



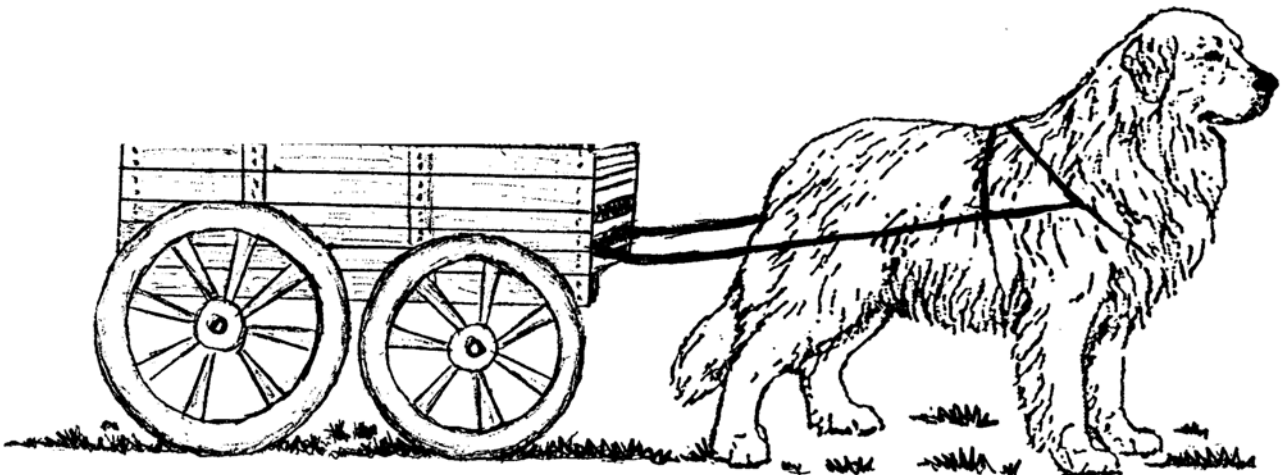
## **GREAT PYRENEES CLUB OF AMERICA**

### **Draft Dog Test Regulations**

#### **Purpose**

The Great Pyrenees Club of America Draft Test is a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural and inherent abilities of purebred Great Pyrenees in a working capacity involving hauling.

The Great Pyrenees has functioned historically as both a livestock guardian and draft dog. Performance of these exercises is intended to demonstrate both the inherent ability and training, which are applicable to realistic work situations. Efficiency in accomplishment of tasks is essential. In addition to teamwork with the handler, the dog should also exhibit willingness and enjoyment of his work.



# GPCA Draft Dog Test Rules and Regulations

## GUIDELINES

All American Kennel Club (AKC) Dog Show Rules and Regulations, American Kennel Club Obedience Regulations and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Great Pyrenees Club of America (GPCA) shall apply to all persons and dogs except as these GPCA Draft Test Regulations direct otherwise. A copy of each of these shall be at the site of the Draft Test and available to the judges, handlers, Draft Test Committee and personnel. A Copy of these GPCA Draft Test Regulations must also be at the Test site and available to the aforementioned persons. **It is the responsibility of each handler to be familiar with these materials prior to the Draft Test.**

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## **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

### **CHAPTER 1. Administration**

#### **Section 1. Application to Sponsor a Draft Test**

- A. GPCA Approval:** Written approval of the GPCA Versatility Draft Dog Committee (DDC) must be obtained to sponsor a Draft Test at which dogs earn GPCA draft titles. Only the GPCA and its affiliated regional clubs may sponsor Draft Tests.
- B. Application:** Application forms are available from the GPCA Versatility DDC Chair and must include:
1. Name of the Draft Test sponsoring club.
  2. Date of the proposed Draft Test.
  3. The address and description of the selected site.
  4. Entry limits (if any) for each class
  5. Name and address of the two (2) judges and their qualifications for judging a GPCA Draft Test
  6. Name, address and phone number of the Draft Test Chairman and the Draft Test Secretary.
  7. Names of additional Draft Test Committee members.
  8. The certification that all GPCA Draft Test Regulations will be followed.
  9. The guarantee that all equipment, steward assistance, and other required provisions will be available at the Draft Test site.
  10. The signatures of the Draft Test Chairman and Draft Test Secretary.
  11. Two (2) copies of the Premium List in final draft form.
  12. A \$25.00 administrative fee payable by check to the GPCA (unless test is held in conjunction with a National Specialty Show, in which case the fee is waived).
- C. Time of Application:**
1. **National Specialty Show:** By **July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year before the specialty**, the Specialty Draft Test Chair will submit draft dog information to the DDC Chair, National Specialty Chair and the National Specialty Coordinator.
  2. **Regional Specialty Show:** At least **26 weeks before entries are to close**, the Draft Test Chair will submit draft test information to the DDC and Regional Specialty chairs and National Specialty Coordinator.
  3. **Regional Draft Dog Test:** Full application must be made at least **four (4) months** prior to the date of the proposed test and must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped postcard. The DDC Chair will return the postcard upon receipt of the application. Approval or rejection of the Draft Test application by the DDC will be communicated to the Draft Test Chair in writing by the DDC within thirty (30) days of receipt of the completed application.
- D. Draft Test Forms:** The DDC will provide at the time of Draft Test approval:
1. **Judges' Worksheets:** to be filled out by each judge evaluating each team's performance and given to the handler at the conclusion of judging.
  2. **Judges Score Sheets:** to be filled out for each dog. Signed by both judges and Draft Test Secretary on the day of the Draft Test and returned to the DDC as part of the Draft Test report.
  3. **Draft Test Final Report:** to be filled out by the Draft Test Secretary and returned to the DDC as part of the Draft Test report.

#### **Section 2. The Draft Test Committee**

- A. Members:** The Draft Test Committee of the sponsoring club shall consist of a minimum of three (3) people, one of whom shall be named Chairman. The Draft Test Committee Chairman and Draft Test Secretary must be members in good standing of the GPCA.
- B. Official GPCA Representatives:** The Draft Test Committee shall act as official representatives of the GPCA and must see to the enforcement of these Draft Test Regulations. Any violations of these Regulations must be reported by the Draft Test Committee to the DDC in writing and included with the Draft Test report.

**C. Draft Test Secretary:** The Draft Test Committee shall approve a Draft Test Secretary, who must be a member of GPCA or a GPCA-Affiliated Regional Club. The Draft Test Secretary shall take all entries and notify each exhibitor after the closing date, of the time of judging, address and directions to the site, and names of judges at least one (1) week prior to the date of the Draft Test. At the Draft Test the Secretary must have available for inspection:

1. The GPCA Draft Test Regulations.
2. American Kennel Club Dog Show Rules and Regulations.
3. American Kennel Club Obedience Regulations.
4. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Great Pyrenees Club of America.
5. The complete entry forms of each exhibitor.

The Draft Test Secretary shall be responsible for sending all return requested materials to The DDC Chairman within ten (10) days following the Draft Test. These include:

Judges Worksheets and Judges Score Sheets.

1. Two (2) marked catalogs
2. Reports on test violations, excusing of a dog or team, etc.
3. Complete entry forms.
4. Draft Test Final Report.
5. A report on move-ups, if any.

No dog belonging wholly or in part to the Draft Test Secretary or to any member of her/his immediate family may enter in any Draft Test at which he/she officiates or is scheduled to officiate.

### Section 3. Duties of the Draft Test Committee

**A. Premium List:** The Draft Test Committee shall print a Premium List after receiving approval to hold a Draft Test. This Premium List shall be made available to any Great Pyrenees owner interested in entering a dog in the Draft Test. Two (2) copies of the Premium List shall be mailed to the Draft Dog Committee (DDC) Chairperson at the time of distribution to the public. The Premium List may be distributed by postal mail, e-mail and through an Internet web site authorized by the DDC. For Draft Tests held in conjunction with the GPCA National Specialty, the Premium List should be included with the National Specialty Premium List.

In the case of Draft Tests scheduled in conjunction with the GPCA National Specialty Show, the Premium List will be sent to the Show Chair and the National Specialty Coordinator at least two weeks before the final printing of the Premium List for review, comment and consistency with the National Specialty Show.

The Premium List shall contain the following:

1. The statement "Great Pyrenees Club of America Draft Test."
2. A list of the Officers and Board of Directors of the test-giving club with the address of the club Secretary.
3. A list of the members of the Draft Test Committee including the address and phone number of the Draft Test Chair and Draft Test Secretary.
4. The names and addresses of the judges.
5. The name of the Draft Test Veterinarian and whether the veterinarian will be in attendance or on call.
6. The date, time and location of the Draft Test.
7. Directions to Draft Test site.
8. A list of classes offered.
9. Entry limit for each class.
10. A statement alerting entrants that **they are responsible for providing their own Freight Haul weight.**
11. A place on the entry form to check off that the entrants will bring their own freight haul weights.
12. The closing date for entries, followed by the statement, "**after which time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled or altered, except as specifically allowed in the current GPCA Draft Test Regulations.**"
13. A list of awards or prizes.
14. The name and address of the DDC Chairman from whom the Draft Test Regulations may be obtained.

15. The statement: “**Entrants are responsible for obtaining the GPCA Draft Test Regulations and being familiar with them.**”
16. An AKC type entry form to include the statement: “**I (we) acknowledge that the GPCA Draft Test Regulations have been made available to me (us), that I am (we are) familiar with their contents and that I (we) agree to abide by these Regulations at this GPCA Draft Test. I (we) understand that I (we) enter a dog at this GPCA Draft Test at my (our) own risk.**”

**C. Notification of Changes:** If a Draft Test Committee is informed at any time prior to the opening of its Draft Test that an advertised judge will not fulfill his/her engagement to judge, then the Draft Test Committee shall substitute a judge. The DDC Chairman, who shall be notified either by telephone, email or postal mail, must approve the substitute judge. The same shall apply to emergency changes of site or Draft Test officials. If the request is made by telephone, a letter to the DDC Chairman must follow with a full explanation. The DDC Chairman must then notify the rest of the DDC of the changes and the reasons they were requested.

**D. Limitation of Entries:** The Draft Test Committee may limit entries. Novice Draft and Open Draft must be offered. Brace Novice Draft and Brace Open Draft may be offered at the option of the sponsoring club. If entries are limited, the Draft Test Secretary will accept all entries received prior to the closing date in order of postmark. Entries received by the deadline, but arrive after limits have been reached, will be placed on an alternate list. Alternates will be able to participate if there are absences, teams are unable to compete, and/or move-ups.

In order to maximize entries, the remaining slots of any unfilled classes may be randomly allocated across the filled classes. Great Pyrenees shall be given preference over all other breeds. Entrants shall notify the Draft Test Secretary if a dog has earned a title in the entered class, including if the title is earned after the entry has been submitted.

**E. Multiple Tests:**

1. A club may offer one or more tests during any multi-day event.
2. A team who passes the Novice Draft Test on one day may move on take the Open test the next day, if an Open test is scheduled and limits have not been reached, or in the case of a dog who earns the Draft Dog title day one, may become part of a brace entry with a second dog who already has a Draft Dog title on day two if Brace is offered and limits have not been reached.

**F. Duration of Tests:** A test may be split into two days if warranted by existing conditions, for example: time constraints, weather conditions, etc. Basic Control, Harness and Hitch, and Practical Draft Work must be scheduled on the first day, with the Freight Load, Group Stay and Freight Haul on the second day.

**G. Stewards:** At least two (2) stewards will be available to assist the judges during all phases of the test. In addition, during the freight haul, there will be one (1) steward walking with each entrant plus the judges' two stewards. The judges are in sole charge of the Draft Test area until their assignment is completed. Stewards are provided to assist them but may act only on the judges' instructions.

**H. Final Jurisdiction:** During the planning and conducting of a Draft Test, all matters not related to the judging the Draft Test shall be resolved by the Draft Test Committee by direct reference to these Regulations. All situations not clearly resolved by these Regulations shall be resolved by reference to the AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations. All unusual situations and their resolutions must be reported in the Draft Test Final Report. Violations of the Draft Test Regulations shall be addressed under Discipline (General Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 4).

**I. Veterinarian:** The services of a veterinarian must be available during a Draft Test. Ideally the veterinarian should be present at the Draft Test and walk the Freight Haul course with the teams and the judges. The veterinarian's professional opinion on the condition of any dog should be given precedence in determining whether the dog should continue to compete. If the veterinarian cannot be on site, the veterinary office must be within a short drive. The Draft Test Regulations have been devised to present a minimal hazard to dogs and handlers but Draft Test Committees are urged to take all responsible precautions to ensure the safety of all involved.

**J. Equipment and Supplies:** In order to differentiate Draft Tests from obedience competition, the use of obedience equipment is not recommended. The Draft Test host club will supply the following:

1. GPCA Draft Test Regulations, AKC dog Show Rules and Regulations, AKC Obedience regulations and Constitution and By-Laws of the GPCA.
2. Ropes and stakes or ring gates to define a ring with a minimum of 5,625 square feet with no dimension less than 75 feet.
3. A minimum of four (4) markers to define the maneuvering course. The markers should be large enough to be clearly visible to both handlers and spectators.
4. Markers for the distance freight haul.
5. A removable obstacle (i.e. gates, sawhorses, logs, branches, construction cones).
6. A lightweight load—a blanket or quilt is recommended.
7. A minimum of two (2) markers to define a narrow area. The markers should be no less than one foot high, with a recommended height of two to three feet and must be two to four foot in length.
6. A four-foot stick, dowel or tape for measuring the backing exercise.
7. A stop watch or watch to time stays and backing.
8. Exhibitor numbers and matching draft rig numbers.
9. A tape measure at least six (6) feet long.
10. Distractions, e.g, children playing loudly, a dog on leash, motorbike, playing a musical instrument.
11. A scale (such as a bathroom scale) which can weigh at least 50 pounds, for verifying freight load weights. Provisions should be made for the scale to rest on a firm level surface and for bulky weights to be accurately weighed.
12. A catalog identifying each entered dog as in an AKC show catalog. The catalog should also identify dogs for which the Basic Control exercise has been waived.
13. A designated area near the ring for the draft equipment and freight weights of all entrants. All such equipment and weights must remain in this area unless being used in the test.
14. An out-of-sight location to hide handler from dog's view in the Open Group exercise, e.g., van, etc.
15. Two clipboards for the judges.
16. Recommended:
  - a. A system by which spectators may be silently informed whether each team passed or failed each exercise (i.e. the judge raising an arm for passing).
  - b. A diagram of the maneuvering course clearly posted at ringside.

## Section 4. Discipline

Any hosting club or person(s) participating in a GPCA Draft Test and not in accordance with the current GPCA Draft Test Regulations may be disciplined for a stated period of time or indefinitely. Discipline may include, but is not limited to, reprimand, forfeiture of draft titles and/or withholding all Draft Test privileges. The GPCA Draft Dog Committee (DDC) shall promptly address all such alleged violations of the Draft Test Regulations and consider all evidence to determine the extent of discipline, if any. The decision of the DDC and the reasons for that decision will be sent to the GPCA Board of Directors for their review. When the DDC and the Board have reached a mutual agreement, their joint decision will be sent to the club and/or individual(s) involved. The GPCA Board of Directors shall have final authority in accordance with the GPCA Constitution and By-Laws. The DDC shall consider past violations when considering applications for Draft Tests by clubs, which made those violations.

## CHAPTER 2. Judges and Judging Guidelines

### Section 1. Judges

There shall be two (2) judges who should be chosen based upon experience with canine draft work, preferably with Great Pyrenees. Criteria to be considered include training and working with Great Pyrenees in draft work, previous judging in Draft Tests and experience with Great Pyrenees in other working roles.

## Section 2. Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of great importance. Judges are not permitted to vary the exercises but it is recognized that the Draft Tests are intended for performance on natural terrain and may require minimal adaptation to fit the site available. Judges are expected to walk with the dogs and handlers on the Distance Freight Haul. In no case should the judge(s) add, delete or change any requirements of the Draft Tests.

## Section 3. Qualifications for Draft Test Judges

**A. Approved Judges:** Judges from other breeds may be approved to judge the Great Pyrenees Draft Test. If one or both of the judges are from another breed, e.g., Bernese Mountain Dogs, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Newfoundlands, etc., the individuals should be an approved judge within his/her own breed. To be approved by the Draft Dog Committee, a proposed Draft Test Judge must possess two (2) or more of the following qualifications:

1. Is an AKC licensed judge for obedience, agility, tracking or field trials.
2. Has trained and qualified at least one (1) Draft Dog.
3. Is an experienced dog obedience instructor with recognized affiliation (i.e., training or kennel club, NADOI, own training school) or has conducted draft training workshops for organized groups.
4. Has practical experience working with dogs in harness in real-life draft work situations.
5. Has actively worked as a steward for at least three (3) draft tests.
6. Has exhibited at five (5) draft tests (regardless of whether a title was earned).
7. Has previously judged a Draft Test with no substantiated complaints from the test-giving club or exhibitors.

When considering a judging panel, the DDC will take into consideration the *combined qualifications* of both judges. The following qualifications must be represented on the judging panel:

- At least one (1) member must have trained and qualified a Draft Dog.
- At least one (1) member has previously judged a Draft Test with no substantiated complaints from the test-giving club or exhibitors.

In addition, the Committee recommends, but does not require, that at least one judge on the panel should be from outside the membership of the test-giving club, except in the case of GPCA National Specialty Show Draft Tests. Both judges may be members of GPCA.

### B. Applying to Judge:

An individual seeking to become a GPCA Draft Dog Judge must complete the following three sections:

1. A written application containing:
  - Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Email address, if any
  - A list of draft titles earned by the applicant, to include the date and the club or regulations under which they were earned, e.g., Bernese Mountain Dog Club of American, Newfoundland Club of America, etc.
  - A summary of the applicant's draft experience, e.g., chair; secretary; conducting workshops, seminars or classes; etc. to include dates, host clubs and other relevant information.
  - Verification of stewarding at least three Draft Tests in any working breed.
  - A summary of obedience experience including titles earned with the date(s) and registry, obedience classes, legs earned on individual dogs that did not result in a title, etc.
  - A summary of other experience relevant to draft judging skills, which can include apprenticing with another breed, judging practice draft tests, etc.
2. An open book test on the GPCA Draft Test Regulations with a minimum score of 85%.
3. A separate sheet, requiring signature and date, with the following statement: "I understand and will respect, uphold, and be subject to the requirements of the GPCA Draft Test Regulations."

These signed documents will be kept on file by the DDC for all Draft Judges. The DDC Chairperson shall send immediate acknowledgement of receipt of the application. Within four (4) weeks after receipt of the application materials, the DDC Chairperson shall notify the applicant, in writing, either of approval as a Judge or the need for further preparation and reapplication.

## Section 4. Open Book Test

The open book test required by applicants shall consist of objective multiple choice, yes/no, and short essay questions. Incorrectly answered questions shall be returned to a Judge for further consideration and re-submission, after which incorrect answers shall be discussed one-on-one with a DDC member. The goal is education and promoting standardized judging.

## Section 5. Pre-Judging Responsibilities

- A. Arrival:** Judges should arrive at the Draft Test site at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled start of judging in order to have time to approve draft equipment.
- B. Explanation of Ring Procedure:** Immediately prior to the start of judging, the judges should explain the ring procedure and patterns to all handlers and stewards and walk through the maneuvering course and the Freight Haul course. Handlers are not required to attend.

## Section 6. Judging Guidelines

- A. Pass/Fail:** All judging is on a pass/fail basis.
- B. Decisions:** Two judges evaluate the teams. Both judges must pass a team for that team to receive a title. Judges' decisions are final in all cases. Full discretionary power is given to the judges to withhold any or all prizes.
- C. Rejudging:** If a dog failed in a particular exercise, it shall not ordinarily be rejudged. However, if in the judges' opinions a dog's performance was prejudiced by a particular and unusual circumstance, the judges may at their own discretion rejudge that dog on the entire exercise.
- D. Excusing a Dog and/or Handler:** The judges must excuse any dog that attempts to attack any person or dog or appears dangerous to other dogs. The judges must excuse any dog that is lame or appears to be pulling weight in excess of its ability, any team whose equipment is inadequate or faulty, any handler who willfully interferes with another team, or any handler who abuses their dog on the Draft Test site. A judge marking a dog "excused" must state the reason in the Judge's Report.
- E. Misbehavior:** Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog, or any uncontrollable behavior of a dog such as snapping, barking or running away from its handler, whether it occurs before, during or between exercises, must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, and the judges may expel or excuse the dog from any further competition in the class. A dog that fouls the ring or freight haul receives a failing mark in that exercise.
- F. Dog in Distress:** If at any time during a Draft Test it becomes apparent to either the handler or a judge that the dog is in distress, the exercise shall be immediately terminated. If the judges determine that the cause of the distress was due to an unusual circumstance, they may permit the dog to be retested at their option, allowing the dog a reasonable period to recover before resuming testing. If the dog has not recovered sufficiently to continue testing in such time as will not unreasonably delay the completion of the division's judging, the judges shall mark the dog failed. Judges are free to delay the judging of a distressed dog to any time before the end of the division being judged.
- G. Group Exercises:** A maximum of ten (10) dogs may be judged together in the group exercises.
- H. Evaluations:** Dogs shall be judged for willingness, ability, enthusiasm, naturalness as a team and smoothness of performance. Each exercise shall be judged on a pass/fail basis. Upon completion of all exercises, each handler shall receive a written evaluation from both judges of the team's performance in each exercise. Judges are encouraged to discuss evaluations with the exhibitors.
- I. Judges' Test Reports:** The judges shall record the pass/fail scores of each dog on the Judge's Score sheet immediately upon conclusion of the test. Judges shall make the Judge's worksheets available to the handlers at the conclusion of the Draft Test.

**J. Problems:** All judging situations not clearly resolved by these Regulations shall be resolved by reference to the AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations, the AKC Obedience Regulations and the GPCA Constitution and By-laws.

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## CHAPTER 3. Eligibility and Conduct of Handlers and Dogs

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### Section 1. Entry Requirements

**A. Definitions:** The term "Dog" applies to dogs of both sexes as well as individual dogs and both dogs of a brace. The term "brace" means a handler and two dogs of the same breed. The term "team" means a handler and one or two dogs.

**B. Eligible Dogs:** National Specialty and Regional Specialty Draft Tests are open only to Great Pyrenees registered with the AKC, Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), or any other foreign registry, as well as eligible unregistered Great Pyrenees for whom an ILP number has been issued by the AKC.

All other Draft Tests are open to Bernese mountain Dogs, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Newfoundlands, and at the discretion of the host club, any other dogs registered with the AKC, Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), or any other foreign registry, as well as eligible unregistered dogs for which an ILP number has been issued by the AKC. Great Pyrenees shall always have first entry priority, followed by other breeds.

**C. Age:** The Draft Test may be entered by dogs two (2) years old or older on the day of the test.

**D. Bitches in Season:** Bitches in season are not permitted to compete. Entry fees will be refunded upon receipt of a veterinary certificate stating an entered bitch is in season at the time of the Draft Test.

**E. Dogs That May Not Compete:** No dog belonging wholly or in part to a Draft Test judge, Draft Test Secretary or to any member of their immediate family may enter in any Draft Test at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate.

**F. Waiving Basic Control:** The Basic Control Exercise may be waived in the **Novice** division only for dogs who have earned an AKC, or CKC Companion Dog (CD) title if a copy of the CD title certificate is sent with the entry form.

**G. Braces:** The two dogs of a brace need not be owned by the same person or by the handler. A separate entry form shall be filled out for each dog of the brace and then stapled together.

**H. Medical Withdrawals:** A handler may withdraw a dog from a Draft Test for medical reasons. Entry fees shall be refunded upon receipt of a signed veterinary certificate stating the reason for the medical withdrawal.

### Section 2. Handlers

**A. On Time:** Teams must be present with their equipment for their scheduled Equipment Check and Freight Haul weight check or forfeit the entry. Judges are not responsible for waiting for any handler or dog.

**B. Multiple Commands:** Multiple commands, signals and verbal praise may be used in all exercises of the Draft Test, except as specified. **Verbal praise is encouraged between and after exercises.** Physical praise during exercises will cause failure.

**C. Food and Toys:** A handler shall not carry or offer food or toys during the Draft Test exercises.

**D. One Handler:** The same handler shall exhibit Dogs for all exercises except that if that handler has two or more dogs entered; each dog must have a separate handler for the group exercises when judged in the same group.

**E. Control Outside of Ring:** All entered dogs must be on a leash or crated when not competing.

**F. Training on the Grounds:** Training on the Draft Test grounds is not permitted. Dogs, entered or not entered, may be hitched to draft rigs to aid in unloading and transport of equipment from vehicles to the competition area, as this is a typical and practical application of draft work.

**G. Warm-up:** Entered teams are allowed a warm-up as permitted in AKC obedience competition—approximately five (5) minutes, all on leash, not hitched to a draft rig—prior to the ring exercises. Prior to the group exercises, dogs may be hitched to their draft rigs and warmed up on leash for an additional five (5) minutes to verify and adjust the balance of the freight load.

**H. Handling Between Exercises:** A dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises and to get it into the proper position for an exercise. No other physical guidance is permitted and shall result in a dog being marked failed if given during any exercise.

**I. Touching Dog or Equipment:** Except for harnessing and hitching, during judging the handler must ask for judges' permission to touch dogs and equipment.

**J. Risk:** The handler entering a dog in a Draft Test does so at his/her own risk and agrees to abide by the GPCA Draft Test Regulations.

### Section 3. Equipment

**A. Handler's Responsibility:** The handler shall be responsible for providing draft equipment, including harness, traces, tie downs, draft rig and a freight load that properly fits the draft rig. The same draft rig must be used for all exercises. Nothing unnecessary should hang or be attached to the collar or harness. Judges may excuse a team from competition if the equipment is deemed inadequate or faulty. Except as specified, the Practical Draft Work exercises are performed with an empty draft rig. Lightweight decorations are allowed on or in the draft rig, but the dog may not perform the Practical Draft Work exercises while pulling the Freight Haul weight load. Handlers must carry clean-up tools and/or bags.

The condition of all draft equipment is the responsibility of the handler. All equipment to be used shall be inspected by the judges for suitability and approved or not approved. Dogs will not be tested using equipment that has not been approved by the judges. No person or animal may serve as a freight load.

**B. Draft Rigs:** Since Great Pyrenees live in a variety of climates and perform draft work in a variety of situations, any of the following draft rigs may be used: cart, wagon, sled, toboggan or travois. Each of these must be equipped so that the draft rig cannot run up on the dog when hauling downhill. The only acceptable brace hitch is one dog beside the other, coupled or uncoupled.

**C. Collars and Leads:** The leash may be of fabric or leather and must be a minimum six (6) feet to provide adequate slack when the dog is in working position and to allow the handler to work beside, behind or in front of the dog during the Novice division maneuvering test. Dogs being tested must wear well-fitted plain buckle or slip collars. Fancy collars or special training collars and collars that are too tight or so large that they hang down unreasonably in front of the dogs are not permitted. In Brace Novice Draft, the dogs may be individually leashed or coupled with a single leash.

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## CHAPTER 4. Competition Site and Spectators

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### Section 1. Site

**A. Ring:** The ring for all exercises shall be rectangular and a minimum of 75 by 75 feet. The terrain should be flat. Natural boundaries, ring gates, ropes or stakes shall define rings. The ring entrance to the Maneuvering Course shall be a minimum of six (6) feet wide or twelve (12) inches wider than the widest measurement recorded during the Equipment Check, whichever is the widest. Only members of the Draft Test Committee, Judges and Stewards shall have unlimited access to these areas. Handlers and dogs are

permitted in these areas only during the 30 minute practice session and when called for testing. Spectators are not allowed in these areas at any time.

**B. Freight Haul Course:** The half-mile Distance Freight Haul Course must be clearly marked and should ideally include both uphill and downhill slopes and changes of terrain such as grass, pavement, dirt, gravel, wood, etc.

## Section 2. Spectators

**A. Applause:** Great Pyrenees working under natural conditions may often be in places where there are a variety of everyday sounds. Spectators are encouraged to applaud and cheer for the performing dogs. Spectators and dogs not entered are not to interfere with the performance in any way. Judges' discretion is to be used to determine interference.

**B. Freight Haul Course:** At the judge's discretion, spectators and all animals not entered in the Test may follow no closer than fifteen (15) feet behind the last dog.

**C. Dogs Not Entered:** All dogs not entered in the Draft Test must be leashed or crated at all times.

## CHAPTER 5. Procedures and Scheduling

### Section 1. Equipment Check

Judges shall check all draft equipment to be used in the Draft Test. The judging schedule shall allow time for this. Dogs will not be tested using equipment that has not been approved by the judges. The type of harness, type of draft rig and the width of the draft rig at its widest point or the width of the hitched dog(s), whichever is the widest, shall be recorded on the Data Worksheet for easy reference during the test. Collars and leads shall be checked at the same time for adherence to these Regulations (General Regulations Chapter 3, Section 3C). After the equipment check, no alterations or substitutions may be made to any of the equipment without the approval of the judge. Multiple Equipment Checks may be held at the host club's discretion, with the judges' pre-approval.

### Section 2. Freight Load

**A. Novice Draft:** Dogs in the Novice Draft must pull a minimum twenty (20) pounds, unless the draft rig is a travois, dog will then pull a minimum of ten (10) pounds.

**B. Novice Brace Draft:** Dogs in Novice Brace must pull double the weight of the Novice Draft, e.g., a minimum of forty (40) pounds, unless the draft rig is a travois, in which case the minimum will be twenty (20) pounds.

**C. Open Draft:** The freight load must be appropriate, in the judges' opinions, to each dog, the draft rig being used and the conditions where the freight load is to be hauled. Loads must be 20 pounds for dogs pulling a travois, 25-50 pounds for toboggans or sleds, 30-60 pounds for carts and wagons.

**D. Open Brace Draft:** The freight load must be twice the Open Draft weight load, with the same considerations.

**E. Verify Freight Haul Weights:** The weight of the Freight Haul loads should be verified by the judge or steward during the equipment inspection.

**F. Order of Group Exercises:** The Distance Freight Haul shall immediately follow the Group Stay exercise and shall start with the teams still in the ring. Draft Test committees should bear this in mind when laying out the ring location and Freight Haul course. The group exercises may be scheduled for another day or later the same day.

### Section 3. Number of Dogs

The Draft test Committee should plan for the judging of four (4) teams per hour. This figure includes time for the Group Stay and the Freight Haul.

### Section 4. Move-Ups

Move-ups to a more advanced class are allowed after the close of entries under the following conditions:

1. A dog may be moved up from one individual class to another or from one brace class to another, but not between individual and brace classes.
2. The Test Secretary must be notified of the move-up no later than 30 minutes prior to the first Equipment Check. The handler presents a test catalog to the Test Secretary. The Test Secretary marks, signs and dates the move-up in the catalog and on the original entry form, and gives the catalog to the handler.
3. Move-ups may affect class limit but not affect the Test limit.

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## CHAPTER 6. Qualifying Performances and Titles

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### Section 1. Qualifying Performances

**A. Pass/Fail:** Both judges must pass a dog on all exercises in a class at one Draft Test to qualify and earn a draft title.

**B. Other Criteria:** The primary quality to be emphasized in Draft Tests is the ability to perform the assigned tasks. However, dogs are also to be judged for willingness and smoothness of performance. A dog that effectively completes the task within a reasonable time period and without physical assistance should be scored as passed if it has performed willingly. A dog that does everything correctly but appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler shall be scored as failed.

### Section 2. Titles

**A. Novice Draft Dog:** Each dog with a passing performance in Novice Draft shall earn the GPCA title Draft Dog, to be abbreviated DD and may be used after the registered name.

**B. Draft Dog Excellent:** Each dog with a passing performance in Open Draft shall earn the GPCA title of Draft Dog Excellent, to be abbreviated DDX and may be used after the registered name.

**C. Brace Novice Draft Dog:** Each dog of a brace with a passing performance in Brace Novice Draft shall earn the GPCA title Brace Draft Dog (BDD).

**D. Brace Open Draft Dog:** Each dog of a brace with a passing performance in Brace Open Draft shall earn the GPCA title Brace Draft Dog Excellent (BDDX).

**E. Certificates:** GPCA draft title certificates will be mailed to the owners of passing dogs following the receipt, and subject to the review of the Draft Test Final Report by the DDC.

# Regulations For Performance and Judging

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## CHAPTER 1. Key Words

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### Section 1. Key Words Defined

Key Words will always appear in bold.

- A. **Stay**—dog remains in the location and position (sit, stand, or down) indicated by the handler. Minor movements such as adjusting of feet or rolling to the opposite hip are acceptable. “Stay” is the concept of being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any command they wish.
- B. **Wait**—dog remains in the same location but may shift its feet or change position (such as sit, stand, down, hip roll, etc.). “Wait” is the concept of being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any command they wish.
- C. **Physically Guide**—contact of any part of the handler’s body with the dog or draft rig with the intent of exerting control.
- D. **Slack/Loose Leash**—a slack or loose leash has a visible U or J shape between the dog and handler.
- E. **Leash Guidance**—a leash “guides” the dog as the slack is reduced. A tight or taut leash is only the most extreme example of leash guidance. Judges shall use common sense in evaluating whether the dog would have responded if the leash had not been there.
- F. **Slow**—a pace distinctly different and slower than the pace immediately preceding, and followed by a return to the preceding pace or a halt.
- G. **Halt**—on the judge’s command, the handler must command the dog to stop. The dog should start to respond to the handler promptly and the dog and draft rig should stop within a short distance. “Halt” is the concept being judged, NOT the command. Handlers may use any commands they wish.
- H. **Hover**—bending of the handler’s upper body directly over the dog.

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## CHAPTER 2. Classes

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### Section 1. Classes Defined

- A. There shall be two classes for individual dogs: **Novice Draft** and **Open Draft**.
- B. **Novice Draft**: The Novice Draft class shall be for dogs that have not earned the Draft Dog title (DD) or have earned the Draft Dog title (DD) but have not earned the Draft Dog Excellent title (DDX). All exercises except the recall, group stay, harnessing and hitching are performed on leash; however, the leash must be visibly slack and is not to be used to physically guide the dog during exercises. Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash will result in a failing performance.
- C. **Open Draft**: The Open Draft class shall be for dogs who have either the Draft Dog title (DD) or the Draft Dog Excellent title (DDX). All exercises except the Distance Freight Haul are performed off leash. Dogs shall be kept on leash when in the ring to receive awards.

**D.** There shall be two brace classes (two dogs working together): **Brace Novice Draft** and **Brace Open Draft**.

**E. Brace Novice Draft:** Brace Novice Draft shall be for dogs who have individually earned either their Novice Draft Dog (DD) or Draft Dog Excellent (DDX) title and may have earned their Brace Novice Draft Dog (BDD) title, but may not both have earned their Brace Draft Dog (BDDX) title. All exercises are the same as those of Novice Draft.

**F. Brace Open Draft:** Brace Open Draft shall be for dogs who have individually earned the Draft Dog Excellent (DDX) title and the Brace Novice Draft Dog (BDD) title. All exercises are the same as those of Open Draft.

## CHAPTER 3. Draft Test Exercises

### Section 1. Basic Control

**Overview:** Prior to hitching, the dog demonstrates an ability to respond to commands from the handler. Because a dog that is not under control when unhitched, is when hitched, a potential hazard to itself, to its handler, to other people and to property, a dog that fails Basic Control by any of the starred (\*) failures may be prohibited from attempting the other exercises. It is up to the judges to make this determination. Basic Control can be waived only in Novice Draft as outlined in the General Regulations, Chapter 3 section 1–f: “for dogs who have earned a CD title.” Novice Brace, Open and Open Brace are required to complete the Basic Control component of the test.

#### A. Heel

*Novice Draft:* Prior to the start of this exercise, the draft rig and harness will be brought into the ring and positioned by a steward. The dog enters the ring on leash.

*Open Draft:* Draft rig and harness remain outside the ring near the entrance. The dog enters the ring off leash.

The dog is expected to heel within an arms length of the handler’s side at all times. On a loose lead, the handler may not **physically guide** the dog, but may command and encourage the dog to remain within arms’ reach at all times. It is desirable, but not required, for the dog to sit by the handler’s side at **halts**. One judge will call commands but both judges will score.

Judge’s commands to the handler are: Are you ready?, forward, **slow**, fast, normal, right turn, left turn, about turn, **halt**, exercise finished. Judges will determine the heeling pattern and order of commands.

Failing performance:

- Dog does not heel consistently within arms’ reach of handler.
- No change of pace.
- Handler consistently adapts to the pace of the dog.
- Dog fouls the ring.
- Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash (Novice)
- \*Handler **physically guides** or touches dog.
- \*The dog is considered by the judge to be unmanageable.
- \*Dog leaves the ring.

#### B. Recall

The recall is performed off leash for both Novice Draft and Open Draft classes and will be 30 to 50 feet in length. The dog must execute the **wait** for the recall with a single command and/or signal.

Novice Draft: *The handler leaves the dog, proceeds to a position close to the draft rig and faces the dog.*

Open Draft: *The handler leaves the dog and proceeds to the harness and hitch area and faces the dog.*

The handler calls the dog. The dog is **expected to respond to the first recall command**. Extra signals, verbal commands and praise are allowed **after** the dog has begun to move. The dog is expected to come to the handler and stop near enough to be touched. It is desirable, but not required, for the dog to sit upon reaching the handler,

Judge's commands to the handler are: Are you ready?, leave your dog, call your dog, exercise finished,

Failing Performance:

- Handler gives more than one **wait** command.
- Dog does not come on first command.
- Dog goes to handler but remains out of reach.
- Dog fouls the ring.
- \*Dog does not **wait**.
- \*Dog leaves the ring.
- \*Dog does not come to handler.
- \*Handler **physically guides** or touches dog.

## Section 2. Harness and Hitch

Overview: Dog demonstrates Willingness to be harnessed and hitched to draft rig.

Novice Draft: *Dog and handler position themselves close to the draft rig. The leash can be removed.*

Open Draft: *The dog and handler proceed to the harness and hitch location designated by the judges. The dog must **wait** while the handler leaves the ring and brings the draft rig and harness into the ring and positions them close to the dog.*

The dog is left on **stay** or wait while the handler gets the harness and harnesses the dog. The dog cooperates for harnessing. The dog will be positioned approximately six to nine (6-9) feet in front of the draft rig. The dog will back up in harness four (4) feet, preferably backing into a position in front of the draft rig from which it will be easy to hitch the dog. There is no time limit on this backup exercise, as long as the dog is responding and working. The handler may leave dog in a stand, sit or down **stay** or **wait** two-to-five (2-5) feet from shafts and/or draft rig and bring the rig up to the dog. Or, the steward, upon instruction from the judge, will bring the rig into position 2-3 feet directly behind dog. When instructed by the judges, the handler hitches the dog to the draft rig. The dog cooperates for hitching. When hitched, the handler indicates readiness to proceed.

Judge's commands to the handler are: "Are you ready?, Harness your dog, Back your dog, Hitch your dog, Exercise finished."

Failing performance:

- Dog does not **wait** while draft rig is brought into ring (Open).
- Dog is uncooperative and/or resists harnessing.
- Dog is uncooperative and/or resists hitching.
- Dog does not back up required distance.
- Dog substantially changes direction while backing up.
- Handler **physically guides** dog during the exercise, with the exception of that physical contact necessary while harnessing and hitching the dog.
- Rough handling of the dog.
- **Hovering** while backing.

### Section 3. Practical Draft Work

**Overview: The team demonstrates working ability. The team encounters situations and distractions such as might be met under everyday conditions.**

The handler may work beside, behind or in front of the dog, or any combination of these. The key factor to be judged is the exhibition of teamwork as well as completion of the exercises and willingness, ability, enthusiasm and smoothness of performance.

Judges may require the Practical Draft Work exercises to be performed in any order. The different components of each exercise do not need to be performed consecutively. At the beginning of these exercises the judge will ask "Are you ready?" and at the conclusion the judge will state, "Exercise finished."

Except as specified, the Practical Draft Work exercises are performed with an empty draft rig.

#### A. Basic Command

Normal pace and **halts** will occur multiple times throughout the Draft Test. The **slow** and back shall each be required only once, but may be used elsewhere in the Draft Test at the handler's discretion. The Basic Commands may occur in any order and in any order relative to the other Practical Draft Work commands.

The team shall haul forward at a normal pace, **slow** down and move at a **slow** pace for a minimum of ten (10) feet and come to a **halt**. Novice dogs must back at least two (2) feet while hitched to the draft rig with no **hovering**. Open dogs must back at least four (4) feet while hitched to the draft rig. The backing exercise may be done in one of two ways:

- (1) When the handler acknowledges they are ready, the judge places the measuring stick, and gives the command, "back your dog." The measuring stick shall not be moved during the exercise.
- (2) The backing exercise may be built into the course and has been pre-measured by the judges, e.g., the dog pulls the cart into a corner and must back out in order to continue the course.

If the draft rig has a locking mechanism to assist in backing, the handler must notify the judge and time will be allowed for locking and unlocking the rig. Two (2) minutes will be allowed for the backing exercise. Multiple attempts may be made.

The handler may use any commands to instruct the dog to complete these exercises.

Judge's Commands to the handler are: Forward, **slow**, normal, **halt**, back your dog, stay your dog, leave your dog, exercise finished.

Failing performance:

- No **slow**.
- No **halt**.
- Dog does not back up required distance.
- Dog upsets draft rig.
- Handler **physically touches** or guides the dog and/or draft rig.
- Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash

Examples of failing performance:

- **Backing:** Once the judge says, "Back your dog", the exercise to back the required distance has begun. Should the dog move forward, the dog must move that distance plus the required distance backward. The backing exercise is not to be judged by dog movement (e.g., standing, sitting or any combination), but on the distance and direction of the draft rig's movement.
- **Hovering during Backing:** Excessive **hovering** to force the dog backwards may be failed based on "Other Criteria": General Regulations, Chapter 6, Section 1b, "scored as passed if it has performed willingly", and "a dog that...appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler shall be scored as failed." A dog that must be intimidated into performing an exercise has not done so willingly.

- **Slow:** If the handler is ahead of the dog, slows down and then finishes the exercise behind the dog, chances are good that only the handler has demonstrated a change of pace. The dog's change of pace is what is being judged.
- **Slow, Brace:** The team must change pace and stay on course. If one dog demonstrates change of pace while the other does not and the rig veers or turns to one side, the team must be failed for either no **slow** or lack of control.
- **Halts, Body Blocking:** Given that handlers may work beside, behind or in front of the dog, a handler may step in front of a dog for a **halt** or other maneuvers. However, if the dog collides with the handler, attempts to go around the handler, or if the handler is forced to back up, the dog should be failed for lack of control or no **halt**.

## B. Control With Distractions

While the team is working, two distractions, one primarily auditory and one primarily visual, will occur approximately ten (10) feet from the working dog. Different distractions may occur in different exercises for different dogs and the handler will not know when during an exercise to expect a distraction. When the distraction appears, the dog may stop what it is doing and/or watch but is not allowed to divert from the course it is following or to move the draft rig if the rig is at the moment stationary. The handler may speak to the dog with instructions concerning the distraction. If the dog has stopped to watch the distraction, the handler is to encourage the dog to proceed with the exercise. When the distraction has passed the handler is to instruct the dog to continue the exercise it may have stopped.

Distractions are to be arranged at the discretion of the Test giving club and should be distractions that might occur in everyday situations. At least one distraction must be in the maneuvering course. The other can be in the Freight Haul. Judges must approve the distractions prior to the start of judging. Possible appropriate distractions are:

### Auditory:

- ringing bell
- car or bicycle horn
- musical instrument
- squeaky toys
- banging pans
- crinkly food bag

### Visual

- ball or toy being thrown
- another animal on a leash
- person riding horseback or a bicycle

Stewards may perform distractions under the direction of the judges or the judges may perform the distractions themselves.

Failing performance:

- Dog changes direction in response to a distraction.
- Dog moves a stationary draft rig in response to a distraction. Dog chases distraction.
- Dog is fearful of distraction to the extent that the dog upsets draft rig. A dog may be startled by, but not afraid of, the distraction.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
- **Guiding**, jerking and/or tight **leash**.
- Dog barks uncontrollably or shows aggression.
- Dog refuses to resume the exercise it was performing after the distraction is gone.
- Dog gives a failing performance in reaction to a naturally occurring distraction, even though the dog passes the official distractions.

**C. Loading and Unloading:** The team shall **halt**. The dog must **stay** in a stand, sit or down position. The individual dogs in brace may be left indifferent positions. After the dog has been told to **stay** a steward or judge approaches. The steward or judge greets the handler, gives the handler a lightweight load (a blanket or quilt is recommended because it can be adjusted to suit different draft rigs) and then leaves. The handler secures the load in or on the draft rig. The team then pulls the load to another part of the ring where they again **halt**. The dog must again **stay**, as above. After the dog has been told to **stay** another steward or judge approaches. The steward or judge greets the handler, greets and pats the dog and then receives the load from the handler. If the load should shift the handler may stop to reposition and secure the load.

Judge's commands to the handler are: **Halt**, load your draft rig, forward, **halt**, unload your draft rig.

Failing performance:

- Dog does not **halt** on command.
- Dog does not **stay**.
- Dog does not cooperate for loading.
- Dog refuses to pull loaded draft rig.
- Load falls off the draft rig.
- Dog does not **stay** when greeted and patted.
- Dog shows aggression or shyness when greeted and patted.
- Dog does not cooperate for unloading.
- Dog upsets draft rig.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
- **Leash guidance.**

**D. Maneuvering:** A maneuvering course is set up incorporating circular patterns, broad curves at least two (2) 90 degree turns, a narrow area and a removable obstacle. The removable obstacle will be an obstruction through or by which the dog could pass if not hitched; the dog is to wait for the handler to move the obstacle before passing. There is no time limit for traversing this course so long as in the judges' opinions the dog is working. The handler may touch the draft rig to guide it only in areas where negotiation of certain maneuvers with the particular rig exceeds the dog's natural abilities. The handler must request and receive permission from a judge to touch the draft rig. Once such areas are passed, the handler must release the rig. Two bumps, i.e., the dog or rig touching or bouncing off an obstacle, are allowed on this course, except in the narrows where no bumps are allowed. The handler may work beside, behind, in front of, or next to the dog, or any combination of these positions. The maneuvering course should include as many natural features as possible.

The team is required to perform:

1. Circular patterns to the right and left.
2. 90 degree turns to the right and left.
3. Broad curves.
4. Moveable narrow area with width measuring 12 inches wider than the widest recorded dimension for this team without touching the objects defining the narrow area. Dimensions are defined as the width of the cart used in the test, measured from wheel hub to wheel hub, the width of the shafts used for a brace if wider than the cart, or a cart constructed to have a bed wider than the wheel hubs. The length of the narrows must be a minimum of three feet.
5. Permanent narrows at least three (3) feet long measured to be 15 inches wider than the widest recorded dimension for all participating teams.
6. Removable obstacle—the dog **waits** while the handler opens a gate or removes an obstacle such as a tree branch or a child's toy. The team then proceeds through the gate or past the obstacle. The handler may be required to close the gate or replace the obstacle.

Numbers 4 and 6 may not be combined.

Judges will direct handlers as necessary through the maneuvers. Judges' commands to the handler may include: "Right turn, left turn, circle right, circle left, halt, remove obstacle, forward, exercise finished."

Failing performance:

- All maneuvers not executed.
- Dog does not **wait** while handler removes obstacle.

- More than two (2) contacts by the dog, handler or draft rig with the obstacles on any part of the course excluding the narrows.
- Any contact by the dog, handler or draft rig with the objects defining the moveable narrow area.
- Dog upsets draft rig.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig. Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash.
- Any contact by the dog, handler or draft rig with the objects defining the narrow area.
- During an otherwise acceptable performance the dog does not stop and wait for handler assistance when the draft rig contacts an obstacle such that the obstacle, draft rig or both would be damaged or upset had the dog not stopped.

## Section 4. Freight Load

**Overview: The weights are loaded into the rigs in preparation for the Freight Haul.**

Novice Draft: Each dog must pull twenty (20) pounds unless the draft rig is a travois. Then the dog will pull a minimum of ten (10) pounds.

Brace Novice Draft: Each brace must pull forty (40) pounds. Brace cannot pull a travois.

Open Draft: Each dog must pull 30 to 60 pounds for carts and wagons, 25 to 50 pounds for toboggans or sleds, or 20 pounds for dogs pulling a travois.

Brace Open Draft: Teams must pull 60 to 120 pounds for carts and wagons. Brace cannot pull a travois.

The handler is to provide a weight load that meets the pre-determined weight requirements and place it into or onto the draft rig. The freight load is to be appropriate in the judges' opinions to that particular dog, draft rig and the conditions where the freight load is to be hauled. Stewards/volunteers may assist under the handler's direction. Judges must confirm the proper freight load from the Data Worksheet.

Failing performance:

- Handler overloads the draft rig.
- Handler loads freight in an improper manner, causing the draft rig to become significantly unbalanced upon moving.
- Handler must alter the weight of the freight load after the dog has begun to move the load.
- Dog upsets the draft rig.
- Dog refuses to move loaded draft rig.
- Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
- Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash.

## Section 5. Group Stay

**Overview: The dogs demonstrate their ability to remain on a stay while hitched. This is a group exercise.**

Novice Draft and Brace Novice Draft: The **stay** is off leash with the handler standing across the ring from the dog.

Open Draft and Brace Open Draft: The **stay** is off leash with the handler out of sight.

Dogs are hitched to their loaded draft rigs and may be gently placed in a stand, sit or down. Draft rig shafts may be adjusted for the dog's comfort. Handler's armbands, weighted with leashes, shall be placed behind the handler, beside the draft rig. The **stay** command and/or signal is given once and no other commands or signals may be given during this exercise. The **stay** is for three minutes. The handlers shall return to the dog's side.

Judge's commands to the handlers are: Position your dogs for the **stay**, leave your dogs, return to your dogs, exercise finished.

**Failing performance:**

- Handler gives more than one **stay** command.
- Dog changes position, e.g., from a down to a sit or stand.
- Dog moves out of place.
- Dog barks or whines repeatedly.
- Rough placement of dog.
- Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.
- Dog disturbs another dog so as to cause that other dog to fail: other dog need not be failed under such disturbance if the judges so decide.

**Section 6. Distance Freight Haul**

**Overview: The teams traverse an outdoor course with the dogs hauling loaded draft rigs. This is a group exercise.**

A cross-country course of at least one half (1/2) mile is to be traversed by the dog hauling its loaded draft rig and accompanied by its handler. The handler may work beside, behind or next to the dog or any combination of these. This is a group exercise conducted on leash.

The course will contain no obstacles other than natural objects (bends in the trail, potholes, trees, etc.) that might be particular to the area of the chosen Test site. Changes of terrain, including up and down hill slopes, grass, pavement, dirt, gravel, etc. are required up to the limitations of the selected site. The load hauled by the dog is the load that has been pre-determined and put into the draft rig during the freight load exercise of the Draft Test. There is no time limit for traversing this course as long as the dog is working. The judges must accompany the teams. The judges have the authority to stop the exercise if the load is too great for the dog under the working conditions. With the approval of one of the judges, the handler may physically guide or touch the dog or draft rig in unusual trail conditions. Control is an important part of this exercise. Handlers should be prepared to slow down, or stop and wait at the request of a judge or to remain part of a group. Any narrow areas on the Distance Freight Haul course, such as between trees or through gates, must be as wide or wider than the widest cart plus twelve (12) inches. Committees should be aware of this when laying out the Distance Freight Haul courses and judges should watch for this when inspecting the Distance Freight Haul course prior to judging.

A steward will accompany each team participating in the Distance Freight Haul.

**Failing performance:**

- Freight load exceeds the dog's capacity to pull comfortably and safely.
- Dog upsets draft rig.
- Dog refuses to move the loaded draft rig.
- Dog refuses to accompany handler.
- Team does not complete the course.
- Handler physically guides or touches the dog and/or draft rig without judge approval.
- Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash.
- Dog does not cooperate during unhitching.
- Dog urinates three or more times.
- Handler fails to carry clean up equipment or fails to clean up dog's stool.