

AMERICAN BLOODHOUND CLUB
TRAILING TRIAL EVENT STANDARD

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a trailing trial is to certify the bloodhound's abilities for trailing, scent discrimination and correctly identifying a specific person in a field setting. When participating in a trailing trial, the bloodhound should show willingness and aptitude for the exercise, and the handler should demonstrate competence and naturalness in handling the bloodhound. To earn a qualifying score, the field performances of both bloodhound and handler, as demonstrated in a trailing trial event, must conform to the trailing trial regulations and standards described in this document.

Three levels of certification, each with its own abbreviated title, are described in this standard:

- Mantrailer (MT);
- Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI); and
- Mantrailer Excellent (MTX).

Each title, as awarded, specifies the level of certification for which the bloodhound has qualified.

Levels of certification, as described in this standard, are for the sole purpose of titling a bloodhound in a sporting event and should not, in any manner, be considered a qualification for police or search and rescue work. All trailing trial participants should be guided by the principles and regulations of teamwork between handler and hound and by good sportsmanship.

TRAILING JUDGES' AND JUDGING REGULATIONS

Section 1. General Requirements for Judges

Persons interested in applying for approval as trailing trial judges are required to submit a completed application packet to the American Bloodhound Club (ABC) Trailing Trial General Committee. Applicants are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their submission. Applicants are encouraged to submit any documents for consideration, qualification or credibility. Applicants must be a member in good standing of the American Bloodhound Club.

Section 1a. Levels of Approval

Any person seeking approval as a trailing trial judge must first apply for approval to judge Event Entry Certification Tests. The applicant must meet all required criteria for this first level before applying. No applicant will be permitted to skip any level. Incomplete, inadequate or unreadable applications will be returned to the applicant. A judge will not be moved up to the next level without written request and submission of all additional required paperwork.

Section 1b. All Judge Applicants:

- a. must be in good physical condition, free of illness or injury that would prohibit or inhibit a judge from walking and mapping each assigned trail;
- b. must demonstrate a basic working knowledge of maps and mapping of trails, and the use of a map and compass for land navigation;
- c. must be able to operate a two-way, hand held, portable radio;
- d. must read, write and speak the English language as necessary to communicate via radio or to complete required judging forms, maps and related paperwork;
- e. must demonstrate a working knowledge of the current ABC Trailing Trial Event Standard and have participated in multiple trailing trials in a role other than handler or observer; i.e. trail layer, logistics, Event Chair.
- f. must provide documentation of experience that clearly shows an understanding of the working patterns of a bloodhound, which may combine air scenting abilities as well as ground or tracking abilities (such experience may result from experience working with bloodhounds in criminal, search and rescue, tracking or similar activity);
- g. to move up to the next judging level (EECT to MT, MT to MTI, and MTI to MTX), applicant must have **two** trails observed and approved on the required form (attached) by two different ABC MTX approved judges who have a minimum of three years of judging experience and who has judged at least six trails, one of which must be an MTI or MTX; One of these mentored trails must be at the highest level the applicant is approved to judge, i.e. if moving up to MTX level, one mentored trail must be at MTI level. The observing/mentoring judge will accompany the applicant from the laying of the trail through to judging and completion of said trail. The judging sheet must be sign and approved by the applicant and the observing/mentoring judge.
- h. It is the responsibility of the judging applicant to submit the observation/mentoring forms as part of the completed Judge Application packet

Section 1c. Additional Judge Applicant Requirements for Event Entry Certification Test

- a. In addition to the general requirements, applicants for the Event Entry Certificate Test must meet the following requirements:
- b. have qualified at least two bloodhounds to an ABC-recognized Mantrailer title (MT); and at least one bloodhound to the Mantrailer Intermediate(MTI) title at an ABC-sanctioned trailing trial.
- c. be sponsored (in writing) by an ABC MTX approved judge who has a minimum of three years of judging experience and who has judged at least six trails, one of which must be an MTI or MTX;
- d. have followed ABC approved judges on at least **four** Mantrailer-level trails at two or more sanctioned event(s). Applicants' names and signatures must appear on the judging form when turned in to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson to receive credit for this requirement.
Trails can only be counted once for use as observations.

Section 1d. Additional Requirements for Mantrailer Level

- a. have met all general requirements as stated in Sections 1,1a, 1b, and 1c
- b. be sponsored (in writing) by an ABC MTX approved judge who has a minimum of three years of judging experience and who has judged at least six trails, one of which must be an MTI or MTX;
- c. have been approved at the previous level for a minimum of six months
- d. have judged at least ten sanctioned Event Entry Certification Tests, **two** of which must meet the requirements as listed above in section 1b, items g and h.
- e. have followed an ABC approved judge on at least **six** Mantrailer trails at two or more sanctioned trailing events where ABC-recognized titles were earned. Applicants' names and signatures must appear on the judging form when turned in to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson to receive credit for this requirement.

Section 1e. Additional Requirements for Mantrailer Intermediate Level

- a. have met all general requirements as stated in Sections 1,1a, 1b, 1c and 1d
- b. be sponsored (in writing) by an ABC MTX approved judge who has a minimum of three years of judging experience and who has judged at least six trails, one of which must be an MTI or MTX;
- c. have judged at least six MT trails, **two** of which must meet the requirements as listed above in section 1b, items g and h. **AND** have judged at least three or more ABC sanctioned trailing events*
- d. have followed an ABC approved judge on at least **six** Mantrailer Intermediate trails at two or more sanctioned trailing events where ABC-recognized titles were earned. Applicants' names and signatures must appear on the judging form when turned in to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson to receive credit for this requirement.

Section 1f. Additional Requirements for the Mantrailer Excellent Level

Judge applicants for the Mantrailer Excellent (MTX) must:

- a. have met requirements as required in Sections 1, 1a,1b, 1c, 1d and 1e; AND
- b. have qualified at least one bloodhound to an ABC-recognized Mantrailer Excellent(MTX) title at an ABC-sanctioned trailing trial.
- c. have judged at least six MTI-level trails, **two** of which must meet the requirements as listed above in section 1b, items g and h. **AND** judged at least two ABC sanctioned events*;
- d. have followed qualified judges on at least three MTX trails at two or more sanctioned trailing events where ABC-recognized titles were earned. Applicants' names and signatures must appear on the judging form when turned in to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson to receive credit for this requirement.

Section 2. Request for Application Packet

Persons interested in applying for approval to judge at any or all levels of a trailing event may request, from the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson, a Judge's Application Packet, or they may obtain a packet on the American Bloodhound Club website. The application packet will consist of a detailed generic application form and request for information regarding the applicant, training, experience and connection to trailing.

Once completed, the application must be sent to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson for review for completeness. Once accepted, the Chairperson will request, either by mail or by electronic mail, to each of the ABC members assigned to the ABC Trailing Trial General Committee a vote to approve or disapprove each applicant and level applied for. Each member of the committee will have one vote for each ballot.

Applicants will be notified of approval or disapproval within 45 days of the vote. Approved applicants will be given a judging packet consisting of copies of a judging worksheet and EECT forms.

Applicants that have been disapproved may reapply when the application deficiencies have been corrected.

The ABC Trailing Trial Chairperson will provide, for publication, a complete judges list consisting of name, address, phone, e-mail and approved judging level for publication in the *ABC Bulletin*.

***For judging requirements only, a two or more consecutive day trailing trial(s) constitutes one trailing**

event.*

The American Bloodhound Club
Application to Judge Trailing Events

SECTION 1 - Level of Certification

☐ Event Entry Certification (1) ☐ Mantrailer Level (2)	☐ Mantrailer Intermediate Level (3) ☐ Mantrailer Excellent Level (4)
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Section 2 - Applicant Information

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	DATE OF BIRTH
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ALTERNATE PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL	DATE OF ABC MEMBERSHIP
OCCUPATION			

Section 3 - General Applicant Experience

☐ Currently working a bloodhound ☐ Number of years you have owned bloodhounds ☐ Number of bloodhounds you currently own			
 Note the date of your last mission or call out and type of mission			
Type of experience in working a bloodhound (check all that apply):			
☐ As a <i>full time, sworn</i> , Law Enforcement/Corrections Officer	☐ Search and Rescue (how many years?)		
☐ Community Volunteer	☐ Paid Rescue Person ☐ Hobby/pet handler		
☐ Sporting Events (trailing trials)	☐ Other: _____		
Areas of experience working a bloodhound (Check all that apply):			
☐ Lost Person/Missing Person	☐ Disaster Searches	☐ Water Searches	
☐ Wilderness Searches	☐ Crime Scene Searches	☐ Evidence Searches	
☐ Fugitive Searches	☐ Cadaver/Body Searches	☐ Searches for the Mentally Ill	
☐ Trailing vehicles	☐ Line-Up Identifications	☐ Other: _____	
Other areas of experience working a bloodhound (Check all that apply):			
☐ ABC Event Entry Certificate	☐ ABC Mantrailer Certificate	☐ ABC Mantrailer Intermediate Cert.	
☐ ABC Mantrailer Excellent Certificate	☐ Number of ABC Titles	☐ Other ABC _____	
☐ AKC Breed Showing (# of CH.)	☐ AKC CD Title	☐ AKC CDX Title	
☐ AKC TD Title	☐ AKC TDX Title	☐ AKC UD Title	
☐ AKC UDX Title	☐ AKC VST Title	☐ AKC VSTX Title	
☐ AKC CGC Title	☐ AKC Agility Title	☐ Other: _____	
Type of terrain and conditions worked on a <u>regular</u> basis (Check all that apply)			
☐ City and heavily contaminated areas	☐ Heavily used buildings	☐ Fields and city lots	
☐ Suburban neighborhoods	☐ School yards and parks	☐ Urban housing areas	
☐ Orchards, groves or farmland	☐ Heavily wooded areas	☐ Heavily traveled roadways	
☐ High altitude areas	☐ Mountains and technical areas	☐ Harsh winter conditions (-0 degrees)	
☐ Heavy snow	☐ Rain	☐ Moving waterways (rivers, creeks, whitewater)	
☐ Boat searches	☐ Other: _____		

Section 4 - Membership Information

Please check all that apply regarding your active memberships and affiliations:			
☐ The American Bloodhound Club	☐ Local Kennel Club	☐ State Search and Rescue Club	
☐ NASAR	☐ NPBA	☐ Law Enforcement Group	
List any breed organizations you currently belong to: _____			

Section 5 - Experience and Trailing References (list at least 3)

FULL NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
FULL NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
FULL NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER

Section 6 - Applicant Training Information (list any additional training received)

COURSE NAME/TYPE	HOURS	DATE TAKEN	EXPIRATION (if any)

Section 7 - ABC Trailing Event Experience (provide copies of certificates if applicable)

DATE	EVENT NAME & SPONSOR	LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION (Handler, Runner, Judge)
<i>Example 11-29-97</i>	<i>ABC Turkey Vulture Classic</i>	<i>MT Trail (Humphrey Hound, MT) also a runner for MT</i>

Section 8 - Applicant Narrative

Briefly state a summary of your experience and interest in trailing events, why you want to become a judge, and what skills or aspects you will bring to the judging teams.

Section 9 - Applicant Signature

I hereby certify that I have read the current American Bloodhound Club Trailing Trial Standard and agree to abide by all rules, regulations, and requirements pertaining to this application, judges' responsibilities, documentation requirements, conduct, and other such practices and policies governing such events. I further certify that the information on this application is truthful and that I have furnished ALL documents required.

Applicant Signature	Date of Application
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- Send this completed application packet to: Terri Heck, American Bloodhound Club Trailing Committee Chair, 3960 Lewisberry Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339, or email to houndsx3@gmail.com. Applications take 8 - 12 weeks from date of receipt for processing.

AMERICAN BLOODHOUND CLUB

JUDGING GENERAL REQUIREMENTS SIGN-OFF

APPLICANT NAME

As required in the American Bloodhound Club Trailing Judges' and Judging Regulations, all persons applying for approval as trailing trial judges, besides meeting all other specific requirements, must meet the following general requirements for judges:

- a. be in good physical condition, free of illness or injury that would prohibit or inhibit the applicant, or judge, from walking and mapping each assigned trail over up to four (miles of trails on the day prior to the event and then judge the same distance the next day,
- b. demonstrate a basic working knowledge of maps, mapping trails laid and the path of the dog, and the use of a map and compass for land navigation,
- c. be able to operate a two-way, hand-held, portable radio,
- d. read, write, and speak the English language as necessary to communicate via radio or to complete required judging forms, maps, and related paperwork,
- e. read and plot trails on a topographical map,
- f. obtain, if necessary, and wear the appropriate clothing and equipment as dictated by the sponsoring group, area, weather, and terrain,
- g. demonstrate a working knowledge of the current ABC Trailing Trial Event Standard and Judges' and Judging Regulations,
- h. provide documentation of experience that clearly shows the applicant's understanding of the working patterns of a bloodhound, which may combine air scenting abilities as well as ground or tracking abilities (such experience may result from experience working bloodhounds in criminal, search and rescue, tracking or other similar activities).

CERTIFICATION AND SIGN-OFF

I, _____, hereby certify I have read and understand the American Bloodhound Club Bloodhound Field Trial Standard and Judges' and Judging Regulations (as revised and approved *January, 2020* and posted on the American Bloodhound Club web site). I further certify that I meet or exceed all of the general requirements as specified above.

SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

American Bloodhound Club
Trailing Judging Observation & Mentoring Form

I, _____ have observed the _____ (level)
trail as implemented by _____.

In my opinion the judging applicant:

- ☐ Fails to meet expectations
- ☐ Meets expectations
- ☐ Exceeds expectations

Additional Comments: _____

Judging Applicant: _____

Date: _____

Judge*: _____

Date: _____

*The mentoring judge must be approved at the MTX level and have a minimum of three years judging experience and have judged a minimum of six trails, one of which must be an MTI or MTX.