

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program



Poodle Club of America, Inc.

Rules and Guidelines for Upland UIC, UWC and UWCX Tests

For Participants and Judges

As of Feb. 22, 2014

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program

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Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program

Introduction

Introduction

The Poodle is a versatile, all-purpose hunting dog, adept at finding, flushing and retrieving upland game birds as well as retrieving waterfowl.

In upland hunting, the dog is an active member of the hunting team, responsible for locating the birds in cover or brush and flushing them for the hunters. After the birds are shot, the dog retrieves them, delivering “his prize” to the handler. One of the joys of upland hunting is getting to watch the dogs use their natural talents as hunters.

Poodle Upland Hunting Program

The Poodle Upland Hunting Program was designed to test and certify Poodles as upland hunters. Hunting instincts and abilities are evaluated as the dogs find, flush and retrieve upland birds. Teamwork, tolerance of gunfire, eagerness to challenge cover in searching for birds, and willingness to return when called are all included in the tests. Other abilities tested are the dog’s ability to use his nose to find and trail game, his perseverance in doing so, and his soft mouth to deliver the birds “fit for the table”.

Three levels of certification are recognized:

- **The Upland Instinct Certificate** is to certify Poodles with upland hunting instinct and desire.
- **The Upland Working Certificate** is to certify Poodles demonstrating the abilities which make them good upland hunting companions. They are birdy, natural hunters, who are not afraid of gunfire. This includes poodles with limited field experience who have, with training, demonstrated these same abilities.
- **Upland Working Certificate Excellent** is to certify Poodles who are accomplished upland hunting companions, demonstrating extra trainability and teamwork to complement their hunting abilities.

Hunting Poodle Certification Program

The Hunting Poodle Certification Program was established to acknowledge and encourage those Poodles who are both accomplished waterfowl retrievers and upland hunters. They have shown the instinct and ability to be all around bird hunting companions.

Two levels of certification are recognized:

- **The Hunting Poodle Certificate (HPC)** will be awarded to Poodles who have earned a WC in retrieving and a UWC in upland hunting from the Poodle Club of America. They have demonstrated a working capability in hunting, flushing, marking, swimming and retrieving.
 - **The Hunting Poodle Certificate Excellent (HPCX)** will be awarded to Poodles who have earned both a WCX and a UWCX from the Poodle Club of America. They have demonstrated the abilities needed to be excellent hunting companions.
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Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program
Rules and Regulations – Chapter 1. Regulations and Guidelines

Chapter 1. Regulations and Guidelines

Section 1. How to Earn a UIC / UWC / UWCX Certificate.

Poodle upland certificates can be earned by passing a PCA approved upland test or by passing an upland test approved by another organization, meeting the requirements for a PCA test.

1. **PCA Approved Test** – Poodle upland certificates can be earned by passing the test at a PCA approved event. The events may be organized by PCA, by affiliated Poodle clubs, by other clubs, or by an individual or group of individuals. After an approved test, the event organizers will report the results to the PCA Upland Chairperson, who will record and post the results and issue the certificates.
2. **Test Approved by Another Organization** – Poodle upland certificates can also be earned at recognized tests approved by other organizations as long as PCA requirements are met. As of November, 2013, the Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America is the only other organization to offer a test which meets the requirements for a PCA upland certificate. The CCRCA Upland WC is the equivalent of the PCA UWC.

Reporting the results from a test approved by another organization – It is the owner/handler's responsibility to report to PCA a pass earned in a test approved by an organization other than PCA. A form, [Application for a Certificate](#), is available on the PCA website. It must be filled out, signed by the judges confirming that the requirements were met and the dog did pass, and submitted to the PCA Upland Certificate Chairperson within 30 days of the test. The results will be recorded and the certificate issued. Full information on the dog is required in order to issue the certificate.

Section 2. General Information.

Eligibility –

- These tests are restricted to dogs six months and older who are registered as Poodles with the AKC or an affiliated foreign registry.
- Bitches in heat are not eligible to compete and are not allowed on the grounds.
- UWCX – Poodles must have earned the UWC to be eligible to compete in the UWCX.
- UWC – The UWC is for Poodles with some upland hunting experience or training. With flushing birds and nearby live gunfire, upland tests are very different from retriever hunt tests. Unless the dog has earned a UIC or has had upland experience, it is strongly recommended that it be started at the UIC level.
- UIC – The UIC is for Poodles with little or no upland hunting experience. Prior exposure to live birds and gunfire is still recommended.

Collars – The dog is allowed to wear a flat or rolled collar with a buckle or snap (non-slip) fastening. Name plates riveted to the collar are allowed, but tags dangling from the collar are not. Choke collars are prohibited while the dog is running because of potential danger to the dog. Prong collars, pinch collars, head collars or halters are not allowed to be used in the tests.

Leads and Leashes – In the UIC and UWC, a slip lead, a check cord or a collar and leash may be used to bring the dog to the line and to move him from test to test (i.e. from the walkup to the Hunt-um-up). If a slip lead is used, it must be removed before the start of the test.

In the UIC and UWC Retrieve/Walkup tests, the dogs may be restrained at the line by a snap leash, a check cord (not a slip lead) or by holding the collar. The leash must be removed before sending the dog.

Training Devices – Electronic collars and other training devices are not allowed on the grounds. Collars and leads as specified above, and any type of whistle, are permitted

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Hair tie back policy – A dogs may have its hair tied back with rubber bands. Wraps, bandages, and any type of dog “clothing” are prohibited. Plain collars and rubber bands are all that the dog is allowed to wear.

Popper shells (field blank loads) are to be used for all portions of the tests not requiring live loads. The objective is to test the dog’s response to live gunfire, so primer shells (blank hulls) are not allowed unless popper shells are prohibited by local ordinance.

Wingers and launchers – For the UWC and UWCX Walkup tests, the use of wingers is allowed, but with the size of the birds, hand throwing is preferred. Either way, a separate gunner and thrower are required. Birds for the UIC Retrieve test must be hand thrown. The use of launchers of any type is prohibited.

Blaze orange – All handlers, judges, gunners and anyone else out in the field shall wear blaze orange. If someone leaves their vehicle, they need to be wearing blaze orange. Blaze orange hats and vests are inexpensive and may be supplied by the host organization for those who do not have them.

Gallery. The judges will decide where the (spectators) gallery is to be located. If possible, the gallery should be allowed to follow the hunters into the field, always staying behind the marshal or designated official. If that is unsafe or distracting, the gallery will be moved to a designated location, hopefully with a good view of the hunt. Noise from the gallery must not be distracting. If it is, the gallery will be moved farther from the hunt.

Severe weather or dangerous conditions may be reason to cancel or delay a test. This will be decided by the judges and Committee in mutual consultation.

Scoring – All UIC / UWC / UWCX tests are pass / fail. There is no formal scoring for these tests. The judges are relied on to use their knowledge and experience to decide if a dog has shown the instincts, natural ability and training defined for the level being tested. The dog must succeed in all sections of the test. A fault, even if minor, which is repeated multiple times, may prevent a dog from passing.

Fit for the table – In all cases, the dog must deliver the birds “fit for the table”. The judge must check each bird for damage after it is retrieved. It is understood that there may have been damage to the birds by the mechanics of the tests, including the shotguns, but if the dog furthers the damage to the bird, the dog must not pass. Damaged birds are to be removed from the test.

Encouraging the dog is appropriate. Intimidation is not allowed. Noise should be kept down, as is appropriate to the hunting field.

Section 3. Handler’s Information.

Handlers shall not carry a gun. The gunners will be visible in the field or in the hunting line. They will shoot toward the birds, whether using live shells for the Quartering test or poppers for the other tests.

Talking – The handler is allowed to talk quietly to the dog throughout the test, in a manner which would be appropriate in the hunt field. Loud, harsh commands or attempted intimidation of the dog is not allowed. Continuous chatter is discouraged.

Enthusiasm and noise – An upland hunting dog should be enthusiastic, but basic obedience and manners are also needed. A dog that runs too far ahead, makes excessive noise, or must be loudly controlled, will scare away birds before they are within gun range. This will be penalized, based on the amount and on the level of the test.

Releasing the dog – The judge will **not** tell the handler when to release the dog for retrieves. The handler may release the dog while the bird is still in the air as long as the bird is near the ground.

Speed – All retrieves should be made within a reasonable time frame. It should not be faster for the handler to get the bird himself.

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Rules and Regulations – Chapter 2. Upland Instinct Certificate (UIC)

Chapter 2. Upland Instinct Certificate (UIC)

The Upland Instinct Certificate test is designed to test the basic hunting instincts in Poodles, even those with little or no exposure to game birds or fieldwork. The test will be conducted as an introductory training session, exciting the dog and encouraging him to succeed.

While hunting instinct is the focus of this test, basic field obedience and willingness to work with gunfire are both essential. In the interest of safety, the dog must come when called, even when outside of fences. The sound of gunfire can be frightening to a dog until it associates it with good things. The recall and the response to gunfire are both best established before coming to the excitement of a test.

Live-fire or No-kill test – The organizer will declare whether the UIC Quartering and Flushing test is to be a Live-fire test or a No-kill test. If it is a Live-fire test, then live ammunition is to be used and the birds shot at and retrieved. If it is a No-kill test, then poppers (field blank loads) will be used and all birds allowed to fly away. Note – the poppers (field blank loads) are as just loud as live ammunition, with the added “excitement” of having the bird fly away,

The UIC tests include:

1. Response to Birds and Gunfire
2. Quartering and Flushing (one bird)
3. Hunt-um-up Find

The tests should be run in this order, with one dog completing all the tests before the next dog is tested.

Section 1. UIC Response to Birds and Gunfire Test.

This test shows the dog’s initial interest in a bird and to gunfire at a distance, as he finds a bird that he has seen thrown nearby, has shown sustained interest in the bird, and returned to his handler when called.

Conducting the Response to Birds and Gunfire Test:

- The handler restrains the dog while the judge or an assistant shows the dog a dead bird and teases him with it. While the dog is showing interest and excitement, the bird is tossed from the line into light hunting cover between 5 to 10 yards (15’ to 30’) in front of the dog. While the bird is in the air, the gunner fires a shotgun in the field, about 30 to 60 yards away.
- The handler sends the dog for the bird. He doesn’t need to wait until the bird hits the ground but should wait until after the shot is fired.
- The dog must find the bird and show interest in it. Making contact with the bird is good. Retrieving it is better.
- The handler calls the dog back. The dog must return to the handler when called, with or without the bird.

Section 2. UIC Quartering and Flushing Test.

The Quartering and Flushing Test is the heart of upland hunting. It relies on the dog’s natural ability and desire to hunt with and for his handler. Upland hunting requires more independent work from the dog than waterfowl retrieving does. His nose, eyes and ears are all focused on finding and flushing birds. He should willingly to go into cover where game is most likely to be found and still maintain a proper working distance from his handler. He should not continually look to the handler for directions or appear to be led to the birds.

Requirements for the UIC Quartering and Flushing Test

- A bird must be found and flushed.
- A shot must be fired. The shot is a requirement whether this is a no-kill test or a live-fire test. If it is a no-kill test, the gunners are to use popper shells.
- The dog must return when called, with or without the bird.

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Trapping the bird is considered a flush. In the UIC test, if the dog makes contact with the bird it is considered a flush. If the dog traps the bird, or the simply makes contact with the bird, or the bird flushes by running, a shot cannot safely be fired, so the shot requirement must still be completed.

Setting up the UIC Quartering and Flushing Test:

Ideally there should be enough usable planting locations in the field, to allow the location of the bird to be changed from one dog to the next. A hunting dog must be able to distinguish between old scent of the last bird and the fresh scent where the current bird is, though both areas should be investigated. The judges may use small pieces of orange tape, or other discrete markers, to mark the possible planting locations for the planters. The markers must not be easily visible to the dog/handler teams. It is the dog's responsibility to find the bird, not the handler's to lead him to it.

Conducting the UIC Quartering and Flushing Test:

- The bird is dizzied and planted for the flush. The dog and handler must not see where the bird is being planted. For the UIC, the bird will be planted between 10 and 30 yards from the start.
- A hunting party, including the dog and handler, the judges, and 2 gunners begins their walk out into the field. The dog should be quartering ahead of them. Ideally the dog should hunt in an arc between 10 and 30 yards in front of the handler and gunners, but no specific pattern is required. The handler may use whistles, commands and/or hand signals to keep the dog working in the appropriate area, as long as it is not disruptive to the hunt. The general path, or centerline, will be specified by the judges and may include changes in direction.
- In the normal case, the dog finds the bird and flushes it; the bird flies; the gunners shoot. If the bird is shot, the dog then finds it and retrieves it to the handler, or at least finds it again and shows interest in it. When called, the dog must return to the handler, with or without the bird. If the requirements of a bird flushed and a shot fired have not been met, the following steps should be taken:
 - If the flush could not be made for one of the following reasons, another bird will be planted and the test repeated. These reasons include:
 - The planted bird was a runaway (escaped without being found) with the judges or gunners verifying that the bird could not be found.
 - The bird is accidentally flushed by one of the people in the field.
 - If, on its first bird, the UIC dog needs assistance in finding or flushing the bird, a judge or gunner may assist in getting the bird to flush. In that case, a second bird will be planted and the hunt repeated. On the second bird, the dog must make the flush on his own.
 - If the judge calls a flyaway, the dog must be called back, returning within a reasonable time.
 - If the dog does not return in a reasonable time, as determined by the judges, he must not pass.
 - If he does return in a reasonable time and a shot was taken (in a safe direction) the requirements of the test have been met.
 - If the flush was made but a shot was not fired, a dead bird will be thrown and a shot fired in a safe direction. The dog should then find and retrieve the dead bird or at least go to it and show interest in it.

Important Considerations in the UIC Quartering and Flushing Test:

- The dog must succeed in making a flush. Making contact with the bird (touching it) can count as a flush at the UIC level. If the dog is unable to find a bird or unwilling to make a flush, he cannot pass.
- Flyaways - When the judges decide that the bird is out of the dog's reach (too high or too far ahead of him) and the gunners do not have a good shot at it (out of range or not in a safe direction), they call a flyaway and the dog must be recalled. It is the judges' decision when to call a flyaway.
- Returning after a flyaway - If a flyaway is called, the handler must recall the dog and the dog must return within a reasonable time. If not, he will not pass. It is the judges' decision what a reasonable length of time is.
- Note – if the handler slows or stops the dog to give the gunners a better shot, it is not to be penalized, whether or not it is successful. Sit to flush is not required.

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- If after the required flush, the judges feel that the dog has not adequately demonstrated his quartering ability, some extra quartering with no find or flush may be needed to allow the dog to better show his skill. Often this can be done while moving out of the field or on to the next test area.

Section 3. UIC Hunt-um-up Find Test.

The Hunt-um-up Find demonstrates the dog's desire and natural ability to hunt. He should eagerly enter cover, finding the bird and retrieving it to his handler. For the UIC dogs, this test also demonstrates their willingness to leave the handler and hunt for more birds after flushing the live bird. The Find area should be approximately 25 yards by 25 yards with light cover available.

Conducting the Hunt-um-up Find Test:

- A dead bird is placed (planted) in light cover, hiding the bird from the dog's view. The location where the bird is hidden changes frequently, so neither the dog nor the handler knows exactly where it is. A hunting dog should be able to distinguish between old scent and the fresh scent of the bird.
- The gunner fires a shot, indicating that a bird is down. The gunner is to be visible and shoot in the direction of the bird.
- The handler and dog go to the edge of the Find area to start.
- The handler sends the dog to find the bird.
- After sending the dog, the handler may follow and encourage the dog, but the dog must find the bird on its own.
- If the dog leaves the area, it may be called or handled back to the area and further encouraged to hunt.
- The dog should find the bird in a reasonable time. In the UIC, retrieving the bird is not required, but the dog must find the bird and show interest in it.

Section 4. UIC General Requirements.

- Cover – should be light, but tall enough to hide the birds and dense enough to hold them. The birds should not be readily visible.
 - Retrieving and delivery of the bird – Retrieving the bird is not required for the UIC, but the dog must show sustained interest in the birds. Picking up the bird and dropping it without delivering it to the handler is one way of demonstrating sustained interest. Any contact with the bird would qualify as sustained interest, including nosing it.
 - Recasts:
 - One recast is allowed in the Response to Birds and Gunfire.
 - One recast is allowed in the Hunt-um-up Find
 - Steadiness to shot and flush / Sit to flush – not required but the dog must not be gun shy. The dog may be startled by the gunfire, but must work through it. In fairness to the dog, if he shows too much gun shyness, the test will be stopped and the dog will not pass. If the dog startles at the gunshot, but keeps working, the test may continue with the shyness noted.
 - Steadiness at the line – not required. The dog may be restrained. The dog may be put on leash to go from one area to the next. The dog may be restrained at the line on a snap leash, check cord, or by holding the collar. If a slip lead was used to bring the dog to the line, it must be removed before each test begins. The leash or check cord must be removed before sending the dog.
 - Touching the dog – Handlers may touch their dogs during the test, including taking a hold of the collar before taking the bird from the dog, as long there is no intimidation.
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Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program
Rules and Regulations – Chapter 3. Upland Working Certificate (UWC)

Chapter 3. Upland Working Certificate (UWC)

The Upland Working Certificate test (UWC) is for Poodles with the desire, ability and training to be good upland hunting partners. They should have already demonstrated their prey drive and willingness to work through gunfire. Dogs currently being used for upland type hunting should be able to pass this level. With some training, non-hunting dogs that possess the drive and instinct should also be able to pass this test.

The UWC tests include:

1. Walkup and Retrieve
2. Hunt-um-up Find
3. Quartering and Flushing (two birds)

The tests should be run in this order, with one dog completing all the tests before the next dog is tested.

Section 1. UWC Walkup and Retrieve Test.

The purpose of the Walkup and Retrieve is to evaluate the dog's response to gunfire, his ability to find a bird that he saw thrown, and his willingness to retrieve the bird to his handler.

Conducting the Walkup and Retrieve Test:

- A hunting party, consisting of a dog, handler and judges, begins their walk out into the field. The gunner and thrower are in the field, around 25 to 40 yards away.
- At a signal from one of the judges, the thrower calls "here comes one" and throws a (dead) bird. The gunner, who must be visible, shoots toward the bird. The bird should land about 25 to 40 yards in front of the dog, in light to moderate hunting cover.
- The handler sends the dog to retrieve the bird. He doesn't need to wait until the bird hits the ground but it should be close.
- The dog retrieves the bird to the area of the handler (within 6').

Section 2. UWC Hunt-um-up Find Test.

The UWC Hunt-um-up Find is the same as the UIC Hunt-um-up Find except for the following:

- The bird will be planted in light to moderate cover.
- The handler may move laterally as needed, but is not allowed to enter the Find area.
- The bird must be retrieved to the area of the handler (within 6').

Section 3. UWC Quartering and Flushing Test.

The UWC Quartering and Flushing is the same as the UIC Quartering and Flushing except for the following:

- Two birds are to be planted, hunted and flushed.
- Cover should be light to moderate.
- Test Requirements for the UWC Quartering and Flushing
 - Two birds must be found and flushed
 - At least one bird must be shot at.
 - At least one bird should be retrieved, though failure to retrieve a bird in the Quartering and Flushing will not keep the dog from passing if the other work is solid.
- After two birds, have been flushed by the dog, if the requirements have not been met for at least one bird shot at and at least one bird retrieved, the following sequence should be followed:
 - A third live bird is to be planted, hunted, flushed and hopefully shot and retrieved.
 - If the requirements have still not been met, a live bird is to be hand thrown for the gunners to shoot.

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- If this still does not produce shots or a retrievable bird, a dead bird (hopefully bloodied but in good condition) is to be thrown as a shot is fired.
This will give the dog the opportunity to be successful.
- All retrievable birds should be retrieved to the area of the handler. Birds which go past fences, lodge in trees, etc. are not retrievable. The judges decide whether it is a retrievable bird. This is not specifically a marking test, so the handler and judges may help find the bird. Precise handling (retriever style) is discouraged, since the exact location of the bird is not really known. Upland dogs are relied on for finding birds.

Section 4. UWC General Requirements.

- Cover – the birds should be in light to moderate hunting cover. The cover needs to be dense enough to hold a bird and tall enough so the birds are not seen by dog and handler.
 - Delivery of the bird:
 - The dog must deliver the bird to the area of the handler (within 6'). Then the handler may move up to take the bird either from the dog or off the ground, taking a hold of the collar if necessary.
 - With live birds, the dog must maintain control of the bird until the handler takes it. He does not have to hold the bird off the ground, but dropping a live bird and leaving it for the handler to pick up will not pass. If the dog drops the bird, he must pick it up or pin it down again before the handler takes it. Pinning down a struggling bird would count as maintaining control.
 - If the bird escapes, the dog should recapture it and bring it back again.
 - Recasts – In the UWC, one recast is allowed either in the Walkup (after the dog was sent for the retrieve) or in the Hunt-um-up Find.
 - Steadiness to shot and flush / Sit to flush – not required but the dog must not be gun shy. If the dog startles at the gunshot, but keeps working, the test may continue with the shyness noted.
 - Steadiness at the line – not required. The dog may be restrained. The dog may be put on leash to go from one area to the next. The dog may be restrained at the line on a snap leash, a check cord, or by holding the collar. If a slip lead was used to bring the dog to the line, it must be removed before each test begins. The leash or check cord must be removed before sending the dog.
 - Touching the dog – Handlers may touch their dogs during the test, including taking a hold of the collar before taking the bird from the dog. Intimidation is not allowed.
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Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program
Rules and Regulations – Chapter 4. Upland Working Certificate Excellent (UWCX)

Chapter 4. Upland Working Certificate Excellent (UWCX)

The Upland Working Certificate Excellent test (UWCX) is for Poodles which have earned the UWC, showing their upland hunting abilities. Good, experienced hunting dogs should be able to pass this test. Non-hunting dogs with drive, hunting and retrieving instincts and training should also be able to pass.

The UWCX tests include:

1. Walkup, Retrieve and Honor
2. Hunt-um-up Find
3. Quartering and Flushing (two birds)
4. Trailing and retrieve

The tests should be run in this order, with one dog completing all of the tests from the Walkup/Retrieve through the Trailing before the next dog is tested. When the next dog comes to the line, the previous dog becomes the honor dog to complete his test. The exception to this sequence would be if the Trailing Test needed to be moved to another location for better scenting conditions, then the dog would honor after his Quartering and Flushing test.

Section 1. UWCX Walkup, Retrieve and Honor Test.

The purpose of the UWCX Walkup, Retrieve and Honor is to demonstrate the dog's control, his ability to find and retrieve a bird that he saw fall, and his willingness to work near another dog and to honor another dog at work. The test is the same as the UWC Walkup and Retrieve with the addition of the honor dog and handler.

Conducting the Walkup and Honor Test:

- The working dog and the honor dog, which has just finished his other tests, are brought to the line off lead. Both dogs must be able to see the test and the other dog. Steadiness is not required, but the dogs must not interfere with each other.
- A hunting party, consisting of a working dog and handler, the honor dog and handler, and the judges, begin their walk out into the field. The gunner and thrower are in the field, 25 to 40 yards away. The honor dog and handler walk with the group, approximately 15 to 30 yards to the side.
- At a signal from one of the judges, the thrower calls "here comes one" and throws a (dead) bird. The gunner, who must be visible, shoots toward the bird. The bird should land about 25 to 40 yards in front of the dogs.
- The handler sends the working dog to retrieve the bird. He doesn't need to wait until the bird hits the ground but it should be close. The honor dog must remain with his handler. The honoring handler is allowed to talk quietly to his dog, but must not interfere with the working dog.
- The judge will release the honor dog when his test is finished, usually after the working dog is sent to retrieve. The honor dog may be put on lead immediately. A controlled break will not keep the honor dog from passing if it is short and the dog can be re-heeled without interfering with the working dog.
- The working dog retrieves the bird to his handler.
- The working dog will return at the end of his UWCX tests, to become the honor dog for the next working dog, completing his test.

Section 2. UWCX Hunt-um-up Find Test.

The UWCX Hunt-um-up Find is the same as the UIC Hunt-um-up Find except for the following:

- The bird should be hidden in moderate to heavy cover.
- The dog is sent from a starting line that is between 15 and 25 yards from the Find area. The dog may be handled to the Find area, but not within the area.
- After the dog enters the Find area, the handler may move forward up to half the distance to the area. The handler may move laterally as needed, but may not go more than the halfway to the Find area.
- The bird must be retrieved to the handler.

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Section 3. UWCX Quartering and Flushing Test.

The UWCX Quartering and Flushing, with 2 birds found and flushed, is the same as the UWC Quartering and Flushing except for the following

- The test should include moderate to heavy cover.
- The bird must be retrieved to the handler, not just to the area of the handler.

Section 4. UWCX Trailing Test

This test simulates trailing, finding and retrieving a crippled bird. The dog should indicate that he has located scent, follow the trail to the bird, and retrieve the bird to the handler. Once the dog has located the trail, he should continue to make progress toward the bird, with no more than brief instances of back-tracking in case of confusion about the trail.

The Trail:

- The trail should be 40 to 60 yards long, with at least 1 distinct change of direction. It should simulate the realistic trail of a crippled bird. The bird used to drag the trail should be planted at the end, for the dog to find and retrieve.
- Wind direction needs to be taken into consideration so that the dog will not be able to air scent from a distance instead of trailing.
- The trail and the location of the bird should be changed frequently.
- Ideally a fresh trail in a fresh area should be laid for each dog, but this may not be possible. If the same trail is used for more than one dog, it will not necessarily be re-laid, as this would over-scent the trail, making it more difficult. It should only be re-laid if more than a half hour has passed since its last use. A trail should only be reused once without re-laying it and only be re-laid once. That means that no more than 4 dogs should be run on a given trail.
- Whenever possible, the trail should be laid by suspending the dead bird between 2 track layers with at least 6 feet between the bird and each track layer. By having at least a 12 feet distance between the track layers, the dog should clearly be trailing the bird and not the track layers. A discrete marker should indicate the area of the change of direction, allowing the trail to be re-laid consistently.

Conducting the Trailing test:

- The trail is laid with a dead bird that is planted at the end of the trail.
- A gunshot is fired from the field, indicating a “fresh kill” to the dog. The gunner should be visible and shoot in an appropriate direction for the start of the trail.
- The dog and handler go to the start of the trail and the dog is told to find and follow the trail. The handler remains at the start of the trail, not entering the area of the trail.
- Once the dog has been set on the trail, the handler may encourage him verbally, by hand gestures or by whistles. Commands such as “back” and “over”, hand signals or whistle commands indicate handling and are inappropriate. These shall not be used.
- One recast is allowed.
- When the dog finds the bird, he is to retrieve it to the handler.

Other Information on the Trailing test:

- The style of trailing does not matter, but the dog must clearly trail the bird, not quarter to find it. The dog may stay precisely on the trail with nose down, or close quarter back and forth across the trail with head up, or a combination.
- A dog that quarters widely and does not demonstrate that it is following the trail shall not pass.
- Regardless of the style, the dog must continue to make progress along the trail in the direction of the bird, with no more than brief backtracking to work through problems.

Section 5. UWCX General Information and Requirements.

- Cover – the birds should be in moderate to heavy hunting cover. Height of the cover is not nearly as important as the density of the cover and the ability of the cover to hold and conceal the birds. It should be realistic hunting cover.

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program
Rules and Regulations – Chapter 4. Upland Working Certificate Excellent (UWCX)

- Delivery of the bird:
 - The dog must deliver the bird to the handler. Formal delivery to hand is not required, but the handler should not have to move to take the bird.
 - With live birds, the dog must maintain control of the bird until the handler takes it. He does not have to hold the bird off the ground, but dropping it and leaving it for the handler to pick up will not pass. If the dog drops the bird, he must pick it up or pin it down again before the handler takes it. Pinning down a struggling bird would count as maintaining control.
 - If the bird escapes, the dog should recapture it and bring it back again.
 - Recasts:
 - No recasts are allowed in the Walkup or the Hunt-um-up Find.
 - One recast is allowed in the Trailing Test.
 - Steadiness to shot and flush / Sit to flush – not required.
 - Steadiness at the line – required. The dog is brought to the line off-lead and remains off-lead for the test
 - Touching the dog – The handler may not touch the dog during the test. This includes while the dog is honoring. Incidental touching while the handler is taking the bird from the dog will not be faulted unless it is attempted intimidation or abuse.
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Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program
Rules and Regulations – Chapter 5. Judging Guidelines

Chapter 5. Judging Guidelines

Judging Qualifications (*See Organizer's Guidelines / Judges Qualifications*)

Section 1. Upland Hunting Style of the Poodle.

The Poodle is a versatile, all-purpose hunting dog, adept at finding and retrieving upland game birds and retrieving waterfowl. Training and field experience can affect the degree to which the Poodle exhibits the hunting style described below. The following is an overview of the typical characteristics shown by a Poodle while hunting upland game.

The Poodle will cover ground efficiently and at a moderately quick pace, allowing it to maintain its endurance throughout a day in the field. Some Poodles will occasionally employ a bouncing technique, particularly in high, dense cover. The Poodle possesses an excellent nose, exceptional hearing, strong drive and great intelligence and will use ground and air scent as well as hearing to find and flush game. The Poodle will generally maintain a reasonable working distance, quartering gun to gun if trained to do so, although windshield wiper-like quartering may not be typical. Rather than spending time in unproductive areas, it will focus on those areas that are more likely to hold birds, showing no reluctance to enter even the densest cover.

After finding game, the Poodle may pause, hesitating as it attempts to locate the bird using sight, hearing or scent. A determined drive toward the bird then completes the flush. Both hard and softer flushes are equally acceptable. The athleticism of the Poodle will sometimes enable it to catch a flushed bird. Trapping the bird is considered the most difficult form of flushing and is one that many Poodles excel at. In these tests, it is counted as a flush. In the UWC and UWCX, the Poodle should show no reluctance to retrieve the bird to the handler.

In conclusion, a Poodle is a very capable upland hunting dog. He is an efficient hunter who will search the field to find birds. The "style" demonstrated by a flushing dog of any breed must culminate in finding/flushing and retrieving the birds. A dog that fails to find and flush must not pass, no matter his style.

Section 2. Philosophy Behind These Tests.

Poodles were actually a foundation breed for several of the multipurpose spaniels (Irish Water Spaniel, American Water Spaniel) and versatile retrievers (Curly Coated), having been selected for their intelligence, tenacity and talent in the tasks of searching for, and finding various types of "game".

The UIC test is an instinct test, but requires some basic obedience. It should be done like an easy training session, exciting the dog without overwhelming him. Watch the dog's responses to see what instincts he shows. If he shows gun shyness or fear, the test should be stopped and the dog does not pass. Retrieving is not required at this level, but it is very desirable. Any birds retrieved must be fit for the table.

- The Response to Birds and Gunfire test is to test the dog's interest in birds and tolerance of gunfire at a distance. After being teased with a dead bird, he should be interested in it as it's tossed into light hunting cover, 15' to 30' in front of him. A gunshot will come from the field as the bird is tossed. He should find the bird and show sustained interest in it, whether or not he retrieves it.
- The Quartering and Flushing test is to test his willingness to go hunt some more, including hunting in light cover. He must flush a bird and hear the gunfire when it flushes. Retrieving is desirable, but not required. If it's a no-kill test, all birds are automatically fly away. The dog must return to the handler when called, with or without the bird.
- The Hunt-um-up Find is run last to see if the dog will leave the handler and go back into cover to hunt again. It is also to see if he is still interested in a dead bird after having flushed a live one. He must find the bird, but does not have to retrieve it.

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program Rules and Regulations – Chapter 5. Judging Guidelines

The UWC is a working level test. A good upland hunting dog should be able to pass this level. A non-hunting dog with drive, instinct and a little training should also be able to pass. The non-hunting dogs should have had some field training and exposure to birds, but they may not have. If the dog shows gun shyness or fear, the test should be stopped and the dog not passed. New handlers should be helped and encouraged. The birds retrieved must be fit for the table.

- The Walkup is intended to safely test the dog's interest in a bird thrown into light cover, his response to gunfire at a distance, his ability to find the bird, and his willingness to retrieve the dead bird.
- The Quarter and Flushing test is to see them quarter and hunt in light to moderate cover. They must flush two birds for the gunners. They should retrieve at least one bird.
- The Hunt-um-up Find is run next to see if the dog will leave the handler without seeing a bird thrown, and go into cover to hunt up a bird and bring it back.

The UWCX is an advanced test for good, experienced hunting companions. The dogs should be judged as such, whether or not they have had the chance to hunt. They must work off-lead, honor while another dog works, and have another dog honor them while they work. They are to be steady at the line, but not steady to wing and shot.

- The Walkup is to test off-lead control and the dog's willingness to work with an honor dog in the area. The test should not be set up particularly as a breaking test or a marking test, though the dog must mark and retrieve.
- The Quarter and Flushing test is to test their willingness to challenge moderate to heavy cover to find and flush birds. They must flush two birds, retrieving at least one. They must retrieve any bird that the judges determine is retrievable, but retrieving at least one bird is required.
- For the Hunt-um-up Find, the dog is sent to the Find area. He may be handled to the area, but then it's up to the dog to find the bird and retrieve it. This is not a retriever style blind.
- The Trailing test is to see if they will track a cripple and retrieve it. They must find the trail and follow it to the planted bird, not simply quarter the area until they find it. The tracking style does not matter as long as they are trailing, not quartering or wind-scenting.
- The Honor is to see if, after the excitement of flushing live birds, they will honor another dog that is working.

Section 3. Judging Information.

Judging is to be Pass/Fail – Except as noted in these rules, these tests are to be judged in accordance with the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Spaniels*. PCA's intention is to encourage the participation of Poodle owners and handlers in all aspects of field work with these tests. Score sheets are available to be used in evaluating and documenting the performance of the dogs.

Decisions – The decision of the judges shall be final in all matters relating to the test performance of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to the judges to withhold any certificate award for want of merit. It is the judges' job to set up the tests, not the committee's job, but judges should be receptive to suggestions from the Upland Committee.

Questions – Should the judges have questions prior to a judging assignment, they may contact the test committee of the club for answers.

Controlled Breaks, Recasting, Other Disqualifying Behaviors – Refer to the *AKC Spaniel Hunt Test Rules / Guidelines for Spaniel Hunting Tests / Part IV Scoring / B. Ability Categories, Disqualifying Traits* for definitions and interpretational issues. These include blinking a bird, failure to find birds, refusal to flush, recast, gun shyness, viciousness and out of control, hard mouth, and refused retrieve.

Complaints – Any complaints from handlers will be directed to the Committee and the Committee or designated representative will approach the judges if there is a legitimate complaint, according to the majority of committee members.

Comparison of Requirements

**Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program
Rules and Regulations – Chapter 5. Judging Guidelines**

Test Elements	
UIC	Response to Birds and Gunfire
	Quartering and Flushing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bird must be found and flushed • A gunshot must be fired on at least one flush
	Hunt-um-up Find – handler can follow the dog into the Find area
UWC	Walkup and Retrieve
	Hunt-um-up Find – handler can move along the sides of the Find area, but is not to enter the Find area
	Quartering and Flushing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 birds must be found and flushed • A gunshot must be fired on at least one flush • At least one bird should be retrieved.
UWCX	Walkup, Retrieve and Honor
	Hunt-um-up Find – the dog is sent to the Find area
	Quartering and Flushing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 birds must be found and flushed • A gunshot must be fired on at least one flush • At least one bird must be retrieved.
	Trailing
Cover	
UIC	Light hunting cover, but the bird should not be visible from the line
UWC	Light to moderate hunting cover
UWCX	Moderate to heavy hunting cover
Retrieving and Delivery	
UIC	Retrieving is not required.
UWC	Delivery to the area of the handler (within 6')
UWCX	Delivery to the handler. Formal delivery is not required, but handler should not have to move to get the bird.
Recasts	
UIC	1 recast is allowed in the Response to Birds and Gunfire test. 1 recast is allowed in the Hunt-um-up test.
UWC	1 recast is allowed in the Walkup/Retrieve test or the Hunt-um-up test.
UWCX	1 recast is allowed in the Trailing test.
Steady to Shot and Flush	
All levels	Not required. Note – if the handler slows or stops the dog to give the gunners a better shot, it is not to be penalized, whether or not it is successful.
Steady at the Line	
UIC	Not required.
UWC	Not required.
UWCX	Required.
Touching the Dog	
UIC	Allowed.
UWC	Allowed.
UWCX	Not allowed. Incidental touching while taking the bird not to be penalized.

Distances Used in the Tests		
UIC		
Test	Distance to the Bird	Location of the Gunner

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Response to Birds and Gunfire	Between 5 and 10 yards in front of the dog, with the bird tossed from near the line.	In the field (30 to 60 yards away)
Quartering	Between 10 and 30 yards from start	In the line of hunters
Hunt-um-up Find	Between 5 and 10 yards from the dog	In the field
UWC		
Test	Distance to the Bird	Location of the Gunner
Walkup and Retrieve	Between 25 and 40 yards in front of the dog	In the field (25 to 40 yards away)
Hunt-um-up Find	In an area approximately 25 yards by 25 yards	In the field
Quartering	Not specified	In the line of hunters
UWCX		
Test	Distance to the Bird	Location of the Gunner
Walkup, Retrieve, and Honor	Between 25 and 40 yards in front of the dogs. 10 to 30 yards between the working and honor dogs	In the field (25 to 40 yards away)
Hunt-um-up Find	Send 15-25 yards to an area approximately 25 yards by 25 yards	In the field
Quartering	Not specified	In the line of hunters
Trailing	40 to 60 yards	In the field

Section 4. Setting up the Tests

Use of Terrain and Cover – Paths, roads, cover and other obstacles are a part of upland hunting and should not be excluded. However, their effect on inexperienced dogs should be taken into consideration in setting the lower level tests.

The cover must be tall enough to hide the birds from view. This requires taller cover for pheasants than for quail. For the UIC, the cover should be light hunting cover, while still sufficient to hide the birds. For the UWC, the cover should be light to moderate hunting cover. For the UWCX, the cover should be moderate to heavy hunting cover.

The expected direction and intensity of the wind and its anticipated effect on the birds should be taken into consideration as well.

Care should be taken in setting up the UWCX Walkup and Honor to see that while both dogs have a clear view of the test, the working dog is not likely to cross too close to the honor dog in going for the mark.

Reusing or sharing a field or part of a field for multiple stakes depends on the order of the stakes and whether dogs can be entered in multiple stakes. This must be coordinated with the test organizers. The order of the stakes is stated in the premium, as is whether a dog may enter multiple stakes.

If the lower stakes are being held first **and** dogs can enter multiple stakes:

- A mark is not to be used for the UIC Response to Birds and then for the UWC Walkup.
- A mark is not to be used for the UWC Walkup and then for the UWCX Walkup and Honor.
- An area is not to be used for the UIC Hunt-em-up and then for the UWC Hunt-em-up.
- An area is not to be used for the UWC Hunt-em-up and then for the UWCX Hunt-em-up.
- The same quartering field may be used for all levels if it is large enough and provides cover appropriate for each level.

If the higher stakes are held first **or** dogs are restricted to only entering one stake, then areas can be shared between the stakes.

Whether areas are shared or not, cover must be appropriate for each level and planting locations should be changed regularly.

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Rules and Regulations – Chapter 5. Judging Guidelines

Section 5. Conducting the Test

Handler’s meeting – Prior to each test the judges should have a handlers meeting where rules and guidelines are discussed and questions are answered. Topics covered are likely to include:

- Welcome – we’re here to have a good time.
- When you can send your dog to retrieve.
- What constitutes “sustained interest” in a UIC dog.
- How close must a UWC dog bring the bird. Generally 2 paces equals 6 feet.
- What is allowed in taking the bird from the dog.
- Talking to your dog is okay. Encouraging your dog is good. Chatter is not good. Intimidation is not allowed.
- What constitutes handling, which is not allowed, in the Trailing test.
- Any other items of the day

Test dog – A test dog may be used for any portion of the tests, either to test the mechanics of the test or to demonstrate to the handlers what to expect in the test. The dog should be qualified enough to demonstrate the test well, without being overqualified.

Flushing – If the dog succeeds in getting the bird to move out of hiding, it has flushed the bird. This may be the classic flush where the bird flies, or where the bird takes off running, or the dog may capture the bird before it does either.

Note – if the handler slows or stops the dog to give the gunners a better shot, it is not to be penalized, whether or not it is successful. Sit to flush is not required.

Section 6. After the Test

Judges are to submit an evaluation form to PCA within 7 days of the test. The host club is responsible for completing and submitting paperwork to PCA in the designated time period. This will assist PCA in the future development and refinement of guidelines and suggestions for test giving clubs and handlers. Judges are required to sign the PCA catalog or the entry forms of Poodles passing PCA Upland tests so that the owners can obtain their official award certificates from the PCA UIC/UWC/UWCX Certificate Administrator.

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Rules and Regulations – Chapter 6. Organizer’s Information

Chapter 6. Organizer’s Information

For more information, see the [PCA Upland Test Organizer’s Guide](#)

Test Approval – The PCA Upland Certificate Chairperson should be notified of the intent to hold a test 60 days in advance. The application to hold a test must be submitted in time for the test to be approved 30 days in advance.

Judges Qualifications – Each test is to be judged by two judges, with each judge licensed in an upland or flushing capacity. The judges may be licensed as an AKC Spaniel Hunt Test judges, an AKC Spaniel Field Trial judge, or a HRC Upland judges. If one of the judges is an AKC spaniel judge, the other may be an apprentice as long as he has earned an AKC spaniel Master Hunter title or an AKC spaniel Field Championship / Amateur Field Championship on at least one dog which he has trained and handled.

Information which is to in the premium list includes – stakes to be offered; whether the UIC will be a Live-fire test or a no-kill test; the order of the stakes; entry limits and procedure if limits are exceeded; whether a dog may be entered in multiple stakes; and whether a dog may be entered in the UWCX when it has not earned the UWC.

Order of the Stakes – It is strongly recommended that the order of the stakes be the UWCX, then the UWC, then the UIC. See the [Judges Guidelines – Setting up Tests/Sharing a Field](#) for more information. This must be coordinated with the judges, with consideration for the land available for the tests.

Eligibility for the Stakes – [See Chapter 1, Section 2 General Information / Eligibility](#). The dog must have earned the UWC before it is eligible to compete in the UWCX. If eligibility is based on an expected pass at this test, the UWC stake must be run first, and the dog must pass, or the dog is still not eligible, and is not to be allowed to run. This is a matter of safety. Refund of the entry fee is not required.

Entry Limits – Entry limits may be set by the test organizers to ensure that the test can be completed in the hours of daylight available, that sufficient grounds are available with cover to properly run the tests, and that there will be enough workers available for the tests. Entries may be limited by total number of runs per day, by the number of entries accepted in a given stake, by the number of stakes that a dog is allowed to compete in, or by any other method that will restrict the test to a manageable size while being fair to the competitors. The entry limits must be specified in the premium list. Note - for an AKC spaniel test, 25 runs per day is considered a normal load for one pair of experienced judges with their required workers and grounds.

Complaints – Each participant is expected to do his part to keep up the standards of the UIC / UWC / UWCX tests and to report to the Committee any incident which may be detrimental to the purpose or the rules of the UIC / UWC / UWCX. No person shall make complaints directly to the judges, but shall work through the Committee which is held directly responsible for the conduct of the tests. More information on the complaint procedure may be found in the PCA Upland Organizer’s Guidelines.

Reporting Results – It is the organizer’s responsibility to report the results of the test to the PCA Upland Certificate Chairperson.

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program
Rules and Regulations – Chapter 7. PCA Administrative Guidelines

Chapter 7. PCA Administrative Guidelines

These tests are another method for breeders to select breeding stock, identifying the natural working ability, trainability and teamwork of the dogs.

PCA Approval – The Poodle Club of America grants permission to affiliated clubs and other individuals and organizations to hold PCA Upland Certificate tests. The tests are to be run under the PCA Rules and Guidelines. Poodles completing the designated tests and meeting the requirements set forward in the Rules and Guidelines will receive a PCA Upland Instinct Certificate, Upland Working Certificate or Upland Working Certificate Excellent. The club holding the test is the sponsor, not PCA. There is no limit to the number of tests a given club may hold as long as they are conducted properly.

PCA Recognition – The Poodle Club of America recognizes comparable tests approved other organizations. PCA has no authority over these events. It simply acknowledges them as appropriate testing venues for the PCA upland certificates.

Application for Approval – Clubs applying for permission to hold a PCA Upland Instinct Certificate test, Upland Working Certificate test or Upland Working Certificate Excellent test must do so on the official PCA application. Applications may be obtained from the PCA website or from the PCA Upland Certificate Chairperson. You will find the name and address of this person in the *Poodle Papers*. Send the completed application to the PCA Upland Certificate Chairperson.

Other Breeds – PCA has no objections to non-Poodles running in these tests. Other breeds are allowed to run as a courtesy. The non-Poodles may be required to run after all Poodles. PCA does not award certificates to non-Poodles. Only Poodles shall be allowed to run at tests that are associated with a National or Regional Specialty.

Recognition and Honor –

- **A PCA numbered certificate** will be issued upon receipt of documentation of dogs having passed a test. Additional passes will be recorded by the program administration, upon receipt of that documentation, but no additional certificates will be issued.
- **The Poodle Papers** will list dogs receiving certificates.
- **UIC, UWC and UWCX** will be used behind the names of dogs having passed these certificate tests.

Hunting Poodle Certificate and Hunting Poodle Certificate Excellent – When a Poodle has passed both a UWC and a WC, a Hunting Poodle Certificate (HPC) will be issued to it. When a Poodle has passed both a UWCX and a WCX, a Hunting Poodle Certificate Excellent (HPCX) will be issued to it. It is the joint responsibility of the PCA Upland Certificate Chairperson and the PCA WC/WCX Chairperson to issue these certificates in a timely manner.

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program

Rules and Regulations – Chapter 8. Links

Chapter 8. Links

Poodle Club of America (PCA)

- Home Page – <http://www.poodleclubofamerica.org/>
- Performance Section – <http://www.poodleclubofamerica.org/performance.htm>
- Poodle Upland Hunting Program Test [Organizer's Guide \(pdf\)](#)
- [Comparison of Hunt Tests](#)

Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America (CCRCA)

The CCRCA Upland Working Certificate is the closest program to the PCA Upland Hunting program. The requirements for their UWC match those for the PCA UWC except for the trailing test that they require.

- Home Page – <http://ccrca.org/>
- Working Certificate Programs – http://ccrca.org/working_test_programs.html
- Upland Test Rules – http://ccrca.org/downloads/wc_upland_test_rules.pdf
- Guidelines for Setting Up and Judging Upland Tests – http://ccrca.org/downloads/wc_upland_test_guides.pdf

American Kennel Club (AKC)

The AKC Spaniel program is similar to the PCA Upland Hunting program, except that it does include water work.

- Home Page – <http://www.akc.org/>
- Rules and Regulations – <http://www.akc.org/rules/>
- Spaniel Hunting Test – <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RHTSPN.pdf>

Hunting Retriever Club (HRC)

The HRC has an upper level Upland Hunter title. The UH requires that a dog be steady to wing and shot, and does not include the Hunt-um-up Find. Work is supposed to be in progress on lower level tests.

- Home Page – <http://www.huntingretrieverclub.org/>
- Hunt Tests – <http://www.ukcdogs.com/Web.nsf/WebPages/HRC/Rules>
- Rule book – <http://www.huntingretrieverclub.org/PDF/2013HRRulebook.pdf>
- **Upland Guide** – http://www.huntingretrieverclub.org/PDF/HRC_Upland_Guide.pdf

This is a “must read” for anyone putting on a test, or even a training day. It is an excellent source of information on handling birds, setting up tests, etc.! The HRC Upland test is different from the PCA tests in its requirement that the dogs be steady to wing and shot, but the test setup and bird handling is basically the same.

Upland Gundog Association (UGA)

"The Upland Gundog Association is a hunt test company dedicated to testing a dog's true upland hunting ability."

- Home Page – <http://www.uplandgundog.com/>
 - Events and Rules – <http://www.uplandgundog.com/our-events/>
-

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program

Rules and Regulations – Glossary

Glossary

The following are words or terms commonly used in upland hunting

- **AKC** – America Kennel Club - the parent registry of the Poodle Club of America. The AKC offers hunt tests and titles in both retriever and spaniel hunting work. A link to their website may be found in the Links Chapter.
- **Bird** – for this document, bird means any upland game bird. This includes pheasants, chucker, quail, grouse, pigeons and any other species of game bird that might be unique to a specific region. It excludes ducks, geese, other waterfowl, or other barnyard fowl, which are not to be used in upland tests.
- **Blaze orange, hunter orange** – bright orange, used on hats, vests and/or jackets in hunting situations for visibility a safety concern with live fire in the field. All handlers, judges, gunners and anyone else in the field shall wear blaze orange.
- **Blink a bird** – the dog locates a bird but then avoids it, refusing to acknowledge it or retrieve it. This can happen in both flushing and in retrieving situations.
- **Breaking** – the dog leaves to get a bird before being sent, instead of remaining steady. This is a major fault in upper levels of upland and retrieving work. It is not normally faulted at the lower levels of upland work.
- **Cast** – send the dog to find and retrieve a bird.
- **Centerline or Handler's Line** – a visible path, or indicated line of sight, through the quartering field. This is the path that the hunting party is expected to follow. Birds will be planted on either or both sides of the line. The dogs are expected to work the cover both sides of the line while quartering.
- **Check Cord** - a short cord used to restrain a dog, in place of a leash. One end of the cord is around the handler's wrist or tied to the handler's belt. The cord runs through the dog's collar, with the other end held in the handler's hand. To release the dog, the handler turns loose of the cord and it slides through the collar. The check cord may be used on the walk up for the UIC and UWC and to restrain the dog at the line.
- **Cover or Hunting Cover** – grass and brush that birds hide in. Cover height is normally described as tall, medium, or short, Cover thickness or density is described as dense, moderate, or light. Birds are much easier to find and flush in short, light cover than in tall, dense cover. "Hunting cover" refers to the height and density of cover where one would hunt upland birds. It may vary based on the area of the country and the type of bird, but must be sufficient to provide places where the birds would actually hide. Within those limits, it should also be appropriate to the level of dog being tested.
- **Flush** – the bird, scared out of hiding, attempts to leave, normally by flying off. If, instead of flying, it takes off running, it is still considered a flush, but the gunners probably will not have a safe shot at it. If the dog succeeds in capturing the bird as it flushes, it is considered a trap, the strongest flush.
- **Flyaway** – a bird that flies out of range, whether shot, shot at, or not shot at because no safe shot was available.
- **Gunner** – the person who carries the gun and shoots the birds.
- **Handler** – the person actually directing the dog. This may be the owner, the trainer, or someone else, but it is the person that the dog should take commands from and retrieve the birds to.
- **Honor** – as used in these tests, one dog (the honor dog) remains quietly watching, while a second dog (the working dog) retrieves a bird. The honor dog and handler must not interfere with the working dog
- **HRC** – Hunting Retriever Club – an organization dedicated to hunt tests, offering titles in both retriever tests and upland tests. A link to their website may be found in the Links Chapter.

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program Rules and Regulations – Glossary

- **Hunt-um-up Find** – an upland style blind. The dog is sent to an area and then expected to find the bird on his own. This is different from a retriever style blind where the dog must be handled directly to the bird, and is not allowed to hunt on his own. This is tested in all levels of PCA upland tests.
- **Hunting Cover** – see *Cover*.
- **Hunting Party** – the group of people hunting together. For these tests, the hunting party normally consists of the handler, dog, judges and gunners.
- **Hup** – the sit command used by many people in upland hunting.
- **Launcher or Box Launcher** – a mechanical device, usually a box, used to hold a bird and then throw it into the air, simulating a flush. The throw may be triggered from nearby by someone pulling a string attached to the launcher, or from a distance by an electronic release mechanism. Due to safety concerns for the dog, launchers are not permitted in these tests.
- **Line or Starting Line** – the starting area of a given test, such as the Walkup, the Quartering, or the Hunt-um-up Find.
- **Live-fire, Live-shot** – live ammunition, that is used to kill game. Live-shot is used in the Quartering test unless it is a UIC no-kill test.
- **No-kill test** – a test at which live ammunition is not used. Popper shells are used in the quartering test and the birds are all flyaways. This only applies to the UIC Quartering test.
- **PCA** – Poodle Club of America – the parent club for AKC registered poodles. A link to their website may be found in the Links Chapter.
- **Popper, Popper Shot, Popper Shell, Field Blank** – a shotgun shell that is not filled with metal pellets. These shells contain the other elements of a shotgun shell (primer, gun powder, and wad of some type of non-lethal fill). They are still dangerous, but are not designed to kill. They are as loud as live ammunition, simulating an actual shotgun blast.
- **Primer Shell** – a shotgun shell containing a primer but no wad or pellets. They are used to simulate a shotgun blast, but are not as loud as live ammunition. They are not allowed in these tests.
- **Quartering** – the upland form of hunting where the dogs work from side to side in front of the hunting party as it moves across the field. Ideally, the dog should hunt in a windshield wiper pattern, across in front of the entire hunting party, staying within gun range, however no specific pattern is required. Quartering is tested at all levels of PCA upland tests.
- **Recast** – to send a dog a second time to find and retrieve a bird. If the dog shows confusion and returns to the handler shortly after being sent, without finding and retrieving the bird, the handler may be allowed to recast the dog. It is spelled out in the rules and requirements for the UIC, UWC and UWCX when recasts are allowed.
- **Recall** – call the dog back to the handler.
- **Retrieve** – the dog picks up a bird and brings it back to the handler.
- **Runaway** – a bird which has been planted for a flushing test but manages to run away from the area before the dog gets a chance to find and flush it.
- **Runner** – a bird which, when flushed, runs instead of flying.
- **Scent, fresh scent, old scent** – the odor associated with something, in this case a game bird. Fresh scent is the odor directly associated with the bird but is still present, in diminishing amounts for a short time after the bird leaves. Old scent is the odor left behind after more time has elapsed since the bird left the area. An experienced hunting dog is expected to be able to distinguish between fresh scent and old scent, hunting appropriately.
- **Slip Leash (Slip Lead)** – a leash with a ring at one end, forming a loop that goes around the dog's neck. For the UIC and UWC, it may be used to restrain the dog while walking to the line for each test. Since the loop will tighten like a noose, the leash must be removed before the dog starts a test. For the UWCX, it must be removed before leaving the holding blind to start the first test.

Poodle Club of America – Upland Hunting Program

Rules and Regulations – Glossary

- **Steady, steady to shot** – a dog that is “steady to shot” stops when a bird flushes or shots are fired, and then waits to be released to retrieve the bird. The dog may sit or stand, as long as it remains in place. The dog may be commanded to stop by whistle or voice, or may stop automatically. Steady to shot is not required for the UIC, UWC, or UWCX tests.
- **Steady at the line** – a dog that is “steady at the line” remains with the handler at the line without being restrained, waiting until commanded to find and retrieve the bird, or to leave the area (as in an honor). Steady at the line is required for the UWCX test, but not for the UIC or UWC.
- **Trailing** – following the scent trail of a bird, simulating locating and retrieving a bird that has been shot and crippled. The dog must find the bird by following the trail, not by quartering to find it. The UWCX includes a Trailing test.
- **Trap** – the dog catches the bird as it flushes, rather than its flying.
- **UG** – Upland Gundog title – from the Upland Gundog Association (UGA)
- **UGA** – Upland Gundog Advanced title – from the Upland Gundog Association (UGA)
- **UGA** – Upland Gundog Association – an organization which offers hunt tests and competitions for pointers and upland (flushing) dogs. A link to their website may be found in the Links Chapter.
- **UH** – Upland Hunter title – from the Hunting Retriever Club (HRC)
- **UIC** – Upland Instinct Certificate – from the Poodle Club of America (PCA)
- **Upland WC** – Upland Working Certificate – from the Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America (CCRCA)
- **UWC** – Upland Working Certificate – from the Poodle Club of America (PCA)
- **UWCX** – Upland Working Certificate Excellent – from the Poodle Club of America (PCA)
- **Walkup** – a test, used in both retriever and upland tests, to simulate the hunting party walking through the field, with the dogs at their side, rather than out hunting. The dog sees a bird shot, falling in front of the hunting party. Then the dog is sent to find and retrieve the bird. The Walkup is tested in the UWC and UWCX.
- **Winger** – a large, slingshot-like device used to throw a bird. The use of wingers is allowed in Walkup tests, though it is discouraged.