



# SATS

## An Explanation of Working Trials Exercises

Plus “how to get started/ What to expect”  
for Newcomers to the sport of  
Working Trials





## What are Working Trials?

Working Trials tests were originally based on police dog work and date back to 1924, with the first event held by ASPADS (Associated Sheep, Police and Army Dog Society). The first championship trial was hosted by the Alsatian League and Club of Great Britain in May 1927.

Dogs compete in “Stakes” and the dogs must achieve 70% of the marks in each section and 80% overall to qualify and progress upwards. If a dog wins two Championship stakes, either in TD or PD, the dog is awarded the title of “Working Trials Champion”, (WTCh).



*Rostov completing the 9 foot long jump. The dog must wait once completing the jump for the handler to join them and the “exercise complete” is given by either judge or steward. Neither dog nor handler must pass the first element before exercise is attempted.*

Competitions are either “Open” or “Championship” and with the exception of CDEx, dogs must qualify in the Open stake before entering the “Championship” version. In order to qualify for entry into the TD Championship test stake, dogs must achieve two WDEx and two TD

Open qualifications and for the PD Championship test dogs must achieve two WDEx and two PD Open qualifications. These are often referred to as the “Ticket” stakes because if you win these classes you are eligible to enter in the annual Kennel Club Championships, in other words you gain your “ticket” for the competition.

The stakes are:

	Introductory Stake
<b>CD</b>	Companion Dog
<b>UD</b>	Utility Dog
<b>WD</b>	Working Dog
<b>TD</b>	Tracking Dog
<b>PD</b>	Patrol Dog

All stakes consist of nosework, agility and control. The introductory stake has lower jumps (listed below) and in CD and UD stakes there are reduced jumps for smaller dogs. From WD upwards full size jumps must be completed, these consist of 3’ clear/6’ scale/9’ long.





Demonstrating heelwork. This must be done without extra commands and there are three paces to be worked: normal, slow and fast. The change of pace may be completed from a halt or on the move at the judges discretion. In Intro and CD there are two sets of heelwork, on and off lead, in all other stakes heelwork is completed off the lead.

### **Introductory Stake**

This stake is designed to introduce new comers into Working Trials, however, there is no qualification to be gained from this stake and it is an optional test. It consists of nosework: retrieve of dumbbell, search square with 4 articles, of which 3 need to be retrieved. Control: heel on lead; heel free; recall; sendaway; sit and down stays and Agility: clear (2'6"/1'6"/1'3"), long and scale, reduced for smaller dogs.



*Emma jumping 3' hurdle. This is always the first of the agility jumps to be completed. Jumps are completed under control and once over the jump, the dog must wait (in any position) for the handler to join the dog and the "exercise complete" is given by the judge or steward. If the dog does not wait, this may incur a penalty or possibly loss of all marks if the dog comes back beyond the jump to the handler.*



## **Companion Dog**

The "nosework" in this stake consists of a search square 15 yards square with three articles, two of which must be recovered within 4 minutes to qualify. Control consists of: recall; retrieve; heel on lead; heel free; sendaway; sit and down stays.

The nosework in all stakes above CD contain a track.

## **Utility Dog (UD)**

In UD the nosework consists of a track which is 30 minutes old with two articles, of which a minimum of one must be recovered to qualify. A search square of 25 yards with 4 articles, of which a minimum of two must be recovered to qualify. Control section consists of heel free; retrieve; sendaway, steadiness to gun shot and a 10 minute out of sight down stay. The Agility section consists of clear, long and scale.



*Kazak working the 25 yard search square. Handlers are not permitted in the square. In UD and above there are 4 articles of which a minimum of 2 must be recovered to qualify. This exercise is allocated 5 minutes to be completed.*

## **Working Dog (WD)**

In WD the nosework consists of a track which is 1 hour 30 minutes old with two articles, of which a minimum of one must be recovered to qualify. A search square of 25 yards with 4 articles, of which a minimum of two must be recovered to qualify. Control section consists of heel free; retrieve; sendaway, steadiness to gun shot and a 10 minute out of sight down stay. The Agility section consists of clear, long and scale.



Monty going over the 6' Scale. This jump must be taken from a halt and within 9' of the scale. Once over the dog must adopt a position nominated by the handler (sit, down or stand) and wait before being recalled back over the scale to the handler.

## **Tracking Dog (TD)**

In TD the nosework consists of a track which is 3 hours old with three articles, of which a minimum of two must be recovered to qualify. A search square of 25 yards with 4 articles, of which a minimum of two must be recovered to qualify. Control section consists of heel free; speak on command; sendaway and re-direct, steadiness to gun shot and a 10 minute out of sight down stay. The Agility section consists of clear, long and scale.





India (GSD) and Kyte (BC) tracking. This is done with the dog on a harness and line. Tracks are for half a mile, in a pattern of the judges choosing and starting from a pole. In UD there is a second pole indicating the direction of the first leg of the track. However in all other stakes, the track may go in any direction away from the pole. In UD the first article must be in the first half of the track.



*Banjo carrying out a "re-direct" left. In TD and PD there is a re-direct after the sendaway.*

## **Patrol Dog (PD)**

In PD the nosework consists of a track which is 2 hours old with two articles, of which a minimum of two must be recovered to qualify. A search square of 25 yards with 4 articles, of which a minimum of two must be recovered to qualify. Control section consists of heel free; speak on command; sendaway and re-direct, steadiness to gun shot and a 10 minute out of sight down stay. The Agility section consists of clear, long and scale.

Additionally in the PD stake is the "Patrol" test which includes quartering; test of courage; search and escort; recall from protected steward and pursuit and detention.



*Kazak catching the "protected steward" after a pursuit.*



*Kazak holding the "protected steward" after "quartering" the field*



*Steward can't out run this smart dog .....but really, he's retrieving the sleeve!*

## **Stays**

In Intro and CD there is a "sit stay". For Intro it is 1 minute in sight, for CD 2 minutes out of sight. Intro "down stay" is 5 minutes out of sight and CD and all other stakes it is 10 minutes out of sight.





## Getting Started

So, you've done the training, your dog is doing all the exercises and its time to enter. Couple of things that need to be done first, your dog **MUST** be registered with the Kennel Club. That doesn't mean the dog needs to be a pedigree, you can register your dog on the "Activities

Register". The forms and details can be found on the Kennel Club website. You will need to choose a name and Kennel Club like unusual names, breeders have protected "affixes" and you cannot use those. Choose a couple of names to put on your registration application in case the first one is already in use. There is a fee for the registration.

Alternatively, if you have a pedigree dog, your breeder should have supplied you with a Kennel Club registration document, make sure you get the registration transferred into your name. Again, details can be found on the Kennel Club website.

A second **MUST** is that the dog must be 18 months of age at the time of the entry for the competition closes.

## Entry Forms

Societies do provide schedules and entry forms for their competitions, usually in electronic form on the society's website, Working Trials World or you may pick up a schedule from another competition. Or if that's difficult for you, an sae to the trials secretary or manager requesting an entry form in plenty of time will get you a schedule and entry form.

Ensure that your entry form has all the details completed. All helpers at trials are volunteers, nobody gets paid for their time, the trials manager/ secretary will receive numerous entry forms, make sure yours is correct. An incomplete or incorrect entry form could mean that you ask, any of the SATS Committee or trialists would be able to help you with this. Send the entry in plenty of time and that you include an sae. The trials manager will send you your report time after the entries close, so an sae is essential. This is a SATS Entry form.



Rostov presenting the dumbbell





## Southern Alsation Training Society

**SATS members**  
may deduct £2.00  
off entry.  
Entry Fee: £.....

Dog fully inoculated  
and wormed Y/N

I shall be travelling  
with .....

Who is entered in  
..... stake

**CD/UD only**  
Dog under 15"  
Yes/No  
I am also entered in  
..... stake

**DOGS IN CARS  
ON HOT DAYS**  
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

OPEN\* / CHAMPIONSHIP\* WORKING TRIALS

VENUE\*.....

DATES\*.....

\*Complete as schedule (Held Under Kennel Club Limited Rules and Regulation 1)

**STAKE:** To be entered in

Entries close: As per schedule  
Fees: Tracking Stakes etc: As per schedule. (Fully  
paid up SATS members £2 Reduction) ON NO  
ACCOUNT WILL ENTRIES BE ACCEPTED  
WITHOUT FEES

Please use a separate entry form for each stake.

**INSTRUCTION** This form must be used by one person only (or partnership). Writing MUST BE IN INK OR INDELEBIL PENCIL. Use separate entry form for each Stake. The name of the dog and all the details as recorded with the Kennel Club must be given on this entry form. If an error is made the dog may be disqualified by the General Committee of the Kennel Club. All dogs must be REGISTERED AT The Kennel Club in the name of the competitor. If the registration or transfer of ownership has not been confirmed it must be applied for before the closing date of entries. In case of dispute proof of postage of such applications may be required by The Kennel Club. Dogs under 18 months of age on the closing date of entries cannot be entered for competition. On no account will entries be accepted with out fees. If a dog is in the process of Registration or Transfer at the time entry is made, add the letters NAF or TAF as appropriate after its name. Please use BLOCK CAPITALS throughout when completing this entry form. **PLEASE CHECK BEFORE POSTING.**

REGISTERED NAME OF DOG Followed by K.C. Reg. No. (or * ATC No.)	BREED	SEX D or B	BREEDER	Full Date Of Birth	SIRE	DAM
KC Reg. No (or *ATC) No						

Qualified for entry at .....	Open Trial on (date must be stated) .....Stake.....
Qualified for entry at .....	Open Trial on (date must be stated) .....Stake.....
Qualified for entry at .....	Championship Trial on (date must be stated) .....Stake.....
Qualified for entry at .....	Championship Trial on (date must be stated) .....Stake.....

### DECLARATION

I/We agree to submit to and be bound by the Kennel Club Limited Rules and Regulation in their present form or as they may be amended from time to time in relation to all canine matters with which the Kennel Club is concerned and that this entry is made upon the basis that all current single or joint registered owners of this dog(s) have authorised /consented to this entry. I/we also undertake to abide by the Regulations of this Trial and not to bring to the Trial any dog which has contracted or been knowingly exposed to any infectious or contagious disease during the 21 days prior to the Trial, or which is suffering from a visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare.

I/We further declare that I believe to the best of my knowledge that the dogs are not liable to disqualification under Kennel Club Regulations.

Usual Signature of Owner (s).....Date.....  
ALL registered owners must sign here unless the signatory holds written authority and consent from other joint registered owners to sign on their behalf: evidence of such authority may be required.  
NOTE: dogs entered in breach of Kennel Club Regulations are liable to disqualification whether or not the owner was aware of the breach.

### PLEASE CHECK ALL DETAILS BEFORE POSTING

Please state preference of day of work, as we CANNOT guarantee to comply, a 2<sup>nd</sup> choice MUST be given.

1<sup>st</sup> choice ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> choice ..... 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.....

**PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS: Owners Name (s) and address. In case of joint registered ownership The name of every owner must be given here**

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

Post Code.....Phone Number: .....

Email address.....

Your Address will appear in the catalogue unless you tick here [ ]

**Handlers Name (Mr Mrs Ms).....**

Address.....

Post Code.....Phone Number.....

**ENTRIES & FEES WHICH MUST BE PREPAID TO BE SENT TO:**  
Mrs F R Webb 58 Huggetts Lane Willingdon Eastbourne East Sussex BN22 0LU. 01323 509721.

All cheques/PO's to be made payable to Southern Alsation Training Society

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

\* The Kennel Club Registration Number (or the Authority to Compete number for dogs registered and resident outside the UK) must be stated or the entry will be returned

You will also need to enclose a cheque for the full amount of the entry fee. The fee amount will be on the schedule. The schedule will also tell you who the cheque should be made payable to, this will be the Kennel Club registered name of the trials society.

**You've received your report time, you're off to the trial!**

The trials manager will send you a report time, this is when you are due to be at the trial. It may not be the day that was your first choice, unfortunately, entry numbers often make this impractical and a draw may not have fallen in your favour. Make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

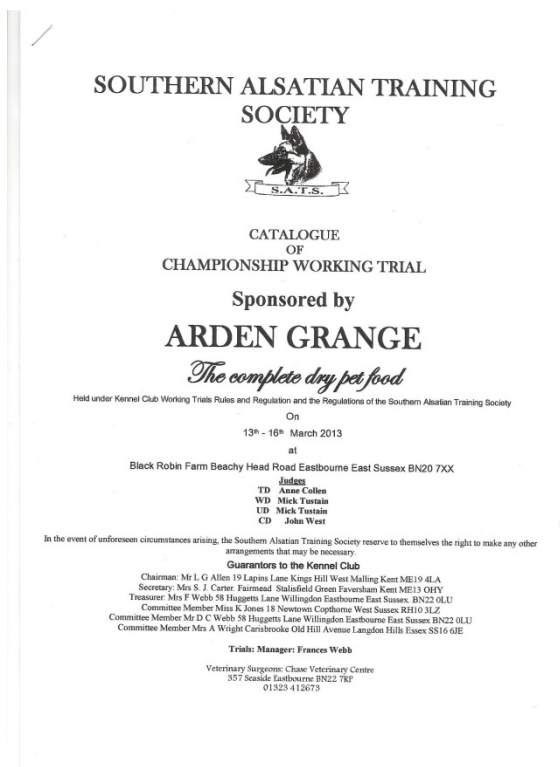
### At the Base

Note and comply with any parking restrictions, often trials are based in village halls where there's no facility to "exercise" your dog. Report to the trials manager and let them know you have arrived. They will tell you where you may exercise your dog, what time you are working your dog and what facilities are available (tea, coffee, refreshments etc). If this is your first time at a trial, mention this to the manager, they will explain proceedings. Anything that you are unsure about, no matter how minor or silly you think it is, ASK. Nobody will



think you are daft and its better to clarify than get it wrong. Trials folks are a friendly bunch and willing to help. We've all been "newbies" at some stage.

It is normal for a few competitors to have the same report time. This will usually result in a draw taking place for your working order. The trials manager will tell you what time the draw will take place, make sure you are there for the draw time.



There will be a catalogue for the competition, sometimes there is a small fee for the catalogue. The catalogue will list your details for the stake for which you are entered. It will also give you a number. Make a note of this number, you will need it to tell your judge when you report for your test.

*This is a SATS Catalogue*

## Getting to the test

Often the competition will take place away from the base and you will be given instructions on how to reach the test. There may be a drive to the test and sometimes you may be given the luxury of an escort, again, you will be told what time the escort will be leaving, ensure you are ready to go when the escort leaves. Its usual for more than one competitor to be escorted so there may be a wait once you reach the test area. Make sure you comply with any parking requests by the trial manager. If you are unsure, please ask. We rely on local residents and farmers for our competitions, we don't want to upset any of them.

## Arriving at the test

When you arrive at the test, there may be a running order for CD/Intro or you will have a tracking time for the tracking test.



## CD/Intro

The CD/Intro test will be conducted in two parts, the “nosework” section and the control and agility. You will be advised which part is first and for the nosework section you will need to take your dumbbell.

## Control and Agility

You will have a judge and a steward (very rarely a scribe) for the Control and Agility section of the test. The judge and steward will talk you through the test and exercises. Follow the stewards instructions. If you are unsure, ASK. You will be shown where the judge wants you to send your dog for the sendaway, the position you choose at the end of the sendaway will be your choice, as will the position the dogs adopt on the other side of the jumps.

The agility section will always start with the clear jump, followed by either the scale or long jump, this is the judge's decision. For the scale, you will be shown the “9 foot markers”. Your dog must have its front feet inside this area and you must come to a halt before the face of the scale is attempted. The judge or steward will ask you what position your dog will take on the other side of the scale. If your dog does not adopt this position, you will lose marks. You will also be told when to recall your dog back across the scale.



*This photo shows a scale with 9' markers.  
These are usually poles, but, can be other things,  
the judge or steward will show you these before you attempt the jump,  
if you are unsure, ask.*

At the end of the control and agility section, do not forget to thank the judge and steward for their time. They will be standing around in all kinds of weather to accommodate the test, they may possibly have sacrificed working their own dogs to enable the test to take place. Whether your dog qualifies or not, they will be doing their best to help you and have given up their time.

## Tracking Tests

On the tracking field you will have a judge, square steward and track layer. Be ready to work your dog at the allocated track time. Tracks are in 30 minute slots, if you are not ready on time you may not have enough time left in your slot to work your dog. The judge will take your details, including your catalogue number. The tracklayer will show you where they walked into the start of your track. Be sure to thank the tracklayer for laying your track, they may have been up since early morning laying tracks for the competition.





The square steward will lay your search square for you, be sure to thank them for your square. As a courtesy, if you recover all the articles, offer to collect the square marker poles. This may not be needed but your consideration will be greatly appreciated.

At the end of the test, the judge will summarise how your test went and give you your marks. No matter how your test went, be sure to thank the judge for their time.

### **Withdrawing from the test**

You may decide that you don't want to continue with the test for whatever reason. If you do make this decision, ensure that the judge and the trial manager are informed of your decision. Otherwise they may spend time looking for you.

### **At the end of the test/day**

Once the test has been completed, for all competitors, the judge will return to the base and hand the marks to the trial manager. The scores will be written on a score board and added up, qualifiers and places will be decided at this point. You will be keen to see your scores in writing, but, please allow the base staff to finish writing and adding up first. It is very distracting having people peering over your shoulder and may cause an error in the adding up, none of us want that! There is often a score sheet included in the catalogue. You might want to think about keeping your scores, then you can reflect on how well you have done!

### **The Presentation**

There will be a presentation at the end of the day, certificates of merit for qualifiers will be handed out and so will places, up to fourth place. As a courtesy to all involved, try and stay for the presentation and join in the applause for the qualifiers, no matter how you have fared. A final thank you to the trials manager and base staff will be the end of your day, phew! Hope you enjoyed it ☺

### **Getting Involved**

Training your dog is great, its fun for both you and your dog. However, you will learn far more about competition and working your dog by watching and becoming involved in trials. There are always lots of jobs to be done and helpers are always needed. Offer up your services to trials managers ahead of the competition. If on rare occasions there's not a job (highly unlikely), ask if you can go to the field and watch a couple of competitors. This will also need the approval of the judge and competitor, but, is rarely refused. Get involved, you will be amazed how much you will learn and its fun, after all, training and competing with our dogs is something we all do for pleasure.