

## **PROPOSAL TO ADD/CHANGE PCA WORKING CERTIFICATE and UPLAND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

The PCA Working Certificate Program was instituted in the early 1990's as a way to demonstrate to AKC that Poodles should be allowed to compete in Retriever Hunt tests. Standard Poodles were accepted into the AKC program in the late 1990's after showing that they still had the breed instincts to compete in this venue and that there was enough interest in having them included. Miniature Poodles were added later. The PCA WC program was vital in showing that "we belonged" in the program! The PCA field medallion program was instituted for exhibitors to continue to have goals to work with their poodles in the field and to reward exhibitors who showed, over time, their commitment to continued training and supporting PCA and affiliate club events. Both programs were vital in the growth of poodles in the field that we now are experiencing on a record level.

The PCA Upland Certificate Program was recently added to encourage exhibitors to train and run their dogs in AKC Upland (Spaniel) field events. Success from this program encouraged AKC to add Miniature and Standard Poodles to the list of eligible breeds for AKC Spaniel events two years ago.

In order to encourage newcomers, to provide incentive to continue on to higher levels of training, and to include the upland (spaniel) portion of field events, the field "committee" is proposing changes to the WC/WCX/UWC/UWCX programs along with changes to the field medallion program. Below is a summary of the proposed changes.

### **WORKING CERTIFICATE (Retriever) PROGRAM**

WC test to remain the same

WCX test to remain the same but decoys may be used

Add **Working Certificate Instinct (WCI)** test which:

Shows ability to mark a fall, recall to the owner, contact (retrieve not required) with bird in the field

Shows tolerance to gunfire with the mark

Includes two land marks where the above will be accessed

Shows willingness to enter the water, make contact with thrown object and recall to owner

(distance about 10 yards in either lunging or swimming water)

(thrown object can be bird or bumper/floating toy supplied by owner)

The WCI level will be used as a substitute for the popular Field Evaluation and those passing will be issued a PCA WCI certificate similar to the Upland Instinct Certificate currently being used in the Upland program. Dogs receiving this certificate will **NOT** be eligible to enter the Hunting Dog or Hunting Bitch conformation classes at PCA.

Add **Working Certificate Master (WCM)** test:

Includes a steady land double with a live shot flyer

Includes a straightforward land blind at approx 60-75 yds

Include a steady combination triple (2 water marks, 1 land mark) and a straightforward water blind at approx 30 yards

The WCM level will encourage training for upper level AKC tests and reward those handlers who commit the time and effort to advanced training in the field.

### **UPLAND WORKING CERTIFICATE (Spaniel) PROGRAM**

UIC test to remain the same

UWC test to remain the same  
UWCX test changes to remove the trailing portion

**Add Upland Working Certificate Master (UWCM) test**

Includes dog being steady to wing and shot  
Includes flush and retrieve of 2 birds with delivery to hand  
Includes trailing portion (moved from UWCX)  
Includes Hunt Dead portion at 70 yards

These proposed changes will more closely align the two field programs and add an additional, upper level test that should serve to encourage more exhibitors to continue training and be more ready to run the upper levels of appropriate AKC tests. It also adds a true instinct test to the retriever program including a certificate for demonstrated instinct (in place of Field Evaluation.)

**FIELD MEDALLION PROGRAM**

Currently only Retriever events are counted toward earning a PCA field medallions. With the acceptance of Upland events in AKC, the field committee feels that both Retriever and Upland (Spaniel) events should be counted equally toward earning field medallions. At the same time, re-aligning the requirements for the medallions will result in awarding the higher level medallions (silver and gold) to those exhibitors that really go out of their way to commit the hours of training and testing that goes into producing a higher level performer. Below are the proposed changes.

**BRONZE MEDALLION:**

*4 total test passes.* 3 must be earned at PCA or affiliate club events, either WC or UWC level (or higher). 1 must be earned at an AKC event other than at PCA, Junior level or higher (either Retriever or Spaniel). The owner or co-owner must handle the dog in this AKC event. The bronze medallion must be earned before the silver medallion and passes counted toward this medallion will not count for higher level medallions even if they are earned at higher level tests.

**SILVER MEDALLION:**

*4 total test passes.* 3 must be earned at PCA or affiliate club events, either WCX or UWCX level (or higher). 1 must be earned at an AKC event other than at PCA, Senior level or higher (either Retriever or Spaniel). The owner or co-owner must handle the dog in this AKC event. The silver medallion must be earned before the gold medallion and passes counted toward this medallion will not count for the gold medallion even if they are earned at higher level tests.

**GOLD MEDALLION:**

*4 total test passes.* 3 must be earned at PCA or affiliate club events, either WCM or UWCM. 1 must be earned at an AKC event other than at PCA, Master level (either Retriever or Spaniel). The owner or co-owner must handle the dog in this AKC event.

By limiting the number of needed passes and limiting the program to just PCA passes and AKC events (excluding UKC events), it should limit the number of medallions earned as well as encouraging support from local affiliate clubs and entries into the more appropriate levels at PCA. In addition, exhibitors would need to enter and pass at least one AKC event **other than at PCA** to demonstrate commitment and knowledge of the sport in general. By requiring the owner or co-owner to handle the dog at this event, the medallions will encourage owners to take an active role in their Poodle's training and testing. Currently even the gold medallion, while serving its purpose in the past, has encouraged a lot of exhibitors to enter

lower level events just to get in the number of passes needed, i.e., 15 passes but only 5 of which are at WCX level.

The field committee is proposing to transition to the new test levels in conjunction with PCA national in April 2020. Medallions under the old system earned by the end of the field weekend in 2020 will be awarded at the Sunday evening dinner in 2020. The new field events in 2020 will begin counting under the new medallion system and medallions will no longer be awarded under the old system after the 2020 field weekend.

Passes NOT COUNTED toward old medallions (even though they may be earned prior to April 2020) can be counted toward the new medallions no matter the date they were earned. It will take careful tabulation for a few years to keep the records straight but thankfully our WC chairman is up to the task!

If these proposed changes are acceptable to the PCA Board, then the appropriate documentation in the WC/WCX and Upland WC/WCX rules and medallion documents will be promulgated, to be approved at the April 2019 PCA Board meeting.

Submitted by:

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on behalf of Jaci Bowman (Upland/Spaniel chairman), Lin Gelbmann (AKC Retriever test chairman) and Carol McCorkle (WC/WCX chairman)