

FOREWORD

The National Dobermann Council of Australia was formed principally to preserve and protect the Dobermann and to do all possible to bring its natural qualities to perfection.

The perfection we seek is embodied in three sets of characteristics: those of conformation, those of temperament, and those of trainability. This Register of Merit Award and Working Aptitude Evaluation Program has, as its fundamental purpose, the recognition of Dobermanns having those natural qualities of beauty and functional utility that make the breed what it was intended to be.

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**NDC(A) REGISTER OF MERIT WORKING APTITUDE
EVALUATION PROGRAM**

CHAPTER I Certificates and Awards

Section 1 Introduction

The exercises included herein are designed to measure a Dobermann's response to people, footing, visual and auditory stimuli, and to threat situations in order to ascertain the dog's aptitude for the work for which the Dobermann was created eg: companion/protector/police dog etc).

There are five exercises in which the dog's responses to the stimuli presented are measured in accordance with the degree of approach or avoidance behaviour to a given stimulus. Approach behaviour is defined as investigative (e.g. curiosity and inspection) or protective behaviour. Avoidance behaviour is defined as an attempt by the dog to avoid (or escape confrontation of) the stimulus. Each exercise is graded on the following scale:

- +3: Very strong approach behaviour - needs no encouragement, bold, confident, egotistical**

- +2: Strong approach behaviour - needs little encouragement**
- +1: Mild approach behaviour - needs encouragement**
- 0: No response (measurable) to stimulus**
- 1: Mild avoidance**
- 2: Strong avoidance**
- 3: Panic behaviour, very strong escape reaction**

Section 2 The Working Aptitude Certificate (WAC)

In order to earn a Working Aptitude Certificate, a Dobermann must demonstrate the characteristics required of a dog to be a stable companion and resolute protector. The following exercise profile is the minimal acceptable profile required of a dog to earn a Working Aptitude Certificate.

EXERCISE	MINIMAL ACCEPTABLE SCORE
1	
A. Neutral Stranger	-1
B. Friendly Stranger	-1
2	
A. Hidden Clattering - Alert and discovery	+1
B. Hidden Clattering - Investigation	+1
C. Gunshot	0
3	
Umbrella	+1
4	
A. Footing Exercise - Polyethylene strip	+
B. Footing Exercise - Grating	+
5	
A. Threat - Decoy Crossing	+1
B. Threat - Decoy Approach	+1
C. Threat - Decoy/Dog Confrontation	+1
D. Dog Under Control	+

Dobermanns who achieve this minimum, profile or better will earn a W.A.C. awarded by the National Dobermann Council (Australia)

Section 3 The Register of Merit (ROM) Award

The ROM Award will be issued by the National Dobermann Council (Australia) to Dobermanns who have demonstrated acceptability in the three areas of conformation, trainability, and temperament. In order to be eligible for the ROM Award, a Dobermann must attain:

- 1. An ANKC Championship Title**
- 2. One or more acceptable ANKC Performance Titles**
- 3. A WAC obtained by passing an NDC(A) sanctioned Working Aptitude Evaluation.**

The NDC(A) will accept titles gained in countries recognized by the ANKC.(9/1998)

The NDC(A) ROM Award signifies and gives recognition to the TOTAL DOBERMANN, sound in mind and body, and should be a guide to breeders in the quality of their stock.

Titles which count toward the Performance component:

Obedience –minimum C.D.

Tracking – minimum TD

Agility – minimum AD

Other performance events may be added as they become approved by the ROM Sub Committee

It is the responsibility of the owner to submit photocopies of ANKC Championship and Performance Titles as well as copy of the WAC together with a show stance photograph of the dog promptly to the ROM Coordinator. Upon notification of receipt of these titles by the Coordinator, the owner will be permitted to use the ROM title.

Section 4 Eligibility of Dobermanns

In order for a Dobermann to be eligible to participate in a Working Aptitude Evaluation, the dog must be 18 months of age or older and must be registered with the ANKC, excluding the associate register. (9/2003) There are no other eligibility requirements.

Section 5 Re-evaluation of Dogs

- 1 Dogs who have been evaluated but have not passed may be re-evaluated at a later date.**
- 2 There is no limit to the number of times a dog can be evaluated, but past experience has indicated that a dog who has not passed the Evaluation on three successive attempts will probably never certify, even with extensive conditioning.**
- 3 If the re-evaluation occurs in the same area as the original Evaluation, a waiting period of six months must elapse before the dog is re-evaluated to prevent the dog from remembering past experiences. Otherwise, a one month waiting period between Evaluations is sufficient.**

Section 6 Disqualification of a Dog

- 1 A dog that in the opinion of the Evaluator attacks any person on the course shall be disqualified.**
- 2 The Evaluator shall mark the Data Sheet for that dog “Disqualified” and state the reason. The Data Sheet will be forwarded to the ROM Coordinator.**
- 3 Any dog that in the opinion of the Evaluator attacks a person or dog at a WAE event resulting in an injury or is believed by that Evaluator to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified by the Evaluator and a report shall be filed with the NDCA Secretary and the ROM Coordinator.**
- 4 The disqualified dog may not again participate at any WAE nor be on the grounds of a WAE unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the NDCA Secretary, the owner has received official notification in writing from the ROM Co-ordinator that the dog’s eligibility has been reinstated.**

CHAPTER 2

CONDUCT OF WORKING APTITUDE EVALUATIONS

Section 1 The Exercise Course

The exercise course will be laid out using the following diagram as a guideline. Distances within each exercise must be exact, but the number of turns and the distances between exercises is dependent on the space available. The entire course can be laid out in a straight line or with turns as necessary.

(This course is NOT necessarily to scale.)

DRAWING OF THE COURSE

The following points will be clearly marked with stakes or other suitable markers.

- 1. All turning points**
- 2. Point at which evaluator signals can rattler to start rattling the can (6m from The back bumper of the van)**
- 3. Point at which umbrella is raised (2.7m from tip on ground, with arm extended).**
- 4. Point at which umbrella is fully opened (90cm from raised, extended tip).**
- 5. Point at which dog passes for gunshots (4.5m beyond shooter)**
- 6. Point at which dog and handler stop 6m after the gunshots.**
- 7. Point from back bumper of van, alongside van past the front of van is 6.5m**

Point from back bumper of van at right angle to van is 6m from van. This is the point the decoy staggers to in crossing
 From the 6.5m marker, draw a line 3m long at right angles (perpendicular) to Van and 1.5m along that line is the handler's stopping point. Mark it with ribbon, chalk, or other suitable marker
 The line from the stopping point to the crossing point measures 8m . From the Crossing point, along that line, place stakes at 1.8m and 3.6m for approach and threat markers.

Section 2 Required Equipment for Evaluation

1. Two vans as blinds for Exercise 2 and 5. Vans are used because they will discourage urination as would occur when males approach an object that actually touches the ground.
2. An aluminum soda or beer can about half-filled with small gravel and then taped shut at the opening.
3. A .22 caliber athletic starter pistol with 6mm extra loud cartridges. A back-up gun and ear protection. A sports hooter/air horn may be used in place of a gun.
4. A man's black, spring loaded, pop-open umbrella, single stage and full size. A back-up umbrella of the same type.
5. Two full size folding chairs with arms, one for the hidden clatter and one for the umbrella opener.
6. A 122cm by 4.8m strip of polyethylene material (black).
7. A 122cm by 4.8m piece of steel mesh (approx 5cm x 7.5cm).
8. A 90cm long stick or switch (riding crop)
9. A protection (concealed) agitation sleeve to be worn by the decoy on the left arm.
10. A Driza-Bone type raincoat and Akubra type hat to be worn by the decoy.
11. A minimum of 2 leather collars of appropriate sizes suitable for protection work and a 2 ½ cm wide by 180cm long leather or strong mesh lead
12. A watch with sweep second hand or stopwatch
13. A metric tape measure
14. A whistle

Section 3 General Rules for an Evaluation

1. Evaluations should be held in an area strange to the dogs, and only one dog should be allowed in the evaluation area at a time.
2. Area normally used for obedience trials should also be avoided.
3. The area must be clear of bystanders. The only people allowed in the evaluation area are the test evaluator and his/her assistants.
4. It is important that assistants for Exercises 1A and 1B be strangers to the dog.
5. In general, a plus (+) represents a positive response to a stimulus (e.g. either

- investigative or protective behavior) up to a maximum of (+3). A (0) represents no discernible response to a stimulus, and a minus (-) is given when noticeable avoidance behavior or unwarranted aggressiveness is observed, up to a maximum of (-3). Momentary startle followed by recovery and positive behaviour is always (+1) or higher.
6. The dog is allowed to be encouraged to show either investigative or protective behaviour in accordance with the particulars of the exercise. However, while encouraging the dog, the handler must concentrate his focus on the stimulus, not the dog, let the dog lead the way. Physically assisting the dog will result in a minus (-) score.
 7. The same evaluator should be used for each dog evaluated per Evaluation session. The variation between dogs under a standard measuring procedure is statistically meaningful.
 8. Video taping of the WAE is at the discretion of the evaluator but is desirable for archive purposes.
 9. Only dogs eligible to earn the Working Aptitude Certificate can be evaluated.
 10. a) Should there be equipment failure of any kind eg umbrella, less than 2 gunshots, the evaluation of that dog should stop and the dog be retested after all other exhibits or at after the elapse of at least one(1) hour. (9/1998)
b) the evaluator has the discretion to make a determination not to re-evaluate the dog in accordance with a) dependant on the circumstances on the day.

Section 4 Instructions for Handlers

1. Dog must be on a loose lead at all times to allow for freedom of movement. On each of the exercises, the amount of loose lead required will be specified in the exercise.
2. Dogs are not to be under commands at any time during the exercises.
3. Dogs may be encouraged by their handlers to approach an exercise stimulus, unless otherwise noted in the exercise. Such encouragement must be oriented toward the stimulus. Handlers should focus on the stimulus, not on the dog. Handlers may not pull their dogs on a tight lead. Handlers should give dog every opportunity to lead out and approach on his own before resorting to encouragement.
4. While encouraging the dog, the handler must concentrate his focus on the stimulus, not the dog; let the dog lead the way. Physically assisting the dog will result in a minus (-) score.
5. Handlers should exude confidence to their dogs during evaluation, as hesitation, startle, concern, etc., “GO DOWN THE LEAD” to the dog and may cause the dog to appear less positive than usual.

Section 5 Instructions for Evaluators

1. Evaluators must walk handlers through the exercise course without their dogs in order to familiarize them with procedures prior to the actual

- evaluation.
2. Evaluators should position themselves so as not to interfere with the exercise, but where they can observe the dog's reaction.
 3. If a dog appears to be distressed or displays inappropriate aggression, the evaluator must discontinue the exercise. In some instances, the dog may become so distressed or aggressive that the evaluator must discontinue the entire evaluation process. The evaluator should note on the score sheet the specific reason for excusing the dog.
 4. Dogs must not be under command. Should the evaluator note obedience commands before any exercise, a notation to that effect should be made on the score sheet, and the evaluator should caution handler; if behaviour continues, a minus (-) score should be given.
 5. Standardize the evaluation so that results are uniform. The Evaluator should use the same location each time, the same assistants and the same equipment if possible.
 6. This is NOT a test of the dog's hardness and courage. It is an evaluation of his self-protective/defence mechanism.

CHAPTER 3

EXERCISE OBJECTIVES, DESCRIPTIONS, PROCEDURES AND SCORING

Section 1 The Neutral and Friendly Stranger

(Exercise 1A and 1B)

Objective: To measure the dog's reaction to strangers in a non-threatening situation. (Standard requires "alert, bold, firm of character, loyal and obedient" "shyness or viciousness very highly undesirable")

Procedure: The dog and handler will approach first the neutral, then the friendly stranger. The handler should give the dog the full 180cm of lead. Observation of the exercise will begin as soon as handler/dog team and stranger start walking toward each other. In Part A, the neutral stranger will walk directly up to the handler of the dog. The handler may NOT encourage his dog in this exercise. Evaluator will observe the reaction of the dog throughout the neutral encounter. Upon completion of the encounter, the evaluator will motion to the handler and friendly stranger to approach each other. The handler will not move on with the dog toward the friendly stranger until signaled by the evaluator to do so. As in the neutral stranger exercise, observation will commence upon approach of handler/dog and friendly stranger to each other. The handler may encourage the dog on this exercise.

A. Neutral Stranger - An assistant who is a stranger to the dog approaches handler directly to a distance of about 60cm and engages the handler in a normal conversation. No physical contact is to occur, such as handshaking. The neutral stranger must NOT

act familiar with the handler or joke with them. That is NOT a neutral occurrence. Assistant ignores the dog throughout and, after a bit of non-confrontational conversation, assistant continues on his or her way. The handler may not talk to the dog during this exercise. Handler and dog then proceed along directed course where they encounter the friendly stranger.

B. Friendly Stranger - On this exercise, handler will let dog have a full 180cm of slack in the lead as they approach the friendly stranger. A different assistant, who is also a stranger to the dog, approaches happily and briskly and is exuberantly friendly to the dog. Do not use the dog's name. When about 180cm from the dog, the stranger stops and pats his or her leg to get the dog to come for petting. He or she does NOT reach out for the dog. Words such as "Puppy, puppy, what a pretty puppy," spoken by the friendly stranger, will be used to encourage the dog to approach. When the friendly stranger tries to coax the dog over for play/petting, handler may encourage the dog or reassure with words such as "It's OK."

Part 1A - Neutral Stranger

Scoring is as follows:

- +3** Dog proceeds with handler and makes a thorough investigation of the neutral stranger. The key to a +3 score is that the dog initiates a strong interaction with the stranger, even though the stranger ignores the dog throughout the exercise. Examples of strong interactions are: sniffing of stranger in a detailed and continuously curious manner, play-soliciting behavior, demands to be petted, etc.
- +2** Dog shows mild alert/investigative behaviour, such as a flashing of ears, and a casual sniff, then ignores the stranger.
- +1** Dog alerts on approach by either looking at stranger, flashing of ears, etc., but does not investigate. Dog remains either at handler's side or between handler and stranger. If the dog is behind handler, the reaction must be considered an avoidance reaction.
- 0** Dog does not alert to approach of stranger. Ignores stranger during conversation. Attention is elsewhere.
- 1** Dog shows signs of uneasiness at approach of stranger such as laying back of ears, leaning on handler. Dog will not investigate stranger and is behind handler.
- 2** Dog shows definite attempt to avoid stranger, such as backing away, moving to other side of handler. Dog is distressed as evidenced by laid back ears, head down, tail tucked, eyes rolling, etc.
- 3** Extreme escape or avoidance reaction. Dog panics, hits end of leash trying to get away.

Part 1B - Friendly Stranger

Scoring is as follows:

- +3 Dog shows strong pleasurable or investigative response - enjoys petting, gives positive attention to stranger.
- +2 Dog is curious and mildly outgoing - interested but somewhat more reserved than above.
- +1 Dog is curious and tolerant of stranger, but not particularly outgoing (aloof).
- 0 Ignores approach and is totally disinterested in stranger.
- 1 Dog shows uneasiness at approach and mild avoidance behaviour
- 2 Dog backs away and tries to get behind handler.
- 3 Dog panics - extreme avoidance.

NOTE: If the reaction of the dog is aggressive on either 1A or 1B, minus (-) scores must be given; the score of -3 for a dog who growls and tries to attack the stranger is given and the evaluation must be discontinued. (This is a non-threatening situation with no provocation for aggression.)

Upon completion of this set of exercises, handler and dog move along the course toward the van behind which is the assistant with the gravel filled can.

Section 2 The Auditory/Visual Stimuli Exercises

(Exercise 2A and Exercise 2B - Hidden Clattering; Exercise 2C - Gunshots)

Part 2A and 2B

Objective: To measure dog's alertness to auditory/visual stimuli and the degree of dog's investigative behaviour toward those stimuli.

Procedures: Dog and handler will begin this exercise approximately 150cm' to 3m before the 6m marker. The dog and handler will approach the van and move parallel to the van, about 90cm to the right of it, with the dog between the handler and the van. The leash should be slack but the dog should not have enough lead to sniff at the van. When the dog is 6m from the assistant, the evaluator will signal the assistant to start rattling the can with a side to side wrist-twisting motion. Can is not to be rattled too vigorously. Rattling of the can will continue until Part B is completed.

As the can starts rattling, the handler will give the dog 180cm of slack and proceed around the end of the van to the can, pointing at it. The handler's motions should be smooth and positive. Upon commencement of rattling, the handler may say, "Hey, what's that?" or "Let's find it," excitedly. Upon discovery, the handler may point toward the rattling can and say, "Look at that!" or some other means of encouragement. The handler should not look at his dog when giving encouragement. Focus should be on the stimulus. The dog does not have to touch the can and the handler may NOT touch the can. Evaluator will then signal assistant to stop rattling the can.

This exercise has three parts as follows:

A. Hidden Clattering - Handler and dog walk directly toward a van behind which is an

assistant seated with his or her back to the van and whose right hand, holding a beer or soda pop can partially filled with gravel and taped shut, is extended parallel to the back of the van in the direction from which the dog will approach. The purpose here is to present the minimum human profile upon discovery by the dog. When the dog is about 6m from the assistant, the evaluator will signal for the can to be rattled by a twisting motion of the hand - not a violent up and down motion. After rattling begins, the dog may be encouraged to approach the van to discover the source of the noise. Some males may try to urinate on the van. Handlers must be cautioned not to allow this.

In Part A of this exercise, the evaluator is looking for strength of alert and investigative responses of the dog.

B. Assistant continues to rattle can as dog comes around the van to discover the source of the noise and investigate the can. The dog is given 10 seconds from the time the can is first in view of the dog to make a close inspection.

(NOTE: A close inspection is focused attention to the stimulus within 30cm from the stimulus to the dog's nose. For a close inspection to occur, there has to be focus and interest.)

Dog may be encouraged by the handler. The handler shall NOT pull the dog toward the can. To do so will result in a minus (-) score.

In Part B of this exercise, the evaluator is observing the approach or avoidance reaction to the can.

Scoring is as follows:

Part 2A - Alert and Discovery of Sound

- +3 Dog immediately alerts and moves forward to investigate**
- +2 Dog alerts, startles momentarily but quickly recovers and investigates with minimum encouragement**
- +1 Dog alerts, startles, and will investigate only with strong encouragement**
- 0 No reaction**
- 1 Alerts but will not investigate - mild avoidance**
- 2 Alerts, backs away, cannot be made to approach hidden sound**
- 3 Panic reaction.**

Part 2B - Investigation of Source of Sound (to begin when it is possible to see the can)

Scoring is as follows:

- +3 Dog continues without hesitation directly to a close inspection**
- +2 Dog startles, pauses or hesitates, but recovers quickly and does make a close inspection of can with or without mild encouragement**
- +1 Dog shows strong startle and/or avoidance, but, with strong encouragement, recovers and makes close inspection of can.**
- 0 Not probable unless Part A was also a zero. Apparent lack of interest is very likely avoidance.**

- 1 Strong startle and/or avoidance and does not recover sufficiently to make close inspection within allotted time.
- 2 Strong startle and/or avoidance with little or no recovery
- 3 Panic reaction

Upon completion of this exercise, evaluator will guide dog and handler to a pre-marked point 3m before the position of the shooter.

Part 2C – Gunshots

Procedure: In this exercise an air/sports horn may be used instead of a gun. Handler and dog will start from a spot that is 3m before the assistant. Upon instruction of the evaluator, handler and dog will PASS the assistant, who has his back to the course the dog and handler are taking, and upon crossing a point 4.5m beyond the assistant, where the shots/air horn will be fired, will continue moving until told to stop. The distance should be sufficient to see the posture of the dog and recovery is to be within 10 seconds. Evaluator will position himself to be able to view the posture and expression of the dog during and after the sound of shots/air horn.

Handler and dog will walk along a course in line with and away from the assistant. The dog and handler will proceed across the point marked at 4.5m at which time the evaluator will signal the assistant to fire three shots/blast air horn towards the sky as follows: BANG! (pause) BANG! BANG! Upon hearing the first shot/blast, handler will encourage his dog to continue along the marked path, but should not pull the dog along. Handler will continue along his course until told to stop by the evaluator at a designated point at least 6m away from the point of the shots/blasts . Should the dog startle, it is to be given 10 seconds to recover. Recovery is indicated by the posture of the dog, including ears, tail and overall carriage, which should approach the bearing of the dog prior to the shots.

Evaluator is looking for stability of nerve and the purpose of the exercise is to identify noise-shy dogs. All dogs, unless deaf will show some startle response to the shots/blasts. It may be mild , such as a flash of ears or a turn of the head, or it may be extreme, such as crouching , laying back of ears, tucking of tail or unwarranted aggression. The key to scoring this exercise is ascertaining whether or not the dog recovers from the startle. For example, does his carriage or bearing return to normal within 10 seconds or does the dog continue to slink, roll his eyes, appear distressed or continue unwarranted aggression.

NOTE: To pass this exercise, the dog must receive a (+) or a (0). The ideal response on this exercise is an alert with no visible startle; that is, a zero (0).

Scoring is as follows:

- + Dog alerts and/or startles, but recovers within 10 seconds and continues along with the handler
- 0 Dog alerts, or shows no measurable startle reaction to the shots

- Dog startles but does not return to normal posture within 10 seconds.

Upon completion of this exercise, handler and dog proceed toward next assistant.

Section 3 The Visual Stimulus (Exercise 3 - The Umbrella Exercise)

Objective: To measure dog's reaction to sudden visual stimulus, degree of dog's investigative behavior and startle-recovery time.

Procedure: Handler/dog team proceeds (preferably downwind) toward an assistant who is sitting on a lawn chair with an umbrella hooked over the arm of the chair directly in dog's path but facing ninety degrees to the side. As the dog crosses a marked point 2.7m from the tip of the umbrella, the evaluator will give a signal to the assistant to **SLOWLY** raise the umbrella whose tip has been resting on the ground. (NOTE: Abruptly raising the umbrella as dog approaches might indicate challenging behavior to the dog. This is why the exercise stresses that the umbrella is to be raised slowly.) The 2.7m spot will be pre-marked. As the dog (not the handler) crosses another pre-marked spot 90cm from the umbrella (NO LATER), the evaluator will signal the assistant to simultaneously release the catch and open the umbrella directly toward the dog. Timing and distance are very important on this exercise. The umbrella must not be opened closer than 90cm. The open portion of the umbrella is then lowered and rested on the ground while the assistant retains the shaft in his hand to prevent the umbrella from moving in the wind etc. Dog is required to move forward (with encouragement, if necessary) to make a close inspection of the front of the umbrella.

On this exercise, clarity of instruction and timing by the evaluator are critical. Handler is to be instructed to walk directly to the centre (point) of the umbrella and point to the object without touching it. Handler will be instructed to start the approach to the umbrella from at least 6m from the 2.7m marker. The handler will align himself with the tip of the closed umbrella with his dog to his left. Upon signal from the evaluator, he will proceed directly, without hesitation, to the tip of the now-opened umbrella, pointing at it but not touching it, and encouraging the dog to investigate it. At the beginning of the approach, the dog is on a reasonably slack lead. When the umbrella opens, the dog must have full 180cm of slack in the lead.

Under no condition is the handler to stop until he reaches the umbrella. He must not walk past it, but go right up to the center of it. The handler is NOT allowed to touch the umbrella nor pull his dog to the stimulus. All dogs will startle on this exercise. Measurement of the 10 seconds elapsed time will commence as soon as the umbrella is opened. A dog need not actually sniff at or attack the umbrella to pass this exercise. He must, however, demonstrate a willingness to approach the front of the umbrella and make a close inspection.

Scoring is as follows:

- +3 Dog startles but recovers almost instantaneously and shows strong investigative behaviour. Approaches the front of umbrella ahead of handler with no encouragement and makes a close inspection.
- +2 Dog startles, recovers, and approaches front of umbrella and makes a close inspection, but requires mild encouragement.
- +1 Dog startles, requires strong encouragement, but will recover and approach front of umbrella and make a close inspection within 10 seconds.
- 0 No reaction
- 1 Dog startles, avoids frontal approach to umbrella, may make wide arc around umbrella
- 2 Dog startles and will not recover enough to approach within 10 seconds
- 3 Panic reaction

(NOTE: A close inspection is focused attention to the stimulus within 30cm from the stimulus to the dog's nose. For a close inspection to occur, there has to be focus and interest.)

Section 4 The Footing Exercises

(Exercise 4A - Polyethylene Strip; Exercise 4B - Exercise Pen)

Objective: To measure the dog's reaction to unusual footing (Standard requires "bold and alert" and "firm of character").

Procedure:

A. Handler/dog team approaches a strip of polyethylene 4.8m long and 122cm wide, laid on the ground and weighted at the corners, if necessary. With the dog on a loose lead, they proceed directly along the length (4.8m) of this change of footing.

B. After completing the above part, handler/dog team cross an aisle of normal footing at least 3.2m wide and then proceed directly across an exercise pen laying flat on the ground. This simulated grating should be 4.8m long and 122cm wide. Handler and dog will move along, not across, the length of this change of footing.

On this exercise the dog must demonstrate a willingness to walk over the footings with his handler. The dog does not have to like it, but he must do it. To pass, the dog must walk on the footing for at least 3/4 of its length or 3.7m of the 4.8m. He can jump off it as long as he remains on the required distance. The leash must not be tight on this exercise. The lead should be slack enough so that the dog can get off the footing if he so attempts. Handler can encourage the dog by patting his leg and talking to him. A continually tight lead must receive a minus (-) score. The dog must in no way be forced to stay on the footing. Dogs are to be properly lined up with the stimuli before the dog and handler proceed. If, in the opinion of the evaluator, the dog is not properly lined up, the dog may be given a second chance on the Footing Exercise.

Scoring is as follows:

- + Dog remains on footing, lead slack or occasionally tightened for the required distance

- Dog either does not stay on footing the required distance, refuses to walk on the footing, or walks on it only with a continually tight lead.

Section 5 The Threat Exercise

(Exercise 5A - Decoy Crossing; Exercise 5B - Decoy Approach; Exercise 5C - Threat/Confrontation; Exercise 5D - Dog Returns to Normal)

Objective: To measure the dog's capacity to recognize and to react in a positive manner to a potentially threatening situation and to defend himself/herself in the face of such a threat.

Directions to the Decoy:

Part A: Movement from the van to the 6m marker should be a low-profile, shuffling move. The back will be toward the dog, and the decoy will shuffle the entire time before starting his approach. When the 6m marker is reached, the decoy may turn in either direction.

Part B: Decoy continues with his low-profile shuffling as he approaches the dog.

Part C: Turn frontally to the dog and pop-up/expanded profile. Stick work will be vigorous side to side motion, and decoy will shuffle/quick step in place when reaching limit to simulate running toward the dog. Decoy will vocalize using a combination of growls, shouts, etc.

This exercise has four parts to it. (Dog will wear a leather collar, and be attached to a strong 180cm leather or webbing lead throughout. Decoy should be dressed in a slicker or raincoat, a floppy hat and wear a concealed agitation sleeve.)

NOTE: A word about encouragement: some dogs are so keyed to a handler's voice that encouragement will actually cause the dog to focus on them and not on the stimulus. This is particularly true of some dogs who have been extensively trained. If you have such a dog, it is best to keep words to a minimum. Obedience commands are not allowed.

In Part A, the evaluator is measuring the strength of the alert and approach/avoidance of the dog to a staggering, spinning, weird looking and sounding person crossing his path at a distance of approximately 6m . The stranger is not directing his behaviour at the dog. Dog is given a full 180cm of slack in the lead. When the decoy appears and the dog alerts, handler will cease all forward motion, but will allow the dog to go out to the end of the lead. He may encourage him by saying, "Watch him," or some such alerting type words. Handler will brace himself and remain standing in the same spot where he stopped.

In Part B, the stranger continues his weird behavior but starts approaching the dog rather than crossing his path.

In Part C, the weird behaviour turns to threatening motions toward the dog. A wide range of behaviour is possible on this exercise, including mixed behaviour such as approach/protection/avoidance. In a mixed situation, such as protection combined with avoidance, the evaluator must ascertain the predominant mode of behaviour. A strong

protective response and/or an obvious willingness to defend is the desired reaction. A dog taking a positive stance, indicated by strong eye contact, arched neck, and leaning forward over front legs is an acceptable reaction.

In Part D, the dog needs to return to normal behaviour once the decoy has disappeared behind the van. The dog has 15 seconds to do this.

A. Handler/dog proceed downwind (if possible) toward the decoy hidden behind the van. When the dog is approximately 6m from the hidden decoy, decoy staggers out and crosses dog's path making weird motions and sounds. Handler ceases to move forward as soon as the decoy comes into view.

B. After the decoy has crossed the dog's path for a distance of 6m, he then turns toward the dog, and continuing to make weird sounds and motions, slowly and tentatively advances on the dog. If the dog exhibits positive reaction, continue with Part C.

C. Decoy then raises stick and makes threatening gestures toward the dog. Weird vocalization should change to a growl. The decoy will continue these actions until the evaluator blows the whistle. No contact is to be made between the dog and the decoy. For all parts of this exercise, the handler must not allow the dog to advance beyond leash length of the handler's stopping point. Pressure on the leather collar should not be in the form of a sudden jerk.

D. At the conclusion of the evaluation the dog must be brought under control within 15 seconds after the decoy retreats behind the van. Protective behaviour must stop, carriage and bearing return to normal, or the dog will fail the exercise. Handler may verbally instruct the dog at this point. The handler may move the dog within a maximum 1 m diameter area during this part and no physical contact is to be made with the dog. 3/1993
At no time should the decoy reappear once Part C is completed.

Scoring is as follows:

Part 5A - Decoy Crossing

- +3 Immediate, strong alert with strong investigative and/or protective reaction.
(Moves forward confidently to end of leash)
- +2 Alert, with moderate approach/investigative or protective behaviour
- +1 Alert with no approach behaviour
- 0 No reaction to stimuli
- 1 Mild avoidance
- 2 Strong avoidance
- 3 Panic reaction

Part 5B - Decoy Approach

- +3 Immediate strong alert with strong investigative and/or protective reaction.
(Moves forward confidently to end of leash.)
- +2 Alert with moderate approach/investigative or protective reaction
- +1 Shows only curiosity with no approach behaviour
- 0 No response to Stimuli
- 1 Dog shows mild avoidance. May display some aggression from behind handler

- or may display play behaviour
- 2 Dog displays strong avoidance
- 3 Panic reaction

Part 5C - Threat/Confrontation

- +3 Dog begins or continues strong protective reaction that includes moving forward to meet threat with growling, barking, etc.
- +2 Dog stands ground or starts to advance and becomes protective, as above
- +1 Dog retreats slightly, but not behind handler, then advances in protective manner or stands by handler and becomes protective
- 0 No response to stimuli
- 1 Dog retreats behind handler (mild avoidance) but does not recover and advance. May display some aggressiveness during retreat.
- 2 Dog shows strong avoidance
- 3 Panic reaction

Part 5D

- + Protective behaviour has stopped; carriage and bearing return to normal within 15 seconds after decoy retreats behind van
- Protective behaviour has not stopped; carriage and bearing has not returned to normal

NOTE: Exercise must be discontinued at any point where -2 or -3 reaction is noted.

CHAPTER 4

ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1 WAE Manager

Upon completion of a NDC(A) Working Aptitude Evaluation session, the WAE Manager will forward the following to the NDC(A) ROM Co-ordinator within 14 calendar days:

1. Name, birth date, sex and ANKC registration number of each dog evaluated
2. Name and address of owner
3. Date and location of Evaluation session
4. Collect \$2.00 per dog entered from Club (or whatever the fee set at the time and forward to the NDC(A))

Note: Evaluator may if necessary perform the duties of the WAE Manager

Section 2 ROM Evaluator

Upon completion of an NDC(A) Working Aptitude Evaluation session, the Evaluator will forward the following to the NDC(A) ROM Co-ordinator within 14 calendar days:

1. Copy of Evaluation Score Sheets
2. Summary of Evaluation session conducted
3. Report on performance of any Trainee on the day
4. Report on any dog which was disqualified

Note: Evaluator may if necessary perform the duties of the WAE Manager

Section 3 ROM Co-ordinator

1. The Coordinator will record the names of the dogs passed and issue Working Aptitude Certificates to those dogs as indicated.
2. The Coordinator will keep a master list of scheduled Evaluation sessions.
3. A separate register will be kept for dogs who earn the ROM Award and, upon proof of Championship and Performance Title and WAC, the Coordinator will enter the dog's name on the Register,
4. All ROM titled Dobermans will be recorded and a report made to the NDC(A) Secretary and all Clubs as of 1st November each year.
5. ROM Awards to be issued and forwarded to the owner upon application.
6. Announcement of ROM Awards by the ROM Co-ordinator or his/her delegate may be made at each State Dobermann Specialty Show or other approved event for those achieved within that State.
7. Announcement of ROM Award winners will be made at the next Dobermann National Specialty Show or other approved event by the ROM Co-ordinator or his/her delegate.

Section 4 The Register of Merit (ROM) Sub Committee

The ROM Sub Committee Chairman may be elected by the members of the sub committee.

The ROM Sub Committee is responsible for:

1. The review, update and/or modification of the Working Aptitude Evaluation Program
2. The review of total requirements for the ROM award, including determination of minimal acceptable scores on the exercises, and performance title requirements
3. The maintenance of these Rules and Regulations
4. The development and maintenance of an evaluator training and qualification program
5. Administration of the WAC and ROM awards
6. The maintenance of statistics to monitor the effectiveness of the overall

program

Section 5 Clubs Sponsoring ROM Evaluations

All Dobermann clubs desiring to conduct an NDC(A) ROM Evaluation will:

1. Inform the ROM Coordinator of their intent to conduct a ROM Evaluation at least 30 days prior to the date of Evaluation.
2. Obtain the services of a qualified NDC(A) evaluator. Names and addresses of qualified evaluators will be published annually in all affiliates newsletters.
3. Pay expenses of the evaluator, such as air fare, meals and lodging. Evaluators are not allowed to make money or charge for conducting Evaluations.
4. Obtain Club Kit, Score Sheets, and Data Sheets for the Evaluation from the ROM Coordinator. The club can reproduce these to obtain the required number.
5. Have on hand, on the day of Evaluation, all required equipment as specified in these Rules and Regulations.
6. Provide the required assistants to conduct the Evaluation.
7. Keep the number of entrants in any evaluation within the guidelines of minimum number of six(6) and a maximum number of twenty- five (25).
8. Must not organize an Evaluation within 200 km or 30 days of any other approved ROM Evaluation.
9. No Evaluator may evaluate a dog owned/handled.(3/1993)

CHAPTER 5

INSTRUCTION FOR QUALIFICATION OF EVALUATORS

Section 1 The ROM Sub-Committee

The ROM committee consists of the C-ordinator, and evaluators and shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the NDCA or their representative.

The ROM Sub-Committee will administer the Evaluator Qualification Program as follows:

1. Produce, maintain, and update a detailed application form for those interested in becoming evaluators. The application must be oriented to show an individual's experience and commitment to the Dobermann.
2. Produce, maintain, and update a written examination based on these rules and regulations. The examination will be approved by the ROM Co ordinator and members of the ROM Committee as required as will all changes thereto.

3. **Submit names of Trainee evaluators meeting qualifications to the NDCA for approval.**
4. **Ensure an equitable geographic distribution of evaluators so that no area becomes saturated with qualified evaluators while other areas are not covered.**
5. **Ensure that only enough evaluators are certified to meet the needs of the program.**

Section 2 Requirements for Prospective ROM Evaluators

In order to become a NDC(A) ROM Evaluator, an individual must meet the following requirements:

1. **To have actively participated in the ROM education program for not less than two (2) years immediately prior to application. Actively participated means a person must attend and participate in the conduct of WAEs ie assist in the set up of the course, take part as assistant in as many of the exercises as possible, participate in the walk through prior to a WAE, take on role of WAE Manager.**
2. **Be a member in good standing of an affiliate of the NDCA for at least three (3) years before being invited to apply as a trainee evaluator.**
3. **Complete an application form (obtainable from the ROM Coordinator) and submit it for review. The applicant will be notified in writing as soon as practical as to his/her acceptance, or reason for non acceptance.**

Application form to cover the following in addition to personal details;

- a) **Applicant must have a letter of recommendation from an affiliate club of the NDC(A) in the State in which he/she resides.**
 - b) **The applicant must have had active club involvement for at least two (2) consecutive years verified by the club concerned.**
 - c) **The applicant must have owned, exhibited and or bred Dobermanns for a minimum period of 10 years , with at least 5 years immediately preceding his/her application.**
- 4 **If the applicant is accepted in the first instance his/her name will be published in all affiliate club publications and correspondence into his/her suitability is to be submitted to the Coordinator**
 - 5 a) **Successfully complete a written test covering all aspects of the Rules and Regulations**

b) Apprentice under a minimum of two (2) Evaluators of at least 5 years standing and satisfactorily assess a minimum of 50 dogs at minimum of 3 WAE s . The evaluators will submit a report on the trainee evaluator to the ROM Committee. If the same problem has been noted on the Trainee Evaluation Sheet by both qualified evaluators, the trainee will be dropped from the evaluator training program immediately.

c) Complete two evaluations from archived videos of at least 10 dogs each and achieve a comparable pass rate to that of 2 qualified evaluators from same tapes/dvds. (4/2010)

6. Should a trainee fail any of the requirements of 2.7 (a)(b)(c) above they may, at the discretion of the ROM Committee, be given further opportunity to fulfill the necessary requirements.

7. The Rom Committee to review the reports on the trainee performance and make assessment as to the suitability of the trainee and his/her readiness to undertake practical examination following satisfactory completion of requirements set out in preceding 7(a) (b) & (c) ie Chapter 5 Section 2 .7 .

8. The ROM Committee to recommend practical examination to be held within the 3 months where achievable (ie where there is a WAE run within 3 months of such) or as soon as is practicable under a qualified Evaluator. (4/2010)

9. Evaluator to submit report on the performance of the trainee to the ROM Committee with his/her recommendation for consideration by the Committee.

10 The ROM Committee to notify trainee and the NDCA of its decision.

11 In the event that the trainee has failed the practical examination they may be invited to undertake further training and /or another practical examination as soon as practicable.

12 The trainee may be recommended for final approval by majority of ROM Sub Committee after determining the following qualities in the applicant

a. The ability to effectively deal with participants.

b. The ability to effectively set up and run a WAC Evaluation

c. Understands the philosophy of the ROM Program and be able to convey it to others

d. Has complete working knowledge of the Rules and Regulations of the ROM Program

e. Must be able to handle the administrative details of a ROM evaluator in a timely and accurate manner

13 Be approved as an evaluator by the NDC(A)

Section 3 Disciplinary Actions

- 1. All evaluators must remain current.**
- 2. In order to remain current, an evaluator must**
 - a) be a member of the Dobermann Club in the state in which he/she resides (if none exists then of any other affiliate of the NDCA)**
 - b) attend at least once within a period of two years;**
 - i) A ROM Sub committee meeting**
 - ii) Evaluate at an approved WAE conducted by a member of the NDC(A).**
 - iii) Participate in a seminar on WAC. All evaluators and trainees attending a National must participate at any seminars or ROM Evaluations held there. If an evaluator remains non-current for two (2) consecutive years they will be dropped from the program.**
 - c) If an evaluator does not meet the above requirements the ROM committee will interview the evaluator to determine if there are any acceptable reasons or extenuating circumstances as to why the evaluator has failed to remain current prior to making its decision.**
- 3. If an Evaluator fails twice to complete within the specified time, all the administrative requirements from an official ROM evaluation, they will be considered to have failed in their duty and be removed from the approved list.**
- 4. If an evaluators has had two (2) or more verifiable written complaints of the same nature, they will be required to appear before the ROM Sub committee to explain their actions. If they do not appear on the first occasion they will be suspended and if they do not appear when next requested, it will be recommended they be dropped from the Program.**
- 5. If, after investigating the complaints, the Committee finds them to be correct, the Committee will then determine if the evaluator needs additional training or face reprimand, suspension or termination from the ROM Program.**

ATTACHMENTS FOR THE EVALUATOR'S HANDBOOK

- 1. Equipment Needed For the WAE**
- 2. Assistants Needed For the WAE**
- 3. Register Of Merit Data Sheet**
- 4. WAE Evaluation Score Sheet**
- 5. WAE Summary of Scores**
- 6. Holding a WAE**
- 7. Trainee Assessment**

