



**LEONBERGER CLUB OF AMERICA**

**Water Test Program Regulations**

**Adopted May 2019**



# Leonberger Club of America Water Tests

## Introduction

The Leonberger, in its working dog capacity, has functioned as a working companion to humans in draft and water rescue work. LCA water tests are not a competition; rather, they intend to 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 are intended to 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 Rescue Tests Regulations document is to define the specific test exercise content for all levels of the LCA Water Titling program. For the administrative aspects of implementing a LCA Water Test and Entry Regulations see LCA Water Test Administration (*to be developed*).

## Chapter I – Water Test Equipment

### Section 1. Required Equipment

All equipment to be used by the handlers at a Water test, including that provided by the test committee, shall be thoroughly inspected by the judges for suitability. Individual equipment must be checked on **each** day of testing prior to the start of each division even if using the same equipment as the day before. Once inspected, substitutions are not permitted without the judges' approval.

The posted schedule in the premium list for equipment check will be confirmed or any changes will be detailed in the confirmation notifications sent to entrants. Judges will follow the most recent posted schedule.

## Section 1.1 Handler Equipment

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) personal 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 judges shall mark any exhibitor who refuses to comply with these regulations "excused" from further testing.

## Section 1.2 Canine Equipment

The handlers at a water test will provide a leash and collar. A dog entered in the water test must wear a well-fitted plain buckle, slip, or snap-around collar while on the test grounds. Fancy collars, prong training collars, shock collars, halter collars or collars that are improperly fitted, are not permitted. There shall not be anything hanging from the collar.

Standardized equipment, including retrieving bumpers, boat cushions, life jackets, life rings, and paddles, may not be altered from their original state, except that the cushion or vest straps may be tied or stitched in place for safety reasons, the retrieving bumper may have a short line attached to facilitate throwing and the paddle may be painted or taped. Unaltered means that no stuffing or layers of foam may be removed from the article with the exception of the underwater retrieve article. Remember that over use of an article may alter its state so that it is not in the condition to do the job it was originally intended to do. The overall physical appearance of the articles should be as they were purchased from the store and should meet the intent of the Regulations for their use as close as possible. Scuffing and teeth marks are not considered an alteration. The coast guard approved symbol must still be visible on all articles requiring coast guard approval.

Handlers will provide their own equipment for use during the test. However, they may share a set of equipment during testing, as long as the equipment is presented to the judges during the equipment check.

## JUNIOR DIVISION EQUIPMENT

1. **Exercise #1**—Basic control (no equipment necessary)
2. **Exercise #2**—Single Retrieve--A buoyant retrieving bumper, canvas or plastic. Fire hose material is acceptable but may not contain squeakers.
3. **Exercise #3**—Drop Retrieve--An approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) boat cushion and an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) life jacket

(loose straps may be tied or stitched). Life jackets must be adult, youth or child size, not infant or child/infant.

4. **Exercise #4**—Take a Line--A floating line (may be knotted at one end) minimum length of seventy-five (75) feet.
5. **Exercise #5**—Tow a Boat--An eight (8) foot floating line with plastic or canvas retrieving bumper attached. The end opposite the bumper may have a small, simple knot or loop.
6. **Exercise #6**—Retrieve Off a Boat--Canoe or raft paddle of wood, plastic, or metal at least two and one half (2 1/2) feet in length. A slight variance of up to two (2) inches is allowed but there is no maximum length. Paddle may be painted or taped but not textured.
7. **Exercise #7**—Swim With Handler (no equipment necessary)
8. **In addition**, each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, as well as suitable foot protection that can be worn in the water and stays secure to the foot.

## SENIOR DIVISION EQUIPMENT

1. **Exercise #1**—Directed Retrieve--An approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) boat cushion and an approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) life jacket (loose straps may be tied or stitched). Life jackets must be adult, youth or child size, not infant or child/infant.
2. **Exercise #2**—Line to Shore-- A floating line (may be knotted at one end) minimum length of one hundred and twenty-five (125) feet.
3. **Exercise #3**—Take a Life Ring-- A ring-type life preserver, minimum diameter of twenty (20) inches, labeled as American or Canadian Coast Guard approved with a three (3) to five (5) foot line attached. The line may be knotted at the end to facilitate carrying.
4. **Exercise #4**—Underwater Retrieve--An underwater retrieve article that is no more than twelve (12) inches long and four (4) inches tall. When submerged, it should extend no more than four (4) inches from the bottom and should be weighted evenly so that it will sink immediately. The underwater retrieve article may be painted or taped to increase its visibility. Handlers may provide a second underwater retrieve article, but it must be identical to the first article except in color. It may be used if the first article is lost in the water but if a second article is used then the dog must retrieve the second article. Judges may make allowances for slight deviations to the measurements listed and may request a trial of the article prior to allowing its use.

5. **Exercises #5**—Take a Line/Tow a Boat--An eight (8) foot floating line with plastic or canvas retrieving bumper attached. The end opposite the bumper may have a small, simple knot or loop.
6. **Exercise #6**—Rescue (no equipment required)
7. **In addition**, each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, as well as suitable foot protection that can be worn in the water and stays secure to the foot.

Also included for the WRD Division (provided by test committee and/or club):

1. An anchor system at 75ft submerged center. Such a system will require ease in mooring and unmooring as indicated and defined in each exercise. Plans for a suggested anchor system are in the WRDX handbook available on the LCA website.

## **EXCELLENT DIVISION EQUIPMENT**

1. **Exercise #1**—Abandoned Boat--An eight (8) foot floating line with plastic or canvas retrieving bumper attached to one end.
2. **Exercise #2**—Multiple Person Rescue (no equipment required)
3. **Exercise #3**—Unconscious Victim-- Appropriate hand and arm protection for the steward in the Unconscious Victim exercise. The protection should include heavyweight neoprene dry suit (OMS5MM) “exposure protection” diving gloves for both hands, extending up towards the elbows. Uniform, heavyweight hand/arm protection may be obtained from diving shops or from websites, such as [www.leisurepro.com](http://www.leisurepro.com). Though a full wet/dry suit is preferred for the Unconscious Victim exercise, weather permitting, this requirement may be waived by the judges in extreme heat and the steward may opt for a neoprene jacket but must at least have full arm protection.
4. **Exercise #4**—Capsized Raft--An inflatable raft rated for 4 or more persons for use in the Capsized Raft exercise. The shape of the inflatable boat must allow the shore side of the raft to be flush with the surface of the water as required for the exercise. No "bowing" should occur. There must be no lines hanging from the raft. *(note-the club or test committee may have this available, each entrant does not have to provide a raft)*
5. **Exercise #5**—Line to Stranded Water Vessel—A one hundred and twenty-five (125) foot floating line that is knotted at one end.
8. **Exercise #6**—Team Rescue-- A ring-type life preserver, minimum diameter of twenty (20) inches, labeled as American or Canadian Coast Guard approved with

a three (3) to five (5) foot line attached. The line may be knotted at the end to facilitate carrying. Additionally, this exercise may utilize life guard approved rescue cans or rescue tubes. If utilizing a can or tube it must also have a three (3) to five (5) foot line attached. The line may be knotted at the end to facilitate carrying.

6. **In addition**, each exhibitor is responsible for providing his/her own approved Coast Guard (American or Canadian) flotation device, as well as suitable foot protection that can be worn in the water and stays secure to the foot.

Also Included for the WRDX Division:

1. An anchor system at 75ft submerged center (also required for WRD) and visible anchor system at 150ft where 150ft marks the position of the boat platform/working location for the dog and handler. Such a system will require ease in mooring and unmooring as indicated and defined in each exercise. Plans for a suggested anchor system are in the WRDX handbook available on the LCA website.
2. A second water vessel for line to stranded vessel. May be a canoe, kayak or other boat. Steward must be able to retrieve line from dog using water vessel of choice.

Prior to the beginning of the Water Test, the judges will inspect and approve or disapprove all equipment provided by the Water Test Committee. The equipment must be suitable for the test site.

## **Chapter II – Water Test Participant Regulations and Procedures**

### **Section 1. Commands, Signals and Encouragement**

Handlers' commands to their dogs may be given by voice, arm signal, and/or voice produced whistle. The use of multiple commands and signals is permitted except where they are specifically prohibited. When one command only is specified for an exercise, it may be a voice, hand, or simultaneous voice and hand command. Handlers may not assist dogs by marking objects to be retrieved by any method other than voice, arm signal, and/or voice produced whistle. Handler may use dog's name at all levels. While an entrant may encourage the dog in a pleasant, upbeat manner, undue or harsh yelling, shouting, or reprimands should be considered undesirable and unnecessary for a dog under control. Such behavior constitutes a failure of the exercise.

## Section 2. Praise

Physical praise and petting of the dogs are allowed between and after each exercise. There can be no restraint, correcting, guiding or physically directing the dog by the hand or collar (except as noted between exercises in Junior and Senior divisions). A handler shall not carry or offer food during the exercises, pre-swim or in the testing area.

## Section 3. Handling Between Exercises

In the Junior and Senior Divisions, dogs may be guided gently by the collar and physically praised between exercises. Handlers may GENTLY place the dog into a sit. The use of physical guidance other than that specifically allowed, either during an exercise or between exercises will result in the failure of the team. WRDX Division dogs may only be controlled verbally while being tested. Handlers may not touch the collar. The handlers will otherwise have their hands off the dogs, both on the boats, as well as on the beach except for brief non-restraining praise/petting between exercises as described in Section 10. The handler may not physically assist the dog at any time during the test.

## Section 4. Pretest Swim and Training on the Grounds

All dogs may participate in a pre-swim, except for bitches in season, which will be given a pre-swim just prior to their judging. The pre-swim is a fifteen (15) minute session prior to the start of judging during which the dogs and handlers may familiarize themselves with the test waters. **The purpose of this period is familiarization only and is not intended for last-minute training.** No food may be carried or offered. One dog per handler during pre-swim! If a handler has multiple dogs entered in a single division, they must allot their time accordingly to acclimate each dog individually if they wish.

During the Junior Division pre-swim, handlers may use only one retrieving article. No other equipment may be used. During each division's pre-swims, dogs are permitted to get on and off the beached boat in addition to the use of only one retrieving article.

Junior Division dogs will be provided a fifteen (15) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Junior Division judging.

Senior Division dogs will be provided a fifteen (15) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Senior Division judging.

Excellent Division dogs will be provided a fifteen (15) minute swim period preceding the beginning of the Excellent Division judging.

Any physical abuse or harsh training of the dog while on test grounds will result in excusing the dog and handler from the test.

During judging, the judges may terminate an exercise once a dog has failed. In the WD/WRD Division if the judging schedule permits, they may allow one additional attempt for a handler to assist a dog in completing the exercise that has been failed by taking it gently by the collar. Judges will ask the stewards (if applicable) to move in closer as well.

### **Section 5. Interference and Double Handling**

A judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the test area, must act promptly to stop any double handling or interference. If, in a judge's opinion, the circumstances warrant, he shall mark the dog failed for the exercise during which the aid was received.

### **Section 6. Complaints and Discipline**

Complaints against judges, exhibitors, or members of the test-giving committee will be dealt with according to the LCA SEC Grievance Policy. The Test Committee is required to have copies of the Grievance Procedure with the approved forms at the Water Test. Any person attending a water test may obtain a copy of the LCA SEC Grievance Procedure and forms from the Water Test Secretary. All complaints must be filed with the Test Chair within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the test.

### **Section 7. Qualifying and Non-Qualifying Performance**

Dogs are to be judged on their performance of the assigned tasks. A dog that completes an exercise within the prescribed time limit, and in accordance with the Standards of Performance for that exercise, should be scored as passed. A dog that exceeds the suggested time limit for the exercise but has continued to work throughout the exercise will pass.

Each judge shall independently indicate that a dog has passed or failed upon completion of each exercise. The following whistle signals are recommended:

One short blast... Pass

One long trill... Fail

Three short blasts... judge wants your attention.

### **Section 8. Comfort Break (WRDX Only)**

A dog will not fail who relieves himself on the beach or in the water. Because of the amount of water that might be taken in by a dog working at the WRDX division the judges will permit one "comfort break" at any time during testing, should it be requested by the handler. The handler will request the leash and take the dog just outside the testing area where it will be allowed a very brief period of time in which to relieve itself. Once back in the test area the handler will remove the leash and hand it to a steward. Handlers may not touch their dogs beyond what is required to attach and remove the leash and a brief pat of praise.

### **Section 9. Wading Depth (WRDX Only)**

Prior to each WRDX dog being tested (either during the pre-swim or before starting the first exercise), the judges will observe the dog and handler in the water to determine an appropriate depth for each handler to wade into for the rescue exercises and will inform the handler of this depth (just above knee, just below hip, etc). The dog and stewards will be met by the handler prior to the dog reaching wading depth for the Unconscious Victim exercise and at wading depth for the other rescues. This will be for the comfort of the stewards, since the towing angle by the dog changes dramatically once the dog reaches standing depth. It is recognized that the distance into the water may be different for each handler, depending on their dog's height and the test site.

### **Section 10. Failures common to all exercises:**

1. A dog is not under the handler's control.
2. The dog leaves the test area while being tested except where permitted in the water exercises. The dog is then disqualified and will not continue with the exercise or in the test.
3. The handler enters the water except as allowed in a specific exercise.

4. The dog fails to complete the exercise within the required time, unless additional time is granted by the judges for an unusual situation or the dog has continued to work the entire time. (See Section 20 Suggested Time Limits)
5. The handler physically guides or controls the dog after the exercise begins.
6. The dog leaves the water before completing an exercise except as allowed in a specific exercise.
7. A handler abuses the dog or fails to show consideration for the dog's welfare.
8. The dog fails if he/she does not wait for the handler's command to start the exercise except where anticipation is allowed.
9. WRDX only: Dog retrieves distance markers.
10. Dog leaves test area before being put on leash at end of testing.

### **Section 11. Regulations common to all exercises:**

1. Where delivery to hand is required, if the dog drops the article on land or water before it completes the delivery, the handler may direct the dog to pick it up. If the dog does so and completes the delivery within the suggested time, it will not fail, unless otherwise specified in the exercise.
2. When the word "directly" is used in an exercise, it does not necessarily mean in a straight line, since some dogs naturally swim in an arc to reach a destination.
3. Physical guidance or assistance means restraining, pushing, or pulling the dog by its collar, fur, or body, or the use of hands, legs, or any part of the handler's body in a manner that is not allowed.
4. Once the judge states or signals "You may begin", the handler must keep his/her hands off the dog.
5. "The dog enters the water" means that the dog has committed itself to the exercise and has at least 3 feet in the water.
6. "Dog leaves the water" means the dog has committed itself to leaving the water by having at least 3 feet out of the water.
7. Verbal, hand signals and/or voice produced whistle encouragement is allowed by the handler to send their dogs and while the dog is working.
8. For the WRD and WRDX levels stewards will not use the dog's names when calling.
9. No body blocking is allowed.
10. During water exercises dogs may urinate on the beach or in the water.

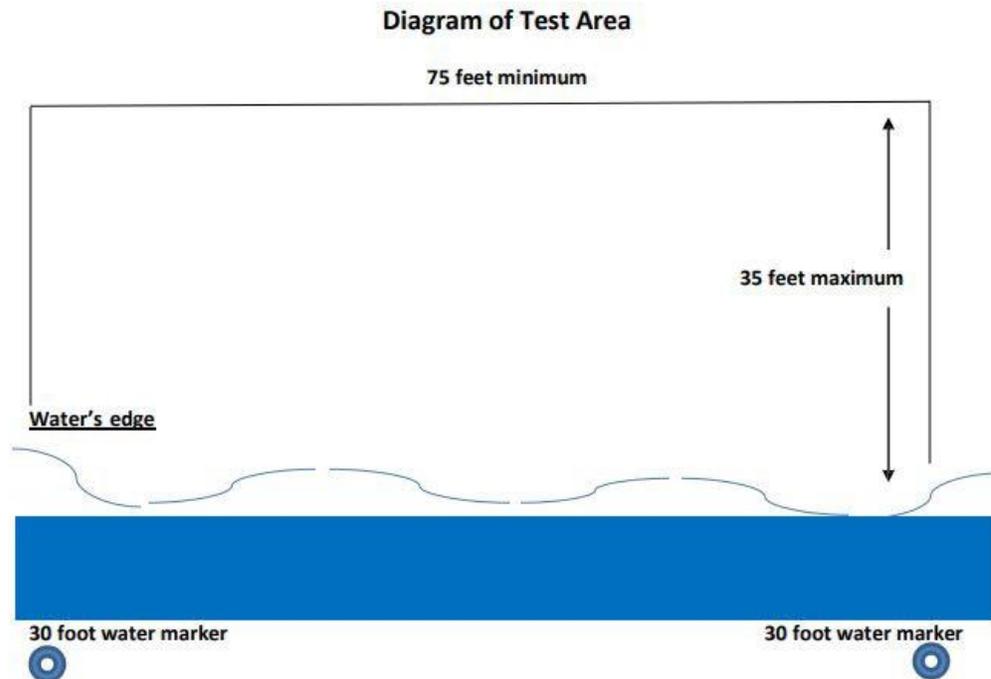
### **Section 12. Suggested Time Limits**

Suggested time limits for each Junior, Senior and Excellent Exercise appear at the end of each exercise. Under no circumstances will time limits less than those suggested be imposed. The limits may be extended by the judges for extreme or unusual conditions and situations. If adverse site or weather conditions exist, and the judges feel that extended time is needed to complete a particular exercise, they should state the time limit that will be used prior to judging. Judges may also extend a time limit for an individual dog, but only if the dog began working immediately at the start of the exercise and continued actively working during the entire exercise.

At any time, the judges shall retain the discretion to whistle off as "failed" any dog that does not demonstrate an understanding of an exercise.

Judges are to report the reasons for any change made in the suggested time limits to the Test Chairperson, to be included with the Test Chairperson's report. Judges must note any modifications made on the Judges' Evaluation Forms.

## Chapter III - Standard of Performance - Junior Division



### EXERCISE #1--BASIC CONTROL

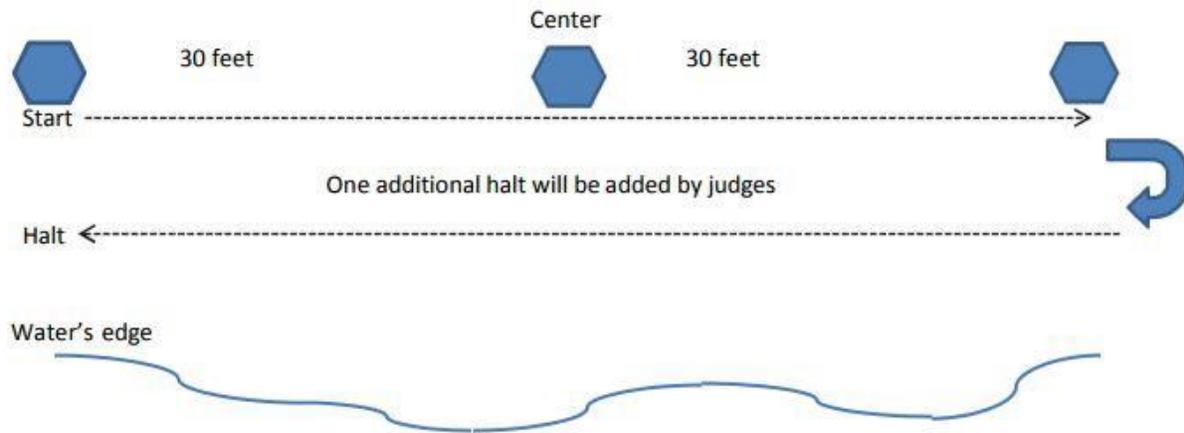
**All dogs entered in the junior division must perform basic control.**

Basic Control will be performed off leash in the water front test area within 35 feet of the water's edge as close to parallel to the water front as the site will allow. Some sites will have teams working parallel to the water only 5 feet from the water while other sites will be as close to parallel as possible due to a curved water front and may be 20 feet from the water. Basic Control must be held within the area designated as the water front test area even if it has to be only 3 feet from the water.

There are two parts to Basic Control: Controlled Walking and a Recall. The only sit required in Basic Control is at the start of the Recall exercise. The dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. Extra hand signals, verbal commands, and other encouragement are allowed on the motion exercises. If the dog leaves the marked test area at any time during Basic Control, it is a disqualification. If the dog enters the water and passes the 30-foot water marker or the side line of the water markers it is considered leaving the test area and will be a disqualification. If a dog is disqualified for any of these reasons the dog will not be allowed to continue in the test and may not finish the exercise.

The test area is defined by a roped off or marked area from the water's edge to a distance not more than 35 feet back from the water's edge and a minimum of 75 feet across the water front. For the purpose of Basic Control only, the test area will also extend to the 30-foot water markers.

## Controlled Walking



The handler and dog enter the test area when directed to do so by the judges. The handler has the option, as they enter the test area, of taking the dog on leash to the water to allow the dog to get wet. Should the handler elect to not get their dog wet at this time, they will directly proceed to the water exercises upon successful completion of basic control without another opportunity to get their dog wet. Once ready to begin the handler will proceed to a designated marker (cone, flag, post) in the test area which is 30 feet from the center of the test area and give the leash to a steward indicating that they are ready to begin Basic Control.

The dog must walk with the handler in response to the commands given and must remain, for the majority of the time, within four feet of the handler. The handler must not touch the dog but may command and encourage the dog. The dog is not required to remain in any particular position but must remain within four feet of the handler. The dog does not have to sit at any time during this exercise, however, handlers may GENTLY place the dog into a sit before starting if they so choose. The pattern may go left to right or right to left depending on the set up of the test area. Controlled Walking should be done in a relatively straight line from marker to marker. During this exercise one judge will call commands, but both judges will score. The commands will include: forward, about turn and halt. One judge will state "This is controlled walking, are you ready?" If the handler indicates that he/she is not ready to begin he/she can take a few seconds to reposition or refocus the dog and then indicate to the judge that they are ready. When the handler indicates that he/she is ready to begin he/she will take hands off the dog and/or collar. The judge will give a command to move forward. The handler and dog will move forward, parallel to shore, to the marker 60 feet away where the judge will give a command for an about turn. After the about turn the handler and dog

will continue forward 60 feet to the original marker where the judge will give a command to halt. At some point during the Controlled Walking pattern the judge will give an additional halt command which will be in the same location for all dogs. Once the dog and handler have reached the original marker and halted, the judge will indicate "exercise finished". The handler may then take the dog gently by the collar. If the Controlled Walking pattern is performed close to the water's edge the dog will not fail for getting his/her feet in the water as long as the dog is continuing to work in a controlled manner and has not left the four foot radius of the handler.

If the dog leaves the four-foot area around the handler to run around the test area or enter the water during Controlled Walking it is a failure. If the dog does not return to the handler within 20 seconds of leaving the four-foot radius or passes the 30 foot water markers it will be a disqualification.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog will respond to his handler's commands and walk in a controlled manner.
2. The dog will walk within four feet of the handler for a majority of the time.

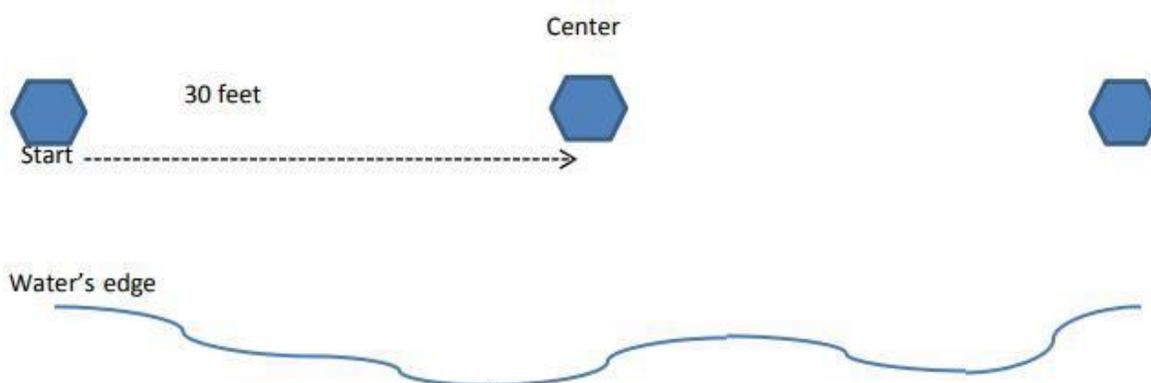
### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog is beyond four feet of the handler for the majority of the time.
2. Handler must constantly adapt to the pace of the dog.
3. Dog is considered-out of control by the judges.
4. Dog must be physically handled by the handler during the controlled walking pattern.
5. The dog refuses to accompany the handler.
6. Dog urinates or defecates in the test area.
7. The handler grabs the dog to prevent it from leaving the test area.

### **Recall**

### Diagram for Recall



The Recall is performed between two markers 30 feet apart in the water front test area. It can be done left to right or right to left. The dog and handler will start at the marker where they finished Controlled Walking and will turn their dog around to face the center of the test area. The handler may gently hold the dog by the collar to prepare the dog to start at the marker where Controlled Walking finished.

The judge will state "This is the Recall exercise, are you ready?" If the handler indicates that he/she is not ready to begin he/she can take a few seconds to reposition or refocus the dog and then indicate to the judge that they are ready. When the handler indicates that he/she is ready to begin the judge will instruct the handler to "Sit your dog". The handler may GENTLY place the dog into a sit. The handler will remove his/her hands from the dog and/or collar. The judge will instruct the handler to "Leave your dog". The handler must give only one stay command. The stay command can be given by both voice and hand signal simultaneously. The dog must stay until called by the handler. The handler will walk to the center marker 30 feet away, turn, face the dog, and remain in place until the exercise is finished. The judge will instruct the handler by voice or hand signal to call the dog. A signal, verbal command, or simultaneous commands may be used to call the dog. Extra hand signals and vocal commands are allowed after the dog begins to move. The dog must respond within 10 seconds. The dog must go directly to the handler, which can be done in a straight line or a slight natural arc and stop within four feet of the handler. The judge will indicate "exercise finished". The dog is not required to finish. The handler may then take the dog gently by the collar. The judge's commands to the handler are "Sit your dog", "Leave your dog", "Call your dog"(or a silent hand signal) and "Exercise finished". If the Recall is performed close to the water's edge the dog will not fail for getting his/her feet in the water if it naturally arcs while returning directly to the handler and continues to work in a controlled manner.

If the dog does not go directly to the handler on the Recall and runs around the test area or enters the water, it is a failure. If the dog does not return to the handler

within 20 seconds of leaving the starting marker or the direct line of the Recall, it will be a disqualification.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog will remain in place in a sit until called by the handler. "Stay" may be both verbal command and/or signal.
2. The dog will respond within ten (10) seconds.
3. The dog will come directly to the handler, but may arc, within four feet of the handler and stop.
4. The handler will remain in place until the exercise is complete.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and/or if:

1. The dog does not stay in place or in a sit.
2. The handler gives more than one "stay" command or more than one "come" command. (Hand signals and voice commands must be given at the same time to be considered "one command".)
3. The dog does not respond to the "come" command within 10 seconds.
4. The dog does not go directly to the handler.
5. The dog goes to the handler but remains out of reach.
6. Dog urinates or defecates in the test area.

## **EXERCISE #2--SINGLE RETRIEVE**

### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. The judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will throw the bumper at least thirty (30) feet out from shore and into swimming depth water for the dog. The bumper may have a short line attached to facilitate throwing. Anticipation is allowed. The dog swims out to the bumper, retrieves it, and brings it to the handler on the shore. The dog must deliver the bumper to hand. The dog need not sit to deliver the bumper to the handler. A "finish" is not required.

If the throw is not of adequate distance, the judges will instruct the handler to throw the bumper again. The test committee will appoint a steward to serve as a designated thrower in the event one should be needed.

The dog may bring the bumper to the closest point of land; in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The point of land at which the dog delivers the bumper may be outside the

marked test area. If the dog fails to retrieve on the first command, it may be redirected by the handler to retrieve the bumper.

The judges will signal completion of the exercise when the dog has delivered the bumper to hand, or when the dog has failed the exercise.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog is sent to make the retrieve.
2. The dog retrieves the bumper that was thrown into swimming depth water and delivers it to hand.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog does not retrieve the bumper.
2. The dog gets the bumper but drops it and refuses to pick it up.
3. The dog refuses to deliver the bumper to hand.
4. The handler assists the dog in marking the bumper by throwing objects.
5. The dog leaves the water without making the retrieve.

Suggested Time Limit: Sixty (60) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

## **EXERCISE #3--DROP RETRIEVE**

### **Standard of Performance**

The judges will select the article the morning of the test, and it will be the same for all dogs. The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. Stewards will paddle in a canoe or kayak across the test site approximately fifty (50) feet from shore. Upon a signal from a judge or as indicated by the judges' specifications, a steward will quietly place the entrant's life jacket or boat cushion in the water on the seaward side of the watercraft, making no effort to attract the dog's attention to the drop. After the watercraft has cleared the area, a judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will send the dog in the direction of the floating article. The dog swims out to the article, retrieves it, and returns it to the handler on shore. The dog must deliver the article to hand. The dog may bring the article to the closest point of land; in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The closest point of land may be outside the marked test site. No sit or finish is required. The judges will signal completion of the exercise when the dog delivers to hand, or when the judges indicate the dog has failed.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The steward drops a floating article on the seaward side of the watercraft without attracting the attention of the dog.
2. The dog takes direction from the handler.
3. The dog locates the article and delivers it to hand.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog does not retrieve the article.
2. The dog gets the article, drops it, and will not pick it up.
3. The dog fails to deliver the article to the handler.
4. The handler aids the dog in marking the article by throwing objects.
5. The dog leaves the water without making the retrieve.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

## **EXERCISE #4--TAKE A LINE**

### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. The land steward will give the handler one end of the line. Before the exercise begins, the calling steward, on the direction of the judge, will walk up to the dog, pet it briefly and ask its name. The steward will swim away from shore into position at the center and fifty (50) foot mark. When the steward is in position, a judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin" while simultaneously signaling the steward to begin calling. At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The steward will use the dog's name and must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

**After** the judge says "You may begin", the handler gives the dog one end of a seventy-five (75) foot floating line. The line may be knotted at one end to facilitate carrying. The handler may gently place the line in the dog's mouth, entice the dog to take the line, or command the dog to take the line. The line may not be tossed into the water for the dog to grab. If the line is dropped prior to the dog committing to the water, the handler may pick it up and start again. If the dog drops the line on shore but commits to the water the handler may pick up the line and hand it to the dog as long as the dog does not leave the water with more than two (2) feet and the handler does not enter the water. If the dog commits to the water and drops the line in the water the handler may command the dog to pick it up but may not touch the line.

The dog will hold the line in its mouth and on the handler's command will enter the water and carry the line to the steward. The handler may play out the line to avoid entanglement but will keep one end on shore. The dog must bring the line close enough for the steward to reach it without changing his/her location in the water. The dog must hold the line in its mouth until the steward can grasp it, but the dog does not have to relinquish the line to the steward. The dog must have the line in his/her mouth when the steward takes hold of the line. The steward will hold the line up for the judges to see. The exercise is finished when the steward has hold of the line, or when the judges indicate the dog has failed. The judges will signal completion of the exercise. The handler will then call the dog to shore. The dog may continue to hold the line in its mouth and accompany the steward to shore.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog will hold the line in its mouth.
2. The dog will leave the handler.
3. The dog will deliver the line to the steward.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The handler physically guides the dog any time after the exercise has begun.
2. The dog leaves the water after it has been sent, and before it delivers the line to the steward.
3. The dog does not come close enough to the steward to allow the steward to take hold of the line while the dog is holding it.
4. The handler tosses the line in the water for the dog to retrieve

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

## **EXERCISE #5--TOW A BOAT**

### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. The handler's 8-foot floating line with attached boat bumper will be placed in the boat by a steward. The stewards will be positioned in an approved rowboat fifty (50) feet from shore. The dog and handler will approach the water, and the judge will ask, "Are you ready? The judge will instruct the handler "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. As soon as the judge signals the beginning of the exercise, a steward in the boat will attract the team's attention by calling the dog's name and splashing the bumper next to the boat. The dog should swim to the boat, take the bumper or line from the calling steward, and tow the boat to shore. The calling steward will splash the

bumper close to the boat but may not throw it in front of the dog. If the calling steward accidentally falls out of the boat the exercise may not be completed and will have to be retested. The dog may hold either the bumper or the line adjacent to the bumper. The dog may bring the boat to the closest point of land, in which case, the handler may move along the shore to meet the dog. The handler will not enter the water until the dog is at wading depth for the dog. The dog must pull the boat until it touches the bottom, at which time the judges will signal completion of the exercise. If the dog drops the bumper at wading depth, and the boat beaches itself due to forward momentum, the handler should encourage the dog to pick up the bumper and pull the line until the line is taut. At that time the judge will signal the exercise finished.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog will take direction and swim to the boat upon command.
2. The dog will take the bumper or line in its mouth from the calling steward.
3. The dog will tow the boat to shore until it touches the bottom.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog does not swim out to the boat.
2. The dog refuses to take the bumper or line from the calling steward.
3. The dog does not pull the boat to shore or beach the boat.
4. The dog drops the equipment and does not respond to the handler's commands to pick it up.
5. The dog comes out of the water prior to completion of the exercise, unless dog is actively in the process of towing and beaching the boat in order to complete the exercise

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

## **EXERCISE #6--RETRIEVE OFF A BOAT**

### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler wait on shore at the center of the beach facing the water. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" At that point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar, Then the judge will instruct the handler "You may board the boat". The dog and handler will board a boat and travel in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have thirty (30) seconds to board and be ready for departure. The thirty (30) second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the retrieve.

The dog must willingly board the platform on the boat without physical assistance from the handler within the 30-second time limit and remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. Dogs that exit the platform after loading will be allowed to reload as long as they remain under handler's verbal control and remain in the immediate loading area. Multiple loads and reloads may result in a failed exercise per judges discretion or if the dog is clearly not obeying the handler and out of control. If a problem develops while pushing the boat out which causes the dog to jump off the platform, it is up to the judges to decide whether the exercise should be restarted. The handler is responsible for placing the paddle on the platform and is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water after the boat is free floating. The handler is responsible to assist with the boat's departure and should not be seated on the platform until the boat is free floating.

The dog and handler go out on the boat rowed by a steward. The handler may place an arm on the dog on the ride out as long as he/she is not restraining the dog. At seventy-five feet from shore, the boat is positioned parallel to shore. The stewards in the boat will use the committee-provided anchor system to ensure it remains in position. After confirming that the handler is in position and is ready with hands off the dog, a judge will signal "You may begin" by an arm signal or one short blast on a whistle. The handler throws a paddle at least ten (10) feet from the boat. The judges must be able to see the paddle thrown to judge the 10-foot distance. When the paddle is in the water, the dog must jump willingly from the platform of the boat, within thirty (30) seconds, to retrieve the paddle. The dog must return the paddle to the boat and deliver the paddle to hand to the handler only. The handler is allowed to splash the water to attract the dog's attention when the dog is returning the paddle to the boat. When the dog has relinquished the paddle to the handler the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, within the thirty (30) second time limit for boarding.
2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit.
3. The handler will throw the paddle at least ten (10) feet.
4. The dog will wait on the boat until the paddle is in the water.
5. The dog will jump from the boat within thirty (30) seconds from the time the paddle is in the water.
6. The dog will retrieve the paddle.
7. The dog will return the paddle to the boat and deliver it to hand to the handler.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog refuses to willingly board the boat.
2. The dog refuses to jump from the boat within thirty (30) seconds.
3. The dog jumps before the paddle hits the water.
4. The dog refuses to return the paddle to the handler.
5. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under control on the platform during the exercise.
6. The dog is restrained while on the boat.
7. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds is allowed to complete the entire exercise: however, the dog must jump from the boat within thirty (30) seconds of the paddle hitting the water. Timing for the whole exercise starts when judge instructs, "You may begin". (Boarding of the boat is a separate time limit from the exercise)

## **EXERCISE #7--SWIM WITH HANDLER**

### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler are on shore facing the water at a spot designated by the judges. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. Dog and handler will approach the water and wade out together to swimming depth for the dog. The dog and handler will swim together for twenty (20) feet. The prescribed distance is not judged until both the handler and the dog have begun swimming. The dog may swim in any position within a four-foot (4) radius of the handler. The dog may not swim on top of the handler nor otherwise impede the handler from reaching the prescribed distance. The handler may swim with any type of swimming stroke. A judge will signal when the required distance is reached. The handler will stop swimming and command the dog to turn toward shore. The handler may not physically turn the dog. The handler then holds onto the dog and encourages the dog to tow him to shore. The dog is to do so promptly, although one or two circles by the dog for orientation with the shoreline are allowed. The dog may tow the handler by having the handler hold onto the dog or by the dog holding the handler by the arm or hand. If the dog holds the handler by the arm or hand, some protection on the arm or hand is permitted. This protection will be flush with the skin and there will be nothing dangling from it.

The handler must be free floating and allow him/herself to be towed by the dog. A small amount of motion by the handler for balance is allowed. Once the dog has reached

wading depth, the handler may stand and walk to shore with his/her dog. The judges will signal completion as soon as the dog is walking.

**Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog is willing to accompany the handler into the water.
2. The dog is willing to swim with the handler the prescribed distance.
3. The dog is willing to tow the handler to shore.

**Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog must be physically guided into the water or while swimming.
2. The dog leaves the four-foot (4) radius of the handler and does not immediately return to the handler on command.
3. The dog physically interferes with the handler's ability to swim the prescribed distance.
4. The dog refuses or is unable to tow the handler to shore.
5. The handler makes swimming strokes that are interpreted by the judges as assisting the dog.
6. The dog leaves the testing area before being put on leash after the exercise is complete.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

## Chapter IV - Standard of Performance - Senior Division

### EXERCISE #1--DOUBLE RETRIEVE

#### Standards of Performance

The dog and handler wait on shore at the center of the beach facing the water, a judge will ask, "Are you ready?" A steward will paddle a canoe or kayak across the test site and drop the handler's life jacket and boat cushion fifty feet (50 feet) from shore and fifty (50) feet apart on the land side of the watercraft. The articles will be splashed two or three times to attract the dog's attention.

When the articles are in place, the stewards will quickly paddle clear of the site, and a judge will tell the handler which is the first article to be retrieved. It will be the same order for each dog unless conditions necessitate a change and will be decided before the Senior division begins. A judge will then instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The dog and handler must start from the center of the test area; however, once the judges indicate the start of the exercise, the dog and handler are allowed to move along the beach. The handler sends the dog for the first article from any point on the shore. The dog must retrieve the article and deliver it to the hand of the handler on shore. The dog may bring the article to the closest point of land, in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The closest point of land does not have to be within the marked test area. The handler may pat and praise his dog before he sends it for the second article; no other physical manipulation of the dog is allowed. The dog will be directed for the second article from any point on the beach. When the second article is delivered to hand on shore in the same manner as the first one, the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

#### Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The dog takes direction and retrieves both articles in the specified order.
2. The dog is sent for the first article and returns it to the handler on shore, delivering it to hand.
3. The dog is then sent for the second article and returns it in the same manner.

#### Failing Performance:

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises. (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog gets the wrong article.
2. The dog does not retrieve both articles.
3. The dog does not deliver both articles to hand.
4. The dog comes out of the water prior to completion of the first retrieve.

5. The dog comes out of the water after it has been sent for the second retrieve without the article.
6. The handler assists the dog in marking an article by throwing objects.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

## **EXERCISE #2—LINE TO SHORE**

### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler will be on shore in the center of the test area. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler to proceed. The dog will board the boat and will travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have thirty (30) seconds to board and to be ready for departure. The thirty (30) second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the exercise. The dog must willingly board the platform on the boat without physical assistance from the handler within the thirty (30) second time limit and remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. Once the dog has boarded the platform it should not jump off the platform at any time even if the boat is still beached or being pushed out. Dogs that exit the platform after loading will be allowed to reload as long as they remain under handler's verbal control and remain in the immediate loading area. Multiple loads and reloads may result in a failed exercise per judges discretion or if the dog is clearly not obeying the handler and out of control. If a problem develops while pushing the boat out which causes the dog to jump off the platform, it is up to the judges to decide whether the exercise should be restarted. The handler is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water. The handler is responsible to assist with the boat's departure and should not be seated on the platform until the boat is free floating.

The handler will have a one hundred and twenty-five (125) foot line, knotted at one end that he/she must bring onto the boat. The dog and handler will be rowed out seventy-five (75) feet from shore, where the boat will be turned so that the platform is facing the shoreline. The rowing steward will hold the rowboat in position or an anchor system may be used, if conditions warrant.

The judge will indicate the beginning of the exercise by an arm signal or one short whistle blast. The handler will command the dog to voluntarily take the line and then to jump from the boat. The dog must willingly take the line and exit from the platform of the boat with the line in his/her mouth, within fifteen (15) seconds of the first command to take hold of the line. Should the line be dropped onto the platform or into the water by the dog, after the dog has taken the line but prior to the dog jumping from the boat, it will be considered a failure. The handler is not permitted to toss the line into the water for the dog to retrieve. The dog may not anticipate and leave the boat prior to taking the line in his mouth, or prior to the handler's command to jump. Should the dog drop the line into the water as it jumps from the boat, or as the dog lands in the water, the handler may verbally and/or by hand signal command the dog to pick up the line. The handler may not pull on the line or move the line around in the water to attract the dog

to it. The dog is permitted to circle to orient itself in order to locate the dropped line, or in case the dog goes under the surface of the water after jumping from the platform.

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The dog will be directed by the handler to deliver the line to the designated steward waiting on the shoreline. However, the handler will retain the end of the line on the boat. Once the dog is in the water and beginning to swim toward shore the steward will encourage the dog to come to him/her. The handler will feed the remaining line out to the dog swimming toward shore. The dog must swim directly to shore without circling the boat, checking out the distance markers, etc. The dog will deliver the line to the steward waiting on shore. The steward can slowly walk along the beach to meet the dog. The handler may continue to direct the dog verbally and/or by hand signals as the dog works. The dog may pause and look back towards the handler once he/she reaches his wading depth; however, the dog is not permitted to turn and swim back towards the handler prior to delivering the line to the steward. It will not be the responsibility of the steward to direct the dog to hold onto the line. The dog does not have to relinquish the line to the steward. The steward must only touch the line and not take the line from the dog. The exercise will be complete when the steward touches the line that the dog is holding without stepping into the water. When the whistle is blown by the judges to signal completion of the exercise, the steward will hold the dog gently by the collar until the handler is brought back to shore.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, within the thirty (30) second time limit for boarding.
2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit.
3. The dog will willingly take the offered line from the handler when commanded to do so.
4. The dog will jump from the platform of the boat within fifteen (15) seconds of the first command to jump.
5. The dog will swim directly to the shoreline with the line in its mouth.
6. The exercise will be complete when the steward waiting on shore has touched the line that the dog is holding.

### **Failing Performance**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, section 18), and if:

1. The dog refuses to willingly board the boat.
2. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.
3. The dog receives physical assistance, restraint or unnecessary contact with the handler while on the beach or the boat.
4. The dog will not willingly take the line when commanded to do so by the handler.
5. The dog drops the line onto the platform or into the water before jumping from the boat.

6. The dog anticipates and jumps before having been commanded to do so.
7. The dog refuses to jump with the line in its mouth within fifteen (15) seconds.
8. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under control on the platform after boarding and during the exercise.
9. The dog fails to deliver the line to the steward waiting on shore.
10. The dog begins swimming back towards the handler at any time before delivering the line to the steward, other than during obvious attempts to orient himself with the boat and shoreline after jumping into the water.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes are allowed to complete the entire exercise. However, the dog must jump within fifteen (15) seconds. The timing starts when the handler gives the command for the dog to jump.

### **EXERCISE #3--TAKE A LIFE RING**

#### **Standard of Performance**

The life ring is attached to a line three (3) feet to five (5) feet in length. The line may be knotted in some fashion to facilitate the dog holding and towing it. One of three water stewards will be designated as the "victim", and this steward will assume the same position in the water for each dog. The judges will decide which position the calling steward will take.

The dog and handler wait on shore at the center of the beach facing the water. A judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and will then instruct three stewards to enter the water and swim out to a point approximately seventy-five (75) feet from shore. When they have reached the 75-foot distance, they will be spaced at thirty-foot (30) intervals. The thirty-foot (30) intervals shall be measured on shore and marked in a visible fashion to enable the stewards to maintain their positions. A judge will indicate to the designated "victim" the start of the exercise by a hand signal or one short blast on his whistle. That steward will begin to splash and call for help but may not call the dog by name. The other two stewards shall quietly tread water, remaining in position and watching the "victim". At the same time the judge is signaling the steward to begin calling the judge will also instruct the handler "You may begin". At that time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. Once the judges indicate the start of the exercise, the handler and dog may move to any position on the beach before the dog is sent. The handler will give the line attached to the life ring to the dog. The dog will take it on command without the handler having to physically put it into the dog's mouth. The handler will send the dog to the "victim" in distress. If the dog drops the line, the handler may command the dog to retake it, but the handler may not pick up the line and start again.

The dog is to swim "directly" to the calling person in the water and carry the life ring close enough so that the "victim" may grab hold of it. If a dog appears to start toward the wrong steward and can be verbally redirected by the handler to go to the designated "victim", the dog will pass. As long as the dog is working, it should not fail until it delivers the life ring to the wrong steward or exceeds the time limit for the

exercise. The steward must not use swimming strokes to reach for the life ring and is required to hold the life ring while being towed to shore. When the dog and "victim" reach wading depth water for the dog, the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog will hold the line attached to the life ring.
2. The dog goes to the person in distress.
3. The dog comes close enough for the "victim" to grab hold of the life ring.
4. The dog tows the "victim" to shore.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog refuses to hold the line.
2. The dog goes to the incorrect steward.
3. The dog fails to bring the ring close enough for the "victim" to reach it.
4. The dog fails to tow the "victim" to shore.
5. The dog drops the equipment, and the handler assists the dog in marking the equipment by throwing objects.
6. The dog leaves the water prior to completion of the exercise.

Suggested Time Limit: Two (2) minutes. Timing starts when the judge instructs, "You may begin".

## **EXERCISE #4--UNDERWATER RETRIEVE**

### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler wait on shore at the center of the beach facing the water. The judge will state "Are You Ready" and "You may proceed into the water". The dog will willingly accompany the handler into the water. The handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar at this time. The point of the dog's elbow will measure the required depth. When dog and handler are in position, at depth, a judge will ask, "Are you ready?" A judge will then instruct the handler, "You may begin". The handler will toss the object into the water at least three (3) feet in front of the dog and parallel to shore. The object to be retrieved will be no more than twelve (12) inches long and 4 inches tall. When submerged, it should extend no more than four (4) inches from the bottom and should be weighted evenly so that it will sink immediately.

The handler may not touch the dog after the object is thrown. The handler may be beside the dog in or out of the water so that the dog can immediately deliver the object to hand. The handler's position should not block the view of the judges. The

dog will have a total of three minutes from the time the object is first thrown to retrieve it from the bottom and deliver it to the handler. The handler has the option of throwing the object as often as necessary, but the total time for the entire exercise is not to exceed three minutes. **Each new throw must be at the required depth and at least three (3) feet in front of the dog.** The judges will signal completion of the exercise.

A dog may paw the article to shore or submerge its head on this exercise, but it must pick up the article and deliver to hand.

The handler may use two identical underwater retrieve articles though they may be different colors. If the first is lost in the water, due to murky water conditions, the handler may ask for their second article but the dog must then retrieve the second article, not the first.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog and handler enter water elbow deep for the dog.
2. The handler throws the object at least three (3) feet in front of the dog.
3. The dog is sent to retrieve the object.
4. The dog retrieves and delivers it to the handler who may be standing beside the dog as it retrieves.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog does not retrieve the object thrown at the required depth and/or distance.
2. The dog does not deliver to hand.
3. The dog drops the article and fails to retrieve it again.
4. The handler touches the dog.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. Timing starts when the object is first thrown.

## **EXERCISE #5--TAKE A LINE/TOW A BOAT**

### **Standard of Performance**

A steward will be waiting in a rowboat seventy-five (75) feet from shore. The boat may be positioned at the anchor as the underwater retrieve article exercise is in progress. The boat will use the committee-provided anchor system to ensure it remains in position. A steward will give the handler their 8-foot line. The dog and handler wait on shore at the center of the beach facing the water. A judge will ask, "Are you ready?" Then a judge will instruct the handler, "You may begin" while simultaneously signaling the steward to begin calling. At this time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will give the dog an eight (8) line with a bumper attached. The dog may hold either the bumper or the line adjacent to the bumper. The dog will take the equipment on command. The line may

not be tossed in the water for the dog to grab. If the dog drops the line or bumper the handler may not pick up the line or bumper and start again. If the dog drops the line in the water or on land, the handler must command the dog to pick it up and may not touch the line. If the dog drops the line on shore and commits to the water the handler may command the dog to pick up the line if the dog can do so without more than two (2) feet leaving the water and without the handler entering the water or touching the line.

The handler sends the dog to swim to the steward in the boat. The steward will attract the dog's attention by calling the dog, but not by name, and by splashing the water. While the handler is commanding the dog to swim out to the boat, he/she may not step into the water. The dog will swim out to the boat and come close enough to deliver the bumper or line to the calling steward in the boat. The calling steward shall not leave the boat to grab the line. If the calling steward accidentally falls out of the boat the exercise may not be completed and will have to be retested. The calling steward will reach for the bumper or line from the side from which the dog is approaching and take hold of the line or bumper. The dog may bring the boat to the closest point of land, in which case, the handler may move along the shore to meet the dog. The handler shall not enter the water until the dog is at wading depth for the dog. The dog must pull the boat until it touches bottom, and the judges will signal completion of the exercise at that time. If the dog drops the bumper at wading depth, and the boat beaches itself due to forward momentum, the handler should encourage the dog to pick up the bumper and pull the line until the line is taut. At that time the judge will signal the exercise finished.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog will take the bumper or line on command.
2. The dog will deliver the bumper or line to the calling steward in the boat.
3. The dog will tow the boat to shore until it touches the bottom.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog refuses to take the bumper or line in its mouth.
2. The dog refuses to deliver the bumper or line to the calling steward in the boat.
3. The dog does not tow the boat to shore.
4. The dog drops the equipment and will not pick it up when directed by the handler.
5. The dog drops the equipment and the handler assists the dog in marking the equipment by throwing objects.
6. The dog comes out of the water prior to completion of the exercise, unless it is actively towing and beaching the boat to complete the exercise.

Suggested Time Limit: Two (2) minutes. Timing starts when judge instructs, "You may begin".

## EXERCISE #6--RESCUE

### Standard of Performance

The dog and handler wait on shore at the center of the beach facing the water. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" and will then instruct the handler "You may board the boat". The dog will willingly board the platform on the boat and travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have thirty (30) seconds to board and be ready for departure. The thirty (30) second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the rescue. The dog must remain under control and on the platform during the exercise until required to exit. Dogs that exit the platform after loading will be allowed to reload as long as they remain under handler's verbal control and remain in the immediate loading area? Multiple loads and reloads may result in a failed exercise per judges discretion or if the dog is clearly not obeying the handler and out of control. If a problem develops while pushing the boat out which causes the dog to jump off the platform, it is up to the judges to decide whether the exercise should be restarted. The handler must not restrain the dog on the boat. The handler may place an arm on the dog on the ride out as long as the dog is not being restrained. The handler is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water after the boat is free floating. The handler is responsible to assist with the boat's departure and should not be seated on the platform until the boat is free floating.

Handler, dog, and rower row out seventy-five (75) feet from shore. The boat is positioned parallel to shore. The boat will use the committee-provided anchor system to ensure it remains in position. When in position for the rescue, a judge will signal "You may begin" by either a hand signal or one short blast on his whistle. The dog must remain on the platform until the handler indicates that rescue is needed. Once the handler indicates that rescue is needed the timing starts and the dog has 30 seconds to jump. Voice encouragement is allowed.

At the same time as the boat is rowing out, the steward (who must be a stranger to the dog) will swim out to the 75-foot marker and position themselves 25 – 30 feet from the boat and turn to face the platform. The steward will then splash, and otherwise indicate that a rescue is required. The dog, commanded by the handler, will jump from the boat, swim directly to the victim and then either grasp the victim by the arm or allow him to take hold. The dog may circle for orientation.

The dog may choose to tow by an arm or allow the victim to take hold. If the dog tows by an arm, some form of protection is allowed on the arm. This protection will be flush with the skin and there will be nothing dangling from it. Some arm or leg motion for balance is allowed, but the steward is to be primarily free floating.

The dog may tow the steward to shore or back to the boat. It is the rowing steward's responsibility to keep the boat within the test site and appropriately anchored in case the dog elects to take its steward to the boat. The exercise is complete when the dog tows the steward to the boat and the handler touches the steward or the dog reaches wading depth water near shore. If the dog chooses to take the steward to shore, the

exercise is complete as soon as the dog is in wading depth. The rescued steward or another appointed steward may gently hold the dog by the collar until the boat is rowed back to shore. The judges will indicate completion of the exercise.

**Principal Parts of the Exercise:**

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, within the thirty (30) second time limit.
2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until the handler indicates rescue is needed.
3. The dog will jump within thirty (30) seconds after the handler indicates rescue is needed.
4. The dog comes to the rescue promptly.
5. The dog goes to the victim and tows them to shore or to the boat.

**Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, Section 18) and if:

1. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.
2. The dog is restrained while on the boat.
3. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under control on the platform until required to exit.
4. The dog jumps before commanded, or onto the steward.
5. The dog does not jump to rescue the steward within thirty (30) seconds.
6. The dog does not go to the steward.
7. The drowning steward makes swimming strokes that are interpreted as assisting the dog.
8. The dog refuses to tow the steward to shore or to the boat.
9. The dog leaves the testing area before being put on leash after the exercise is complete.

Suggested Time Limit: Ninety (90) seconds is allowed to complete the entire exercise. Timing starts when the handler indicates that rescue is needed, however, the dog must jump within thirty (30) seconds.

## Chapter V - Standard of Performance - Excellent Division

### Exercise #1--Abandoned Boat

#### **Purpose:**

This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability to follow his/her handler's commands, search for a line and retrieve a boat without someone calling from the boat.

#### **Standard of Performance**

The handler's floating eight (8) foot line with plastic or canvas boat bumper attached will be attached to the front of a rowboat with the bumper placed in the boat. The steward will row the rowboat out seventy-five (75) feet from shore and must either attach the boat to a fixed anchor or drop an anchor from inside the boat. The boat may move freely around the anchor in the current or wind. The oars will be brought up into the boat. The steward will be facing away from the dog except for occasional glances to see when the dog is close to the boat.

The handler and dog will wait on the shore in the center of the test area. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler to begin. When the judge indicates, "you may begin", the handler will send the dog to search for the line/bumper. The dog will commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds from the handler's first command to swim to the boat. The handler is not permitted to enter the water in this exercise. When the dog is approximately twenty-five (25) feet from the boat, the steward will bring up or detach the anchor system. When the dog is ten (10) feet away the steward may toss the bumper off the seaward side of the boat, being sure to toss the bumper before the dog arrives at the boat. There may be two stewards in the boat if necessary to accommodate both actions.

The steward must not touch the line or bumper again. The steward(s) will not make eye contact with the dog and will remain quietly in the boat with head(s) down. The dog may go behind the boat from either end of the boat. The dog will tow the boat to shore by either the boat bumper or the line attached to it. The dog will beach the boat. Should the dog swim back toward shore without the boat, the dog may be re-directed by the handler, at any time, as long as the dog responds to the redirect command by turning and swimming back toward the boat within ten (10) seconds of the command being given. The dog is not permitted to swim towards shore a second time without bringing in the boat. The judges will indicate that the exercise is finished when the boat touches bottom. If the dog drops the bumper at wading depth, and the boat beaches itself due to

forward momentum, the handler should encourage the dog to pick up the bumper and pull the line until the line is taut. At that time the judge will signal the exercise finished.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The dog must commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds of the first command to begin the exercise.
2. The dog will swim directly to the boat and take the line or bumper in his/her mouth.
3. The dog may turn either way and will tow the boat to shore.
4. The handler will be allowed one opportunity to redirect the dog and the dog must respond in ten (10) seconds.
5. The dog will tow the boat until it touches the bottom.

### **Failing Performance**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, section 18), and if:

1. The dog does not wait for the handler's command to start the exercise.
2. The dog does not commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds of the first command to begin the exercise.
3. The dog does not swim directly to the boat.
4. The dog swims back toward shore and does not obey the redirect command within ten (10) seconds.
5. The dog swims back towards shore more than one time without having the boat in tow.
6. The dog does not take the line and tow the boat to shore or fails to beach the boat in the time allowed.

Suggested Time Limit: 3 minutes. Timing begins when the judge instructs the handler to begin.

### **Exercise #2--Multiple Person Rescue**

#### **Purpose:**

This exercise will demonstrate the superior physical fitness of the Leonberger while simulating an open sea rescue of multiple persons in distress.

## **Special Note:**

The safety of the dog is of paramount importance. Due to the length of time the dog is continually swimming without the break of reaching wading depth, the judges will terminate the exercise at any time a dog is deemed to be in distress or appears to be experiencing difficulty in completing the rescue of the three stewards. The decision of the judges with regards to the safety and ability of the dog to complete the exercise is final. A grievance is not applicable when a decision is rendered by either judge with regards to the safety or perceived distress of the dog.

## **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler will be on shore in the center of the test area. The judge will ask, "Are you Ready?" and then will instruct the handler to proceed. The dog will board the boat and will travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have thirty (30) seconds to board and to be ready for departure. The thirty (30) second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the rescue. The dog must willingly board the platform of the boat without physical assistance from the handler and within the thirty (30) second time limit, and will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. Dogs that exit the platform after loading will be allowed to reload as long as they remain under handler's verbal control and remain in the immediate loading area. Multiple loads and reloads may result in a failed exercise per judges discretion or if the dog is clearly not obeying the handler and out of control. Once the dog has boarded the platform it must remain under control at all time even if the boat is still beached or being pushed out. The handler is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water. The handler is responsible to assist with the boat's departure and should not be seated on the platform until the boat is free floating.

The boat is rowed out to the center of the test area and must be anchored with the platform one hundred and fifty (150) feet from shore and facing shore. The rowing steward may also use the oars to keep the boat in place and platform facing the shore.

Three stewards will be designated as the "victims" and should remain the same, if at all possible, for each dog entered. While the boat is being rowed out into position the stewards will swim out to their designated locations as indicated below:

Steward #1 At one hundred (100) feet from shore in line with the left marker on shore

Steward #2 At seventy five (75) feet from shore in line with the center marker on shore

Steward #3 At one hundred (100) feet from shore in line with the right marker on shore

The stewards MUST watch the rower throughout the exercise for signals provided by the judges, since they are facing away from the judges. This should be strongly emphasized to the stewards by the judges. Once the boat is anchored into position and the stewards are in place, the judges will ask the handler if he/she is ready, at which point the judges will signal the beginning of the exercise by using an arm signal or one short blast on a

whistle directed toward the stewards. The stewards will immediately splash and call for help. The stewards will call continuously in a manner consistent with being in distress. The stewards need not call in the same manner as one another, as there are differences in the condition and mannerisms of those needing rescue.

The handler will command the dog to jump from the boat and rescue the stewards. The dog must jump willingly from the platform of the boat within fifteen (15) seconds from the time the handler gives the first command to jump. The dog cannot anticipate and jump before being commanded to do so. The dogs may need to orient themselves either after the jump from the boat, or after each rescue and may briefly circle near the boat platform to do so. The dog will not be allowed to circle the boat before completing a rescue. The dog will pick a steward and swim directly toward that steward within twenty (20) seconds of jumping from the boat and within twenty (20) seconds of the completion of each rescue (steward touching hands with handler).

The dog may rescue the stewards in any order. The dog may look back or make a small circle while looking to the handler for further encouragement and direction but is not permitted to turn back and begin swimming toward the handler and boat without having a steward in tow. The dog is not permitted to swim past a steward, toward shore, unless circling the steward. The dog must swim close enough to the steward so that the steward may grab hold of the dog without moving from his/her position in the water. The handler is permitted to splash in the water to encourage the dog to return to the boat. The dog is permitted to bring back to the boat one, two, or all three stewards at a time. If the dog picks up more than one steward each steward should hold a side of the dog. The third steward may hold the dog or one of the other steward's life jackets. The judges will determine whether the dog is physically able to tow multiple stewards without undue stress, taking into consideration both wind and current at a given test location.

Unless it is obvious that the dog is heading for another steward, once the dog has made an actual pick up of a steward, any remaining stewards will soften their voices and splash less but must continue to call and splash. The dog must tow each steward back to the boat, where the handler waits on the platform. Each steward must make physical contact with the handler while still holding the dog (touches hands or hand to arm), after which the steward(s) will hold the lip of the boat, away from and behind the platform area to make room for the remaining stewards to make contact with the handler, and waiting quietly until the exercise is complete. Once the dog and steward(s) reach the boat and are touched by the handler, any remaining stewards will resume their original calling. The dog is permitted to check the already rescued stewards on the sides of the boat between each rescue attempt but may not circle the boat more than once each time. The exercise will be signaled complete when the final steward has made the defined physical contact with the handler.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, and within the thirty (30) second time limit for boarding.

2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. The dog will jump from the platform of the boat within fifteen (15) seconds from the time the first command to jump is given by the handler.
3. The dog will swim directly to each steward and will tow the steward(s) directly back to the boat.
4. The dog will be swimming toward a steward within 20 seconds of jumping from the boat and within 20 seconds of completing each rescue.
5. The dog will swim close enough to the boat for the handler to make physical contact with each steward.

### **Failing Performance**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, section 18), and if:

1. The dog refuses to willingly board the boat.
2. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.
3. The dog requires physical restraint by the handler, either on the beach or on the boat.
4. The dog anticipates and jumps before being commanded to do so.
5. The dog refuses to jump from the boat within fifteen (15) seconds.
6. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under verbal control on the platform after boarding and during the exercise.
7. The dog swims elsewhere other than to each steward.
8. The dog does not swim toward a steward within 20 seconds of jumping from the boat or within 20 seconds of completing each rescue.
9. The dog swims back toward the boat without a steward in tow after heading for a steward, or swims past the stewards toward the shoreline without attempting to pick up a steward.
10. The dog does not tow the steward(s) directly back to the boat.
11. The dog does not come close enough for the handler to make contact with each steward.

Suggested Time Limit: Six (6) minutes are suggested for completion of the entire exercise. However, the dog must jump within fifteen (15) seconds and commit to each rescue within twenty (20) seconds. The timing starts when the handler gives the first command for the dog to jump. If the dog is actively working the judges may make slight allowances for the recommended time limits. This is solely the judge's discretion and decision and should not be challenged by exhibitors or spectators.

### **Exercise #3--Unconscious Victim**

## **Purpose:**

This exercise will demonstrate the Leonberger's ability to perform a rescue without the victim indicating that rescue is needed and without harming the victim.

## **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler will wait in the center of the testing area facing away from the water. A judge will signal the steward to enter the water. The steward will swim away from shore into position at the center of the test area and seventy-five (75) feet mark from shore. The steward will be wearing a neoprene dry wet/dry suit and Exposure Protection dive gloves (see Chapter 2, section 8) on both hands, extending up toward the elbows. Though a full wet/dry suit is preferred, in extreme heat the steward may opt for a neoprene jacket but must at least have full arm protection. The steward must have their hands fully in the gloves and not ball up their fingers leaving the fingers of the gloves empty.

Once in position, the steward must float naturally on his/her back starting out with feet pointed toward shore, letting the current turn and move him/her. The steward's arms and legs should be floating as still as possible on top of the water with no motion made by strokes or kicks. The hands of the steward will be "palm up" on the surface of the water. The steward will not speak to the dog or make eye contact. Every attempt should be made by the steward to keep his/her eyes closed.

When the steward is in position, a judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler to proceed. The handler will command the dog to go to the steward's rescue. The dog will commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds of the first command given by the handler and will swim directly to the steward. The dog is not permitted to turn and swim back toward the handler without having the steward in tow. Upon reaching the steward, the dog **MUST** take either of the protected arms or hands, or the life jacket of the steward into its mouth, using a gentle hold, and will tow the steward to almost wading depth for the dog. The dog may circle the steward once or twice to find a protected arm/hand, or to obtain proper grip on the life jacket but must not cross over the steward's body or legs. The dog may let go of the steward to adjust its grip; but must immediately take hold again and may not swim away from the steward. The dog may not "push" the steward to shore but must have a hand, arm or life jacket in his/her mouth to complete the rescue. The steward must remain still, free floating, and may not make any swimming strokes. The handler will enter the water to assist the steward and the dog as the dog is returning with the steward in tow. The handler will wait at a depth just prior to the dog's wading depth, as previously approved by the judges. When the handler has a hand on the steward, the judge will signal completion of the exercise.

If at any time the dog's grip becomes painful the steward must signal to the judges and stop the exercise. The handler must immediately enter the water and quickly reach the

dog and steward to release the dogs grip if the dog does not respond to a command to do so.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The steward (who is not overly familiar with the dog) will swim out and float in the water without attracting the dog's attention.
2. The handler will notice the steward and will send the dog to rescue the steward.
3. The dog will swim to the steward, will take hold of the protected arm/hand or life jacket of the steward, and, using a gentle hold, will tow the steward to just prior to wading depth for the dog.

### **Failing Performance:**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, section 18), and if:

1. The dog does not wait for the handler's command to start the rescue.
2. The dog fails to commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds of the handler's first command to start the rescue.
3. The dog does not swim directly to the steward.
4. The dog refuses or is unable to tow the steward to shore.
5. The dog climbs on or otherwise jeopardizes the steward's safety or circles more than twice.
6. The dog takes hold of the steward by other than a protected arm, hand or life jacket.
7. The dog lets go of the steward's hand/arm or life jacket and leaves the steward before the handler has contact with the steward.
8. The dog turns back and swims toward shore without completing the rescue.
9. The dog grasps the steward too firmly, causing pain, discomfort or potential injury.

Suggested time Limit: Two and one half (2.5) minutes. Timing starts when the handler gives the first command to start the rescue.

### **Exercise #4--Capsized Raft**

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to search for a victim trapped under a raft, to dive under the raft and back out to rescue the victim.

#### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler will wait in the center of the test area. A canoe, kayak or rowboat will tow an inflatable raft, with one steward aboard into position from right to left or left to

right, as wind/current conditions indicate, across the test area seventy-five (75) feet from shore. The steward may also swim the raft into position. When the inflatable raft is in position seventy-five (75) feet out from the center of the test area, parallel to shore, the craft used for towing will very quickly exit the testing area but will remain ready to retrieve the raft at the conclusion of the exercise.

The judge will ask "Are you Ready" and will then signal the calling steward to capsize the raft. The steward will yell as he/she capsizes the raft, attracting the attention of the dog. While calling for help the steward will adjust his/her position beneath the overturned raft so that he/she is toward the stern of the raft and holding the shore-side of the raft approximately three (3) inches from the surface of the water. The steward should also be sure that the raft is oriented parallel to shore and to adjust his/her position as needed.

As soon as the raft is overturned the handler will command the dog to rescue the steward. The dog will commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds of the first command swimming directly toward the raft. The dog may look back toward the handler for further encouragement and direction, however, the dog is not permitted to turn back and begin swimming toward shore without having the steward in tow. The steward will drop the shore side of the raft to level with the surface of the water once the dog is approximately ten (10) feet from the raft. Upon reaching the raft, the dog will swim in under the raft from any direction but may not circle the raft more than one (1) time. Once the dog is completely under the raft the steward will immediately take hold of the dog. The steward must not take hold of the dog until the dog's whole body is under the raft. The dog will then exit from under the raft in any direction. The steward must not assist the dog under the raft or lift the raft to allow the dog to go under or exit. Once the dog has exited from under the raft, the steward is permitted to raise the raft on the way out, if necessary for safety, and to protect the steward from catching his/her life jacket on the handles of the raft. The dog must swim directly to shore with the steward in tow. The handler will wade into the water when the dog is in the process of towing the steward back toward shore. The handler will wait at the dogs wading depth, as previously determined by the judges, to meet the dog and touch hands with the steward. The judges will then signal the completion of the exercise. The waiting craft will retrieve the raft and will remove it from the testing area.

Raft Requirements: The raft must be a four (4) person raft that does not bow when inflated. It must sit flat on the surface of the water when upside down. There must not be any lines hanging from the raft. Judges and stewards must check the raft to be sure that it stays properly inflated throughout the test.

- \* Before the WRDX test begins the Judges must observe the steward capsizing the raft to be sure it meets test standards and the weather conditions.
- \* If the weather or current conditions warrant, the raft may be towed out already overturned and the steward may simulate capsizing the raft by yelling and lifting the raft over his/her head.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The steward capsizes the raft and begins to call for help.

2. The dog enters the water, committing to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds, of the first command from the handler and swims directly to the aid of the steward beneath the capsized raft.
3. The dog swims under the raft at which time the steward takes hold of the dog, who exits out from under the raft, towing the steward.
4. The exercise is complete when the dog reaches wading depth, with the steward in tow and when the handler touches hands with the steward.

### **Failing Performance**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, section 18), and if:

1. The dog does not commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds of the first command given by the handler.
2. The dog begins the rescue without having been commanded to do so by the handler.
3. The dog does not swim directly to the raft or turns back and begins swimming toward shore without the steward in tow.
4. The dog circles the raft more than once without going under the raft.
5. The dog does not swim under the capsized raft to rescue the steward.

Suggested Time Limit: Two (2) minutes. Timing starts when the handler gives the first command to start the rescue.

### **Exercise #5--Line to Stranded Water Vessel**

#### **Purpose:**

This exercise simulates rescues, taking a line from a boat, and making a connection to a stranded vessel to assist in the rescue of the passengers on stranded vessel.

#### **Standard of Performance**

The dog and handler will be on shore in the center of the test area. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler to proceed. The dog will board the boat and will travel with the handler in a safe and controlled manner. The dog and handler have thirty (30) seconds to board and to be ready for departure. The thirty (30) second boarding time is separate from the suggested time for completing the exercise. The dog must willingly board the platform on the boat without physical assistance from the handler within the thirty (30) second time limit and remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit. Dogs that exit the platform after loading will be allowed to reload as long as they remain under handler's verbal control and remain in the immediate loading area? Multiple loads and reloads may result in a failed exercise per

judges discretion or if the dog is clearly not obeying the handler and out of control. If a problem develops while pushing the boat out which causes the dog to jump off the platform, it is up to the judges to decide whether the exercise should be restarted. The dog must exit from the platform. The handler is allowed to sit on the platform with his/her feet in the water. The handler is responsible to assist with the boat's departure and should not be seated on the platform until the boat is free floating.

The handler will have a one hundred and twenty-five (125) foot line, knotted at one end that he/she must bring onto the boat. The dog and handler will be rowed out to the one hundred and fifty (150) foot anchor system, where the boat will be turned so that the platform is facing the shore. The rowing steward will hold the rowboat in position or an anchor system may be used, if conditions warrant.

The judge will indicate the beginning of the exercise by an arm signal or one short whistle blast. The handler will command the dog to voluntarily take the line and then to jump from the boat. The dog must willingly take the line and exit from the platform of the boat with the line in his/her mouth, within fifteen (15) seconds of the first command to take hold of the line. Should the line be dropped onto the platform or into the water by the dog, after the dog has taken the line but prior to the dog jumping from the boat, it will be considered a failure. The handler is not permitted to toss the line into the water for the dog to retrieve. The dog may not anticipate and leave the boat prior to taking the line in his mouth, or prior to the handler's command to jump. Should the dog drop the line into the water as it jumps from the boat, or as the dog lands in the water, the handler may verbally and/or by hand signal command the dog to pick up the line. The handler may not pull on the line or move the line around in the water to attract the dog to it. The dog is permitted to circle to orient itself in order to locate the dropped line, or in case the dog goes under the surface of the water after jumping from the platform.

A stranded vessel (canoe, kayak, rowboat etc.) will position at the seventy-five (75) foot anchor system which is 75 feet from the dog and handler. Once in position, the steward will stow any oars or paddles and after the dog has entered the water, the steward will put begin to call for help. Steward may splash the water or lean over the side of their vessel but it is not required. The steward will continue to call until the dog successfully delivers the line to the steward.

The dog will be directed by the handler to deliver the line to the designated steward in the stranded water vessel. However, the handler will retain the end of the line on the boat. Once the dog is in the water and beginning to swim towards the stranded vessel the steward will encourage the dog to come to him/her. The handler will feed the remaining line out to the dog swimming toward the stranded vessel. The dog must swim directly to the stranded vessel without circling the boat, checking out the distance markers, etc. The dog will deliver the line to the steward calling from the stranded vessel.

The handler may continue to direct the dog verbally and/or by hand signals as the dog works. It will not be the responsibility of the steward to direct the dog to hold onto the line. The dog does not relinquish the line to the steward but the exercise will be complete when the steward touches the line that the dog is holding. When the whistle is blown by the judges to signal completion of the exercise the dog may swim back to his handler on the boat or to shore.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The dog will board the boat willingly, without physical assistance, within the thirty (30) second time limit for boarding.
2. The dog will remain on the platform, under control, until required to exit.
3. The dog will willingly take the offered line from the handler when commanded to do so.
4. The dog will jump from the platform of the boat within fifteen (15) seconds of the first command to jump.
5. The dog will swim directly to the stranded water vessel with the line in its mouth.
6. The exercise will be complete when the steward has touched the line that the dog is holding.

### **Failing Performance**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2, section 18), and if:

1. The dog refuses to willingly board the boat.
2. The dog and handler are not aboard and ready for departure within the thirty (30) second time limit.
3. The dog receives physical assistance, restraint or unnecessary contact with the handler while on the beach or the boat.
4. The dog will not willingly take the line when commanded to do so by the handler.
5. The dog drops the line onto the platform or into the water before jumping from the boat.
6. The dog anticipates and jumps before having been commanded to do so.
7. The dog refuses to jump with the line in its mouth within fifteen (15) seconds.
8. The dog does not exit the boat from the platform or does not remain under control on the platform after boarding and during the exercise.
9. The dog fails to deliver the line to the steward waiting in the stranded vessel.
10. The dog begins swimming back towards the handler at any time before delivering the line to the steward, other than during obvious attempts to orient himself with the boat and shoreline after jumping into the water.

**Suggested Time Limit:** Three (3) minutes are allowed to complete the entire exercise. However, the dog must jump within fifteen (15) seconds. The timing starts when the handler gives the command for the dog to jump.

## **Exercise #6--Team Rescue**

### **Purpose:**

This exercise will demonstrate the Leonberger's ability to display teamwork with and follow instructions from the handler while both parties are in the water.

### **Standard of Performance**

The handler and dog will wait on the shore in the center of the test area with their equipment (life ring or lifeguard can or tube). Once the judges indicate the start of the exercise, the handler and dog may move to any position on the beach before the dog and handler enter the water. The handler will give the line attached to the life ring or lifeguard buoy to the dog. The dog will take it on command without the handler having to physically put it into the dog's mouth. The handler will enter the water with the dog and begin swimming toward the "victim" in distress. If the dog drops the line, the handler may command the dog to retake it, but the handler may not pick up the line and start again. The dog must remain with the handler and not swim ahead or interfere with the handler's ability to swim swiftly to the victim.

The steward will be situated 50 feet from shore in either the center, right or left of the test area. steward will assume the same position in the water for each dog. The judges will decide which position the calling steward will take. The steward will call for help upon signal from the judge and will splash as if drowning.

Dog and handler will proceed together to the victim's location. When close enough to the victim the handler will command the dog to circle the steward and deliver the life ring (or lifeguard buoy) near enough to the victim that they may grab a hold. Dog and handler will then swim to shore with the dog towing the steward. The exercise is complete when the dog's feet can stand and the handler can take over care of the steward.

### **Principal Parts of the Exercise**

1. The dog enters the water on command and swims with the handler directly to the victim
2. The dog remains close enough to the handler to be under control and does not interfere in any way with the handler's ability to swim towards the victim. The dog must not swim too far ahead of the handler.
3. The dog swims close enough and completes a circle around the steward allowing them to reach the tow article and grab a hold.
4. The dog tows the steward to wading depth for the dog.
5. The handler takes over care of the victim
6. The exercise is finished when the dog's feet are touching and the handler has a hold of the victim.

## **Failing Performance**

The dog will fail for any of the failures common to all exercises (Chapter 2 section 18), and if:

1. The dog fails to commit to swimming depth within twenty (20) seconds of the handler's first command to start the rescue.
2. The dog turns back and begins swimming toward shore without a steward in tow.
3. The dog does not swim close enough to the steward so that they can take hold of the life ring or lifeguard buoy.
4. The dog does not tow the steward directly to wading depth.
5. The dog leaves the testing area before being put on leash after the exercise is complete.

Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. The timing starts when the handler gives the first command to start the rescue