

Deutscher Wachtelhund North America Club | DWNA
2022 Hunt Test Summary
Held April 28th- May 1st, 2022
By
Chad Richardson, Test Director

The DWNA hosted the first hunt test in two years due to restrictions on travel from the 2020 pandemic. The test was conducted in Ogallala, NE near Lake McConaughy. Seven dogs were entered into the test with entries coming from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Nebraska. The Judges consisted of Bjorn Fritz (Head Wachtelhund Judge from Germany) and Tom & Vinita Skinner (Kurzhaar Judges from South Dakota).

Test Activities – Test participants, family and other DWNA members all arrived the evening of April 28th at Eagle Canyon camp ground. We held a welcome social where we provided welcome packets, gave introductions, provided an overview of the upcoming events and reviewed participant's paperwork.

Participants gathered the next morning, April 29th for breakfast and a briefing describing the day's activities by the Test Director and the Judges. Participants were encouraged to ask any questions prior to the start of the test. We then carpooled approximately one hour southeast to private land to conduct the hare track test. Dog handlers were divided into two groups (male/female) and the male group was chosen to participate first. After about 2 hours, all male dogs had an opportunity to track a hare. However, conditions at this site were very dry and judges were concerned that the conditions were inhibiting the dogs from giving scent loud (barking while trailing) because only one out of four dogs gave scent loud. The decision was made to relocate to a second hare property consisting of irrigated wheat fields where conditions may be better suited for the dogs. After arriving at the second location, we walked one irrigated wheat field and encountered heavy rain and hail and did not find any hares. The weather conditions warranted canceling the rest of the day and participants returned to the camp ground.

Saturday morning, April 30th participants were greeted with cool temperatures (40-60 degrees) and high winds (20-35 mph). However, participants, judges and of course the dogs persevered while we completed all the remaining JP and EP tests near the camp ground on public land in the North Platte river bottom which included the blood track, fur and feather drag/retrieve, desire to flush, gunshot steadiness in forest and water, water entry and blind retrieve. After a long day, everyone returned to the cabins for a short break and we reconvened that evening in Ogallala at the historic Crystal Palace Saloon for a banquet dinner. We held a silent auction at the banquet to help raise money to offset the cost of conducting the test (primarily to pay for judges expenses).

In past tests, we have always been able to complete the tests prior to the banquet and we typically announce the results of the test at the banquet. This year however, due to the weather, we were forced to complete the hare track on Sunday May 1st. So, we returned to the original hare location where we started on Friday. Rain from Friday and Saturday

made the conditions at this location better for the dogs. The three females were able to track the first hares we encountered and with the improved moisture, they all quickly received passing scores. Judges decided that with ample hares and improved conditions, the males should be given additional opportunities. In short order, all males were given an opportunity to track a hare and after about 2 hours, all 7 dogs had passed the hare track. This proved what we have suspected for years regarding scent loud and dry conditions. Of course we all know dogs have a tougher time scenting in dry conditions but I personally was not sure how it affected the dogs “will” to give scent loud. In this case, same location, same dogs, and .4 tenths of inch of rain made all the difference.

After all dogs had completed the hare track, judges finished up the test by evaluating the dogs confirmation. Judges and participants returned to the cabins shook hands, thanked everyone for coming and participating and everyone headed for home. In all, this was the most successful test in our DWNA history with an 85% passing rate for the dogs.

Dogs Tested

Two tests were held.

JP – 4 dogs tested, 4 pass

EP – 3 dogs tested, 2 pass

Discussion

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who participated and helped make the test a success!! Of course, the dogs should get some credit for doing a good job too, but in reality, the handlers should get most of the credit for their time in training and preparing their dogs for the test and making the financial sacrifice to travel to Nebraska. I truly do appreciate everyone’s effort.

DWNA Test Results Spring 2022

JP Test

Test Dates: April 28 - May 1, 2022

Dog Name/Reg. #	Handler/Owner	Test Result
Max vom Lauterstrom 21-278	Craig Storer	116P./2.Pr
Renaissance Urania 20/1005	JJ Stinson	116P./2.Pr
Haley vom Blue Moon 20/1011	Allen Kelly	110P./2.Pr

Dona vom Axiwald CLP/NK/6456	JJ Stinson	109P./2.Pr
---------------------------------	------------	------------

GP Test

Test Dates: April 28 - May 1, 2022

Dog/Reg. #	Handler/Owner	Test Result
Uras vom Rinnetal 19 -141	Cody Kennedy	158P./2.Pr
Renaissance Ulysses 20/1001	Chad Richardson	141P./3.Pr
Renaissance Titan 19/1000	JJ Stinson	135P./0.Pr