



Working Dog News

SUPPORTING TRAINERS,
HANDLERS, JUDGES AND
REGIONAL CLUBS.

2nd Quarter 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's happening
for [Working Dogs](#).

Welcome to Water Training Season!

As summer arrives, it's time to head to the water with our Newfoundlands and begin another exciting season of water training! Across the country, handlers and dogs are returning to lakes, ponds, and shorelines to practice the skills that showcase the Newfoundland's historic working heritage. Whether you're preparing for your first water test or working toward a new level, this is a season filled with teamwork, progress, and the unique bond that comes from training with purpose. In this issue, you'll find updates on upcoming water tests, training tips, regional club events, and ways to connect with other working dog enthusiasts. Let's make a splash this season—together!

Working Dogs Shine at the National!

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the many working events at this year's National Specialty in Warwick!

Monday Drat Test:

Winifred & Amy Kroeger - new BDD
Zeke & Rynn Johnson - new BDD
Remi & Sue Marino - new DD
Black & Becky Reynells - new DD

Tuesday Draft Test:

Romeo and Nancy Hoffler - new DD

Tuesday Obedience High In Trial:

Amity's It's A Wonderful Life

Wednesday Obedience High In Trial:

Bear N Mind's Celebration Time! CGC TKN
FTN

Specialty Carting:

Off-Lead Qualifiers:

"Dakota" handled by Jody Grunfeld

"Gil" handled by Terry Linehan

"Onyx" handled by Corrie Harreys

"Zeke" handled by Rynn Johnson

"Lulu" and "Romeo" handled by Nancy Hoffler

On-Lead Qualifiers:



Our Dogs. Our Children. Our Future.

Our Newfoundlands have such a wonderful and rich heritage. Saviors of the people in high seas - the protector of Peter Pan and Wendy - and Best Buds to children all over.

As we consider that heritage, the new Stewards of the Children policy enacted by the NCA makes complete sense and should be a small step that could indeed mean sooooo much. Read the full details of the NCA policy here:

[NCA Stewards of Children Policy](#)

Summer is a great time to take a little break from the heat and do a little online training. Please do this training and email a PDF copy of your certificate of completion to workingdog@ncadogs.org for recording purposes.

Important Information for ALL Regional Working Event Committees!

Per action by the NCA Board of Directors, **every water test and draft test committee** needs to have **one** of the three committee members fully trained in the Stewards of the Children training program for **new NCA event applications after October 31, 2025**. At that time, **every event submitted for approval** must also attach the certificate of completion from this training from one of your three committee members for your event to get approval.

[Stewards of Children® - Darkness to Light](#)

For those of you who have already submitted your upcoming test paperwork, we encourage you to review this material and consider completing the training now. If you complete the training, please submit a certificate of completion to workingdog@ncadogs.org so we can record that information.

Please READ, ACT and SEND IN your certificates as you complete the training. While it won't be required right away, it is valuable information for your event committees!

The WDC **strongly encourages** all judges and working event committee members to take part in this training. More eyes opened and awareness of our surroundings are just a small way we can make a difference in our events for all.

Don't Wait! Training Complete? Send it in to the NCA!

Email a PDF copy of your certificate of completion to workingdog@ncadogs.org for recording purposes. Certificates will need to be submitted with test applications from now on!

Questions? Concerns? Feedback?

As always, please contact us at the WDC and we will be glad to answer your questions or take your feedback to the NCA Board.

FEATURED ARTICLES

CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FROM FELLOW TRAINERS



Help Us Build an Online Curriculum for Working Events

We all know it takes more than just reading the rules to train for a draft test or a water test. Clubs plan great workshops and help people learn new skills, but what if you can't make it to that particular event? Online learning is so important to support our members in all areas.

While we have resources on the website already, we are looking for your feedback on what may help you train at home or without others? What struggles do you have that some videos may be able to help you overcome? Both for water and for draft work.

Please fill out this short survey here to help us expand your knowledge and toolbox!

Video Curriculum Idea Survey

Reach out to Sheila Tatman at SheilaTatman@gmail.com with further questions or suggestions!

Gearing Up to Get Wet!

Check out some of these great resources for fine tuning your water training sessions

[Getting Started In Water Work](#)

[Coaching The Reluctant Rescue Dog](#)

[Conditioning for Water Training](#)

[Knowing When To Take A Break](#)

and

[Water Work Video Library](#)



Draft Training Resources

Beef up your training game while you are waiting for the heat to break - draft work will be back in season soon!

[Hidden Forces of Draft Work](#)

[Training a Driven Figure-8](#)

[Draft Equipment - Understanding the Why](#)

[Beginner Draft Dog Tutorial](#)

and

[Draft Work Video Library](#)



Judges Continuing Education

The three-year exam on draft regulations, equipment guide and code of ethics for judging renewal has been emailed to you by Sue Marino. If you did not receive yours, please contact Sue at [**chnewf14@gmail.com**](mailto:chnewf14@gmail.com). Please return your completed test to Sue Marino for scoring no later than September 1st. Thank you!!

Test Committees -Setting your tests up for success

Do you remember the first time you stewarded at a water or draft test? Or the first water or draft test you entered as an exhibitor? Both experiences were exciting,

and you may have felt a bit apprehensive, as well. We all know that recruiting and keeping stewards is vital to the success of our events. And we want exhibitors to feel welcome and have a positive experience so that they will continue entering our tests and feeling enthusiastic about working events. Here are a few suggestions test committees can utilize to help calm the nerves of our first-time stewards and exhibitors.

For stewards:

- Determine their level of comfort with stewarding prior to giving them an assignment. Some may be ready to jump right in and handle multiple tasks while others may not.
- For draft, are they comfortable doing measurements, or would they rather bring up the carts or help set up the course? Providing a mentor to pair up with a new steward is a great way to teach things like setting up the turns and adjustable narrows, as well as marking other portions of the course.
- For water, are they comfortable getting wet, or would they prefer an assignment where they'll stay dry? Be sure that they have a lifejacket if they'll be getting wet, or have your club provide extras. Great assignments for first-time stewards include leash steward, beach steward (paired with a second more experienced steward), or "bobber" for the WRD Take a Lifering exercise. Consider sending the steward the text from the regulations describing the exercise for which they will be stewarding. **Provide the link to the videos created by Deanna Alko and John Caldwell showing each exercise in its entirety .** Encourage your stewards to come out to a practice or two to review their assignments. If they will be calling for an exercise, have them practice with an unentered dog or a dog entered in a division other than the one in which they will be calling to prevent over-familiarization with a calling steward. Consider a "Steward Training Day" at one of your water test practices, if possible.
- Provide breakfast and lunch for your stewards on the day of the test and be sure to thank them for volunteering their time and helping to make the test possible. A written thank you note or text message after the test is always appreciated.

For entrants:

- Provide a confirmation letter prior to the test that includes detailed directions to the site, check-in time, a schedule for the day, entry number, information about any pretest practices, pretest dinners or other gatherings, and the cell phone number to reach the Test Secretary.
- Be on the lookout for the arrival of any first-time exhibitors. Welcome them to the test and check-in with them throughout the day to see if they have any questions or need anything.
- Provide signage to indicate the location of the check-in area and setup area for dogs and handlers, as well as the best location to view the test. For draft, indicate where carts and harnesses should be left. For water, indicate where water test equipment should be placed.

As we approach water tests this summer and draft tests this fall, try to recall those first experiences of yours in stewarding and exhibiting. That excitement and fun that you have for working events is contagious, and while day-of events can get hectic, please make sure you take a minute to share your own joy for the events with others. When you are the person that welcomes the first-time steward and exhibitor, introduces them to others, and shares your positive feelings about the

event, you pass on that joy for our dog sports to everyone that is there that day.
Thanks for passing it on!!

[Download Important Contacts](#)



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