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Photo: Margaret Wedgwood



**RETRIEVING
& FIELD TRIALS**

WHAT IS IT?

Retrieving and Field Trials test the natural retrieving and hunting abilities of a dog and handler in a simulated hunting exercise.

There are 3 types of working disciplines for Gundog breeds.

Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs – Open to all Gundog Breeds

These consist of simple heeling exercises, a recall and retrieves.

Retrieving Trials – Open to all Gundog Breeds

These trials are designed to simulate shooting game in the wild.

Dogs will be expected to sit & stay whilst the “retrieve” is either shot out of a large slingshot device called a thrower, placed as a ‘blind’ or dragged across the ground to simulate wounded game.

A shot will be fired at the object (the gun will only contain a blank) and when commanded the dog will be expected to go out and retrieve the object then present it to its handler on its return.

Field Trials – there are 3 group types of Field Trials, based on breeds.

Spaniel & Retriever Breeds only

Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Golden Retriever

Curly Coated Retriever, Flat Coated Retriever

Labrador Retriever

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

Clumber Spaniel, Cocker Spaniel

Cocker Spaniel (American)

English Springer Spaniel, Field Spaniel

Irish Water Spaniel, Lagotto Romagnolo

Sussex Spaniel, Welsh Springer Spaniel

Pointer & Setter Breeds only

Bracco Italiano, Pointer, English Setter

Gordon Setter

Irish Red & White Setter, Irish Setter

Utility Breeds only

Brittany, German Shorthaired Pointer

German Wirehaired Pointer

Italian Spinone, Hungarian Vizsla

Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla

Large Munsterlander

Weimaraner, Weimaraner (Longhair)

In Field trials there is no “set-up” test, the dogs must use their own instincts to find game.

Depending on the Trial some dogs will only be required to find and point at the game, where as in other Trials they will be required to also retrieve the game and present it to its handler.

“Welcome to the wonderful world of Gundogs at work.”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What level of obedience does my dog need?

Because all the work is done off lead, intermediate obedience is essential – the higher the level of Trial, the more dog control is required.

How young can I start training my dog?

Dogs can start training as soon as you get them at 8 weeks however they cannot enter competitive trials until they are 6 months of age.

Does it matter how old my dog is?

The fitness and soundness of your dog is far more important than its age. Some dogs have stayed in the sport until they are 10 or 11 years old.

How much will it cost?

To start training It is advisable to attend an Obedience course at your local Club where you will have to pay membership, then contact one of the Retrieving Clubs In order to attend training days. A firearms license is obligatory for Field Trials.

Do I have to join Dogs Qld?

To train your dog you do not need to be a member of Dogs Qld, just the Club you train with. However if you decide to compete with your dog in any of the Trials you will have to join Dogs Qld.