# RH Mantrailing (MT) V title information

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

Dogs must be 15 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 F V – 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 70 points (out of 100). A team need only pass this test once 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 a verbal 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. 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.

You 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 the handler in advance.

The trail is 1,000 steps with two changes of direction, a change in terrain and one street and/or path crossing. 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 one hour; the trail layer can remain at the end the full hour or can be picked up and returned to the end in a closed vehicle. 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 15 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 or, from an indication, where the dog stops themselves a few feet from of the trail layer while you go to check on the trail layer.

Picking up the scent trail: 10 points

Following and maintaining the scent trail: 50 points

Locating and alerting on the trail layer: 40 points

# **Obedience/dexterity**

Two teams enter the field at the same time. After the check in, one team prepares for the down under distraction while the other prepares for the on-leash heeling.

## On leash heeling

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



The exercise is done with your dog on leash. You may use either an auditory or a visual command. 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.

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. You are permitted to repeat the auditory cue to heel at each change of 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 additional 10-15 normal steps, do a left turn, go back to the centerline (about another 20-25 steps) and halt in basic position.

For the about turn, 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.

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

* forging;
* deviating sideways;
* lagging;
* slow or hesitant sitting;
* straining on the leash;
* submissive behavior of the dog;
* extra commands;
* body help.

## Going through a group of people: (on leash)

Site and execution according to sketch 10.2 in the international rules, reproduced here.



Your dog is on-leash for this exercise. You may use either an auditory or visual command. 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).

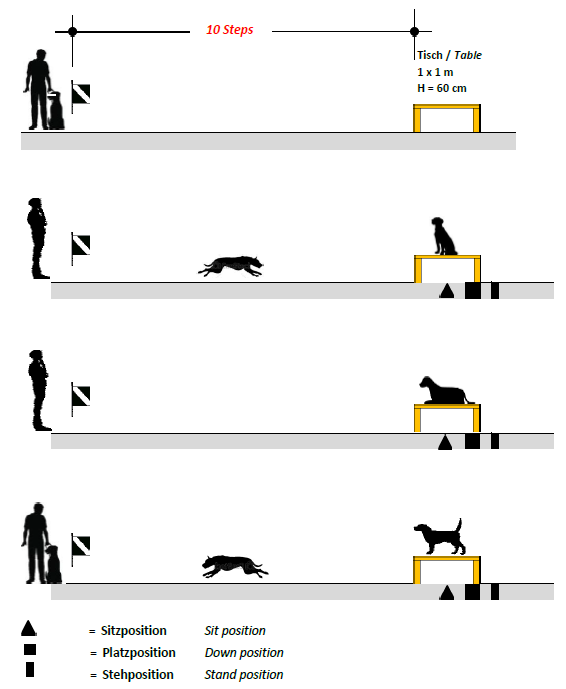
After you walk around both dogs, halt in the center. The judge will tell the group to start walking again. Once the group is in motion, leave the group and halt in basic position, ending the exercise.

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:

* 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.



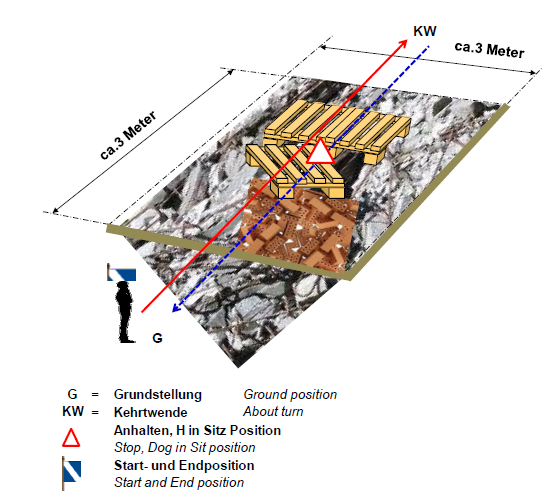
Stand 10 steps from the table. On the judge’s command, send the dog to the table with an auditory or visual cue or both. The dog should jump without hesitation on the table and remain standing. At the judge’s instruction, demonstrate sit-down-stand using an auditory or visual cue or both for each position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

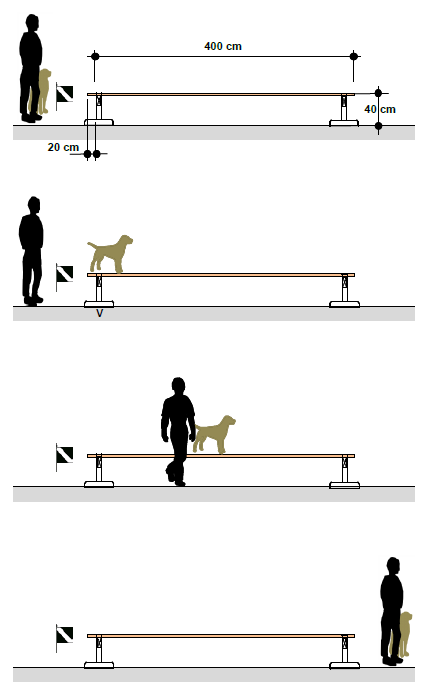
Evaluation: The judge may deduct points for the following faults, among others:

* 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.

## 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.

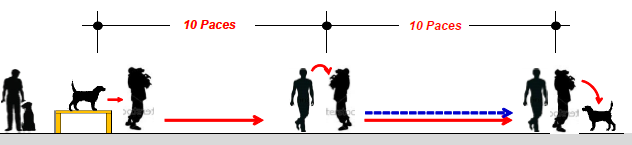
Evaluation: The judge may deduct points for the following faults, among others;

* 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.

Carry and hand over

Site and execution according to sketch 10.5 in the international rules, reproduced here.



At the judge’s command, from the basic position and quick close to the table (see diagram) send the dog to the table with either an auditory or visual cue or both. Pick the dog up, ensuring the tail is free, then carry him 10 steps straight on and hand him over to an assistant, who carries him another 10 steps and then sets him down. You walk alongside the assistant as he carries your dog. You can speak to your dog while he is being carried.

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 20 steps while you walk alongside the assistant. Once the dog is put down, call the dog to basic position. 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.

## 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. 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 heel on leash, 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, you return to the dog and stand to the right of him. Upon instruction of the judge, give 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 on-leash 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)