

Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

WORKING PROFICIENCY TEST

Rules & Regulations - 2015



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CARO WORKING PROFICIENCY TEST

Dogs that have acquired their Advanced title are not required to take this test but may do if they so wish. This test is a pre-requisite for dogs that have not completed a CARO RallyO Advanced title but wish to compete in the Working Level.

In order to pass the WPT dog and handler teams must obtain a "ready" score in each of the 6 exercises.

There are 6 Stations and 2 Sub divisions in the Working Proficiency Test (WPT).

Sub Division #1: Exercises WPT1 and WPT2 must be passed at a single event under one judge.

WPT1 and WPT2 MUST be passed before proceeding to the other exercises.

Sub Division #2: **All exercises in this subdivision must be passed twice under one or more judges.**

	Working Proficiency Exercises
Sub Division #1	WPT1 Walking Proficiency
	WPT2 Stays & Recalls
Sub Division #2	WPT3 Figure Eight
	WPT4 Distance Exercises
	WPT5 Retrieve on Flat
	WPT6 Back Away

Each of the above exercises is scored READY or NOT READY.

All dogs must enter and leave the ring on a leash. Failure to comply will result in a NOT READY

6 Foot Leash

The WPT is intended to determine a dog's ability to work off-leash. The 6 foot leash will be attached throughout the WPT1 & WPT2 exercises and will drag freely on the floor. The leash is removed for the remainder of the exercises. The leash used in the WPT must be a minimum of 6 feet long and the width should be commensurate with the size of the dog.

During WPT the leash is not used to restrain the dog but to prevent the dog from leaving the ring. Picking up the leash and/or stepping on the leash to control the dog during the exercises, will result in a NOT READY because of "physical" restraint/correction.

Scoring

Scoring in the WPT will be based upon READY/NOT READY. To pass an exercise the dog must successfully complete all of the principal features of that exercise.

The dog must be under control at all times, and in close proximity to the handler in WPT1 & WPT2 and when moving from one station to the next.

Close Proximity

Close Proximity is defined as the handler being able to touch the dog's head or body. In the case of small dogs, the handler should be able to touch the dog's head or body by bending down. Handler may use verbal and hand signal cues simultaneously or separately when needed to keep dog in close proximity.

Handler may only physically touch the dog to reward it. If the dog leaves the handler's side and does not return

quickly when called by handler it will be scored as NOT READY.

If a dog leaves the ring it will be scored as NOT READY for ALL the stations in the course.

Repeat of Stations

In the WPT two repeats of each station are allowed. **with the exception of WPT1 & WPT2 where no repeats are permitted.**

Order of Exercises

Dog and handler teams must pass Subdivision #1 before proceeding to Subdivision #2. Dog/handler teams do not have to pass the exercises in subdivision 2 in any particular order i.e. Dog passes WPT3 and WPT6 but fails WPT4 and WPT5. The team will retain or be credited for the passing scores. The exercises may be performed in any order by the handler.

Movement in boxes

Both handlers and dogs may move within their respective boxes but any movement outside will result in a NOT READY. Should the handler leave the handler box, even by moving one of his/her feet out of the box, it will result in a NOT READY

If the handler line is utilized then the handler must behind the line and within the plane of the line.

Equipment

Certain equipment is required, some of which is provided by the host club and some by the handler.

Club Supplied Equipment

- Handler Box
- Handler Line
- Dog Box & Back Away Box
- Distance Markings
- Cones.
- Exercise Signs
- Jumps
- Tongs
- Signal Exercise Signs

Boxes

All boxes and lines may be constructed of white ½ inch diameter PVC, tape, nylon or similar material. The boxes shall be taped or fixed in all ~~four~~ corners when used indoors so that they do not move. When used outdoors the boxes must be staked.

Heavier materials, such as steel, may also be used. In this case, they need not be taped or staked but they must be painted white.

Handler box

A square box to designate the Handler's position is required. The internal measurement of this box shall be approximately 2 feet x 2 feet. In some exercises, where indicated, in the description, a line may be used to designate an area the handler must not cross. Where a line is used, it must be no more than two feet in length.

Dog Target area/Boxes

There are two target areas for dogs. One where the dog backs into the area, and the other where the dog either moves directly to it or is left in it. Both types of boxes shall be 3 sided. The interior measurement of the boxes shall be approximately four (4) feet by four (4) feet.

For Back Away exercises the open end of the box shall be placed so that it is closest to the handler.

For all other exercises the closed end of the box shall be placed so that the closed end is closest to the handler.

Clubs are advised to have more than one of each box available for a trial. Liaison with the judge(s) will ensure that the host club has the requisite equipment available.

Distance Markings

Markings shall be placed at the required distance with tape, chalk or similar on the floor to the right of the dog/handler path.

WPT Signal Exercise Sign.

The sign for the various changes of position must be placed where the handler can easily read the signal exercises. The sign may be placed above the station sign or on a separate sign holder. The dimension of the sign is 8 x 10 and lettering should be in large font to be easily read. (see example page 11) In places where the space is limited, one sign holder is sufficient.

Cones

For better visibility, the cones used in the working proficiency test must have a **minimum** height of 18". Either an 18" cone may be used or a cone of lesser height with an addition that brings the visible height to 18". If using smaller cones, a hole may be drilled into the top of the cone and a dowel inserted into the cone to obtain the required 18 inches. The dowel shall be painted white and striped 50 % in any other dark colour.

Jumps

~~Standard jumps (solid or bar) may be used as detailed in the Master General Handbook. The jump heights will be those specified in the Master General Handbook.~~

Handler Supplied Equipment

The handler will be required to supply an object as described in this manual for the retrieve. Handler will hand the object to the ring steward prior to commencing the exercise. This object can be placed in a basket or carrier provided by the handler. The ring steward will place the object in a holding location such as a table, chair or other suitable location, provided for the object taking care not to leave any scent on the object.

Cues

Where, in this handbook, specific cues are used i.e. "Get It", the handler may use any suitable cue and does not have to use the actual phrase used in this handbook unless such cues are specified as not permissible. Verbal cues & hand signals may be given simultaneously.

Handlers of dogs that are deaf may use hand signals even though the exercise prohibits this.

Measurements/Distance

Where distances between the handler box or line and the target box are concerned, the measurement is taken from the front of the handler's box (or line) to the front of the target box. ie. the shortest distance between the two boxes. Where a disability of the handler is such that an object cannot be thrown the required distance either, at the choice of the handler, the Judge or Steward may place the object in an appropriate position OR the handler may tell the dog to stay and then move forward to a position where the object may be thrown successfully. The handler will then return to the dog to continue the exercise.

Start & End of the Class & Exercises

The WPT class will begin when the judge gives the handler permission to start. The class will end when the handler has completed the last exercise.

Timing

Maximum time allowed is 10 minutes. Time is stopped when the last exercise is completed or when the timer calls time at the expiration of 10 minutes. The handler must leave the ring when the 10 minute time is called.

The handler may choose not to complete an exercise and move on to the next one. The handler will indicate the decision not to complete an exercise but time will continue to run (unless this is the last exercise). This will result in a NOT READY for the exercise not completed.

Walk Through

A two (2) minute walkthrough for each 10 competitors will be allowed.

Food & Toys

Food and toys are allowed in the WPT as a reward upon completion of an exercise station where the dog is stationary at the end of the station, (sit, down or stand),. The owner may choose to give the dog a food or toy reward. Food/toy should only be in the owner's hand when it has been taken out of the pocket to be given to the dog. It should then be returned to the pocket before the team moves on to the next station. During stations, all food or toy rewards must be contained in pockets. The food or toy **MUST** be kept in the pocket on the opposite side on which to dog is heeling or it will be considered a "lure". A toy reward is defined as an inactive toy (no sound or light emitted).

Dropped Food: There is no penalty for food dropped on the floor accidentally but the handler must pocket the food immediately.

WPT1 - Walking Proficiency

DESCRIPTION

This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability to remain in close proximity to the handler and perform certain exercises. This exercise is performed "On Leash".

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE DOG :-

- To remain in close proximity to the handler while walking.
 - To change pace with the handler.
 - To sit on command.
 - To perform a right and left turn, and a About Turn Right.
- Note: The handler may use verbal & signal cues and to keep the dog in close proximity.

COURSE LAYOUT

THE FOLLOWING SIGNS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EXERCISE

The sign WPT1 is placed at the start.

Starting at a *NORMAL* pace the handler proceeds to the first sign #7.

Sign #7 *RIGHT TURN* is placed 5 feet from the start.

Sign #9 *ABOUT "RIGHT TURN"* is placed 10 feet from Sign #7 Right Turn.

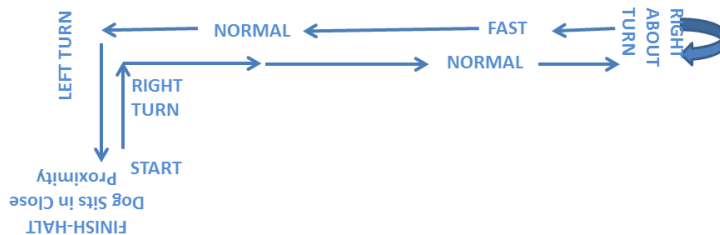
Sign #20 *FAST PACE* is placed 2 feet from Sign #9 About Right Turn.

Sign #21 *NORMAL* is placed 8 feet from Sign #9 (6 feet from Sign #20).

Sign #8 *LEFT TURN* is placed 2 feet from Sign #21 (Or 10 feet from Sign #9 About Right Turn).

Sign Indicating the *FINISH* is placed 5 feet from Sign #9.

WPT1 To show that dog can remain in close proximity to the handler



WPT2 - Sit & Down Stay & Recall

DESCRIPTION

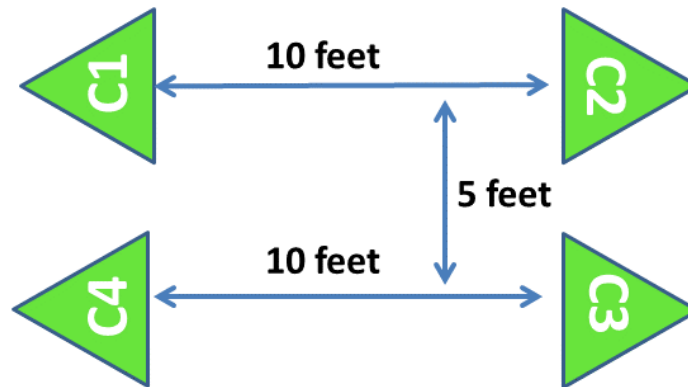
This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability to stay in a sit and down position while the owner moves away and to come when called. This exercise is performed "On Leash".

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE DOG :-

- To remain in sit stay while handler walks away 10 feet.
- To remain in down stay while handler walks away 10 feet.
- To move with the handler to the next cone.
- To stay in position until the handler calls the dog to return.
- To sit in the Front position when recalled, close enough to be touched.

Note: The handler may use verbal & signal cues and may keep the dog in close proximity.

COURSE LAYOUT



PROCEDURE

The handler will proceed to Cone C1# of the pattern. (Station WPT2).

The handler will begin the exercise without instruction from the judge.

The handler walks with the dog from Cone #1 to Cone #2 and does an about turn to either left or right.

The handler then cues the dog to sit and remain in place at Cone #2 and walks back to cone #1 ~~circles Cone #1~~ then returns to the dog.

The handler walks with the dog from Cone #2 to Cone #1 and does an about turn to either left or right. The handler then cues the dog to lie down and remain in place at Cone #1 and walks back to cone #2 ~~circles Cone #2~~ then returns to the dog.

The handler walks with the dog from Cone #1 to Cone #3 and does an about turn to either left or right and leaves the dog in a sit stay and proceeds to cone #4 where the handler will turn and face the dog and then recall the dog which will sit in the front position, close enough to be touched.

The exercise is complete when the dog and handler completes the last exercise and the dog is in the sit position in front.

WPT3 - Figure Eight

DESCRIPTION

This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability and willingness to work away from the handler and to take direction. This exercise is performed "Off Leash".

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE DOG :-

- To circle the each cone correctly in the direction indicated by the handler in either Pattern #1 or Pattern #2.
- To return to the handler close enough to be touched.

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE HANDLER

- For the handler to remain in the handler box whilst signaling the dog to perform the exercise.

PROCEDURE

The exercise will start with the dog sitting in close proximity.

The handler may send the dog without prompting from the judge.

Handler may use verbal and/or physical cues to direct the dog.

The handler may rotate in place but may not step out of the box.

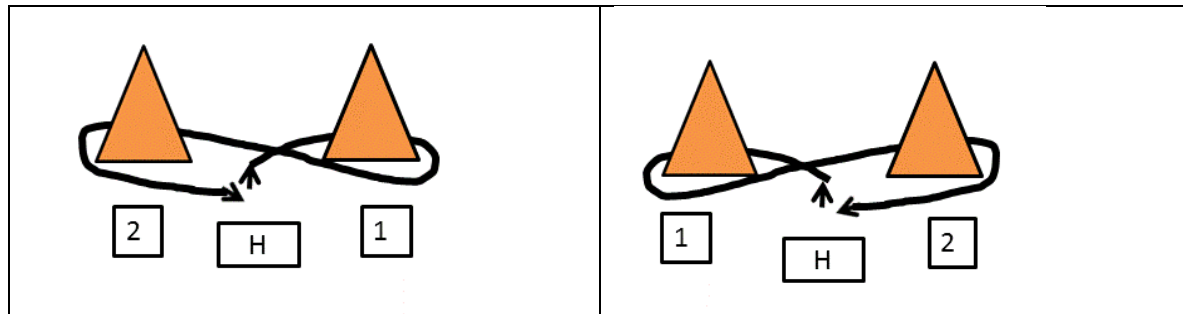
The exercise is complete when the dog has circled the two cones correctly and returned to the handler.

COURSE LAYOUT

Two cones are placed and set 10 (ten) feet apart.

The front of the handler box will be directly between cones #1 and #2 and 4 (four) feet back from an imaginary line drawn between the two cones.

Direction of travel (Handler's Choice)



The dog is sent in a clockwise direction around Cone #1, then sent in an **anti clockwise direction around cone # 2**, and back to the handler

The dog is sent in an **anticlockwise direction around Cone #1**, then sent in a clockwise direction around cone # 2, and back to the handler.

WPT4 - Distance Signals

DESCRIPTION

This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability to understand and perform exercises by signal alone, no verbal cues are permitted. This exercise is performed "Off Leash".

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE DOG :-

- To perform the exercises in the order specified.
- To remain in the box whilst performing the exercises. (with exception of spin, see below *)

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURE OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE HANDLER :-

- For the handler to remain in the handler box or behind handler line whilst signaling the dog to perform the exercises.

PROCEDURE

This exercise starts with the dog and the handler at the dog's designated location.

Without prompting from the judge, the handler cues the dog to sit & stay and then walks 5 feet away to the handler's designated location.

The dog will be stationary at its designated location.

The handler turns and faces the dog.

The handler will then cue the dog to perform the exercises whilst both the handler and the dog remain at their designated locations.

The exercise finishes when the dog has completed the correct position changes.

Exercises will be written/typed on slips of cardboard or paper and placed in a container in such a manner that the writing is not visible to the handler. Handler will draw once to determine which exercises the dog must perform.

Dogs are allowed to leave their box during the spin but should return to the box on completion of the spin.*

Handlers are allowed to cue the dogs to return to the box after the spin.

No additional time is allowed should the handler choose to familiarize the dog to the box.

COURSE LAYOUT

The two designated locations, the dog box and the handler box or line are placed five feet apart.

EXERCISE SIGNS

The "Exercise Sign" should be placed where the handler can easily read the signal exercise. Sign may be placed over the station sign or on a separate sign holder. The dimension of the sign is 8 x 10 and lettering should be of the large font to be easily read.(see example page 11)
In places where the space is limited, one sign holder is sufficient.

POSITION CHANGES

Sit to Stand + Spin Left (anticlockwise)

Sit to Stand + Spin Right (Clockwise)

Sit to Stand + Stand to Down

Sit to Down +Down to Sit

Sit to Down + Down to Stand

WPT5 - Retrieve on Flat

An inactive toy or item (object) of the handler's choice may be used. Description: it may not be a toy or item that easily rolls when thrown, (such as a ball) and it may not make any internal noise – squeak, growl, etc. If the object is not meant to roll and does so, such as a dumbbell, Frisbee or other toy, that is permitted.

DESCRIPTION

This exercise demonstrates the dog's willingness and ability to retrieve an object. This exercise is performed "Off Leash".

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE DOG :-

- To stay in position until cued by the handler to "Get It".
- To retrieve the object to handler and sit in the front position to deliver.
- To deliver the object to the handler.

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE HANDLER :-

- The handler must remain in the handler box or behind handler line whilst signaling the dog to perform the exercise.
- The handler must throw the object a distance of at least 5 feet.
- The handler must wait until the object has stopped moving before giving cue to "get it".

PROCEDURE

The exercise begins with the handler in the handler box or behind the handler line and the dog in close proximity either sitting or standing. With the dog in close proximity the handler may cue the dog to stay and, without prompting by the judge, will throw the object. When the object has stopped moving the handler will cue the dog to retrieve the object. The handler may also cue the dog to release the object to hand. Hand and voice signal can be used simultaneously. The exercise is completed when the dog delivers the object to the handler. No Finish is required.

COURSE LAYOUT

The designated handler location will be the handler's box or line. A cone or line, to indicate throw distance required, must be placed to the right of the handler and 5 feet to the front of the handler line or box.

WPT6 - Back Away

DESCRIPTION

This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability to move backwards a short distance in a straight line. This exercise is performed "Off Leash".

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE DOG :-

- To back- up five feet (5') into the target area.
- To back away from the handler in a brisk manner.

THE PRINCIPLE FEATURE OF THIS EXERCISE FOR THE HANDLER :-

- The handler must remain in the handler box or behind handler line whilst cueing the dog to perform the exercise.

PROCEDURE

The dog handler team will be stationary at the handler's box or line.

The dog must back up five feet from the start line into the target area.

The exercise begins with the dog facing the handler in a sit or stand position.

Without prompting by the judge, the handler will cue the dog to begin backing to the target area.

The exercise is complete when the dog is in the target area.

The handler may choose to walk with the dog to the "dog box" to familiarize the dog as to the location of the box and the construction of the box.

No additional time is allowed should the handler choose to familiarize the dog to the box.

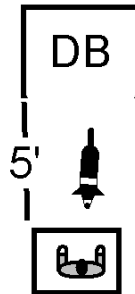
COURSE LAYOUT

There are two designated locations, one for the handler, one for the dog.

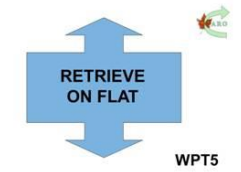
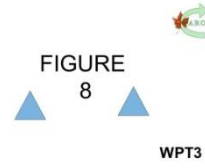
The Handler Location will be the Handler's box or line.

The Dog Location will be the dog box.

** All dogs will be penalized for moving outside of the box but large breeds which are unable to fit into the boxed area will not be penalized for their feet outside of the box.



Working Proficiency Level Signs



Sit To Stand
Spin Left
(anti-clockwise)

Addition Distance Exercise Signs can be found on the CARO website

WPT Exercise 1