/FAIL
TEST RESULT	PASS / FAIL		

BOAT TOWED YES / NO TYPE OF TOW ROPE / RUMP / N/A
 OWN OBJECT YES / NO

Notes not for comment sheet

JUDGES COMMENTS to be transferred to comment form

Judges Names (please print)

THE LEONBERGER CLUB OF GB WATER TEST – SECTION B SCORE SHEET

VENUE

DATE

CALL NAME

AGE

NUMBER

POINTS LOST FOR :	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
1. Excessive anticipation					
2. Lack of control					
3. Hesitation					
4. Physical redirection					
5. Not swimming directly out					N/A
6. Owner not returning to shore area					N/A
7. Climbing on boat or person	FAIL		N/A	N/A	FAIL
8. Not close enough to swimmer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
9. Too close to swimmer and interfering	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
10. Not turning when instructed					
11. Not offering rope	N/A	FAIL	N/A	N/A	N/A
12. Not taking rope	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
13. Not towing boat with rope	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
14. Not effecting a safe tow			N/A	N/A	N/A
15. Not swimming directly back					
16. Boat/person not in reach of shore			N/A	N/A	N/A
17. Dropping object	N/A	N/A			N/A
18. Object re-thrown or replaced	N/A	N/A			N/A
19. Not giving up object when instructed	N/A	N/A			N/A
20. Not leaving water when instructed					
21. Owner leaving test area					
22. Exceeding Time Limit	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
TOTAL POINTS LOST					
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS	20	20	20	20	20
ACTUAL SCORE PER EXERCISE					
PASS MARK PER EXERCISE	14	14	14	14	14
RESULT PER EXERCISE	P / F	P / F	P / F	P / F	P / F
TEST RESULT	PASS / FAIL				

OWN ROPE USED YES / NO

TYPE OF TOW ROPE / RUMP

Notes not for comment sheet (use back of sheet)

JUDGES COMMENTS to be transferred to comment form (use back of sheet)

Judges Names (please print)

THE LEONBERGER CLUB OF GB WATER TEST – SECTION C SCORE SHEET

VENUE

DATE

CALL NAME

AGE

NUMBER

POINTS LOST FOR	EXERCISE	C1	C2	C3	C4
1.	Not entering boat safely	N/A		N/A	N/A
2.	Excessive anticipation				
3.	Lack of control				
4.	Hesitation				
5.	Physical redirection				
6.	Owner not returning to shore area		N/A		N/A
7.	Assist with exit/exit after 60 secs	N/A	FAIL	N/A	N/A
8.	Hesitation in taking rope	N/A		N/A	N/A
9.	Not swimming directly out		N/A		N/A
10.	Not close enough to swimmer	N/A	N/A	N/A	
11.	Too close and interfering	N/A	N/A	N/A	
12.	Climbing on boat or person	FAIL		N/A	FAIL
13.	Not turning when instructed		N/A		
14.	Not effecting a safe tow		N/A	N/A	N/A
15.	Dropping rope or object	N/A			N/A
16.	Not returning directly back				N/A
17.	Not towing boat with rope	N/A	FAIL	N/A	N/A
18.	Boat or person not within reach			N/A	N/A
19.	Not giving object to owner	N/A	N/A		N
20.	Not leaving water when instructed				
21.	Owner leaving test area				
22.	Exceeding the time limit for exercise		FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
TIME					
TOTAL OF POINTS LOST					
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS		25	25	25	25
ACTUAL SCORE PER EXERCISE					
PASS MARK PER EXERCISE		18	18	18	18
RESULT PER EXERCISE		P / F	P / F	P / F	
TEST RESULT		PASS / FAIL			

Notes not for comment sheet (use reverse of sheet)

JUDGES COMMENTS to be transferred to comment form (use reverse of sheet)

Judges Names (please print)

THE LEONBERGER CLUB OF GB WATER TEST – SECTION D SCORE SHEET

VENUE

DATE

CALL NAME

AGE

NUMBER

POINTS LOST FOR:	D1	D2	D3	D4
1. Not entering boat safely	N/A		N/A	N/A
2. Excessive anticipation				
3. Lack of control				
4. Hesitation				
5. Owner not returning to shore area		N/A	N/A	
6. Assist with exit / exit after 30 secs	N/A	FAIL	N/A	N/A
7. Not swimming directly out				
8. Dropping rope on swim out		N/A	N/A	N/A
9. Not giving up rope on command		N/A	N/A	N/A
10. Climbing or wrong object	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
11. Not turning when instructed	N/A			
12. Not effecting a safe tow	N/A		N/A	
13. Not returning directly back				
14. Not coming when called	N/A		N/A	N/A
15. Not simulating/assisting water steward	N/A		N/A	N/A
16. Not waiting calmly to board/return to shore	N/A		N/A	N/A
17. Drop rope or object on return		N/A		N/A
18. Boat or person not within reach			N/A	N/A
19. Not giving object to owner	N/A	N/A		N/A
20. Not leaving water when instructed		N/A		
21. Owner leaving test area		N/A		
22. Physical redirection	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
23. Owner leaving dry land and/or moving from midway point before article is picked up	N/A	N/A	FAIL	N/A
24. Exceeding time limit for exercise	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
SECOND ATTEMPT	-5	N/A	-5	-5
TOTAL OF POINTS LOST				
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS	25	25	25	25
ACTUAL SCORE PER EXERCISE				
PASS MARK PER EXERCISE	18	18	18	18
RESULT PER EXERCISE	P / F	P / F	P / F	P / F
TEST RESULT	PASS / FAIL			

BOARD DOG YES / NO OPTION 2a / 2b / 2c Notes not for comment (use reverse of sheet)

JUDGES COMMENTS to be transferred to comment form (use reverse of sheet)

Judges Names (please print)

THE LEONBERGER CLUB OF GB WATER TEST - SECTION E SCORE SHEET

VENUE

DATE

CALL NAME

AGE

NUMBER

POINTS LOST FOR:	E1	E2	E3	E4
1. Not entering boat safely	N/A	N/A		N/A
2. Excessive anticipation				
3. Lack of control				
4. Hesitation				
5. Owner not returning to shore area		N/A	N/A	
6. Assist with exit/exit after 30 secs	N/A	N/A	FAIL	N/A
7. Not taking rope	N/A	N/A		N/A
8. Not swimming directly out				
9. Dropping article or rope on swim out		N/A		
10. Climbing on boat or person	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
11. Not turning when instructed			N/A	
12. Not effecting a safe tow	N/A		N/A	N/A
13. Wrong steward	N/A	FAIL	N/A	N/A
14. Not returning directly back			N/A	
15. Not taking rope to steward	N/A	N/A		N/A
16. Not waiting calmly to board/return to shore	N/A	N/A		N/A
17. Drop article or rope on return		N/A	N/A	
18. Boat or person not within reach			N/A	
19. Not leaving water when instructed			N/A	
20. Owner leaving test area or boat			N/A	
21. Physical re-direction	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
22. Owner moving from midway point before water steward is picked up.	N/A	FAIL	N/A	N/A
23. Exceeding time limit for exercise	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
SECOND ATTEMPT	-5	-5	-5	-5
TOTAL OF POINTS LOST				
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS	25	25	25	25
ACTUAL SCORE PER EXERCISE				
PASS MARK PER EXERCISE	18	18	18	18
RESULT PER EXERCISE	P / F	P / F	P / F	P / F
TEST RESULT	PASS / FAIL			

BOARD DOG YES / NO OPTION 2A / 2B / 2C

Notes not for comment (use reverse of sheet)

JUDGES COMMENTS to be transferred to comment form (use reverse of sheet)

Judges Names (please print)