

Latest News from the JGHV Director of Testing

Dear friends of the hunting dog,

- The Verbandsstöberprüfung (VStPO) is valid until 31.01.2025,
- The Association Blood Tracking Test (VSwPO) and the Association Tracking Shoe Test (VFsPO) are valid until 30.11.2026,
- The Association Breed Tests (VZPO) are valid until 31.12.2027,
- The Association Utility Test (VGPO) and the Association Test after the Shot (VPSO) are valid until 31.12.2027,

... and this will remain so unless the legal requirements of the federal government or the states require a change.

Of course, everyone has the right to free expression of opinion and can also submit requests for changes or additions at any time to the JGHV, or to me. But if you expect me, as the Director of Testing, to change the test regulations of the JGHV as quickly as possible, you are on the wrong track!

Sure, not everything is set in stone, and everyone can think about changes and improvements, but everything in its time and according to the established rules of the JGHV. Thus, no premature change requests/additions should appear in club newsletters and upset a host of dog handlers and Association Judges.

We are, I repeat, open to any expression of opinion / requests for change / additions, but these should be reasonable and always in the service of hunting and for the good of our game.

We do all this for the hunt!

What does this mean? We breed, we train dogs and handle them at the tests in order to provide trained dogs for the hunt. This is not sport and not a fight for high predicates/scores, or to obtain data for breeding value estimates but is based on our commitment to breed quality hunting dogs for the hunt and thus to safeguard hunting as a whole.

At present, I am receiving suggestions and proposals for changes to the individual test regulations, and in the case of some demands for changes to the test regulations, I am already asking myself the question: Is this still actual hunting practice?

Unfortunately, the demands are often far removed from hunting practice and the principle of the trained hunting dog.

If I, or rather the JGHV, would react to every suggested change or addition to the test regulations that reach me in the course of the year, all the regulations would or would

have to be amended at every Annual Meeting and again every year.

We certainly have to adapt to changes in our hunting, but in a thoughtful way, always in the service of the hunt and our game. Predicates/points or breeding value estimates are not the priority and do not help our game, but only ethical and sportsmanlike hunting and a trained hunting dog.

The JGHV is open to every reasonable change/addition, and everybody can submit his/her changes/additions to me, but this does not mean that the respective Test Regulations will be changed immediately and the JGHV will make changes on demand. Decisions stand and should not be permanently questioned.

Each amendment to a test regulation goes through the prescribed path. Each amendment also requires intensive training of the Association Judges. Test regulations can only be made at the request of the Executive Board or the member clubs, which have the respective authority to do so, and can be changed following a decision of the Annual Meeting of the Association.

With every change the priority must always be: Our game must never suffer as a result of our demands.

Josef Westermann

***Obmann für das Prüfungswesen im Jagdgebrauchshundverband e.V.
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