

## Tracking Test without Judge

One of the highlights of the NATC Blood Tacking Workshop will be a mildly competitive exercise called a “Tracking Test without Judge”. This is not a totally new idea, but it is new for us in the NATC. It was originally developed in Europe, and it is now an officially recognized tracking exercise in many countries. Happily for Americans, it is especially suited for testing dogs used to find wounded big game for bow hunters. Fast, loose, sloppy dog work gets you nowhere in this test!

Besides being much more applicable to real life blood tracking, this type of test is much less labor intensive to set up and run than the typical tests done in the past. The down side is that it does require substantially more acreage to set up in order to prevent lost dogs and handlers from contaminating the next participant’s line.

As the name of the test implies, there are no judges observing each dog’s work. Instead the dog/handler team’s work is evaluated by what is **accomplished** in terms of finding small, scented markers along the blood trail, and of course in coming up with the deer skin placed at the end of the line.

Different types of markers can be used but for this event small wooden “indicators” about 3 inches in diameter will be sliced from a small tree branch. They will be scented with a scrap of raw deer hide stapled to each one and dabbed with blood. Five of them are distributed along each blood trail. The tracking dog must work close to the line and indicate these wooden medallions to the handler, in much the same way that a good canine tracking partner points out blood sign to his handler. As you well know real indicators like blood sign reassure the handler that the team is on track and allow him to evaluate the wound of the animal being tracked.

The handler/dog teams are on their own in the woods; there are no paper markers on trees or anywhere else. In this initial experimental test, the blood lines will be 500 meters long and aged about 20 hours and we will use 4 ounces of blood to put down the line. 4 ounces over 500 meters is of course equivalent to 8 ounces over the typical 1000 meter line we are all familiar with. There will be two “wound beds”, not necessarily on the turns, and two right angle turns before the deer skin is reached.

For dogs and handlers not ready for a blind line, we will prepare well marked lines in the same manor to be used for training and an instructor will accompany the team to offer advice.

Each tracking team will be evaluated on the number of wooden indicators they have in hand when they come to the skin. If there are ties (Two teams might each find three indicators.), then the dog and handler who have found that number of indicators in the shortest period of time receives the higher placement. There will be a timer at the end of the line, and he will give each team a maximum of 1 hour to work before disqualification.

In Europe, where the test originated, the lines are officially 1000 meters long, double what we propose for the NATC’s first experiment. In European tests it has been rare for a tracking team to recover all five of the markers for the 1000 meter distance. The test is harder than it looks when you have no idea of where the indicators will be.

Most NATC members who track work with bow hunters a good part of the time. The Tracking Test without Judges will help us evaluate our dogs and get a sense of how much we are missing when we are tracking the real thing.

### SUMMARY

Length of blood line: 500 meters

Age of blood line: 20 hours

Number of indicators: 5

Number of right angle turns: 2

Number of wound beds: 2

A deer skin will be at the end of line

Time limit for completing the test is 1 hour.

If two tracking teams are tied on the number of indicators found, then the team that made their finds in the shortest period of time will receive a higher placement.

# Dog Experience Questionnaire

Please submit with your registration

Handler's Name

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Dog's Name

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Dog's Breed

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Dog's Age \_\_\_\_\_

Has your dog ever tracked a wounded deer in real life? \_\_\_\_\_

If he has, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Has your dog ever been worked on an artificial training line? \_\_\_\_\_

If he has, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a brief description of a typical training line that you have trained your dog on up to this point. (length and age of track, amount of blood, do you use tracking shoes, number of turns, etc.)

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**Motel-** Microtel Inn and Suites  
50 Industrial Drive  
Hamburg, PA 19526  
610-562-4234

**Meals -**

<b>Breakfast -</b>	Please eat before you arrive each day.
<b>Lunch -</b>	Wednesday- At an inexpensive local restaurant. Pay your own. Thursday- In the field. Included with Registration.
<b>Dinner -</b>	Wednesday- Everyone is invited to the Westy Bar and Grill, 279 W State. St, Hamburg, PA 19526 for food and drinks. Pay on your own

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# NATC Blood Tracking Workshop 2008

Registration Form  
Please use a separate form for each person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the NATC? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 Dog and Handler Team (\$50.00 for NATC members)  
(\$25.00 refund available if you join the NATC at the workshop)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Extra Dog

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Attendance w/o Dog (\$35.00 for NATC members)  
(\$15.00 refund available if you join the NATC at the workshop)

Mail Registration forms and fee made payable to "NATC" to:

**Andy Bensing  
1411 Cross Keys Road  
Reading PA 19605**

Will you be bringing a dog to work at the workshop?

YES\* \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

\*Everyone working a dog must fill out the Dog Experience Questionnaire and submit with their Registration Form.

# Blood Tracking Workshop



Sponsored by  
North American Teckel Club



September 24 - 25, 2008

The NATC is holding a 2 day blood tracking workshop open to all breeds of dogs. The emphasis for this workshop will be on the proper training for both dogs and handlers when preparing for blood tracking tests and eventual real life blood tracking for wounded game. This workshop is for both novice and advanced dogs and handlers as well as anyone else just interested in finding out more about the use of blood tracking dogs for the recovery of wounded big game. There will be plenty of hands on training in the field as well as classroom presentations on topics such as blood and line preparation, training and handling techniques, tracking team psychology and GPS use for training, testing and real life blood tracking.

All dogs and handlers will have the opportunity to run blood lines appropriate to their level of experience. On Thursday we will be doing a modified version of the newest DTK blood tracking test, "Tracking Test without Judge" for advanced dogs. A full description of this new test is included elsewhere in this flyer.

**Instructors -** NATC Judge John Jeanneney (NY), NATC Judge Andy Bensing (PA), NATC Judge Larry Golke (WI)  
Cheri Faust (WI)

**Location- Wednesday** Peacock Bridge Kennels  
1411 Cross Keys Road  
Reading, PA 19605

**Thursday** Weiser State Forest  
Port Clinton, PA, 19549  
(meet at Microtel Inn)

**Time -** Workshop begins 8:00AM both days

**Entry Fee -\*** \$75.00 dog and handler team (\$50.00 for NATC members)  
\$25.00 additional dog  
\$50.00 attendance w/o dog (\$35.00 for NATC members)

\*Fee is for both days. There is no single day fee.

**Closing Date -** September 13, 2008 – Register early as there is limited space available. If space allows, registrations will be accepted on the day of the workshop but for anyone bringing a dog, any registration on the day of the workshop or postmarked after the closing date will be charged an additional \$25.00.

**Mail Registration forms and fee made payable to "NATC" to:**  
**Andy Bensing**  
**1411 Cross Keys Road**  
**Reading PA 19605**  
**610-926-7778 (h) 610-413-7094 (c)**