

Test 2 - Known Person (800m)

- The track is 800 m, exhibitor may nominate the Tracklayer
- The Track will have a min. of 2 changes of direction and 2 articles must be placed on the Track
- Track must commence a minimum 30 min and maximum 60 min from the time the Track is laid
- At least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a Pass

Test 3 - Unknown Person (800m)

- The dog will follow a trail for 800m, Tracklayer unknown
- The Track will have a minimum of 2 changes of direction and 2 articles must be placed on the Track
- Time lapse for Track same as Test 2. At least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a Pass

TRACKING DOG EXCELLENT (T.D.X.)

Test 4 - Unknown Person (1000m)

- The dog is required to track an unknown person 1000m
- The Track will have a minimum of 4 changes of direction and 3 articles must be placed on the Track
- Track must commence a minimum 60 min and maximum 120 min from the time the Track is laid

- At least one article indicated by the dog for a Pass

Test 5 - Unknown Person (1000m)

- This is similar to Test No. 4 except the Track must be crossed once by a known person
- The Cross Track should be laid approximately 30 mins after the original Tracklayer has passed

- At least two articles indicated by the dog for a Pass

Test 6 - Unknown Person (1200m)

- The dog is required to track an unknown person 1200m
- The Track will have a minimum of 5 changes of directions: and 3 articles must be placed on the Track
- The Track shall be crossed twice by Cross Tracks and one or two unknown persons may lay these, cross laid approx 30 mins after the original Tracklayer has passed
- Track must commence a minimum 60 min and maximum 180 min from the time the Track is laid
- At least two articles indicated by the dog for a Pass

TRACKING CHAMPION TEST (T.Ch)

Test 7 & Test 8 - Unknown person (1200m)

- The dog is required to track an unknown person and find lost articles over a trail of approximately 1200m
The Track will have a minimum of 6 changes of direction; 3 articles must be placed on the Track; 2 articles must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass
To start the test the Handler and dog go to approx 30m from the starting line, are given a sealed bag with the scented articles and are told they are free to start tracking.

- There will be two Cross Tracks that may be laid by one or two unknown persons, laid approx 30 mins after the original Tracklayer has passed

- Track must commence a minimum 90 min and maximum 180 min from the time the Track is laid
Where to after T.Ch? Track and Search Trials

The concept of TSD & TSDX tests provides the opportunity for a dog to compete after obtaining a Tracking Champion title by enhancing their skills and completing a series of graded tests that replicate real life scenarios. A dog completing the TSD & TSDX tests could conceivably go into Search & Rescue Work at a later date should they so wish.

Introduction

The Track & Search Dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions. The dog must work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, and roads as well as bush. Tracks may cross water, roads and may be in areas which include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas etc. Light Vehicle & Pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided.

Titles

To qualify for the title of Track and Search Dog (TSD), Track and Search Dog Excellent (TSDX), Track and Search Dog Champion (T.S. Ch.) & Track and Search Dog Grand Champion (T.S. Grand Ch.) a dog must pass each of the following tests:

Track & Search Dog (TSD) Test 1, Test 2 & Test 3

Track & Search Dog Excellent (TSDX) Test 4, Test 5

(Urban Track) & Test 6 (Urban Night Track)

Track and Search Dog Champion (T.S. Ch.)

Test 7 (Urban Track) & Test 8 (Urban Evening/Night)

Track and Search Dog Grand Champion (T.S. Grand Ch.)

Test 9 (Urban Track) & Test 10 (Urban Evening/Night)

***refer to the ANKC rules for complete TSD test details**

GSDCV Tracking Awards

The GSDCV has special perpetual awards for triallers. High Achieving Handler and Dog Tracking Trophies. Recognising high achievements in each of the TD, TDX, TSD or TSDX tests. See

www.gsdcv.org.au/Show_Trial_Awards

Watch for the award nomination form in the Shepherd News !

Other Types of Trials

GSDCV Obedience Trials—Championship Show Restricted to Breed Trial – March

State Breed Exhibition Restricted to Breed Trial – May

Open Rally Trial - July

Championship Show Restricted to Group 5 Trial – Nov

Open Medallion 'back to back' Trial – October

Endurance Trial— GSDCV Endurance Trial - June

German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc

I want to compete in TRACKING TRIALS with my dog

what do I do now??

Congratulations on being ready to take the next step with your dog ! **This document gives a brief overview of all the things you need to do and consider when entering a Tracking trial. If you need any further help or clarification, contact obedience@gsdcv.org.au or your Chief Instructor**

What's Tracking all About?

The idea of Tracking Trials is to encourage dogs to make use of their strongest faculty by copying as closely as possible, the seeking and finding of a missing person. In Tracking trials we ask the dog to track to a pattern that we set out in the bush or a paddock, following it intensely, taking the corners and finally finding the tracklayer at the end of the track. We need to teach the dog what we require them to do, as if it was up to them they would find the tracklayer, but not necessarily following the pattern we have set out for them.

Different tracking tests require tracks to be of various lengths, number of corners and number of articles left on track for the dog to indicate.

In teaching dogs to track the dog has to track with NO interference from the handler, who is there to recognise and read that his/her dog is tracking and follow along accordingly. If the dog loses the track then the handler can work the dog so that they may pick up the track again, then proceed onto the finish, but the handler must not presume or think where the track goes as they usually are wrong. Leave it to the expert - your dog. If they have been trained properly then you as a handler will be confident of their ability.

What trials can you enter? If you have a pedigreed GSD, you can enter all trials that are listed as Open, Restricted to Breed or for Group 5 dogs. If you have a GSD that is registered as an associate (no pedigree) then you can enter Open trials for obedience, tracking or endurance.

Joining Dogs Victoria

In order to compete in a trial, you must first become a member of Dogs Victoria. When joining Dogs Victoria you must also register (if not already done so) your dog(s) that you wish to compete with. You can download an application form from the Dogs Vic website:

www.dogsvictoria.org.au

Dogs without pedigrees can be registered as 'associates'. There are many obedience, tracking and endurance trials you are eligible to enter with associate dogs, but they cannot be shown.

Once you have joined, you will receive a monthly Dogs Vic Gazette. The Gazette contains trial schedules for up and coming trial events (and shows) plus lots more. All schedules will contain the name of the host club, time & date, judges, details of entry, payment and the entry closing date.

Does my dog have the right papers???

What is the difference between the Main Register and Limited Register pedigrees? Pedigree

registrations are issued by the ANKC through the State associations (e.g. Dogs Victoria) after application by the Breeder (who must be a member of Dogs Vic). The Main Register pedigrees are blue in colour, whilst the Limited Register pedigrees are orange in colour, both A4 size.

Dogs registered on the Limited Register may not be exhibited in conformation shows, nor can they be bred with, but can still be entered in Trials. Dogs registered on the Main Register are eligible to participate in all of the above areas.

If your dog does not have papers, you can register them with Dogs Victoria as an associate, and you can enter 'Open' trials, rather than breed or group trials

Entering your first trial – How? Where's the Schedule?

After you have joined Dogs Victoria and registered your dog, you can now enter trials. What do you do....?

Trial schedules will be listed in the Dogs Victoria Gazette (you receive this with your membership) and GSDCV trials are also listed in both the Shepherd News and on the GSDCV website.

Decide on the trial you wish to enter, note the closing date for entries and send off your entry form to the secretary with your payment cheque. You can also enter online for GSDCV trials.

Where do I get an entry form?

Entry forms can be downloaded from Dogs Victoria for all trials www.dogsvictoria.org.au

OR you can enter online (and pay by credit card) for GSDCV trials via www.showmanager.com.au

If sending a hard copy entry, ensure your entry form is cut to size (~1/2 A4) and include a SSAE to get

confirmation your entry is received. Nothing worse than driving a long distance only to find that your name is not in the catalogue because the secretary didn't get your entry in time. Get in the habit of including an email address and phone number so if there is a problem with the entry the Trial secretary can contact you.

The day of the trial

- Know where you are going – don't get lost!. Arrive early
- Bring your harness, lead, water (and perhaps some treats) for your dog and tracking articles
- Adequate warm wet weather gear, especially footwear
- A drink and any food you might need yourself
- The trial will last several hours, so be prepared !
- Check in at the desk, and get your number and catalogue
- If you have a female dog, arrive in time for vetting – to check that she is not in season. Have your exhibit number card stamped. Bitches in season are not eligible to participate in trials
- Presentations are done when the trial is completed, so hang around and support to collect your ribbon and pass card !!

What else do I need to provide?

A Reward for your dog at the end of the track and a small reward for your tracklayer is a courtesy. The end of track reward pack and tracklayer 'thank you' should be in a small plastic bag with your catalogue number written. This pack should be handed in at the start of the event. The steward distributes to the relevant tracklayers as they are sent out. A choccie bar and maybe a scratchie are suitable thank you gifts - the tracklayer has to carry this as well as other things and may be out there for an hour in the cold/wet waiting for your dog to find them. So be a bit generous!

Rules for Tracking Trials

Detailed rules and regulations for all tracking trials can be viewed on the ANKC website www.ankc.org.au
The rules clearly explain the tests and requirements.

How can I learn about Tracking & training?

Many branches have active members and instructors who are involved in tracking and could assist you. Ask your chief instructor about someone at your branch, or who you could contact the Tracking Club of Victoria as another good resource for training and trials.

When are the GSDCV Tracking Trials & Where?

All tests (1-8) at June Trial and a TSD trials in October. The venue is advised on each schedule.

So practice, train & ask for help. Happy Tracking !

What if I have to be a 'tracklayer'?

You will need something to lie on the ground for protection
A cover for yourself to hide under (an inconspicuous colour)
Articles to drop (your own woollen socks)
A backpack to carry everything, including the dogs reward

What Tracking titles are available?

Tracking Dog (T.D.), Tracking Dog Excellent (T.D.X.) and Tracking Champion (T.Ch.)

How do I Qualify for a Title?

- To qualify for the Tracking Titles of T.D., T.D.X and T.Ch a dog must pass each of Test 1 – Test 7 once
 - A maximum of 2 different tests, within a title, may be worked on the same day by the same dog
 - Dogs must complete, in order, Test 1, through to Test 8
 - The dog must qualify under at least 2 different Judges for the T.D. and T.D.X Titles to be granted
- When you achieve a title, the letters of that title can be placed at the end of your dog's name and becomes part of the registered name.
You must apply to Dogs Victoria with your pass certificates for your title (before you enter the next level test)

Equipment

- All Tracking tests must be conducted with the dog in a suitable harness and a lead of a minimum length of 10 metres. The lead must be connected to the harness
- Articles are usually socks & must belong to the Tracklayer and must be inconspicuous in colour
- * The Handler may not offer food or utilise training aids during the running of a Track and water may only be offered with the Judge's permission.

About Each Tracking Test

In each test, the Tracklayer or final article must be found at the end of the Track for the dog to obtain a Pass.

TRACKING DOG (T.D.)

Test 1 – Known Person (400m)

- The dog will follow a trail for 400m, and the exhibitor shall nominate the Tracklayer
- The Track will have 2 changes of direction
- One article will be placed on the Track; this article does not have to be indicated to gain a Pass
- Track must commence a minimum 20 min and maximum 40 min from the time the Track is laid.