

# Judges' Meeting for the Association Youth Test (VJP)

Information and instruction for Test Directors / Association Judges on the preparation / judges meeting for the *Verbandjugendprüfung* (VJP) / *Wesen* (Temperament).

Dear Test Directors / Association Judges, dear friends of hunting dogs.

Let us all hope that the spring tests 2021 can take place. Certainly, some things will be different, but we must and can live with that. Thus, in most cases, the judges' meetings will not be held together for the whole test, but each group will do this individually in the field. I would like to make this document available to you, all Test Directors, Senior Judges and Association Judges for the preparation of the tests, especially for the Association Youth Tests (VJP). Here is once again a summary of the important points of the VZPO and temperament.

I have arranged this according to § of the VZPO/ temperament, leaving out the numbering of the sub-points, as these have been shortened in parts. In some cases, I have also added personal comments. If needed, however, you should then always look in the valid VZPO as of 2017. Absolutely important: Each Association Judge must be in possession of a valid VZPO as of 2017 before performing the duties of an Association Judge. I wish all good luck and good judgment when issuing the evaluation (predicates and points) and please keep in mind. **We are judging at a natural ability test and these are young dogs, and they are allowed to make a mistake from time to time.** We determine the future hunting and breeding dog with our evaluation/statement. I wish you good dogs, good hunting fields and a harmonious test.

## §1. General

The General Guidelines of the Jagdgebrauchshundverband (JGHV) apply to all tests.

An Association Youth Test (VJP) may only be held in the spring up to and including May 1, subject to state legal regulations.

## §2 Admission

The admission of dogs to the Breed Tests is governed by the bylaws and the General Guidelines of the JGHV.

## § 3. Registration for a Breed Test

The entry for a Breed Test is to be submitted by the owner or the handler of the dog in question on the **current Formblatt 1 as of 2018-2** and a photocopy of the **current pedigree**. (not a copy)

## § 4. Rights and Duties of the Organizers

The organizing clubs **must register the planned test** with the JGHV Stammbuchamt in good time before the deadline for entries, including the date and conditions, and should announce the test in the JGHV magazine.

A Test Director must be named from the current list of JGHV Judges as an Association Judge **for the subject groups to be tested in the test.**

## § 5 Verbandsrichter

Association Judges must be listed in the current JGHV Judges List. **Association Judges who are "suspended" are not allowed to judge** (see JGHV Judges List).

At least three Association Judges must be active in each Judging Group for all the work.

The Senior Judge is responsible for their group of judges. In particular, this person is responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the Test Regulations are strictly observed and interpreted in a sensible manner.

## § 6 Judges' Meeting

Before the start of each test, **a detailed judges' meeting must be held**, if possible, in the presence of the handlers.

After completion of the testing of all dogs, **a final judges' meeting must take place** if the score "excellent" (12 points) has been awarded. This must then be justified in writing by the Senior Judge of the judging group.

**Special note on this: The Test Director and the three Association Judges are solely responsible for all information on the test score sheet. (Points, observations, and comments)**

## §8 Procedural Regulations

The organizing club, together with the Test Director, is fully responsible for the proper conduct of each test.

Handlers who have a hunting license must be equipped with a shotgun and a sufficient number of cartridges at the tests and must always **carry a valid hunting license.**

## §9 Execution of the Test

Predicates and working points

The Association Judges must first determine the predicate for the work of each dog. Since the natural abilities of young dogs often show themselves differently on different occasions, **the overall impression gained, taking into account the age and training level of the dog, is decisive for the final judgment.**

**The regulations for the consistent awarding of 11 and 12 points at Association Breed Tests must be observed (see appendix).**

## §10 General Provisions

The VJP is a breed test, at which the natural hunting abilities of the young dog can be tested and judged.

### **To be determined are:**

The manner of hunting (spurlaut, sichtlaut, fraglich, stumm, waidlaut) is to be determined. Spurlaut, sichtlaut or stumm (silent) can only be judged on a hare or a fox. **A silent pursuit on the sight of other furred game is to be documented under remarks.**

The identity (chip or tattoo inspection)

**Special Note: If possible, please establish the identity of the dog prior to the test and this will only be done by the Association Judges of the relevant judging group. (Please follow the applicable Corona Regulations).**

## §11 The individual test subjects

### **Tracking**

The tracking work is tested on the track **of a hare or fox that is not or is no longer visible** to the dog. The will to track and the accuracy of the track are to be judged.

**When judging several tracks, the overall impression gained should be decisive and not the calculated average of all tracks.**

### **Use of nose**

A fine nose is most evident in the search by frequently finding game, by scenting game from a long distance, by briefly marking scented game spots, occasionally marking the **scent of small birds**, and on the track, special attention should be paid to the reaction when losing, crossing, and finding the track again.

### **Search**

In the search, the main emphasis is to be placed on the will to find. In addition, the search should be industrious, **spacious, brisk**, persistent and adapted to the terrain.

**A planned search is not yet expected at the VJP.**

### **Pointing**

The natural ability to point is demonstrated by the dog's ability to point or lie in front of game that it finds. Complete steadiness is not required. The special difficulties with game that is not sitting tight are to be taken into appropriate consideration. Dogs that are found to be blinking cannot pass the test. Pointing on furred or feathered game is to be judged equally. Pointing on **the scent of small birds** may be included in the evaluation in exceptional cases.

### **Cooperation and Obedience**

Cooperation is the dog's effort to maintain contact with its handler. It is demonstrated, among other things, by the way in which the dog seeks eye contact with the handler when being leashed and unleashed, during the search and when pointing, and by the way in which the dog always seeks to maintain contact with the handler, even at greater distances.

**Obedience** is tested during the entire test. It is evaluated with a single predicate (very good, good, sufficient, insufficient), without awarding working points. Obedience is demonstrated by the dog's ability to be handled during its work and by the dog's ability to follow the command given by its handler (whistle and/or voice command). **Obedience on contact with game is not required.** Dogs that receive "not sufficient" because they constantly evade the handler's influence, make their own testing impossible and thus under certain circumstances disrupt the execution of the entire test, cannot pass and are to be excluded from further testing.

**Special note:** Obedience on game contact is not required. The term "contact with game" refers to both visible and also to game that is sensed with its nose or by sound.

## Testing Gun Sensitivity

**Special note on this:** If possible, the gun stability test should be carried out in the morning during the first or second search. The testing of the gun stability should always be done during the search. The subjects "Gun stability" and "Search" are judged at this time.

For the testing of gun stability, the handler must fire at least 2 shots with a time interval of at least 20 seconds during his dog's search and within the dog's vicinity (shotgun distance). If the dog's behavior cannot be assessed with certainty, the test of gun stability is to be repeated after 30 minutes at the earliest.

During the test of gun stability in the field, the reaction to the shot can be expressed in different ways (positive/negative). When assessing gun stability, a distinction is made between:

- Gun stable
- Mildly gun sensitive
- Gun sensitive
- Strongly gun sensitive
- Gun shy

**Dogs that are overly sensitive and shy cannot pass the test. However, they should be tested in the interest of the breed.**

If the dog does not separate from the handler at the sight of the gun, or does not separate far enough (shot distance), the dog is considered "not tested". **The same applies to dogs that refuse to continue working after the first shot without showing any signs of anxiety. In these cases the dog cannot pass the test.**

**A repetition of the test of gun stability is not permitted once the behavior has been clearly demonstrated.**

**Special note on this:** Repeating the test is only allowed in case of doubt and after 30 minutes at the earliest, in which case all previous scores will no longer be taken into account.

## **Appendix to the VZPO/VGPO/VPSO on the determination of temperament during the testing process**

In addition to the determination of the natural abilities and performance of our hunting dogs, the recognition and documentation of temperament and behavioral characteristics is of the utmost importance, especially for the breeding of high performance and temperamentally stable hunting dogs. Association Judges have a great responsibility in this regard. The following definitions are to be considered and applied in the evaluation of temperament and behavior.

The character and behavior of the dogs must be observed as comprehensively as possible during the entire test, recorded, and noted on the test score sheet.

This applies to the checking of the chip/tattoo number, as well as to the examination of physical defects (bite, eyes, testicles, and other serious physical defects), as well as during the entire course of the test.

All forms of fear, jumpiness, or aggressiveness towards people and dogs, as well as nervousness or excessive passion, but also apathy, must be noted. On the other hand, all positive behavioral findings such as calmness, even-temperament, self-confidence, and social compatibility should also be noted.

**Dogs that cannot be examined for physical defects due to fearfulness, aggressiveness, etc., as well as hand-shy and game-shy dogs cannot pass the test. However, in the interest of the breed, they must be tested except for the water work. Aggressive dogs may be eliminated from further testing.**

**Special note on this: The determination of the dog's temperament must take place during the entire test. The observations on temperament as well as the documentation describe the positive as well as the negative behavior of the dog. Let us all remember that we are judging young dogs at the VJP, which we are to handle accordingly, always with the idea of highlighting the future hunting and breeding dog. The determination of the dog's temperament should not lead to a search for negative characteristics in the dog.**

The following observations on temperament are noted in detail on the test score sheet, whereby multiple entries for a more precise description are possible and necessary:

### **Temperament**

- a) impassive/phlegmatic
- b) calm/even-tempered
- c) lively/spirited
- d) restless/nervous, over-passionate

### **Self-confident**

- e) self-confident
- f) jumpy/insecure
- g) fearful

### **Compatibility**

- h) socially compatible
- i) aggressive toward humans
- j) aggressive toward other dogs

### **Other**

- k) hand-shy
- l) game-shy

**Finally, here is a summary of when dogs cannot pass the VJP, which we all hope will be few and far between.**

- **Dogs can only pass the test if they have achieved at least sufficient (3 points) in all subjects (working points)**
- **Dogs that receive "not sufficient" because they constantly evade the influence of the handler, make their own testing impossible and thus possibly disrupt the performance of the entire test, cannot pass and are to be disqualified from further testing.**
- **Dogs that are overly sensitive to gunfire and gun shy cannot pass the test. However, they are to be tested in the interest of breeding.**
- **Dogs that cannot be examined for physical defects due to fearfulness, aggressiveness, etc., as well as hand-shy and game-shy dogs cannot pass the test. However, in the interest of breeding, they must be tested except for the water work. Aggressive dogs may be disqualified from further testing.**

**I hope that this brief guide will be helpful to all of you in your preparation, at the judges' meeting and also when judging in the field, and I wish all of you much success and harmonious testing days. Important: This short guide does not replace the possession of a VZPO.**

Waidmannsheil  
J. Westermann, JGHV Director of Testing

# Rules for the uniform rewarding of 11 and 12 points at Association Breed Tests.

The purpose of the 12-point system is to achieve a meaningful, credible test result by means of a differentiated evaluation which is as uniform as possible, and to highlight the dogs which are **particularly promising** for breeding. The predicates "excellent" (= 12 points) and 11 points in the predicate range "very good", which are important for breeding and hereditary value, may only be awarded **for truly outstanding or above average** "very good" natural abilities in the sense of the VZPO and in the sense of breeding and hereditary value.

The predicate "excellent" 12 points may only be awarded if, additionally, at least one further performance in the range of "very good" with at least 10 points has been achieved. If the dog shows one or more performances with a lower score in the course of the test before or after, 12 points may not be awarded.

"Very good" is divided into three levels, with 10 points fully corresponding to the requirements described in these test regulations for the individual subjects. If 11 points are awarded, a dog **must show behavior that exceeds the required level**.

For this, the dog must have shown at least one more performance rated "very good" at this test. If the dog is rated less than "very good" on another occasion during the course of the test, it may not receive 11 points.

Upgrading a performance that has been assessed with 10 points several times to 11 points is not permitted.

## Tracking work

### **Tracking work: Score "excellent" = 12 points**

12 points may only be awarded if a dog works a track, which is difficult due to the circumstances (e.g. dryness, strong wind, uncovered ground, paths, ditches), taking into account the time spent standing, in a concentrated manner over a length matching the difficulties, and confirms this work at least once more with a track that is evaluated with 10 or more points. If in the course of the test scoreable track work is evaluated with less than 10 points, the awarding of 12 points is not possible.

### **Tracking work: Score "very good" = 11 points**

11 points may only be awarded for truly concentrated tracking work, characterized by willingness and accuracy in tracking, over varying ground conditions, the length of which must be adapted to the difficulties encountered. The awarding of 11 points requires the confirmation of this above-average ability by at least one further tracking performance which is not judged under the predicate "very good". Lower scores in the course of the test preclude the awarding of 11 points.

## **Use of nose**

**Use of nose: Score "excellent" = 12 points.**

12 points may only be awarded for exceptional, outstanding use of nose. Scenting different game species, birds, old tracks, etc. from a great distance can give valuable clues for this. The dog must demonstrate its excellent use of nose several times.

**Use of nose: Rating "very good" = 11 points**

11 points may only be awarded if the dog has shown convincing use of nose several times in the field.

## **Search**

**Search: Score "very good" = 11 points.**

11 points may only be awarded if the dog searches diligently, with composure and perseverance and expressively shows above all that it wants to find game. The dog must show this ability consistently in several searches, also over an appropriate period of time.

## **Pointing**

**Pointing: Score "very good" = 11 points**

Pointing is scored as very good (10 points) if the dog points every piece of game (feathered game, hare) that is detected with its nose. Only in the case of special difficulties on game that is not tightly sitting, when the dog pins the game by moving from a distance and re-locating, is the pointing to be given a higher score (11 points).

The dog must confirm this higher score with "very good" at least once. If the dog is judged with less than "very good" on another occasion during the test, it may not receive 11 points.

## **Cooperation**

**Cooperation: Score "very good" = 11 points.**

11 points may only be awarded if the dog consistently maintains very good contact with its handler during all field searches, even at greater distances, and thereby demonstrates all the positive characteristics of cooperation.

(Translation: Ken Bremer)