



German Breed Testing System

By 18 months of age all dogs and bitches will have been assessed at their Deutsch Langhaar Breeding Shows for type, conformation and coat and if graded good, very good or excellent in all three, they then enter the Youth Prufung (Verbandsjugendprufung) held in the spring for dogs up to 2 years of age.



The VJP is sub-divided into sections which test for nose and the willingness to track scent, search and point and obedience.

1. Tracking Scent (Spurarbeit). This is on the scent of an unseen hare. The dog must find and keep on the track and work it with confidence away from it's handler until it is commanded to come off it. The handler can work the dog on a line for the first 30metres. Any difficulty factors such as poor scenting conditions and/or poor scent holding ground which the dog overcomes rewards more points. Those who lose the scent trail or will not work away from it's handler are penalised.
2. Searching (Suche) and Pointing (Vorstehen). Searching should be with persistence and with the will to find fallen game whatever the quarry and weather conditions and those who hunt the hardest to find scent are awarded the highest points. Testing for gunshyness is held at this stage and a shot is fired 30 to 50 metres from the dog while it is searching and a second shot is fired 20 seconds later. There are 3 definitions of shyness, A) the dog shows some agitation to the noise but carries on searching, B) the dog runs to it's handler but carries on searching within one minute and C) the dog runs away from it's handler and does not return within 5 minutes. A and B are penalised while C means disqualification and not to be bred from.

For the pointing test game birds are preferred and those located some distance from the dog's nose will give it extra points but "bumping " birds at this age is not penalised, neither are pointing residual game scent or larks. However, blinking and false pointing are, and those judged to do these are disqualified from all further Prufungs and not bred from.



3. Obedience (Fuhrigkeit und Gehorsam). This is continually assessed during both 1 and 2. The dog will be regarded as " in control " when it obeys it's handler's instructions but chasing game as a result of too much temptation will not be penalised if a dog dutifully and quickly returns to it's handler. A dog who willfully disobeys all of it's handler's instructions will be disqualified from all further Prufungs and must not be bred from.

Further testing for the breeding programe is the Autumn Test HZP (Verbandsherbstzuchprufung). The basics of all-round work should now have been completed but the next series of assessment is more intense. Individual tests are marked in units as follows,

1. Tracking scent (3)
2. Nose (3)
3. Searching (2)
4. Pointing (2)
5. Obedience (2)
6. Willingness (1)
7. Water Work, swimming in a lot of cover (1) searching for a diving duck, minimum time 20 minutes) (3)
8. Retrieving, seen running injured bird (1) blind runner (1) finding a blood trail (1)
9. Tracking a blood trail of an injured hare or rabbit (1)
10. Retrieving a hare or rabbit (1) duck (1) pheasant (1).