



BRITISH CARRIAGE DOG SOCIETY

CARRIAGE DOG TRIALS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules and regulations are the basis for all tests to enable the British Carriage Dog Society (BCDS) to make awards for Carriage and Road Dogs which achieve the required levels of performance in obedience and endurance.

DEFINITION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of a Carriage Dog Trial is to demonstrate and promote the use of pure-bred Dalmatians in one of their best known working roles. The Kennel Club Breed Standard states, "the Dalmatian should be a carriage dog of good demeanour, capable of great endurance and a fair turn of speed"; qualities essential to his successful use as an escort to a ridden horse or carriage.

Carriage Dog Trials are a working trial designed to evaluate a Dalmatian's ability to coach, or follow horses over distance, and evaluates both obedience and endurance. Entrants compete as a handler on horseback, or in a horse-drawn vehicle with dog(s) off lead. The competitor must accurately complete the whole Trial and must conform to these regulations to be awarded a British Carriage Dog Society bronze, silver or gold title. It is also essential that the dog demonstrates willingness and enjoyment of his work throughout.

There are four levels of Competition Bronze, Silver, Gold and Certificate. The Bronze class evaluates obedience at a novice level with a short distance trial. The Silver class evaluates coaching ability and moderate endurance and the Gold class evaluates coaching ability and extended endurance. The Carriage or Road Dog Certificate at Bronze, Silver or Gold evaluates coaching ability without an endurance trial. Groom handler classes give the opportunity for Dalmatian owners to demonstrate the coaching abilities of their dogs as a groom or passenger on a vehicle. All classes demonstrate the handler's control and the Dalmatian's ability to behave in public places in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport and the breed. Carriage Dog Trials are a sport and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship at all times. This includes behaving in an appropriate and courteous manner, during the trials and throughout the event. Foul language and abuse, or mistreatment of dogs or horses will result in instant disqualification and withdrawal of society membership.

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SECTION 1 - Compliance with Regulations and Standards

In accordance with the certification on the entry form, each competitor must be familiar with these regulations and, by entering the Carriage Dog Trial, agrees to comply with said regulations. In these regulations "horse" shall be defined as horse, pony, donkey or mule. In all classes the competitor may own the horse(s), or the horse(s) may be borrowed or rented at the competitor's expense and liability. The BCDS assumes no responsibility or liability for the financial arrangements of hired horses, or assumes any liability for the use of any horse(s) at any Carriage Dog Trial, or for any damage that may be caused by such horses.

Eligibility for Entry

The organisers reserve the right to: refuse any entry without stating a reason; substitute judges; cancel, change, divide or amalgamate any class or alter the course for any reason whatsoever All entries are accepted or rejected entirely at the organisers' discretion.

Dogs

As used in these regulations, the word "dog" refers to either sex but is confined to pure bred Dalmatians. Where a dog is not registered with the UK Kennel Club, or recognised overseas equivalent, the eligibility for entry of that dog will be at the discretion of the organisers.

The following dogs may not compete:

- A dog less than 12 months of age on the day of the Trial.
- A dog that is bilaterally blind
- A road dog that is bilaterally deaf may compete only in the obedience element of the trial
- A bitch that is in season, in whelp or has whelped 90 days prior to the day of the trials.
- A dog belonging wholly or in part to a Trial obedience judge, Trial vet, or to any member of such a person's immediate family or household

Handlers

Competitors may qualify their dogs as a whip, groom handler or passenger in a vehicle driven by someone else.

Whip Handlers: An adult whip must be accompanied by a groom aged 14 years or more. A junior whip must be aged 16 years or more and must be accompanied by an able bodied, experienced groom aged 18 years or more. Age is determined from the beginning of the calendar year in which the handlers and grooms reach the designated age.

Groom handlers: The groom's primary purpose on the carriage is to support the whip. At a carriage dog trial, the groom handler assumes a dual role, which is to support the whip and to handle the accompanying Dalmatian(s). The safety of all concerned must always take priority.

The groom handler should be familiar with the turnout's emergency procedure. The groom handler may be questioned at the harness check and the organisers are at liberty to prohibit any turnout from continuing if it is felt that the groom handler is unsatisfactory. The groom handler will assume a forward facing position on the carriage throughout the obedience trial.

The whip may not speak to the groom at any stage in the obedience test, except to direct him/her in relation to the handling of the horse, or in the case of an emergency.

The whip may not command the dog, signal to it, or interfere in any way with the proceedings of the trials except in an emergency.

In all other respects, the tests shall emulate the whip handler's test, except in the stay exercise as described in these rules.

Non Competing Grooms

The groom's sole purpose on the carriage is to support the whip in the handling of the horse. Grooms may not command any entered dog, signal to it, or interfere in any way with the proceedings of the trials except in an emergency, but may inform the whip or passenger of the dog's position or behaviour. Any turnout may carry an extra groom if required; this groom may not handle the dog in any way.

Road Dog Escorts

For his/her safety and enjoyment, a ridden competitor is allowed to choose an un-entered companion to ride on horseback. Any mounted escort must remain at a predetermined waiting area during the judging of the exercises. The escort may join the competitor team after the judging of the exercises has been completed. This escort shall be subject to act in accordance with these Regulations. Any escort may not at any time give any commands or signals to any of the entered dogs and must sign a disclaimer and agree to abide by the Carriage Dog Trials rules and regulations. The escort must ride in such a way as to not interfere with the competitor and his dog(s), and must give way to all competitors on the course.

Multiple Entries

Each competitor may enter up to three dogs on a single team in a Carriage Dog Trial. If a team has an entry of three dogs, the obedience judge(s) may choose to judge two dogs and then one. The organisers are not obliged to provide an assistant to hold the dog that is not working. Multiple dogs that are judged separately on the obedience course must perform a test as a team to prove that they are under control before they will be allowed on the endurance course. Multiple dogs on a team shall be identified on the course, in addition to their regular collar or harness, by a wide, colour-coded collar to identify each dog to the judge.

Disqualification

The following will be disqualified and will require reinstatement by the BCDS on application by the owner to the Secretary of the Society after the Trials.

- any dog that attempts to attack any person, horse or dog
- any dog or horse which is so much out of control as to be a danger to the safety of any person or other animal
- any competitor who interferes wilfully with another competitor or his dog or horse on the course
- any competitor who displays behaviour contrary to the principles of good sportsmanship
- any competitor using abusive training of dogs or horses
- any competitor using foul or abusive language or behaviour
- any entry that the equine or canine vet considers has had their welfare compromised by participation in the competition

The following will be disqualified but will not require reinstatement

- any dog or horse that is lame or otherwise unsound. If a horse has been removed from competition but the entry has not been disqualified, the competitor shall be allowed to substitute another horse. This horse must be available within the time frame and substitution is at the discretion of the organisers. It is not the responsibility of the organisers to provide substitute horses.
- any dog the vet or obedience judge considers unfit to compete or continue
- any entry that the safety officer considers unsafe or where the ratio of horse to carriage is considered insufficient

Any award made to a disqualified dog at that Carriage Dog Trial will be cancelled by the BCDS.

Any obedience judge or vet that disqualifies any competitor shall immediately advise a competitor that his/her dog(s) and/or horse has been disqualified and, in these cases, the dog(s) and/or competitor and/or escort shall leave the course and the reason shall be stated in the Score Book or in a separate report.

An official may bring to the attention of the ground jury, an entry that does not finish the competition as "fit to continue" and the ground jury may disqualify that entry.

Equipment

Dogs may only wear a smooth collar or harness when competing. Dog boots and muzzles may not be worn. Dogs may be brought to the starting line on a lead if the competitor chooses. The competitor must remove and stow the lead before crossing the starting line and will be disqualified if it is re-attached to the dog on the endurance or obedience course without the authorisation of the organisers or judge.

Food and titbits

A competitor may not carry or offer food or titbits for his/her dog(s) on the obedience or endurance course but may arrange in advance for a snack for his/her dog(s) to be at the mid-point vet check.

Commands

Judges will take into account the precision of the handler's commands and the speed and accuracy of responses from the dog, relevant to the class being judged. Whenever a command is mentioned in these Regulations, a simultaneous command and signal is permitted. Any extra commands, including hand or whip signals will be scored accordingly. Each dog's name may be used once immediately before any command. A competitor may praise his/her dog(s) during an exercise, or use a voice correction, but this should not be excessive. Commands which are excessively loud or gruff will be penalised. Any unusual noise may be considered a correction. Delay in following an obedience judge's order to give a command will be penalised, unless the obedience judge, because of some distraction or interference, directs the delay.

Bronze Class: Bronze classes are designed to help novice dogs in their work and to set down a solid foundation on which to build for future tests at a higher level. In all these classes therefore, a degree of encouragement, as well as extra commands offering positive reinforcement of a dog's correct working position, are permissible.

Silver and Gold Classes: At this level judges will be looking for a higher degree of precision of command from the handler and response from the dog. Single commands for each exercise are required and additional commands of any kind will attract penalties. The judge will be looking for a high level of instinctive obedience from the dog and a commitment to its work.

Each dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command. Additional, gruff or overloud commands, disobedience by the dog, or extra commands necessary to counter disobedience will be penalised according to the requirement and level of each test at the discretion of the judge.

SECTION 2- The Competition

Requirements for Entry and Qualification

	ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTRY	VET CHECKS	OBEDIENCE SCORE REQUIRED	ENDURANCE SCORE REQUIRED	VET SCORE REQUIRED
CERTIFICATES	Any dog over one year old	N/A	Pass (not scored) in all exercises at appropriate level	N/A	N/A
BRONZE	Any dog over one year old	Start and finish	50 or above in all exercises	10 km in 90 mins or under	100 or above
SILVER	Any dog over 18 months	Start, midpoint and Finish	60 or above in all exercises	20 km in 3 hours or under excluding time required for vet checks	100 or above
GOLD	Any dog over 18 months previously qualified at silver	Start, Midpoint & finish. Welfare check at 30 km	70 or above in all exercises	40 km in 6 hours or under excluding time required for vet checks	100 or above

The BCDS shall award titles to any dog that earns an overall "Pass" rating in the classes. Dogs must complete the endurance trial for the class entered and will not qualify for a lower class if that level is not fulfilled. Any entered dog that has not yet earned a Carriage or Road Dog title at the level entered and receives a qualifying score in each of the obedience exercises, but fails to complete the endurance course, shall be awarded the Carriage or Road Certificate at that level. Any dog may be entered Qualification Only (QO) to qualify for a title, and will not be awarded a place in their class, or qualify for any special awards. Dogs previously qualified at a higher level than the class entered will not be awarded any placings.

Obedience Exercises and Scoring

	Carriage Dog		Road Dog	
	Exercise	Max Score	Exercise	Max Score
1	Axle at walk and halt	100	Hock	100
2	Axle at trot	100	Recall	100
3	Distraction	100	Distraction	100
4	Stay	100	Stay	100
5	Speed	100	Speed	100
6	Overall impression	100	Overall impression	100
	Vet score	200	Vet score	200
	TOTAL	800	TOTAL	800

At the discretion of the obedience judge, the Hock/Axle, Distraction, Recall, and Stay exercises may be judged in any order. The Speed exercise shall be judged last.

Carriage Dog

At the judge's discretion the Axle at walk and halt and the Axle at trot may be run together without a break. Competitors should be prepared to perform these two exercises consecutively. When exercises are run consecutively, the transition will occur without a halt or further command from the judge.

Road Dog

At the judge's discretion the hock and the recall may be run together without a break. Competitors should be prepared to perform these two exercises consecutively. When exercises are run consecutively, the transition will occur without a halt or further command from the judge.

Bronze competitors may request a brief pause between exercises should they need clarification or

further information from the judge.

The obedience judge will standardise as much as practical the place on the course that each dog is required to work. Markers may serve as a general guide, but the obedience judge's orders shall take precedence. In order not to disturb the dog/s' working position, the obedience judge will remain at least 20 metres away in the moving exercises and at least 6 metres away in the stay exercise.

Competitors shall remain mounted on carriage or horse for the duration of the exercises with the exception of the carriage dog stay.

The obedience judge will announce the exercise and will commence the instructions once the competitor has confirmed s/he is ready. Instructions should be along the following lines, "This will be the particular exercise, are you ready?" "Commence the Exercise" and "Exercise Finished".

At the completion of the obedience tests the judge will inform the competitor whether the dog/s have passed or failed. The judge will not explain his scoring at this point and need not enter into any discussion with any competitor who appears to be dissatisfied or who has not qualified. The judge will also inform the competitor if the dog/s are permitted on the endurance course and will indicate whether this is permitted on or off a lead. This information must be reported to the course manager.

Carriage Dog

Working Position

Carriage: Axle position as used in these regulations shall mean that the dog shall be in a semicircle behind, under or alongside the carriage. Its position may be as close as practicable without crouching, touching, or otherwise encroaching on the movement of the carriage and within one carriage's length of the carriage. The dog should not forge forward, run wide of, or lag from this position. It is important the dog is running in a safe and comfortable position with a natural gait.

Axle Exercises

1. Axle at walk and halt: The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay with the horse and carriage at walk and during a short halt. The walk section will not exceed 20 metres and the halt will not exceed 15 seconds.

2. Axle at Trot: The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay with the horse and carriage when required. The Axle Exercise for all classes shall be at the trot in a figure of eight for approximately 200 metres.

On the judge's order the competitor may give each dog a single command to move into the axle position, where the dog(s) shall remain while continuing forward. The competitor may praise his/her dog(s) as the team continues forward, and may give additional commands, if necessary, recognising that additional commands and praise during exercises will be scored accordingly. At the completion of the required distance, the obedience judge shall command "Exercise Finished".

Scoring

Substantial or minor deductions according to degree and the class level, shall be made for additional commands or signals; lagging; forging; interfering with the horse or vehicle's forward movement; going wide of the described axle position; encroaching on or touching the vehicle; movement away from the vehicle at halt (carriage); adapting horse's pace to that of the dog; excessive barking.

3. Distraction Exercise: The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate a dog's ability to remain under the competitor's voice control in the event of a distraction. The Distraction Exercise will be judged at a trot. On signal from the obedience judge, a person with a dog on a lead shall start walking toward the approaching competitor, remaining on the competitor's right side, and pass by at least twenty metres away. The competitor shall move forward with his dog(s) in axle position and shall be allowed to command each dog when he has noticed the approaching distraction. When the competitor and his dog(s) have gone past the distraction dog approximately five metres, the obedience judge shall indicate that the exercise is finished, and the competitor may release his dog(s).

The distraction dog handler shall remain on the down-course side of the competing team until after the obedience judge has completed judging the remaining exercise(s) and has started back toward the course start.

Scoring

A dog must receive a score of zero if it disregards its competitor's command. Substantial or minor deductions according to degree and the class level, shall be made if a dog barks repeatedly at the distraction (a single warning bark shall not be penalised) if it starts to approach the distraction but comes back on command, if it displays shyness, if it moves out of position; for repeated commands or praise. A dog which attacks the on-coming person or dog shall be disqualified.

4.Stay Exercise:

These will be:

Bronze	1 minute
Silver	1½ minutes
Gold	2 minutes

Whip Handlers: The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog can be left in its place with the carriage whilst the groom goes to the driven horse's head. The purpose of the exercise is to prove the dog's steadiness whilst the groom attends to the horse or in an emergency. The dog will not be penalised for any change in position but must stay in the area in which it was commanded. The groom must dismount after the judge has said, "commence the exercise" and must stand at the horse's head for the duration of the stay, from where they may inform the whip of the dog's behaviour if required. The judge will ask the whip to give a last command when the groom is in position or a previously agreed signal to indicate they are ready for the time to start. The whip may give a separate command to each dog, which may be in the same or in different positions. The exercise finishes when the steward calls "time". Whips must remain on the carriage.

Groom Handlers: This test shall emulate the whip handler's test except for the following provisions:

After the judge has said "commence the exercise" The groom handler will dismount from the carriage, and put the dog(s) into a safe position with the carriage, or command it to stay in the axle position, and go to a place at the horse's head (as previously agreed with the whip). When in position the judge will ask them to give the dog a last command or a previously agreed signal to the judge for the time to start. The exercise finishes when the steward calls "time".

Scoring

Scoring of this exercise shall begin from the point the competitor responds "yes" to the judge's question "are you ready?" Timing shall begin immediately after the last command. A competitor whose dog assumes a position too close to the turnout for safety shall be required to reposition his dog. Substantial or minor deductions according to degree and the class level, shall be made for a dog refusing to Sit, Down or Stand if commanded, moving at any time during the exercise away from the place where it was left, going over to any other dog, barking or whining during the exercise. A carriage dog that changes its position but remains in the place where it was left shall not be penalised.

5.Speed: The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate a dog's ability to exhibit a fair turn of speed, as described in the Kennel Club's Standard for the breed. It is not a test of position.

On order from the obedience judge or steward, the competitor shall commence the exercise at a gait from the horse sufficient for the dog to show a turn of speed. The exercise shall be over a distance of one hundred metres, but the competitor and dog need only show speed during the middle section of that distance sufficient for safe acceleration and deceleration. The team may be re-judged if the obedience judge does not deem that the horse's speed was sufficient to determine the dog's speed. The judge should preferably be situated at a mid-point elevated position. Markers will be used for this exercise.

Judges must take into account the trial conditions and terrain, the size/pace of horses and vehicle type. The dog does not need to be in axle position for this exercise, but it must be running in such a way as to be apparent to the judge that it is working and under the handler's control. The dog should not precede the turnout except in so far as it may continue to gallop on as the competitor decelerates at the end of the exercise and must run in a position that is safe.

Scoring

A dog shall be scored zero for not attempting to keep up with the horse and carriage, or if the competitor/horse does not exhibit any increase in speed. Substantial or minor deductions according to degree shall be made for nipping at the horse(s) or vehicle; for forging ahead, for falling increasingly behind or excessively wide of the horse and vehicle; or for repeated barking.

Overall impression: The dog should demonstrate its enthusiasm for his work with the carriage. This is not a separate exercise, but rather an impression gained by the judge, throughout the trial, of each dog's approach to its work. This will be gained through observation of the dog's work throughout each obedience test and general behaviour whilst on the obedience field appropriate to the level entered. It

will include things like attitude, enjoyment, responsiveness to its handler, and general demeanour throughout the trial.

Scoring

All dogs that have passed all the obedience exercises will receive between 50 and 100 points for the judge's overall impression. A dog which displays a reticence to work, an unhappy demeanour or any antipathy towards its handler may score low on this scale. A dog which displays a commitment to its work, a happy demeanour throughout, and a good relationship with its handler and is attentive and responsive at all times during the obedience test may score high on the scale.

The examples of faults in each exercise are not intended to be complete, but the more common and serious faults are specified. There is no maximum limit on penalties. A dog that makes none of the errors listed may still fail to qualify or may be scored zero for other reasons that were not specified above, but these faults shall be described on the obedience judges' score sheets.

Road Dog

Working Position

Hock position as used in these regulations means that the dog shall be in a semi-circle behind the horse's head as close as practicable without touching or crowding the horse or obstructing its motion and within one horse's length of the horse. The dog should not forge forward, run wide of, or lag from this position. Dogs on a team with multiple entries shall not be penalised for allowing space for other dogs in hock position.

1. Hock: The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay with the horse and competitor when required. The hock exercise for bronze, silver and gold shall be at trot in a figure of eight for 200 metres.

On the obedience judge's order, the competitor shall give each dog a single command to move into the Hock position, where the dog(s) shall remain while continuing forward. The competitor may praise his/her dog(s) as the team continues forward and may give additional commands, if necessary, recognising that additional commands and praise during exercises will be scored accordingly. At the approximate completion of the required distance, the obedience judge shall command "Exercise Finished".

Scoring

Substantial or minor deductions according to degree and the class level, shall be made for additional commands or signals; lagging; forging; interfering with the horse; going wide of the described hock position; adapting horse's pace to that of the dog; excessive barking.

2. Recall: The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog responds promptly to the competitor's command to "Come".

In Certificate and Bronze classes the dog may be left by the competitor or held by a steward on request. In Silver and Gold classes the dog must be left in a stay. The competitor will leave the dog(s) and, when approximately five metres away and on instruction from the obedience judge, will give a command for each dog to come while his horse is still moving forward at a walk. After working at hock in a straight line for a minimum of five metres, the obedience judge will tell the competitor to release the dog with the command "exercise finished". The obedience judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from the competitor's horse.

Scoring

A dog must be scored zero for failure to recall. Substantial or minor deductions according to degree and the class level shall be made for the dog not waiting before being called, a slow response, deviation on return; for competitors who repeat the command to come, or who continue talking to the dog as it comes.

3. Distraction Exercise: The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate a dog's ability to remain under the competitor's voice control in the event of a distraction. The Distraction Exercise will be judged at a trot. On signal from the obedience judge, a person with a dog on a lead shall start walking toward the approaching competitor, remaining on the competitor's right side, and pass by at least twenty metres away. The competitor shall move forward with his dog(s) in hock position and shall be allowed to command each dog when he has noticed the approaching distraction. When the competitor and his dog(s) have gone past the distraction dog approximately five metres the obedience judge shall indicate that the exercise is finished, and the competitor may release his dog(s).

The distraction dog handler shall remain on the down-course side of the competing team until after the obedience judge has completed judging the remaining exercise(s) and has started back toward the course start.

A dog must receive a score of zero if it disregards its competitor's command to hock. Substantial or minor deductions according to degree and the class level shall be made if a dog barks repeatedly at the distraction (a single warning bark shall not be penalised), if it starts to approach the distraction but comes back to hock on command, if it displays shyness, if it moves out of position; for repeated commands or praise. A dog which attacks the on-coming person or dog shall be disqualified.

4. Stay Exercise

Durations: The purpose of this exercise shall be to demonstrate the dog's obedience to the command to sit, down or stand and his ability to wait under the competitor's control in a commanded position for a determined duration until released.

Bronze	1 minute
Silver	1½ minutes
Gold	2 minutes

The dog may be in a sit, stand or down and the judge must establish in what position the dog is to be judged before the exercise begins. A separate command may be given to each dog on a team (which may be in the same or different positions) after which the clock will start. The competitor may move away and leave the dog in the stay if desired at any point before during or after the start of the exercise. The obedience judge and any competitor's escort must remain at least six metres away from the dog(s). The exercise finishes when the steward calls "time".

Scoring

Scoring of this exercise shall begin from the point the competitor responds "yes" to the judge's question "are you ready". Timing shall begin after the competitor's command to stay. A competitor whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it is too close to a horse for safety, shall be required to reposition his dog. Substantial or minor deductions according to degree and the class level, shall be made for a dog refusing to Sit, Down or Stand, moving at any time during the exercise away from the place where it was left, going over to any other dog in a team; changing its commanded stay position but remaining where placed, barking or whining during the exercise. A dog which has not left its stay spot but has changed its stay position and is re-commanded to return to the handler's chosen stay position, should not be deducted more points than a dog which breaks its stay position but is left by the handler.

5. Speed: The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate a dog's ability to exhibit a fair turn of speed, as described in the Kennel Club's Standard for the breed. It is not a test of position.

On order from the obedience judge or steward, the competitor shall commence the exercise at a gait from the horse sufficient for the dog to show a turn of speed. The exercise shall be over a distance of one hundred metres, but the competitor and dog need only show speed during the middle section of that distance sufficient for safe acceleration and deceleration. The team may be re-judged if the obedience judge does not deem that the horse's speed was sufficient to determine the dog's speed.

The judge should preferably be situated at a mid-point elevated position. Markers will be used for this exercise.

The organisers and judges must take into account the trial conditions and terrain. The dog does not need to be in hock position for this exercise, but it must be running in such a way as to be apparent to the judge that it is working and under the handler's control. The dog must run in a position that is safe.

Scoring

A dog shall be scored zero for not attempting to keep up with the horse, or if the competitor/horse does not exhibit any increase in speed. Substantial or minor deductions according to degree shall be made for nipping at the horse(s); for forging ahead of the horse; for falling increasingly behind or excessively wide of the horse; for repeated barking; or for a competitor who adjusts his horse's pace to that of the dog(s).

6. Overall Impression: The dog should demonstrate its enthusiasm for his work with the horse. This is not a separate exercise, but rather an impression gained by the judge, throughout the trial, of each dog's approach to its work. This will be gained through observation of the dog's work throughout each obedience test and general behaviour whilst on the obedience field appropriate to the level entered. It will include things like attitude, enjoyment, responsiveness to its handler, and general demeanour throughout the trial.

Scoring

All dogs that have passed all the obedience exercises will receive between 50 and 100 points for the judge's overall impression. A dog which displays a reticence to work, an unhappy demeanour or any antipathy towards its handler may score low on this scale. A dog which displays a commitment to its work, a happy demeanour throughout, and a good relationship with its handler and is attentive and responsive at all times during the obedience test may score high on the scale.

The examples of faults in each exercise are not intended to be complete, but the more common and serious faults are specified. There is no maximum limit on penalties. A dog that makes none of the errors listed may still fail to qualify or may be scored zero for other reasons that were not specified above, but these faults shall be described on the obedience judges' score sheets.

Endurance

This element of the competition tests and demonstrates the Dalmatian's distinctive capacity for endurance.

The endurance section shall begin after the completion of the obedience exercises. The Time Keeper shall record the official start time of the endurance section of each team. The official finish time of each dog shall be recorded as it crosses the finish line, and before the final vet check. Competitors are required to have their dogs in hock or axle at the finish. At the discretion of the organisers, and as appropriate to individual venues, this may include a distance leading up to the finish line. Course stewards will report to the judge any dog that is not in hock or axle where required and penalties may be deducted from the overall impression score at the discretion of the judge.

Competitors are required to complete the distance relevant to their level in the time allowed (table 1) and shall be marked pass or fail for this aspect on the aggregate score sheet.

Vet Checks and Scoring

The purpose of the vet checks is to determine that the dogs and horses are in sound condition before beginning the course, while traversing the course, and after completing the course. Bronze dogs are subject to an inspection by a veterinary judge at the start and finish of their endurance course. All silver and gold dogs are subjected to an inspection at the start, mid-point and end of their endurance test. A further welfare check will be conducted at 30 km for the Gold competitors, but tests will not be taken

unless deemed necessary by the vet and any time taken will be deducted from the competitor's course time.

Vet judges will also judge and score each dog against a set of criteria relating to soundness and condition. The endurance score accounts for 25% of the total marks and its underlying purpose is to test the dog's physical condition and fitness. The criteria for the tests include respiration, hydration, heart rate, pad condition, gait, and temperature (rectal test). Dogs will be assessed against baseline information gained at the start vet check. The final vet check of dogs that have completed the course shall take precedence over dogs that are at 10 km checks.

The vet judge will allocate a score for each dog, which will be added to the dog's obedience score to give a final score total for the competition.

Competitors are strongly advised to ensure their dogs are familiar with and as comfortable as possible with the trial vet check procedures.

All horses in the silver and gold class are subject to an inspection at the start, mid-point and end of the endurance.

At regional competitions bronze and silver horses are vetted where a vet is available and if deemed necessary for the horse's welfare.

There will be stewards at the vet checkpoints available to hold the competitor's horse(s), so that the competitor may assist the vet with the dog(s) during the examination. On request from the vet, the competitor shall hold his dog while the vet shall conduct any tests he/she deems necessary, as described and indicate the results on a score sheet. The competitor shall then gait each dog individually, on instruction from the vet, so that the vet can check for any signs of lameness. Competitors or persons appointed by them must attend to their own dogs. At the Mid-Point vet check, each team shall be allowed a rest period of at least 5 minutes, but not to exceed 30 minutes as described in Section 4.

Any dog that, in the vet's opinion, requires more than a 30-minute rest period at the midpoint check shall be removed from further competition in the Trial. The vet shall also check each horse for any signs of stress or lameness, and any horse that, in the vet's opinion, requires more than a 30-minute rest period shall be removed from further competition in the Trial. Another horse may be substituted if such horse is available within the time frame, as described in the Section 4, unless the entry has been disqualified.

At the Final vet check, each dog will receive a score of up to 200 points. If the vet judge is satisfied that a dog's condition is sound after conducting the tests, he shall give the dog a "Pass" (100-200) rating. A dog will receive a "Fail" (0-100) if, in his opinion, the dog is in distress and needs immediate medical attention. When scoring a dog after the Final vet check, the vet judge shall compare the baseline information recorded for each dog on the Start/Finish score sheet, the information recorded on any Mid-Point vet score sheet, and the condition of the dog at the Final vet check, in order to rate each dog's overall condition within a scale of 0-200 points.

If the equine vet holds a horse because it is not fit to continue, one penalty point per minute will be subtracted from the dog's score.

Decisions

At the Carriage Dog Trial the decisions of the obedience and vet judges shall be final in all matters affecting the scoring and the working of the dogs and their handlers with the exception of an appeal. The opinion of the vet is final and there is no appeal against a vet's decision.

Punctuality

Each competitor is responsible for being ready at the appointed time with his/her dog(s) and horse at the safety check, the obedience field and at the endurance start, without being called. At the judge's or the course steward's discretion, and if agreeable to the waiting competitor, the judge or steward may request that a competitor who is ready and waiting at the starting line be judged ahead of a competitor who has delayed proceeding to the starting line.

SECTION 3- Judging, Scoring and Awards

Judges

Requirements for Obedience Judges

The organisers will secure an obedience judge or judges, and vet or vets, to be utilised at the organisers' discretion to enable the Trial to be conducted successfully.

The obedience judge must:

1. be a recognised Kennel Club or affiliated society judge
OR
 2. have grandfather rights**
OR
 3. have stewarded on the obedience field on at least two occasions
OR
 4. have qualified a dog at a BCDS sanctioned trials at Silver or Gold level
OR
 5. e) have qualified a dog at a BCDS sanctioned trials at Bronze level and stewarded on the obedience field on at least one occasion
AND
2. have experience either in owning, breeding, showing, or training Dalmatians
 3. have a working knowledge of the obedience exercises and judging regulations
 4. be a competent equestrian if judging from horseback
 5. have attended at least two trials

Organisers should apply to the BCDS for a list of approved judges.

Change in Obedience Judges

Obedience judges must be named in the schedule. If for any reason an announced Carriage Dog Trial obedience judge is unable to complete his/her assignment, an alternate obedience judge shall be named. Notification of this change shall be promptly made to all competitors.

Judging

Standardised judging is of paramount importance. Obedience judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercises but must see that each competitor and dog executes the various exercises exactly as described in these Regulations. A competitor familiar with these Regulations should be able to enter the course under any obedience judge without having to enquire how the particular obedience judge wishes to have any exercise performed and without being confronted with an unexpected requirement. No obedience judge shall require any dog or competitor to do anything, nor penalise a dog or competitor for failing to do anything, that is not required by these Regulations.

The Carriage Dog Trial obedience judge(s) should aim to carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score against this visualised standard which shall combine the utmost in willingness, enjoyment, and precision on the part of the dog, and naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness in handling.

* Grandfather rights refer to those people who were working their Dalmatians with their horses and/or carriage before either the carriage dog trials or the BCDS were established

The obedience judges' certification in the Official Score Book of a qualifying score for any particular dog constitutes his/her certification to the BCDS that the dog has performed all of the required exercises at least in accordance with the minimum standards for the relevant award.

Competitors will be given a reasonable amount of time to prepare for an exercise. The obedience judge must remain at the correct distance so as to not interfere with the competing dog during the exercises, and orders and signals should be given to competitors in a clear and understandable manner. At the completion of all the obedience exercises, the judge will advise the competitor if the dog/s has passed or failed each exercise. The competitor will only be given the option of continuing on the endurance course if the judge considers the entry is under control and will not disadvantage qualified competitors. Any non-qualified entry on course must give way to qualified entries.

Obedience Judge's Directions

Interference and Double Handling

Any obedience judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempt to control a dog by anyone other than the competitor, must act promptly to stop such double handling, and shall penalise or fail the dog as the circumstances warrant at the request of the Judge.

Re-judging

If a dog has failed a particular exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged. If however, in the obedience judge's opinion, the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the obedience judge may, at his own discretion, re-judge the dog on the exercise.

Explanation and Errors

No obedience judge or vet is required to explain his scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any competitor who appears to be dissatisfied.

The obedience judge or vet is encouraged to offer comment to interested competitors about the performance of a dog at their discretion after the trial. Any person who thinks there may have been an arithmetical error, or an error in identifying a dog, may report the facts to the course steward and to the organisers so that the matter may be investigated and resolved.

Scoring

The obedience judge(s) must enter each dog's performance on their score sheets immediately after judging each team, and before starting to judge the next team. Obedience judges may use separate score sheets or a tape recorder for their own purposes but shall not give out or allow competitors to see such sheets or hear such recordings, nor give out any other written scores, nor permit anyone else to distribute score sheets or cards prepared by the obedience judge. Obedience judges may request the obedience steward to write the score sheets in the field. In this case these must be checked by the judge after each competitor has finished his tests. The obedience judge may also act as scorer when s/he has finished judging and should transfer the scores onto the official aggregate score sheets.

The scorer shall transfer the scores from the obedience judge(s) and vet sheets onto the official aggregate score sheets; copy the official start and finish time of each team and deduct the mid-point vet check time from the total time. All final scores must be entered in the Official Book by the scorer, re-verified and signed by the obedience judge(s), vet, and course steward, before prizes are awarded. The Official Score Book is to be kept by the BCDS and contain an aggregate score sheet for each team entered in a Carriage Dog Trial. Organisers should distribute aggregate score sheets to competitors after the competition and regional organisers should submit copies to the BCDS.

Ties

In case of a tie for any prize the dog with the highest veterinary score will be placed the highest.

Announcement of Scores

No one is permitted to disclose any score or partial score to contestants or spectators until the public announcement of scores. Once the obedience results are completed they should be made available to the competitors for review in case of any disputes. Any dispute must be raised and dealt with prior to prizegiving. Veterinary scores will not be published until after the event.

Awards and Prizes

The BCDS shall make awards to the owner(s) of each dog that qualifies in a sanctioned Trial. It shall be the responsibility of the organisers to prepare any certificates, rosettes or medals to represent these titles under the direction of the BCDS.

At the discretion of the organisers rosettes will be offered for first to third places in the Bronze, Silver and Gold classes at any Carriage Dog Trial. Qualifying rosettes will be offered for each dog that qualifies in Bronze, Silver or Gold at any Carriage Dog Trial. Certificates will be offered for each dog that passes Road and Carriage Dog certificate tests.

All official rosettes and trophies shall be awarded only to dogs that earn a pass rating in the Certificate Tests or a qualifying score in a Bronze, Silver or Gold class in a Carriage Dog Trial (and to horses in such teams). Awards for the three places in each class shall be based solely on the number of points earned. At the Carriage Dog Trial organiser's discretion, a certificate, ribbon of participation or other form of recognition or prize may be awarded to dogs and/or competitors who competed in the Carriage Dog Trial but who did not receive pass rating or a qualifying score.

Best Condition Dog Award

At each Trial there shall be an award for the competing dog, which, in the opinion of the Start/Finish vet, is in the best condition. The vet shall base his/her decision on the information gained from the start, finish and mid-point vet checks combined with his/her professional assessment of the overall condition of each dog. This award will be for dogs in the Silver and Gold classes and will be awarded at the discretion of the organisers.

SECTION 4 - Canine and Equine Veterinary Checks

The organisers shall provide sufficient licensed vets and veterinary help to be utilised at their discretion to enable the vet checks to be conducted successfully. Whenever possible a vet shall be in attendance at the vet check during the entire progress of the Trial. The canine vet will have ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the dogs and the equine vet ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the horses (although the canine and equine responsibility may be carried by a single vet depending on entries).

Canine Vets

Each dog in the silver and gold classes shall be vet-checked at the start of the competition, the approximate mid-point, and the finish of the endurance course. The bronze dogs shall be examined at the beginning and end of their trial.

Requirements

Any qualified veterinarian may act as a veterinary judge at a Carriage Dog Trial, as chosen by the Trial organisers. It is the responsibility of the organisers to provide the vet with information regarding the judging of the condition of dogs at a Trial, as well as clear criteria to aid consistent assessment of each dog. The vet shall also be made aware of the relevance of the vet score to the final competitor score.

Overall Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of vets shall apply to all dogs competing and shall include:

- giving advisory opinions to the obedience judges when requested
- examining the health and well-being of dogs
- evaluating the fitness of dogs to begin and/or continue in the Trial
- assessing the condition of dogs at the end of the Trial
- rendering medical attention to dogs in cases of sickness or injury occurring at the Trial which will be at the competitor's expense.

The vets shall not be called upon to treat dogs for physical conditions that existed before they were brought to the Trial. Any vet serving at a Trial will have complete authority to:

- disqualify any dog from competing when such competition would endanger the dog's health
- disqualify any dog which he considers may endanger the health or welfare of other dogs or persons
- disqualify any dog that attacks any person, horse, or other dog as described in Chapter 1.14 of these Regulations
- disqualify any competitor or competitor's escort who abuses his dog(s) or who uses foul or abusive language
- disqualify any bitch in season

Any serving veterinary helper who believes a dog or competitor should be removed from the competition for any of the above reasons shall consult with the vet. The vet may then disqualify the dog(s) and/or competitor(s) for the above reasons if s/he deems it necessary.

Assessment

In addition to the overall duties and responsibilities, it shall be the responsibility of the vet to check the condition and soundness of each dog both before each animal begins the course and after each animal finishes the course, and to score the dog's condition at the finish. The first evaluation shall serve to establish

- (a) the animal's health and soundness before being allowed to compete, and
- (b) a baseline for comparison for the final evaluation for each animal.

The vet shall observe and record the following criteria:

- temperature
- pulse
- respiration
- pads
- capillary refill rate
- hydration
- gait-coordination and soundness
- musculature
- any other tests s/he may deem necessary

and indicate these on the score sheet.

These observations shall be recorded immediately upon examination, and before starting to examine any other dog. The vet's observations shall be recorded on a separate sheet for each dog.

Scoring

The vet shall rate the dog's condition at the Starting vet check with an overall rating of either Pass or Fail. Any dog that receives a "Fail" rating at the Starting vet check shall be removed from further competition at that trial. The vet shall rate the dog's condition at the final vet check, with an overall rating of either Pass or Fail, and a score on a scale of 0 – 200, with 0 – 100 being a "Fail", and 100-200 being a "Pass". When scoring a dog after the Final vet check, the vet shall compare the baseline information recorded for each dog on the Start/Finish score sheet, the information recorded on the Mid-Point vet score sheet, and the condition of the dog at the Final vet check, in order to rate each dog's overall condition.

The vet shall report the Pass/Fail Starting vet check evaluation, and the score and Pass/Fail of his Final vet check evaluation to the Scorer after he has evaluated all of the teams.

Mid Point duties and responsibilities

In addition to the overall duties and responsibilities, it shall be the responsibility of the midpoint vet or authorised person to check and record the condition and soundness of each silver and gold dog at a designated check point to observe each dog during a rest period of at least five minutes but not more than 30 minutes to record the "time in" and "time out" of each team and to report these records to the official Scorer. This evaluation shall serve to determine each animal's health and soundness before being allowed to continue on the course. The Mid-Point vet shall observe and record the same criteria for each dog on the score sheet immediately upon its arrival and before starting to examine any other dog. In the case of more than one team arriving at the Mid-Point check at the same time, the heart rate and temperature of all dogs shall be taken and recorded immediately, starting with the dog(s) on the team with the earliest start time. (Except in an emergency, horses shall be checked after the observations for all dogs have been recorded.) The dog's condition shall be given an overall rating of either "Pass" or "Fail". The Mid-Point vet shall report the Pass/Fail rating for each dog into the Official Score Book after s/he has judged all the teams and returned to the starting area. Any dog which receives a "Fail" rating after 30 minutes at the Mid-Point vet check, shall be removed by the Mid-Point vet from further competition at that Trial.

Gold horses and dogs may have an additional vet check at 30 km. The checks taken will be at the vet's discretion, and the time deducted from the competitor's course time.

Timing of the Mid-Point Vet Check

Immediately upon the arrival of each team at the Mid-Point check, the vet or course steward will record the "time in" on the score sheet and advise the competitor of the time recorded. The length of this rest period for each team shall be at the discretion of the vet, within the constraints of these Regulations, depending upon the condition of the animals on the team. It shall be the responsibility of the Mid-Point Vet or steward to advise the competitor if any additional rest time is required and what the official "time out" will be. This time shall be deducted from the competitor's total course time.

The same methods and standards must be used for rating dogs in the silver and gold classes. The vets shall aim to give standardised examinations and assessments. A competitor familiar with these

Regulations should be able to enter the checkpoints knowing what checks the vet shall conduct on his dog(s). In the case of a dog that is in the vet's opinion under stress or incapable of continuing, the animal must be removed from competition. The vet may conduct additional non-invasive tests on the dog other than what is specified in these Regulations in order to determine the animal's health and soundness. Time required for any additional tests shall be subtracted from the team's total course time. The opinion of the vet shall be final.

Qualifying Condition

The vet's certification in the Official Score Book of a Qualifying Score/Pass Rating for any particular dog constitutes their mutual certification to the Carriage Dog Society that the dog has performed all of the required tests in accordance with the minimum standards and that its performance would justify the awarding of a Carriage or Road Dog bronze, silver or gold certificate. Any dog that, in the opinion of the vet, requires more than a 30-minute rest period at the Mid-Point vet check shall be removed from further competition at that Trial.

Announcement of Vet Check Pass/Fail Rating

Each vet shall notify each competitor of the Pass/Fail status of each dog as soon as the assessment has been completed, and the results entered on the score sheets. The vet shall not disclose the points awarded each dog at the finish.

Best Condition Dog Award

At each Trial there shall be an award for the competing dog which, in the opinion of the Canine Vet, is in the best condition. The vet shall base his/her decision on the information gained from the start, finish and mid-point vet checks combined with his/her professional assessment of the overall condition of each dog. This award will be for dogs in the Silver and Gold class and will be awarded at the discretion of the organisers.

Equine Vets

Where a Trial offers a silver or gold class the organisers should provide an equestrian vet to examine all the horses competing at those levels if it is deemed necessary for the horse's welfare. Any horses covering a distance of 20 kilometres or more may also be examined at the discretion of the organisers or vet. Any check will be designed to avoid undue stress and abuse to a horse, whether by ignorance or intent. Where a horse is held at any checkpoint, one penalty point per minute will be subtracted from the dog's score.

Overall Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of vets shall apply to horses eligible for checks and shall include:

- giving advisory opinions to the obedience judges when requested
- examining the health and well-being of horses
- evaluating the fitness of horses to begin and/or continue in the Trial
- rendering medical attention to horses in cases of sickness or injury occurring at the Trial which will be at the expense of the competitor or owner

Any vet serving at a Trial will have complete authority to remove from competition:

- any horse which s/he considers a danger to any persons or animals present
- any competitor or competitor's escort who abuses his horse(s) or who uses foul or abusive language
- any horse that is not fit to continue and has had its welfare compromised by participation in the competition, resulting in disqualification for the competitor

A horse would be considered unfit to continue if it had

- no interest in its surroundings
- refused to trot or a marked toe dragging
- increased respiration

- reduced gut sounds
- poor capillary refill time
- dehydration
- low head carriage
- no interest in food or water

There is no appeal against a vet's decision.

The vets shall not be called upon to treat horses for physical conditions that existed before they were brought to the Trial.

Any veterinary helper serving at a Trial who believes a horse or competitor should be removed from the competition for any of the above reasons shall consult with the vet. The vet may then disqualify the horse(s) and/or competitor(s) for the above reasons if s/he deems it necessary.

Assessment

In addition to the overall duties and responsibilities, it shall be the responsibility of the vet to check the condition and soundness of each horse(s) both before each animal begins the course and after each animal finishes the course, and to evaluate the horse's condition at the finish. The first evaluation shall serve to establish the animal's health and soundness before being allowed to compete, and a baseline for comparison for the final evaluation for each animal.

The vet shall observe and record the following criteria:

- pulse
- respiration
- capillary refill rate
- gait-soundness and coordination
- temperature - if weather conditions deem this advisable
- feet/shoes
- hydration
- lesions

Extreme care should be taken while testing or handling any horse which harnessed and "put to" the carriage. Guidance from the driver must be adhered to.

Any other tests may be taken as deemed necessary and indicated on the score sheet.

These observations shall be recorded immediately upon examination, and before starting to examine any other horse. The vet's observations shall be recorded on a separate sheet for each horse.

Except in an emergency, horses shall be checked after the observations for the competing dog have been recorded. The horse's condition shall be given an overall rating of either "Pass" or "Fail".

Timing of the Mid-Point Vet Check

The equine vet should note the length of the rest period for each team shall be at the discretion of canine vet, within the constraints of these Regulations, depending upon the condition of the animals on the team. It shall be the responsibility of the Mid-Point Canine Vet to advise competitors of each team how long a rest period has been ordered. This time shall be deducted from the competitor's total course time. The horses will be vet checked during this time. Any horse, which receives a "Fail" rating after 30 minutes at the Mid-Point vet check, shall be removed from further competition at that Trial. Where a horse is held for welfare reasons by the equine vet at the midpoint check, in excess of the standard time, one penalty point per minute held over this time will be subtracted from the dog's score.

Best Condition Horse Award

At any Trial there may, at the organisers' discretion, be an award for the horse which, in the opinion of the Equine Vet, is in the best condition. If there is such an award the vet shall base his/her decision on the information gained from the start, finish and mid-point vet checks combined with his/her professional assessment of the overall condition of each horse. This award will be for horses that have completed both the obedience and endurance elements in a Silver or Gold class and awarded at the vet's discretion. Because the presence of an equine vet is discretionary and will depend on a number of factors, including the number and level of entries in each discipline and the condition of the course, horses may not be vetted at every trial. Consequently, there will not always be a Best Condition Horse award.

SECTION 5 – Trials Organisation

Trials Hosts

The BCDS organises an annual national championship. If a group or individual wishes to run a regional Carriage Dog Trial, the group or individual should apply to the BCDS and agree to abide by the BCDS rules and regulations. This will secure eligibility and recognition for all competitors for BCDS qualifications and awards. All classes at regional competitions must be in line with classes at the national competition except for the Gold class, which may only be scheduled at National Trials. Any variations must be agreed with the BCDS prior to the schedule being published. BCDS sanctioned regional trials may include classes for non-Dalmatians with prizes but no carriage or road dog awards may be offered.

Regional trials may be eligible for a one off conditional grant to assist with running costs. This grant must be used for the trials running costs only and not for equipment. If a grant is applied for, projected accounts must be submitted to the society together with the application for a licence.

Suitability of Venue

Obedience Field

The obedience field should be a grassed area of sufficient size to accommodate the correct distance for the prescribed exercises, ideally flat or gently sloping and free from scrub or rough areas.

This area shall be designated as the obedience field and will be under the jurisdiction of the obedience judge. The obedience field should be as close to the starting line as possible.

The entry onto the obedience field will be marked and the judge will begin to assess overall impression once the competitor has passed the marker.

The hock and axle exercise shall consist of a figure of eight over a distance of 200 metres. The exercise shall be marked at the discretion of the judge/s and organisers.

The position of the start and finish for the recall, distraction, stay and speed exercises shall be at the discretion of the obedience judge/s and organisers who will take into account the terrain, the siting of the spectator area and other relevant factors.

For the speed exercise there shall be markers indicating the start and the finish of the one hundred-metre distance. The ground shall not go downhill, but shall be flat, or cover a gentle upward slope, shall be as smooth as possible, and free of holes or other hazards. The obedience judge shall be situated in such a way as to not frighten the horse, preferably at a mid-way, elevated point.

Endurance Course

The endurance course must be entirely or predominately off road. Prior permission must be sought from the society should the organisers wish to include roadwork. For health and safety dogs may be held on lead during road sections. Any roads and/or crossings must be stewarded at all junctions. Notification of roadwork must be included in the schedule. Course layout is at the Carriage Dog Trial organiser's discretion, and any section of the course may be repeated in order for competitors to fulfil the required distances. It shall be the responsibility of the organisers to attempt to secure a site that is appropriate for both road and carriage classes. A separate course for the endurance section of the Trial may be provided for driven vehicles if necessary. A starting and finish line shall be designated and the course must be marked with legible, tamper and weather resistant trail markers. The course must also be marked with distance markers (i.e. "1 km", "2 km etc.) There should be at least two checkpoints along the course to verify each teams' completion and to provide water for dogs and horses. These should be positioned at approximately 3-4 kilometres.

Competition-Class Order and Identification

After the closing date for entries has passed, the organisers shall draw by lot the order in which competitors shall begin the Trial with their dog(s). The organisers may only adjust the running order if necessary for practical reasons or on grounds of safety. Competitors should be informed of running order in time for their practical arrangements and as soon as possible of any last-minute adjustments.

- Carriage Dog Gold
- Carriage Dog Gold (Groom Handler)
- Road Dog Gold
- Carriage Dog Silver
- Carriage Dog Silver (Groom Handler)
- Road Dog Silver
- Carriage Dog Bronze
- Carriage Dog Bronze (Groom Handler)
- Road Dog Bronze
- Carriage Dog Certificate
- Road Dog Certificate

Competitors should be identified by a large number worn on their back or on the driven vehicle, which is clearly visible to the obedience judges and vets.

Stewards

The obedience judges and vets are in sole charge of their particular area of judging. Stewards shall be provided to assist each obedience judge and vet, but they may act only on the obedience judge's or vet's instructions. Stewards shall not give information or instructions to owners and competitors except as specifically instructed by the obedience judge or vet, and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of the obedience judge or vet.

A course steward shall be provided who will, acting on the vet's and the obedience judge's instructions, be responsible for maintaining an orderly flow of teams into the start/finish vet checkpoint and then onto the course. The course steward or appointed timekeeper shall also record the time the competitor takes to complete the endurance portion of the course. The course steward shall verify the timings recorded on the aggregate score sheet. The course steward will bring to the attention of the Competition Manager, and/or the vet, any entry that crosses the finish line and is in any way not fit to continue.

A safety officer shall be provided who will conduct a harness check and check riders' tack prior to the commencement of each competitor's warm up. The safety officer will also consider the ability of the horse to carry the rider or pull the load. The safety officer should report to the organiser any health and safety concerns immediately.

Spectator Area

The organisers must designate and mark an area for spectators that will allow viewing without distraction of, or interference with, the performance of the competitors or their dogs or horses while they are being judged. If this is in the obedience area signs must be displayed which prohibit non-competition dogs from the vicinity.

Un-entered Dogs

If the organisers wish to allow the presence of un-entered dogs in a designated area, these dogs shall be subject to all rules relating to health and conduct and must be kept on a lead. The owners shall be responsible for the care and safety of such dogs.

Only dogs entered in the Carriage Dog Trial and distraction dogs used for the Trial shall be allowed within the obedience area of competition. No dogs should be allowed on the obedience course prior to competition. Dogs should be kept on a lead when not competing and when brought into the ring to receive awards.

Warm-Up

A warm up area sufficient for its purpose should ideally be provided as close to the obedience field as possible without encroaching on it or disturbing or distracting competitors on the obedience field.

Vet Check Area

The vet area shall ideally be outdoors in an area at least 8 metres square, preferably no more than ½km from the start. The ground in both cases shall be as clean and level as practical, and any grass should be cut short. The organisers will provide leads and water for dogs and horses. Sufficient stewards who are familiar with carriage driving protocol must be provided by the organisers. At the midpoint a harness horse must not be held by the groom with no one in the vehicle. An appointed whip may sit on the vehicle with the reins if the competitor wishes to handle their own dog at the vet check.

Review of Course

Whenever possible, the organisers shall conduct a review of the course with the competitors, judge(s), and, if possible, vet(s) on the day before the Carriage Dog Trial, and shall notify the competitors of the time and date of this course review within two weeks of the Trial. It shall be the competitor's responsibility to arrive at the Carriage Dog Trial site in time to attend this course review. The organisers shall not be required to conduct subsequent reviews for competitors who fail to attend the scheduled review.

Training On the Grounds

Competitors shall be allowed and encouraged to ride/drive their horse on the obedience course the day before the Trial without dogs. Competitors shall be allowed to ride/drive their horse with dog(s) at Hock or Axle in an area away from the obedience course the day before the trial if the venue permits.

SECTION 6- Health and Safety

Risk

The owner or agent entering any dog and/or horse in a Carriage Dog Trial does so at his/her own risk. Activities involving horses involve an inherent risk, which is acknowledged by each participant by signing the disclaimer with their entry. Neither the BCDS, Trials organisers, nor any land owner nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies, save for the death or injury caused by negligence of the organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, accepts any liability for any incidents, loss, damage or illness to horses, dogs, owners, grooms, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever caused by their negligence, breach of contract, or in any way whatsoever in any BCDS sanctioned Carriage Dog Trial.

Driving is a high-risk sport and every competition has its own particular risks, especially when entrants are required to drive their turnout and be in control of their dog/s. Organisers must ensure that all possible safety precautions are observed.

The organisers reserve the right to determine an entrant's riding, driving or grooming ability and inspect his/her turnout before allowing him/her to compete in a Carriage Dog Trial. Should it be determined by the organisers that a rider, whip, groom or passenger might present a safety hazard to him/herself, his/her horse, his/her dog or to others, the rider, whip, groom or passenger will not be allowed to compete.

Riders are advised that they may encounter carriages on the course and are required to ensure that their horse is accustomed to them. Whips are requested to show consideration to riders they may encounter on the course.

Dogs must be kept on lead at all times when not competing other than in a designated off lead areas.

Declaration and Insurance

It is a condition of entry that each entrant shall agree to indemnify the organisers against any legal action arising there from.

Competitors are required to provide proof of equine third party insurance with entry and obtain confirmation from their insurance company that their dog has public liability insurance for the competition.

Organisers must check insurance details and conduct a risk assessment.

It shall be the competitor's responsibility to determine which medical inoculations are deemed necessary for his dog(s) and horse(s). S/he may be required to show vet certificates of certain inoculations, as specified in each Carriage Dog Trial schedule.

Equipment

Competitors are responsible for ensuring the good fit, safety and soundness of tack, harness and carriage. Organisers must provide a safety check before each competitor's warm up. Attention must be paid to the ability of the horse to carry the rider or pull the load. The safety officer shall report to the organiser any health and safety concerns immediately.

Carriage Dog: Whips, grooms and passengers must wear safety helmets at all times when on a carriage. A suitable back/body protector is strongly recommended and mandatory for junior whips and grooms. The vehicle should be of a type suitable for the terrain and be in a sound condition at the start and the finish of the course. Spares must be carried on carriages

Road Dog: Competitors and escorts must wear safety helmets and boots or shoes with at least a ½ inch heel at all times when mounted.

Judges: The obedience judge, when on horseback, shall be required to wear a safety helmet, and riding boots or shoes with at least a ½ inch heel.

APPENDIX-Appeals Procedure

An appeal may be considered:

From a competitor against a perceived unjust penalty, task, or exercise.

From a non-competitor regarding alleged unreasonable behaviour by an official, competitor, or non-competitor in respect of abuse to animals, conditions and circumstances which are perceived as detrimental to the competition.

An appeal may be made verbally to the Trials Organiser(s) throughout the duration of the trial and will be brought to the attention of a Ground Jury.

The Ground Jury will be made up of three people, one being the trials organiser, the other two being non competing persons chosen for the event, they will convene as soon as possible to hear the circumstances, call for whatever evidence and witnesses are available and, after due deliberation and whenever possible, reach and advise the appellant of their decision.

Where it has not been possible for the Ground Jury to reach a conclusion or the conclusion is not accepted by the appellant; the appellant may submit the appeal in writing, including any supporting documentary evidence or witness statements, with the sum of £25.00, to the Honorary Secretary within 14 days of the incident.

All the facts must be set out clearly, including or referring to any evidence which may help to clarify the case being put.

The Secretary shall consult with the Chairman and Treasurer to determine whether there is sufficient case and evidence to progress the appeal. Where additional information is required, this will be requested at this stage.

If the Officers conclude there is not sufficient cause and/or evidence to progress the appeal, the appellant will be notified within 14 days of receipt of the initial letter. The fee will be forfeited.

If the Officers conclude there is sufficient cause and evidence to progress the appeal, an assessment sub-committee comprising three members of the BCDS committee will be appointed by the Secretary and Chairman. An expert advisor either from within or outside of the BCDS committee may also be appointed if deemed necessary. This person may be used as a consultant who may advise on technical issues at any stage in the process.

In appointing the assessment sub-committee and any expert adviser, the Secretary will have regard to any potential conflicts of or prejudicial interest. These appointments will only pertain for the duration of the individual appeal.

The assessment sub-committee will review the appeal petition and any supporting evidence, discuss the facts with any witnesses or other parties, request written information for such witnesses or other parties, review Trials rules and any other published information it deems appropriate to assist in reaching a decision.

The assessment sub-committee will make a decision as to whether to uphold or deny the appeal. If the appeal is denied the appellant will be notified within 28 days of the initial letter of appeal of that decision and of the reasons for it and the fee will be forfeited.

If the appeal is upheld the judge and/or organisers will be invited to review the action in question in the light of the decision taken by the assessment sub-committee. The assessment sub-committee at this point reserve the right to overrule any decisions made by the judge and/or organisers.

The appellant will be notified of the assessment sub-committee's decision, and any consequences arising there from within 42 days of the initial letter of appeal and the fee will be returned.

The Dalmatian Club of America originally developed these Regulations. In 2003 the DCA gave permission to the organisers of the first British Carriage Dog Trials to adopt and adapt them. They were published in draft form in May 2005. Last Revised by BCDS MARCH 2026