

KVGTS code of conduct

Please remember that a lot of time and effort has gone in to organising a working test and time been given freely by many including judges and helpers. Securing ground is not easy and it is important that all present are mindful of the host's generosity. We would remind everyone:

- **Stay to the end of a Working Test:**
You may be tempted to try and get away at the earliest opportunity. However, please ask yourself, "If I thought I might be in the awards, would I still want/have to leave early." If the answer is yes, it is crucial that you speak with the chief steward, if they are not available then a judge. Quietly explain your situation, we all have emergencies. Leaving because you have a test tomorrow or the like is not a suitable reason and is disrespectful to all concerned.
- **Do not impugn a judge's decision.** If you are unsure as to why you have been a given certain score, by all means ask at the end of the test, but be courteous at all times. It is not acceptable to ask about another dog's performance. It is also not appropriate to complain to other competitors about a specific test. If you feel they is a problem, speak with the chief steward.
- **Remember we are privileged guests** on our hosts land. Always pick-up after your dog. Unless in the exercise area or under the direction of a judge or club trainer, your dog must be on a lead. Arrive and leave in a timely manner at any event e.g. do not arrive more than 30 min before an event starts.
- **Harsh handling** of dogs will not be tolerated. Any concerning issues you may see at a test should be reported to the Chief Steward ASAP. Sometimes, we make mistakes, as do our dogs. Take it to training. Taking it out on your dog is not acceptable.
- **Thank you's:** don't forget to thank judges, chief steward and helpers – however your day went! Good sportsmanship is key.
- **Dress appropriately:**
Please dress conservatively. Be prepared for all weathers and environments e.g. it may be hot but the wrong leg or footwear could be dangerous.
- **Awards:** To receive an award, unless in exceptional circumstances, competitors must be present for the prize giving. In such instances the award will be retained by the club, but the winner of any trophy will be asked to pay for the engraving of that trophy.
- **Look after your dog:**
Please remember to take water and portable bowl for your dog. Remember on a hot day there is an increased risk of **heatstroke**. Consider taking an appropriate dog coat for protection from wet and cold as well as from the sun. Have a drying towel in your vehicle should your dog need to be dried off before you drive home.

With thanks to the Kennel Club, the basis of this statement has been adapted from their code of conduct for field trials. The full statement can be found at:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/field-trials-and-working-gundogs/new-to-field-trials/attending-your-first-field-trial/>