



BAVARIAN MOUNTAIN HOUND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

SCHWEISSHUND LEVEL 1 TEST

Description of Test

- Length of Track 400 metres incorporating two 90 degree turns
 - Aged 3-5 Hours
 - Track laid using Tracking shoes or tracking iron and up to 250ml of blood from a recommended blood bottle
 - Optional 200 metre Reporting Test
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General Rules

1. To compete in the Schweisshund Level 1 Test, Hounds must be at least nine months of age on the day of the test.
 2. Hounds will work singly, in an order decided by ballot prior to the test.
 3. Each hound will be given a maximum of forty five minutes to complete the track.
 4. The Society will appoint two Judges, a Tracking Judge and a Reporting Judge, along with two Assistants (who can be Judge's in training), to judge each hound.
 5. The Judges' decision is final.
 6. Hounds on passing the test will be awarded a Diploma, with the grade of I, II or III, depending on the number of points obtained. Table of points and grades can be found at the end of the test rules.
 7. All hounds must be worked on a tracking line no less than six metres and wear a suitable tracking collar or harness.
 8. In the event of snow cover the test will be cancelled
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Creation of the Track

The track will be laid by the person who is to judge the hound working that track (Tracking Judge). An assistant (judge in training) may assist.

1. For the laying of the track, cleaves of a deer or a boar are used along with 250ml of the appropriate blood.
 2. The cleaves are attached to purpose made tracking shoes or purpose made tracking stick with a cleave attachment. The cleaves will be no older than 24 hours old, either from a carcass or freshly defrosted.
 3. For the tracking stick, a cleave from one of the hind legs of a deer or a boar must be used and for the tracking shoes a cleave from a foreleg and a cleave from a hind leg of a deer or a boar are used. Each limb can be used for a maximum of three tracks. The tracking stick and tracking shoes must be approved by the Society.
 4. The blood should be dispersed using a 250ml bottle with a tapering nozzle approved by the Society.
 5. The person who lay's the track or their assistant should be unknown to the hound which is going to work the track.
 6. The track will be approximately 400 metres long.
 7. The track begins with a marker, showing the direction of the track.
 8. The track should be visible to the owner for the first 50 metres. The rest of the track marking should be visible only to the judges.
 9. Along the track there will be two severe turns (90 degrees). Other turns in the tracks are permitted to allow for the terrain, but must be shallow and gently curving.
 10. A deer or boar carcass or part of (e.g. head or skin) is placed at the end of the track.
 11. The person who lays the track writes and signs a plate with a number, date and time when the track was made and places it at the beginning of the track.
 12. The distance between each track will be a minimum of 100 metres.
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Working the Track

1. The track will be aged between three and five hours before the test commences.
2. The Tracking Judge and an Assistant, who are to observe the handler and hound, show the handler the beginning of the track and the track direction for the first fifty metres by means of a marker at the fifty meter mark.
3. On the handlers command, the hound should find the track, and start searching and work calmly with its nose to the ground.
4. The hound should keep on the track at all times and find all the bends.
5. It is permissible for the hound to show the handler other tracks. If the hound starts to follow other tracks for a short distance but then corrects itself, it is not to be taken as a mistake. Taking small shortcuts on turns is not deemed a fault.
6. In the event of the hound losing the track without returning to the track over a distance of approximately fifty metres, it can be taken back to the track a maximum of two times, each time it is to be returned to the place where it had lost the track. Every time the grade is reduced by one point. If the hound leaves the track for a third time, for a distance of fifty metres the test will be terminated.
7. Should the Tracking Judge feel that the hound is not capable of following the track; the test will be terminated at the judge's decision.
8. The handler must not look for the markers showing the way of the track. Each time, the judges will give a warning to the handler about the reduction in the grade or may disqualify the handler and hound.
9. Any vocal encouragement given to the hound should be kept to a minimum. Over encouragement and shouting may result in points being deducted.

10. The hound should guide the handler all the way to the end of the track where the carcass or part of will be placed.

Reporting Test (Optional)

Length of track 200 metres incorporating one 90 degree turn

Aged no older than 1 hour

Track laid using Tracking shoes or tracking iron and a further 200ml of blood from a recommended blood bottle

Tracking shoes or tracking iron to be used

Carcass of the relevant species to be at the end of the track

Creation of the Reporting Chase Track

1. The track will be laid by the person who is to judge the hound reporting on that track (Reporting Judge). An assistant (judge in training) may assist.

1. For the laying of the track cleaves of a deer or a boar are used along with a further 200ml of the appropriate blood as used in the cold track.

2. The cleaves are attached to purpose made tracking shoes or purpose made tracking stick with a cleave attachment. The cleaves will be no older than 24 hours old, either from a carcass or freshly defrosted from the same beast that the cold track was made.

3. For the tracking stick, a cleave from one of the hind legs of a deer or a boar must be used and for the tracking shoes a cleave from a foreleg and a cleave from a hind leg of a deer or a boar are used. Each limb can be used for a maximum of three tracks. The tracking stick and tracking shoes must be approved by the Society.

4. The blood should be dispersed using a 250ml bottle with a tapering nozzle approved by the Society.

5. The person who lay's the track or their assistant should be unknown to the hound which is going to work the track.

6. The track will be approximately 200 metres long.

7. The track begins where the cold track ended clearly marked and with a wound bed.

8. Along the track there will be one severe turn (90 degrees). Other turns in the tracks are permitted to allow for the terrain, but must be shallow and gently curving.

10. A deer or boar carcass is placed at the end of the track.

11. The person who lays the must hide at a reasonable distance to be able to witness the hound at the carcass but to avoid through sight or scent to be a distraction to the hound. The report judge will remain stationary until otherwise notified by the track judge. Communication by mobile phone/two way radio is acceptable if required.

Working the Chase Track and Reporting

Before the cold track commences the track judge and the reporting judge should be made aware of the method of reporting that will be used by the hound.

At the end of the cold track, where the chase track will begin, the track judge will order the handler and their hound to stop and unleash their hound to complete their track unaided.

The handler may or may not remove the tracking collar but if using a harness it must be removed. A bodo- band collar may be fitted. A bringsel may be attached.

The handler and judge will remain stationary until the hound begins reporting.

Baying Hound (Tortverbeller)

The hound must bay directing the handler and judge to its whereabouts, each time the hound stops baying the handler and judge will cease moving forward until the hound commences baying. Once the handler is in sight of the hound he may move forward freely. No vocal encouragement is allowed once the hound is released from the beginning of the chase track.

Guiding Hound (Verweiser)

The hound on completing the chase track will return to the handler and indicate it has found the carcass by means which should be known by the track judge and then guide the handler followed by the track judge to the carcass. The hound remains unleashed. If the hound goes from sight, the handler will remain still until the hound returns and commences guiding the handler to the carcass.

Bringsel Hound

The hound on completing the chase track will return to the handler and indicate it has found the carcass by holding a bringsel in its mouth and then guide the handler followed by the track judge to the carcass. The hound remains unleashed. If the hound goes from sight the handler will remain still until the hound returns and commences guiding the handler to the carcass. The bringsel should remain in the hounds mouth until commanded to release it when the handler and judge are at the carcass.

The track judge and reporting judge will jointly decide whether to give the hound the title of either:

- Tortverbeller
- Verwieser
- Bringsel

Discipline

1. **Sit and Stay** - The hound will be told to sit. The handler may leave an item (e.g. hat or roe sack) with his or her hound. The handler will then retreat thirty metres leaving the hound. If the hound lays down this is permissible as long as it doesn't move forward or start barking. After approximately ten minutes, on command from the Judge, the handler will recall his/her hound. Hounds should come in to their handler; those hounds which do not allow the handler's to fasten a leash for 10 minutes or run away will receive 0 grades. In the event of the hound running off, the hound should come back to its handler within 10 minutes. Any hound chasing domestic livestock will be disqualified.

2. **Walking with Handler** - This can be done on or off a short lead. The hound should walk next to, just in front of or behind the handler in a controlled manner. This will include two left turns and two right turns, change of pace and two stops all to be executed on the directions of the judge. The handler and hound must demonstrate they are a working partnership.