



## **WORKING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM RULES**

Revised by CCRCA Field Committee

November 28, 2001

Approved by CCRCA BOD

June 29, 2002

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Curly-Coated Retriever working certificate program is to foster and encourage the natural retrieving abilities of the breed. It is designed to prove effective use of nose, marking ability, swimming, perseverance and the ability to work with the handler.

The Working Certificate test (hereafter WC) shall consist of simple land and water tests, which will allow the basic natural ability of the Curly to be ascertained. The Working Certificate Excellent test (hereafter WCX) will test to a somewhat higher level of difficulty. The Working Certificate Qualified (hereafter WCQ) will not only test marking at the level expected of a finished dog, but also the ability to handle so as to determine trainability.

To qualify for a certificate, all the required tests must be passed at the same series of tests. Birds that may be used include grouse, pheasant, quail, duck, chukar partridges, and pigeon. Handlers will be notified in advance, as to which birds will be used. All dead birds used will be freshly killed. Bitches in season are eligible to run only after all other dogs have completed the series, in the meantime they must be kept off the test site and away from the other dogs. The word "dog" throughout this document will refer to either sex.

# Requirements

## A. WC

1. The land test, a single, shall consist of a freshly killed bird thrown 40 to 50 yards from the line in light to moderate cover. The throw shall be accompanied by a shotgun shot, either live shells or blanks. The dog need not be steady and may be restrained.
2. The water test shall consist of back-to-back singles, using ducks in open swimming water. The first bird shall be thrown 25 to 35 yards from the line, accompanied by a shotgun shot. The bird must be visible from the line when in the water. The second retrieve will have the same requirements as the first except it must land approximately 60 degrees or more from the first retrieve and be in light cover. The line may be moved so that the fall will be in a different area from the first retrieve.
3. For both the land and water tests, it is not necessary for the dog to be steady and return the bird to hand. However, the bird must be delivered across the line to within an approximate five-foot radius of the handler. The judges should look for evidence of severe gun shyness; that is any attempt to bolt away at the sound of the shot so that the dog has to be restrained.
4. For both land and water tests all Guns shall be plainly visible to the dog from the line and shall not retire after firing.
5. If, in the opinion of the judges, the dog did not have a reasonable chance to mark the fall or was confused for the reasons beyond its control, the test may be repeated or the dog recalled to the line by the handler and resent without penalty.

## B. WCX

1. The land test shall consist of one double mark on land. One bird shall be thrown approximately 50 yards off the line; the second may be up to 100 yards from the line. One bird shall be a shot flyer. The birds must land in light to moderate cover approximately 60 to 90 degrees apart. The dog may not be physically restrained at the line. A shotgun shot will accompany the fall of each bird.
2. The water test will also consist of a double mark. It will utilize ducks, one thrown approximately 50 yards from the line, the second not over 100 yards. The birds must land approximately 60 to 90 degrees from each other, and at least one downed bird should not be visible from the line. As in the WC, a shotgun shot must accompany the fall of each bird. When circumstances allow, it is recommended that one bird in the water test shall be a shot flyer.
3. In both land and water tests. The dog must be steady and deliver to hand, but is not required to sit or heel before doing so. A controlled break shall be considered a minor fault, not by itself grounds for the disqualification of a dog being tested.
4. The test should not be set up so that handling to the bird will be necessary, although a limited amount of handling will not alone be considered grounds for failing a test.

5. For both land and water tests all Guns shall be plainly visible to the dog from the line and shall not retire after firing.
6. Decoys shall be used in at least one test (normally, the water test).

### **C. WCQ**

1. The land test shall be a triple mark in moderate to heavy cover with falls of up to 120 yards. One of the birds shall be a shot flyer. A shotgun shot or shots will accompany each fall. The test will involve changes of cover, terrain, or other barriers.
2. The water test shall be a double mark in light to moderate cover utilizing ducks. The downed birds shall not be visible from the line. Falls may be up to 100 yards from the line and preferably of different lengths. A significant portion, but not all of either mark, needs to be through water. This test should include changes of terrain, cover, or other barriers, and the angle of the falls shall be sufficiently tight to provide some temptation to switch or go back to re-hunt the first fall after having retrieved that bird. A shotgun shot or shots shall accompany the throwing of each bird.
3. For both the land and water retrieves all Guns shall be plainly visible to the dog from the line.
4. Dogs must be steady and deliver to hand. Severe bank running or serious cheating on cover will be considered grounds for failing a test.
5. Dogs shall be required to honor while another dog is sent on one set of marks. The honoring dog will remain where indicated by the judges until the working dog has left the line and/or until released by the judges. It is permissible to speak to the honoring dog as long as it does not interfere with the working dog. A dog whose failure to honor interferes with the running dog shall be disqualified.
6. The land blind shall be a planted bird up to 100 yards from the line in light cover, or up to 75 yards in moderate cover. The blind shall be placed so that it cannot be readily winded until the dog has approached the vicinity and gone nearly the full distance to the bird. Whistle and hand signals and such commands as "over" and "back" may be used to direct the dog to the bird. Dogs should look, but need not sit on whistle; repeated refusals to handle or respond to whistle shall be deemed grounds for failing the test. Dogs will be expected to take a line from the handler and carry it a considerable distance. If early correction of the line is necessary, then the dog should carry the secondary line a considerable distance. Failure to do so, with the result that the dog must be handled excessively, shall also be deemed grounds for failure.
7. The water blind will be a planted bird up to 100 yards from the line in light to moderate cover. It need not be in the water, but a good portion of the route to the bird must be through swimming water. Other requirements are the same as to the land blind. One of the blinds, either land or water, shall be in the vicinity of earlier marking tests, so as to create some confusion or distraction for the dogs to cope with.

## **D. Disqualifications**

1. Sending the dog before the judge's signal or an uncontrolled break.
2. Refusal to pick up the bird or dropping and leaving the bird before returning across the line to within a five-foot radius of the handler. Dropping the bird while the dog is adjusting its hold is not grounds for disqualification.
3. For the WCX or WCQ not delivering the bird to hand.
4. Flagrant refusal to enter water, cover, mud, or other unpleasant or difficult terrain if the dog must do so to return the bird expeditiously. However, a dog which bank runs or avoids cover on the WC or WCX tests will not be disqualified so long as it completes the retriever in satisfactory fashion.
5. Unwillingness to deliver the bird to the handler or refusal to release the bird to the handler.
6. Evidence of hard mouth, that is, badly damaging the bird, making it unfit for the table.
7. Manhandling or abuse of the dog by the handler, either on or off the line.
8. Severe gun shyness.
9. For the WCX or WCQ, after finding the bird, switching and picking up another bird.
10. Clear failure to mark at least the vicinity of a fall, which the dog had reasonable opportunity to mark.
11. Serious displays of meanness, such as unprovoked attacking of another dog in the blind or en route to or from the line and/or snapping at judges or others near the test area, shall be considered grounds for disqualification.
12. A minor fault repeated shall be treated as major and either it or an accumulation of different minor faults shall, if deemed excessive by the judges, be grounds for disqualification.

## **E. Judges / Judges Guidelines**

1. There shall be two judges for each set of tests.
2. The combined experience of a set of two judges shall include at least three AKC licensed retriever field trials or three AKC, HRC (UKC), or NAHRA licensed hunting retriever tests or any three of these in combination.
3. At least one of the judges shall have qualified a dog in the same or similar test; i.e., tests including the same or greater elements as the level of test to be judged. This includes, but not limited to, qualifying a dog in other retriever breed's Working Certificate tests, AKC Hunting Tests, NAHRA Field Tests, HRC/UKC Hunt Tests and AKC Field Trials.

4. Judges should be mailed the requirements of the various working dog certificates at least two weeks before the test.
5. Upon completion of the tests, both judges shall complete and sign the Verification Form for the test, marking pass or fail, and give this completed form to the owner or handler at events not sponsored by the CCRCA.

## **F. Eligibility**

1. Any Curly-Coated Retriever six months of age or older and registered with the AKC, UKC, FDSB, or CKC or any other foreign kennel club maintaining a national registry shall be eligible to participate in the CCRCA working certificate tests. The test organizers shall have the option of opening the tests to other retrievers; time allowing and assuming the tests meet that breed's parent club's standards for such tests. The CCRCA shall not issue certificates to any breed other than Curly-Coated Retrievers.
2. In addition, any Curly-Coated Retriever that meets one of the above requirements of registration may earn a CCRCA Working Certificate by successfully completing any working test held by the breed clubs of other retriever breeds or of Irish Water Spaniels, so long as the tests meet the minimum requirements for the appropriate working certificate of the CCRCA.
3. Any qualifying score at an AKC licensed Junior Hunting stake, or an HRC Started stake, or NAHRA Started stake will qualify a dog for a WC title.
4. Any qualifying score at a licensed Senior stake or HRC Seasoned stake or NAHRA Intermediate stake, or completion of a Derby stake at an AKC sanctioned or licensed trial, will qualify a dog for a WCX title.
5. Any qualifying score at an AKC licensed Master stake or HRC Finished stake or NAHRA Senior stake, or completion of a Qualifying, Amateur, or Open stake at an AKC sanctioned or licensed trial, will qualify a dog for the WCQ title.

## **G. Administration**

1. Working Certificate Application and Emergency Plan forms shall be obtained by the Event Secretary of a CCRCA sponsored working certificate test from the Field Committee Chairman of the CCRCA. The CCRCA WC Event Secretary is responsible for sending the completed Working Certificate Application and Emergency Plan Forms to the Field Committee Chairman.
2. It shall be the Event secretary's responsibility to make and deliver a record of the dogs entered and results of the event for a CCRCA sponsored event to the Field Committee Chairman.
3. In cases where the dog meets requirements for a working certificate at a non-CCRCA sponsored event, the owner or handler is responsible for obtaining the Verification Form from the Field Committee Chairman. The owner or handler is responsible for sending the completed Verification Form signed and marked by the judges to the Field Committee Chairman.

4. It is the responsibility the owner or handler to make a Photo static copy of the form completed by the judges, if he or she desires one.
5. If a Curly-Coat dog owned by a non-CCRCA member has qualified for a certificate, a fee of Five Dollars shall be charged for processing of the forms and issuance of the certificate. For dogs owned by CCRCA members there shall be no fees.
6. Upon receipt of the completed forms verifying that the dog has passed, and any required fees, the Field Committee Chairman of the CCRCA shall issue the appropriate CCRCA Working Certificate.
7. The Field Committee Chairman shall biannually forward to the CCRCA Corresponding Secretary a list of those Curly-Coated Retrievers issued WC, WCX, WCQ Certificates.
8. The receipt of a certificate entitles the owner to indicate his or her dog's achievement by including the letters WC and/or WCX and/or WCQ after the dog's name in documents other than those considered "official" by the AKC or other registries.

## **H. Glossary**

1. Retrieve: A dog shall proceed quickly and eagerly on land or into the water to the birds, and return promptly with the bird to the handler.
2. Marked Fall: Birds that the dog has clearly seen.
3. Steady: The dog that waits quietly beside its handler and does not retrieve until commanded to do so.
4. Break: The dog makes a movement indicating a deliberate intent to retrieve without having been ordered by its handler and does not return to the handler's side when ordered to return.
5. Controlled Break: A dog makes an attempt to retrieve and is quickly brought back to the handler's side.
6. Blind Retrieve: The dog is directed by its handler to retrieve a bird that it has not seen fall. Hand signals, voice, and whistles are used to guide the dog to the bird.
7. Honor: The dog must watch another dog retrieve its marked falls.
8. Gallery: The spectators observing the WC test which shall remain far enough from the retrieving line so they do not interfere with the judges, handler or dog ability to see its handler while out in the field
9. Retrieving Line: The area that the judges, handler and dog work out of.

Committee Members:

Buck Buchanan

Kyle Krump

Mary Ann Minner, Chair

Sue Shaw

Ann Shinkle

Mary Veitch

Kathy Kail, Chair Emeritus

Working Certificate Program Rules revised November 28, 2001;  
Approved by CCRCA BOD 06/29/2002



# Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America, Inc.

## WORKING CERTIFICATE VERIFICATION FORM

(Please Print)

Registered Name of Dog	
AKC Reg#	
Date of Birth	
Sex	
Owner's Name(s)	

### Has at this time & location

Test Level:	Test Date	
<input type="checkbox"/> Working Certificate (WC)	Organization Offering Test	
<input type="checkbox"/> WC Excellent (WCX)	Test Location	
<input type="checkbox"/> WC Qualified (WCQ)		

### PASSED the test indicated above

In accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America to the satisfaction on the undersigned:	
Judge's printed name	
Judge's signature	
Judge's printed name	
Judge's signature	
Test/Trial Secretary signature	

This completed form should be mailed to the CCRCA Field Chairman.

Mary Ann Minner  
 308 River St  
 Olyphant, PA 18447  
[maryann\\_minner@cable.comcast.com](mailto:maryann_minner@cable.comcast.com)

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# Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America, Inc.

## APPLICATION FOR SANCTIONED WORKING CERTIFICATE TEST

Name of club, event secretary and complete address and telephone number

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Exact location of tests

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Name, address and telephone number of landowner:

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Date and time of tests

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Will test day entries be accepted?

Will the test be open to other breeds?

Type of game birds used:

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Have necessary federal/state permits been obtained?

Please print judges names, addresses, and telephone numbers. list judges qualifications and tests to be judged:

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Date in:

Processed by:

Date out:

This completed form should be mailed to the CCRCA Field Chairman.

Mary Ann Minner

308 River St

Olyphant, PA 18447

[maryann\\_minner@cable.comcast.com](mailto:maryann_minner@cable.comcast.com)

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# Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America, Inc.

## WORKING CERTIFICATE TESTS EMERGENCY PLAN

Name of emergency coordinator on test day

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### EMERGENCY COORDINATOR MUST HAVE A WORKING CELLPHONE

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Name, address and telephone number of nearest hospital:

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Name, address and telephone number of nearest veterinary hospital:

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Name, address and telephone number of nearest police or ambulance service:

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