

AKC DRAFTING REGULATIONS

DRAFT

*These are not official AKC
Regulations*

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American Kennel Club

AKC Mission Statement

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC® and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

AKC Performance Events

Customer Service Representatives	000-000-0000
Fax	000-000-0000
Internet	www.akc.org

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PURPOSE

The American Kennel Club Draft Test is a series of exercises designed to demonstrate the abilities of purebred dogs to perform in a working capacity including hauling freight. The performance of these skills is intended to demonstrate teamwork between dog and handler resulting from both natural ability, and training that are applicable to realistic work situations.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All American Kennel Club (AKC) Dog Show Rules and Regulations and American Kennel Club Obedience Regulations shall apply to all persons and dogs except as these American Kennel Club Draft Regulations direct otherwise. A copy of each of these shall be at the site of the Draft Test and available to the judges, handlers, Draft Test Committee and personnel. It is the responsibility of each handler to be familiar with these materials prior to the Draft Test.

POSITION STATEMENT Use of Dogs in Sporting, Working and Competition Activities

The American Kennel Club encourages and strongly supports the interaction and mutual enjoyment of owners and dogs in sporting activities such as hunting and field trials; in working circumstances such as herding, tracking, and pulling; and in competition events such as dog shows, obedience trials, agility trials, and other performance events and tests. The AKC believes that dogs should be properly cared for, humanely trained, and not pushed beyond reasonable limits.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Chapter 1. Administration

Section 1. Application of Clubs to hold Draft Tests

a. AKC Approval - Written approval of the AKC must be obtained to sponsor a Draft Test at which dogs earn AKC draft titles. Only clubs or associations in good standing with the AKC are eligible to apply for and hold a Draft Test. A specialty club may apply for permission to hold a Draft Test for its breed.

b. Application - Application forms are available from the AKC and must include:

1. Name of the Draft Test sponsoring club
2. Date of the proposed Draft Test
3. The address of the selected site
4. Entry limits (if any) for each class
5. Name and address of the two (2) judges
6. Name, address and contact information for the Draft Test Chair and Draft Test Secretary
7. Name, address and contact information for any other Draft Test Committee members
8. A statement that all AKC Draft Rules & Regulations will be followed
9. A guarantee that all regulations, equipment, steward assistants, and other required provisions will be available at the test site
10. Dated signatures of the Draft Test Chair and the Draft Test Secretary
11. A \$_____ administration fee payable by check to the AKC

c. Time of Application – Application to hold a Draft Test must be made to the AKC at least six (6) months prior to the date of the proposed Draft Test. The AKC shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for a test date. In the event such action is taken, the test-giving club shall have no claim against the AKC.

d. Draft Test Forms – Once approval has been granted to hold a Draft Test, it shall be the responsibility of the Draft Test Committee to obtain the required Draft Test

forms from the AKC. These forms to include the following:

1. Judges' worksheets – to be filled out by each judge evaluating each team's performance, a copy of which is to be given to the handler and the Draft Test Secretary at the conclusion of judging.
2. Data worksheets – to be completed by the Draft Test Committee as a concise means of recording statistics and information about each dog and rig entered. Information to be included shall be; breed, weight of dog(s), type rig, width of rig at its widest point, type and weight and description of cargo being used for freight haul portion of test. The Data Worksheets shall be given to the Draft Test Secretary at the end of judging and shall form part of the Draft Test Secretary's Final Report.
3. Judges' Report – shall be a transcription of the information on the Judges' Worksheets and shall be signed by both judges and counter-signed by the Draft Test Secretary at the conclusion of the judging. This report shall also be included in the Draft Test Secretary's Final Report.
4. Apprentice Judge Evaluation Report – to be filled out by the presiding judges and returned to the Draft Test Secretary.
5. Draft Test Secretary's Report – shall be returned to the AKC within seven (7) days of the completion of the Draft Test and include: Data Worksheets, Judges' Report, Diagram of Maneuvering Course, Diagram or description of Freight Haul Course and Apprentice or Provisional Judge Evaluation Report.

Section 2. The Draft Test Committee

a. Members: The Draft Test Committee of the sponsoring club shall consist of a *minimum* of three (3) people, one of whom shall be named Chairman. The Draft Test Committee Chairman and the Draft Test Secretary must be members in good standing of the AKC club or association hosting the Draft Test.

b. Official AKC Representation: The Draft Test Committee shall act as official representatives of the AKC and must see to the enforcement of these Draft Test

Regulations. Any violations of these Regulations must be reported by the Draft Test Committee to the AKC in writing and included with the Draft Test report.

c. Draft Test Secretary: The Draft Test Committee shall appoint a Draft Test Secretary. The Draft Test Secretary shall take all entries and notify each exhibitor after the closing date, of the time of judging, address and directions to the site, and names of judges at least one (1) week prior to the date of the Draft Test.

At the Draft Test the Draft Test Secretary must have available the following for inspection:

1. The AKC Draft Test Regulations
2. AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations
3. AKC Obedience regulations
4. Completed entry forms of each exhibitor

The Draft Test Secretary shall be responsible for sending the Draft Test Report materials to the AKC within seven (7) days following the Draft Test.

These are to include:

1. Judges' Report
2. Judges' worksheets
3. Two (2) marked catalogs
4. Completed entry forms
5. Draft Test Secretary's Final Report
6. Final diagram of Maneuvering Course
7. Description of the Freight Haul course
8. Report of any move-ups
9. Reports of any test violations, excusals of a dog or team, etc.

No dog belonging wholly or in part to the Draft Test Chairman or Draft Test Secretary or to any member of his/her immediate family may enter any Draft Test at which he/she officiates or is scheduled to officiate.

Section 3. Duties of the Draft Test Committee

a. Plotting the Distance Freight Haul Course:

The Draft Test Committee is responsible for plotting the Distance Freight Haul course once approval to hold a Draft Test has been received. Individuals who will compete at that Test shall not plot the Freight Haul Course. The judges shall walk the Freight Haul Course prior to the Test and make any changes they think appropriate.

b. Premium List:

The Draft Test Committee shall print a Premium List after receiving approval to hold an AKC Draft Test. This Premium List shall be made available to any owner interested in entering a dog in the Draft Test. Two (2) copies of the Premium List shall be provided to the AKC at the time of distribution to the public. The Premium List may be distributed by postal mail, e-mail, or through an internet web site authorized by the AKC. The Premium List (example attached) shall contain the following:

1. The statement – “American Kennel Club Draft Test.”
2. A list of the officers and Board of Directors of the sponsoring club.
3. A list of the members of the Draft Test Committee including the Chairman’s and Secretary’s address, phone and contact information.
4. The names and addresses of the judges.
5. The name and address of the Draft Test veterinarian and whether she/he will be in attendance or on call.
6. The date, time and location of the Draft Test.
7. Directions to the site of the Draft Test.
8. A list of the classes offered and the entry limit for each class.
9. The statement – “Entrants are responsible for providing their own draft equipment and Freight Haul weight.
10. The closing date for the entry, followed by the statement – “after which time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled or altered, except as specifically allowed in the AKC Draft Test Regulations.”
11. If offered, a list of awards and prizes.
12. The statement – “Entrants are responsible for obtaining the AKC Draft Test Regulations and being familiar with them.”
13. Information on how to obtain the AKC Draft Test Regulations.
14. An entry form provided by the AKC which includes the statement – “I (We) acknowledge that the AKC Draft Test Regulations have been made available to me (us), that I am (we are) familiar with their contents and that I (we) agree to abide by these Regulations at this AKC Draft

Test. I (We) understand that I (we) enter a dog at this AKC Draft Test at my (our) own risk.”

c. Equipment and Supplies:

In order to differentiate Draft Tests from obedience competition the use of obedience equipment is not recommended. The Draft Test sponsoring club shall provide the following:

1. a. AKC Draft Test Regulations
 b. AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations
 c. AKC Obedience Regulations
2. Ropes and stakes or ring gates necessary to define a ring with a minimum of 10,000 square feet with no dimension less than 75 feet.
3. Markers to define the Freight Haul course. The markers should be large enough to be clearly visible to both handlers and spectators.
4. A removable obstacle, ideally an object that might be found in everyday drafting situations (i.e. gates, saw horses, logs, branches, highway cones).
5. Markers for the Distance Freight Haul course.
6. A lightweight load such as a blanket or quilt and a 20 or 40 pound weight for Ground Driving maneuvers.
7. A minimum of two (2) markers to define a narrow area. The markers should be no less than one (1) foot high and a minimum of four (4) feet in length.
8. A four-foot stick or dowel or tape measure for measuring the backing exercises.
9. A watch or stopwatch to time stays and backing exercises.
10. Exhibitor and matching draft rig numbers.
11. Ribbons and/or rosettes.
12. Audio and visual distractions.
13. A scale for weighing the freight loads.
14. A catalog identifying each entered dog. For Open and Ground Driving classes the catalog should show the weight the dogs must pull in the Freight Haul. The catalog should identify those dogs for which the Basic Control exercise has been waived.
15. A designated area near the ring for the draft equipment and freight weights of all entrants. All such equipment and weights shall remain in this area unless being used in the test.

16. An out-of-sight location to hide handler from dog's view in the Open group exercise.
17. Recommended:
 - a. A system by which spectators may be silently informed whether each team passed or failed each exercise (i.e. flags, tally board, or signal from the judges.)
 - b. A diagram of the maneuvering course clearly posted at ringside.

d. Stewards:

The judges are in sole charge of the Draft Test area until their assignment is completed. Stewards assist the judges and they may act only on the judges' instructions. Stewards must not give information or instructions to owners and entrants except as specifically instructed by a judge and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of a judge. Any harassment of stewards must be reported immediately to the judges.

A minimum of four (4) stewards shall be provided to assist the judges. In addition, the Draft Test Committee must provide a sufficient number of stewards on the Distance Freight Haul.

e. Veterinarian:

The services of a veterinarian must be available during a Draft Test. Ideally the veterinarian should be present at the Draft Test and walk the Freight Haul course with the teams and the judges. The veterinarian's professional opinion on the condition of any dog should be given precedence in determining whether the dog should continue to compete. If the veterinarian cannot be on site, the veterinary office must be within a short drive. The Draft Test Regulations have been devised to present a minimal hazard to dogs and handlers but Draft Test Committees are urged to take all responsible precautions to ensure the safety of all involved.

f. Safety Officer:

A Safety Officer will be appointed and is responsible for insuring that all un-entered dogs are kept on lead or crated and outside and away from the main test area.

g. Notification of Changes:

If a Draft Test Committee is informed, at any time prior to the opening of its Draft Test, that an advertised judge will not fulfill his/her engagement to judge, then the Draft Test Committee shall substitute that judge. The AKC,

who shall be notified of the change either by telephone, postal mail or e-mail, must approve the substitute judge. The same shall apply to emergency changes of site or Draft Test officials. If the request is made by telephone, a letter to the AKC must follow with a full explanation.

h. Prizes

Test sponsoring clubs are encouraged to offer prizes and/or ribbons and/or trophies for passing teams.

i. Limitation of Entries

The Draft Test Committee may limit entries. Novice Draft and Open Draft must be offered. Brace Novice Draft, Brace Open Draft, Ground Driving, Brace Ground Driving, Driving and Brace Driving may be offered at the option of the sponsoring club. If entries are limited, the Draft Test Secretary must accept all entries received prior to the closing date in order of postmark. Entries received by the deadline, but arriving after limits have been reached, will be placed on an alternate list. Alternates will be able to participate if there are absences, teams are unable to compete, and/or move-ups.

In order to maximize entries, the remaining slots of any unfilled classes may be randomly allocated across the filled classes. Entrants shall notify the Draft Test Secretary if a dog has earned a title in the entered class, including if the title is earned after the entry has been submitted.

j. Final Jurisdiction:

During the planning and conducting of a Draft Test, all matters not related to the judging of the Draft Test shall be resolved by the Draft Test Committee by direct reference to these Regulations. All situations not clearly resolved by these Regulations shall be resolved by reference to the AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations. All unusual situations and their resolutions must be reported in the Draft Test Final Report. Violations of the Draft Test Regulations shall be addressed under Discipline (General Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 4.)

k. Judges' Decisions:

At the Draft Test, the decisions of the judges are final in all matters affecting the scoring and working ability of the dogs and their entrants. The judges are in sole charge of the Draft Test area until their assignment is complete.

Section 4. Discipline

Discipline for violation of the AKC Draft Test Regulations will be under provisions of the AKC Constitution and By-Laws (Article XII, Sections 1-18.) Any hosting club or person(s) participating in an AKC Draft Test and not in accordance with the current AKC Draft Test Regulations may be disciplined for a stated period of time or indefinitely. Discipline may include, but is not limited to, reprimand forfeiture of draft titles, fine, suspension and/or withholding all Draft Test privileges.

Chapter 2.

Judges and Judging Guidelines

Section 1. Judges

a. Test Requirement:

There shall be two (2) judges for an AKC Draft Test. Judges should thoroughly understand draft work and the physical conditioning necessary for draft and other types of pulling.

Before a Draft Test Committee applies for permission to sponsor an AKC Draft Test, it must select a judging slate that meets the qualifications approved by the AKC. Prior to contacting the proposed judges, the Draft Test Committee shall contact the AKC regarding suitability of the proposed judging slate.

b. Qualified Judges:

Until such time as there are suitable AKC Draft judges, current approved judges from the following Parent Clubs may judge at all AKC Draft Tests; the Newfoundland Club of America, the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, The American Rottweiler Club, the Collie Club of America, the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, the Great Pyrenees Club of America, the Saint Bernard Club of America, the American Bullmastiff Club of America, the Mastiff Club of America and the Leonberger Club of the United States (pending recognition.) All said clubs shall submit a list of qualified judges upon approval of these regulations after which only judges meeting the requirements set herein may be added to this initial list of approved AKC Draft Test judges.

Section 2. Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of great importance. Judges are not permitted to vary the exercises, but it is recognized that AKC Draft Tests are intended for performance on natural terrain and may require minimal adaptation to fill the site available. Judges are expected to walk with the handlers on the Distance Freight Haul. In no case should the judges(s) add, delete or change any requirements of an AKC Draft Test.

If, in the opinion of the Judges, the test setup is not safe or will not adequately test a team's abilities, the Judges may disapprove of the Draft Test Committee's test setup and make suggestions for improvements.

Section 3. Qualifications for AKC Draft Test Judges

a. Approved Judges

Members in good standing of AKC clubs or associations may apply to become an AKC Draft Judge after fulfilling all of the following requirements:

1. Trained and qualified at an AKC Draft Test, earning at least one draft title.
2. Acted as a steward at a minimum of three AKC Draft Tests, one of which as Head Steward.
3. Has Apprentice judged at two (2) different AKC Draft Tests, under a minimum of three (3) different judges.

b. Applying to become a Judge

An individual seeking to become an AKC Draft Test Judge must complete the following:

1. Submit a written application containing the following:
 - Name, Address, Telephone number, and e-mail address, if any.
 - A list of draft titles earned by the applicant, to include the date and the host club or association.
 - A summary of the applicants draft experience, e.g. test chair, test secretary, head steward, conducting workshops, seminars or classes etc., to include dates, host clubs and other relevant information.
 - Verification of stewarding at least three AKC Draft Tests.
 - Verification of Apprentice judging at least two AKC Draft Tests.
 - A summary of other experience relevant to draft judging skills.
2. An open book test on the AKC Draft Test Regulations with a minimum score of 85%. Said test may be administered on line.
3. A separate sheet, signed and dated stating:
"I understand and will respect, uphold, and be subject to the requirements of the AKC Draft Test Regulations."

These signed documents will be kept on file by the AKC for all Draft Judges. The AKC shall immediately acknowledge receipt of all application materials. Within four (4) weeks after receipt of all application materials, the AKC shall notify the applicant, in writing, or via e-mail, either of approval as an AKC Judge or of the need for further preparation and reapplication.

c. Apprentice Judge

An Apprentice Judge must:

1. Complete two (2) Apprentice assignments at an AKC Draft Test under at least three (3) different Approved AKC Draft Judges. The Apprentice is responsible for arranging this assignment with both the judges and the host club, and obtaining approval of said assignment from the Draft Committee Chairperson. All expenses for this Apprentice assignment are the responsibility of the Apprentice Judge. As the judging schedule allows, the Apprentice shall evaluate and discuss each team with the Approved Judges, as well as observe and discuss all other aspects of judging a Draft Test, including Maneuvering and Freight Haul course layouts, equipment checks, briefings, course walk-throughs, and paperwork.
2. Design and submit a Maneuvering Course layout for each assignment to the judges, at least two weeks prior to the test, for evaluation and discussion.
3. If conditions and schedule permit, Apprentice Judges are encouraged to call obedience and maneuvering patterns for one or more teams during a non-judging portion of a test. The Approved Judges shall evaluate the Apprentice Judge's performance and include their observations in their reports.
4. Observe the judging of a minimum of eight (8) Novice and three (3) Open and/or Driving teams.
5. Receive positive evaluations, from all judges, as to knowledge, attitude, focus, ring presence, communication skills, organization, efficiency, and physical ability to judge. The Judges shall send their evaluations to the AKC within ten (10) days of the Draft Test. Their evaluations shall also include the Apprentice's maneuvering course layout and their critique thereof.

Evaluations shall be kept on file with the AKC, which shall be available to the applicants upon request.

6. Apprentices shall submit their Judge's Report to the AKC within ten (10) days of completing each assignment, with copies to the presiding Judges.

7. Within eight (8) weeks of submission of the assignment requirements, the AKC shall notify the Apprentice Judge in writing or via e-mail, of approval as a Judge or the need for further Apprentice experience.

d. Continuing Education

Every three (3) years after being approved, a Judge must complete an open book test covering the AKC Draft Test Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations as they apply to Drafting. Said open book test to be conducted by mail or e-mail and shall consist of objective multiple choice, yes/no, and short essay questions designed to educate and promote standardized judging.

All Judges approved with the adoption of these regulations shall, prior to their next assignment to judge under AKC regulations, sign, date and submit to AKC the following statement:

"I understand and will respect, uphold, and be subject to the requirements of the AKC Draft Test Regulations."

Section 4. Pre-Judging Responsibilities

a. Arrival

Judges should arrive at the Draft test site at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled start of judging in order to have time to check draft equipment, familiarize themselves with the Maneuvering and Freight Haul courses and ensure all Test preparations have been completed.

b. Explanation of Ring Procedure

Immediately prior to the start of judging the Judges should explain the ring procedure and patterns to all handlers.

c. Equipment and Freight Load Check

Prior to the start of judging, Judges shall check all draft equipment and the Freight Haul loads to be used in the Draft Test. This check should include rig, harnesses, collars, reins and leashes to be used. Once checked by the Judges this equipment may not be substituted or altered.

The type of draft rig and the width of the draft rig at its widest point (which may be the width of the team) shall be recorded on the Data Worksheet for easy reference during the Test. The judging schedule should allow time for this measurement.

The Judges will verify the load for the Freight Haul is appropriate for the dog, apparatus, and site conditions. Animals or people may not be used as loads (except for driving). Factory sealed containers of pet food may be used if the seal has not been broken.

Section 5. Judging Guidelines

a. Pass/Fail

All judging is on a pass/fail basis.

b. Decisions

Two judges evaluate the teams. Judges shall reach a mutual decision regarding the passing or failing performance of each team. Judges' decisions are final in all classes. Full discretionary power is given to the judges to withhold any or all prizes.

c. Excusing a Dog

The judges must disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person in the ring or during the freight haul. The judges must excuse a dog that attacks another dog or that appears dangerous to other dogs. The judges must excuse any dog that is lame or appearing to pull weight in excess of its ability, any team whose equipment is inadequate or faulty, any handler who willfully interferes with another team, or any handler who abuses their dog in the ring.

A Judge marking a dog "excused" must state the reason in the Judge's Report.

d. Misbehavior

Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior of a dog such as snapping, barking or running away from its handler, whether it occurs before, during or between exercises, must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior and the Judge may expel or excuse the dog from further competition in the class. A dog that fouls the ring or the freight haul course receives a failing mark.

e. Group Exercises

A maximum of eight (8) Novice teams or five (5) Open or Driving teams or four (4) Novice Brace teams or four (4) Open Brace or four (4) Driving Brace teams may be judged together in the group exercises. Novice and Novice Brace teams may be combined. Open and Open Brace teams may be combined. All Driving teams must be judged separately.

f. Evaluation

Dogs shall be judged for willingness, ability, enthusiasm, naturalness as a team, and smoothness of performance. Each exercise shall be judged on a pass/fail basis. Upon completion of all exercises, each handler may request a written evaluation from both judges of the team's performance in each exercise. Judges are encouraged to discuss evaluations with the exhibitors.

g. Test Reports

1. The day of the test the Judges must complete and sign the Draft Test Judge's Report which the Draft Test Secretary must return to the AKC.
2. Within ten (10) days of completion of each test each Judge must submit a Judge's Evaluation to the Draft Test Chairperson for the test which they officiated. Judge's Evaluations shall include:
 - a. name of host club
 - b. date and location of Test
 - c. number of entries and class breakdowns
 - d. number of absentees
 - e. number of passes for each class
 - f. description of the maneuvering course and freight haul

- g. comments on the most common causes of failure, unusual incidents, and disciplinary incidents, if any
- h. the Judge's views on organization, location, weather, etc..

h. Problems

All judging situations not clearly resolved by these regulations shall be resolved by reference to the AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations, as applicable.

Chapter 3

Eligibility and Conduct of Handlers and Dogs

Section 1 Entry Requirements

a. Definitions

The term “dog” applies to dogs of both sexes as well as individual dogs in a brace. The term “brace” means a handler and two dogs. Said dogs do not have to be the same breed. The term “team” means a handler and one or two dogs.

b. Eligible Dogs

AKC Draft Tests are open to the following breeds:

- Akita
- Alaskan Malamute
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Anatolian Shepherd Dog
- Argentine Dogo
- Beauceron
- Belgian Sheepdog
- Belgian Malinois
- Belgian Tervuren
- Belgian Laekenois
- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Black Russian Terrier
- Boerboel
- Bouvier des Flanders
- Boxer
- Briard
- Bullmastiff
- Caucasian Ovcharka
- Chinook
- Chow Chow
- Collie
- Doberman Pinscher
- Douge de Bordeaux
- Estrela Mountain Dog
- German Shepherd Dog
- Giant Schnauzer
- Great Pyrenees
- Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
- Kuvasz
- Leonberger
- Mastiff
- Neapolitan Mastiff
- Newfoundland
- Old English Sheepdog

**Rottweiler
Saint Bernard
Samoyed
Tibetan Mastiff**

All dogs must be registered with the AKC or as per Chapter 11, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows will apply to entries in licensed or member draft events.

c. Age

The AKC Draft Test may be entered by dogs two (2) years old or older on the day of the test.

d. Bitches in Season

Bitches in season are not permitted to compete. Entry fees will be refunded upon receipt of a veterinary certificate stating an entered bitch is in season at the time of the Draft Test.

e. Dogs That May Not Compete

No dog belonging wholly or in part to one of the presiding judges, Draft Test Chairman or Draft Test Secretary or to any member of their immediate family may enter in any Draft Test at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate.

f. Braces

The two dogs of a brace need not be owned by the same person or by the handler. A separate entry form shall be filled out for each dog of the brace.

g. Medical Withdrawals

A handler may withdraw a dog from the Draft Test for medical reasons. Entry fees shall be refunded upon receipt of a signed veterinary certificate stating the reason for the medical withdrawal.

h. Weight Certificates

Each Open, Open Brace, Ground Driving and Brace Ground Driving handler shall send a veterinary certificate(s) stating the dog's name and weight to the Draft Test Secretary with the entry form(s). This certificate must be dated within sixty (60) days prior to the Draft Test date.

Section 2 Handlers

a. On Time: Teams must be present, in catalog order, with their equipment for their scheduled Equipment Check and Freight Haul weight check or forfeit the entry. Judges shall not be required to wait for any handler or dog.

b. Multiple commands: Multiple commands, signals and verbal praise may be used in all exercises of the Draft Test, except as specified. Verbal praise is encouraged between and after exercises. Physical praise during exercises will cause failure.

c. Food and Toys: A handler shall not carry or offer food or toys during the Draft Test exercises.

d. One Handler: The same handler shall exhibit dogs for all exercises except that if that handler has two or more dogs entered, in which case each dog must have a separate handler for the group exercise when judged in the same group.

e. Control Outside of Ring: All entered dogs must be on leash or crated when not competing

f. Training on the Grounds: Training on the grounds of a Draft Test is not permitted. Dogs, entered or not entered, may be hitched to draft rigs to aid in unloading and transport of equipment from vehicles to the competition area, as this is a typical and practical application of draft work.

g. Warm-up: Entered teams are allowed a warm-up as permitted in AKC obedience competition – approximately five (5) minutes, all on leash, not hitched to a draft rig – prior to the ring exercises. Prior to the group exercises dogs may be hitched to their draft rigs and warmed up on leash for an additional five (5) minutes to verify and adjust the balance of the freight load.

h. Handling Between Exercises: A dog may receive gentle guidance by the collar between exercises and/or exercise. No other physical guidance is permitted and, if given, will result in failure of the exercise.

i. Touching Dog or Equipment: Except for harnessing and hitching during judging, the handler must ask the judges' permission to touch dogs and equipment, except as stated above.

j. Risk: The handler entering a dog in a Draft Test does so at his/her own risk and agrees to abide by the AKC Draft Test regulations.

Section 3 Equipment

a. Handlers' Responsibility

Handlers provide their own draft rigs, harnesses, collars, leads, reins and tie-downs or other means of securing a load in their particular rig for the Freight Haul and the Loading and Unloading Exercises. The same draft rig must be used for all exercises. The condition of this equipment is the responsibility of the handler. Handlers must bring their own Freight Haul loads as specified by these regulations. No person (except for Driving) or animal may serve as a freight load.

b. Draft Rigs

The following draft rigs are permitted:

- Two wheeled cart
- Four wheeled wagon
- Travois
- Sled
- Toboggan
- Two-shafted Sulky
- Dorsal-hitch Sulky

Each of these must be equipped such that the draft rig cannot ride up on the dog when hauling downhill. The only acceptable brace hitch is one dog beside the other, coupled or uncoupled.

c. Harnesses, Collars, Reins and Leads

Dogs must wear well-fitting plain buckle or slip or chain choke collars. For driving, dogs may be fitted with proper head gear and/or driving collars and reins. Fancy collars or special training collars and improperly fitting collars are not permitted. Leads must be of fabric or leather and must be a minimum of six (6) feet in length to provide adequate slack when the dog is in working position and to allow the handler to work beside, behind or in front of the dog during the Novice division

maneuvering test. In Brace Novice Draft the dogs may be individually leashed or coupled with a single leash.

The harness must fit the dog and be appropriate for the rig and the terrain where the Draft Test is being held. If the proper harness is not used the judges may fail the handler for improper equipment for trail conditions.

If at any time during the test the equipment breaks down in a manner that could not have been anticipated by the handler, the judges may allow the handler to make an emergency repair. The repair must be made within ten (10) minutes with materials that the handler carries or carries in the rig. The handler must make the repairs without assistance from others.

Chapter 4.

Competition Site and Spectators

Section 1 Site

a. Ring

The ring for all exercises, except the Freight Haul, shall be rectangular and a minimum of 10,000 square feet with no dimension less than 75 feet. The terrain should be as flat as circumstances permit. Ring gates or ropes and stakes shall define the ring. The ring entrance shall be a minimum of six (6) feet wide. Once the ring is set up, it should be posted with a sign forbidding anyone to permit any dog to use the ring except during judging. Sufficient space shall be left between ring barriers and obstacles for maneuvering.

b. Freight Haul Course

The half mile Freight Haul Course must be clearly marked and should ideally include both uphill and downhill slopes and changes of terrain such as grass, pavement, dirt, gravel, wood, etc..

Section 2 Spectators

a. Applause

Draft dogs working under natural conditions may often be in places where there are a variety of everyday sounds. Applause from the audience is permitted insofar as it does not interfere with the performance of any team, with such interference to be determined by the judge.

b. Freight Haul Course

At the judges' discretion, spectators and all animals not entered in the Test may follow no closer than fifteen (15) feet behind the last dog.

c. Dogs Not Entered

All dogs not entered in the Draft Test must be leashed or crated at all times.

Chapter 5.

Procedures and Schedules

Section 1 Equipment Check

Time shall be allowed in the judging schedule for the judges to check all draft equipment to be used in the Draft Test. The judging schedule shall allow time for this. Dogs will not be tested using equipment that has not been approved by the judges. The type of harness, type and weight of weight for Freight Haul, type of draft rig and the width of the draft rig at its widest point or the width of the hitched dog(s), whichever is widest, shall be recorded on the Data Worksheet for easy reference during the test. Collars, Leads, Driving collar, head gear and reins shall be checked at the same time for adherence to these Regulations (General Regulations Chapter 3, Section 4c). After the equipment check, no alterations or substitutions may be made to any of the equipment without judges' approval

Section 2 Freight Load

a. Novice Draft: Dogs in Novice Draft must haul a minimum of twenty (20) pounds, unless the draft rig is a travois, in which case the dog will pull a minimum of ten (10) pounds.

b. Novice Brace Draft: Dogs in Brace must haul double the weight of the Novice Draft, e.g., a minimum of forty (40) pounds, unless the draft rig is a travois, in which case the minimum will be twenty (20) pounds.

c. Open Draft: Each dog must haul its own weight rounded down to the nearest multiple of ten (10) , with a minimum of forty (40) pounds.

d. Brace Open Draft: Each brace must haul the sum of the weights the individual dogs would be required to pull in Open Draft, or a minimum of eighty (80) pounds, whichever is greater.

e. Ground Driving Draft: Each dog must load and unload a twenty (20) pound weight during the maneuvering exercise and haul its own weight rounded down to the nearest multiple of ten (10) , with a minimum of forty (40) pounds.

f. Brace Ground Driving Draft: Each brace must load and unload a forty (40) pound weight during the maneuvering exercise. Each dog must haul its own weight rounded down to the nearest multiple of ten (10), with a minimum of forty (40) pounds.

For example a 155 pound dog would haul 150 pounds and a 35 pound dog will haul 40 pounds.

g. Driving or Brace Driving: The driver and any necessary counter weights shall constitute the Freight Load.

f. Order of Group Exercise: The Distance Freight Haul shall immediately follow the Group Stay exercise and shall start with the teams still in the ring. Draft Test committees should bear this in mind when laying out the ring location and Freight Haul course.

Section 3 Number of Dogs

The Draft Test Committee should plan for the judging of 4-5 teams per hour. This figure includes time for the Group Stay and the Freight Haul.

Section 4 Move-ups

Move-ups to a more advanced class are allowed after the close of entries under the following conditions:

1. A dog may be moved up from one individual class to another or from one brace class to another, but not between individual and brace classes.
2. The weight certificate(s) must be included with the Novice entry with notification to the Test Secretary that a move-up is possible.
3. The Test Secretary must be notified of the move-up no later than 30 minutes prior to the Equipment Check. The handler presents a test catalog to the Test Secretary. The Test Secretary marks, signs and dates the move-up in the catalog and on the original entry form, and gives the catalog to the handler.
4. Move-ups may affect class limit but not affect the Test limit.

Chapter 6.

Qualifying Performances and Titles

Section 1 Qualifying Performances

a. Pass/Fail

Both judges must pass a dog on all exercises in a class at one Draft Test to qualify and earn a draft title.

b. Other Criteria

The primary quality to be emphasized in AKC Draft Tests is the ability to perform the assigned tasks. However, dogs are also to be judged for willingness and smoothness of performance. A dog that effectively completes the task within a reasonable time period and without physical assistance should be scored as passed if it has performed willingly. A dog that does everything correctly but appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler shall be scored as failed.

c. Ribbons and Rosettes

The club holding an AKC Draft Test shall offer a ribbon or rosette to each dog that receives a qualifying score. Each qualifying score ribbon or rosette shall be dark green in color, at least two inches wide and approximately eight inches long and shall bear on the face a facsimile of the seal of the American Kennel Club, the word "Draft Test" and the name of the test-giving club.

Ribbons and rosettes must contain the name of the class, date and location of the event, all of which may appear on the face or the back tab or label.

Section 2 Titles

a. Novice Draft Dog (NDD)

Each dog with a passing performance in Novice Draft shall earn the AKC title Novice Draft Dog, to be abbreviated NDD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

b. Open Draft Dog (ODD)

Each dog with a passing performance in Open Draft shall earn the AKC title Open Draft Dog, to be abbreviated ODD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

c. Brace Novice Draft Dog (BNDD)

Each dog of a brace with a passing performance in Brace Novice Draft shall earn the AKC title Brace Novice Draft Dog, to be abbreviated BNDD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

d. Brace Open Draft Dog (BODD)

Each dog of a brace with a passing performance in Brace Open Draft shall earn the AKC title Brace Open Draft Dog, to be abbreviated BODD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

e. Ground Driving Draft Dog (GDDD)

Each dog with a passing performance in Ground Driving Draft shall earn the AKC title Ground Driving Draft Dog, to be abbreviated GDDD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

f. Brace Ground Driving Draft Dog (BGDDD)

Each dog of a brace with a passing performance in Ground Driving Draft shall earn the AKC title Brace Ground Driving Draft Dog, to be abbreviated BGDDD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

g. Driving Dog Excellent (DDX)

Each dog with a passing performance in Driving Dog Excellent shall earn the AKC title Driving Dog Excellent, to be abbreviated DDX and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

h. Brace Driving Dog Excellent (BDDX)

Each dog of a brace with a passing performance in Brace Driving Dog Excellent shall earn the AKC title Brace Driving Dog Excellent, to be abbreviated BDDX and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

Regulations for Performance and Judging

Chapter 7. Definitions of Classes

Section 1. Classes defined

a. Novice Draft Dog (NDD)

The Novice Draft Dog class shall be for dogs that have not earned the Novice Draft Dog (NDD) or have earned the NDD but have not earned the Open Draft Dog title (ODD) or Driving Dog Excellent (DDX) title. All exercises except the Recall, Group Stay, Harnessing and Hitching, are performed on leash. The leash must be visibly slack and is not to be used to physically guide the dog during the exercises. Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash will result in a failing performance. Dogs must be kept on leash when waiting in the ring before or after the Group Stay and when in the ring to receive awards.

b. Open Draft Dog (ODD)

The Open Draft Dog class shall be for dogs that have earned either a Novice Draft Dog (NDD) title or an Open Draft Dog (ODD) title. All exercises are to be performed off leash. Dogs must be kept on leash when waiting in the ring before or after the Group Stay and when in the ring to receive awards.

c. Brace Novice Draft Dog (BNDD)

The Brace Novice Draft Dog class shall be for dogs who, individually have earned either their Novice Draft Dog (NDD) title or Open Draft Dog (ODD) title and may have earned their Brace Novice Draft Dog (BNDD) title, when being paired with a dog that has earned a Novice Draft Dog (NDD) title or Open Draft Dog (ODD) title. All exercises are the same as those of Novice Draft class.

d. Brace Open Draft Dog (BODD)

The Brace Open Draft Dog (BODD) class shall be for dogs who, individually have earned either their Open Draft Dog (ODD) title and may have earned their Brace Open Draft Dog (BODD) title, when being paired with a dog that has earned an Open Draft Dog (ODD) title. All exercises are the same as those of Open Draft class.

e. Ground Driving Draft Dog (GDDD) - The Ground Driving Draft Dog class shall be for dogs who have earned either the Open Draft Dog title (ODD) or the Ground Driving Draft Dog title (GDDD). All exercises are performed with or without reins from behind the axle no further than two (2) feet from either side of rig. Rein guidance of the dog other than noted in Chapter 10 (f), will result in a failing performance. Dogs may be kept on leash or held by the reins when waiting in the ring before the Group Stay and when in the ring to receive awards.

f. Brace Ground Driving Draft Dog (BGDDD) - The Ground Driving Draft Dog class shall be for dogs who individually have earned either the Open Draft Dog title (ODD) or the Ground Driving Draft Dog title (GDDD) when being paired with a dog that has earned a Ground Driving Dog (GDDD) title. All exercises are performed with or without reins from behind the axle no further than two (2) feet from either side of rig. Rein guidance of the dog other than noted in Chapter 10 (f), will result in a failing performance. Dogs may be kept on leash or held by the reins when waiting in the ring before the Group Stay and when in the ring to receive awards.

g. Driving Dog Excellent (DDX)

The Driving Dog Excellent (DDX) class shall be for dogs who have earned their Ground Driving Draft Dog (GDDD) title. The Maneuvering Exercise and the Freight Haul shall be performed with the driver onboard the rig, except as stipulated elsewhere in these regulations.

h. Brace Driving Dog Excellent (BDDX)

The Brace Driving Dog Excellent (BDDX) class shall be for dogs who have individually earned their Driving Dog Excellent (DDX) title or a Brace Driving Dog Excellent (BDDX) title when being paired with a dog that has earned an Driving Dog Excellent (DDX) title. The Maneuvering Exercise and the Freight Haul shall be performed with the driver onboard the rig, except as stipulated elsewhere in these regulations.

Chapter 8.

Draft Test Exercises

Section 1. Basic Control

Overview: Prior to Harnessing and Hitching the dog to the rig the dog must demonstrate an ability to respond to commands from the handler. Because a dog that is not under control when unhitched is, when hitched, a potential hazard to itself, to its handler, to other people and to property, a dog that fails Basic Control, may, in the opinion of the judges, be prohibited from attempting the other exercises.

a. Heel

For Novice Draft: Prior to the start of this exercise, the Draft rig and Harness will be brought into the ring and positioned by a steward. The dog enters the ring on leash.

For Open Draft/Driving: The Draft rig and Harness remain outside the ring near the entrance. The dog enters the ring off leash.

The dog is expected to heel within arms' length of the handler's side at all times. The dog should be on a **loose lead**, the handler may not **physically guide** the dog, but may command and encourage the dog, as frequently as needed, to remain within arms' reach at all times. It is desirable, but not required, for the dog to sit by the handler's side at halts. One judge will call commands, but both judges will score.

Judge's commands to the handler (not necessarily in this order) are:

Are you ready ?, Forward, Slow, Fast, Normal, Right turn, Left turn, About turn, Halt, Exercise finished.

Judges will determine the heeling pattern and order of commands. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at a normal pace.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Dog does not heel consistently within arms' reach of handler.
- No change of pace.
- Handler consistently adapts to the pace of the dog.
- Dog fouls the ring.

- Guiding, jerking, **heavy reining** and/or **tight leash** (Novice).
- Handler **physically guides** or touches the dog.
- The dog is considered by the judge to be unmanageable.
- The dog leaves the ring.

b. Recall

The recall is performed off leash for all classes and must be 30 to 50 feet in length. The dog must execute the wait for the recall with a single command and/or signal.

For Novice Draft: The handler leaves the dog, proceeds to a position close to the Draft rig and faces the dog.

For Open Draft/Driving: The handler leaves the dog and proceeds to the Harness and Hitch area and faces the dog.

The handler calls the dog. The dog is expected to respond to the first recall command. Extra verbal commands or signals and praise are allowed after the dog has begun to move. The dog is expected to come to the handler and stop near enough to be touched by the handler. It is desired, but not required, for the dog to sit upon reaching the handler.

Judge's commands to the handler are:

Are you ready ?, Leave your dog, Call your dog, Exercise finished.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Handler gives more than one **stay** command.
- Dog does not come on first command.
- Dog goes to handler but remains out of reach.
- Dog fouls the ring.
- Dog does not **stay**.
- Dog does not come to handler
- Handler physically guides or touches the dog.

Section 2. Harness and Hitch

Overview: A Draft Test demonstrates cooperation between handler and dog. The dog demonstrates its willingness to be harnessed and hitched to a draft rig or sulky. Since a handler's draft work knowledge and abilities are essential to draft work, the judges evaluate a handler's knowledge and ability to select the correct

equipment for the dog and its proper use. The equipment includes harness, draft apparatus, harness, collars, leash, reins and any other necessary tack including traces.

Once the equipment has been checked it may not be altered, substituted or eliminated. A handler may touch the dog only as required to harness and hitch the dog, but may not touch to discipline. The judges may touch the equipment as necessary for checking.

The equipment must remain in a safe working condition throughout the Draft Test. Consequently, the judges may fail improper or unsafe equipment during the scheduled Equipment Check or at any time during the remainder of the test.

Novice Draft: Dog and handler position themselves close to the draft rig. The leash may be removed.

*Open Draft/Driving: The dog and handler proceed to the Harness and Hitch area designated by the judges. The dog must **wait** while the handler leaves the ring and brings the draft rig and harness into the ring and positions them close to the dog.*

The dog is left on a **stay** or **wait** while the handler gets the harness and harnesses the dog. The dog must cooperate for the harnessing. If the draft rig is a sled, toboggan, travois or dorsal-hitch sulky not designed for backing, the backing exercise (described below) shall be performed at this time. For Novice the judges may instruct the steward to move the rig closer to the dog and handler. The handler may leave the dog in a stand, sit or down **stay** or **wait** while retrieving the rig and harness. When instructed by the judges, the handler hitches the dog to the rig. The dog must cooperate for the hitching. When hitched, the handler indicates readiness to proceed. For Novice, if leash is off, the Judge will order the handler to reattach the leash.

The judge's commands to the handler are:
Are you ready ?, Harness your dog, *Back your dog**,
Hitch your dog, Exercise finished.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Dog does not wait while draft rig is brought into ring (Open/Driving) or while handler retrieves rig inside ring (Novice).
- Dog is uncooperative and/or resists harnessing.

- Dog is uncooperative and/or resists hitching.
- *Dog does not back up required distance.*
- *Dog substantially changes direction while backing.*
- Handler physically guides dog during the exercise, with the exception of that physical contact necessary while harnessing and hitching the dog.
- Rough handling of dog.
- *Hovering while backing.*

Section 3 Practical Draft Work

Overview: The team demonstrates working and maneuvering ability. The team encounters situations and distractions such as might be met under everyday conditions.

For Novice or Open the handler may work beside, behind or in front of the dog, or any combination of these. For Ground Driving all exercises are performed with or without reins from behind the axle no further than two (2) feet from either side of rig. For Driving Dog Excellent all exercises are performed with handler onboard rig. The key factor to be judged is the exhibition of teamwork as well as completion of the exercises and willingness, ability, enthusiasm and smoothness of performance.

A dog or rig is permitted to bump or collide with any object only once during maneuvering or freight haul. A second bump or collision will result in a dog to be marked as failing.

a. Basic Commands

Basic commands during the maneuvering exercise of the Draft Test will include a normal pace, slows, stops, left and right turns and circles, and **halt**, which will occur multiple times throughout the Draft Test. During the maneuvering exercise the **slow** and **back** shall each be required only once, but at the judges' discretion. The Basic Commands may occur anytime and in any order relative to the Practical Draft Work.

Judge's commands to the handler are:
Forward, slow, normal

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- There is no noticeable change of pace from normal to **slow** and back to normal.
- The handler changes pace not the dog.
- Only one dog in a brace changes pace causing the rig to go off course.
- Handler **physically touches or guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
- Guiding, jerking and/or **tight leash or heavy reining**.

Novice dogs must back the rig a minimum of one (1) foot while hitched to the draft rig, except as stipulated elsewhere in these regulations, with no **hovering** by the handler. Open and Driving dogs must back the rig a minimum of four (4) feet while hitched to the draft rig, excepted as stipulated elsewhere in these regulations, with no **hovering** of the handler.

Once the handler has situated his dog for the "Back" he shall indicate to the judges that he is ready, at which time the judge places the measuring stick, and gives the command, "Back your dog." The measuring stick shall not be moved during the exercise.

* For travois or dorsal hitch sulkies, the backing exercise may be performed in the Harness and Hitch area prior to hitching the dog to the rig.

If the draft rig has a locking mechanism to assist in backing, the handler must notify the judge and time will be allowed for locking and unlocking the rig. One (1) minute shall be allowed for the backing exercise.

Multiple attempts may be made. The handler may use any commands to instruct the dog to complete these exercises.

Judge's commands to the handler are:
Halt, Back your dog, exercise finished.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Dog does not **halt**.
- Dog does not back the required distance in the required time.
- Dog upsets the rig.
- The dog collides with the handler or attempts to go around the handler.
- Handler **physically touches or guides** the dog and/or draft rig.

- Handler steps in front of dog in a blocking manner to cause a halt.
- Guiding, jerking and/or **tight leash or heavy reining**.
- For ground driving, dog backs rig into handler.

b. Distractions

While the team is working, two distractions, one audio and one visual, will occur approximately ten (10) feet in from the working dog. When the distraction occurs, the dog may stop what it is doing and/or watch or look towards the distraction but is not allowed to divert from the course it is following or to move the draft rig, if the rig is momentarily stationary. The handler may speak to the dog with instructions concerning the distraction. If the dog has stopped to watch the distraction, the handler is to encourage the dog to proceed with the exercise. When the distraction has passed the handler is to instruct the dog to continue the exercise it may have stopped.

Distractions are to be arranged at the discretion of the Test giving club and should be distractions that might occur in everyday situations.

Possible audio distractions are:

- Ringing bell
- Horn
- Squeaking toy
- Musical instrument
- Banging pans

Possible visual distractions are:

- Ball or toy being thrown or drawn along the ground
- Camera flash
- Person riding a bicycle

Stewards may perform distractions under the direction of the judges or the judges may perform the distractions themselves.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Dog changes direction in response to the distraction.
- Dog moves a stationary draft rig in response to a distraction.
- Dog chases the distraction.

- Dog is fearful of the distraction to the extent that the dog upsets the draft rig. A dog may be startled by, but not afraid of, the distraction.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig
- Guiding, jerking, **heavy reining and/or tight leash.**
- Dog barks uncontrollably or shows aggression to the distraction.
- Dog refuses to resume the exercise it was performing after the distraction is gone.
- Dog gives a failing performance in reaction to a naturally occurring distraction, even though the dog passes the official distraction.

c. Loading and Unloading

The team shall **halt**. The dog must stay in a stand, sit or down position. The individual dogs in brace may be in different positions. After the dog has been told to **stay** a steward or judge approaches. The steward or judge greets the handler, gives the handler a lightweight load (a blanket or quilt is recommended) and then leaves. (For Ground Driving, the steward hands the handler a 20 [or 40 if brace] pound load. For Driving Dog Excellent the steward or judge merely greet the handler, on or off the rig.) The handler secures the load in or on the draft rig. The team pulls the load to another part of the maneuvering course where they halt again. The dog must **stay** as above. After the dog has been told to stay another steward or judge approaches. The steward or judge greets the handler, requests permission to pat the dog, pats the dog and then receives the load from the handler. (For Ground Driving the steward takes the load from the handler For Driving Dog Excellent the steward or judge merely greet the handler, on or off the rig, requests permission to pat the dog, and pats the dog..) If the load should shift the handler may stop to reposition and secure the load.

Judge's commands to the handler are: Halt, load your rig, forward, halt, unload your rig.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Dog does not **halt**.
- Dog does not **stay**.
- Dog does not cooperate for loading.
- Dog refuses to pull the loaded draft rig.
- Load falls off the draft rig.
- Dog does not stay when greeted and patted.
- Dog shows aggression or shyness when greeted and patted.
- Dog does not cooperate for unloading.
- Dog upsets draft rig.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
- **Tight leash or heavy rein guidance.**
- For ground driving, handler fails to work from behind axle.

d. Maneuvering

Excepted as specified, Maneuvering exercises are performed with an empty draft rig. The judges may require the Maneuvering exercises to be performed in any order.

A maneuvering course is set up incorporating the following;

1. Circular patterns (360 degrees) to the right and left.
2. At least two (2) 90 degree turns to the right and left.
3. Movement through a narrow area that is 12 inches wider than the widest recorded dimension for this team a minimum of four (4) and no more than six (6) feet long. The handler, dog and draft rig must all pass through the narrow area.
4. A removable obstacle. The dog waits while the handler opens a gate or removes an obstacle such as a tree branch or another draft rig. The team then proceeds through the gate or past the obstacle. The handler should be required to close the gate or replace the obstacle.
5. Backing of a minimum of one (1) foot for Novice and a minimum of four (4) feet for Open/Driving.
6. An audio distraction.
7. A visual distraction.
8. A change of pace for a minimum of ten (10) feet.
9. A halt

Judges will direct handlers as necessary through the maneuvers. Judge's commands to the handler may include: Right turn, Left turn, Circle right, Circle left, Halt, Remove the obstacle (Open the gate), Forward.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- All maneuvers are not executed.
- Dog or rig bump or collide with any object more than once during maneuvering or freight haul..
- Dog does not **wait** while handler removes obstacle.
- Dog upsets draft rig.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
- **Tight leash or heavy rein guidance.**
- Handler, dog and draft rig do not pass through the narrow area.
- For ground driving, handler fails to work from behind axle.

Chapter 9.

Group Stay and Freight Haul

Section 1. Group Stay

Overview: The dogs demonstrate their ability to remain on a stay, while hitched. This is a group exercise. Rigs shall be loaded with the amount of weight required for the Freight Haul, with the exception of Driving Dog Excellent or Brace Driving Dog Excellent where the rig is empty during the Group Stay. Novice and Brace Novice dogs may be tested together. Open and Brace Open dogs may be tested together. Ground Driving and Driving Excellent may be tested together, or at judges' discretion, may be included with Open and Brace Open dogs.

For Novice Draft and Brace Novice Draft the stay is off leash with the handler standing at least twenty (20) feet in front and facing the draft rig.

For Open Draft, Brace Open Draft, Ground Driving and Driving Excellent the stay is off leash or dropped reins, as applicable, with the handler out of sight.

Dogs are hitched to their loaded rigs, with the exception of Driving Dog Excellent and Brace Driving Dog Excellent, and may be gently guided in a stand, sit or down. For Driving Dog Excellent and Brace Driving Dog Excellent handlers may, at their discretion, drive their rigs to the Group Stay area, or gently lead dogs to this area. Handler's armbands shall be placed beside the rig. The stay command and/or signal is to be given once and no other commands or signals may be given during the remainder of this exercise. The handlers leave their dogs and proceed to an area out of sight to the dogs. The stay is for three (3) minutes. When signaled by the judges, handlers to return to their dog's side and await the judges signal that the exercise is over.

Judge's commands to the handlers are; Position your dogs for the stay, Leave your dogs, Return to your dogs, Exercise finished.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Handler gives more than one stay command.
- Dog changes position e.g. from a down to a sit or a sit to a stand.

- Dog moves out of place.
- Dog barks or whines repeatedly.
- Rough placement of the dog.
- Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.

Section 2. Freight Haul

Overview: The teams traverse a course with dogs hauling loaded draft rigs over various terrains. This is a group exercise. Novice and Brace Novice dogs may be tested together. Open, Brace Open and Ground Driving dogs may be tested together. (For Driving Excellent see below.)

For Novice Draft each dog must pull twenty (20) pounds.

For Brace Novice Draft each brace must pull forty (40) pounds.

For Open Draft and Ground Driving Draft each dog must pull its own weight rounded down to the nearest multiple of ten, or forty (40) pounds whichever is greater.

For Brace Open Draft and Brace Ground Driving Draft each brace must pull the sum of the weights that each individual dog must pull in Open draft.

The handler is responsible for the proper loading of the draft rig. The handler loads the draft rig with the pre-determined weight load for the dog. Stewards/volunteers may assist under the handler's direction. Judges must confirm the proper freight load from the Data Worksheet.

A half-mile course is traversed over the natural terrain of the area, ideally including up and down hill slopes as well as a change of terrain underfoot such as grass, gravel, pavement, dirt, etc. up to the limitations of the selected site. The judges must accompany the teams, except as noted below. The judges have the authority to stop the exercise if the load is too great for the dog under the working conditions. Only with the approval of a judge may a handler physically guide the dog and/or draft rig in unusual trail conditions. Control is an important part of this exercise. Handlers should be prepared to slow down, or stop and wait at the request of a judge or to remain part of a group. Any naturally occurring narrow areas on the Freight Haul course, such as between trees or through gates, must be as wide as or wider than the widest measurement recorded during the Equipment Check, plus

twelve (12) inches. Committees should be aware of this when laying out Freight Haul courses and judges should watch for this when inspecting the Freight Haul course prior to judging.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Handler loads draft rig in a manner that causes it to become significantly unbalanced when moving.
- Freight load exceeds the dog's capacity to pull comfortably and safely.
- Dog upsets the rig.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig or uses hard reining without judge approval.
- Dog refuses to move the loaded rig.
- Dog refuses to accompany handler up/down slope.
- Team does not complete the course.
- **Tight leash or heavy reining.**
- Dog or draft rig bump or collide with any object during maneuvering or freight haul.
- Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.
- For ground driving, handler fails to work from behind axle.

Section 3. Driving

Overview: As the normal performance of a Driving Dog or Brace Driving Dogs would be on a flat hard surface, testing this ability should closely approximate these conditions. Owing to the speed at which driving is performed the driving course shall be laid out in such a way as to give judges a clear view of driver and dog(s) at all times, and may include several laps of the same course. This is NOT a group exercise and teams shall be tested separately. A level surface such as a parking lot or hard-packed field with grass cut short is recommended.

For Driving Dog Excellent and Brace Driving Dog Excellent each dog/brace must pull its handler while seated on the rig.

The course shall include maneuvers that would be encountered by a driver and dog(s) such as right and left turns, circling left or right or serpentine around obstacles such as traffic cones.

The length of the course shall cover a minimum of 1320 feet (1/4 mile).

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Weight of driver exceeds the dog's capacity to pull comfortably and safely.
- Dog upsets the rig.
- **Handler physically guides** the dog and/or rig or uses hard reining without judge approval.
- Dog refuses to move the rig with driver onboard.
- Team does not complete the course.
- Dog or rig bump or collide with any object more than once during maneuvering or freight haul.

Chapter 10. Glossary of Terms

Section 1 Definitions of Key Words

- a. STAY** – dog remains in the location and position (sit, stand or down) indicated by the handler. Minor movements such as adjusting of feet or rolling to the opposite hip are acceptable. “STAY” is the concept being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any command they wish.
- b. WAIT** – dog remains in the same location but may shift its feet or change position (such as sit, stand, down, hip roll, etc.) “WAIT” is the concept being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any command they wish.
- c. PHYSICALLY GUIDE** –contact of any part of the handler’s body with the dog or the draft rig with the intent of exerting control.
- d. SLACK/LOOSE LEASH** – a slack or loose leash has a visible “U” or “J” shape between the dog and handler.
- e. LEASH GUIDANCE** – a leash “guides” the dog as the slack is reduced. A tight or taut leash is only the most extreme example of leash guidance. Judges shall use common sense in evaluating whether the dog would have responded if the leash had not been there.
- f. HEAVY REINING/REIN GUIDANCE** – a certain amount of “reining” is necessary for the Driving exercises. Judges shall use common sense in evaluating whether a driver has used too harsh “reining” to obtain the necessary results, and if more moderate “reining” would have had the same result.
- g. SLOW** – a pace distinctly different and slower than the pace immediately preceding, and followed by a return to the preceding pace or a halt.
- h. HALT** - on the judge’s command, the handler must command the dog to stop. The dog should start to respond to the handler promptly and the dog and draft rig should stop within a short distance. “HALT” is the concept being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any command they wish.
- i. HOVER** – bending of the handler’s upper body directly over the dog.