

Happy-Fellow® Tolling-Test with Dummies

Bronze

Each exercise max. 20 points (100 points total):

1. Quiet sneak up in hunting style to a blind approximately 10 paces.
2. Tolling 2x 3-5 retrieves and a pause of (Passivity) of approximately 30 seconds behind the blind
3. Single marking with noise approximately 50m distance.
4. Search 2 out of 4 hidden Dummies in an area of about 20m x 20m. There should be a noise given in the search area to help the dog.
5. Dummy placed around the area of the single mark (3) should be retrieved as a Blind.

Silver

Each exercise max. 20 points; 2 and 4 is counted as one exercise (100 points total):

1. Quiet sneak up in hunting style to a blind approximately 20 paces.
2. Tolling 2x 5-10 retrieves and a pause of (Passivity) of approximately 30 seconds behind the blind.
3. Double Marking 50 to 80m or "half seen" Single Marking approximately 100m with shot.
4. Tolling 2x 5-10 retrieves and a pause of (Passivity) of approximately 30 seconds behind the blind.
5. Marking and Blind with Shot, distance should be around 50 to 80m.
6. Search 2 out of 2 hidden Dummies in an area of about 20m x 20m.

Gold

Each exercise max. 20 points; 2 and 4 is counted as one exercise; all exercises on water with luring duck(s) in the water (100 points total):

1. Quiet sneak up in hunting style to a blind approximately 30 paces.
2. Tolling 3x 5-10 retrieves and a pause of (Passivity) of approximately 30 seconds behind the blind.
3. Double Marking 50 to 80m or "half seen" Single Marking in or over water with shot.
4. Tolling 3x 5-10 retrieves and a pause of (Passivity) of approximately 30 seconds behind the blind.
5. Marking and Blind with shot.
6. Search 1 out of 1 hidden Dummy in an area of about 20m x 20m.

STALKING

This part of the test is examined on the way to the natural cover (e.g., bush or reed) or blind. The path towards the blind or natural cover should be clearly labelled for the handler to follow. It should contain changes in direction, as well as unevenness in the path or small obstacles. During this exercise, the dog is off leash and only when the whole test is finished, the dog is leashed again. The approach towards the blind or cover should be conducted in a manner that assumes waterfowl is in close vicinity; hence, in a careful and stealth manner. The dog-handler team should at least twice briefly stop and pause in their approach to the blind or cover. Throughout this exercise, the dog is attentive and should stay close to the handler (at his/her side or behind the handler) without obvious or loud cues. Once the blind or cover is reached, the handler prepares for the Tolling test while the dog is calmly waiting. Obvious and loud handling leads to deduction of points. Throughout the test, the dog should always stay near the handler (approximately 1-2m).

TOLLING

The tolling retrieves require the handler to work from behind the blind or natural cover. A tolling object of the handler's choice (e.g., plastic dummy, ball, or dummy) is thrown by the handler out of the blind and parallel to the body of water. The toller may leave with the throw and retrieve it with a playful and rushing attitude. Start of this test is up to the judge's discretion. During the break, the dog should stay calmly with his/her owner behind the blind or cover until tolling is continued. Playfulness and attitude while playing are assessed in this test. It is the toller's playful and rushing actions that attract the waterfowl, including tail carriage. Excellent tolling is characterized by joyous persistence during play. Agitated or forced, working style retrieving of the tolling object is discouraged and leads to the deduction of points. Any lack of interest or desire after a few throws of the tolling object is cause for failure. Is the dog repeatedly looking at the body of water and/or the decoy ducks while tolling also leads to point deduction (Gold level). A cause for point deduction by half is if the dogs contacts and enters the body of water. During the tolling test, no whistles or loud voice cues may be used to send or encourage your dog to retrieve, as in a real tolling situation this would startle the duck being tolled.

PASSIVITY

During the breaks in the tolling test, handler and dog should calmly wait behind the blind or cover until the next round of tolling is conducted. Obvious restlessness, as well as continued or repeated whining all lead to a point deduction. Continuous or repeated barking, howling, or screaming leads to an immediate failure. The same rule is applied to all other tests.

IMMEDIATE FAILURE (0 POINTS) AND JUDGING/HANDLING GUIDELINES

Zero point or immediate failure can be applied at any tests. However, teams can still pass the test even if an exercise was given zero points. At least more than half of the exercises must be passed (points awarded) and at least 50% of the total points must be achieved.

Behaviour that leads to immediate failure or zero points:

- Uncontrolled running in.
- Disruptive vocalisations (barking, howling, screaming; see passivity).
- Refusal to retrieve a dummy or the wrong dummy is retrieved.
- Dog is out of control.

Judging of this unofficial fun-test should be left to handlers experienced working with tollers and who should have run at least one toller successfully at official working tests. Additionally, to the descriptions above the official Working Test regulations by the Austrian Retriever Club are in effect. These regulations can be found and read at following weblink: [Workingtest Prüfungsordnung.pdf \(retrieverclub.at\)](#)

Remarks: The exercises mimic hunting situations. Normally the tolling would just be shown once to lure in the ducks. According to the situation, several ducks could be shot with more than one hunter. To test the dogs, like in a working test in different hunting situations, the tolling part must be shown twice, because otherwise there will just be a picking up shown. Sneaking is just shown once at the beginning. For Gold level, all distances can be chosen freely, but the shooting distance of 35 to 100m should always be kept in mind.

Excellent. At least 90 points

Very good. At least 80 points

Good. At least 70 points

Passed. At least 50 points

Minimum age: 12 months

Dummies that could be used during test: Standard Dummy 500g, Dead Fowl Dummy, Launcher Dummy