

**Great Lakes Sport Dog Association**  
**Hunt Test Rules and Regulations**  
*Adopted into effect 01 January 2010*

**Conditions –**

In order to compete and receive points and awards in any Great Lakes Sport Dog Association Event, the canine must be registered with Great Lakes Sport Dog Association (GLSDA). Registration forms are available at all events that can be completed and fee's paid before an event.

Non Registered Canines have the opportunity to compete in any GLSDA event, but must be registered prior to the day's event to be granted points towards GLSDA awards.

Any canine breed or mixture thereof is welcome to register and compete in GLSDA events. All judgments of qualifications in an event are based on the canine's abilities, and not that of pedigree or breeding.

All immunizations, including communally transmitted virus's (i.e. kennel cough) must be up to date and current for any canine to compete and/or in any way socialize at any event. Canine's that are aggressive or show aggressiveness during an event will immediately be disqualified. Handlers that show physical or emotional aggression or abuse to any canine before, during, or after an event will automatically be disqualified and asked to immediately vacate the premises.

All equipment used in a GLSDA Tests or events must be approved by the Judge or GLSDA representative in charge. Any equipment deemed harmful to handler or canine, or in anyway be a safety risk will be removed.

Canines competing in GLSDA events must do so in a flat nylon or flat leather collar. Choke chains, prongs, or slip collars are prohibited. Chain leads, E-collars, beeper collars or any hardware deemed inappropriate by the Judge is prohibited. Canines not competing must be secured and away from the immediate testing area.

Bitches in the heat cycle or pregnant will not be allowed to participate in any GLSDA event. Deceptively entered bitches will be eliminated without an entry fee refund. Bitches that have pre-paid an entry fee and entered the heat cycle prior to an event is entitled for a reimbursement upon receipt of veterinarian proof.

## **Conditions (continued) -**

Hunt Test scoring is based on 5 principle subjects in the field, each pertaining to the entered division and class. Each subject has a maximum score of 5 points with a maximum score of 25 points available in a test. Minor infractions in any subject reduces the total points earned in a test, but does not inquire a test failure.

In order to acquire any Title in any class, the canine must have earned a minimum of 100 points in that class. Points are accrued and do not have to be completed in any 1 calendar year. A dog may be entered in any class that the owner/handler feels it may be capable, but will not be able to switch back to compete in a lower class. After a dog has completed 100 points and awarded a Title in that class, the canine can begin competing in the next higher class.

Test failures can be made if the Canine shows any form of aggression, constant refusal of commands, or any disregard to testing structure (i.e. running off). Any points awarded up to the infraction will be declared null and void and result in zero (0) points for that test. Test failure can also result from unsafe hunting practices of the part of the handler (i.e. gun handling). Safety in the field is of utmost importance to Great Lakes Sport Dog and any unsafe situation will stop the test immediately. Any points awarded up to the safety infraction will be null and void and result in zero (0) points for that test.

In all GLSDA hunt tests live or dead birds will be used and hunted. The handler must wear hunters orange in compliance to state regulations, and posses a current small game license. The handler is required to provide his/her own shotgun and ammunition. Shooters are available to handlers not wishing to handle a weapon, but the handler must wear hunter orange and adhere to safe hunting practices.

All minor handlers that have not completed a Hunters Safety Course, or are under the legal hunting age will not be able to handle weapons and is required to use a legal aged and licensed shooter in the test.

Alcohol consumption before or during an event is strictly prohibited. Any indication of alcohol consumption is grounds for removal of the premises.

Any unruly behavior of participants or spectators will not be tolerated.

Abuse to any canine while at a GLSDA event will result in immediate Test Failure without reimbursement and removal from the premises.

## **Hunt Test Options and Titles –**

Great Lakes Sport Dog Association recognizes 4 Hunt Test Divisions, each containing 3 Classes:

### **Divisions**

#### **Upland Flushing –**

Consisting of any Canine breed, or mixture thereof, commonly used for locating and ‘putting to flight’ upland winged game in the sport of hunting. Canines participating in this division are required to satisfactorily locate and flush upland winged game as outlined in the testing guidelines.

#### **Upland Pointer –**

Consisting of any Canine breed, or mixture thereof, commonly used for locating and ‘pointing out’ upland winged game in the sport of hunting. Canines participating in this division are required to satisfactorily locate and point upland winged game as outlined in the testing guidelines.

#### **Pointing Lab –**

Consists of the Labrador Retriever strain used for locating and ‘pointing out’ upland winged game in the sport of hunting. Canines participating in this division are required to satisfactorily locate and point upland winged game as well as perform the retriever requirements as outlined in the testing guidelines.

#### **Retriever –**

Consisting of any Canine breed, or mixture thereof, commonly used in the hunting of and retrieving downed upland winged game and waterfowl in the sport of hunting. Canines participating in this division are required to satisfactorily complete proper retrieves on both land and water as outlined in the testing guidelines.

### **Classes**

#### **Novice Hunter (NH) –**

The Novice class consists of canines with a basic knowledge of commands and limited exposure to the upland or waterfowl hunt. Canines competing for the Novice Hunter Title usually have the experience or exposure of 1 year or less in the hunting arena.

#### **Intermediate Hunter (IH) –**

The Intermediate Class of Canines should have a good understanding and response to commands given in the field. Canines competing for the Intermediate Hunter Title have usually experienced 1 or 2 hunting seasons, have a firm basic knowledge of the hunt and are able to respond and carry out basic commands.

#### **Finished Hunter (FH) –**

The finished Class of Canines is expected to have a firm understanding and response to commands given in the field. Canines competing for the Finished Hunter Title are usually seasoned hunters and able to respond to more advanced commands and practices.

## Upland Flushing

All upland flushing tests consist of a live bird hunt in an area of approx 5 acres or more. Four (4) live birds will be planted throughout the testing arena that must be hunted, successfully flushed and retrieved. A time limit of 15 minutes is set but is at the discretion of the Judge if more or less time is needed.

Flushing Dogs will be judged on 5 subjects in the testing field:

**Drive** – the eagerness and natural instinct of the canine to actively pursue game.

**Huntability** – Attentiveness to ground cover, attention to the hunt and use of nose.

**Training** - Knowledge and response to commands.

**Retrieving** – The returning of downed game to the hunter.

**Boldness to Flush** – The eagerness and ability to ‘work scent’ and put game to flight.

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## Upland Flushing

### Novice Class –

The novice test is set up on approx 5 acres with minimal ground cover. Markers are located in the arena that signifies the immediate area to where the live bird is planted. The use of the markers is optional, but the handler must notify the Judge prior to the planting if he wishes not to use them.

The Novice canine will be on lead upon entering the Hunt Field and shall remain on lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be let off lead, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

Four (4) birds are to be hunted, flushed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the novice class, a 4 bird find is not necessary, but increases the overall scored value.

The Novice should show interest and desire to hunt and pursue game. Quartering and ground cover should be apparent, but systematic ground coverage is not necessary. The dog should respond to the handler’s commands, be in control and stay within a reasonable shooting range without hunting too close. Encouragement from the handler may be needed to keep a young dog focused, but consistent commands can reduce the overall score.

The Novice Canine should show interest in scent and respond by investigating or pursuing the source. A pursued but accidental flush is acceptable and does not reduce the score. However, aimless running and ‘bumping a bird’ will not count as a flush and reduce the overall score.

The dog should gainfully pursue a flush. It is not a requirement to be steady to shot and wing but the canine should not run aimlessly after the flush.

The dog must make an effort to retrieve the downed bird and not run away with or destroy the harvested bird. Encouragement to retrieve is acceptable and a successful retrieve can be counted when returned within the immediate vicinity of the handler and dropped. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing or tearing up of the bird beyond table fare reduces the retrieving score.

In the event of a missed bird, the Novice Canine is to be called back with limited commands.

Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

**Upland Flushing**  
**(Continued)**

**Upland Flushing**  
**Intermediate Class –**

The intermediate test is set up on approx 5 acres or more with light to medium ground cover, as available. The Intermediate canine will be on lead upon entering the Hunt Field and shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be released, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

Four (4) birds are to be hunted, flushed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the Intermediate class, a 4 bird find is necessary for a high score. In the event that 4 birds are not found in the allotted time, a reduced score will be administered. Failure of the Test is not enacted as a result due to lack of flushes. The Intermediate Canine should show high interest and desire to hunt and pursue game. Natural quartering should be apparent with good field coverage being utilized. Handling or commands to the canine should be at a minimum. The dog should respond to the handler's commands, be in control and stay within shooting range with little or no corrections.

The Intermediate Canine should pick up scent and respond by eagerly pursuing the source. Aimless running, lack of control, or refusal to commands greatly reduces the scoring and could result in failure. Accidental flushing or 'bumping a bird' will not be counted as a flush and have a negative affect on the score.

The dog should eagerly pursue a flush and work around natural habitats. It is not a requirement to be completely steady to shot and wing but should in no way run out of control after the flush.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare eliminates the retrieving score and counts as a non-retrieve. Failure to retrieve to hand greatly reduces the overall score but is not grounds to test failure

In the event of a missed bird, the Intermediate Canine is to be called to the heel / sit position. Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

**Upland Flushing**  
**Finished Class –**

The finished test is set up on more than 5 acres, but less than 10 acres with varied ground cover and conditions, as available.

The Finished Canine will enter the test arena off lead and at the heel position. The canine shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be released, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

**Upland Flushing**  
**(Continued)**

**Upland Flushing**  
**Finished Class (cont)**

Four (4) birds are to be hunted, flushed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the Finished class, a 4 bird find is necessary for a high score. In the event that 4 birds are not found in the allotted time, a reduced score will be administered. Failure of the Test is not enacted as a result due to lack of flushes.

The Finished Canine should show high interest and eager desire to hunt and pursue game. Natural quartering should be evident with full field coverage being patterned. Corrective Handling or commands to the canine should be at a bare minimum and could result in a lower test score. The dog should respond to the handler's commands immediately and without hesitation, be in control and always be within shooting range.

The Finished Canine should readily pick up scent and respond by eagerly pursuing the source. Aimless running, lack of control, or refusal to commands gravely reduces the scoring and could result in failure. Accidental flushing or 'bumping a bird' is an infraction and results in test failure.

The dog should boldly pursue a flush and work around natural habitats. The dog is required to be completely steady to shot and wing. The canine must be steady upon the flush, and remain steady until sent for the retrieve. Failure to be steady to flush and shot will reflect harshly in the scoring.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver immediately to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare counts as an infraction and is grounds to test failure. Failure to retrieve to hand counts as an infraction and is grounds to test failure.

In the event of a missed bird, the Finished Canine is to be called to the heel / sit / stay position. Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge and the dog released by the handler on command to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

## Upland Pointing

All upland Pointer tests consist of a live bird hunt in an area of approx 5 acres or more. Four (4) live birds will be planted throughout the testing arena that must be hunted, successfully pointed and retrieved. A time limit of 15 minutes is set but is at the discretion of the Judge if more or less time is needed.

Pointing Dogs will be judged on 5 subjects in the testing field:

**Drive** – the eagerness and natural instinct of the canine to actively pursue game.

**Hunt ability** – Attentiveness to ground cover and attention to the hunt.

**Training** - Knowledge and response to commands.

**Retrieving** – The returning of downed game to the hunter.

**Staunchness to Point** – The motionless position of the dog alerting the hunter of a quarry's presence.

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## Upland Pointing

### Novice Class –

The novice test is set up on approx 5 acres of light to medium ground cover, as available. Markers are located in the arena that signifies the immediate area to where the live bird is planted. The use of the markers is optional, but the handler must notify the Judge prior to the planting if he wishes not to use them.

The Novice canine will be on lead upon entering the Hunt Field and shall remain on lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be let off lead, weapons loaded and can begin the Test.

Four (4) birds are to be hunted, pointed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the novice class, a 4 bird point is not necessary, but increases the overall scored value.

The Novice should show interest and desire to hunt and pursue game. Quartering and ground cover should be apparent, but systematic ground coverage is not necessary. The dog should respond to the handler's commands, be in control and stay within a reasonable shooting range without hunting too close. Encouragement from the handler may be needed to keep a young dog focused, but consistent commands can reduce the overall score.

The Novice Canine should show interest in scent and respond by investigating or pursuing the source. A solid point is required. Minor creeping is allowable in the novice class, but should not result in a flush.

Only one 'break' is allowable, and chasing a bird results in a negative point score for that find. The dog must allow the handler to walk in and flush the bird. It is not a requirement to be steady to shot and wing but the canine should not run aimlessly after the flush.

The dog must make an effort to retrieve the downed bird and not run away with or destroy the harvested bird. Encouragement to retrieve is acceptable and a successful retrieve can be counted when returned within the immediate vicinity of the handler and dropped. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing or tearing up of the bird beyond table fare reduces the retrieving score.

In the event of a missed bird, the Novice Canine is to be called back with limited commands.

Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

## **Upland Pointing (Continued)**

### **Upland Pointing** **Intermediate Class –**

The intermediate test is set up on approx 5 acres or more of light to medium ground cover and conditions, as available.

The Intermediate canine will be on lead upon entering the Hunt Field and shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be released, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

Four (4) birds are to be hunted, Pointed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the Intermediate class, a 4 bird point is necessary for a high score. In the event that 4 birds are not found in the allotted time, a reduced score will be administered. Failure of the Test is not enacted as a result due to lack of flushes. The Intermediate Canine should show high interest and desire to hunt and pursue game. Natural quartering should be apparent with good field coverage being utilized. Handling or commands to the canine should be at a minimum. The dog should respond to the handler's commands, be in control and stay within shooting range with little or no corrections.

The Intermediate Canine should pick up scent and respond by eagerly pursuing the source. Aimless running, lack of control, or refusal to commands greatly reduces the scoring and could result in failure. Accidental flushing or 'bumping a bird' will not be counted as a find and have a negative affect on the score.

The dog should eagerly pursue a find and work around natural habitats. It is not a requirement to be completely steady to shot and wing but should in no way run out after the flush. A steady dog results in a higher score.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare eliminates the retrieving score and counts as a non-retrieve. Failure to retrieve to hand greatly reduces the overall score but is not grounds to test failure

In the event of a missed bird, the Intermediate Canine is to be called to the heel / sit position. Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

### **Upland Pointing** **Finished Class –**

The finished test is set up on more than 5 acres, but less than 7 acres with varied ground cover and conditions, as available.

The Finished Canine will enter the test arena off lead and at the heel position. The canine shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be released, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

Four (4) birds are to be hunted, pointed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the Finished class, a 4 bird find is necessary for a high score. In the event that 4 birds are not found in the allotted time, a reduced score will be administered. Failure of the Test is not enacted as a result due to lack of finds.

## **Upland Pointing (Continued)**

### **Upland Pointing** **Finished Class (cont)**

The Finished Canine should show high interest and eager desire to hunt and pursue game. Natural quartering should be evident with full field coverage being patterned. Corrective Handling or commands to the canine should be at a bare minimum and could result in a lower test score. The dog should respond to the handler's commands immediately and without hesitation, be in control and always be within shooting range.

The Finished Canine is to be run in a brace. Four (4) birds per dog will be planted, with 4 finds required for each canine. If a particular canine successfully finds the allotted birds before the next, the 1<sup>st</sup> canine may be put on lead to allow the other dog to work and fulfill the requirements. Both dogs in the brace are required to back and honor the other dog at least twice in the test.

The dog should boldly pursue a point and work around natural habitats. The dog is required to be completely steady to shot and wing. The canine must be steady upon the flush, and remain steady until sent for the retrieve. Failure to be steady to flush and shot will be reflected harshly in the scoring.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver immediately to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare counts as an infraction and is grounds to test failure. Failure to retrieve to hand counts as an infraction and is grounds to test failure.

In the event of a missed bird, the Finished Canine is to be called to the heel / sit / stay position.

Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge and the dog released by the handler on command to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

## Pointing Lab

Pointing Lab tests consist of assessments in upland hunting as well as land and water retrieving. In the upland portion of the test three (3) live birds will be planted throughout the testing arena that must be hunted, successfully pointed and retrieved. The land and water retrieving portion of the test consists of retrieves on land and water. Both upland and water portions must be completed to complete the testing criteria. A time limit of 15 minutes per portion is set but is at the discretion of the Judge if more or less time is needed.

In the Novice Test, an upland hunt and two (2) water retrieves is required.

In the Intermediate Test, an upland hunt and 1 set of either water or land retrieves, consisting of one double mark and 1 blind retrieve is required.

In the Finished Test, an upland hunt and both water and land retrieves, consisting of one double mark and 1 blind retrieve each, is required.

Pointing Labs will be judged on 5 subjects in the Upland field:

**Drive** – the eagerness and natural instinct of the canine to actively pursue game.

**Training** – Knowledge and response to commands

**Hunt ability** – Attentiveness to ground cover, attention to the hunt and use of the nose.

**Delivery** – The returning of downed game to the hunter.

**Staunchness to Point** – The motionless position of the dog alerting the hunter of a quarry's presence.

All Pointing Labs will be judged on 4 subjects on land and water retrieving:

**Drive** – Eager and direct runs or swims to the downed game and back

**Training** – Knowledge and response to commands.

**Marking** – The accurate ability to pinpoint a fall and remember the position.

**Delivery** – The return of downed game to the hunter.

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## Pointing Lab

### Novice Class – Upland

The Upland Pointing Lab Novice Test is set up on approx 3 acres of light to medium ground cover, as available. Markers are located in the arena that signifies the immediate area to where the live bird is planted. The use of the markers is optional, but the handler must notify the Judge prior to the planting if he wishes not to use them.

The Novice canine will be on lead upon entering the Hunt Field and shall remain on lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be let off lead, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

Three (3) birds are to be hunted, pointed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the novice class, a 3 bird point is not necessary, but increases the overall scored value.

The Novice should show interest and desire to hunt and pursue game. Quartering and ground cover should be apparent, but systematic ground coverage is not necessary. The dog should respond to the handler's commands, be in control and stay within a reasonable shooting range without hunting too close.

Encouragement from the handler may be needed to keep a young dog focused, but consistent commands can reduce the overall score.

## **Pointing Lab (Continued)**

### **Pointing Lab Novice Class – Upland (cont)**

The Novice Canine should show interest in scent and respond by investigating or pursuing the source. An established 'point' is a motionless standing position by the dog signifying the presence of game. A solid point of five (5) seconds is required. Each point must result in a bird flush to be scored as a find. Only after the attending Judge has started the count may a non-aggressive, non-intimidating steadying command be used. The attending judge will notify the handler when the required time has been met and allow a flush. The dog must allow the handler to walk in and flush the bird. Minor creeping is allowable in the novice class, but should not result in a flush. In the event of repositioning of the Novice, a new 5 second time limit is required. Only one 'break' is allowable and chasing or grabbing a bird results in a negative point score for that find. It is not a requirement to be steady to shot and wing but the canine should not run aimlessly after the flush.

The dog must make an effort to retrieve the downed bird and not run away with or destroy the harvested bird. Encouragement to retrieve is acceptable and a successful retrieve can be counted when returned within the immediate vicinity of the handler and dropped. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing or tearing up of the bird beyond table fare reduces the retrieving score.

In the event of a missed bird, the Novice Canine is to be called back with limited commands. Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

### **Pointing Lab Novice Class – Water**

The water test will be two (2) single mark retrieves on open water, when available, that allows retrieves no further than 50 yards. Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the line. Upon the judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the judges signal. The throw will be in the water, resulting in a splash that encourages efficient water entries and returns. A successful novice water retrieve is defined as 'efficient and willing swims to and back with a retrieve in a direct line to the handler, delivering within a reasonable distance of the handler on land'. Bank running and water entry other than in a reasonable direct line of the fall will result in a lower score. Bank running without water entry results in a non-retrieve and a zero (0) score. In the novice class the canine may be restrained on the line by the handler with a slip lead until the judges signal to retrieve. The handler is allowed two attempts to send the dog for each retrieve.

Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing or tearing up of the bird beyond table fare reduces the retrieving score.

The Judges decision is final.

## **Pointing Lab (continued)**

### **Pointing Lab** **Intermediate Class – Upland**

The intermediate upland test is set up on approx 5 to 7 acres of light to medium cover as available. The Intermediate canine will be on lead upon entering the Hunt Field and shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be released, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

Three (3) birds are to be hunted, Pointed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the Intermediate class, a 3 bird point is necessary for a high score. In the event that 3 birds are not found in the allotted time, a reduced score will be administered. Failure of the Test is not enacted as a result due to lack of finds.

The Intermediate Canine should show high interest and desire to hunt and pursue game. A solid point of ten (10) seconds or more is required. Each point must result in a bird flush to be scored as a find. Only after the attending Judge has started the count may a non-aggressive, non-intimidating steadying command be used. The attending judge will notify the handler when the required time has been met and allow a flush. The dog must allow the handler to walk in and flush the bird. In the event of repositioning, a new 10 second time limit will be started after the established point. For top score the point must be solid and unmistakable. Natural quartering should be apparent with good field coverage being utilized. Handling or commands to the canine should be at a minimum. The dog should respond to the handler's commands, be in control and stay within shooting range with little or no corrections.

The Intermediate Canine should pick up scent and respond by eagerly pursuing the source. Aimless running, lack of control, or refusal to commands greatly reduces the scoring and could result in failure. Accidental flushing or 'bumping a bird' will not be counted as a find and have a negative affect on the score.

The dog should eagerly pursue a find and work around natural habitats. It is not a requirement to be completely steady to shot and wing but should in no way run out after the flush. A steady dog results in a higher score.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score for Delivery.

Failure to retrieve to hand greatly reduces points earned in Delivery.

In the event of a missed bird, the Intermediate Canine is to be called to the heel / sit position. Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

## **Pointing Lab (Continued)**

### **Pointing Lab** **Intermediate Class – Land Retrieves**

Scoring in this category reflects the Training and Delivery score, and can be performed in conjunction with the upland hunt.

Intermediate class land retrieves consist of one (1) marked double retrieve of two (2) harvested birds for a retrieve no further than 75 yards and one (1) blind retrieve not to exceed 40 yards.

Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the line. Both throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler may immediately stop and re-heel the dog with verbal or whistle commands for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will result in a zero (0) score in training.

In the marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall and not allowed to hunt the area. The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make that retrieve before pursuing the other fall.

In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the bird while being handled, as well as the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score for Delivery.

Failure to retrieve to hand greatly reduces points earned in Delivery.

The Judges decision is final.

### **Pointing Lab** **Intermediate Class – Water Retrieves**

Scoring in this category reflects the training and delivery score in the water test.

Intermediate class land retrieves consist of one (1) marked double retrieve of two (2) harvested birds for a retrieve no further than 50 yards and one (1) blind retrieve not to exceed 50 yards.

Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the line. Both throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler may immediately stop and re-heel the dog with verbal or whistle commands for a 'controlled break'.

## **Pointing Lab (Continued)**

### **Pointing Lab**

#### **Intermediate Class – Water Retrieves (cont)**

Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will result in a zero (0) score in training.

In the marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall with minimal commands and not allowed to hunt the area.

The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make a retrieve before pursuing the other fall.

In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the bird while being handled, as well as the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the blind with minimal commands and deliver directly to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare eliminates the retrieving score and counts as a non-retrieve. Failure to retrieve to hand greatly reduces points earned in Delivery.

The Judges decision is final.

### **Pointing Lab**

#### **Finished Class, Upland –**

The finished test is set up on more than 5 acres, but less than 10 acres with varied ground cover as available. The Finished Canine will enter the test arena off lead and at the heel position. The canine shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges command the dog can be released, weapons loaded and begin the Test.

Three (3) birds are to be hunted, pointed and retrieved in the allotted time. In the Finished class, a 3 bird find is necessary for a high score. In the event that 3 birds are not found in the allotted time, a reduced score will be administered. Failure of the Test is not enacted as a result due to lack of finds.

The Finished Canine should show high interest and an eager desire to hunt and pursue game. A solid point of ten (10) seconds or more is required. Each point must result in a bird flush to be scored as a find. Only after the attending Judge has started the count may a non-aggressive, non-intimidating steadying command be used. The attending judge will notify the handler when the required minimum time has been met and allow a flush. The dog must allow the handler to walk in and flush the bird. In the event of repositioning, a new 10 second time limit will be started after the established point. Natural quartering should be evident with full field coverage being patterned. Corrective Handling or commands to the canine should be at a bare minimum and could result in a lower test score. The dog should respond to the handler's commands immediately and without hesitation, be in control and always be within shooting range.

The dog should boldly pursue a point and work around natural habitats. The dog is required to be completely steady to shot and wing. The canine must be steady upon the flush, and remain steady until sent for the retrieve. Failure to be steady to flush and shot will be reflected harshly in the scoring.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver immediately to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge.

## **Pointing Lab (Continued)**

### **Pointing Lab** **Finished Class, Upland (cont)**

Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare counts as an infraction and is grounds to test failure. Failure to retrieve to hand counts as an infraction and is grounds to test failure.

In the event of a missed bird, the Finished Canine is to be called to the heel / sit / stay position.

Another pre-harvested bird will be thrown by the judge and the dog released by the handler on command to allow the dog to make a successful retrieve and score points for that find.

The Judges decision is final.

### **Pointing Lab** **Finished Class – Land Retrieves**

Scoring in this category reflects the training and delivery score, and can be performed in conjunction with the upland hunt. Finished class land retrieves consist of one (1) marked double retrieve of two (2) harvested birds for a retrieve no further than 75 yards and one (1) blind retrieve not to exceed 100 yards.

Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the line. Both throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler must immediately stop and re-heel the dog with verbal or whistle commands for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will result in a zero (0) score in training.

In the marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall and not allowed to hunt the area. The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make that retrieve before pursuing the other fall.

In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the bird while being handled, as well as the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the blind with minimal commands and deliver directly to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score for Delivery.

Failure to retrieve to hand is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score for Delivery.

The Judges decision is final.

## **Pointing Lab (Continued)**

### **Pointing Lab** **Finished Class – Water Retrieves**

Scoring in this category reflects the training and delivery score.

Intermediate class land retrieves consist of one (1) marked double retrieve of two (2) harvested birds for a retrieve no further than 50 yards and one (1) blind retrieve not to exceed 70 yards.

Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the handler on the line. Both throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler must immediately stop and reheel the dog with verbal or whistle commands for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will result in a zero (0) score in training.

In the marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall with minimal commands and not allowed to hunt the area.

The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make a retrieve before pursuing the other fall.

In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the bird while being handled, as well as the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands.

The dog must make a successful retrieve of the blind with minimal commands and deliver directly to hand. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score for Delivery.

Failure to retrieve to hand is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score for Delivery.

The Judges decision is final.

## Retriever

All Retriever tests consist of at least four (4) or more retrieves – two (2) on land and two (2) on water. In the event that water is not assessable or deemed unsafe, two (2) additional land retrieves may be substituted, but a minimum of 3 water tests must be completed to acquire Title status.

In the Novice Class two single marks are required – two (2) on land and two (2) in water.

In the Intermediate Class one (1) double mark on land, one (1) double mark on water, and two (2) blind retrieves are required; one (1) blind on land and one (1) blind on water.

In the Finished Class one (1) triple land retrieve, one (1) double water retrieve with a diversion, and two (2) blinds are required; one (1) blind on land and one (1) blind on water.

Retrievers will be judged on 5 subjects in the testing arena:

**Drive** – the eagerness and natural instinct of the canine to actively pursue game.

**Hunt ability** – Attentiveness to ground or water cover, attention to the hunt and use of nose.

**Training** - Knowledge and response to commands.

**Marking** - The accurate ability to pinpoint a fall and remember the position.

**Delivery** – The return of downed game to the hunter.

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## Retriever

### Novice Class – Land

The Retriever Novice land test is set up on approx 3 acres or more of light to medium ground cover, as available, to allow two (2) retrieves no further than 50 yards. Both land retrieves will be single marks and can consist of live flyers, pre-harvested throws or any combination thereof.

The Novice canine will be on lead upon entering the test arena and shall remain on lead during handler/Judge instructions. On the Judges command the dog can be sat at the line, let off lead and begin the Test.

Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot. The throw shall be visible to the canine, and land in an area where terrain and obstacles permit a clear line of sight and travel. After the mark hits the ground and has clearly stopped motion the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not 'break' or leave the handlers side until the command. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler may immediately stop and re-heel the dog with verbal or whistle commands and re-line the canine for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (2) controlled breaks per test. An uncontrolled break, where the dog proceeds and refuses a call back, will result in a zero (0) score in Training. A successful novice land retrieve is defined as 'efficient and willing runs to and back with a retrieve, in a direct line to the handler, delivering within a reasonable distance of the handler'. In the novice class the canine may be restrained at the line by the handler with a slip lead, or as instructed by the judge, until the signal to retrieve. The handler is allowed two attempts to send the dog for each retrieve. If at any time the canine refuses to pursue, runs uncontrollably, or fails to make a retrieve results in a 'refusal' and obtains in a zero (0) score for Retrieving and Delivery.

Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing or tearing up of the bird beyond table fare reduces the retrieving score.

The Judges decision is final.

**Retriever**  
**(Continued)**

**Retriever**  
**Novice Class – Water**

The water test will be two (2) single retrieves on open water, when available, to allow two (2) retrieves no further than 50 yards. Both water retrieves will be single marks and can consist of live flyers, pre-harvested throws or any combination thereof.

The Novice canine will be on lead upon entering the test arena and shall remain on lead during handler/Judge instructions. On the Judges command the dog can be sat at the line, let off lead and begin the Test.

Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot. The throw shall be visible to the canine, and land in an area that allows a clear line of sight and travel. After the mark hits the water and has clearly stopped motion the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not 'break' or leave the handlers side until the command. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler may immediately stop and re-heel the dog with verbal or whistle commands and re-line the canine for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (2) controlled breaks per test. An uncontrolled break, where the dog proceeds and refuses a call back, will result in a zero (0) score in Training. A successful novice water retrieve is defined as 'efficient and willing swims to and back with a retrieve, in a direct line to the handler, delivering within a reasonable distance of the handler on land'. In the novice class the canine may be restrained at the line by the handler with a slip lead, or as instructed by the judge, until the signal to retrieve. Bank running and water entry other than in a reasonable direct line of the fall will result in a lower score. Bank running without water entry, refusing to pursue, or a failure to make a retrieve is considered a 'refusal' and results in a zero (0) score for Retrieving and Delivery. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing or tearing up of the bird beyond table fare reduces the retrieving score.

The Judges decision is final.

**Retriever**  
**Intermediate Class – Land**

Intermediate Class Land test shall be set up on approx 3 acres or more of light to medium ground cover, as available, to allow 1 (1) marked double retrieve and one (1) blind retrieve. The double retrieve shall not exceed 60 yards each, and the blind retrieve shall not exceed 75 yards. Both land doubles can consist of live flyers, pre-harvested throws or any combination thereof.

The Intermediate canine will be on lead upon entering the test arena and shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges order the dog can be heeled /sat at the line to begin the Test. Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the line. Both throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler must immediately stop the dog with verbal or whistle commands then re-line the canine for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will result in a zero (0) score in Training.

**Retriever**  
**(Continued)**

**Retriever**  
**Intermediate Class – Land (cont)**

As a marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall and recover the fall with a reasonably direct line of pursuit, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands if needed to locate a fall. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the marking test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall and not allowed to hunt the area. The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make that retrieve before pursuing the other fall. Proper Delivery, from the heel / sit position, is not required but raises the Delivery and Training score. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. Failure to retrieve to hand results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.

In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the blind while being handled, number of commands given, and the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands. The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Proper delivery, from the heel/ sit position, is not required but raises the Delivery and Training score. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.

Failure to retrieve to hand results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.

The Judges decision is final.

**Retriever**  
**Intermediate Class – Water**

Intermediate Class Water test shall be set up on water of light to medium obstacles, as available, to allow 1 (1) marked double retrieve and one (1) blind retrieve. The double retrieve shall not exceed 60 yards each, and the blind retrieve shall not exceed 75 yards. Retrieves may be strictly water entry or may consist of a land pursuit that requires a water entry, depending on conditions. Both water doubles can consist of live flyers, pre-harvested throws or any combination thereof.

The Intermediate canine will be on lead upon entering the test arena and shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges order the dog can be heeled /sat at the line to begin the Test. Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the line. Both throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve.

The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler must immediately stop the dog with verbal or whistle commands and re-line the canine for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will result in a zero (0) score in Training.

**Retriever**  
**(Continued)**

**Retriever**  
**Intermediate Class – Water (cont)**

As a Marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall and recover the fall with a reasonably direct line of pursuit, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands if needed to locate a fall. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the marking test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall and not allowed to hunt the area. The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make that retrieve before pursuing the other fall. Proper Delivery, from the heel / sit position, is not required but raises the Delivery and Training score. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. Failure to retrieve to hand results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.

In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the bird while being handled, number of commands given, and the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands. The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Proper delivery, from the heel/ sit position, is not required but raises the Delivery and Training score. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.

Failure to retrieve to hand results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.

The Judges decision is final.

**Retriever**  
**Finished Class – Land**

The Finished Class Land test shall be set up on approx 5 acres or more of varied ground cover, as available, to allow 1 (1) marked triple retrieve and one (1) blind retrieve. The triple retrieve shall not exceed 75 yards each, and the blind retrieve shall not exceed 100 yards. Triples can consist of live flyers, pre-harvested throws or any combination thereof.

The Finished canine will be lead off lead and at the heel position upon entering the test arena and shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges order the dog can be heeled /sat at the line to begin the Test. Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the handler. All throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler must immediately stop the dog with verbal or whistle commands then re-line the canine for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will drastically lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will end the Land Test and results in zero (0) points in Land Testing. Finished Canines that fail the land portion of the testing may still compete in the water portion of the test.

**Retriever**  
**(Continued)**

**Retriever**  
**Finished Class – Land (cont)**

As a marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall and recover the fall with a direct line of pursuit, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands if needed to locate a fall. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the marking test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall and not allowed to hunt the area. The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make that retrieve before pursuing the other falls. Proper Delivery, from the heel / sit position, is required. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. Failure to retrieve to hand with a proper delivery results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the blind while being handled, number of commands given, and the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands. The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Proper delivery, from the heel/ sit position, is required. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. Failure to retrieve to hand results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.

The Judges decision is final.

**Retriever**  
**Finished Class – Water**

The Finished Class Water test shall be set up on water of varied obstacles, as available, to allow 1 (1) marked double retrieve and one (1) blind retrieve. The double retrieve shall not exceed 75 yards each, and the blind retrieve shall not exceed 100 yards. Retrieves may be strictly water entry or may consist of a land pursuit that requires a water entry, depending on conditions. The water double can consist of live flyers, pre-harvested throws or any combination thereof.

The Finished canine will be lead off lead and at the heel position upon entering the test arena and shall sit off lead during handler/Judge instructions. Upon the Judges order the dog can be heeled /sat at the line to begin the Test. Upon the readiness of the canine, a duck call will sound in the area of the throw and a bird tossed from a concealed location, in conjunction with a gunshot from the handler. Both throws will occur with ample time between throws for the canine to properly see and mark the fall. Upon the Judges signal the handler can release the canine for the retrieve. The dog may not leave the handlers side until the Judge's signal. If at any point the dog breaks before the Judges signal, the handler must immediately stop the dog with verbal or whistle commands then re-line the canine for a 'controlled break'. Each controlled break will drastically lower the Training score with a maximum of one (1) controlled break per test. An uncontrolled break will end the Water Test and results in zero (0) points in Water Testing. Finished Canines that fail the water portion of the testing may still compete in the land portion of the test.

As a marking test, the canine should mark and remember each fall and recover the fall with a direct line of pursuit, however, the handler may assist the canine with hand and whistle commands if needed to locate a fall. If at any time a handler elects to handle the dog, the marking test then becomes a handling test. In other words, the Canine must be handled directly to the fall and not allowed to hunt the area. The dog may pick up the falls in whatever order the handler chooses, but must make that retrieve before pursuing the other falls. Proper Delivery, from the heel / sit position, is required.

**Retriever**  
**(Continued)**

**Retriever**  
**Finished Class – Water (cont)**

Upon the canines return swim on the last retrieve, a diversion bird will be thrown above and over, but not in the direct line of travel of the canine. Switching from the marked retrieve is not allowed and a proper delivery is required. The Finished Canine can then be lined up to retrieve the diversion throw, and must make the retrieve with a proper delivery. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. Failure to retrieve to hand with a proper delivery results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. In the Blind retrieve, the Judge will identify to the handler the location of the planted blind, and explain the expected run pattern of the canine. The blind retrieve may be on water, on shore, or any combination thereof. The blind retrieve is judged on the canine's progress to the blind while being handled, number of commands given, and the attentiveness of the dog to obey the handler's commands. The dog must make a successful retrieve of the downed bird and deliver to hand. Proper delivery, from the heel/ sit position, is required. Each retrieved bird is to be examined by the Judge. Hard mouthing of the bird beyond table fare is considered a non-retrieve and results in a zero (0) score in Delivery. Failure to retrieve to hand results in a zero (0) score in Delivery.