

North American Mixed Breed Registry



Rules & Regulations For Earthdog Tests

Process for Holding Earthdog Tests

April 11, 2008

North American Mixed Breed Registry
RR 2 – 8649 Appleby Line, Campbellville, Ontario, L0P 1B0

NORTH AMERICAN MIXED BREED REGISTRY

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All clubs, organizations or individuals holding NAMBR approved events are required to have at least one copy of the latest edition of these Rules & Regulations For Tracking Tests/Process for Holding Tracking Tests available for reference at the event.

Comments and suggestions may be forwarded to NAMBR, RR # 2 – 8649 Appleby Line, Campbellville, Ont., L0P 1B0

The North American Mixed Breed Registry acknowledges, with appreciation, the contributions of the following persons who helped in the creation of this document:

Ms. Sue Godbehere, Oshawa, Ontario
Ms. Deb Mahon, Bowmanville, Ontario

And in memory of Linda Reidt, without whom there would be no forum to recognize the achievements of mixed breed dogs and their handlers.

These Rules & Regulations are subject to amendments from time to time, and we welcome your ideas. Proposed amendments may be forwarded to NAMBR for consideration. All such proposals must be in writing, and must include the name, full mailing address and telephone number of the originator.

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General Rules and Regulations

Eligibility to Hold Earth Dog Tests

Only clubs, associations, or individuals in good standing with NAMBR may make application to hold EarthdogTests.

Application to Hold Earthdog Tests

A club, association or individual applying to hold an Earthdog test must make application on a form provided by NAMBR. The application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 90 days prior to the date of the proposed event.

Such application must clearly state the number of events being applied for, the date or dates of the proposed event(s), and the classes that will be offered.

NAMBR shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for an event date. If the date is granted and the club, organization, or individual fails to hold its event(s) on the date(s) granted, an administrative fee as set by NAMBR will be assessed to cover the cost of materials produced and mailed as part of the process.

Priority rights for specific dates on which to hold Earthdog tests may be applied for on a form provided by NAMBR but must be validated each year by submission of the appropriate date application. The application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 180 days prior to the date of the proposed tests, or priority automatically becomes null and void for the remainder of the priority dates held, and those dates will then become available to other organizations.

Once approval is granted, NAMBR will inform the Test Secretary of the approval and will provide the following:

- Judge's Catalogue for each Level.
- Statement of Remittance Form.

Advertising

A club, association, or individual may not advertise the dates of an Earthdog Test until after notification has been received from NAMBR that the event has been approved.

Approved events are listed, free of charge, in the official newsletter of NAMBR.

Officials

A Test Secretary must be named and will be the point of contact between NAMBR officials and the test holding club, association or individual. The application for approval to hold an Earthdog Test must include the name and full mailing address of the person designated.

The premium list for NAMBR approved Earthdog tests shall designate the Test Secretary as the person who is to receive entries.

Judges

Where possible, judges should be selected from the list of judges maintained by NAMBR. The names and full mailing address of selected judges shall be included on the application to hold a trial.

Judges selected shall have achieved the degree associated with the level being judged with a dog of their own. The selection of the judge is the responsibility of the host, however it is crucial that the judge be knowledgeable of the rules and abide by them.

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Arrangements for payment to the judge for their assignment are between the judge and the event holding club, association, or individual. NAMBR officials will not become involved in any dispute regarding fees and/or payments.

If an advertised judge is prevented from fulfilling his/her assignment in whole or in part, the event holding club, association or individual shall appoint a qualified judge, if one is readily available. If no qualified judge is available, the host shall choose a substitute whom it feels is capable. A pass earned under a substitute judge will be considered as having been earned under the advertised judge.

Entries

Only those dogs registered with the North American Mixed Breed Registry may enter a NAMBR approved test and all such dogs must be individually registered before the closing date of the test.

Each entrant in an Earthdog Test must complete an entry form, which must be received by the Test Secretary before the advertised closing date of the test. Entries must not close not less than 20 days in advance of the test and all entries must be in the hands of the Test Secretary by that date and time. Incomplete entry forms and entry forms received after the advertised closing date and time of the test must be rejected and returned promptly to whomever submitted it.

Subject to the provisions set in these rules, no dog may be entered in any level for which it is not eligible at the time entries for the test close nor may such an entry be altered to another level after entries close. A dog may be entered only once in each class.

No dog belonging wholly or in part to any judge or to any member of the immediate family or household of any judge shall be entered in any Earthdog test at which such person is the judge.

No entry shall be made at any Earthdog test under a judge of any dog which the judge, or any member of his/her immediate family or household, owns, has owned either wholly or in part, sold, held under lease, handled in the field, boarded, trained, or instructed regularly, within six months prior to the date of the test. This includes judges who train professionally or as amateurs, and applies equally to judges who train individual dogs, as well as those who train dogs in classes or through their handlers.

Dogs entered must be not less than six months old on the day of the test.

Handlers, trainers or agents may compete, and competitors may enter more than one dog.

Where the Rules and Regulations for Earthdog Tests require that a dog shall have earned a title before being entered in a test, eligibility to enter the test is to be determined as follows:

- A dog may be entered in a test in which the closing date occurs after its handler has been notified by the judge that the dog has passed the test required for the title, even though the owner may not have received official notification from NAMBR that the dog has passed the test. Should NAMBR not subsequently officially notify the owner that the dog has earned the prerequisite title, any prizes and titles won in the particular test shall be forfeited.

Immediately upon receipt of entries, the Test Secretary shall notify by mail the person making the entry, advising that the entry has been received and accepted. When the advertised test limit has been reached, all remaining/further entries shall be assigned a position on a list of alternates, in the order received. Only entries received before the official closing date and time will be placed on the alternate list. Those persons assigned to the "Alternate List" shall be notified of their position on the list. Entries from the alternate list may fill any absentee spaces up to 1 hour before the start of the test. Entries will be refunded within 10 days of the test to those on the alternate list who did not participate in the test.

Entrants who do not show on the day of the test will have their entry fee refunded less an administrative charge as determined by NAMBR, provided an alternate is available and can attend the test. If an alternate is not available, the entry fee will not be refunded.

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The manner of determining acceptance to a limited test shall be left to host of the test, however it expected that a fair and equitable method would be chosen.

The following must appear on the entry form:

- The event number as designated by NAMBR.
- Name of dog.
- Breed, or type of dog.
- NAMBR registration number.
- Sex of dog.
- Name and complete address of the owner of the dog.
- Signature and telephone number of the owner or authorized agent.
- Name of the handler if the dog is not to be handled by the owner or member of his/her immediate family.
- The date of the entry.

Cheques returned NSF are subject to an administration fee, as set by NAMBR from time to time, and subject to change. .

Bitches in Season

NAMBR fully endorses the spaying of female dogs. However it is recognized that there may be instances where unaltered females are entered. Bitches in season are not allowed to compete. The judge of an Earthdog test must remove from the test any bitch in season, or any bitch, which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element. When a bitch comes into season after the entry of the bitch has been submitted to the Test Secretary, a veterinarian's certificate, certifying that the bitch was in season within the 10 day period preceding the test, must reach the Test Secretary on or before the date of the test at which time the entry fee and service charge (if any) will be refunded.

Premium List

A standard premium list with entry forms must be published and be made available to prospective entrants. A copy of the official NAMBR entry form is provided as part of this document.

Premium lists shall contain the following information:

- The words "Official Premium List".
- Approved by the North American Mixed Breed Registry.
- The NAMBR logo.
- The name of the club, association or individual holding the event.
- The date of the event.
- The date and time for closing of entries (no entry may be accepted, altered, cancelled, or substituted after the official closing date of entries). It is suggested that a date of no less than 20 days preceding the trial will, under normal circumstances, allow sufficient time for the mailing and receipt of confirmations and schedules etc., if such are being prepared for distribution.
- Location of the test. A map may be included.
- A statement indicating that the test is limited, and the number of entries it is limited to, if applicable.
- A statement indicating that all dogs entering the event must be registered with NAMBR before the closing date of the event.
- Name, address and telephone number of the Test Secretary.
- Address and telephone number of where entries are to be sent if different from that of the Test Secretary.
- The judge's name and address.
- List of awards and prizes, if offered.
- The amount of the entry fee.
- The name and address of the North American Mixed Breed Registry.

Other rules and regulations may be included as deemed necessary by the host. However, if other rules are included, they automatically become part of the premium list and must be enforced. At the time of distribution of

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Premium lists, 1 copy shall be sent to NAMBR, 1 copy to the area representative (if there is one), and one copy to the officiating judge.

Program of Judging

After entries have closed, the club, association or individual hosting the test may, at their discretion, prepare a judging schedule showing the time scheduled for judging the various tests.

The club, association, or individual may limit entries in any or all classes by prominent announcement on the title cover page of the premium list, and also indicate that entries will close automatically when the limit for each test has been reached, even if the official closing date for entries has not arrived.

Prizes

A ribbon or rosette shall be provided only for a dog, which passes the required test held under these rules. Each ribbon or rosette shall identify the association or club holding the test, display the NAMBR logo, indicate Earthdog Test and level (Junior Earth Dog, Senior Earth Dog and Master Earth Dog), and that the dog passed the test ("Passed").

The color of the ribbon is left to the host's discretion; however it is not to be yellow or red, so as to differentiate the event from obedience and tracking.

NAMBR may, at its option, supply a mug with the NAMBR logo as an extra prize, for each dog that passes the test.

Ribbons and rosettes may be ordered (but do not have to be) from Dominion Regalia Ltd., which has the NAMBR logo set up. They can be contacted at:

1550 O'Connor Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 2V3
Attention Frank Saunders, Manager Logo Division
Phone 416-752-2382 Ext. 641
Fax 416-752-4615
Toll free 1-800-930-9514
www.dominionregalia.com

Official Catalog

After entries have closed, a catalog shall be prepared listing the following information:

- On the cover it must state, "This test is held under the North American Mixed Breed Registry Rules", and include the NAMBR logo.
- It shall list in the order of receipt of entry, the name and address of each exhibitor, the NAMBR registration number, and available pertinent details about the dog such as name, age, breed description or type.
- Space is to be provided to fill in level achieved and to indicate whether the dog has passed the test.

There must be a catalog on site during the test in the event the exhibitors wish to review it for information.

At the discretion of the host, the catalog may be reproduced in bulk and offered for sale, or provided at no cost to the exhibitors. A complementary copy is to be provided to the officiating judge, and, if present, the Area Representative for the zone in which the test is held.

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Titles and Certificates

NAMBR will permit the use of the title NAMBR Earthdog (N-JE, N-SE, N-ME) in connection with each dog certified by the judge as having passed the Earthdog Test. A certificate will be issued to the owner by NAMBR certifying that the title has been won at an approved Earthdog test held under NAMBR rules.

NAMBR shall notify the owner of a title earned and ensure corresponding certificate is in the hands of the owner within 90 calendar days of the completion of the test in which the title was earned.

Awarding Titles

Junior Earthdog (N-JE) - requires 2 qualifying scores (acceptable) under 1 Judge at an approved NAMBR Test

Senior Earthdog (N-SE) - requires 3 qualifying scores under 2 different Judges at an approved NAMBR Test

Master Earthdog (N-ME) - requires 4 qualifying scores under 2 different Judges in an approved NAMBR Test

End of the Test

The Test Secretary shall forward to NAMBR the following material so as to be received within the 21 days following the test:

- Judges catalogue marked and signed by the judge
- All entry forms
- A remittance that shall include all recording fees for each and every dog entered in the test.
- One copy of the official catalogue, completed as to whether the dog passed or failed.
- Any other information or reports as may be required by NAMBR.

Entry Fee and Remittance to NAMBR

Entry fee amounts are set by the host organization.

At the end of the test a remittance fee is to be sent to NAMBR by the host organization within the 21 day period following the test.

Protests

All protests must be made in writing accompanied by a \$10.00 fee submitted to the host club Test Committee with a copy sent to the Area Representative and to NAMBR. If the host club is unable to resolve the protest in consultation with the Area Representative, the protest is to be forwarded to NAMBR for resolution. If a complaint is deemed justifiable, the \$10.00 fee will be refunded.

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Who to Contact

For NAMBR registration, application and/or information	NAMBR RR #2 – 8649 Appleby Line Campbellville, Ont., L0P 1B0 email info@nambr.cardoso.ca
For information regarding certificates	Sue or Deb
Earthdog events planning	Sue Godbehere 116 Kingsdale Dr Oshawa, Ont., L1G 2G2 Telephone 905-723-3798 Email suegodbehere@hotmail.com
	Deb Mahon 2707 Concession Road 7 Bowmanville, Ont., L1C 3K6 Telephone 950-263-8262 Email d.mahon@sympatico.ca
Application for Approval to Hold An Event Form	Sue or Deb
Judges Sheets	Sue or Deb
Rules and Regulations for Earthdog Tests	Sue or Deb
Current List of Judges	Sue or Deb

Any and all feedback may be routed directly to NAMBR using the contact information shown above.

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Standards for Earthdog Tests

Earthdog Test Grounds

The Earthdog test grounds will be determined by the host club, association, or individual, with individual testing areas set aside for each dog entered.

General Regulations

NOTE: Pinch or prong collars are not permitted

An Earthdog test is a test at which qualifications for titles are awarded (N-Junior Earthdog, N-Senior Earthdog, N-Master Earthdog)

Earthdog tests are a sport and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and outside the test field.

In order to participate a dog must be able to fit in a 3-sided tunnel approximately 9 inches by 9 inches (22.86cm x 22.68cm).

Dogs disfigured as the result of accident or injury but otherwise qualified shall be eligible. Dogs that are blind and/or deaf shall not be eligible. Blind means without useful vision, and deaf means without useful hearing. The judge shall determine whether the dog is fit to participate.

Dogs may enter only one regular class at an Earthdog test. (Regular classes are classes from which the dogs may earn titles, i.e.N-JE, N-SE,N-ME). The only exception will be allowed for dogs moving from Introduction to Quarry (N-IQ) to Junior Earth Dog (N-JE)

Dogs six months of age or older that have been registered with NAMBR are eligible to participate in Earthdog tests, as are spayed and neutered dogs.

Owners or handlers entering dogs in a test do so at their own risk and agree to assume responsibility for any damage caused by them or by their dogs. They also agree to abide by all of the Rules and Regulations of NAMBR

Judge's and Test Committee's Responsibilities.

The Test Committee and officials of the club holding the test are responsible for providing quarry, den liners, test material, facilities and equipment that meet the requirements of the Regulations.

The Judge must check quarry, test layout, and den liners before starting the test. The Judge shall examine the entire length of the den as well as supervising the scenting and covering of the dens before starting the test.

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Den Specifications, Running and Judging, Test and Performance Descriptions

Test Area Conditions and Dimensions.

The test area for the Introduction to Quarry test shall be no less than 40 feet by 40 feet (12.19m x 12.19m), with no portion of the den including the point of release, less than 10 feet (3.05m) from the side of the test area.

The test area(s) for the Junior, Senior and Master tests shall be of a size sufficient to contain the dens, with no portion of the den including the point of release less than 20 feet (6.10m) from the edge of the test area. Clubs should use a barrier or otherwise demarcate a test area to prevent spectator interference with the work of the dogs.

The earth shall be prepared to look as natural as possible. Brush and other natural material may be used to prepare the earth but should not block the entrance to the earth. It should be clearly marked, shall not contain unsafe conditions, and shall be free of dangerous materials.

The basic den construction allows for an earth-floored and 3-sided tunnel approximately 9 inches by 9 inches (22.86cm x 22.68cm). The den can be constructed from wood material or plastic composite board. The dens must have protective bars affixed to the quarry end of the last liner section to prevent the dogs from damaging the cage.

The opening through which the dog shall be removed must be of sufficient length to accommodate the safe removal of long-backed breeds.

The liners shall be set in the ground such that when the liners are covered the top surface of the liner is not visible. The liners must be well covered, and the top of the liner (not visible) must be flush with the ground. Care shall be taken to assure that the bottom surface of the earth is reasonably smooth and as even as possible.

The dens shall be located to minimize outside distractions. The earth may be dug up to one week prior to the test day or permanent dens may be used (if permanent the den must be designed in a way that the full length of the liner is accessible for examination and scenting), however, no dog shall be allowed to enter the earth within 24 hours of the start of the test, except when the den is used for a sanctioned, licensed or club Earthdog test. (Example: if there is a 2 day sanctioned trial "Saturday and Sunday", dogs will be allowed enter the earth both days even if there has not been 24 hours from the start of the test on Saturday). The area where the judge is located should be somewhat camouflaged.

The Judge shall oversee the placement of the liners and the scenting of the den on the day of the test. Only the dog currently being tested shall be allowed in the test area. Under no circumstances shall more than one dog be allowed in the test area at any time except during the Master Earthdog test.

Spectators shall be allowed outside the test area provided that they are quiet and do not distract the dogs. No dogs shall be allowed in the area immediately adjacent to the test area. The dogs waiting to be tested shall be kept at least 100 feet (30.48m) from the perimeter of the test area, in a holding area so designated.

The dens shall be scented, using prepared rat scent or commercial wildlife scent, to simulate an actual den.

In the Introduction to Quarry, Junior Earthdog and Senior Earthdog tests, the entire length of the den must be scented, no more than one hour before the start of the Test. In Master Earthdog tests, the scent line shall be laid only on the primary quarry trail. Extreme care must be taken not to allow false trails to receive any scent that may unnecessarily confuse the dogs.

The Judge shall be responsible for overseeing the correct scenting of the dens.

The scent trail shall be laid evenly from the release point to a point under the quarry cage in Junior and Senior, and from a point 20 feet (6.10m) from the main entrance to the primary quarry area in the Master class. If, in the

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opinion of the Judge, the scent trail has weakened due to the number of dogs entering the earth, the Judge shall direct the Test Steward or Judge's Steward to lightly re-scent the den, using a spray bottle or scent drag.

Quarry Requirements and Care.

The quarry to be used shall be adult rats. Two rats are required and shall be securely caged at all times. Water and food must be provided for the rats during the test. The Judge shall be responsible for the care and safety of the quarry during the class.

The quarry will be placed in the den just before the beginning of the test. The den will then be securely covered to minimize the dog from scenting the quarry from above.

Section 1. Introduction to Quarry.

This test is a simple instinct test requiring no training or previous exposure to earthwork. No titles are earned and it is not a prerequisite for advanced tests. Young dogs, dogs with no previous working experience, and novice handlers are encouraged to enter. As it may be the first den experience for some dogs, the Judge and the handler shall do their utmost to assure that it is a positive experience for the dog. The Judge shall be allowed to use discretion in encouraging the dog by scratching or moving the cage, or some other method felt necessary to get a true reaction from the dog.

The dog shall be brought to the test area entrance. The handler may encourage the dog up to this point. The Judge must make sure that each handler understands the test requirements before starting the dog.

Introduction to Quarry Test - Den Design.

The den for the test shall be the standard liners approximately 9 inches by 9 inches (22.86m x 22.86m), set so as to provide a tunnel approximately 10 feet (3.05m) in length, with one 90 degree turn. The handler shall release the dog from a point directly in front of the den, approximately 10 feet from the entrance. The Judge and Steward shall attempt to provide as little distraction as possible.

Introduction to Quarry Test - Qualifying Performance.

The Judge or Judges Steward shall direct the handler to remove the collar and lead. The handler will then step up to the release point with the dog, making sure that the dog does not pass the release point, for this shall cause the dog to fail.

At the direction of the judge, the handler is allowed to give the dog one short command on release, placing the dog on the ground or releasing the dog no higher than waist level. Throwing or pushing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted, and shall cause the dog to fail the test.

Further encouragement may cause the dog to fail

The Judge or the Judge's Steward shall time the test. The time shall start when the dog enters the earth. The dog shall be allowed 2 minutes from the time it first enters the earth to begin working the quarry. The dog may exit and re-enter the earth during the time allowed, provided it has not started working the quarry.

The dog shall not qualify if it requires over 2 minutes to begin working the quarry.

Once the dog begins working the quarry, the Judge or Judge's Steward shall begin timing the working time, and shall continue timing until the dog quits or the time limit is reached.

Once the dog begins working it must work continuously for 30 seconds, with no encouragement, to qualify. Work is defined as digging, barking, growling, lunging, biting at the quarry, or any other action that, in the opinion of the Judge, indicates the dog's willingness to engage the quarry. Any definite break in the dog's work shall stop the time, but a change from one form of work to another shall not stop the time as long as the dog continues working in a natural manner.

Dogs that begin working the quarry within two minutes and work continuously for 30 seconds shall pass.

The Judge shall mark the judging form with the time, indicating whether the dog passed or failed and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward, and collected only by the Test Secretary or Test Chairman.

At the completion of each dog's test, the Judge shall inform the handler whether or not the dog passed. Following the class, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs which have passed.

Section 2. Junior Earthdog Test.

The primary purpose of the Earthdog is to pursue quarry to ground, hold the quarry, and alert the hunter where to dig, or to bolt the quarry. Whether the dog is successful in its primary purpose is determined by its possession of a unique set of natural abilities. This test is designed to help evaluate the dog's willingness to enter a scented tunnel, drive to proceed through the darkness, to recognize quarry, and the desire to work it strongly and persistently.

The test shall consist of two parts,

- (a) the approach to the quarry
- (b) working the quarry.

In order to qualify, a dog must pass both parts of the test.

Junior Earthdog Test - Den Design.

The den for the Junior Earthdog Test shall be constructed using the standard liners approximately 9 inches by 9 inches (22.86m x 22.86m), set in such a manner as to provide a tunnel approximately 30 feet (9.14m) in length, with three 90 degree turns. The tunnel shall have an entrance at one end, and a quarry area at the other end, which shall provide the Judge a view of the dog during the working portion of the test. The dogs should be removed from the den by way of the exit provided at the quarry end of the den. The den shall have no additional entrances, exits, or dead ends.

Junior Earthdog Test - Qualifying Performance.

The dog shall be brought to the test area entrance. The handler shall stand at the designated starting point, a point directly in front of the den entrance at a distance of approximately 10 feet (3.05m). The collar and lead must be removed prior to the start of the test. Upon instructions from the Judge, the handler shall release the dog. The handler may at the time of release, give the dog one short command with no penalty. The dog should be released no higher than waist level and may be placed on the ground prior to release. Throwing or pushing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted, and shall cause the dog to fail. After releasing the dog, the handler shall quietly stand at the release point with no further command or signal, and shall not move until instructed by the Judge. Further actions on the part of the handler during the time the dog is being tested could result in failure.

The timing of the dog shall start when the dog is released by the handler. The dog has 30 seconds to reach the quarry. It may enter and leave the den without penalty, but must reach the quarry within the 30-second time limit. Dogs reaching the quarry within the 30-second time limit, which have not received any encouragement from the handler, shall pass this portion of the test.

Once the dog has reached the quarry it must remain with the quarry until the test is completed. Should the dog leave the quarry area during the test period it shall fail. The Judge shall allow the dog 30 seconds from the time it reaches the quarry to begin working. If the dog fails to begin working within 30 seconds the dog shall fail this portion of the test.

Once the dog begins working the quarry, it must work continuously for 60 seconds. Work shall be defined as barking, growling, digging, or any other form of activity that, in the Judges opinion, indicates the dog's willingness to engage the quarry. A change from one form of work to another shall not be considered as a break. Lunging and clearing dirt shall be considered work, as long as the dog stays with the quarry. Intense staring and/or sniffing the quarry should not be considered working. The Judge shall make no attempt to encourage the dog to work, or to continue to work.

Dogs, which work the quarry continuously for 60 seconds, shall pass this portion of the test.

Upon completion of the test, the Judge should allow the handler to retrieve the dog from the earth. The dog should be removed by way of the top opening at the quarry end of the earth. The dog shall be taken from the test area as soon as possible and not be allowed to investigate the test area. The dog is under judgment during the time it is in the test area.

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The Judge shall mark the judging form with the time, indicating whether the dog passed or failed and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward, and collected only by the Test Secretary or Test Chairman. At the completion of each dog's test, the Judge shall inform the handler whether or not the dog passed. Following the class, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs, which have passed.

Section 3. Senior Earthdog Test.

This test is designed to present the more experienced Earthdog with a more realistic den situation. In the wild, few natural earths are simple tunnels; they are complex, multiple entrance designs. The dog must be able to not only locate the quarry within a complex earth but should also be willing to leave the earth if the quarry has bolted.

The Senior Earthdog test shall consist of three parts:

- (a) the approach to the quarry
- (b) working the quarry
- (c) leaving the den on command

In order to qualify, a dog must pass all three parts of the test

Senior Earthdog Test - Den Design.

The den shall be constructed using the standard liners approximately 9 inches by 9 inches (22.86m x 22.86m). The liners shall be set in such a manner as to provide a main tunnel approximately 30 feet (9.14m) in length, with three 90-degree turns, a false exit and false den. The false exit shall be between 7 feet and 10 feet in length with one 90-degree turn and set in such a manner as to not be visible to the dog or handler when standing at the point of release.

The false den shall be a side tunnel with no exit, approximately 4 feet (1.22m) in length, with a 12 x 8-inch door (30.48cm x 20.32cm) located at the top, not more than 3 inches (7.62cm) from the end of the tunnel. Directly beneath the door shall be a pile of bedding material, i.e. straw, dry grass, including well used quarry bedding, to provide scent and to simulate the litter/bedding area found in most natural dens.

The false exit and false den shall be set at the second and third 90-degree turn off the main tunnel, the order and placement of which shall be at the club's discretion.

The entrance to the main tunnel and false exit shall be marked by a mound of dirt at least 4 inches (10.16cm) higher than the top of the liner, thus providing a steep entrance to the den of at least a 45 degree incline into the earth. Natural cover may camouflage the dirt mound, provided the cover does not restrict entrance to the earth.

Senior Earthdog Test - Qualifying Performance.

The dog shall be brought to the test area entrance. This release point shall be approximately 20 feet from the entrance to the earth and not less than 20 feet (6.10m) from the edge of the test area. The handler must remove the lead and collar prior to releasing the dog. Upon instruction from the Judge, the handler shall release the dog. The handler may, at the time of release, give the dog one short command with no penalty. The dog shall be released not higher than waist level, and may be placed on the ground before release. Throwing or pushing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted and shall cause the dog to fail. After releasing the dog, the handler shall quietly stand at the release point, with no further command or signal and shall not move, until instructed by the Judge.

Timing of the dog for the approach portion of the test shall start when the dog is released by the handler. The dog has 90 seconds from the time of release to reach the quarry, provided that it is continuously searching during that time. The dog may enter and leave the den, provided it has not reached the quarry. The dog may enter by either entrance.

Once the dog has reached the quarry, it must remain with the quarry until the working portion of the test is completed. Should the dog leave the quarry area during the test it shall fail. The Judge shall allow the dog 15 seconds from the time it reaches the quarry to begin working. If the dog fails to begin working within 15 seconds the dog shall not qualify.

Once the dog begins working the quarry, it must work continuously for 90 seconds. Work shall be defined as barking, growling, digging, or any other form of activity, which, in the Judges opinion, indicates the dog's willingness to engage the quarry. A change from one form of work to another shall not be considered as a break. Lunging and clearing dirt shall be considered work, as long as the dog stays with the quarry. Intense staring

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and/or sniffing the quarry should not be considered working. The Judge shall make no attempt to encourage the dog to work or to continue to work.

Dogs that work for less than 90 seconds shall not pass.

Once the dog has completed the working portion of the test, the Judge shall seal the viewing area, remove the quarry and seal the quarry area, and have the caged quarry removed a sufficient distance so as not to be a distraction. The Judge shall then instruct the handler to recall the dog. The handler may go to the entrance of the den to call the dog, and may use a whistle. No bait, hides, noisemakers or toys may be used to recall the dog from the den. The handler is permitted to reach into the entrance of the den to retrieve the dog.

Dogs that exit the den (from any exit) and are retrieved by the handler within 90 seconds from the judge's instruction to recall shall pass this portion of the test. The handler is positioned at the main den entrance and may leave the den entrance to retrieve the dog once it has left the den but must return to the main entrance immediately if the dog re-enters the earth. Dogs, which exit the den in more than 90 seconds, shall not pass. The dog shall be taken from the test area as soon as possible and should not be allowed to investigate the test area.

The Senior test shall consist of three parts:

- (a) The approach to the quarry
- (b) Working the quarry
- (c) Leaving the den on command

Dogs must pass all three parts of the test in order to qualify. The dog is under judgment during the time that it is in the test area.

The Judge shall mark the judging form with the time, indicating whether the dog passed or failed and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward, and collected only by the Test Secretary or Chairman.

At the completion of each dog's test, the Judge shall inform the handler whether or not the dog passed. Following the class, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs that have passed.

Section 4. Master Earthdog Test

This test is designed to come as close as possible to a natural hunting situation. On a natural hunt the dog is expected to demonstrate team work with its handler by locating and indicating the presence of active dens. Entering on command, locating the quarry within the den and staying with the quarry until it bolts or is dug to.

Master Earthdog Test - Den Design.

Note: The roller obstacle may only be placed in the section of the tunnel that has access to the false exit.

The test area for the Master Test shall include an approach to the den through a natural setting of 50 yards (45.7m) to 209 yards (191.4m).

The actual den design for the Master Earthdog test is a combination of the Senior Earthdog liner plus the introduction to Quarry liner with modifications discussed below.

Both openings to the den shall not be readily visible and shall be blocked with a removable obstruction; this obstruction should be such that it permits free movement of air for purposes of the dog scenting the quarry, but sturdy enough to prevent the dog from entering the den.

A scent line of approximately 20 feet (6.10m) shall lead to the main entrance and the main entrance shall be well scented with litter from the quarry cage.

There is no false den in the Master test, instead there are two quarry ends.

A short 5 foot (1.52m) dead end tunnel shall be located along the approach line at least 50 feet (15.24m) from the den area. The entrances should be readily visible to the dog. A scent line will run from the dead end tunnel across the approach line for a distance of 20 feet (6.10m)

There shall be three obstacles in the tunnel none of which shall be placed within 5 feet (1.52m) of the entrance, or the quarry. The obstacles shall consist of:

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- 1) A horizontal constriction consisting of boards, approx. 1 inch wide (2.54cm) and 18 inches (45.62cm) long, placed opposite each other to narrow the tunnel width to approx. 6 inches (15.24cm). The ends of the boards should be beveled or rounded.
- 2) A vertical constriction consisting of a board approx 2 inches (5.08cm) wide and 18 inches (45.72cm) long placed inside the roof of the liner to lower the height to 7 inches (17.78cm). The ends of the board should be beveled or rounded.
- 3) An obstruction should be a 6 inches (15.24cm) diameter PVC pipe placed crosswise in the tunnel, and loosely mounted on a one inch dowel so that it is movable (it should move approx 2 ½ inches (6.35cm) each way. The portion of the liner above the obstruction 9 inches (22.86cm) on each side of the pipe's centre line, for a total of 18 inches (45.72cm) is elevated 6 inches (15.24cm) over the main liner and naturally covered or otherwise camouflaged.

The quarry will be located in one of the quarry locations. The quarry locations and working ends of the tunnels must be well covered to discourage investigation by the dog during the approach.

Master Earthdog Test - Qualifying Performance.

The handler is positioned with the Judge and proceeds in the direction of the scent line from a release point approx 150 to 300 feet (45.72m to 91.44m) from the real den entrance. The handler must remove the lead and collar prior to releasing the dog.

The Judge and handler shall proceed in the direction of the den and the dog should demonstrate their ability to work the area and locate any active dens.

The path taken by the handler should pass beside the short unscented den, the dog should investigate the den but must recognize that it is unoccupied and should not work it. Dogs barking in the empty den cannot qualify. If the dog fails to investigate the empty den, then the owner shall call the dog and command him to investigate it. The dog need not fully enter the den but should demonstrate responsiveness to his handler and recognize the presence of the den. If the dog does enter the den, it should leave of its own accord. A dog that must be called out of the empty den shall fail.

Once the judge and handler reach the end of the scent line (approx 20 feet (6.10m) from the main entrance) they will halt and remain quiet while the dog has a chance to investigate the den area. The dog must give a clear indication at the main entrance. If the dog indicates the tunnel entrance, they cannot qualify, but can continue to be tested. A clear indication by the dog should leave no doubt in the judge's mind that the dog has located and is prepared to enter an active den.

Once the dog has indicated or had adequate opportunity to indicate the main entrance, the obstacles are then removed from the den entrances.

The handler shall stand at the main entrance with the dog. Upon instruction from the Judge, the handler shall release the dog from ground level or from a point no higher than waist level. Throwing the dog into the den entrance shall not be permitted, and shall cause the dog to fail. The handler may, at the time of release, give the dog on short command with no penalty. After releasing the dog, the handler shall quietly stand and shall not move, until instructed by the Judge.

Timing of the dog shall start when the dog is released by the handler. The dog has 90 seconds from the time of release to reach the quarry, provided that it is continuously searching during that time. The dog may enter and leave the den, provided it has not reached the quarry. If the dog exits the den during the test, the handler may give a second command at their discretion, additional commands during this portion of the test will result in a non-qualifying performance.

The dog must work the quarry in the first location for 30 seconds, after which time the Judge shall seal the viewing area (the area immediately over the dog) remove the quarry and seal the quarry area, and relocate the

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quarry to the second location. (The working ends of the tunnels should be sufficiently screened so that the dog does not see the relocation of the quarry but not so heavily screened as to obscure the Judge's view)

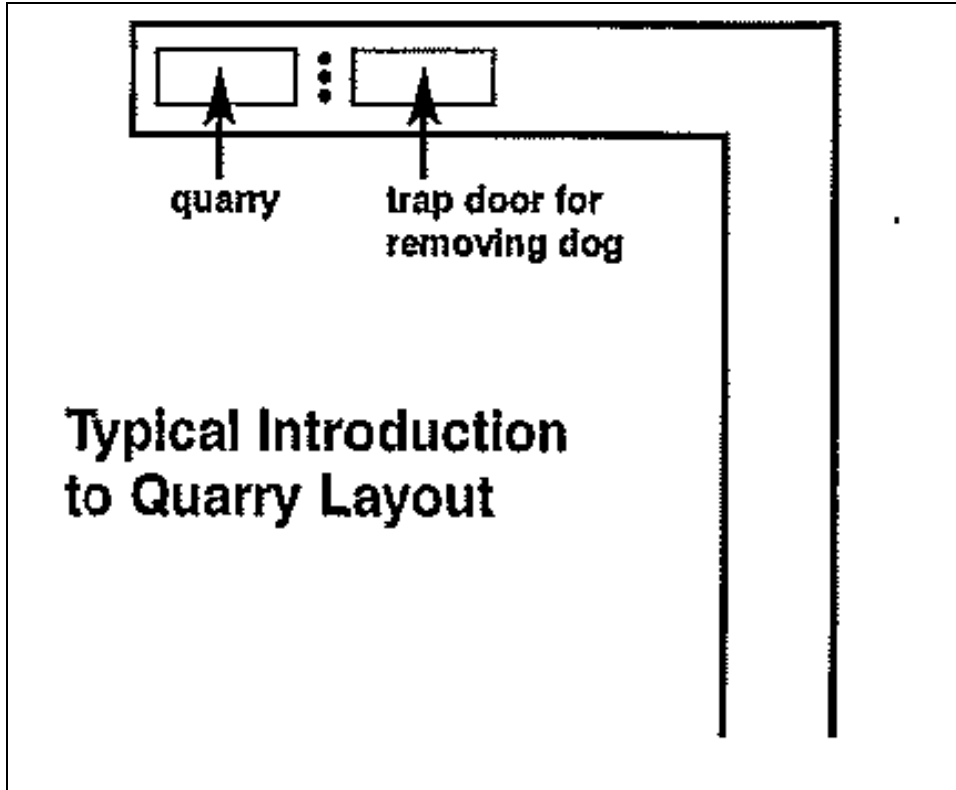
The dog must now relocate the quarry within the den – he has 2 minutes to do so and may exit and re enter the den provided it has not reached and relocated quarry. If the dog leaves the den, then one final additional command may be given. Subsequent commands will result in a non-qualifying performance. Once the dog relocates the quarry, it must work the quarry continuously for 60 seconds.

When the dog is working the quarry in the second location the Judge will create a distraction in the working area by lightly striking the top of the working area for 30 seconds with a piece of wood to simulate digging sounds. The dog should continue working and ignore the overhead distraction. On completion of the working portion the Judge will call the handler to the working area. The handler shall have 15 seconds to remove the dog without injury to the handler. The quarry will remain in position while the dog is removed.

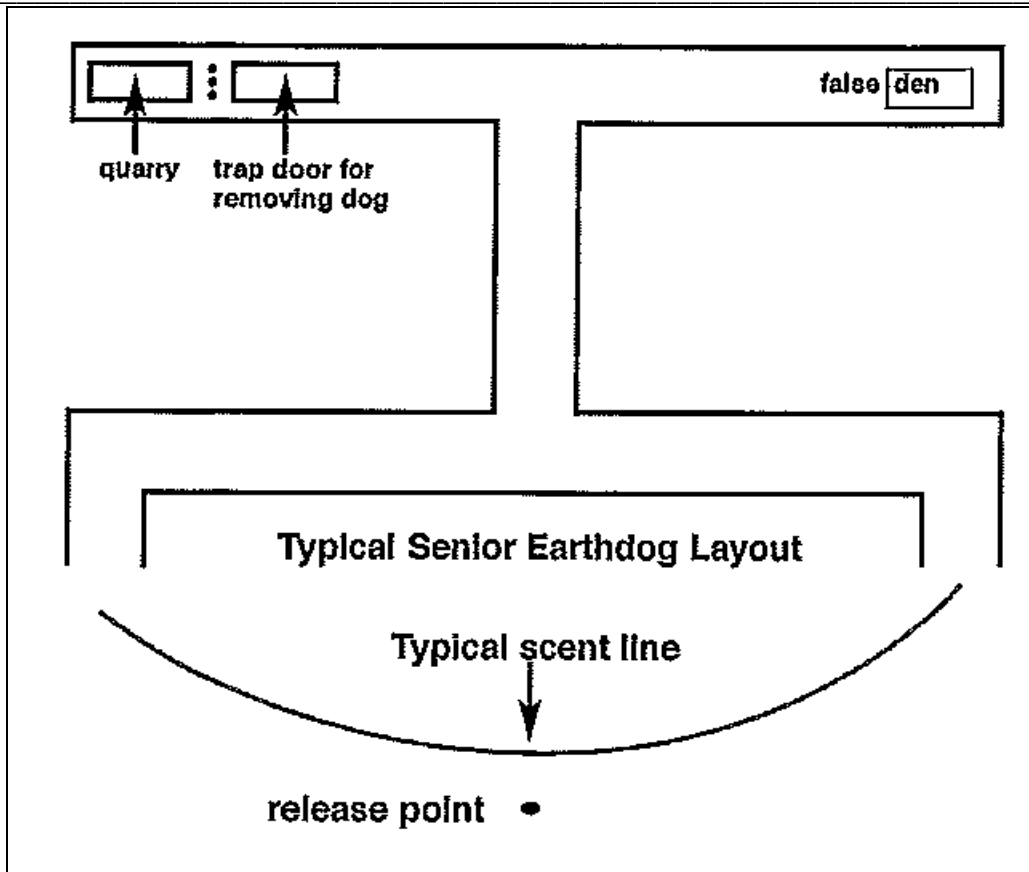
Dogs must pass all parts of the test in order to qualify. The Judge shall mark the Judging form to indicate pass or fail, and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judges Steward or the Test Stewart, and collected on by the Test Secretary.

At the completion of the test, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs, which have qualified. The test-giving club may award prizes or trophies to the dogs that have qualified.

Section 1. Introduction to Quarry

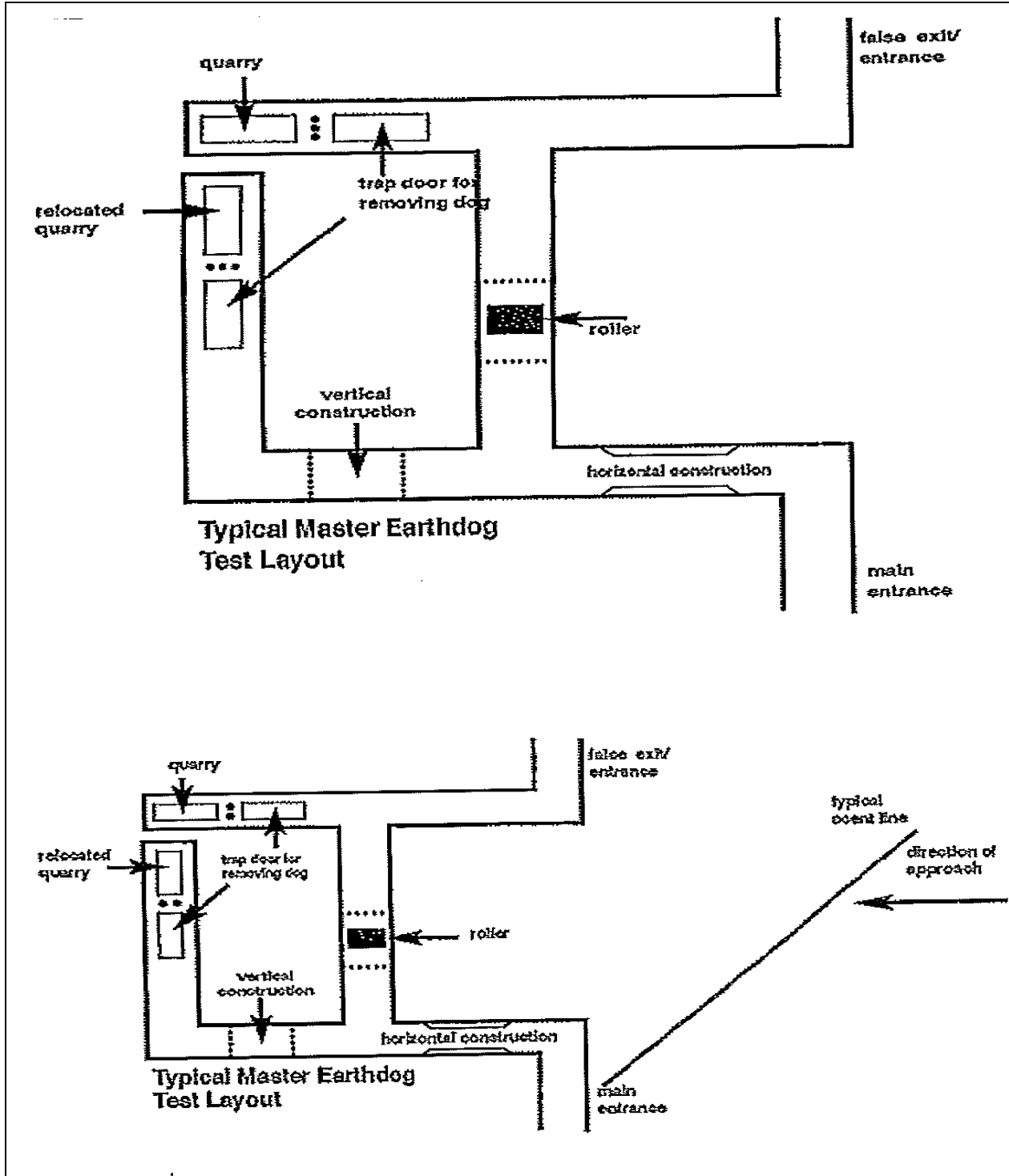


Section 2. Junior Earthdog Test



Section 4. Master Earthdog Test

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