



SUMMARY OF PROFICIENCY AND TRICKS TESTS

Excerpt taken from Rules v 3.55

Date: June 7, 2021

PROFICIENCY TESTS

The purpose of these tests are to guide Participants through the learning process needed to attain a high level of Heelwork to Music and Musical Freestyle.

Heel Position

- is 1 of the 8 recognized heel positions (see Appendix A)
- Dog must not move more than 45° from parallel to handler. (depending on appropriateness to that heel position)
- Dog must remain close to Handler, preferable within .6 mtr (24")
- a Handler must not use the ring or wall as a guide; they are to remain 1 meter away from the ring (or wall) for all straight line work
- a Handler's hand may be placed on their hip/waist or hang loosely down by their side, but not act as a lure or a guide or look like they are carrying food
- Unless otherwise indicated, dogs are to remain standing throughout testing; an automatic sit will result in a NQ of that element, for that attempt (you may still make 2 other attempts)
- all dogs must start and finish each element in basic Heel position (position 1 or 2), unless otherwise indicated

Steps

- All steps required are to be "normal" handler walking steps, one foot in front of the other, unless otherwise indicated.
- Side steps are defined as being at least double the shoulder width of your dog. A step is counted only when the dog moves (so will require twice the number of Handler steps as the dog can only moves when the Handler's closest leg moves)
- Unless otherwise indicated, all Handler steps are to be in a **straight line**, not following the dog's path

Pivots

- The Judge or Steward will place a mark on the floor at the beginning of the Proficiency testing.
- Handlers are required to remain on that spot for all pivots. Pivots may then be done by leaving 1 foot in place, or by taking tiny steps to turn around, as long as the Handler does not move from that spot.

Handler Movement

- some musical interpretation is allowed, as long as it does not over-shadow the dog, or the elements being attempted. However, no additional marks will be given for choreography
- all cues should be verbal; **there is to be no luring**. Minimal hand or body cues are acceptable
- Handler must cover a reasonable amount of the ring; they may not remain rooted in one spot, unless otherwise indicated:
 - any element marked as '**Stationary**' is to be done with the handler remaining in place and the dog completing the movement

Costumes

- Proper, simple attire for a Test is expected, but not a '*Costume*' per se

Props

- Props are not permitted, unless specified

Leashes

- Leashes are mandatory in all Bronze levels. They may not be used in Silver or Gold levels except in special cases that have been pre-approved by the Executive.

Music Time/Starts

- a minimum of 9 pieces of music cut to 3 minutes long will be available for each Testing. (and changed periodically); Teams will be able to choose from the published list of music
- Music starts when the Team signals. They may come into the ring, take a few seconds to focus their dogs and then signal for music. This must all happen within 3' of the gate.
- Teams may use as much, or as little of the music as they need to complete the elements. Once the music finishes, the Team must stop
- Teams MUST do the elements in the order specified
 - there is to be a clear start and finish to each Element. It is suggested that Handler begins each element on the floor 'X', if at all possible
 - If a Handler wishes to repeat an element, they should say "***Repeat***", and do any repeats before moving on to the next element.
 - A maximum of 3 attempts of each element will be allowed.
- Judges will not prompt Competitors as to which elements remain or if they have passed or failed.
 - A sign listing the elements for that level will be posted on the Judge's Table, or elsewhere that the Participant can easily reference

Sequence/Passing/Certificates

- Teams must start at Bronze level 1 and work their way through
- Once a Team has passed the 3 levels of each Class, they will receive a Proficiency Certificate for that Class (Bronze, Silver or Gold). Titles are not awarded.
- a Ribbon may be awarded for a successful pass of each level. (at the Host Club's discretion)
- Teams may book one Proficiency test for each competition, and time permitting, they may do an additional Proficiency Test if they are successful, i.e. move up a level and attempt the next level.
- Teams may not do a second attempt of the same level on the same day.

Rewards

- Food and toys are not allowed in the ring
- Teams may praise their dogs or talk to them throughout
- Teams may play with their dogs between elements

Disqualifications

- not completing an element
- luring the dog into position
- use of Props or obvious costume
- too many attempts at an element
- food or toys in ring
- tight leash during Bronze
- harsh corrections, whether verbal or physical
- fouling in the ring

BRONZE PROFICIENCY TESTS *(all levels On leash)*

		ELEMENTS		DESCRIPTIONS
Bronze Level 1	a	Figure 8 (x 1 complete)	P1	Forward Figure 8 pattern. Circles to be 6'-10' diameter
	b	Right turns (x 2)	P1	Turns are consecutive, with a minimum of 4 steps between each
	c	Left turns (x 2)	P1	Turns are consecutive, with a minimum of 4 steps between each
	d	Pace changes	P1	a minimum of 4 steps in each of slow, normal and fast. This may be done in either S-N-F or F-N-S. This element is to be done in a gentle arc or continuous circle, with no pauses
Bronze Level 2	a	Moving About-turns (x 2)	P1	2 Right About turns with a min. of 4 steps before, between and after. Dog is to remain in P1 throughout. No pause or hesitation on turns
	b	Move into a Right Heel and return to a Left Heel (STATIONARY)	P1	From Position 1, move into Position 2 and return to Position 1. Dog to remain standing throughout
	c	Back Heel 4 steps (in P1)	P1	4 Handler steps back in a straight line. Dog may not be more than 45° out of position. There is to be a pause in between each step.
	d	Moving Stand	P1	From normal paced heel, stand dog. Without stopping, handler walks around dog and resumes heeling for a minimum of 4 steps.
Bronze Level 3	a	Pivot Clockwise 360°	P1	Handler pivots clockwise 360 °
	b	Pivot counter-clockwise 360°	P1	Handler pivots counter-clockwise 360 °
	c	Figure 8 (x 1 complete)	P2	Forward Figure 8 pattern. Circles to be 6'-10' diameter
	d	Back Heel 4 steps (in P2)	P2	4 Handler steps back in a straight line. Dog may not be more than 45° out of position. There is to be a pause in between each step.

SILVER PROFICIENCY TESTS *(all levels Off Leash)*

		ELEMENTS		DESCRIPTIONS
Silver Level 1	a	Side Pass towards dog 4 steps	P1	<i>Handler does 4 side-steps in a straight line and dog must move on each step to be counted.</i>
	b	Side-pass away from dog 4 steps	P1	<i>Handler does 4 side-steps in a straight line and dog must move on each step to be counted.</i>
	c	360° Clockwise Pivot	P2	<i>Handler pivots clockwise on the spot</i>
	d	Move into a Reverse Heel and return to a basic Heel (STATIONARY)	P1 or 2	<i>From P1, move into a P3 (or P2 to P4) and return to original Heel position. A single forward step is acceptable to get the dog into position and single back step to bring them back to heel. Dog remains standing throughout</i>
Silver Level 2	a	Side Pass towards dog, 4 steps	P2	<i>Handler does 4 sides-steps in a straight line and dog must move on each step to be counted.</i>
	b	Side-pass away from dog, 4 steps	P2	<i>Handler does 4 side-steps in a straight line and dog must move on each step to be counted.</i>
	c	Reverse pivot 360°	P3 or 4	<i>Handler pivots with dog's hind end moving into Handler</i>
	d	Dog in Heel position and moves to "Front Pass" (P5 or 6), and back to heel (STATIONARY)	P1 or 2	<i>From P1, move into a P5 (or P2 to P6) & return to original position. Handler may take up to 1 shoulder width step sideways, but may not use luring motions to cue dog. Dog remains standing throughout</i>
Silver Level 3	a	Reverse Forward 4 steps	P3 or 4	<i>Handler moves forward 4 steps; dog backs up</i>
	b	"Front Pass" position Pivot 360°	P 5 or 6	<i>Handler pivots with dog's hind end moving into Handler</i>
	c	Left Heel large circles, continuous (x 2)	P1	<i>Handler walks in 2 large continuous circles (min. 25') With dog's full attention</i>
	d	Dog in Heel position, moves to "Rear Pass" (P7 or 8), and back to Heel (STATIONARY)	P1 or 2	<i>From P1, move into a P7 (or P2 to P8) and then return to original position. Handler may take up to 1 shoulder width step sideways, but may not use luring motions to cue dog. Dog remains standing throughout</i>

GOLD PROFICIENCY TESTS (all levels Off Leash)

		ELEMENTS		DESCRIPTIONS
Gold Level 1	a	Right Heel large circles, continuous (x 2)	P2	Handler walks in 2 large continuous circles (min. 25') With dog's full attention.
	b	Reverse Side pass 4 steps	P3 or 4	Handler moves in a straight line either towards or away from dog
	c	Dog in Front, moves into Handler, 4 steps	P5 or 6	Handler backs up 4 steps and dog moves into Handler by side-stepping
	d	"Rear Pass" position Pivot 360°	P7 or 8	Once dog is in position, Handler pivots with dog's hind end moving into Handler.
Gold Level 2	a	Zig Zag in Reverse position	P3 or 4	Handler moves forward 4 steps (dog backs), Handler turns 90 degrees and backs up 4 steps (dog moves forward). Handler turns 90 degrees and sequence repeats twice (for a total of 4 directions)
	b	Dog side steps away from Handler 4 steps	P5 or 6	Handler steps forward and dog moves away, side-stepping. Total of 4 steps
	c	Dog side steps into Handler 4 steps	P7 or 8	Handler steps forward and dog moves toward Handler, side-stepping. Total of 4 steps
	d	3 Position pass		In a single pass, dog must move in 3 different positions for a minimum of 4 steps in each position using any transistion. Dog must change direction of movement for each position change
Gold Level 3	a	Backwards figure 8	P1 or 2	2 Pylons will be set up on either side of the Floor 'X', 3' away to allow the Handler the ability to do a 6' - 10' circle around each, passing through the 'X' in the middle.
	b	"Rear Pass" (P7 or 8) circle	P7 or 8	As Handler moves forward in a circle, dog moves into Handler to maintain position
	c	Dog finds heel position 3 times		Handler (H) & dog heel forward 4 steps. H leaves dog & moves in any direction 4 steps. Dog finds original heel Position. H leaves dog and moves in a different direction 4 steps. Dog finds original heel Position. H leaves dog & moves in a 3rd direction 4 steps. Dog finds original heel Position. Any single Heel position is permissible, but cannot change throughout the exercise, i.e. if Handler starts with dog in P2, they must complete all parts of exercise in P2.
	d	Modified heeling, 6 steps		Dog in any position. Options: 2-leg, crawl, limp, slow high-step, high step backwards, skip (flying change)

TRICK TESTS

The purpose of these tests are to help Participants learn the fundamental ‘Trick’ moves for Heelwork to Music and Musical Freestyle. The order has been chosen to guide Participants through an ideal order of learning them.

General

- if an element stipulates the minimum number of times to do it, you must do at least that amount. **Any additional iterations of that element will also be judged.**
- you may have your dog in any position to start an element, unless otherwise specified

Steps

- All steps required are to be “normal” handler walking steps, i.e. one foot in front of the other (not step-together, step-together).

Crawling

- Crawling is judged by the dog moving with the handler’s leg closest to them, i.e. 4 steps of crawling would be the Handler moving the Left foot forward 4 times and the Right foot forward 4 times.

Free Elements

- a Free element cannot be an element from a lower level, or one that the Handler has already presented

Handler Movement

- all cues should be verbal or use minimal body movement; i.e. non-luring.

Costumes

- Proper, simple attire for a Test is expected, but not a ‘Costume’ per se

Props

- Props are permitted only as specified
- Props may **not** be used as cues or lures

Leashes

- Leashes are optional in Bronze levels but are not to be used in Silver or Gold levels. (An exception will be made for special circumstances if requested and pre-approved by Executive & Show Secretary in advance)

Rewards

- Food and toys are not allowed in the ring
- Teams may praise their dogs or talk to them throughout
- Teams may play with their dogs between elements

Music Time/Starts

- a minimum of 9 pieces of music cut to 3 minutes long will be available online for each Testing. (and changed periodically). Teams will be able to choose from the published list of music
- Music starts when the Team signals. They may come into the ring, take a few seconds to focus their dogs and then signal for music. This must all happen within 3' of the gate.
- Teams may use as much, or as little of the music as they need to complete the required elements. Once the music finishes, the Team must stop
- Teams MUST do the elements in the order specified
 - there must be a clear start and finish to each Element. It is suggested that Handler's begin each element on the floor 'X', if at all possible
 - If a Handler wishes to repeat an element, they should say "**Repeat**", and do any repeats before moving on to the next element.
 - A maximum of 3 attempts of each element will be allowed.

Sequence/Passing/Certificates

- Teams must start at Bronze level 1 and work their way through
- **The prerequisite for each Tricks level is a pass of the matching level of Regular Proficiency, i.e. Teams must have passed Proficiency Bronze 1 before entering Tricks Bronze 1, Proficiency Bronze 2 before entering Tricks Bronze 2, etc.**
- Once a Team has passed the 3 levels of each Class, they will receive a Proficiency Certificate for that Class (Bronze, Silver or Gold). Titles are not awarded.
- a Ribbon may be awarded for a successful pass of each level. (at the Host Club's discretion)
- Teams may book one Tricks test for each competition, and time permitting, they may do an additional Tricks Test if they are successful, i.e. move up a level and attempt the next level. The Provisional test is to be booked at the same time as the original Entry.
- Teams may not do a second attempt of the same level on the same day.

Disqualifications

- not completing an element
- luring the dog into position
- improper use of Props or obvious costume
- too many attempts at an element
- food or toys in ring
- tight leash during Bronze
- harsh corrections, whether verbal or physical
- fouling in the ring

BRONZE TRICK TESTS (*leashes Optional*)

		ELEMENTS		DESCRIPTIONS
Bronze Level 1	a	Spin CW (once ONLY)	<i>front</i>	<i>in front of Handler</i>
	b	Circle CW	<i>P1</i>	<i>Dog starts in P1 and circles clockwise around the Handler, ending in the P1 position</i>
	c	Spin CCW (once ONLY)	<i>front</i>	<i>in front of Handler</i>
	d	Circle CCW	<i>P2</i>	<i>Dog starts in P2 and circles counter-clockwise around the Handler, ending in the P2 position</i>
	e	Thru-Back	<i>front</i>	<i>Dog starts in Front of Handler, facing away and backs up between the Handler's legs, in a continuous motion</i>
Bronze Level 2	a	Front weaves x 4 steps	<i>P1 or 2</i>	<i>Starting in P1 or P2, dog weaves through Handlers legs from 1 side to the other as Handler steps forward minimum 4 steps. No backwards movements & must finish on same side as started on</i>
	b	Back weaves x 2 steps	<i>P1 or 2</i>	<i>1 weave L-R, 1 weave R-L (or vice-versa) There is to be a pause in between each one. Min. 2 steps - must finish on same side as started on</i>
	c	Up on 2 legs	<i>P1 or 2</i>	<i>Hold for 3 seconds. (Alternate: if dog is physically unable, then Handler may support on arm)</i>
	d	Down	<i>P1 or 2</i>	<i>Hold until released (min 3 seconds)</i>
	e	Roll over onto Right shoulder	<i>front</i>	<i>in front of Handler. Dog must do a full rollover, by going over on their Right shoulder and finishing in a Down position until Handler releases</i>
Bronze Level 3	a	Roll Over towards Handler	<i>P1 or 2</i>	<i>Dog must finish in a Down position until Handler releases</i>
	b	Roll over onto Left shoulder	<i>front</i>	<i>in front of Handler. Dog must do a full rollover, by going over on their Left shoulder and finishing in a Down position until Handler releases</i>
	c	Crawl minimum 4 steps	<i>P1</i>	<i>Dog must remain in a Down position. Hesitation or pauses between steps are acceptable</i>
	d	Crawl minimum 4 steps	<i>P2</i>	<i>Dog must remain in a Down position. Hesitation or pauses between steps are acceptable</i>
	e	Front Figure 8 (x 2)	<i>P1 or 2</i>	<i>dog must pass between Handler's legs 4 times</i>

SILVER TRICKS TESTS *(all levels Off Leash)*









		ELEMENTS		DESCRIPTIONS
Silver Level 1	a	Back Figure 8	P1 or 2	<i>Dog must pass through Handler's legs twice, moving backwards and then return to original position</i>
	b	Circle Back CCW	P1	<i>Dog circles backwards around Handler and returns to original position</i>
	c	Circle Back CW	P2	<i>Dog circles backwards around Handler and returns to original position</i>
	d	Crawl through	P1 or 2	<i>from a Down position, Dog crawls through Handler's legs twice: once L to R, then R to L (or vice-versa). Dog remains in a down position until Handler releases. Finishing on same side as start.</i>
	e	Free: a floor element	down	<i>e.g.roll under Handler as they lift foot, crawl backwards, cross paws while in a down, etc. Dog in a down position.</i>
Silver Level 2	a	Dog weaves forward as Handler steps back	P1 or 2	<i>Handler steps back and dog weaves through their legs, passing through 4 times</i>
	b	Spins, CCW (x 3)	front	<i>dog in front. Three Continuous counter-clockwise spins with no hesitation. No more or less than 3</i>
	c	Back weaves x 8 steps	P1 or 2	<i>there is to be a pause in between each one. Alternating 4 backweaves L-R, 4 back-weaves R-L (or vice-versa) Finishing on same side as start.</i>
	d	Spins, CW (x 3)	front	<i>dog in front. Three Continuous clockwise spins with no hesitation. No more or less than 3</i>
	e	Free: an element using a Prop		
Silver Level 3	a	Dog weaves backwards while Handler moves forward	P1 or 2	<i>Handler steps forward and dog weaves backwards through their legs, passing through 4 times</i>
	b	Spins, CCW (x 1)	P1	<i>Dog spins and finishes in same spot. Handler spins with the dog in the same direction: CCW</i>
	c	Crawling Pivot 360°	P1 or 2	<i>Handler pivots Forward 360 ° while dog crawls in same direction with them, remaining in heel throughout.</i>
	d	Spins, CW (x 1)	P2	<i>Dog spins and finishes in same spot. Handler spins with the dog in the same direction: CW</i>
	e	Free: an element that physically interacts with the Handler		<i>e.g. a hug, jumping over a body part, touching a body part, etc.</i>

GOLD TRICKS TESTS (all levels Off Leash)

		ELEMENTS		DESCRIPTIONS
Gold Level 1	a	4 Forward weaves then Left about turn then 4 Backward weaves	P1	Handler moves forward for front weaves and then moves backwards after the Left about turn without any pauses
	b	Roll overs Away (x 4)	P1	dog rolls away from the Handler 4 times with a hesitation between each roll as Handler side-steps towards dog. Dog must remain in a Down position until Handler releases
	c	Distance Crawl	front	Dog starts in front and crawls a minimum of 4 body lengths towards the Handler (see Appendix B) while Handler steps back. Dog & Handler should move together
	d	Roll overs Towards (x 4)	P1	dog rolls towards the Handler 4 steps times with a hesitation in between each roll as Handler side steps away from dog. Dog must remain in a Down position until Handler releases
	e	Free: a jump or 2 legged element		
Gold Level 2	a	Roll overs Away (x 2)	P2	dog rolls away from the Handler 2X with a hesitation between each, as Handler side-steps away from dog. Dog remains in a Down position until Handler releases
	b	Distance Circle Around Handler	P1	Circle size: see Appendix B. Handler may set out 4 single Props of their choice to guide dog (Cones, poles, pots, etc.)
	c	Roll overs Towards (x 4)	P2	dog rolls towards the Handler 4X with a hesitation in between each, as Handler side-steps away from dog. Dog remains in a Down position until Handler releases
	d	Crawl in from Distance	front	Dog starts in front and crawls a certain min. distance to the Handler. Dog is encouraged to pause intermittantly, but not get up. (See Appendix B for Distance)
	e	Free: an element not covered elsewhere		e.g. shy, sit-pretty, paw tricks while standing or sitting, limping, etc.
Gold Level 3	a	an 8 step original Weave section	P1 or 2	Handler must do at least 8 steps and complete at least 3 different weave types within those 8 steps; e.g. pivot weaves, side weaves, front or back or crawling weaves
	b	Roll overs (x 3) Into Handler	P1	Dog is asked to Down and Handler moves away. Dog must do 3 rollovers into where the Handler is
	c	Roll overs (x 3) Into Handler	P2	Dog is asked to Down and Handler moves away. Dog must do 3 rollovers into where the Handler is
	d	Dog crawls in a circle around Handler	P1	Dog does a complete forward crawling circle around the Handler. Dog must remain in a Down until Handler releases. Handler can be standing or kneeling
	e	Free: 2 separate elements with the same Prop		

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Chart of Approved Heelwork Positions

 <div>①</div>	 <div>②</div>	 <div>③</div>	 <div>④</div>
1. Dog is in traditional Heel position on Handler's Left	2. Dog is in traditional Heel position on Handler's Right	3. Dog is in Reverse heel position on Handler's Left	4. Dog is in Reverse heel position on Handler's Right
 <div>⑤</div>	 <div>⑥</div>	 <div>⑦</div>	 <div>⑧</div>
5. Dog is in "Front Pass" position, parallel in front of Handler, facing Right	6. Dog is in "Front Pass" position, parallel in front of Handler, facing Left	7. Dog is in "Rear Pass" position, parallel in back of Handler, facing Left	7. Dog is in "Rear Pass" position, parallel in back of Handler, facing Right

Appendix B: Distances

Distances Required for Tricks - Gold Level 2

- Distances are calculated on the dog's body length as per the chart below. Distances requested are approximate.

Dog Size	Length	Circle Diameter (Gold 2b)	Crawl (Gold 2d)
S	<15"	10'	8'
M	16"-27"	15'	12'
L	28"-34"	20'	16'
XL	>35"	24'	19'

- If the Handler feels that this is still a danger to their dog's health, they should petition the Executive prior to entering a competition.*

How to Measure your Dog:

- Use a soft tape measure or wide rope to take the measurements. Do not use a hard straight ruler or carpenter's tape measure.
- When measuring the back length, your dog must be standing straight with his/her head up. If your dog is lying down or sitting, his/her back length will be longer than the actual length.
- Measure from the base of the neck (just in front of the shoulder blades) to the base of tail. Do not measure from where the collar sits.

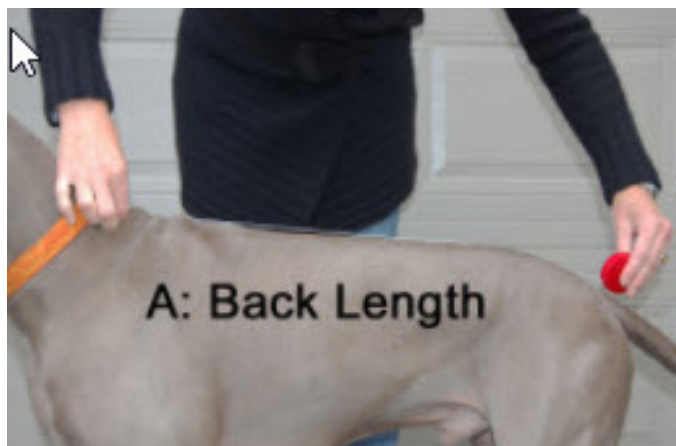


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