



Retriever Working Tests 2026

Saturday March 28th 2026

NOVICE NOVICE DOG/NOVICE HANDLER (ND/NH) PUPPY

Bradley Old Park, Brailsford.

by kind permission of Mr M Samworth

Meet 9:00am for 9.30am start.

Judges: Stewart North (B2761); Jackie Martin (NP5071);

Carol Probert (NP); TBC;

Closing date for entries – March 14th 2026

Saturday April 25th 2026

OPEN NOVICE

The Grange, Ashmore Dairy Farm

Cross in Hand Lane, Lichfield, WS13 8DY

by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Richard Bailye

Meet 9.00am for 9.30am for Open start and 12:30pm for 1pm start for Novice

Judges: John Yarwood (A3484); Shane Gilliver (NP5067);

Kevin Turner (NP3939); Jemma Hendley (NP5159)

Closing date for entries – April 11th 2026

Sunday June 7th 2026

NOVICE NOVICE DOG/NOVICE HANDLER (ND/NH) YOUNG HANDER

Bagots Park, Abbots Bromley.

by kind permission of Mr D Dale & Mr S Sayce

Meet 9:00am for 9.30am start.

Judges: Tim Brain (A3226); Laura Marsh (B3451);

Mark Morton; Lesley Cooper-Shaw (NP5085)

Closing date for entries – May 24th 2026

Saturday August 22nd 2026

OPEN WALKED UP (LIMITED TO 30 DOGS)

Red Hall Farm

Betley, Crewe, CW3 (BA

by Kind permission of Mrs M. Berrisford

Meet 9:00 for 9.30 start.

Judges: Vicky Stanley (B2482); Phil Smithies (B2367); TBC; TBC

Entries open early July

This Test will be walked up on Field Trial lines and the J regs applied from the first round.

Definitions for Retriever Working Tests. J(G)2

Puppy

Open to all dogs of specific breed or breeds less than eighteen months of age on the date of the test regardless of awards gained.

Novice Dog/Novice Handler (ND/NH)

Confined to dog and handler who have not gained ANY award in a field trial or classified GWT or won a Novice Dog/Novice Handler test.

Novice

Dogs which have NOT won a Novice Test, or gained a 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open Test or an All Aged (AA) test, or ANY Field Trial award, including a COM.

Open

Open to ANY dog, with or without awards.

Young Handler

Handlers to be aged Under 16 years of age.

Only one Class per day can be entered

ENTRIES & DIRECTIONS

1. Entry via the Dove Valley website preferred, however paper entries using the correct entry form, being posted to the Test Secretary may be used.
2. Entries after the closing dates cannot be accepted
3. Directions and What Three Word codes will be issued to entrants well in advance of the tests

Members Entry Fee £17.50

Non Members Entry Fee £25.00

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All dogs must be registered with the Kennel Club breed register.

Bitches in season must not be brought to the ground.

Anyone knowing of their dog being in contact with any infectious disease should not attend the test.

All dogs must be kept on lead except under judges' instructions.

Spectators and competitors must consider themselves under the control of the judges and stewards at all times.

Dogs arriving after the judging has commenced will not be allowed to run without the permission of both judges and organisers.

The Organisers, Dove Valley Working Gundog Club and the Land Owner or their Agent, cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or accidents that occur on the day.

Vehicles & dogs are the responsibility of their owners.

Please clean up after your dog.

Your dog is vulnerable and AT RISK if left in a vehicle in high temperatures and even on days considered as slightly warm. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR DOG. If your dog is found to be at risk, forcible entry to your vehicle may be necessary without liability for any damage caused.

Any contributions for raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

DOVE VALLEY WORKING GUNDOG CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WORKING TESTS

All tests are run under UK Kennel Club Field Trial rules and regulations (J Regs).

PDF download at this link: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3465/field-trial-j-regulations.pdf>

Judges are invited on merit and experience by the Club and will judge according to the Kennel Club J Regs.

Competitors will receive a zero if a dog fails or commits a Serious Fault (according to J Regs) in any part of a test including in a multiple exercise. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they have read and understood the J Regs and the definition of Serious Faults before entering a test.

Competitors are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Kennel Club code of conduct which specifies the sort of behaviour expected of those who take part in GWTs and Field Trials, namely:

Ensuring KC licensed events are friendly and welcoming

Being co-operative and above all creating a safe environment for all to enjoy their sport

Behaving in an appropriate fashion, showing good manners and respect towards others, including the host, competitors, officials and judges

Not impugning the decision of the Judges or criticising the host, ground or helpers

Please note:

Any verbal communication with a judge should take place after judging has taken place and must be conducted in a polite and professional manner.

Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone - including judges, other competitors, organisers will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Mobile phones should be turned off or on silent during the Test.

Any complaints should be logged in the KC Incident book which can be requested from either the Chief Steward or WT Secretary.

It is important that competitors should stay until the presentations at the end of the Test in order to thank the hosts properly for allowing use of their ground, and also to thank the helpers, judges and club officials for giving up their day.

Remember

Most of the judges, helpers, committee members and officers currently run dogs and are missing the opportunity to compete, in order to organise and help for your benefit.

Please volunteer to help at Tests so that others have the opportunity to compete with their own dogs. You will learn a lot by helping Tests and Field Trials.

The number of entries for Working Tests in recent years has been very high. This is very good for our sport and very much encouraged by the Dove Valley committee. Getting sufficient helpers, in addition to the committee members and their families, to run the events is essential. However, getting help is very difficult and the events are run by the committee and a very small group of loyal, hardworking people who are generous with their time, some of which don't even run in competitions.

We therefore need to make two key points:

1. Please try to volunteer to help at one of our tests. If you run in the open class, please try and assist at a novice event and vice versa.
2. If we cannot get sufficient people to assist in the running of a test, we reserve the right to limit the entry numbers to 48 unless otherwise stated, so that the test runs well and you all have an enjoyable and worthwhile day.

Thank you in advance
The Dove Valley Committee