

# **British Rottweiler Sports Dog Club**

## **Rottweiler Breed Suitability Tests:**



## **Breed Survey & Breeding Suitability Test**

# British Rottweiler Sports Dog Club

## 1 Purpose

The meaning and purpose of the Breeding Suitability Test (BST) is to ascertain those Rottweilers which, according to the breeding goal (breed standard) are suitable for breeding; and to eliminate unsuitable/ non breed standard dogs from breeding under BRSDC rules.

## 2 Definitions & Abbreviations

<b>BRSDC:</b>	British Rottweiler Sports Dog Club
<b>BS:</b>	Breed Survey
<b>BST:</b>	Breeding Suitability Test
<b>FCI:</b>	Fédération Cynologique Internationale

## 3 Scope

This procedure covers the preparation and conduct of a BS and BST undertaken by members of the BRSDC. It is intended that these are written guidelines of the BS and BST testing procedures and that each test shall be varied to some degree to avoid precise preparation and exact replication.

## 4 Personnel Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the BRSDC to ensure that all personnel assessing/judging dogs in the BS or BST have been trained to an acceptable level of competence prior to the assessment of these tests. Requirements of the tests are that the BS can be judged by a UKKC Rottweiler Breed Specialist Judge approved to award Challenge Certificate's that is an approved Breed temperament assessor that also has experience in either training with, competing with or judging Rottweiler's in a working discipline such as obedience, working trials or IGP. The BST can only be judged by an FCI approved Judge, qualified to Judge BST's in their home country. The Judge and the Helper for the test shall be named by the Club's Official Committee. A BS/BST can only be held if authorisation from the BRSDC has been given and the event has been published and deadlines have been adhered to. BS/BST's may only be held if there are at least 5 dogs named to participate. The maximum number of dogs to be judged in one day shall be 20. BS/BST test-date applications to the BRSDC must include the name and address of the test giving club; the name of the BS/BST Manager; the name of the Judge, and the deadline for entries. The exact location and start time of the BS/BST test shall also be included.

# British Rottweiler Sports Dog Club

Breed Survey's and Breed Suitability Tests are independent events. They cannot be held in conjunction with conformation shows or IGP Trials. The BS/BST can only be carried out if, on the day of the test, the Judge is presented with at least 5 dogs and if the test location is deemed suitable for the test. The BS/BST Judge shall be responsible for determining the suitability of the test location.

All Rottweilers that have been bred according to the breeding requirements of the BRSDC and have been properly X-rayed for hip and elbow dysplasia can participate in the BST. The results of the X-rays have to be submitted on the day of the test.

For participation in either test, dogs have to be KC and BRSDC Registered; prior to entering in the BST, there has to be a successful test of obedience/sociability (i.e BH). Foreign bred Rottweilers, whose owners have their permanent residence abroad, will require the appropriate transfer papers. Foreign bred Rottweilers can participate in any BST, as long as all BRSDC requirements have been met. The minimum age for dogs participating in a BS is 15 months and 18 months in a BST. Dogs which have been "Deferred" i.e. (did not pass) at an earlier BST, can only be re-entered when their waiting period has expired. Dogs which do not pass the BST the second time they are judged, cannot be entered again. The Test Manager checks the required documents and prepares the test papers. S/He is also responsible for the uninterrupted completion of the entire test as well as the availability of all equipment necessary for the test.

## 5. Safety Requirements

A Risk Assessment should be undertaken by the event/test holding club and the result available for review by the BRSDC Committee.

It is the individual's responsibility to prepare and/or understand all relevant Risk Assessments associated with the undertaking of this test. It is the testing Club's responsibility to ensure appropriate, valid insurance is in place.

### 5.1 Specific safety requirements are detailed below.

A suitable IGP Helper holding a full License by a FCI recognised organisation has to be available. It is very important that the helper wears a full protection suit (pants & jacket), protective sleeve and padded stick. As under IGP rules he/she should also wear appropriate foot wear. The Judge can, if deemed insufficient, reject the Helper.

All dogs in the testing location have to be kept so as not disturbing the testing in any way.

Only a regular chain/collar that can be fastened on to a "dead link" is permitted on dogs during all parts of the test.

# British Rottweiler Sports Dog Club

## 6 Procedure

1. Examination of conformation ratings
2. Temperament testing
3. Protection procedure (BST only)

Male dogs will be judged first, followed by females. The observations of the Judge shall be entered in the BS/BST papers and signed by the Test Manager and Judge. The decision of the Judge for the conformation and temperament ratings are indisputable. Objections regarding formal errors must be brought to the Test Manager's attention the day of the test. If a resolution cannot be achieved, the matter is to be presented to the Committee of the BRSDC for a decision. The BST rating is applicable for the duration of the dog's breeding age, unless revoked by a BRSDC Committee because of any newly discovered or earlier concealed genetic fault. The revocation of a BST rating must be made in writing to the owner via registered letter. No dogs owned by the Judge or his immediate family can participate in a test judged by him/her. After conclusion of the test, its results are to be given to each dog's owner, co-owner and Handler. Duplication shall be given or sent to the officiating Judge. All financial matters shall be settled immediately.

### **a. Examination of Conformation Ratings (BS & BST)**

Prior to the start of the BS/BST, the Judge briefly explains to all competitors the meaning and purpose of the test and the exercises involved. At the start of the testing, the handler and their dog report to the Judge. The Test Manager checks the authenticity of the dog's Pedigree and the dog's identity by the dog's tattoo or microchip number. The conformation evaluation is done according to the guidelines set forth by the governing club, its rules and regulations and the breed standard. The dog is to be stood freely and measurements of the dogs exterior are taken (Height, Length, Depth of Chest, Chest Circumference, Top Skull and Muzzle length) The dogs eye colour is checked against an eye chart and the dogs teeth and bite are checked. Then the judge is to give a full critique of the dog, also assessing the behaviour and movement of the dog.

### **b. Temperament Testing (BS & BST)**

After the conformation evaluation, the Judge will instruct the Handler to lead their dog in different directions over the testing area for the duration of about 100 paces. The dog's leash must be held loosely.

During this walk, loud noises will be made, e.g. rattling of stones in a container, excessive clapping, banging etc. In both tests two gunshots shall be discharged from a suitable distance of about 20 paces away, using 6mm ammunition. The dog/handler team also have to

# British Rottweiler Sports Dog Club

encounter 4 to 6 people who are either moving or stationary. The same 4 to 6 persons will then form a group. The group formation should not be in any particular stiff and/ridged pattern. Here the Judge is encouraged to vary the proceedings, in as much as he/she orders the movement of the group towards the handler with their dog, or the movement of the handler/dog team in the group.

During the above exercise it is important not to show any threat towards the dog. It shall strictly be used to evaluate the dog's self-confidence, fearlessness, temperament and threshold of stimulation.

## **6.3.1 BS & BST:**

The test consists of the dog walking on leash with the Handler toward a person covered with e.g. a white sheet, a large umbrella, with a balloon or something similar (again the Judge is encouraged to vary this part of the test). The dog will be stopped at approximately thirty feet from the person at which point the person will begin to walk slowly toward the dog and stop ten feet in front of the dog.

Next, the Judge directs the handler and his dog to the previously determined safe tie-out location where the Handler ties up the dog without the use of commands such as down etc., and goes out of sight of his dog.

The Judge shall approach the dog from a distance of about 5 to 8 steps and either pass him or walk around him at a distance of 3 to 5 paces, without threatening him in any way. He stops in front of, or beside the dog, drops an exercise book or something similar. The behaviour of the dog in the absence of its handler is to be specially observed.

Following this, the Helper approaches the dog with suspicious/threatening movements from approximately 20 feet away. If the dog reacts, the Helper turns away and leaves. The Judge then approaches the dog to see if, and how quickly the dog is able to calm down from the suspicious approach.

In the final test, the handler returns to his dog and takes him/her out of the testing area and initiates play with the dog (own toy, ball, bite bar) to see the dog's play drive and determination.

## **6.3.2 BST Protection procedure (off leash)**

On the 'heel' command, (and under direct control of the Handler), the Handler/dog team make their way to a designated area between two hides/blinds. (If the dog shows not to be under control by the Handler, the team will be disqualified). At the command of the Judge, the dog has to be sent first to the empty hide/blind and then to the hide/blind where the Helper is located. The Handler waits at the starting position while the dog performs a bark and hold. On the signal of the Judge, the Handler makes his way towards the blind. At the command of the Judge the handler can either recall his dog out the blind/hide or collect the dog. When Handler/dog team is in the basic position the helper will step out of the Hide/blind and position himself for an escape attempt, when stationary the Handler/dog team make their

# British Rottweiler Sports Dog Club

way to a designated point, there they stop and down the dog, while the Handler makes his/her way back to the hide/blind. The helper will make an attempt to escape, which the dog has to prevent with a full bite on the protection sleeve.

After the Helper has stopped the dog, on command by the Handler, the dog must 'out' immediately when instructed. After approximately 3 seconds, the helper will re-attack the dog driving him in the direction of the starting point where the helper will administer two stick hits roughly 5 steps apart. When the Helper comes to a stop, a command for 'out' can be given and again the dog must out quickly on the first command. On the signal of the Judge, the Handler collects his dog and makes his way to the prior arranged position for the "long run".

The Helper will make his way down the field verbally threatening the Handler/dog team. On signal of the Judge, the dog will be released. The dog should stop the attack with a full bite into the protection sleeve. The Helper will drive the dog for another 10-15 steps physically threatening the dog. When the Helper comes to a stop, a command for 'out' can be given again, which again must be promptly obeyed. The Handler then makes his way to the dog. On arrival the Handler will take his dog on the righthand side of the Helper, the Handler/dog team will then escort the Helper to the Judge where the Judge will tell the Handler to put the dog back on the leash and leave the protection area. NB: At every 'out' phase the dog should guard the Helper by sitting in front of him whilst barking.

## 7. Satisfactory Test Results

At completion of the BST procedure, the Judge will inform the dog and Handler team that they have either passed or failed the test. Irrespective of the result, the Judge will give an explanatory critique detailing the team's overall performance. The Judge's decision of the BST is final and cannot be challenged by the participants. A certificate evidencing the teams test pass will be presented to the Handler at the end of the test phase.