American CAL & TAN Organization

Certificate of Aptitude to Work (ACAL)

A Minimum Age 1 year old

ACAL 1

In order to be awarded the CAL 1 title, the dog must be subjected, with favorable outcome, to the following exercises:

Behavior towards friendly strangers

The dog must remain calm in front of friendly persons. On indication of the steward, the handler walks the dog with a loosened leash and without giving orders. As friendly strangers walk by, the dog must remain calm; he should also remain calm when the handler approaches or is approached by strangers in order to shake their hand, to ask information. The dog however should not be touched. Care must be taken that during this exercise everything is handled as casual as possible.

Indifference to firearm noise

For each dog, a pistol is fired twice in rapid succession from a distance of approximately 20 meters. The exercise is executed with the dog held to a loosened leash of approximately 2 meters of length.

Defense of the handler

The field is marked off, half circle where the dog ends. A decoy, armed with a flexible stick is placed behind a blind (hiding place). The handler, with the dog on leash (tie out is approximately 5 meters long) but held to a length of approximately 1 meter, proceeds ahead according to the instructions given by the steward. A stake is placed at a distance of approximately 10 meters from where the decoy is hiding, and, as the dog and handler reach the stake they stop. At the same time, upon orders given by the steward, the decoy exits from the blind and threatens the handler and dog. The handler, remains still by the stake, but incites the dog to face the threat by loosening the leash, therefore allowing the dog to approach the decoy/aggressor. The dog must react immediately and energetically defend its handler. There should never be contact between the decoy and the dog. This exercise must be done with a hidden sleeve or a bite suit top (NO SLEEVES) This exercise is interrupted by the steward when the dog has demonstrated with its reaction readiness, its real defense attitude. The dog that shows indifference, shyness or manifests fear should not be given a passing grade.

Tie out is tested before test begins by decoy, yelling at dog is allowed but no actual commands

ACAL 2

In order to be awarded ACAL 2, the dogs must be subjected, with favorable outcome, to the following exercises:

Behavior towards friendly strangers
(Same as ACAL 1)

Indifference to firearm noise
(Same as ACAL 1)

Defense of the handler

A decoy, armed with a flexible stick is placed behind a blind (hiding place). The handler, with the dog on leash (the leash is approximately 5 meters long) but held to a length of approximately 1 meter, proceeds ahead according to the instructions given by the steward. A stake is placed at a distance of approximately 10 meters from where the decoy is hiding, and, as the dog and handler reach the stake they stop. At the same time, upon orders given by the steward, the decoy exits from the blind and threatens the handler and dog. When confronted with this threat, the handler must immediately let the dog free and urge it to attack. The dog must immediately and decidedly react biting the sleeve or bite

suit on the decoy. The dog must maintain grip on the decoy while being threatened and driven. The dog that comes off without immediately re-engaging will be failed. If the dog does not engage the dog is failed. The decoy will be commanded by judge to stop in both scenarios. Handler will be told to collect their dog.

COMMANDS: "Attack" - "Stop" (optional)

ACAL 3

In order to be awarded ACAL 2, the dogs must be subjected, with favorable outcome, to the following exercises:

Behavior towards friendly strangers
(Same as ACAL 1 & ACAL 2)

Indifference to firearm noise
(Same as ACAL 1 & ACAL 2)

a) The handler enters the ring goes to a designated area. Handler can give command (sit/down) behind the dog a stranger holding him by the leash while the handler distances himself about 30-40 paces. Upon orders from the judge, the dog responds as handler is being attacked by an aggressor who appears from a hidden spot. At this point, the dog is let loose by the stranger and runs to defend the handler while attacking the aggressor, holding onto his sleeve or bite suit even if he is struck 2 or 3 times by a stick. A second driven the handler then is told to go "out" our dog.

c) Immediately after, the handler restrains the dog by the collar while the aggressor runs away 40 or 50 paces. At this point the aggressor carries out a lunging attack the dog is leg go to attack the decoy, with only the appearance of hitting with the stick. Also during this test, the dog must grab onto his sleeve or bite suit. The dog may be commanded in all parts of the ACAL3. The dog that comes off the bite will be continued to be threatened by decoy until the judge tell the decoy to stop. Failure to engage is considered a fail. If the dog engages and comes off the decoy will continue until judge says stop. Note there are two stick hits in the first attack. There is no stick hits in part two. The dog has a leash on in all ACAL exercises. The handler may grab lease before "outing" their dog but may not use a correction to make their dog let go.

There is only one conclusive judgment: "Pass" - "Fail"
Note: If you do a CAL 1,2,&3 the same day change blinds or hiding places for each.
Example: Use a car for the CAL1, trees for the CAL2, and a blind for the CAL3. Anything to change the setting for each CAL test.
Note: If the test is not judged by a senior judge, video tape must be sent to ACAL org. senior judges do not need to send video. There must be three different hiding spots.