



LEONBERGER CLUB OF AMERICA
Water Test Program Administration

Leonberger Club of America Water Tests

Introduction

Historically, the Leonberger has functioned as a working companion to humans in draft and water rescue work. LCA water tests are not a competition; rather, they demonstrate natural ability and skills acquired through training, and they emphasize teamwork between dog and handler in simulated work and rescue situations. The LCA Water Rescue Dog Excellent division furthers that vision by providing multi-task exercises that require advanced training, constant teamwork, and physical stamina. Not all dogs who have earned other water rescue titles will be able to attain this level of expertise. Instead, a Water Rescue Dog Excellent Leonberger will demonstrate superior natural ability, training, and efficiency in simulated rescue situations. These exercises are designed to test the intelligence, instinct and stamina of the Leonberger. Due to test conditions and restrictions these exercises cannot be executed as they would be in realistic situations. These exercises simulate real life rescue situations safely within the constraints of the test site. The ideal working relationship is a balance of controlled performance and natural independence. Dogs should display not only efficiency in accomplishing their tasks, but also willingness and enjoyment in their work.

Purpose

The purpose of the LCA Water Trials is to develop and demonstrate the abilities of purebred Leonberger dogs in an aquatic environment.

This document provides the regulations and procedures for the administrative side of putting on a water rescue test. For the LCA Water Test exercise content and related regulations see the LCA Water Rescue Test Regulations.

Chapter I - General Regulations

Section 1. Application for Water Tests

A Water Test Committee from a recognized Affiliated Club of the Leonberger Club of America (LCA) may apply to the Show Event Committee (SEC) of the LCA for permission to host a Water Test. Application must be made using an approved SEC application form.

Application forms are available from the Water Work Liaison of the Working Dog Committee (LWDC) and the LCA website in the working dog section. The completed application must be submitted to the Water Work Liaison whose name is available on the web site a minimum of 3 months prior to the proposed test date. The application must contain the following information:

1. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses of the Water Test Chairperson, the Water Test Secretary, Chief Steward, Safety Officer and a third Water Test committee member from the test giving club. All must be LCA members and members of the affiliated club hosting the test.
2. The names of all judges, as well as the division in which they will judge and their Judges' Acceptance Forms completed and signed.
3. The written guarantee that steward assistance and all equipment (other than the equipment furnished by each entrant), and other necessary provisions will be available at the test site.
4. The certification that all LCA Water Test regulations will be followed.
5. The date(s) of the Proposed Water Test(s), the test site address, and a description of the site, including a detailed site map if the site has been used less than 3 times. The LWDC recommends that Water Test dates be coordinated with neighboring Affiliated Clubs to avoid conflicting dates within 300 miles.
6. The signatures of the Water Test Chairperson, the Water Test Secretary, the third Water Test committee member and a member of the Affiliated Club's Board of Directors signing on behalf of the Affiliated Club.
7. A photo of the boat to be used in the test.

The LWDC Water Work Liaison usually communicates the SEC's approval or rejection of the Water Test Application to the Water Test Chairperson within forty-five (45) days following the receipt of the completed application. When the Show Event Committee is considering an Affiliated Club's application for an LCA Water Test, the committee considers any past violations of the Regulations at its previous tests. An email address must be included if verification of application received is requested.

An application that is received late will be assessed late fees. **Any part** of the test application received up to 5 days after the deadline will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Fully completed test applications received 6-30 days late will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee. Test applications received more than 30 days after the deadline will not be approved. Late fees must be paid by the Affiliated Club prior to approval of any further working events.

In the event the SEC denies permission for holding the test, the water test committee may appeal to the LCA Board. The Show Event Committee shall supply the LCA Board their reasons, in writing, for not approving the requested test. The final decision shall be that of the LCA Board.

Section 2. Duties of the Water Test Committee

The Water Test Committee will act as the official representative of the LCA and must enforce these Regulations. Any violations of these Regulations shall be reported in writing and attached to the Water Test Committee's report which is sent to the SEC and the LWDC Liaison.

The Water Test Committee will prepare a premium list for the water test to distribute to those who request it. It should also be posted on the Affiliated Club's web site.

The premium list must include the following information:

- The date(s) and location of the water test(s) with a detailed description of the test site and other features specific to the test site. This must include information regarding water conditions and the distance from shore where the average Leonberger dog begins swimming.
- The judges' names, including the name of any observer judge, if known.
- The names and contact information for the members of the committee including the safety officer.
- opening dates for accepting entries
- A prominent announcement of General Entry Limitations must appear on the title or cover page.
- The entry limit, that there will be an alternate list if the entries exceed the limit, and the method for determining alternates as specified in the LCA policy on handling entries, refunds and alternates listed in the Entry Limitations and Procedures section.
- The minimum entry requirement, if such requirement is determined necessary by the committee.
- Listing of the Early Entry Rule.
- The closing date and time for accepting entries.
- The divisions (WD, WRD, WRDX) being offered at the test and the days and order in which they will be judged.
- A box to check for all re-qualify entries (at all levels)

- A box to check if the dog's owner or handler is an LCA member (to allow confirmation of the entrant's eligibility for the Early Entry Rule).
- The approval date of the Water Test Regulations being used at the LCA Water Test.
- A statement regarding entrant's responsibility for obtaining the current LCA Water Test Regulations.
- The name and address of the LWDC Water Work Liaison from whom entrants can order the LCA Water Test Regulations and notification that the Regulations are also available on the LCA website as well as any updates made to the regulations.
- The name and address of the Water Test Secretary to whom the entries shall be sent.
- A statement explaining that: entries must be made on an official LCA entry form containing the notice that a copy of the entered dog's most current AKC, ILP/PAL, or foreign registration paper must be attached.
- A schedule listing the expected time for equipment check and check in time each day. Actual schedule may vary slightly from the schedule posted in the premium.
- Additional information such as the following: current officers and directors of the LCA and Affiliated Club; awards; accommodations; directions to test; advertising; meals; any special events and additional activities.
- Whether or not there will be practice allowed at the site and the times, if allowed.
- Whether or not there will be boat availability for any allowed practice.
- Reminder to Owners to come prepared with necessary implements to keep their dogs safe and cool (crates, easy-ups, battery operated fans, etc.)

The Premium List must not be made public before the Affiliated Club receives approval from the LCA LWDC to conduct the test(s).

After the closing date for entries, the Water Test Secretary will notify each exhibitor, at least ten days before the test, of the following information: water test location (including a map and/or written directions), schedule, judges' names, exhibitor number, and any changes in the water test information that have occurred since the premium list was sent. If entries exceed the published entry limit, the Water Test

Secretary will notify alternates of their position on the alternate list as per the LCA policy on entries, refunds and alternates (Chapter 1, Section 12).

The Water Test Secretary will keep a copy of the current LCA Water Test Regulations, Grievance Procedures, and the submitted/approved application for the Water Trial including the images of the boat(s) at the test site for reference.

The Water Test Chairperson will appoint a safety officer. The name of the Safety Officer should be printed in the catalog. The Safety Officer will be responsible for ensuring that no unentered dogs are permitted in the main testing area at a water test. The Safety Officer will see that all personnel are properly equipped with approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation devices and are wearing adequate foot protection prior to entering test waters. Each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own flotation device as well as proper footwear. It is optional for beach stewards to wear life jackets.

The safety officer will also remind entrants to check on their dogs often and announce to entrants that dogs are not allowed to be kept in closed vehicles, even if the air conditioning is running. If a dog is in a vehicle, the vehicle must have at least one open window, door or hatchback. **It is not the club or safety officer's responsibility to keep a dog safe.** It is the entrant/handler/owner's responsibility, whoever is in charge of caring for that dog on that day. The safety officer's job is only to remind entrants of their responsibility. If possible, the safety officer or other designated personnel should check on vehicles in the parking area throughout the day to be sure that no vehicles with dogs are totally closed and no vehicles with dogs are in the sun without sun protection.

The safety officer or judges will announce that the test secretary has directions to the closest human and veterinary hospitals should they be needed. Where permitted by law, the safety officer should also be sure that a tool made for breaking vehicle windows is available on site for owners use if necessary.

The Water Test Chairperson and Water Test Secretary must each submit reports to the Water Work Liaison within thirty (30) days after the test. The Chairperson's report will include a description of the test, a summary of any problems or complaints registered with the Water Test Committee, and other information requested by the SEC. The Secretary's report will include the entry forms and registrations, judges' record forms, one (1) electronic (PDF) copy of the premium list, one (1) electronic (PDF) copy of the marked catalog, the secretary report form and any other materials requested by the SEC. Entrant and judges evaluations should not be included. The LWDC Water Work Liaison will send one electronic copy of the marked catalog to the LCA Historian. The Water Test secretary should send a reminder to entrants to send in their evaluations after the test.

All required reports submitted to the Water Work Liaison must be postmarked within thirty (30) days from the date of the test in order to receive approval for a subsequent

test. Completed paperwork that is postmarked beyond 30 days will have the Affiliated Club assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Late fees must be paid by the Affiliated Club prior to approval of any further working event.

Section 3. Qualifications of Judges

Before the Water Test Committee applies for permission to sponsor an LCA Water Test, it must select a judging panel from the list of judges who have met the qualifications approved by the SEC and the LCA Board. A current list is available from the Water Work Liaison. Criteria for choosing judging panels can be obtained from the Liaison or found on the Working Dog Section of the LCA website. One or two different judges may be chosen for the WRDX division. Judges eligible on the NCA approved judges list may be used to judge an LCA test.

Section 4. Dogs Eligible to Compete

The LCA Water Tests shall be open only to purebred Leonberger dogs at least six (6) months of age by the date of the test. As used in these regulations, the word "dog" refers to either sex. All entries must have an AKC individual or litter registration number, an ILP/PAL number, or a foreign individual or litter registration number. Tests shall be open to all breeds under the same requirements if the test does not fill with Leonbergers.

Section 5. Dogs that May Not Compete

No dog belonging wholly or in part to a Water test judge or to any member of such person's immediate family, including in-laws, can be exhibited under the judge. Lamé dogs or dogs that have been taped or bandaged in any way, or have anything attached to them for medical purposes, shall be ineligible to be tested.

Section 6. Test Disqualifications and Ineligibility

Judges must immediately disqualify and remove the following from further competition:

- Any dog not signing in at the appointed time.
- Any dog which its handler cannot control.
- Any dog which attacks a person or dog on test grounds.
- Any handler who deliberately interferes with another handler or dog.
- The dog is lame or wears corrective bandages or other attachments.
- Any dog that leaves test area while being tested

- Dog leaves the test area before being put on leash at end of testing.
- Any handler who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in or outside the testing area. (Unsportsmanlike behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following: directing angry or abusive language at a person or dog, mistreating a dog, showing discourtesies to judges, test officials, stewards or others.)

The judges will mark the dog disqualified and state the reason on the official judges' record form. The Water Test Secretary will also note the disqualification in the test report to the SEC.

The Show Event Committee, the Working Dog Committee and the LCA have adopted the AKC official policy concerning dog attacks that lead to an injury, either to a person or to another dog. Also, Water Test judges may excuse, and even ask to have removed from a test site, if necessary, any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or persons. Actual reports of dog attacks causing injury to either a dog or a person would go directly through the grievance process. If a judge excuses a dog for aggression that automatically creates a grievance that must be handled by the SEC. No fee is required when this occurs. The test committee must follow the grievance process by collecting witness statements from entrants, stewards or spectators, and the judges. The grievance paperwork will then be forwarded to the SEC, and ultimately to the LCA board of directors for a decision.

A grievance may be filed by the person injured, the person whose dog was injured, or any witness to an attack causing injury. The dog in question must be removed from the test site and cannot be entered in any subsequent LCA working event pending the completion of the grievance hearing process through the SEC, with subsequent action by the Board. Any test the dog is entered in already, in which entries have closed, would have to be forfeited with the dog in question banned from the test site pending completion of the grievance process. The recommendation of the SEC will be sent to the Board following the grievance hearing, which would end the SEC jurisdiction. The Board will need to form a committee whose purpose it is to deal with reinstatement requests after the Board has denied further exhibition privileges for any Leonberger.

AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows: Chapter 11, Section 15- Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or dog at an AKC event, resulting in an injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Section 7. Handling a Dog/Substitutions/Handicapped provisions

Each dog must be handled by the same handler for all exercises. Handlers may be substituted after the test closes, but the test secretary must be informed of the change before the test begins so that the record form can be changed.

Special provisions may be allowed for handicapped handlers, if at all possible, as long as they do not interfere with the dog and are pre-approved by the judges.

Section 8. Bitches in Season

Bitches in season may participate in LCA Water Tests. Bitches in season will be kept out of the test area and away from all other dogs until called for by the judges. Bitches in season shall be judged at the conclusion of judging for that day. When Junior, Senior and Excellent Division entries are judged on the same day, any bitches in season shall be judged after regular judging for all divisions has been completed, including post entries. Bitches in season will be judged in the order that their divisions were judged earlier in the day. This applies to two (2) day tests which are held back to back as well. If a club holds a test for only one division on one day, then the bitches in season in that division will be tested at the end of that day. Bitches that have had an ovarian sparing spay are required to be tested as "Bitches in Season".

Section 9. Unentered Dogs

The appointed Safety Officer is responsible for insuring that all unentered dogs are kept outside and away from the designated test area.

Section 10. Entering at Own Risk

Entrants participate in an LCA Water Test at their own risk. Entrants agree to abide by the LCA Water Test Regulations and the Constitution and By-laws of the LCA. Entrants agree that they will uphold the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, the LCA Code of Ethics, and (if applicable) the LCA Judges Code of Ethics. They also agree that any violation of the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, the LCA Code of Ethics and/or the Judges Code of Ethics will be handled pursuant to the LCA SEC Grievance policies listed on the LCA Working Dog website.

Section 11. Judges' Decisions

At the water test, the decisions of the judges are final in all matters affecting the scoring and working ability of the dogs and their handlers. The judges are in sole charge of the water test area until their assignment is complete. A dog must be marked passing on every exercise by both judges in order to qualify for a WD, a WRD or a WRDX title.

Section 12. Entry Limitations and Procedures

Section 12.1 General Entry Limitations

Once test approval is received from the LCA Show Event Committee, the Water Test Committee may establish dates for accepting entries.

Dates for accepting entries must be at least ten (10) days after the premium list is made public.

Maximum entries to be judged are thirty (30) dogs per test day. If a Water Test Committee anticipates an entry in excess of its facilities for a water test, it may limit entries to less than thirty (30). In setting entry limits, a test committee should consider that, on the average, judges can usually judge five (5) Junior Division entries per hour, three (3) Senior Division entries per hour and two (2) Excellent Division entries per hour. Test Committees may also decide on a minimum number of entries to hold the test as long as it is published in the premium list.

Priority will be given to entries that have not earned titles in the division entered. Titled dogs may be entered for judging (requalification) if entry limits have not been filled, and the entry form must state that the entry is for requalification.

Under no circumstances can the published entry limit be changed.

Entries may be submitted electronically or USPS mail. If mailed, it must show a visible postmark. Hand delivery accepted at hosting club's discretion.

Entry limitations for breeds other than Leonbergers will be maintained in a separate section, see: Entry of Other Breeds.

Section 12.1. Early Entry Rule

LCA members are granted a 10-day early entry as a benefit of their membership in LCA. To take advantage of the early entry rule, if the dog is co-owned, then either all co-owners of the dog must be LCA members OR the handler must be an LCA member. The beginning date for accepting entries from owners who are LCA members which must be no less than ten (10) days after the premium list has been made available but must also be ten (10) days before the beginning date for non-LCA members. The beginning date for accepting entries from non-LCA members must also be listed and after this date all entries will be treated equally, whether the owner is an LCA member or not.

Section 12.3 Accepting Entries:

The Water Test Committee will determine the dates it will accept entries from LCA members and non-LCA members based on limits in the Entry Limitations and Procedures section.

After the opening date for non-LCA members all entries will be handled equally whether an LCA member or not. The opening date is the earliest date an entry can be sent as indicated by the postmark of the entry; the closing date is the last day an entry can be received by the test secretary and is unrelated to the postmark. The test will not close officially until the published closing date and time, even if the entries exceed the limit before the closing date.

No dog will be allowed to test in more than one division, in which they have not already earned a title, in a test or on the same day, with the exception of post entries. A handler entering a dog in the WRDX division, at a test where WRDX entries are limited, may also enter as a WD or WRD requalification. If the dog does not get into the WRDX test at closing the handler must decide whether to stay on the alternate list for WRDX and pull their WD or WRD entry or pull from the WRDX alternate list and test as a WD or WRD requalification. The dog may only be entered in one division after closing. The handler must include a note to the test secretary explaining their intention to pull one entry at closing.

Open all envelopes before assigning entries, because some envelopes may contain more than one entry and some may be entering only one day of a two-day test weekend.

Section 12.4 Assigning Entries:

Assigning entries shall not occur until after the closing date. This will accommodate entries that arrive on different dates but that have identical postmarks. Electronic entries should be ordered by date/time received.

If a lottery is required during entry assignment a separate lottery **MUST** be held for each of the two days of a two-day test weekend. There must always be at least two people present to witness the lottery, at least one of which is not entered in the test.

When the test closes, follow the procedure listed below:

1. Assign a spot in the test to each entry of an LCA member postmarked with the first allowed entry date; assign a spot in the test to each entry of an LCA member postmarked with the second allowed entry date; continue as above until all of the entries of LCA members, who have sent in their entries before the non-LCA member opening date, are assigned spots in the test or the test is full. Continue to do the same with the non-LCA member entries and the LCA member entries that arrive after the non-LCA member entry date.

2. If at any time there are more entries with identical postmarks than spots available in the test, conduct a lottery to determine which entries are accepted into the test. (Note: An efficient and unbiased way to do a lottery is to number each entry and put the corresponding numbers on small, individual pieces of paper. Randomly select the papers to determine the status of each entry.)

Those not assigned spots become alternates.

Example 1: If the entries received with the first allowed postmark exceed the test limit on the closing date, conduct a lottery with all of the entries with that postmark. Those not chosen become alternates. Continue to do a lottery for each postmarked date to determine the order of the alternate list.

Example 2: There are openings in the test for entries postmarked with the first and second allowed date. Five entries are postmarked with the third allowed date and there are two openings left. Conduct a lottery with those five entries—two will be entered in the test and three will become alternates as will any entries with later postmarks.

Example 3: If the limit is 25, and there are 30 entries with the first postmark, the first 25 randomly selected in the lottery will be assigned spots in the test and the remaining entries will be pulled as first alternate, second alternate, third alternate, etc. Assign other entries with later postmarks as alternates in the same way doing a lottery for each postmarked date.

3. Add requalification entries to the alternate list after all untitled dogs on the list. Requalification entries should be added by postmark and by lottery, as necessary. If the test is not full, requalifiers should be assigned a number in the order in which their entry was received. Requalifiers do not have to be placed after dogs without titles unless the test is full.

Section 12.5 Withdrawing Entries and Refunds:

To withdraw an entry, the entrant must notify the test secretary by telephone, email, or U.S. mail. The secretary must confirm receipt of such notifications. The entrant will receive a full refund of the entry fee if the notification is received prior to the closing date and time for entries. After the closing date has passed, test committees are not required to give refunds, though they may choose to do so.

Section 12.6 Alternates and Refunds:

If an entrant submits an entry to a water test but is not assigned a place in the test, the test secretary must notify the entrant immediately after the closing date and give the entrant the option to be placed on the alternate list. If the entrant chooses not to be on the alternate list, they will receive a full refund. If the entrant chooses to stay on the alternate list but later pulls their entry after the test closing date, they will not receive a refund. Entrants placed on an alternate list will receive a full refund if they do not get into the test on test day.

Should an entrant have two dogs entered and one dog is on the alternate list, the entrant cannot substitute the alternate entry for the regular entry. If the entrant must pull the entered dog, then the first dog on the alternate list will fill the opening.

Section 12.7 Changing Entries:

Once the closing date listed in the premium has passed and an entrant notifies the secretary that they are withdrawing their entry or changing it to a requalification, all entrants on the alternate list must be notified that their ranks have changed. Example: If a test limit is 25 dogs and 25 dogs are tested, but none of the five dogs that were on an alternate list were tested, the five alternates would receive refunds after the test. If 20 original dogs and three alternates were tested, but two alternates did not attend the test, the handlers of those two alternates would not receive refunds because had they attended, they would have been tested.

If an entrant has been assigned a spot in the test but their dog passes at a previous test, the handler must notify the test secretary by 6 pm the night before the test as to whether they will move their entry to another division (i.e., WD to WRD or WRD to WRDX), withdraw from the test, or requalify in the same division if the test is not full. If the test is full they have the option of being moved to the end of the alternate list to requalify.

Section 13. Entry in Junior Division

Entry in Junior Division is open to dogs with the following stipulations:

Any eligible dog that has not yet earned a WD title may enter the Junior Division. Any dog that has earned a WD may enter as a requalifying WD. Any entry for requalification will be accepted only if the limit for the test (overall limit or division limit, as listed in the premium list) is not exceeded.

Any dog that has earned a WRD or WRDX may enter as a requalifying WD.

If a dog earns its WD after the closing date of a subsequent test in which it is entered, the handler may choose to requalify the dog in the Junior Division at the future test if these conditions exist: A.) There are no untitled alternates waiting to fill the dog's space, and B.) The entry as a requalifier will not exceed the maximum entry limit of the Junior Division, if a limit is stated in the premium list.

Section 14. Entry in Senior Division

LCA or NCA WD title required for entering WRD test.

Entry in Senior Division is open to dogs with the following stipulations:

Only dogs which have passed the Junior Division shall be eligible to be tested in the Senior Division.

If a dog entered in the Junior Division has passed a Junior Division test after the closing date for entries, the entry may be transferred from the Junior to the Senior Division. To transfer the entry from Junior to Senior Division, the handler must submit to the Water Test Secretary a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Water Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners. A change of entry from Junior to Senior must be received by 6:00 pm. the night before the test.

A dog that has earned a WRD or WRDX may enter as a requalifying WRD. Any entry for requalification will be accepted only if the limit for the test (overall limit or division limit, as listed in the premium list) is not exceeded.

Dogs which successfully fulfill the requirements for a Water Dog title at a test may be post-entered in the Senior Division at that test and will be tested at the conclusion of Senior Division judging. An additional entry fee may be charged at the discretion of the hosting club. The handler will be allowed to test his dog only until it fails an exercise.

Section 15. Entry in Excellent Division

LCA or NCA WRD title required for entering WRDX test.

Entry in Excellent Division is open to dogs with the following stipulations:

Only Dogs which have passed the Senior Division shall be eligible to be tested in the Excellent Division.

If a dog entered in the Senior Division has passed a Senior Division test after the closing date for entries, the entry may be transferred from the Senior to the Excellent Division, as long as the Excellent Division is being offered at the test and the entry limit for that division has not been filled. To transfer the entry from Senior to Excellent Division, the handler must submit to the Water Test Secretary a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Water Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners. A change of entry from Senior to Excellent must be received by 6:00 pm. the night before the test.

A dog that has earned a WRDX title may enter as a requalifier in WRDX. Any entry for requalification will be accepted only if the limit for the test (overall limit or division limit, as listed in the premium list) is not exceeded.

A dog earning his WRD title during a water test is not permitted to post enter to the WRDX Division being held on the same day due to time constraints.

Entrants passing WRD may change their entry to WRDX at future tests in which they had entered the WRD division as long as the division has not filled any posted limit.

WRDX dogs may be tested as part of a WD/WRD/WRDX water test or a WRDX test may be held as a stand-alone event. Judges for the WRDX Division of any water test must meet the criteria listed on the LCA web site.

Section 16. Multiple Division Entries

Multiple Division entries will be allowed at LCA Water Tests for already titled dogs. Dogs may be entered in more than one division on the same day. Each entry must be sent on a separate entry form. If the entry for the test exceeds its limit and a lottery is necessary, the dog may not get into each division entered. Judges must excuse any dog not in condition to finish the division entered and, if so, the dog will not be able to continue in any other division entered that day. Entry fees will not be refunded for dogs that are excused. Entrants are discouraged from pushing their dogs beyond their limits.

Section 17. Qualifying Performance & Awards

For a dog to receive a qualifying performance, both judges must mark the dog with a passing performance for each exercise in the division entered. A dog receiving a qualifying performance in Junior Division is entitled to use the title "Water Dog" in any Leonberger Club of America activity. "WD" is the abbreviation for the Water Dog title. A dog receiving a qualifying performance in the Senior Division is entitled to use the title "Water Rescue Dog" in any activity. "WRD" is the abbreviation for the Water Rescue Dog title. A dog receiving a qualifying performance in the Excellent Division is entitled to use the title "Water Rescue Dog Excellent" in any activity. "WRDX" is the abbreviation for the Water Rescue Dog Excellent title. A dog requalifying in any division can add the number of times they have requalified after the title such as WD1 for a dog that has earned a WD and requalified in the junior division once, or a WRD3 for a dog that has earned a WRD title and requalified in the senior division three times.

Section 18. Changes of Judges, Water Test Officials, or Site

If a Water Test Committee is informed at any time prior to the opening of its water test that an advertised judge cannot fulfill his/her engagement to judge, the Water Test Committee will substitute a judge from the LCA Approved Judges List. The Water Work Liaison or the SEC Chairperson (in case the Liaison cannot be reached) must be notified to approve the substitution. This may be done by phone, mail or electronic means; however, if the request is made by phone, a follow-up letter must be sent to the Water Work Liaison with a full explanation. The Liaison must notify the SEC

members of the change and the reason for the request. If time permits, a written notice should be mailed or emailed to the exhibitors.

In the unlikely event that a judge becomes ill or is unable to fulfill the judging assignment on the day of a test or during a test, and the Water Work Liaison or SEC Chairperson cannot be reached according to the procedures described above, the test committee may substitute an Approved Water Test Judge who is in attendance at the test to fulfill the assignment. If an approved judge is not available, a qualified person with considerable water test training and exhibiting experience (See Chapter Two, Section 1, paragraph 2 on Qualifications of Judges) may be appointed by the Test Committee to fulfill the assignment. The Water Work Liaison or SEC Chairperson must be notified of the substitution as soon as possible, and a full explanation for the substitution, including the qualifications of the substitute judge, must be included in the test chairperson's report.

Prior to the start of the test or substitute judging assignment, exhibitors must be notified. Exhibitors have the right to withdraw their entry if they choose not to exhibit under the substitute judge, and their entry fee will be refunded.

In the event a site must be changed, the Water Test Committee should make every effort to secure a suitable site within twenty-five miles of the original site.

If, because of natural disasters, civil disturbances, or other acts beyond the control of the test-giving club, it is impossible to start or complete the test, no refund of entry fees will be made.

Section 19. Stewards

Stewards assist the judges and may act only on the judges' instructions. Stewards will not give information or instructions to owners and entrants except as specifically instructed by a judge, and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of the judge. Exhibitors are not permitted to give instructions to the stewards. Any harassment of stewards must be reported immediately to the judges.

Care must be exercised to ensure the calling steward(s), in all divisions, are not overly familiar with a dog being tested. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

The steward(s) has cared for the dog within the past six months.

Calling stewards may be part of the same training groups of handlers and dogs in a given summer. However, calling stewards must avoid direct contact with the dogs they will call for at tests in that summer training season. It is therefore recommended that clubs intending to host Water Tests should

consider appointing their calling stewards as early in the season as possible to avoid potential conflicts.

The steward(s) has trained the dog for obedience, conformation, or working events.

In no case should a member of the owner's or handler's immediate family steward exercises for their own dog, a dog they co-own, or for one with which they are overly familiar.

For consistency in the test, calling steward(s) should be prepared to steward for the entire test. Changes of stewards should be limited to substitution for a steward that is ill or in distress.

Section 20. Test Site Conditions

The area designated for water testing shall be sectioned off in some way. The waterfront test area must be a minimum of seventy-five (75) feet wide and a maximum of 35 feet back from the water's edge, however, for a WRDX test the water markers must be 100 feet apart in the water. The water should extend at least 200 feet from the shore. The testing area should have a gradual drop off and must permit the dogs to be swimming within twenty (20) feet of shore. If water depths change due to unforeseen circumstances, after the site has been approved, the required distances for an exercise will be increased up to twenty (20) feet, as needed, so that the dogs will be swimming as prescribed in the exercises. Markers will be moved to reflect the change in distances. If time permits, exhibitors will be notified of the change of distances in advance, and prior to closing if possible. Water must be free of unmarked hazardous objects. There must be an area suitable for the underwater retrieve.

A natural shaded area for entered dogs to be crated or confined when they are not being tested is preferred. However, if the test site does not accommodate this, exhibitors are responsible for providing their own shade and/or cooling.

Section 21. Spectators

Since Leonbergers working under natural conditions may be in places where there are extraneous sounds, spectators are encouraged to applaud and cheer for performing dogs as they return to shore with the article or rescue victim. However, spectators must not interfere with the performance in any way. Judges may use their discretion to determine what constitutes interference.

Section 22. Emergency Provisions

The Water Test Committee should take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of all involved. There must be a telephone available at the test site. It is

recommended that the services of a veterinarian be available during the water test. The veterinarian may be "on call" if services are available within a short distance of the test site; otherwise, the veterinarian must be on site. Information regarding after hours emergency care for dogs and people should be available to entrants and committee members. A first-aid kit is required, and a backboard is recommended. A tool made for breaking vehicle windows must be available on site.

Section 23. Personal Flotation Devices

It is mandatory that any person entering the test water or embarking on a water craft must wear an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, in good condition, as well as suitable foot protection that can be worn in the water and stays secure to the foot.

The Water Test Committee is responsible for equipping their stewards and personnel with these devices. The safety officer is responsible for ensuring the compliance with the above regulations. The judges shall mark any exhibitor who refuses to comply with these regulations "excused" from further testing.

Section 24. Canceling a Test

If a Water test is canceled the Water Work Liaison must be notified immediately.

Section 25. Entry of Other Breeds

Accepting entries of other breeds and mixed breeds is completely optional and up to the water test committee and judges. Test committees may accept the entries of breeds other than Leonbergers under the following conditions: Leonberger entries will be given priority, the test must not be full, and the judges and committee must agree to accept the entry.

Chapter II - Regulations for Performance and Judging

Section 1. Standardized Judging and Qualifications of Judges

Standardized judging is of great importance. There shall be two judges for each Division of an LCA Water Test. The WRDX Division may have a different judging panel than the rest of the test. It is recognized that the water tests are intended for performance on natural bodies of water and beaches and may require minimal adaptation to fit the site available. In no case, however, are judges to add, delete, or change from the requirements of the water tests. Judges must act in a professional, impartial, and pleasant manner in accordance with the LCA Code of Ethics, the LCA Judges Code of Ethics and the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.

Judges selected by a Water Test Committee for a water test should be chosen for their ability to judge Leonberger dogs working in the water. Judges should possess thorough knowledge of the water test rules, a sense of fairness, and consideration for the efforts of dogs and handlers. The LCA designated Working Dog Committee member, LWDC Water Test Liaison, maintains a current list of approved judges.

Chapter III – Water Test Regulations

LCA Water Tests will be implemented following all procedures set forth in the LCA Water Test Regulations.