

**Subject:** Re: Field Test Proposed Changes to Discuss  
**From:** kgibsonlab@comcast.net  
**Date:** 9/21/2016 12:30 AM  
**To:** Alyson Casper <alysondc@hotmail.com>  
**CC:** "Ann DiSilvestre, NSDTRC USA Secretary" <secretary@nsdtrc-usa.org>, "Simons, Kim" <duckdogs@earthlink.net>

Hi Alyson

I provided comments to you several weeks ago, which I have added below for the Board's review. I appreciate that the club CAN get the insurance, which we already knew since the Club has sponsored AKC hunt tests at its national specialty but it doesn't change my concern about how much more it costs to have that insurance for live shot. If Brad could share the costs with you and the Board, then you would have some idea of how much more cost an event would have to cover to be profitable.

### Previous Comments

Hi Alyson,

You have added some good points to your proposal since I last reviewed it. I think you clearly are not asking us to change our club field rules to allow for live shot birds for the tollers, but simply to allow live shot for other breed tests if our club sponsors the event. If I envision this correctly, the breeds that require live shot birds in their test rules would all have a live gunner station, which would be replaced with a dead bird station for the toller tests. Same as when a golden club allows tollers to participate in their event--tollers run after all the other breeds are completed.

The real question then comes down to economics. As you state, we must get insurance when our national club holds an AKC hunt test. I don't know if it a special insurance rider or if our current insurance premium covers a special event with gunfire, but apparently the national club Treasurer has experience in obtaining that higher risk insurance. That is not a question I can answer but one that does need to be addressed by the Board. I do know the hunt/field clubs I belong to pay a substantial amount in annual premiums to hold two to four field events a year. Our national club currently only holds one hunt test every other year at the Specialty.

The other financial issue is whether the club would make money if it sponsored club field tests that included other breeds.

Perhaps you could obtain a few P & L statements from the local clubs that are currently holding multiple breed club tests to show that they are profitable. I can ask our local golden club to share their financial records on the annual WC/WCX tests they do.

The last issue I can think of involves the judges. Our club rules for judges' qualifications are different than other breed clubs.

You may need "higher" qualifications for the judges using other breed rules, which could eliminate the opportunity for toller club members to judge a test.

I will also note that there are not very many tollers in our area that do hunt tests and I have had to drive 500 miles to run in a club field test put on by a southern CA golden club. We also have a golden club in the area that annually holds a WC/WCX and has allowed tollers to participate. They are not willing to do the three levels in any one event, but because we help them with workers, they do allow us to participate. We can show that it is in their financial interest to include us because we use dead ducks and don't cost the club extra bird money. Pat Romeiro has even prepared laminated key elements of the rules for tollers, flatcoats and poodles for the judges to use. I'm sure you have offered the help of yourself and other toller owners to the breed clubs that are currently holding club tests, which as you say would give toller owners the opportunity to get involved.

I have included the Board Secretary in this email so that she can share these thoughts with the Board before the issue comes up to them again. I see that you will be attending the Specialty and would be happy to discuss this further with you.

Kathy

ATTACHMENT I - 2

Re: Field Test Proposed Changes to Discuss

Kathy:

There is not a concern about the insurance as per what was told to me by Brad, we do insure for live shot when he have the AKC tests. As a club, we do have the ability to obtain this coverage.

I do need to know if you have any additional input. The BOD requested I run this by you and would like to have it presented again at the upcoming in person board meeting. Please let me know.

Thanks!

Alyson Casper

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**From:** Alyson Casper <alysondc@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2016 12:12 PM  
**To:** kgibsonlab@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Field Test Proposed Changes to Discuss

Kathy:

I presented this motion to the board of directors and they requested this be discussed with you first. Our issue in our region is that we have very few tollers that hunt so we have been at the mercy of other breeds to get opportunities to participate in field tests. These tests are few and far between. The other breeds also have indicated that they are looking for use to give back by holding tests also. We have not been able to do this as the some of the other breeds require live shot. I have been proposing that we be allowed to use live shot during our club tests, so other breeds could be included. The wording would change like the wording in the AKC tests, which would cover the required safety issue. This is what will need to be included for this issue: This will include that: the Judges in all tests will have complete jurisdiction over the gunners, and must be particularly aware of gun safety. They can have the gunners replaced if performance is not satisfactory or safe. The club shall have more than an adequate number of gunners to ensure the smooth flow of the test. Per the AKC, it is recommended that breaking-type shotguns, from 20 gauge to 12 gauge be used. While it is not a specific responsibility of the Judges, all non-adult gunners (those who use popper loads or shotgun simulators) shall have successfully completed a Hunter/Gun Safety course, and be a minimum of 16 years of age. All live gunning must be by adults, aged 21 or older. In gunning stations, it is recommended that non-break open guns be placed in gun stands when not in use.

We do use live shot if we hold an AKC test, so we are insured for this. Please review this proposal and give me your input on this. I would like it addressed at the next board meeting again.

Thanks!

Alyson Casper  
Region 6 Director

## ATTACHMENT I - 3

Title: Add the ability to use live shot at Club Field tests to allow involvement of other breeds

Submitted by: Alyson Casper, [alysondc@hotmail.com](mailto:alysondc@hotmail.com)

Proposal Description: I am requesting the board address the ability to insure the club field tests allowing live shot to be used, if desired.

Proposal Justification: This is an issue specifically in areas where the number of tollers is small. When there are a smaller number of tollers, it makes it impractical to have a club hunt test just for our breed. In order to include other breeds i.e. goldens, flat coats, or labs, live fire is required. We have worked to

piggy back with the club tests sponsored by those other breeds, but our ability to do this has been limited. Recently, the other clubs have commented that we ask and they go ahead and include us when they do not feel this is reciprocated. These clubs also noted they do make money at these test. Allowing us to use live shot would increase the ability of getting more toller owners involved in obtaining field titles, just by having an opportunity to get involved. Also, it would enable us to make money for the club by being able to include additional hunting breeds. To ensure gun safety, the Judges in all tests will have complete jurisdiction over the gunners, and must be particularly aware of gun safety. They can have the gunners replaced if performance is not satisfactory or safe. The club shall have more than an adequate number of gunners to ensure the smooth flow of the test. Per the AKC, it is recommended that breaking-type shotguns, from 20 gauge to 12 gauge be used. While it is not a specific responsibility of the Judges, all non-adult gunners (those who use popper loads or shotgun simulators) shall have successfully completed a Hunter/Gun Safety course, and be a minimum of 16 years of age. All live gunning must be by adults, aged 21 or older. In gunning stations, it is recommended that non-break open guns be placed in gun stands when not in use.

Administration: This would be the Hunt Chairpersons requirement to administer and approve the tests. We already obtain insurance for AKC tests, so we could use this same insurance for the other club tests.

Financial Implications: Although I am not sure of the cost of the insurance or it is obtained per incident or for the year, but this would allow our regional clubs to make money for the NSDTRC-USA by hosting tests where additional breeds can be included.

Specific Board Action Requested: I move that the board allow for the use of live shot at club field tests when requested.