

Defense of the Handler
Description of the exercise:

30 points

The exercise is based upon several principles:

1. There will always be a preliminary meeting (a handshake) between the Decoy and handler, with or without conversation. The handler may respond to the Decoy's greeting with a very ordinary tone of voice.



2. The difficulty created for the dog will be increased progressively, according to level.



3. At each level, the Decoy's aggression will be clear and evident, and made with both hands.

4. At the moment of aggression, the Decoy and handler will remain motionless for 2 sec. If the dog bites within 2 sec, they will resume normal work; if the dog does not bite during the 2 sec, the Judge will stop the exercise.
5. The dog must react only if his master is the aggressed upon.



6. The handshake must be made by the Decoy, who is the aggressor.

The Decoy must strike the handler and hold the strike for 2 s. during which time the dog must bite.

During the Defense of Handler, the handler must stay at least 3 m from the Decoy, until after the "out" command and return of the dog to heel.

Progress of the exercise, starting with some examples of possible situations:



- 1 Simple conversation, after the Decoy and handler meet, ending in aggression
- After the conversation, the Decoy walks away and without wavering, returns to hit the handler
- The same, but he tries to trick the dog' s vigilance through deception
- The Decoy shows aggression toward a third person, to try to provoke an untimely reaction from the dog
- The third party pretends to start a fight with the handler himself
- The Decoy acts aggressively toward the handler in a situation similar to daily life, etc.



The Judge will give a horn blast authorizing the "out" command. The dog must then guard the Decoy closely for 5 sec, after which the Judge will indicate the end of exercise, and the handler will recall the dog.



Miscellaneous points:

- At the Line of Departure (after the preparation Line), the handler commands the dog to heel.
- After this point, there may be no more communication with the dog. Handler will have seen the scenario, and received instructions during the Chein Blanc.
- Occasionally, the handler is directed by the decoy.
- Handler may be asked to carry something, move various objects, sit with other decoys, sit and then move to another location, etc.
- At no point can the handler ' re-command' the dog to stay by his or her side.
- Any repeated command will result in a zero for the exercise.
- Once the handler has been struck by the decoy, the handler must remain at least three meters away from the decoy/dog.
- On the signal from the judge (horn), handler will out the dog, who will guard for 5 seconds.
- On the next signal from the judge, the dog is recalled to the side of the handler.