

# USMRA

## Trial Procedures and Policies

**PRE TRIAL** – Submit a USMRA Trial Application at least one month prior to event. Secretary will approve the trial within one week within the stated guidelines.

- \* Clubs within 500 miles of one another may not have trials the same weekend.
- Select a judge. A list of authorized judges is available from the Secretary of USMRA.
- Select decoys with proper certification. A list of US decoys is on website.
- Order paperwork from Secretary of USMRA.
  - Trial Scoresheets for each entry
  - Trial Summary Sheet
- Submit a flyer to the Secretary for posting on USMRA website at least 4 weeks prior to the trial date. Include the names of Trial Chairperson and Trial Secretary.
- *Reminder:* Handlers must be a member of USMRA. Dog must have an authorized scorebook. Allow two (2) weeks for processing of membership and scorebook. No scorebooks or memberships will be processed day of trial.
- *Suggestion:* Provide a day of sightseeing, shopping, etc. for foreign judges.

### **TRIAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **The Competitors:**
  - \* Must be a member of USMRA – Membership card required.
  - \* Suggested dress code: No shorts, tank tops or flip flops.
  - \* Will report to the entry gate with dog on a flat collar or fursaver on deadlink.
  - \* IMPORTANT: USMRA policy forbids coaching from the sidelines. .
- **The Field:**
  - Must be fenced
  - *Only authorized field personnel will be allowed on the field during competition.* Spectators and photographers (other than a photographer designated as “official” photographer) MUST remain outside of the trial perimeters.
  - Cannot be a hard surface – no pavement, flagstone or hard ground.
  - Size of a regulation international or USMRA national trial field is approximately 40 X 60M. (5000M sq. maximum.) Field does not need to be a perfect rectangle. Club trial fields may be smaller, but must accommodate the length of the long bites (approx. 60 M)
  - Must have two entrances. One for competitors, one for decoys.
  - Six (6) blinds. One must be moveable.
  - The obstacle for the Face Attack over Obstacle exercise. See rules for specifications.
  - Jumps – Palisade, Long Jump, Hurdle.  
These are often the biggest single investment a club makes, initially. It is critical that these jumps be constructed according to the specifications, and are in good working condition. The jumps, particularly the palisade, are very time consuming to construct. Please do not leave this to the last minute.
  - Tent or other suitable place for Judge, Trial Secretary and Field personnel.
  - Blind outside of field for dog handler team (DH) to go before the Search exercise. Must provide a bowl and water in this blind.
  - No other bowls can be next to trial field to distract dog.
  - MARKING THE FIELD – The organizers are responsible for marking the field. The start line (Line of Departure) for each exercise is marked.

The two circles for the exercise Guard of an Object are marked at 2 and 5 meters. Cans of white marking paint can be purchased from Home Depot, etc. It is permissible to wait until the judge arrives to mark the field, but care must be taken to insure that there is sufficient room on the field for the long bites (thrown attacks).

o **For the Judge's Selection:**

*Accessories* – On the morning of the competition the judge will select from:

- Six (6) accessories for the protection work.
- Six (6) objects for the retrieve.
- 3-4 objects for the exercise Guard of the Object.  
(Note: The decoy should be able to pick up the object)

*Food for Food Refusal* –

- Should be different sizes, maximum the size of a fist.
- Food can be raw or cooked meat, fish, bread, cookies, etc.

*Objects made of wood* for the exercise Search for the Little Wood –

These wooden objects must be (15 X 2 X 2) cm. \*\*\*

Provide one marked little wood per each class 2 or 3 level competitor.

Place the marked woods into individual envelopes, sealed.

In class 2, there are three objects. In class 3, there are 4 objects.

Also provide a set for the Chien Blanc.

\*\*\* (dimensions are approximate; little woods may be made of round dowels.)

*Revolvers* –

Provide two revolvers with blank shot equal to 6-9mm cartridges. \*\*\*

\*\*\* (22cal. blanks are acceptable if no 6-9 mm cartridges are available.)

*2 Flags* – To mark the stopped attack.

Provide one green, and one red flag.

*Distractions* –

Provide one to two distractions for the exercise Absence of Handler.  
(to be determined by judge)

*Horn* - Club will provide the judge with a horn to start and stop exercises.

*Chien en Blanc* (Dog in White, or Test Dog)-

\*A dog is required to do all exercises in each class.

\*It may be more than one dog per level demonstrating the exercises.

\*This dog must be proficient in the exercises, and mature enough for the decoys to work at the different levels.

\*It is the Chien Blanc that demonstrates to the judge that the decoys have understood the directions, and also demonstrates to the handlers the pattern of the exercises.

\*The Chien Blanc can wear a flat collar or fursaver on a dead ring. No pinch or electronic collar may be worn. A leash is acceptable.

## **TRIAL DAY:**

### ***Official Scoresheets***

Managed by Trial Secretary.

Provided by USMRA.

Signed by judge upon completion of event.

Must be posted publicly within 15 minutes of completion of each individual routine.

### ***Deputy Judge and Field Helpers –***

The DJ must be familiar with all exercises, and will assist the judge with all aspects of the trial.

The DJ serves as a second pair of eyes, and is expected to report any irregular behavior to the judge.

The DJ escorts competitors to each exercise, and indicates the preparation line.

Two or three additional persons will be needed to provide distractions, adjust jump heights, throw food, place little woods, etc. (NOTE: the person who handles the food refusal food does not handle the little woods or the retrieve object.)

Provide beverages for the judge and field personnel to drink on the field.

Be sure to provide breaks for field personnel. They tend to get forgotten!!

### **For the Decoys:**

Provide a tent or other enclosure for the decoys to sit in during obedience exercises.

Decoys must remain at least 5M away from the field during obedience exercises.

Decoys are expected to bring their own batons, but the club should provide extras.

Decoy Books are presented to the Trial Secretary before the trial.

Trial Secretary will keep books until trial is over, at which time the Judge will sign the books for the decoys.

Provide an ice chest with water and sports drinks for the decoys to drink during the trial.

### **For the Trial Secretary:**

Most clubs use a Judge's Secretary to serve as the person that follows the judge around, recording info on scoresheets. In addition, a Table Secretary stays at the judge's table organizing each scoresheet, checking addition, and then posting each sheet as it is completed.

Provide the following:

A table and chairs, preferably some distance away from spectators.

A set of the latest Rules for Competition.

A dry erase marker board with dry erase markers.

A plastic box (Trial Box) with the following suggested items:

Pens, permanent marker

Scratch paper

Clothes pins to post trial sheets

Meter tape measure

Clipboards

Calculators (2)  
For the Trial Secretary, continued:

Paper clips  
Index cards to use for marking draws.  
Gallon sized ziplock bags for paperwork in case of rain.  
Stapler  
HandiWipes for the person throwing food in Food Refusal.  
Kleenex  
Trash bags

**AFTER THE TRIAL:**

- Submit completed trial paperwork to USMRA Secretary within seven days.
- WHITE copies of scoresheets go to the Secretary, yellow to the club, and pink to the handler.
- The Trial Summary sheet must be completed on trial day in order for the judge to sign it. White copy to USMRA, yellow to judge, pink to club. Please take the time to verify that all information is on the Trial Summary sheet before returning scorebooks to the handlers.
- No scores are valid until trial paperwork is complete and the Secretary has posted the scores. USMRA Secretary must post the scores within one week of receipt of properly completed paperwork.