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# AKC Fetch

## Judge and Participant Guide



May 20, 2024

Effective August 1, 2024

September 2024 Ribbon update

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[fetch@akc.org](mailto:fetch@akc.org)

<https://www.akc.org/fetch>

# AKC Fetch

## Table of Contents

	Page
<b>PART I – General Information</b>	
What is AKC Fetch.....	5
Why participate in AKC Fetch .....	5
Checklist for planning an AKC Fetch test .....	6
Age of dogs .....	6
Aggression .....	6
Backing up.....	6
Bitches in season .....	6
Blinds.....	7
Blinds, dog jumps over.....	7
Bumper/ball, handler specifies which one (see Retrieve).....	7
Bumpers, made of .....	7
Canceling a test (see Event Cancellation) .....	7
Certificates (see Title certificates).....	7
Checklist for planning a test .....	6
Checklists to judge dogs .....	7
Clickers .....	7
Coats/belly bands .....	7
Collars, leashes .....	8
Concurrent events.....	8
Conduct of Evaluators .....	8
Conflict of interest .....	8
Corrections .....	8
Course design (see layout) .....	8
Date conflicts.....	9
Dead ball.....	9
Disabilities .....	9
Handlers .....	9
Dogs .....	9
Disqualifications .....	9
Disqualification (DQ) by Judge .....	9
Disqualification (DQ) by Event Committee & Reinstatement.....	9 - 10
Dog not working (Zoomies, joy rides, standing still)...how long?.....	10
Doubles .....	11
Dyed dogs.....	11
Eligibility .....	11
Clubs, Dogs .....	11
Encouragement.....	11
Evaluators (see Judges) .....	11
Event.....	12
Event Application .....	12
Event cancellation .....	13
Event Committee .....	13

Exchanging ball for food or another ball.....	13
Excusals .....	14
Failure (also see Retest) .....	14
Feedback to handlers .....	14
Fees (charging for the test) .....	14
Fencing.....	14
Flooring .....	14
Food rewards .....	15
Format .....	15
Forms, flow of forms at test .....	15
Fun Runs (see Practice runs) .....	15
Greeting participants .....	15
Handlers .....	15
Harnesses (see collars) .....	15
Helper.....	15
Instructions to handlers .....	16
Judge, change of .....	16
Judge, testing of a Judge's dog .....	16
Judges .....	16-17
Judging limits .....	17
Layout of test area .....	17
Leashes (see Collars) .....	17
Leaves test area (off course) .....	17
Locations .....	18
Mileage conflicts .....	18
Move-ups.....	18
Number of Judges and Helpers .....	18
Obstacles.....	19
Obstacles, distance between .....	19
Order of testing .....	19
Paperwork .....	20
Club .....	20
Evaluator .....	20
Owner .....	20
Practice runs (Fun runs) .....	20
Premium list .....	21
Record of All Dogs Tested .....	21
Refunds (see Event cancellation; Judge, change of .....	13
Registration .....	22
Repeat throws .....	22
Responsibilities of judges (see Judges) .....	22
Restart .....	22
Retest .....	22
Retrieve .....	23
Retrieving objects (see Test equipment) .....	23
Return (when the dog returns the object) .....	23
Rewards, reinforcers (food, clickers, toys) .....	23
Ribbons and Rosettes .....	23-24
Sending dog.....	24
Signals (verbal, hand signals, whistles) .....	24
Sign-ups at the test (see Registration) .....	24

Size of test area.....	24
Small dogs (see Starting position) .....	25
Soiling the test area.....	24
Spectator area .....	24
Start line .....	25
Starting position .....	25
Submitting results (see Test Summary Form) .....	25
Test area, outdoors .....	26
Test equipment .....	26
Test Summary Form .....	27
Throwing the ball/bumper.....	28
Time to complete the retrieve .....	28
Title, certificates .....	28
Title, requirements for .....	28-29
Qualifications .....	29
Judges .....	29
Helpers .....	29
Zoomies (see Dogs not working) .....	10

## **PART II. AKC Fetch Test ..... 30-33**

Novice (FTN).....	30
Intermediate (FTI) .....	31
Advanced (FTA).....	32
Retriever (FTR).....	33

## **PART III. AKC Fetch Test Summary Chart ..... 34**

## **PART IV. Scoring the AKC Fetch Test ..... 35-38**

Novice (FTN).....	35
Intermediate (FTI) .....	36
Advanced (FTA).....	37
Retriever (FTR).....	38

## **PART V. Flow of Forms at an AKC Fetch Test..... 39**

## **CONTACT INFO ..... 40**

## **PART I: What is AKC Fetch?**

When dog owners are asked about activities they like to do with their dogs, the most common responses are to take their dog for a walk, and to play ball (fetch) with the dog.

AKC Fetch titles were created as another activity in which owners could have fun with their dogs in the AKC Family Dog program. Earning AKC Fetch titles provides opportunities for both physical and mental exercise. While some dogs are natural retrievers, AKC Fetch, especially at the advanced levels, will involve teaching new skills such as retrieving.

***AKC Fetch is designed for all breeds.***

AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test. The four levels of titles (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Retriever) assess the ability of the dog to retrieve. In the Advanced and Retriever levels, the dog must respond correctly to signals. There is also a memory component in Advanced and Retriever because a retrieving bumper or ball is dropped (or thrown) behind a blind where it cannot be seen.

For each of the four titles, the dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges.

CGC Evaluators or AKC judges of any type may become judges for AKC Fetch if they have completed the Fetch training in Canine College.

AKC Fetch is administered by AKC licensed or member clubs or AKC Approved (current) Canine Good Citizen Evaluators. The AKC Fetch test may be held in conjunction with an AKC event such as a dog show or trial or as a stand-alone (AKC club) event. It may also be held by CGC Evaluators submitted the required Event Application ([www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch) under "Planning a Fetch Test").

For a CGC Evaluator to hold a test, they must fill out the same Event Application as an AKC club.

- There is a fee for the Event Application of \$35.
- The Event Application must be submitted 1 month in advance.
- AKC Fetch tests will be listed on the AKC Events Calendar at [akc.org](http://akc.org)

### **Why Participate in AKC Fetch?**

AKC Fetch provides a form of exercise for dogs and their owners. Dogs learn new skills and many handlers will learn to teach a skill (i.e., retrieving) they have not previously taught.

AKC Fetch titles are fun to earn, and they can be used as a required AKC title for earning the Gold level of AKC FIT DOG. For info on AKC FIT DOG, see: <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>

## Checklist for planning AKC Fetch

Additional details for planning an AKC Fetch test are located at <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

The general steps for planning an AKC Fetch test are:

- **Identify a judge.** This may be an AKC judge of any type or a CGC Evaluator. All must have completed the required training modules and passed the AKC Fetch online test. In Fetch, CGC Evaluators are referred to as “judges.”
- **Assemble AKC Fetch materials** for the courses (boxes, distractions/obstacles, blinds, etc.) (Club or judge assembles these).
- **Decide on a place, time, and number of dogs.**
- **Submit an AKC Event Application.** This is done by the club or judge. The Event Application must be turned in one month before the event.
- **The Fetch test should be uploaded in the Events calendar.**
- **State in the premium list if the test is at an AKC event (e.g., show or trial).** Specify the fee and if sign-ups may be done at the event. If the AKC Fetch test is held at a stand-alone event (e.g., club graduation night or Evaluator’s training school), the club/judge will determine how participants will be notified.
- **Download forms for dogs to be tested.** This may be done by the club or judge.  
**Forms are located at:** <https://www.akc.org/fetch>
  - AKC Fetch Title Application
  - AKC Fetch Judge Checklists
  - AKC Fetch Judge and Participant Guide (at least one copy at registration table)
- **Test Summary Form** – must be completed by the Evaluator within 7 days to close out the event and issue titles. This online form can be accessed at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

### Age of dogs

Dogs must be at least 6 months of age to participate in the AKC Fetch test.

### Aggression (see Disqualification)

### Backing up

Ideally, dogs will be trained to return the ball/bumper to the handler at the start line. However, handlers may back up within reason (e.g., a maximum of 5 steps) to encourage the dog to return to the handler. The handler may not run forward with the dog.

### Bitches in season

Bitches in season will be tested as the last dog(s) at the end of the day. If there are two events on one day, a bitch in season should only be tested as the last dog in the last event. A bitch in season may return if there are events on a second day, and again, be tested as the last dog of the last event at the end of the day. Bitches in season should not be waiting in the area with other dogs.

Clubs/organizers may decide if bitches in season will be permitted to enter their AKC Fetch Test. Whether bitches in season will be permitted should be printed in the premium list.

**Blinds**

For Advanced and Retriever tests, there are 3 blinds. The blinds are 10 ft. to 12 ft. long.

For Advanced, the distance from the start line to the center blind is 70 ft.

For Retriever, the distance from the start line to the center blind is 80 ft.

Blinds are at least 24 inches tall and a maximum of 30 inches.

The distance between the blinds is about 25 ft. to 30 ft.

**Blinds, dog jumps over**

Ideally, a dog has received training before it comes to an AKC Fetch test and it has been taught to go in the spaces between the blinds when retrieving.

However, if a dog jumps over a blind, but it brings back the correct object (e.g., bumper), the dog is not penalized. The point of the exercise is retrieving.

**Bumper/ball, handler specifies which one (see Retrieve)****Bumpers, made of**

Bumpers are also called “dummies.” They should be made of soft rubber plastic, foam, or canvas. They may be weighted and of any color. They may not contain any scent (e.g. food) or noise-making components (e.g., squeakers, bells, whistles, squawkers).

**Canceling a test (see Event Cancellation)****Certificates (see Title Certificates)****Checklists to judge dogs**

There is a *Checklist* for each level of the Fetch test. The judge will score the checklist as they watch the dog’s test. The judge will give the Checklist to the handler/owner to be sent to AKC with the Title Application and fee. Checklists from two passing tests must be submitted for the title. The judge will record on the *Record of All Dogs Tested* the handler’s name, dog name and breed, and whether the dog passed or failed. Forms are downloadable at [www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch) under *Fetch Judge Resources*.

**Clickers**

While we recognize that clickers may be valuable training tools, they are not permitted in the AKC Fetch test. Verbal praise may be used in the test.

**Coats/belly bands**

Dogs may wear coats in the Fetch test in cold weather. Dogs may not wear clothes/costumes in the test. Belly bands are not permitted.

**Collars, leashes**

Dogs must wear a collar in the AKC Fetch test. They must come into the Fetch test area with a leash attached to the collar.

The leash may not be draped around the dog's neck; the leash should be attached to the collar.

In place of a leash, a cord may not be put through the collar and released when it is time to retrieve.

Approved collars for the AKC Fetch test are slip collars, buckle collars, or Martingales. Dogs may not wear prong collars, e-collars, head collars, muzzles, or body harnesses.

There may be tags on the collar. Check cords may not be attached to the collar.

Leashes should be 4 ft. to 6 ft. long and should be made of fabric, leather or biothane.

Clubs/organizers are advised to state in their premium lists that dogs must wear a collar.

**Concurrent Events**

There may be concurrent AKC Fetch tests, meaning that more than one test may be held at the same time. As an example, in one testing area, there might be a Novice test, while in another area at the same time, different judges may be testing Intermediate dogs.

**Conduct of Evaluators**

Evaluators/judges in the AKC Fetch test must be professional at all times. This applies to demeanor, and the manner in which information is communicated to handlers.

**Conflict of interest**

An AKC Fetch judge may not judge a dog they own or co-own or is co-owned by anyone in their immediate family or household. This would be a conflict of interest. A second judge (who is on the premium list) may test the dog of another judge. Tests for the dogs of judges are usually given at the beginning or ending of testing.

Judges may not judge their own (human) family members.

**Corrections**

In the AKC Fetch test, handlers may talk to their dogs, but not excessively. There should be no leash corrections. Depending on the severity of the correction, the Evaluator may give the handler a reminder or may dismiss the handler.

**Course design (also see Layout)**

The course for the AKC Fetch test will be set up the morning of the event. The club/judge should do everything possible to ensure there is no practicing on the field the day of or the day before the test. If the test is held at a show, the club should do its best to prevent other show exhibitors from using the Fetch test area as an exercise or potty area for their dogs before the Fetch test.



### **Date conflicts**

There are no restrictions pertaining to date conflicts with other events. (This means that more one club may hold an AKC Fetch test on the same day).

### **Dead ball**

The ball is “dead” when it has stopped moving. Dogs are sent to retrieve once the ball is dead, not when it is still moving.

### **Disabilities**

#### **Handlers: Accommodations should be made for handlers with disabilities in AKC Fetch.**

Examples include allowing a wheelchair or permitting someone with visual disabilities to have someone guide them to the start line and describe the location of the distractions and/or blinds.

#### **Dogs: Dogs with disabilities may participate in AKC Fetch.**

Some examples include hearing impairments (in which case the dog may be directed by hand signals), or dogs with a missing limb.

### **Disqualifications**

If a dog exhibits aggressive behavior (e.g., biting) during the AKC Fetch test, the dog must be dismissed immediately. If the aggression occurs on the Fetch course, the judge will complete the “DQ by Judge” official AKC form. If the aggression occurs outside the Fetch course, a “DQ by Committee” form should be completed.

#### **Disqualification (DQ) by the Judge**

*A dog is not eligible to be entered in a licensed or member club or CGC Evaluator sponsored AKC Fetch test if the dog has on one occasion been made subject to the following report: If a dog, while under judgment at an AKC Fetch test event attacks another dog or person, and the judge is of the opinion that such an attack was without reasonable cause, the judge shall identify the offending dog on the “Dog DQ by Judge at a Performance Event Form” found online at:*

<http://images.akc.org/pdf/AEDSQ5.pdf>

*The name of the offending dogs shall be listed on the form and sent to the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not compete in any AKC Fetch tests until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog’s eligibility has been reinstated. Barking and/or growling, in and of itself, does not constitute aggression. A dog shall not be disqualified for defending itself when attacked. Any dog that is disqualified by a judge will not qualify (pass) the AKC Fetch test.*

#### **Disqualification (DQ) by the Event Committee**

*Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee or the American Kennel Club, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event including an AKC Fetch test, resulting in an injury, and is believed by that Event Committee or the American Kennel Club to present a hazard to persons or other dogs should be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed immediately with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club. This form is online at: <http://images.akc.org/pdf/AEDSQ4.pdf>*

Con’t.

## Disqualifications, con't.

*The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated. Any dog that is disqualified by a judge will not qualify (pass) the AKC Fetch test.*

**REINSTATEMENT.** *A dog disqualified twice is not eligible for reinstatement. For eligible dogs, the privilege to participate may be reinstated upon completion of the following:*

- 1. A minimum of a calendar month of retraining. For dogs that are Disqualified by the Event Committee, the earning of a Canine Good Citizen title is a very logical step in retraining.*
- 2. Certification in writing by two licensed judges or an AKC field representative stating the dog acted appropriately during two reenactments of the incident. The reenactments should involve different dogs or people, depending on the nature of the incident. Neither of the two judges may be owners, co-owners, immediate family of the owners or co-owners, nor reside in the same household as the owners of the disqualified dog.*
- 3. A letter requesting reinstatement, a check made out for \$50.00 payable to the AKC, and the certifications must be sent to The American Kennel Club from the owner of the dog.*
- 4. A decision by the AKC to reinstate said privilege.*

## Dog not working (Zoomies, fooling around, joy rides, standing still) How long?

There are times that the dog will be sent to fetch and the dog will run around the course off-task. He may or may not have the ball/bumper in his mouth, but he is not returning directly to the handler.

How long can the dog be off-task before he does not pass this test item?

- Novice – if longer than 30 seconds, the dog does not pass.
- Intermediate – if longer than 20 seconds, the dog does not pass.
- Advanced and Retriever – must be making reasonable progress toward retrieving including searching for the bumper, etc. For Advanced and Retriever, an interruption in the dog working (e.g., drops ball, scratching, sits and rests), must not exceed 15 seconds.

Handlers may instruct the dog to fetch when it is off-task.

The clock for Novice (30 seconds), Intermediate (20 seconds), and Advanced and Retriever (15 seconds) starts at the point the dog is off-task, not when the whole exercise begins.

For off-task behavior, the dog is not searching or looking for the ball/bumper. The dog is not making progress related to searching for the ball or bumper or is not returning to the handler. "Zoomies" very often look like the dog is making big loops around the test area. Off-task behavior also includes going to the edge of the test area to sniff (without looking for the ball/bumper).

The judge may use a stopwatch, or they may start a verbal count... "One thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three..." up to 15, 20, or 30 seconds.

**Doubles**

In the Doubles, the two bumpers/balls must be in two different directions. For example, the bumpers that are thrown in a double can be one to the center and one to the left. They cannot both be to the center.

The throws for the two doubles in Advanced and Retriever may be repeated. For example, for the first Double, the handler could throw center, then right. For the second Double, the handler could throw to the center, then right again.

**Dyed dogs**

Dogs with artificial coloring in their coats may participate in AKC Fetch tests. The coloring must not cover more than one-third of the dog's coat. Colored markings on a dog must not be in poor taste and cannot contain profanity or conflict with a sponsor of a trial. It is the responsibility of the judge to decide if the coloring is acceptable.

**Eligibility**

**Clubs:** AKC licensed and member clubs are eligible to hold AKC Fetch tests. In addition, qualified AKC CGC Evaluators (see 'Judges' below) may hold AKC Fetch tests at their facilities.

**Judges:** AKC Approved CGC Evaluators and AKC judges of all types may administer the test as long as their Evaluator/judge status is current, they have completed the online Fetch course in Canine College and passed the test. CGC Evaluators who judge AKC Fetch tests are referred to as "judges."

**Dogs:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age are eligible to take the AKC Fetch test as long as they are registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC, PAL or AKC Canine Partners number.

**Encouragement**

Handlers may talk to their dogs and they may encourage them by calling them and praising them ("Good boy!"). Handlers may pat their legs to encourage the dog to come to them.

**Evaluators (see Judges)**

## **Event**

Each AKC event has its own event number, and an Event Application is submitted for each event. An event must start and be completed within one day.

**There can be no more than two events (each with its own event number) held by the same club/judge on the same day. Example: a club/host may have on the same day Event #001 and Event #002.**

There can be more than one level of Fetch testing per event number (i.e., the club may have Fetch testing with one event number and offer up to 4 levels of Fetch testing - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Retriever).

**A dog can only enter one testing level per event. An event is defined by the event number.**

This means that under one event number, a dog may only enter one time. As an example, for Event #1234 that offers Novice and Intermediate, if the dog enters Novice, it may not enter the same event (number) for Intermediate. It must enter a separate event (number) for Intermediate.

**Titles must be earned in order. (Example: a dog may not skip Novice and Intermediate and start with Advanced).**

Dogs may move up (see Move-ups) after they have earned a lower-level title if the next higher class has its own event number. This means there must be two passes under two different judges and two different event numbers before the dog moves to the next higher-level testing.

If a dog incorrectly earns legs at a higher level prior to earning two passes at the lower-level title, or if both titles were earned under the same event number, the higher-level title will not count.

Dogs who pass two tests at a given level may move-up (see Move-ups) to the next higher-level class at a future event before receiving their certificate from AKC.

## **Event Application**

An AKC official Event Application should be submitted to AKC for approval of a club's AKC Fetch test. See <https://www.akc.org/fetch> for the link to an Event Application form.

If the club/judge has two AKC Fetch tests on one day (e.g., one in the morning, one in the afternoon) or two tests on consecutive days (e.g., one on Saturday, one on Sunday), each test counts as a separate event and a separate Event Application is needed.

A club/judge may put a limit on the number of dogs that will be accepted in their test.  
**Any club, host or judge may not hold more than 12 events per year.**

**Event cancellation**

When a Fetch test is cancelled, the club/organizer should contact any preregistered entrants.

The club/organizer should communicate the change to any potential entrants by the method in which they originally advertised to those potential entrants.

If the club/organizer cancels the Fetch test, preregistered entrants should be given a refund for their entry fees.

The cancellation should be reported to [fetchinfo@akc.org](mailto:fetchinfo@akc.org)

**Event Committee**

A minimum of five (5) people is needed for the AKC Fetch test committee.

The Event Committee is a group organized by the Chairperson of the event. The Chair appoints the Event Committee to:

- address any misconduct complaints.
- meet and decide if a hearing is warranted.

The Committee Chair ensures the procedures in the Judges Guide are followed.

The Secretary handles entries and related issues during the event.

The Fetch judge may not be on the Committee. This is because if there is a hearing, the Judge needs to be able to keep judging.

The Secretary and Chair may be the same person.

There may be more than one (1) alternate judge.

**Exchanging ball for food or another ball**

When the dog returns to the handler with the ball/bumper, the handler may not exchange the ball the dog is returning for food, or another ball/bumper, or toy.

Food may not be used in the AKC Fetch test.

The handler may not have two balls/bumpers and show a second one to the dog when it returns in order to get the dog to release the object in its mouth.

## Excusals

If a dog shows signs of aggression, it is Disqualified. An excusal is used in situations such as when the handler requests to be excused because the handler is not feeling well, does not want to proceed with the test, etc. Other examples include a dog that may also be excused by the judge for being out of control (e.g., running around the course), urinating or defecating on the course, being so fearful it will not work, or simply not being trained to perform the test items.

*Dogs may be excused from the Fetch test or test area by a judge for excessively delaying during the test, being found unfit to compete, interference with the test in progress by the owner or handler, or not being present when called to be tested. Dogs must be given 5 minutes grace time to arrive at the test area when called. When a dog is excused during an AKC Fetch test, the excusal must be recorded on the Test Summary Form.*

## Failure (also see Retest)

**If the dog does not pass the test, the judge should keep the paperwork for at least 1 year.** The number of dogs that did not pass will be needed to complete the Test Summary Form. The names of handlers and/or dogs who did not pass the test will not be sent to AKC, however, they should be recorded on the Fetch judge's form.

## Feedback to handlers

There are times when the judge will need to give feedback to the handler. Feedback should be given in a calm, unemotional and supportive manner. Examples of when feedback is needed may include when:

- A handler should attempt the test item again.  
"Let's try that again. This time, you should throw the ball *between* the obstacles."
- The dog needs to repeat the test item.  
"Try that again. This time, make sure your dog is at your side when you start."
- The handler is physically correcting the dog.  
"Remember, you should not be correcting your dog with tugs on the leash."
- When the dog fails the test:  
"Your dog did great on two of the three retrieves, but he only came within 15-ft of you on the third one, so he didn't pass the test. He is close – this is something you can work on and try again."

## Fees (charging for the test)

Fees for entering the test will be determined by the club/host. A title processing fee will be sent to AKC by the dog owner along with the two passing Checklists and the Title Application.

## Fencing

The premium list should state if the test area is fenced. Temporary fencing may be used (see module "Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses" for photos and where to purchase).

## Flooring

The location for the test will be outdoors or in an equivalent setting (for example, an indoor agility facility). For indoor settings, flooring must be used that will prevent dogs from being injured while running. Examples include turf or dirt that is not hard-packed, or mats with padding (3/8-inch) that are used for sports such as agility or flyball. Not acceptable are uncovered concrete, or thin ring matting (1/8-inch). Also see Test area, outdoors.

### **Food rewards**

While we recognize that food can be a very valuable tool when teaching a skill, food as a reward or lure is not permitted in the AKC Fetch test. Further, handlers may not use “imaginary food” where they attempt to guide the dog with an empty hand (as though they were holding food) to get it into position.

When the test is over and the handler has left the test area with the dog, food may be given as a reward.

### **Format**

The AKC Fetch test is held outdoors or in an equivalent setting (e.g., an indoor agility facility with turf or dirt that is not hard-packed). The test is in-person only; no video tests are allowed.

### **Forms, flow of forms at test** (see page 39)

### **Greeting participants**

The purpose of greeting the handler at the beginning of the test is to provide a warm welcome and set the stage for the rules of the test. Here is the general tone of an ideal greeting:

“Welcome to the AKC Fetch test. May I have your paperwork?” (Evaluator takes paperwork and looks at forms, or already has forms on clipboard).

“This is the Novice course. This is three single retrieves, one each to the left, right and center of the course. You need to throw the ball between the \_\_\_\_.” (Name the distractions/obstacles—box, chair, etc.) “For each throw, tell me where you will be throwing the ball. Do you have any questions? Let’s get started. Are you ready?”

### **Handlers**

While we hope the owner of the dog will want to participate in the Fetch tests, someone other than the owner may handle the dog.

### **Harnesses (see Collars, leashes)**

### **Helper**

In most cases, in Novice and Intermediate, a handler will throw their dog’s ball, bumper, or toy. If necessary, a handler may have a helper throw the ball or bumper. The helper may serve as a thrower only. Helpers may not give tips or guidance to the handler. The helper may also not talk to or send the dog.

For Advanced and Retriever, a helper associated with the event (club, etc.) will be dropping the bumper behind the blinds. A handler may choose to throw their bumper/ball in Advanced and Retriever.

### **Instructions to handlers**

The judge may say something like, “Welcome to the Novice Fetch test,” then tell the handler what is expected, such as,

“Your dog will must do 3 retrieves at 30-ft. One will be to the right, one to the center, and one to the left. You may do these in any order. Your dog must stay until the ball stops moving. Please tell me the direction to you will throw each ball—left, right, or center.”

For Novice and Intermediate, the judge will instruct the handler as to where ball should be thrown (between obstacles).

### **Judge, change of**

When there will be a change of a Fetch test judge, the club/organizer should contact any preregistered entrants.

The club/organizer should communicate the change to any potential entrants by the method in which they originally advertised to those potential entrants.

If the fee has not been paid, preregistered entrants should be allowed to withdraw.

If the entry fee has been paid, preregistered entrants should be given a refund if they choose to withdraw.

If there is an emergency need for a judge and there is an approved AKC Fetch Judge on the Event committee, the committee member can resign from the committee and judge. The club/host should appoint someone else to be on the committee.

The change in judge should be reported to [fetchinfo@akc.org](mailto:fetchinfo@akc.org)

### **Judge, testing of a Judge’s dog**

Judges may have their own dogs tested at an AKC Fetch test if there is an alternate judge listed on the Event Application who can do the testing.

The judge may not ask a test participant (who is an approved Fetch judge) to test the judge’s dog if the participant is not listed on the Event Application as an alternate judge.

### **Judges**

The judges for AKC Fetch are AKC judges of all types or AKC Approved CGC Evaluators. All judges must have completed the required training modules and passed the online test in Canine College. The assistants (who help set up the courses, etc.) are referred to as “helpers.” AKC judges will use their AKC Judge number and CGC Evaluators will use the Fetch judge ID assigned to them for Fetch judging. (This is different than a CGC Evaluator number).

For more information on the approval process that involves completing online training and passing an online test, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

Con’t.



## Judges, con't.

**Responsibilities of judges** include working with the club to plan the test, approving the layout of the course, directing the helpers re: the placement of blinds and obstacles, and completing the required online Test Summary Form within 7 days after the test so that titles can be issued.

The club or judge will determine who will provide the materials for the test and course (paperwork, course obstacles, blinds, etc.) At the test, the judge must also complete the "Record of All Dogs Tested," a short form for his or her own records that lists the owner and dog name and breed and whether or not the test was passed. For this form, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

**Substitution of judge:** If a judge needs to be replaced after the AKC Event Application has been submitted, this should be noted on the Test Summary Form. The host club or host judge should contact AKC immediately regarding changes.

## Judging limits

There are no AKC judging limits regarding the number of dogs that may be judged at an AKC Fetch event, however, the event must start and be completed within one (1) day.

A club/judge may put a limit on the number of dogs that will be accepted in their test.

Tests must be done in daylight hours unless the test is held indoors.

Any club or judge may not hold more than 12 events per year.

## Layout of test area

See pages 30-33 of this Guide for diagrams of the AKC Fetch courses. See the module on "Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses" (<https://www.akc.org/fetch>) for photos and examples of the distractions and blinds on the courses.

## Leashes (see Collars, leashes)

### Leaves test area (off course)

If the dog leaves the test area (e.g., runs out a gate) it does not qualify. This is indicated as "off course" at the bottom of the Checklists.

If the dog left the designated test area, came back, and started to work again, it still would not qualify.

## **Locations**

The location for the test will be outdoors or in an equivalent setting (e.g., an indoor agility facility).

For indoor settings, flooring must be used that will prevent dogs from being injured while running. Examples include turf or dirt that is not hard-packed, or mats with padding (3/8-inch) that are used for sports such as agility or flyball. Not acceptable are uncovered concrete, or thin ring matting (1/8-inch).

For outdoor settings, see “Test area, outdoors”.

## **Mileage conflicts**

There are no restrictions pertaining to mileage conflicts with other events. This means that two clubs that are close by may hold an AKC Fetch test on the same day.

## **Move-ups**

Move-ups will be permitted in AKC Fetch Tests. If a dog has passed both of the required Fetch tests (e.g., passed Novice Fetch twice), it may be moved up to the testing for the next higher-level title at the next event (as defined by a different event number) before receiving the title certificate from AKC.

Under one event number, a dog may only enter one time. As an example, for Event #1234 that offers Novice and Intermediate, if the dog enters Novice, it may not enter the same event (number) for Intermediate. It must enter a separate event (number) for Intermediate.

The handler must request that the dog be moved up by the club/host at least 30-minutes before the starting time of the event.

Move-ups are handled by the Fetch Test Secretary at the Fetch test registration area.

A move-up form must be submitted to the AKC Fetch Test Secretary.  
Move-up forms are under Judges Resources at [www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch)

For more information, also see Events.

## **Number of Judges and helpers**

There will be one judge per test. The judge will judge the dogs and score the Checklist. The number of helpers per test will be determined by the club/host. For most tests, in addition to the judge, a minimum of 2 helpers would be needed. One would handle sign-ins, and the other one would assist with the course set up and dropping the bumpers for Advanced and Retriever.

## Obstacles

Details pertaining to obstacles are specified in the module “Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses” ([www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch) under AKC Fetch Judge Resources).

Obstacles may include boxes, packing crates, storage crates, laundry baskets, etc. See the module for photos and dimensions.

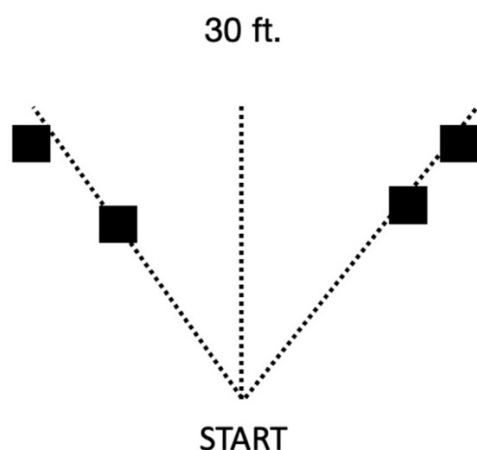
## Obstacles, distance between

For the distance between the start line and blinds, see “Blinds.”

The distance between the obstacles (boxes, crates, etc.) was deliberately not specified so there can be some variability among courses. The distance between obstacles is about 6 ft. to 10 ft. The main thing to consider is to place the obstacles at an angle so handlers can throw between obstacles. Actual photos of ideal courses and a course that has incorrect angles are shown in the module, “Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses” at [www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch).

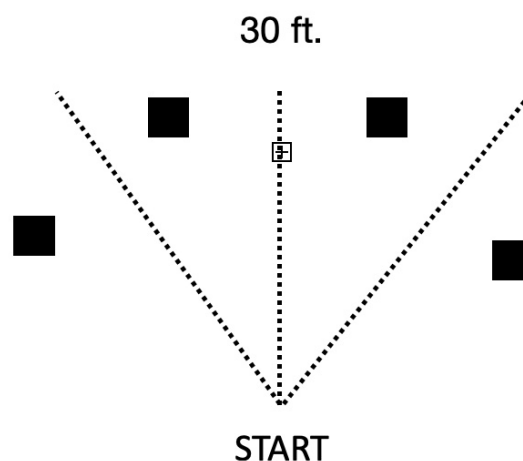
### Unacceptable angles: Novice

The handler cannot throw between the boxes.



### Acceptable angles: Novice

The handler is able to throw between the boxes.



## Order of testing

There are four levels of titles for AKC Fetch testing. These are Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Retriever. The judge may determine the order in which these are tested. However, particularly in hot weather, it is suggested that the Retriever testing goes first, followed by Advanced, then Intermediate and Novice.

There will most likely not be many dogs testing at the Retriever level, so scheduling them first will prevent them from having to wait all day for a large group of Novice dogs to be tested. Further, because of the longer distances that the dogs must run in Retriever and Advanced, it is best to conduct their tests earlier during hot weather.

## Paperwork

**Club:** The club is required to submit the official Event Application. See <https://www.akc.org/fetch> under “Planning a Fetch test” for the link to the Event Application.

**Judge:** The judge or club decide who will download the AKC Fetch test forms for the test from <https://www.akc.org/fetch>. The forms needed for testing include:

- 1) AKC Fetch **Title Application** form for each participant,
- 2) AKC Fetch Judge **Checklist** for each participant,
- 3) **Record of all Dogs Tested** - At the test, the judge must also complete the “Record of All Dogs Tested.” This is a short form for the judge’s records that lists the owner and dog name and whether or not the test was passed. The link to this form is at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>
- 4) **Test Summary Form** at <https://www.akc.org/fetch> to be completed by the judge within 7 days of the test so the event can be closed and the titles issued.

Judges must have the Checklists at the test in order to judge. For good customer service, it is very helpful to participants if the judge also gives those completing their title a Title Application form so all paperwork is ready to submit. Copies of Title Applications can be downloaded from:

<https://www.akc.org/fetch/titles/>

See “Flow of Forms at Fetch Test”, page 39.

**Owner:** Once the dog has passed the AKC Fetch test twice, the dog owner sends to AKC:

- 1) a copy of the AKC Fetch Title Application and fee and
- 2) both copies of the AKC Fetch Judge Checklist.

The dog owner may submit the title online at:

<https://www.apps.akc.org/title-application-portal/>

**If the dog passes the AKC Fetch title**, the judge should give the dog owner the AKC Fetch Title Application form and the AKC Fetch judge Checklist to send to AKC to request the title.

**If the dog does not pass the test, the judge should keep the handler’s paperwork.** The results from dogs that did not pass will be needed to complete the online Test Summary Form. The names of handlers and dogs who did not pass the test will not be sent to AKC.

### Practice runs (Fun runs)

Practice runs may not be held on the day of the Fetch test. They may be held the day or night before, or anytime before the day/evening before the test. The club may charge a fee for a practice run.

If the practice run takes place at an AKC event (e.g., a multiple-day dog show), it should be listed in the premium list.

## Premium list

There must be a premium list for every Fetch test. This is because AKC Fetch is an official AKC Event, and the premium list is put on the AKC Events calendar so that potential participants can find tests.

When the AKC Fetch test is held at shows or trials, the test should be listed in the club's premium list.

Premium lists should state whether there is a limit to the number of dogs, the times for the test, the fee for testing, if sign-ups will be accepted at the event and how to preregister. The premium list should also state whether the test is restricted to a particular breed (such as in the case of a Specialty show), if the area will be fenced, and if bitches in season are permitted.

For a sample premium list, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

When the AKC Fetch test is held as a stand-alone event such as at an AKC club's test, or at a CGC Evaluator's training school, the club/host will decide how participants are to be notified. For example, if a club had a Fetch class, students could be notified about the upcoming Fetch test via an email.

Clubs/organizers are advised to state in their premium lists that dogs must wear a collar.

If the premium list is updated for any reason, an updated premium list should be sent to [fetchinfo@akc.org](mailto:fetchinfo@akc.org)

## Record of All Dogs Tested

The Record of All Dogs Tested is a one-page form that the judge must keep for 1 year. It is filled out after all dogs are tested and it lists owner names, dog call names and breed, and whether the dog passed.

The Record of all dogs tested is located at [www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch) under Fetch Judge Resources.

- The judge may fill out the form as each dog is tested, or
- The judge may record the Pass/yes-no on scratch paper and transfer the results to the form after all dogs are tested, or
- The form may be kept at the registration table where everything is filled out for each dog except for the Pass/yes-no. The judge will fill this out when testing is completed.

AKC FETCH TEST		Page ____	
RECORD OF ALL DOGS TESTED			
(This form is kept by the Judge for at least 1 year)			
Club _____		Event number _____	
Date _____		Location _____	
Handler name	Dog call name	Breed	Pass Yes/No
			Yes No
			Yes No
			Yes No
			Yes No

## Registration

The club/judge may decide how registrations will be handled. The club/judge may decide whether to accept preregistrations and sign-ups at the event.

## Repeat throws

When a handler or helper throws the ball or drops the bumper in error (e.g., it goes off the course, in front of the blind, etc.), the ball or bumper may be thrown or dropped again.

If the handler throws 3 times and cannot get the ball on the course or to the minimum distance, the judge should have a helper throw, or the ball/bumper should be placed by the helper or judge.

## Responsibilities of judges (see Judges)

### Restart

A restart occurs when the:

- 1) **dog refuses to leave the start line when directed.**  
The handler may repeat the cue (e.g., "Fetch it!") to start. This is a restart.
- 2) **dog picks up the retrieving object but drops it on the way back to the handler.**  
If the dog drops the ball and picks it up quickly, there is no penalty.  
If the dog does not pick up the ball, the handler may prompt and encourage the dog ("Get it!"). This is a restart.
- 3) **dog is off-task, for example, gets the "zoomies."**  
The handler may repeat the cue (e.g., "Fetch!"). This is a restart.
  - The handler may not go and get the dog and return it to the start line.
  - If the dog exceeds the time allowed (see Dog Not Working, page 10), it does not pass.
- 4) **dog leaves the start line before directed and is recalled to start over.** This is a restart.
  - Novice – 2 restarts per test (not per throw)
  - Intermediate – 2 restarts per test (not per throw)
  - Advanced – 1 restart per test (not per throw)
  - Retriever – 1 restart per test (not per throw)

### Retest

If a dog does not pass the AKC Fetch test, it may take the test again as soon as the handler feels the dog is ready. If there are two tests that are two different events on the same day (each with its own Event number) the handler may enter the second test if sign-ups at the event are permitted. There should be no training on the Fetch test course at the event.

## **Retrieve**

The handler enters the test area with the dog. The dog must be wearing a collar and a leash when entering the test area. When the handler gets to the start line (see Start line), the leash is removed.

**The handler must tell the judge (or the judge may ask) the order (left, center, right) in which the dog must retrieve the objects (balls, bumpers, etc.). (“I’m going to send him to the center, then right, then left”). If the dog returns the wrong object, it does not pass.**

In Advanced and Retriever, the handler may tell the helper the order in which objects are to be dropped. For example, in the Retriever test, “Please drop them from left to right.”

The dog is sent only when the retrieving object such as a ball is “dead.” This means it has stopped moving.

## **Return (when the dog returns the object)**

When the dog returns the object to the handler, in Novice and Intermediate, it must give the object to the handler or drop it. In Advanced and Retriever, the handler must be able to take the object or the dog must deliver it to hand.

To get the object, the handler may not grab the dog by the collar, muzzle, cheeks, or anywhere else.

When the dog returns the object, tug games are not permitted.

For Advanced and Retriever, where more than one ball/bumper is used, as the dog returns the objects, the handler may choose to bring a bucket or container in which they can place the retrieved objects. The handler may also hold the retrieved object (most will hold it behind their back), or they may put it on the ground. If the retrieved object is placed on the ground, it will usually be dropped behind them.

## **Rewards, reinforcers (food, clickers, toys)**

While we recognize that food can be a very valuable tool when teaching a skill, food as a reward or lure (to guide the dog into position) is not permitted in the AKC Fetch test. Further, handlers may not use “imaginary food” where they attempt to guide the dog with an empty hand as though they were holding food. Clickers and toys may not be used in the Fetch test as reinforcers or lures.

## **Ribbons and Rosettes**

**Updated September 2024**

A club, Fetch judge, or CGC Evaluator who is acting as a Fetch judge holding a licensed or member club Fetch test shall offer qualifying ribbons.

A ribbon shall be awarded to a dog who passes the test. Each flat ribbon shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and primarily green in color and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the American Kennel Club, and the word “Qualified.” The words “AKC Fetch” may be used or the AKC Fetch logo may be on the ribbon. The level (Novice, etc.) may be on the ribbon or on a sticker or card on the back of the ribbon. The club/judge may choose to include the club logo on the ribbon.

Con’t.

**Ribbons and Rosettes, con't.****Updated September 2024**

There are ribbons/rosettes in the AKC Online store, or a club/judge may choose to make their own as long as they comply with the specifications in this Guide. Clubs/judges may choose to also offer a rosette. Some clubs offer a “New Title” rosette when dogs complete the AKC Fetch title. Rosettes may be of a color chosen by the club. The center button must have the AKC logo, and the AKC Fetch logo may appear on one of the streamers. The level (Novice, etc.) may be printed on the rosette, or a “tab” ribbon with the level can be added, or the level may be on a sticker or card on the back of the rosette.

**Sending dog**

The dog should be sent to retrieve when the ball is “dead.” Dead is when the object has stopped moving.

**Signals**

The dog must respond to signals. Signals may include verbal cues (“Fetch it!”), hand signals, whistles, or a combination.

**Sign-ups at test (see Registration)****Size of test area**

The AKC Fetch test is given outdoors or in an equivalent setting (e.g., an indoor agility facility with turf or dirt that is not hard-packed). The test area should be at least 100 x 100 ft. if all 4 levels of Fetch are to be administered (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Retriever) but it may be larger.

The club is permitted to offer only the lower levels of the AKC Fetch test. If only lower levels are offered, the size of the test area must be the size required for the largest level of test offered plus 20 ft.

There are no exceptions to the size requirements.

Novice only	= for a	30 ft. retrieve	+ 20 ft.	= a	50 x 50 ft. test area is required
Intermediate	= for a	50 ft. retrieve	+ 20 ft.	= a	70 x 70 ft. test area is required
Advanced	= for a	70 ft. retrieve	+ 20 ft.	= a	90 x 90 ft. test area is required
Retriever	= for an	80 ft. retrieve	+ 20 ft.	= a	100 x 100 ft. test area is required

As can be seen above, if a club chose to only offer Novice testing, they could use a 50 x 50 ft. test area. If the club chose to only offer Novice and Intermediate, the Fetch test area would need to be a minimum of 70 x 70 ft.

**Soiling the test area**

Dogs who urinate or defecate on the AKC Fetch test course do not qualify. When a dog soils the test area, the area should be cleaned. There are several products that are odor eliminators.

**Spectator area**

The spectator area should be at a distance so as not to disturb or distract the dogs in the test. Dogs that are entered in the test should not be waiting close to the test area or start line.



**Start line**

The start line should be 5 ft. long, and it should be marked so that participants know where to stand.

The start line is positioned in the center of the test area. See photos in “Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses” at [www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch)

The start line may be marked with chalk (outdoors) or tape (indoors), small cones, or other unobtrusive objects such as flat, vinyl “soccer dots” (see [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) for soccer dots).

The start line does not move. It is lined up with the center throw. Handlers may turn their bodies to the left or right for throws in these directions, but they may not move to line themselves up with the left or right side of the test area (e.g., they may not move to stand directly in line with a left or right blind).

As per the Fetch chart, handlers may take 2 large steps to get the returned object from the dog in Novice, and 1 large step in Intermediate. Handlers may take a maximum of 5 steps backward to encourage the dog to come to them.

**Starting position**

The test begins with the dog at the handler’s side. Either side may be chosen.

For all levels (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Retriever), the dog may sit, down, or stand to start.

Novice and Intermediate - The dog may be between the handler’s legs.

Advanced and Retriever – The dog may not be between the handler’s legs.

**Small dogs** may not be held during the test. This includes in the starting position, or while the object is being thrown or placed. The handler may kneel, bend over, or squat in Novice and Intermediate to hold the collar. The collar may be held in Novice, and in Intermediate, it may be held with one finger.

**Submitting results (also see Test Summary Form)**

To submit the results of the Fetch test to AKC, the judge should:

- Complete the online Test Summary Form within 7 days of the test so the event can be closed and the titles issued. For the link to the Test Summary Form, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

If a dog passes the test, the handler is given two forms to send to AKC with the fee to request the Fetch title. These are the:

- 1) AKC Fetch Title Application, and the
- 2) AKC Fetch Checklist (send Checklists for 2 passing tests)

For these forms, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

At the test, the judge must also complete the “Record of All Dogs Tested.” This is a short form for the judge’s records that lists the owner and dog name and whether or not the test was passed. This form can be downloaded at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch> under “Fetch Judge Resources.”

### **Test area, outdoors**

For indoor surfaces, see Flooring.

For outdoor surfaces, the test area should be flat. It is not acceptable to have the test on a hill or have dogs running over a raised berm.

Grass should be cut so that when the dog gets to the ball or bumper, it can see the retrieving object without having to search through grass.

### **Test equipment**

The equipment for the AKC Fetch test includes 1) the paperwork (see Paperwork above), 2) the retrieving objects, and 3) the obstacles and blinds.

#### **The Retrieving Objects**

The Retrieving objects are described in the module, “Setting Up Your AKC Fetch Courses” at [www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch)

- In the Novice and Intermediate tests, the retrieving object may be either a tennis ball or equivalent, a retrieving bumper, or a handler’s choice toy (e.g., KONG Wubba™).
- Dumbbells or gloves may not be used as retrieving objects.
- Discs (Frisbees) may not be used as retrieving objects.
- Stuffed animals may not be used as retrieving objects.
- There may be NO SQUEAKERS or other noise makers in the balls, toys, bumpers, etc.
- Bumpers (or other retrieving objects) may not be scented or filled with food.
- Retrieving objects may not be launched from a mechanical apparatus such as a ball gun or an automatic ball throwing device.
- In the Advanced and Retriever tests, the retrieving object may be a bumper or tennis ball or equivalent.
- The retrieving objects may be provided by the handler. The club/host should also have a ball and bumpers in case a handler did not bring theirs.

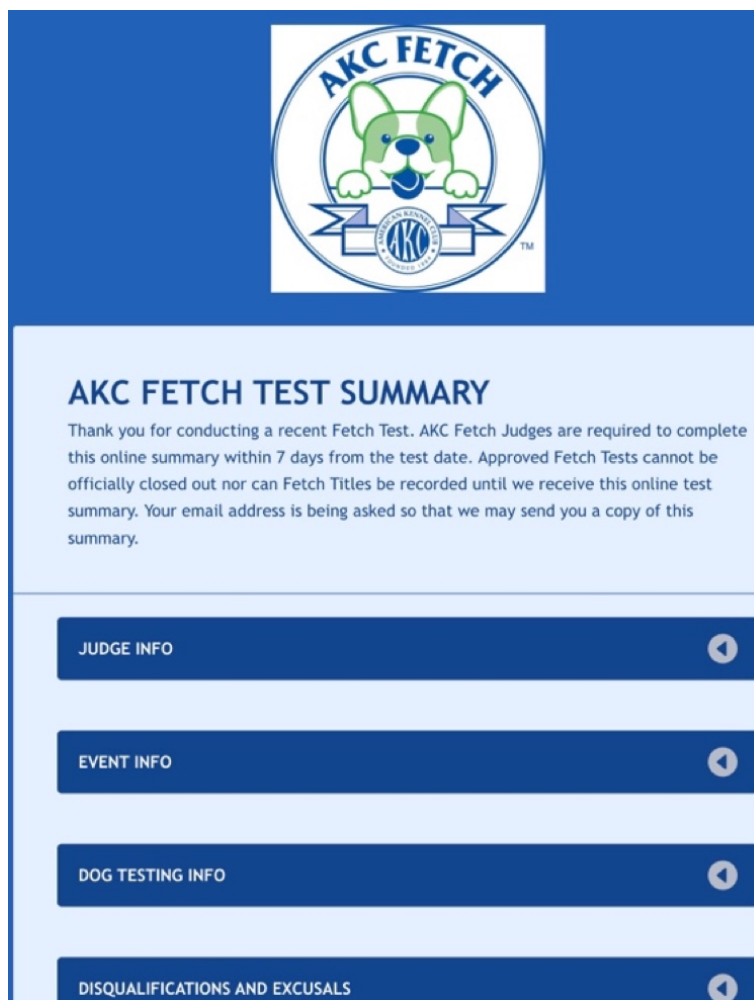
#### **The Obstacles and Blinds**

The club/judge may choose from a variety of obstacles and blinds. See the module, “Setting Up Your AKC Fetch Courses” at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch> for photos and examples of the distractions and blinds on the courses.

### Test Summary Form

The judge must submit the online AKC Fetch Test Summary form within 7 days of the test so that the event can be closed out and the titles awarded. The form is at [www.akc.org/fetch](http://www.akc.org/fetch) under *Fetch Judge Resources*.

The online Test Summary Form takes only a few minutes to complete. There is a place on the Test Summary Form to indicate Disqualifications (dismissals) and Excusals.



The image shows a screenshot of the AKC Fetch Test Summary Form. At the top, there is a blue header with the AKC Fetch logo, which features a green and white dog's head inside a circular emblem with the text "AKC FETCH" and "AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB". Below the logo, the title "AKC FETCH TEST SUMMARY" is displayed in bold blue text. A paragraph of text follows, explaining that judges are required to complete this online summary within 7 days of the test date. Below the text, there are four dark blue buttons with white text and a right-pointing arrow icon, representing the form's sections: "JUDGE INFO", "EVENT INFO", "DOG TESTING INFO", and "DISQUALIFICATIONS AND EXCUSALS".

### **Throwing the ball/bumper**

In Advanced and Retriever, the ball/bumper may be thrown or dropped. A Chuckit! may be used if the ball is thrown. A helper (provided by the handler) may throw the ball/bumper in Advanced and Retriever. Since most handlers will not be able to throw 70-80 ft., in most cases in Advanced and Retriever, the ball/bumper will be dropped by a helper (see videos).

In Novice and Intermediate, the handler may throw the ball. A Chuckit! may be used. A helper may throw for the handler.

If the handler throws 3 times and cannot get the ball on the course or to the minimum distance, the judge should have a helper throw, or the ball/bumper should be placed by the helper or judge.

**Indoor tests: when balls are thrown indoors, there is often a problem with the balls hitting walls, bouncing, etc. Balls may have rope handles to make them less likely to roll. Also, judges may decide to have helpers drop or place the balls/bumpers at indoor tests.**

### **Time to complete the retrieve**

The time it takes the dog to complete the retrieve is up to the discretion of the judge. However, once the dog stops working and is off-task, there are time limits to how long the dog can be off-task before it does not pass the test. See above- Dog not working, page 10.

### **Title, certificates**

Title certificates are sent to the dog owner by AKC when the Title Application, two passing Checklists, and fee are received. The club/host is not responsible for issuing certificates.

### **Title, requirements for,**

The AKC Fetch titles are designated by the suffixes FTN (Novice), FTI (Intermediate), FTA (Advanced), and FTR (Retriever).

**There can be no more than two events (each with its own event number) held by the same club/judge on the same day.**

**The dog must pass each test level two times at two separate events (two separate event numbers) under two different judges to earn a title.**

### **Fetch titles must be earned in order.**

This means a dog cannot start testing at the Advanced or Retriever level without having passed Novice and Intermediate.

Any dog regardless of experience must start at Novice and earn the Novice title before progressing to the next level, and so on.

Test passes will only count towards the current title the dog is working on achieving. If a test pass from a higher level is earned without having earned the previous level title, the pass will not count.

Con't.

## Title (requirements for), con't.

### How Passes Are Counted

- If the Novice test was only passed one time, and the handler went into the Intermediate test and passed, because Novice had not been passed twice, the Intermediate leg (if passed) would not count.
- Events #001 and #002 were offering all 4 levels of Fetch testing on the same day. There were two different judges. If the dog had two passes in Intermediate at Event #001 and Event #002, the dog could not be moved up to Advanced under the same event numbers. Dogs must pass twice under two different judges at two separate events (two separate event numbers).

The dog owner must submit the AKC Fetch Title application and Judge's Checklists from two passed tests along with the title processing fee to receive each title. The dog must be registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC number, a PAL number, or an AKC Canine Partners number.

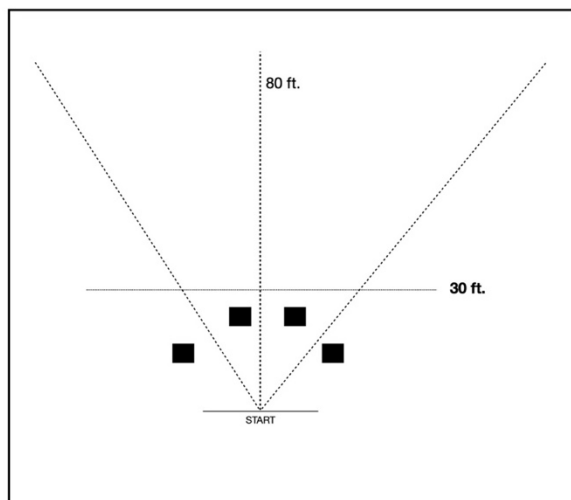
## Qualifications

**Judges:** The judges for AKC Fetch are AKC judges of any type or AKC Approved CGC Evaluators. To become AKC Fetch judges, both AKC judges and CGC Evaluators must complete the AKC Fetch online training and pass the online test. AKC CGC Approved Evaluators must have completed the CGC Evaluator approval process, complete the online training for CGC Evaluators, and passed the CGC Evaluator online test before getting approved as an AKC Fetch judge. For the CGC Evaluator application, see: [https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/visitor\\_catalog\\_class/show/810302](https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/visitor_catalog_class/show/810302)

**Helpers:** The assistants in the AKC Fetch test are referred to as "helpers." The helpers are selected by the judge or club. Helpers should be trained by the judge on how to set up the course and any other required roles (e.g., retrieve out-of-course balls, drop the bumpers, etc.)

## PART II. AKC Fetch Test

### NOVICE (FTN)



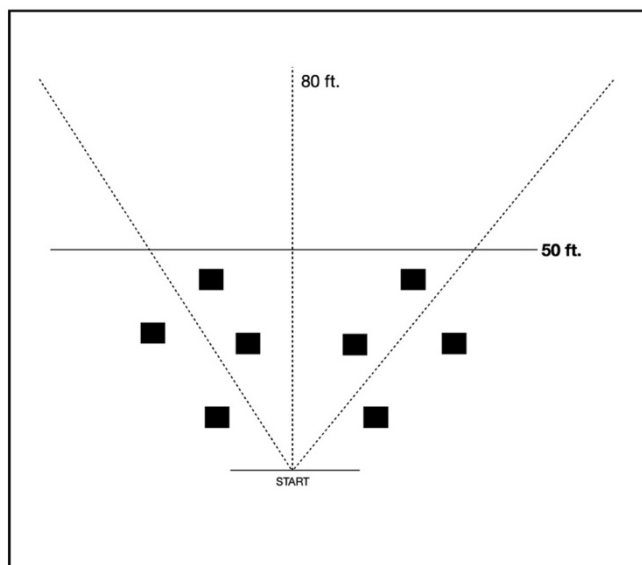
In the Novice Fetch test, the handler will throw an object—a ball, bumper, or toy, and the dog will retrieve from at least 30-ft.

- The ball (or bumper or toy) will be thrown between the obstacles.
- The handler (or helper) will throw 3 singles (in an order determined by the handler):
  - 1 to the left, 1 to the center, and 1 to the right as shown by the dotted lines in the diagram.
- The dog will be able to see the ball as it goes between the obstacles.
- The Novice course has 4 obstacles. If boxes are used, they should be about 14 inches or taller. One “fun” obstacle may be used such as a lawn chair or lawn ornament.
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one pass on Sunday to earn the title.

#### Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the handler throws the first ball, bumper, etc.
- **The handler will tell the judge the direction in which the dog will be sent (left, center or right).**
- In Novice, the handler may hold the collar until the ball is thrown, lands, and is dead.
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come within 2 steps of the handler. These may be large steps. The handler may take the ball.
- There should not be an extended game of tug when the dog returns the ball (a restart).

## INTERMEDIATE (FTI)



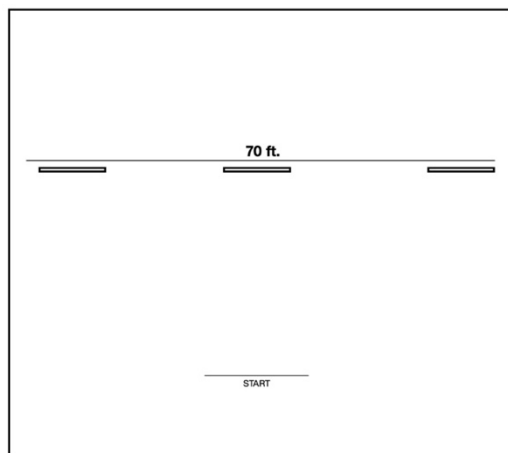
In the Intermediate Fetch test, the handler will throw an object—a ball, bumper, or toy, and the dog will retrieve from at least 50-ft.

- The ball (or bumper or toy) will be thrown between the obstacles.
- The handler (or helper) will throw 4 singles (in any order determined by the handler).
  - Retrieves are 1 each to the center, right and left, then one more to the right or left as shown by the dotted lines in the diagram.
- The dog will be able to see the ball as it goes between the obstacles.
- The Intermediate course has 8 obstacles. If boxes are used, they should be about 14 inches or taller. A maximum of two “fun” obstacles may be used such as lawn chairs, or lawn ornaments.
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one pass on Sunday to earn the title.

### Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the handler throws the first ball, bumper, etc.
- **The handler will tell the judge the direction in which the dog will be sent (left, center or right).**
- In Intermediate, the handler may hold the collar with 1 finger until the ball is thrown, lands, and is dead.
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come within 1 step of the handler. The handler may take the ball. There should not be an extended game of tug when the dog returns the ball.
- If the dog starts and then stops, the handler may resend the dog 2 times. (restarts)

## ADVANCED (FTA)



In the Advanced Fetch test, the dog will retrieve bumpers (or balls) from at least 70-ft. These are **marked retrieves** in which the dog can see a ball or bumper as it is dropped or thrown. The dog retrieves balls or bumpers that are behind blinds.

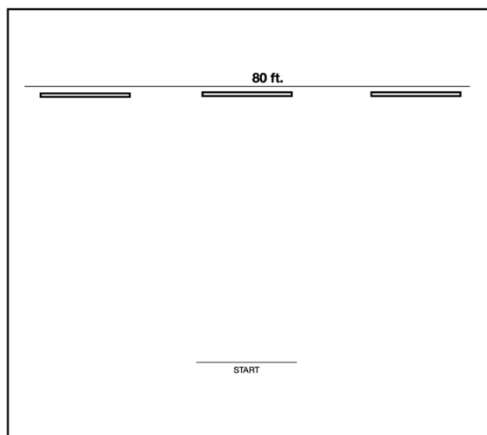
- The bumpers will be dropped behind the blinds by an event helper. The handler may request to throw the bumpers rather than have them dropped.
- The dog must do 2 singles and 2 doubles (the order of the singles and doubles and the retrieves will be determined by the handler).
  - 2 Singles: 1 to the center, and 1 to the right or left. These will go behind the blinds.
  - 2 Doubles: Bumpers for Doubles must be 2 different directions (e.g., 1 center, 1 left). They cannot be the same direction.
- The Advanced course has 3 blinds at least 24 inches tall and 10 ft. to 12 ft. long. Blinds may be no taller than 30 inches. See photos of blinds in the module, “Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses.”
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one on Sunday to earn the title.

### Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the helper begins to drop bumpers behind each of the blinds. The handler will tell the helper which blinds should have bumpers dropped behind them (e.g., for the Double, “right and center”, “left and right”, etc.)
- In Advanced, the handler may not hold the collar. The bumpers/balls must be dead before the handler sends the dog. **The handler will tell the judge to which blind the dog is being sent (left, center or right).**
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come close enough for the handler to take the bumper (or the dog delivers to hand).
- If the dog starts and then stops, the handler may resend the dog 1 time (a restart).



## RETRIEVER (FTR)



In the Retriever Fetch test, the dog will retrieve bumpers (or balls) from at least 80-ft. These are **marked retrieves** in which the dog can see a ball or bumper as it is dropped or thrown. The dog retrieves balls or bumpers that are behind blinds.

- The bumpers will be dropped behind the 3 blinds by an event helper. The handler may request to throw the bumpers rather than have them dropped.
- The dog must do 2 doubles and 1 triple (the order of the triple and doubles and the retrieves will be determined by the handler).
  - 2 Doubles: To the center, right or left behind the blinds. There must be 2 balls thrown in 2 different directions (e.g., they cannot both be thrown to the left).
  - 1 Triple: Must be 1 center, 1 right, 1 left (behind the blind).
- The Retriever course has 3 blinds at least 24 inches tall and 10 ft. to 12 ft. long. Blinds may not be taller than 30 inches. See photos of blinds in the module, "Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses."
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one on Sunday to earn the title.

### Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the helper begins to drop bumpers. For the Doubles, 2 bumpers are dropped/thrown; for the Triple, 3 bumpers are dropped/thrown.
- In the Retriever test, the handler may not hold the collar. The bumpers/balls must be dead before the handler sends the dog. **The handler will tell the judge to which blind the dog is being sent (left, center or right).**
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come close enough for the handler to take the bumper (or the dog delivers to hand).
- If the dog starts and then stops, the handler may resend the dog 1 time (a restart).

## Part III. AKC Fetch Test Summary Chart

### AKC Fetch

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Retriever</b>
<b>Format of test</b>	In-person only	In-person	In-person	In-person
<b>Who may test?</b>	CGC Evaluator or AKC judges (who complete training)	Same as Novice	Same as Novice	Same as Novice
<b>Distance</b>	30 ft.	50 ft.	70 ft.	80 ft.
<b>Number of retrieves</b>	3 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to left, 1 to right).	4 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to left, 1 to right, then 1 more to left or right - handler's choice).	2 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to right or left)  2 doubles  All behind blinds	2 doubles  1 triple  All behind blinds
<b>Number of obstacles</b>	4	8	3 blinds	3 blinds
<b>Nature of obstacles</b>	May be boxes/ crates, etc., items found in yard such as a lawn chair	May be boxes/ crates, etc., items found in yard such as a lawn chair	3 blinds at least 24- inches tall, no taller than 30 inches	3 blinds at least 24-inches tall, no taller than 30 inches
<b>Thrower/Helper to Drop Bumpers</b>	Dog owner or helper if needed.	Dog owner or helper if needed.	Event helper drops bumpers behind blinds. May throw.	Event helper drops bumpers behind blinds. May throw.
<b>Restarts</b>	2 restarts	2 restarts	1 restart	1 restart
<b>The Send</b>	Ball must stop moving before send- may hold collar	Ball must stop moving before send - may hold collar w/ 1 finger	Bumper must land- no holding collar	Bumper must land- no holding collar
<b>Return to Handler</b>	Must come within 2 large steps of handler, may give or drop	Must come within 1 large step of handler, may give or drop	Handler must be able to take from dog, or dog delivers to hand	Handler must be able to take from dog, or dog delivers to hand
<b>Retrieving objects</b>	Tennis ball or equivalent, bumper, handler's choice toy— wubba, etc.	Tennis ball or equivalent, bumper, toy	Bumper  May use tennis ball or equivalent	Bumper  May use tennis ball or equivalent
<b>Number of times to pass</b>	2	2	2	2
<b>Title letters</b>	FTN	FTI	FTA	FTR

## Part IV. Scoring the AKC Fetch Test



### AKC Fetch Novice Checklist

Event Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog call name \_\_\_\_\_

Dog AKC number \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Club (or Judge if no Club) \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOVICE - 30 ft. - 3 single retrieves

#### MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST

	Pass	Needs training
<b>1. Dog under control at the start line</b> (owner may hold collar)		
<b>2. Handler throws 3 singles - (center, left, right) in any order</b>  <b>To CENTER</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball w/in 2 steps		
<b>To LEFT</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball w/in 2 steps		
<b>To RIGHT</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball w/in 2 steps		
<b>3. Does not qualify</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Runs off course <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates/defecates on course <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal <input type="checkbox"/> Does not finish in time <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Judge name \_\_\_\_\_ Judge number \_\_\_\_\_

Judge signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## AKC Fetch Intermediate Checklist

Event Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog call name \_\_\_\_\_

Dog AKC number \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Club (or Judge if no Club) \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERMEDIATE- 50 ft. - 4 single retrieves**  
**MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST**

	Pass	Needs training
<b>1. Dog under control at the start line</b> (owner may hold collar w/ 1 finger)		
<b>2. Handler throws 4 singles - (center, left, right) in any order, then throws another right or left</b>  <b>To CENTER</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step)		
<b>To LEFT</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step)		
<b>To RIGHT</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step)		
<b>To LEFT or RIGHT</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step)		
<b>3. Does not qualify</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Off course <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates/defecates on course <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal to retrieve <input type="checkbox"/> Does not finish in time <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Judge name \_\_\_\_\_ Judge number \_\_\_\_\_

Judge signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## AKC Fetch Advanced Checklist

Event Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog call name \_\_\_\_\_

Dog AKC number \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Club (or Judge if no Club) \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVANCED- 70 ft. - 2 Double retrieves + 2 single retrieves

#### MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST

	Pass	Needs training
<b>1. Dog under control at the start line</b> (owner may not hold collar)		
<b>2. Handler throws 2 singles - (1 center, 1 left or right) in any order, then throws another right or left)</b> <b>To CENTER - single</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball to handler _____		
<b>To LEFT or RIGHT - single</b> Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball to handler _____		
<b>3. Handler throws 2 Doubles - Double #1</b> Dog goes to <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Picks up <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Returns to handler <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No		
<b>Double #2</b> Dog goes to <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Picks up <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Returns to handler <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No		
<b>4. Does not qualify</b> [ ] Off course [ ] Urinates/defecates on course [ ] Refusal to retrieve [ ] Does not finish in time [ ] Other:		

Judge name \_\_\_\_\_ Judge number \_\_\_\_\_

Judge signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## AKC Fetch Retriever Checklist

Event Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog call name \_\_\_\_\_

Dog AKC number \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Club (or Judge if no Club) \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

**RETRIEVER - 80 ft. - 1 Triple retrieve + 2 Double retrieves - any order**

**MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST**

	Pass	Needs training
<b>1. Dog under control at the start line</b> (owner may not hold collar)		
<b>2. Handler throws 1 Triple - Ball #1 [ ]Left [ ]Right [ ]Center</b> Dog goes to <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Picks up <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Returns to handler <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No ----- <b>Triple - Ball #2 [ ]Left [ ]Right [ ]Center</b> Dog goes to <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Picks up <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Returns to handler <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No ----- <b>Triple - Ball #3 [ ]Left [ ]Right [ ]Center</b> Dog goes to <b>Ball #3</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Picks up <b>Ball #3</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Returns to handler <b>Ball #3</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No		
<b>3. Handler throws 2 Doubles - Double #1 (must have Yes for Ball 1 &amp; 2 to pass)</b> Dog goes to <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Picks up <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Returns to handler <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No		
<b>Double #2 (must have Yes for Ball 1 &amp; 2 to pass)</b> Dog goes to <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Picks up <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No Returns to handler <b>Ball #1</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No <b>Ball #2</b> [ ]Yes [ ]No		
<b>4. Does not qualify</b> [ ] Off course [ ] Urinates/defecates on course [ ] Refusal to retrieve [ ] Other:		

Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Judge number \_\_\_\_\_

Judge signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PART V. Flow of Forms at Fetch Test

### Flow of Forms at an AKC Fetch Test

Forms are at [www/akc.org/fetch](http://www/akc.org/fetch) under "Fetch Judge Resources"

Registration table	Judge/handler At a Dog's Test	Immediately After a Dog's Test	Within 7 days
<p>Collect entry fees for onsite entries.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Handler and dog are called to the test and handler gives completed Checklist to Judge.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Judges completes <i>Record of All Dogs Tested</i> (1 form) for the dog that was tested.</p>	<p>Complete the online Test Summary Form within 7 days so titles can be processed.</p>
<p>Give the handler the "Checklist" to give to Judge.</p> <p><b>TIME SAVING TIP:</b> Make copies of 1 Checklist on which you have filled out the Event #, Club/Judge, City/state, and at the bottom the Judge name, number, and date. Then make multiple copies from this one. THE JUDGE WILL NOT SIGN THE FORM UNTIL THE DOG HAS BEEN TESTED.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Handler and dog complete the test.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Judge fills out the Checklist while observing test.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>The info on this form is only handler name, dog call name and breed, and pass/yes or no.</p> <p>The judge may choose to record it on a "scratch sheet" and transfer to the form after all dogs are tested.</p> <p>Another option is to have the registration helper fill out the form at the registration table leaving the Pass/Yes-no for the judge to fill out.</p> <p>-----</p>	
<p><b>CUSTOMER SERVICE TIP:</b> Make copies of TITLE APPLICATION FORM to have at the Registration table.</p>		<p>After a dog completes the test, Judge gives the handler the Checklist.</p> <p>-----</p>	
<p>This will prevent dog owners from having to go home and look for this form on the web.</p>		<p>Give ribbons to handlers who pass.</p>	

[fetch@akc.org](mailto:fetch@akc.org)

<https://www.akc.org/fetch>

