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INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS OF GRANDE QUETE FIELD TRIALS FOR BRITISH POINTING DOGS

Beside the general provisions laid out in the international regulations of field-trial for British pointers (individual and paired events), the Grande Quête Field Trials will be governed by the following specific points:

Article 1

The Grande Quête trials serve to bring to the fore those Elite dogs that have distinguished themselves by extraordinary qualities of nose, style, gait and endurance, their trainability and great hunting sense and that are likely to become the progenitors of other great Trialers and numerous top-quality sporting dogs.

Article 2

The distinctive features of these trials are characterized by the trial being run in braces, the speed of the dog, the extent of the dog's range, the backing of the non-pointing dog and, in particular, the attention given to the typical characteristics of the different breeds.

Article 3

Naturally occurring partridges will be used exclusively during these trials.

Article 4

The gait typical of the breed must be rapid, energetic and sustained; the dog should not suffer a loss in the intensity of its pace.

Article 5

The dog's searching range must be extended and consistent. The dog must hunt the assigned terrain with intelligence and method, trying not to leave any partridge behind. It must be under its handler's control whilst maintaining the greatest initiative.

Article 6

In order to obtain the classification "Excellent", the dog must, upon its handler's command, road naturally and without any assistance.

Article 7

It is preferable that a dog ignores fur or at least acknowledges it. To ignore feathered game other than partridge is not an eliminating fault; however, to flush deliberately such game after having pointed it will be considered an eliminating fault.

Article 8

Backing is an absolute requirement and it is to be executed spontaneously and without the help of the handler's gesture, voice or whistle. However, once a dog has clearly and spontaneously marked, it may be supported by its handler's gesture or command. It is preferable that the backing dog's handler only re-leashes his dog when its brace mate has finished pointing.

A refusal to back is an eliminating fault, unless there is a definitive reason for it.

When a dog has not had the opportunity to back during its round, it should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Article 9

The judges will take cognizance of the fact that a dog which without being afraid of compromising itself, hunts its territory boldly, has more merit than a dog that is overcautious because of trying to avoid mistakes or is restrained by its handler. The judges must above all look for top-quality dogs.

Article 10

When making the awards, the judges will take the following points into consideration: the method and extent of the dog's range, its nose, the manner in which and speed of its drawing onto game, its head carriage, style, endurance, positiveness and steadiness on point, initiative and intelligence shown when hunting for game, caution in its approach to and the roading of game, and the dog's behaviour on the flush of game.

Article 11

All Grande Quête trials will be judged by 3 judges among whom two must be licensed as Grande Quête judges and recognized as such by the FCI.

The chief judge will position himself in the centre, with a judge on either side of him. Each should be far enough apart so that, even on irregular terrain, nothing that the dog does whilst under judgement can escape their attention.

Any judge noticing an eliminating fault must immediately advise the chief judge. The latter will decide on calling up the dog.

At the conclusion of a round, the judges will meet and discuss the points and faults observed in respect of the two dogs' performances.

Article 12

Those European countries that organize the Grande Quête field trials will draw up an international calendar of trials to ensure a consistent course of events. At the same time, climate and differences in terrain are taken into consideration and the dates are set accordingly to enable a large number of entrants to take part.

Article 13

The classification of CACIT will only be awarded in those trials for which the organising country has applied and paid the required fee at least 8 weeks prior to the date of the competition.

Translation : Barry Kraut, Frank Poretti

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