

**THE NATIONAL GERMAN SHEPHERD WORKING
DOG ASSOCIATION LIMITED – GSA IRELAND LTD.**

**COMPANION - TRAFFIC STEADY DOG DEGREE
BEGLEITHUNDE - BH**

Dogs of all sizes and breeds are eligible to participate in the traffic-steady Companion Dog Test as defined in the International Programme. The minimum age for entry into this basic beginner's category examination is 16 months.

There will be no final point score announced at the end of the obedience phase of the trial, but rather an overall evaluation by the judge of whether or not the handler and dog has passed with sufficient points. A passing score of 70% of the allocated points is required before the team is allowed to continue in part 'B' of the trial. It is entirely up to the discretion of the judge whether to pass or fail a dog in part 'B'.

The awarded title (BH) has no bearing whatsoever on the individual regulations of the various breed organisations regarding standards and other rules such as Breed Show or other exhibition requirements, and Breed Survey.

There is no waiting period required before the BH test may be repeated, but not at the same trial. Example:

If a dog does not pass the BH test on Saturday, it may not compete for the BH title at the same trial on Sunday!

The BH is a prerequisite for entry into all International and Domestic trial programmes.

SCHUTZHUND/VPG/IPO 1 - 3 HEELING PATTERN DIAGRAM

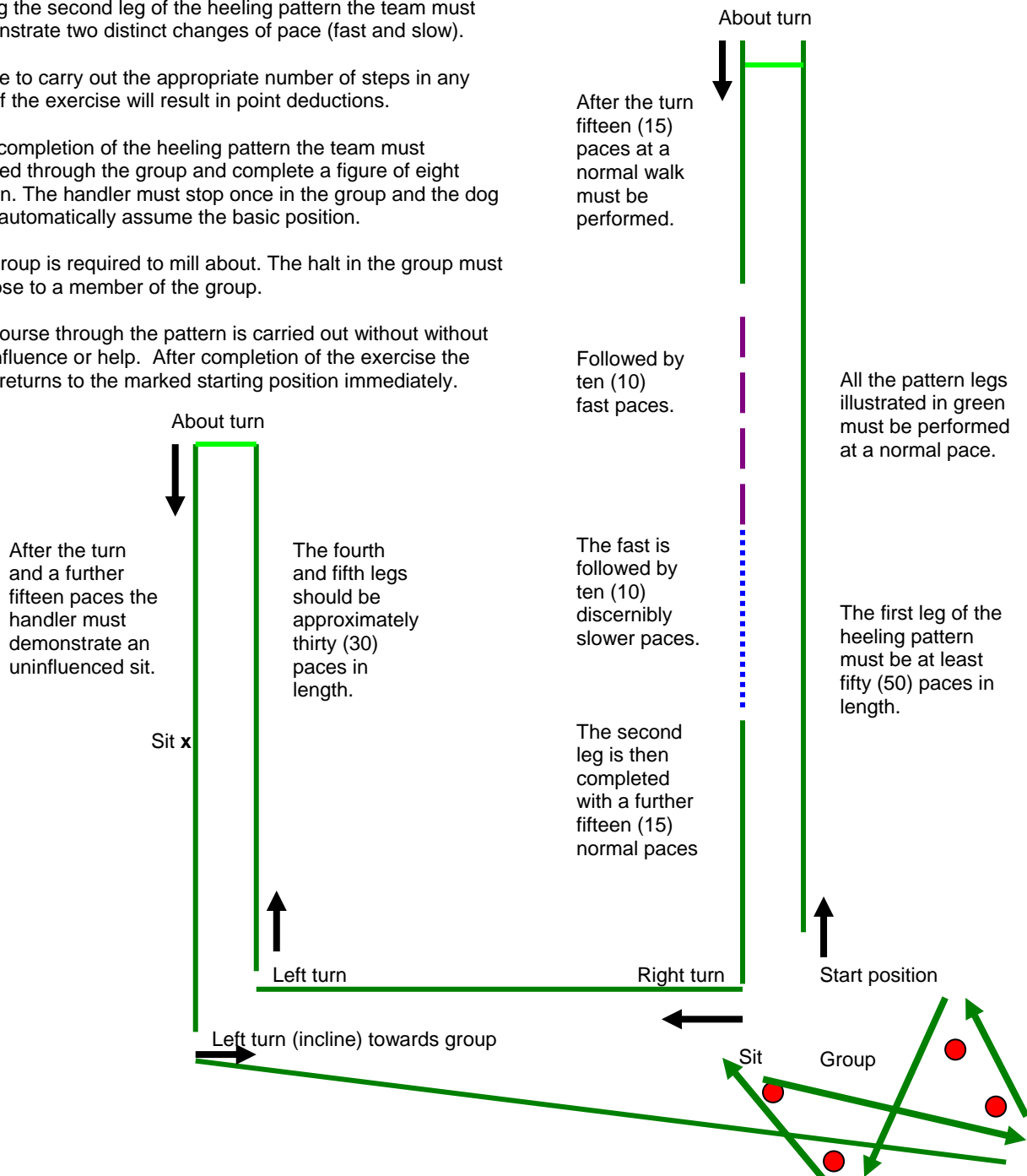
During the second leg of the heeling pattern the team must demonstrate two distinct changes of pace (fast and slow).

Failure to carry out the appropriate number of steps in any part of the exercise will result in point deductions.

After completion of the heeling pattern the team must proceed through the group and complete a figure of eight pattern. The handler must stop once in the group and the dog must automatically assume the basic position.

The group is required to mill about. The halt in the group must be close to a member of the group.

The course through the pattern is carried out without without any influence or help. After completion of the exercise the team returns to the marked starting position immediately.



Part A – Obedience.

Companion Dog Exercises. To be carried out on either a training field or in a natural environment – 60 points maximum. (70% must be earned for a passing score).

Exercise 1. Heeling on Lead – 15 Points

Voice command: "fuss"/"heel"

The dog on lead and upon command should follow willingly on the left hand side of the handler. The dog's shoulder blade should always be in the vicinity of the handler's left knee. The dog should not forge ahead or move to the side. The exercise is to be demonstrated in a normal, a slow and a running pace. At the beginning, the dog and handler must precede at least 50 paces straight ahead and then return to the starting place. In a normal walking pace, at least one right turn, one left turn and one about-turn must be demonstrated. The about turn must be executed with a left hand turn by the handler. The handler is permitted to give the command "heel" only when starting or changing pace. Whenever the handler comes to a halt, the dog should immediately come to a sit position. The handler is not permitted to change the basic position by stepping toward the dog. The leash should be held in the left hand and should be hanging loosely during the entire exercise. The judge will advise the handler when to proceed through a group of at least four people. The group should be milling around. One halt or stop is required in the group. Forging ahead, lagging behind as well as moving sideways by the dog is considered faulty and will result in point deductions.

Exercise 2. Heeling off lead – 15 Points

Voice Command: "fuss"/"heel"

The judge will advise the handler to remove the leash from the dog while the dog and handler are in the basic position. The handler will either hang the leash over the shoulder or place it in a pocket. The handler and dog will proceed directly into the group and demonstrate the group exercise as in exercise number 1. At least one halt in the group must be performed.

After the completion of the group exercise, the handler and dog will proceed to the starting point and demonstrate the heeling as in exercise number 1.

Exercise 3. Sit in Motion – 10 points

Voice command: "sitz"/"sit"

From the basic heeling position, the handler and free-heeling dog will proceed in a straight line. After at least 10 paces, upon a voice command, the dog should sit quickly while the handler proceeds in a normal pace for approximately 30 more paces and turns around to face the dog. After about one minute and upon direction from the judge, the handler will return to the right hand side of the dog. The dog should remain in the sit position until the handler returns. Should the dog lie down or remain standing instead of performing the sit exercise, up to 5 points will be deducted.

10 – 15 paces normal. "Sit" Minimum of 30 normal paces.
Basic position.....X.....Stop

Exercise 4. Down with Recall – 10 Points

Voice commands: "platz"/"down", "hier"/"come", "fuss"/"heel"

From the basic heeling position, the handler and free-heeling dog will proceed in a straight line. After at least 10 paces, upon a voice command, the dog should lay down quickly. Without additionally influencing the dog, the handler proceeds in a normal pace for approximately 20 more paces and turns around to face the dog. When advised by the judge, the handler will call the dog in. The dog should come fast and willingly and sit close in front of the handler. When given the command to "fuss"/"heel", the dog should quickly go the basic position.

10 – 15 paces normal. "Down". Minimum of 30 normal paces.
Basic position.....X.....Stop

Exercise 5. Long down under distraction – 10 Points

Voice commands: "platz"/"down", "sitz"/"sit"

Prior to the start of the obedience exercises of another dog, the handler commands the dog into a down position at a spot designated by the judge. The handler moves approximately 40 paces away within sight of the dog without leaving the leash or other object with the dog. The handler remains quietly with his back to the dog. The dog must remain in the down position without additional influence from the handler until the other exhibiting dog has concluded exercises 1 through 4. After completion of exercise 4 and upon direction of the judge, the dog in the down position will be picked up.

Scoring:

The handler must remain motionless in the designated spot within the trial grounds with his/her back to the dog until the judge requests the handler to pick up the dog. Restless behaviour by the handler as well as other hidden help or the dog getting up prematurely during the pickup is faulty.

If the dog stands or sits up, but remains on the designated spot, a partial score is in order. Should the dog move more than 3 meters prior to the conclusion of exercise 2 of the other dog, the exercise shall be scored zero. Should the dog leave the designated spot after exercise 2, a partial score is in order. Should the dog meet the handler during the pickup exercise, a deduction of up to 3 points is in order.

A minimum of 42 points is required in Part 'A' to allow the team to proceed to Part 'B'.

Part B – Testing in Traffic

General

The exercise shall be carried out in a public traffic-area (streets, roads or public-areas) with moderate traffic. The safety of the dogs and handlers, however, is paramount and the general public may not be interfered with nor inconvenienced. This part of the BH test may also be done at the club training grounds under simulated conditions as per the exercises, at the discretion of the judge. Only the dog being tested, his handler, the judge, and possibly also the trial secretary will be involved at any time, unless the judge requests otherwise. All the other handlers will remain waiting "on call", at the judge's discretion, with their dogs off to the side in a suitable location.

This portion of the BH test, because of its own peculiarities, requires a considerable expenditure of time.

The performance requirements may not be compromised by the superficial inspection of many dogs. Therefore a maximum of 24 dogs (exclusively for BH) may be judged on any one trial day, in accordance with the general rules.

Point scores are not given out for the individual exercises in part 'B'. To pass this part of the trial, the overall impression of the dog moving about in traffic is the determining factor.

TESTING PROCEDURE

Controllability and behaviour in the street traffic

On the judge's signal, the handler proceeds with his/her dog on lead in the area designated by the judge. The judge follows the handler at a reasonable distance.

The dog should willingly follow, on a loose head, at the handler's left side with his shoulder remaining at about the level of the knee.

The dog should behave impartially towards all pedestrians and towards the motoring traffic opposite. Along the way, the handler will be passed by a jogger at the approximate distance of 10 feet (this aspect is staged for the test).

A short time later, the handler is passed by a bicyclist who overtakes him from behind on the bicycle path or coming from the street (again staged for the test). The approach must be done so that the dog finds himself between the handler and the passing bicyclist. As the cyclist passes the dog and handler, he will ring his bicycle-bell several times or verbally apprise the handler of his position. After this the handler turns, goes to the judge, remains standing by him, greets him with a handshake, and converses with him. During all of this the dog must stand, sit or lie down, but must in any case remain calm.

Behaviour of the dog under more difficult traffic conditions

On the judge's signal, the handler will move out with his dog into the middle of heavier pedestrian traffic (this may be simulated for the test).

The handler will stop twice in the crowd. At the first stop the dog must 'sit' on command; at the second stop the handler will command the dog to 'down'. The dog should sit and down quickly at the command and remain calm. In each instance, the handler will leave briefly and go to a spot designated by the judge and out of sight of the dog.

Within this exercise, a brief period of "loitering" will be worked in, at a spot designated by the judge with unaccustomed noises, such as various voices, loud talk, or passing traffic. (Suitable locations for these exercises include: busy malls, train-station hallways, bus stations etc.; these may also be simulated at the club grounds.

Behaviour of leashed dog left alone for short period in traffic: Behaviour of dog towards other animals.

On the judge's signal the handler takes his leashed dog along the area designated by the judge. After walking a short distance, the handler stops on the judge's signal and fastens the dog's leash to a fence, a ring in a wall, or similar permanent object. The handler then goes out of sight for approximately two minutes. At the judge's discretion, the handler enters a shop, goes into a house, an entry-way or behind a stationary vehicle.

During the test the dog may sit, stand or lie down.

During the handler's absence, a passer-by (staged) with a dog on lead will pass by the leashed dog, walking parallel to it at a distance of approximately 10 feet. The left-alone dog should behave quietly during the handler's absence. The dog should allow the passer-by and his leashed dog (which must be a calm non-aggressive dog) to pass without showing dog-aggressive tendencies (lunging on his fastened leash; continuous barking).

NOTE – It is to be left up to the officiating judge, whether he will carry out the individual exercises with each dog at the anticipated location, or whether he will have the test candidates work through only one exercise at that location and then go, look for another testing place and continue the testing there.

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