# RH Mantrailing (MT) A title information

# **General information[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Dogs must be 18 months old to enter this test.

This section applies to all exercises at all levels, unless otherwise noted.

To attain the full title - IPO-R MT A – the dog-handler team must pass both the obedience-dexterity phase with at least 70 points (out of 100) and the scent work phase with at least 140 points (out of 200) although to be eligible to advance to the B level, the minimum total score must be 80 for obedience-dexterity and 160 for scent work. A team must pass this test twice to earn the title and be eligible for the next level. If the team fails one phase (obedience/dexterity or scent work) they must attempt the other phase unless they are excused. It is up to the judge and trial logistics which phase is attempted first. On a multi-day trial, each phase need not occur on the same day. The team need not attain a minimum score on any single obedience-dexterity exercise; that is, they can fail a single exercise and still pass if they earn enough points in other obedience-dexterity exercises.

Behavior of the dog handler (you)[DH]: The judge will consider your behavior, team work with the dog, and sportsmanship.

Behavior of the dog [D]: The judge will consider the dog’s joy to work, handling, responsiveness to commands, mobility, fitness, endurance and the overall picture, as well as gun neutrality. The dog should carry out the exercises happily and quickly.

Rewards: You may praise your dog briefly after an exercise ends. You are not allowed to carry or provide food or toys to the dog in either phase.

Heeling: During heeling, the dog should have a natural gait. The dog should be at your knee, and should be attentive, happy, close, and straight. When you stop, the dog should sit without an auditory or visual command, and be close and straight.

Auditory command [AC] and visual command [VC]: For the majority of exercises both an auditory and visual command is allowed. When both are allowed, you can choose to give just auditory or just visual. If you tell the judge in advance, you can use a whistle as an auditory command. Any visual or auditory command must be short. If you use both you must use them simultaneously. The name of the dog is considered an auditory command. If the dog requires a second command to execute an exercise or part of an exercise, the team will be penalized. If the dog does not execute the command after a third command, the exercise is terminated and you receive a 0. If the dog refuses to execute an apparatus or search an area, you will get a 0 for the exercise. You may not repeat an obstacle or area. You should pause 3 seconds between commands. Non-use of auditory or visual commands are not considered faulty.

The handler can choose any cues. They can be in any language, including a mix of languages.

# **Scent work**

The dog must trail in a harness and on a line between 5 and 10 meters long. The dog may also wear a fur saver collar or a plain buckle or quick release collar. Parasite collars are allowed. A GPS collar or handheld to record the trail is allowed although the victim’s trail is not made known to you in advance.

The trail is 2,000 steps (approximately 1,000 m) with three changes of direction, at least one change in terrain, at least one road crossing, and at least one “stranger” sitting or laying on the trail (between 600 to 800 m along the trail) as a distraction. The trail begins at a distinctive spot like a bus stop, in front of a store, etc. If the trail has not naturally been crossed by outsiders, the judge will direct someone to cross the trail.

The trail is aged four hours. The trail layer can remain at the end or can be picked up in a closed vehicle. After laying the trail the trail layer may not approach the trail within 2.5 km (more than 1 ½ miles). If the trail layer has been picked up, at a minimum of 15 minutes prior to when the dog-handler team begins, the trail layer is returned to the end in a closed vehicle via detours and without crossing the trail. The trail layer can sit, stand, or lie passively at the end. There should be no other people within 5 meters of the trail layer. The dog-handler team must complete the trail in 45 minutes.

Prior to laying the trail, a well scented article, held by the trail layer a minimum of 1 hour on his body or carried in their pants’ pockets, is placed an unused plastic bag, sealed, and this bag is then put into a glass container with screw plug. This closed and labelled container is given to the handler at the start.

At the end of the trail, the dog must alert on the trail layer. The options are

- bark at the trail layer

- indication (dog does a sit, stand, or down at the trail layer)

You inform the judge of the alert style. The trail concludes, from the bark alert, with you calling the dog a few feet away from the trail layer then placing the dog in a stay so you can go to the trail layer to check on him or, from an indication, where the dog stops themselves a few feet from of the trail layer, you tell the dog to stay, then you go to check on the trail layer.

Assuming the trail: 20 points

Following and maintaining the trail: 80 points

Behavior of the dog: 20 points

Locating and alert on the victim: 60 points

Tactic and teamwork: 20 points

# **Obedience/dexterity**

Two teams enter the field at the same time. The team enters and exits the field on leash but all exercises are performed off leash. Two separate draws, conducted before the obedience/dexterity competition, determine the order of exercises. After the check in, one team prepares for the down under distraction while the other prepares for the heeling.

Team 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Heeling with group |   |
| Draw #1 determines the order of these exercises | Positions |
| Traversing unpleasant material |
| Carry and handover |
| Draw #2 determines the order of these exercises.  | Rigid plank |
| Tunnel |
| Down under distraction |  |

Team 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Down under distraction |   |
| Heeling with group |   |
| Exercise order matches that of team 1 draw 1 | Positions |
| Traversing unpleasant material |
| Carry and handover |
| Exercise order matches that of team 1 draw 2 | Rigid plank |
| Tunnel |

## Heeling with group

Site and execution according to sketch 10.1 in the international rules, slightly modified, reproduced here.



Followed by site and execution according to sketch 10.2 in the international rules, reproduced here.



You may use either an auditory or a visual command to begin. The judge will tell you when to start. You do everything else, such as turns, halt, change of pace, and so on, without direction from the judge or other test coordinator.

For the about turns, you must turn to the left (turning 180 degrees in place). For the dog, there are two allowable variations - the dog turns right and goes behind you, or the dog does a left about turn, pivoting in place.

Start by heeling your dog about 50 steps at a normal pace in a straight line down the middle of the field. There will be two gunshots during this phase of the exercise. After the 50 steps, do a left about turn and then 10-15 steps at a normal pace, 10-15 fast steps at a fast pace, 10-15 steps at a slow pace, and finally 10-15 steps at a normal pace. Do not take intermediate steps between the fast and slow portions. The individual gaits need to be clearly distinguishable.

After completing the final 10-15 normal steps take another couple steps and then do a right turn, go 20-25 steps and do another right turn, go another 25-30 steps, do a left about turn, take an additional 10-15 normal steps and then halt in basic position.

After the halt take another 10-15 normal steps, do a left turn, go back to the centerline (about another 20-25 steps) and halt in basic position.

After this final halt you will begin the heeling with the group. You may use either an auditory or visual command to begin. The work within the group is worth one third of the overall points in the exercise.

Walk at a normal pace counter clockwise around the circle of people at a close distance so that your dog goes by each dog in the group. Once you have passed both dogs, halt. The group will continue moving until both dogs have passed you again.

The judge will tell the group to halt. You then walk through the group at a normal pace, walking around one person with a dog to the right and the other person with a dog to the left (a figure 8).

After you walk around both dogs, halt in the center. The judge will tell the group to start walking again. Once the group is in motion, leave the group and halt in basic position, ending the exercise. It’s easiest to exit right after one of the handlers with a dog passes you.

Evaluation: You dog should be social or neutral towards the other dogs. If your dog shows aggression and attacks a dog in the group, you will be disqualified. The judge may also deduct points for the following faults, among others:

Evaluation: The judge may deduct points for the following faults, among others:

* forging;
* deviating sideways;
* lagging;
* slow or hesitant sitting;
* submissive behavior of the dog;
* body help;
* lack of concentration by the dog;
* extra commands.

## Change of Position

Site and execution according to sketch 10.4 in the international rules, reproduced here.



Stand 10 steps from the table. On the judge’s command, send the dog to the table with an auditory or visual cue or both. The dog should jump without hesitation on the table and remain standing. At the judge’s instruction, demonstrate sit-down-stand using an auditory or visual cue or both for each position change. At the judge’s command, recall the dog to the front position. Then, with an auditory cue only, assume the basic position.

Evaluation: The judge may deduct points for the following faults, among others:

* hesitant mounting the table;
* slow to take a position;
* failure to take a position;
* slow recall;
* crooked front or finish;
* extra commands or body aids.

## Traversing unpleasant material

Site and execution according to sketch 20.1 in the international rules, reproduced here.



Beginning from a basic position, and on the command of the judge, cue the dog to heel with an auditory or visual cue or both. Walk completely across the unpleasant material, do a left about turn, heel back across the material again with an automatic sit atop the material on the return pass. After the sit, continue off the material and end in basic position.

Evaluation: The judge may deduct points for the following faults, among others:

* the dog is insecure;
* the dog hesitates or avoids material;
* extra commands or body help.

If the dog leaves the area before it ends, the exercise is considered insufficient.

Carry and hand over

Site and execution according to sketch 10.6 in the international rules, reproduced here.





From the basic position give an auditory or visual cue or both for the dog to jump onto the table. Carry the dog 10 steps then hand him over to the assistant. Remain in place while the assistant carries the dog 10 steps further. After the assistant puts the dog down, he should remain with the assistant until the judge directs you to call the dog to front with an auditory or visual cue. The exercise ends when you give an auditory or visual cue to for the dog to return to the basic position. During the carry, the dog's tail should be outside the arm holding the dog.

You should be able to carry your dog. If you can’t, the assistant will pick the dog up from the table, and carry the dog 10 steps with you walking alongside the assistant. After 10 paces you stop while the assistant carries the dog another 10 paces. The exercise proceeds as above.

Evaluation: The judge may deduct points if the dog

* is not cooperative;
* is not calm during the carry;
* growls slightly or pulls back when picked up or put down;
* leaves the assistant after having been put down.

If the dog jumps out of the assistant’s arms during the carry, the exercise will be scored as insufficient.

## Traversing an elevated rigid wooden board

Site and execution according to sketch 20.2 in the international rules, reproduced here.



From the basic position, and on the command of the judge, with either an auditory or visual cue or both tell the dog to mount the obstacle and to stop immediately, facing in the direction of travel. Upon the judge’s command, go to the side of the dog, give either an auditory or visual cue or both for the dog to continue along then off the obstacle and stop in the basic position. The dog has to go the entire length of the wooden board without any fear or being erratic.

Evaluation: The judge may deduct points for the following faults, among others;

* the dog is insecure or hesitant in moving across the board;
* the dog runs ahead of or lags behind the handler;
* extra commands or body help.

If the dog jumps off the board within the first half, the exercise is scored a zero.

## Tunnel with tube

Site and execution according to sketch 20.8 in the international rules, reproduced here. 

Beginning in basic position, on the command of the judge, cue the dog with either an auditory and/or visual cue to move through the tunnel. Once the dog has left the tunnel give an auditory and/or visual cue to stay. At the instruction of the judge, go to the dog and with an auditory and/or visual cue to tell the dog to move to the basic position.

Evaluation: The judge may deduct points if the dog is insecure or hesitant going through the tunnel. If the dog does not leave the tunnel, or does not stay on command after leaving the tunnel, the exercise will be scored as insufficient. The judge may also deduct points for extra commands or body help.

## Down under distraction

Site and execution according to sketch 10.1 in the international rules, slightly modified, reproduced here.



Before the start of the work, one location for male dogs and another for female dogs will be marked on the field.

When instructed by the judge, go to the appropriate spot and take a basic position. Before the other (working) team begins the heeling exercise, take off your leash. When instructed by the judge, tell your dog to lie down, using either an auditory or visual cue, then move to a spot about 40 steps away, as indicated by the judge. At the end of the other (working) team’s heeling, go independently to be a walking person in the group then when that exercise is finished, return to the original place the judge told you to stand.

When the other (working) team completes the change of position, the handler returns to the dog and stands to the right of him. Upon instruction of the judge, the handler gives either an auditory or visual cue to assume basic position.

Evaluation: The judge may deduct points if the dog

* does not lie down when instructed;
* is restless or distracted in the down;
* leaves the down position;
* stands or sits up prematurely;
* approaches the handler when the handler returns to the dog.

The judge may also deduct points for extra commands or body aids.

If the dog leaves the down place by more than 3 meters

* after the end of exercise 2 of the working dog, the exercise is insufficient;
* before the end of exercise 2 of the working dog, the exercise is scored with 0 points

If the dog stands or sits instead of downing, but remains within the down area, the exercise is devalued by 5 points.

Evaluation of gun sensitivity: During the heeling and the down with distraction, upon the judge’s direction, an assistant fires two shots with a 6mm caliber starter pistol, with a pause of 3 to 5 seconds between shots. The gun should be pointed upwards. The dog should be neutral to the gunshots.

Only a dog that shows complete gun neutrality can be awarded full points. The judge can decide to repeat a gun test outside of one of the specific obedience/dexterity exercises. If the dog shows gun shyness, the phase is terminated.

The judge will deduct points from the exercise if, in response to the gunshots, the dog

* stands or sits during the down under distraction;
* moves from the down area 3 meters or more;
* becomes aggressive.

Only a dog that shows complete gun neutrality can be awarded full points. The judge can decide to repeat a gun test outside of one of the specific obedience and dexterity exercises.

If the dog shows gun shyness, the phase is terminated.

1. These notes are provided to help exhibitors and trainers but do not replace the official rules. All the information in this document, including sketches, is drawn from the International Trial Rules For Rescue Dog Tests of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) and the International Rescue Dog Organisation (IRO), 2019. Brackets – [ ] – indicate abbreviations used in the FCI/IRO rules. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)