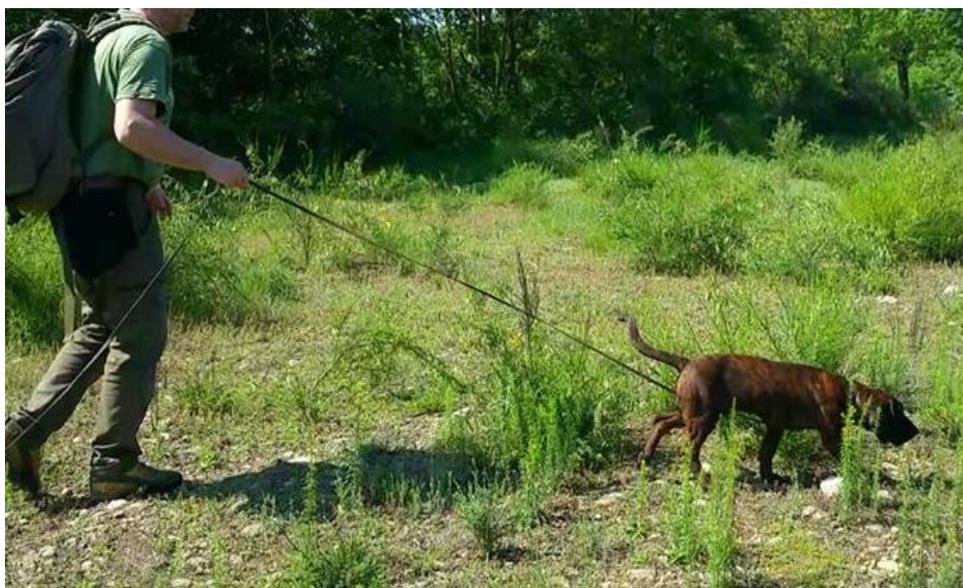


# NATURAL ABILITY TEST (TAN) PREPARATION GUIDE

Bavarian and Hanoverian Scenthound Club of Canada



## IN THIS GUIDE

## Test or proof of competency?

The Hanoverian Scenthound and the Bavarian Mountain ScentHound are dogs that search for large, injured game. The blood-court events for these breeds the purpose is to detect purebred dogs, gifted and fit for this discipline according to the style of the breed.

*"It is better for dogs to be in the hands of a master who can meet this expectation."*

The events proposed by the Bavarian and Hanoverian Scenthound Club of Canada (CCCRHB in french) are therefore intended to control the skills of the young Hanoverian Scenthound and the Bavarian Mountain Hound in the face of situations corresponding to the activity for which his breed was created. It can therefore confirm certain qualities detected in its ascendants. The discovery of the best subjects makes it possible to prioritize males and females for breeding.

Some qualities sought may prove instinctively (the innate) others (acquired) will require preparation so that they can express themselves correctly on the day of the test. In passing these tests, the young dog must:

- show its behavioral balance,
- show that one's work skills exist,
- demonstrate that he has undergone a serious and adapted education, allowing him to fully express his natural abilities, indispensable to become a qualified bloodtracker.

The young dog can be presented at the artificial track events from 12 months. It is understood that older dogs can also participate. In a sense, this test aims to recognize the dog's natural abilities. In Europe, this event is called the *Test aptitude naturelle (TAN)*. It is considered to mark the end of dog education in "artificial" conditions, before embarking on natural practice.

This artificial track event varies somewhat from country to country, but the criteria observed are generally the same. It is not quite comparable to TAN in other breeds, in that it requires, for three of the four exercises, a real preparation: the natural qualities of the dog must be modeled. The TAN consists of the following exercises:

- 1) quest and the work track,
- 2) walking,
- 3) drop it off,
- 4) behavior in front of the dead game.

Lead work (or tracking) and quest assess work skills: drilling, determination, concentration. The deposit and the behavior in front of the dead game are interested in balance and character, qualities that remain the indispensable foundations for breeding.



### The style of the breed -page 2

The Hanoverian Scenthound and the Bavarian Mountain Scenthound are ahead of everything from working dogs, genetically destined to perform cold track tracks and this whether there is blood or not.



### 1 test in 4 exercises page 2 and 3

Specific criteria are sought in test on artificial track simulation.



### Training, preparation and materials page 4 and 5

How do you prepare for the test? What is the need for trials? What is the equipment and good habits to take?

## The style of the breed

The style of the breed is actually the dog's working method. It is therefore important for the judge to notice these distinctive features in artificial track events or, later, in natural track events.

### ON THE ARTIFICIAL TRACK

a) **Obedience:** a dog with a docile temperament and anticipates the work to be done. No aggression.

b) **Track work:** meticulous, analytical, accurate and targeted. Appreciated when the dog shows the drivers the signs of injuries (bones, hairs, skin). Work with your nose down, never nose in the wind (sign that it smells like a new track) unless it is at the end of the track if the wind is favourable. The dog must work calmly, neatly, methodically, quietly and without zig-zags on

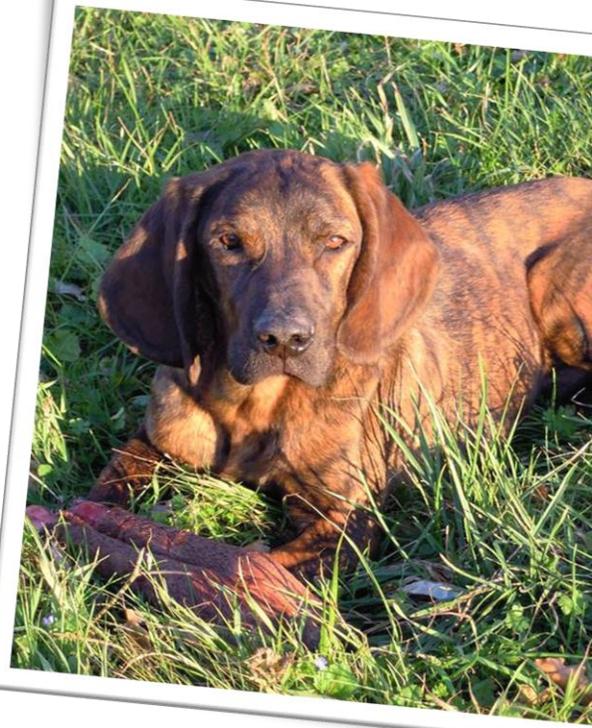
the track. It must demonstrate leadership in resolving a deadlock.

c) **Allure:** on the track the dog walks or trots, but when dropped at the end of the track the pace is faster, either on the trot or at the gallop.

d) **Behaviour on the carcass:** no signs of hostility towards the driver or attendants without damaging the skin.

### ON THE NATURAL TRACK

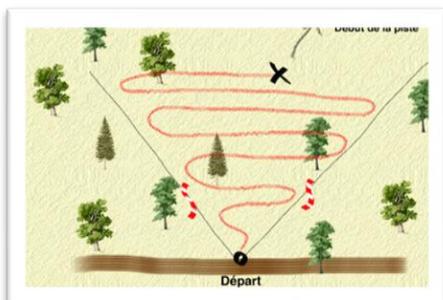
The dog is very determined on the right track. It must bark at block the animal (make a freeze). In the block the voice is heavier and darker, mixed with tendrils. The dog must be confident until the driver arrives.



## 1 test in 4 exercises

### The Quest

As a real-life search, the dog's quest is to find the clues that the injured animal left behind at the *anschuss* (game location at the time of shooting), and to drag the driver down that lane. *a*



As part of the artificial track event, the quest aptitude exercise will take place as follows:

- The driver is put in a fire control situation.
- Only the shooter's location is given by the track number tag.

- No indication of the direction of flight will be given.
- On the orders of its driver, the dog, held at the 12-metre length, will have to search for the nose on the ground and thus find the *anschuss*, which is materialized by clues taken from the hooves or cape (fragment bones, hairs, tendons, a little blood) of the same carcass of the white-tailed deer used for laying the tracks..

The *anschuss* will be located about 30 meters in front of the shooter's location.

During tracking, the dog's ability to find and indicate the restings will also be evaluated and considered for the scoring. The dog stops, nose to the ground, rounded back is attitude typical of the dog showing a clue to the *anschuss*.

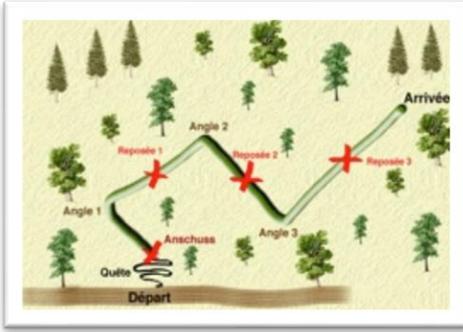


### The work at the loin

This exercise is the most important part of the event and is carried out on an artificial track of de 1000 meters length installed with the help of tracer soles. The tracing will be done with wild boar's feet. The feet used and the cape at the end of the track will necessarily come from the same animal.

The track will be traced between 8 p.m. and 24 hours previously over a distance of 1000 meters. It consists of three 90-degree angles and three simulated rests (layers) containing clues taken from the feet or cape of the white-tailed deer's remains used for the laying of tracks (bone splinters, pieces of skin, hairs or tendons and less than 100ml of blood)..

These rests are not placed at an angle..



Work on the track must be done at the 12-metre loin in order to be able to read the obligatoire à la longe dog. On the orders

of its driver, the dog will have to follow the trail. The rest should be shown by the dog and reported by the driver.

When the dog is in difficulty and remains in default, the chief of the jury will call the driver back to the track. The driver is entitled to two recalls, the third being elimination. The driver is permitted, after reporting it to the judges:

- Taking the lead
- To back up
- To momentarily drop your dog
- To tag his back and/or rested. Spectators will only be allowed to follow the work along with the consent of the driver and will be held at a distance defined by the judges.

The presence of other dogs during the exercise is prohibited.

## Walking

The dog follows his master perfectly without trying to overtake, spontaneously follows all the commandments. Hesitation and lack of concentration can be claimed by the judge.



## The removal of the dog and its firmness at the shot



The objective of this exercise is to ensure that the dog is calm, balanced, that it supports separation with its driver and that it does not fear the shot. At the order of the conduct, the dog must remain alone and wait for the latter to return. Drivers will keep away and out of sight of the dogs. In order not to disturb the exercise, no attendant will be tolerated. The duration of the exercise is 20 minutes. An Arabine c shot nearby after about ten minutes..

Only participants who have successfully completed the quest and the work along can participate in this exercise. The dog remains lying down where the driver tells him. The exercise can be tied to the dog for years, whether or not he has his collar, by tying it by means of his loin to a tree or an object of his choice (e.g. clothing or backpack). In this case, a set of loins of about 3 meters will be left to the dog.

## The dog's behavior in front of dead game

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that the young dog is not afraid of game. It is an innate quality that requires no special education.

At the end of the track, the cape (head with the whole skin) should be placed on a tripod or wooden bridge in order to give them a look "similar" to reality when approaching the dog. At this point, you have to observe the behaviour of the dog at the end of the race. The dog should not show distrust, de fear and should not be afraid of the cape.

A second exercise allows to observe a complement of the behavior this time for the holding of the farm. The *pendelzau* is carried out in a second time, apart from the track. A cape is attached to an easel that tilts like a balance, animated by a well-hidden accomplice who creates movement with a rope. The objective is to observe the dog's instinct to bark, block the leak, ensure its safety and without fear of a moving beast.

Biting the skin out of passion is not considered a fault but it should not be pas damaged. It will be appreciated that the dog considers the game as a "prey" without damaging it.



# The equipment for training

The artificial track event is carried out on the basis of tracks laid with White tail deer hooves recovered the previous season, very little clues. Idelination, the puppy's education should be done in the same way..

There are tracing soles with simple or double hoofing. Some models center the hoof under the sole while others attach the hoof behind the heel. It's a matter of choice but prefer one that will make a good impression.

The education of a dog for itspre-paration of the event takes place over a period of about one year. It is necessary to store a significant amount of white-tailed deer hoof

and skin, taking care to properly classify them in order to be able to comply with the rule that all elements used during a track areus of thesame animal. A freezer dedicated to this purpose is often necessary.

The quest and tracking tests taking place at the loin, the young dog will be equipped as soon as its morphology allowsit. This will have a minimum length of 6.5 meters. A boot (cushioned collar) or a harness is also to be planned quickly for the dog to associate the hitch with the exercise.



## Training

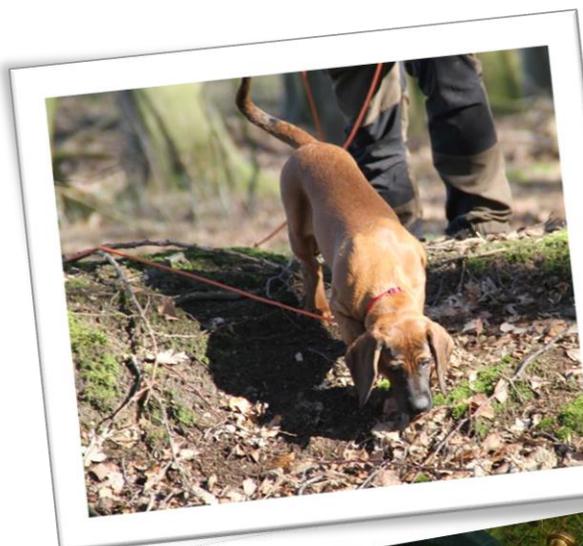
Training in the form of small, playful exercises can be done very early with the puppy. The drags and the perch games will be performed with pieces of skin.

The tracks can be carried out as soon as the young dog has acquired a sufficient level of tracking on the basis of skin trails. They will be carried out with semel tracers only (no blood) equipped with white-tailed deer hoof, as in the artificial test. The marking of the training tracks is necessary to appreciate with certainty the accuracy of the dog's work. Various marking methods are possible, with visible colour labels and a stapler being a good solution for marking the tracks. Papers degrade rapidly in the sun and rain, unlike plastic ribbons.

The clues used for the *Anschluss*, the rest and at the end of the trail will come from the same animal as the feet fitted thesoles for this track. This rule aims to establish a coherence in the work required of the dog, he searches, tracks and finds a single animal, as will be asked later in real situation.

The frequency of exercise should not be excessive so as not to saturate the dog. This one must find pleasure in making the slopes and live thistraining as a privileged moment

and not aconstraint. The progression in the difficulty of the exercises will be made primarily by the length of the slopes (e.g. 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, 800 meters, etc.), and then by increasing the installation time (decrease in feeling on the track). As much as possible, do not put the dog in a situation of failure by offering him work too difficult given the level he has acquired. It is also important to avoid stagnating its progress by not increasing (gradually) the difficulty of the exercises submitted to it. For the installation of tracks with tracer soles, it is highly recommended to use perfectly thawed hooves so take the hooves out of the freezer the daybeforethe runway is laid.

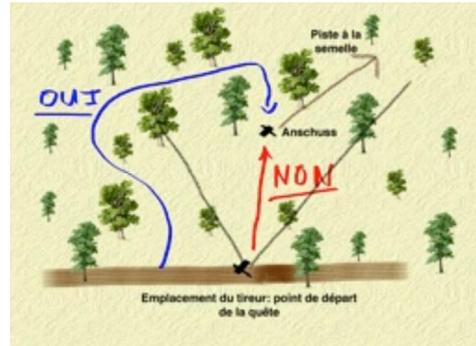


# Laying the runways

The laying of a track naturally begins with that of the *Anschuss* which will allow to work the quest. In order not to distort the exercise of the quest, it is necessary not to go from the "shooter's location" which constitutes the starting point of the quest instead of the *anschuss* in a direct line, because although the plotting soles are only paved by the installer at the *anschuss* the dog would quickly understand the situation and would



come to track the path of the poser to go directly to the clues. The good practice is therefore to go to the *anschuss* by back channels so that the dog cannot cross the path of the poser during his quest.



The clues that are deposited in the *anschuss* as well as in the restings will consist of fragments of skin and bone or cartilage that may come from the cutting of the feet that equip the soles, but especially hairs that have the advantage of not being consumed by predators and therefore not risking

disappearing during the night. Once the installation of the *anschuss* is completed, the installer will be able to put on the soles and start the track proper. The marking of the tracks should allow the dog to be located in relation to the track at all times. The labelling will be adapted to the biotope and theroute. The idea is not to look for the ribbons, but to observe the dog, the mimics of the tail, head or ears, and especially his general attitude when he leaves the corridor of the track. The particular points (rested, angle, etc.) can be marked in such a way as to be easily identified.

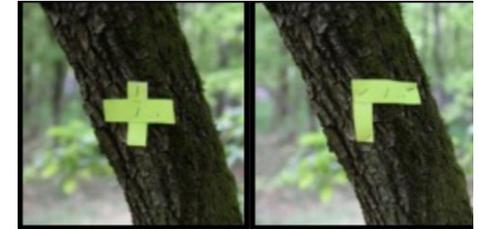


Figure 10: Marking a rested and an angle

## Some tips

For training, as for preparation for the artificial track event:

- Avoid using items from animals other than wild game to lay trails.
- Avoid laying tracks with projected or dabbing blood, only tracing sole.
- Pay attention to the dog's behaviour. Regularly, the attendants see that the dog indicates the presence of clues while this escapes the driver.
- Prepare a track by leaving with an *anschuss* in a different angle from which the dog will arrive, because it will soon become accustomed to tracking your way to find the *anschuss* rather than searching.
- Tag enough training tracks to analyze the dog and not to look at any moment if the dog is really on the track or if it is in error.
- Make varied tracks that include right angles and repossesses.
- Avoid using a "permanent" track on which the dog would take his habits.
- Utilized a GPS to confirm the length of the tracks.
- It can be considered that feature-frozen after the installation of a first track can be used a second time, if necessary, by slightly cutting the soles (the nail of the hoof).



Bavarian and Hanoverian  
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**References:**

French Club of the Red Dog of Hanover and Bavaria (CFCHRHB),  
National Union for the Use of Red Dogs (UNUCR),  
Belgian Red Dog Club (CBCR)  
Eastern European Current Dog Club (CCCEE)  
Società Amatori Cani da Traccia (SACT)

