



GOOD HOOPERS AWARDS - SILVER



AIM: To promote good dog behaviour and responsible dog ownership. To have a good knowledge of the aspects of Hoopers as a low impact, fun sport for dogs. To encourage consistency throughout the training in a friendly and respectful manner. All training must be done using modern force-free techniques.

Eligibility: Any dog or bitch aged 9 months and older.

Criteria: Exercises should be carried out in surroundings with as little distraction as possible and off lead using Canine Hoopers UK standard equipment as per the current regulations. Handler must be able to demonstrate their ability to deliver clear vocal and physical signals to their dog. Dogs showing aggression will not be successful, handlers need to show that they have control of their dogs and can prevent excessive sniffing or running away in order to pass the assessment. Reactive dogs who require extra space will be catered for. Dogs must have successfully achieved and been awarded their Bronze Good Hooper Award prior to testing for Silver Good Hooper Award.

When presenting dogs for this examination, dogs should be wearing suitable equipment. Flat collars, head collars, harnesses, lead are all perfectly acceptable. No choke chains, slip leads, prong collars, electric shock collars, electronic collar devices or any other aversive tool may be used.

Rewards/treats may be given on the completion of each exercise, no squeaky toys are allowed but others can be used to gain attention before or reward afterwards but NOT during the exercise. In exercises which are repeated in either direction/on either hand, the dog should be rewarded after the completion of each element and immediately reset for the next part, they must successfully complete both parts for the exercise to be considered complete.

In order to pass the Silver Good Hoopers Award all sections of the assessment must be completed to the satisfaction of the examiner, if some sections are not completed the assessment will be rated as NT – **nearly there** and the handler will be informed of which sections they need to work on.

- 1) The dog must be placed in a wait 1 metre in front of a line of 3 hoops. The handler must recall the dog through the hoops.
- 2) The dog must be able to perform a straight line of 5 consecutive hoops, the handler may recall the dog, send the dog or move with the dog as their choice.
- 3) The dog must be able to perform a straight line of 5 consecutive hoops, the handler may recall the dog, send the dog, move with the dog or any combination as their choice but must begin a minimum of 2m away from the dog and must not progress past the 3rd hoop before the dog has completed the 5th obstacle.
- 4) The dog must be able to demonstrate the ability to turn towards the next hoop by completing a pin wheel of 3 hoops in either direction. (spaced no more than 1m apart and only if required for the comfort of the dog)
- 5) The dog should complete a continuous circle of 5 or more hoops in either direction when arranged into a 5 hoop circle. The inner diameter of the circle should be 2-3 meters (dependent on size of the dog)
- 6) Dogs should demonstrate that they have value for the hoop and when presented with 3 hoops in a straight line that they freely choose to pass through 5 times (value exercise).
- 7) Dog must freely run through a sequence of two tunnels without hesitation when asked to by handler (tunnels spaced at 4 to 5 meters apart) the handler may recall the dog, send the dog or move with the dog as their choice.

- 8) Dog must complete a sequence of hoop – tunnel – hoop – hoop at minimum spacing. The handler may recall the dog, send the dog or move with the dog as their choice.
- 9) Dog should perform a send through 2 hoops spaced at 4-5 meters apart. Handler should be positioned either alongside or behind the dog which should be more than 2m from the first hoop.
- 10) Dog must perform a circle around the barrel from both directions. Handler should be positioned a minimum of 1.5m from the barrel and be stationary. Dogs should pass within 2 metres of the barrel when doing this exercise so as not to encourage very wide turns. Both directions should be demonstrated individually
- 11) A pattern of hoop-tunnel-hoop-barrel-hoop-hoop where the barrel creates a 90 degree turn in either direction. Dogs should perform the sequence from a wait with the handler a minimum of 1m away from the dog at start. The handler may recall the dog, send the dog or move with the dog as their choice. This should be repeated in reverse to alternate the direction of the bend and the sequence of the obstacles, so that both directions are demonstrated individually.
- 12) Handler is to approach a barrel, send the dog around the barrel and perform a front cross before moving away from the barrel with the dog now on the opposite side of the handler from the start position. This should be performed on both sides individually.
- 13) Dog is left in a wait whilst handler moves at least 5 metres away and recalls dog, this is not an obedience recall, but the dog needs to go to the handler and be put back on the lead without any problems.
- 14) Handler and dog should be able to move calmly around to demonstrate good behaviour with other dogs and handlers present. Dogs should not enter other dogs or people's personal space. This exercise is simply to encourage the dog to want to remain with the handler and should be done on the lead. This is NOT a heelwork exercise and should last 60 seconds.
- 15) Handler is to explain to an assessor the key elements of tunnel safety which must be considered when laying out courses and training patterns.