

FARM DOG CERTIFICATION TESTS

Saturday, May 1, 2021

You are invited to enter AKC Farm Dog Certification Tests sponsored by Evansville Obedience Club at Winthrop Farm in Boonville, IN, on May 1, 2021! Any dog, purebred or cross breed that is at least 9 months old may participate. We offer two tests under two judges (Margie Clutter and Mary Walker); if your dog qualifies on both tests, we will provide paperwork for you to submit to AKC and your dog can earn the Farm Dog Certified (FDC) title! Full explanation of the test elements can be found on the AKC website: <https://www.akc.org/sports/herding/farm-dog-certified-test/>

Dogs are on leash at all times, and neither dog nor handler will ever be in with any livestock. The dog can show interest in the stock as they walk by penned sheep or ducks, but must walk on a loose leash and be obedient to the handler while accompanying the judge through the course.

The tests will start at 8:00 am, rain or shine. Due to COVID-19 precautions mandated by AKC and the State of Indiana, we will be scheduling dogs to come for their tests in 20 minute time frames. Once you and your dog have tested under both judges, you will be excused from the premises to maintain a minimum number of people on the property at a time. Please bring your own crates or plan on leaving your dog in your vehicle when not testing. Bring water for your dog, and a chair for yourself. Check in with Valery, the Test Secretary, in the garage when you arrive. We are accepting entries the day of the tests, but please contact the Test Secretary, Valery Kessens at (812) 639-8055 (text message works best), to schedule specific times for your dog(s) to be judged. Please print out the judging form we will email to you, clearly print the information to identify your dog on the form and bring 2 copies with you, one copy for each judge.

How the tests will run: the 12 stations on the test will be split into 2 sections. Judge #1 will start with dog/handler #1 and proceed through the first half of the course, then Judge #2 will start at Station 1 with dog/handler #2, as the first judge/handler/dog continues on the second half of the course.

Each judge will walk through the entire course with the team they are judging. The handler may ask the judge questions, and the judge may offer suggestions to help the team succeed. The handler may talk to their dog, touch the dog, and encourage the dog in any way needed. (But no treats!) The dog must wear a well-fitting, flat collar (no prong, electronic collars), and the leash should be 4-6 feet long. The test is pass-fail, and the dog must successfully complete all 12 stations to pass the test. If the dog fails at one station, the handler/dog may attempt a station one more time, either immediately or after progressing through other stations at the judge's discretion.

Tip: Loose-lead walking is a must! If the dog startles and causes the leash to tighten momentarily, but the handler can get the dog's attention and quickly loosen the leash, the dog will pass. But continually having a tight leash or repeatedly pulling on the dog will result in failure of the test. Please do not tug on the leash or collar to put the dog in position or make the dog do a station!

The tests will be held rain or shine. Most of the test elements will be completed in the open barn under cover, except the extended loose leash walking.

Directions:

From Evansville: Go East on Hwy 62 through Boonville. Once out of Boonville, turn left at Roth Rd. (Sheriff's Station and Animal Control signs). Cross railroad tracks, then turn right on the next road, Tennyson Rd. The farm is about ½ mile, on the right. Address number is not visible on the mailbox, obscured by neighbor's mailbox. Look for the fenced front yard, and large clump of ornamental grass around telephone pole at the end of the driveway. Once through the gate, continue straight towards the garage and park on the circular driveway. Circle the driveway counter-clockwise to maintain smooth traffic flow as people come and go. Address is 277 E. Tennyson Rd., cell phone (760) 215-5284.