

Tracking Club of Victoria Inc. Tracking Etiquette

September 2019

When you start off entering a tracking trial, here are few tips.

- Whether you are entering on line or with a paper entry remember to take the time to fill in your entry form correctly, ensure you enter the test number you are entering and ensure you are eligible for this level.
- Make sure you include your contact phone number and an email address, if posting an entry, and don't have email then you must include a stamped addressed envelope for return of details to you.
- If your test is one that requires you to provide a known tracklayer ensure you include the name of that person and bring them with you, it is not the Club's responsibility to furnish you with a known tracklayer; they have enough to do to supply unknowns.
- Please make sure that you have a minimum of four (4) articles on your person for the drive to the trial, so that if you are asked to lay a track for another competitor you are able to do so as you have your articles correctly scented. Don't remove your articles until you are advised you are no longer required by an official, because sometimes things happen and a replacement tracklayer may be required at any time.
- When arriving at a trial and have a bitch that bitch needs to be vetted when you check in. Take the bitch with you to check in. If your bitch is not used to being vetted then work on teaching it to stand and have this done, just like any other type of training you do with your dog.

The rule book states the vetting may be done by a member of the affiliate conducting the trial. However sometimes Club's allow you to vet your own bitch but this must be done under supervision of the person doing the vetting and wiping the inside of the back leg is not vetting your bitch.

- If you have a track that requires an unknown tracklayer then also take your dog's reward to check in. Using a press seal plastic bag in a suitable size with your name and the test you are undertaking is really the only way to present this to those manning check in.
- Make sure you arrive in plenty of time for check in, early is always better. If you have car problems etc. on the way to the trial ensure you have the Trial Secretary's phone number with you so you can call them immediately. If you are unable to attend, you need to contact the Trial Secretary asap.
- Always make sure you have a doggy poo bag on you when you track so that you can pick up after your dog. Farmers do not want your dog's dropping in their paddocks and neither does Parks Victoria. Remember the farms we are blessed to be able to track on are people's homes, treat it as such. The same with the lovely bush areas we have access to this is only by permit and if we abuse the areas the permit may not be issued in the future.

- **PLEASE BEWARE** - It is not the steward's job to pick up after your dog nor is it their job to carry your dog's dropping to the end of the track for you. Some handlers have small bags over their shoulders where they place the articles when found they also can place the poo bag and carry to the end of the track and then dispose of back at base in the appropriate bins.
- **Unless you are advised otherwise by an official, all dogs must be on lead at all times whilst at the fixture.**
- All judges will brief the competitors that they are scheduled to judge each morning once check in closes. Make sure you stay in the vicinity of check in so you don't miss this briefing. Listen and remember what time you are required to be ready. Make sure you are ready on time, not somewhere else.
- Always check that you have the correct equipment with you for the dog you are tracking.
- Never forget to thank your tracklayer, whether your dog passed or not, as without these wonderful people, you would not have the opportunity to compete.
- If your dog has a treat that involves a container make sure that container is completely sealed so it does not leak on your tracklayer....also remember to take the empty container with you at the end of the track, the rubbish is your responsibility to dispose of correctly, not the steward's or tracklayer, leaving it at the end of the track is unacceptable.
- Please do not overload the tracklayers with a large enclosed container of food for your dog, a small one that will fit into a coat pocket is quite big enough, your dog can have the rest of the meal/treats when you get back to the car. **Also, along with your dog's reward, it is a nice gesture to leave something for your tracklayer e.g. small chocolate bar, as a thank you, this does not mean large boxes of chocolates, drinks etc. etc. This is a lovely gesture but you can give your tracklayer the other gifts later just something small enough to fit into their pocket is required. Remember they have their own bag to carry, poles, maps etc.; they certainly don't need to be weighed down with more goodies initially.**
- If you have entered several trials and gain a pass at one you need to contact all the Trial Secretaries for all the future trials and advise the new level of test you require or if you entered on Show Manager and entries have not closed then you can edit and upgrade yourself. But you must advise all Clubs where you have entered of your progress.
- Remember to read the rule book and be familiar with what is expected of you, this includes the glossary at the front of the book/s not just the description of the test you are doing.
You need to advise Trial Secretaries if you have had passes under the same judge, for example if you gain your first 2 passes towards your Tracking Dog Title with the same judge, you cannot have that judge again for the next test. The title must be gained under at least two different judges, once you move into another title you may be judged by your first judge again.
- It is etiquette to stay until presentations have been completed each day even if you did not pass. It is lovely to celebrate your fellow competitor's achievements on the day as we are sure you would like everyone to celebrate yours when they occur.