

THE CONTINENTAL WORKING STANDARD FOR THE KORTHALS GRIFFON

The aim of Field Trials is to put the very best examples of the KG breed into a working context and thus to provide breeders with the best possible choice in support of producing top quality dogs. This breeding stock should contain the very best quality and characteristics of the breed. These dogs should show the drive and hunting passion required in order to achieve, initially, the title of trialler. Beyond this, for the very best, whilst always maintaining at the core of their performance the inherent style of the KG breed, the title of Champion becomes the ultimate aim.

"The inherent style of the KG breed, which is as equally important as the Breed Standard, is a breed characteristic which is indisputably contained within the breed gene pool and which the Club and breeders have the ultimate duty to maintain".

(a quote from M. Robert Martineau, French KG Magazine, 1973)

WORKING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KORTHALS GRIFFON

The working standard for the KG was established following the Breed Standard in order to define the specific allure, style and working characteristics of the KG:

a) *Quartering - The Hunt*

The extent in distance of the cast is not dependant on the dog's build or conformation, but is only limited by its confidence, hunting passion and training. For the KG, the scope and distance of cast should only be limited by the ability of the handler to control the dog and should vary according to the cover density of the ground being worked.

b) *The Gallop*

The KG's gallop when hunting should be sustained and active, with a (gentle) rocking motion of the body, which appears to be balanced around a point just behind the chest, where its centre of gravity is found. Over-zealous galloping is to be avoided, as this does not allow the dog to scent his surroundings well.

The KG is a shortish dog in construction and this locates his centre of gravity around his stomach; it is his movement around this point that gives the KG his atypical rocking movement, which itself varies in extent according to the density of cover being hunted. It should also be noted that when the dog is tired the rocking motion becomes more exaggerated.

In addition, the line of the dog's back is long and must be flexible in order to provide good propulsion and the set of the shoulders and length of thigh provide energy whilst the bend at the knee gives suppleness. The KG should run with an easy and supple grace.

c) *Speed*

A KG's quartering hunt should be fast, lively and show determined concentration. However, speed should be within the scope of the 'continental-type dogs' which means that a KG must not gallop as fast as a pointer or setter.

d) *Head Carriage*

This should be seen as an extension of the back. The head is carried forward and slightly downwards making an angle with the neck which is then referred to as 'the hammer' head carriage. When working a scent, the head should rise to allow the nose to be high, in particular during Spring Trials.

e) *Handling Scent*

At the first touch of game scent, the KG will lift its nose and will slow down his hunting gait, moving towards and down the scent cone, with his head pointing towards the location of the game. He will then move towards the game, gently but decisively, legs progressively bending to lower his body into a crouch and getting closer to the ground. This phase is very stylish and is to be valued highly in any particular dog when compared to any others which do not show the same quality and style of scent handling.

f) *The Point*

The point must be held rigidly even it is has been achieved from a run. A point achieved from full run is described as a 'short' or 'flash' point, which must be acknowledged by the judge, but as it has not been worked for so well, it cannot be awarded a CACT or RCACT. A judge must mark down a 'setting' point unless it is a case of a 'flash point' held on extended legs (but this type of point cannot be awarded an Excellent).

The posture required for a point must have the dog stood on stiff legs, often with one raised and bent, body extended out like an arrow with tail extended straight back and nose pointing at the game, in the style of the continental HPR. A point in this style is one of top quality.

g) *Roding In*

When moving in towards the game after the point, roding in should be cat-like; in other words the body should still be held in the arrow-like stance with next extended and nose raised whilst the dog carefully and gently 'stalks' towards the game. For connoisseurs, this is the perfect demonstration of the KH style. Roding in cannot be nervous or jerky and the correct style requirements described must be achieved in order to award a CACT or RCACT.

h) *The Tail Hold on Point*

The tail should not move. Any movement of the tail is generally indicative of a point on which the birds are not holding still, are moving or are not in line with the dog's nose. This is a fault which should be penalised. If the tail is undocked, it must be held still on point, and the undocked tail which is held high or which moves around on point must be avoided and penalised.

General Points

The CACT and RCACT must be seen at equal levels of achievement and cannot be awarded unless the dog has worked hard for its point. Which means the hunt and work put into finding the scent is vital for qualification. A quick and lucky point is not acceptable.

A CACT or RCACT can only be awarded to dogs demonstrating the typical allure and working characteristics of the breed is described above.

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