



NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB OF CANADA

Philosophy of the National Retriever Trial

Retriever trials, in the beginning, involved smaller numbers of dogs and less demanding tests. As years went by, the pressures of time, numbers and competition created a necessity for relatively quick elimination. Dogs whose performances, on that day, were of a high standard indeed won the ultimate placings. Good dogs, by virtue of a single inferior performance, might of necessity be dropped from the competition. Running parallel to this problem was the spirit of competition among owners and handlers, which urged for a competition, which would declare an annual winner among winners - a National Champion for all Canada.

The passing of time has seen many changes in the National, and many differences of opinion have developed regarding the staging of the trial and the standards that should apply to the actual competition. Certain basic standards have become established. They are:

1. The National Stake should comprise ten separate and distinct tests: five on land and five on water.
2. It should be run over a period of five to 7 days.
3. It should be run alternatively, in the various geographical areas defined by the club.
4. The Field Trial Committee should represent, if possible, all geographical areas.
5. There should be three judges, one from the host zone and 2 from the zone not scheduled to host the National, regardless of where the trial is actually held.
6. Judges shall be amateurs whose experience in judging and handling dogs qualify them for the task.
7. The CKC. Field Trial Rules and Regulations will apply, and special attention will be given to "On the Grounds Behavior and Conduct", for this is the "show place" of Canadian Retrievers.
8. Whereas the present "host club" method of operating the trial is most practical at this time, it may become desirable to work towards the operation of the trial by a National Committee. Location of the trial should recognize the excellence of an area for promotion and operation of the best trial.
9. The "Stake" should be recognized as The National Competition, a competition among champions, all of which have passed the qualifying tests. It should be appreciated that the minimum number of tests, over a period of 5 or more days, gives the opportunity of a broad testing of dogs in many circumstances, including terrain, weather, prolonged competition, and by three judges, each from a different geographical area.
10. Much discussion and some controversy has taken place regarding elimination of dogs, and it is a fact that on occasion dogs have been eliminated early in the trial for faults no more serious than those committed later on in the trial by dogs permitted to complete all tests. It



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should be agreed that the National Stake is to select the best dog of those having completed all tests, over the five to seven days of the trial. Careful consideration should be given, therefore, to elimination of dogs early in the trial, for who knows what tomorrow may bring to the survivors? At the same time, it should be agreed that "Open" All-Age" standards must be met and time must always be considered in order to be practical in ensuring that the trial is completed in the time set aside for the trial. In any event, elimination before completion of two or three tests should be considered undesirable except for failure to complete all retrieves or for some other most serious fault, which causes virtually automatic elimination.

11. It is an honour to be a finalist in the National Stake and finalists include the dogs completing the 10th series without an eliminating fault.