

Sample WC Application Form

The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Working Certificate requires the following:

1. A land single retrieve of 50 yards in light cover.
2. Back-to-back singles or a double in the water to prove willingness to re-enter the water. One bird should be retrieved in swimming water if possible.
3. The dog is not required to be steady or deliver to hand. The judge(s) may designate an area for delivery.
4. The dog should not be gun shy.

I certify that the following dog has completed the above requirements on this date: _____.

 JUDGE SIGNATURE

 AKC judge's number/LRC Director Date

 JUDGE SIGNATURE

 AKC judge's number/LRC Director Date

 NAME OF DOG

 AKC# SEX

 BIRTH DATE COLOR

 OWNER NAME(S):

 ADDRESS

 E-MAIL OR TELEPHONE #

Steps In Planning A WC

If you need any further information regarding the program or to process a request for a Working Certificate, please contact the LRC Inc WC Coordinator:

1. Appoint a committee for the event.
2. Obtain copies of the WC brochure.
3. Select and confirm the judge(s). **BE SURE THE JUDGE(S) HAS COPIES OF THE WC BROCHURE IN ADVANCE OF THE TEST.**
4. Make arrangements for the necessary land, birds, gunners, work crews and equipment.
5. Prepare a catalogue or official list of dogs running the test that includes space for the judge's name, qualifications and signature.
6. Be ready to provide owners whose dogs pass with the information they need to acquire an official LRC, Inc. Working Certificate.



**The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.
 Working Certificate Program**

The LRC, Inc. has initiated several changes regarding the awarding of Working Certificates. This brochure reflects the Club's present policy.

Effective January 1, 1992 LRC, Inc. will allow any AKC registered Labrador Retriever which meets the performance requirement to receive the Certificate. It is no longer necessary to be a member of LRC, Inc. or to have a conformation or obedience championship to obtain the Certificate.

When LRC, Inc. was founded in 1931, the members intended the Working Certificate program to parallel The Kennel Club in England's requirements that a Sporting dog pass a working test before earning its conformation title. The American Kennel Club does not require working aptitude evaluations for Sporting Dogs who earn their conformation titles.

The Working Certificate program provides a way for Labrador owners to experience and develop an appreciation for the natural working abilities of their dogs without the lengthy and expensive commitment the competitive performance events require.

The Board of Directors of the LRC, Inc. felt it was necessary to encourage "grass roots" involvement in the Working Certificate program by making it more widely available to the Labrador loving public. The Working

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Certificate program provides a way for Labrador owners to experience and develop an appreciation for the natural working abilities of their dogs without the lengthy and expensive commitment the competitive performance events require.

Performance Requirements for an LRC, Inc. Working Certificate (LRC Inc By-Laws, Article VI, Sections 2&3)

To be eligible for a Working Certificate a Labrador Retriever must demonstrate the following:

1. The dog is not gun shy.
2. The dog will retrieve a shot bird at 50 yards on land in light cover.
3. The dog will retrieve two ducks from swimming water (if available) in immediate succession, to prove willingness to re-enter the water.
4. Steadiness is not required, so a dog may be held on the line.
5. These requirements may be satisfied by completing a WC test held by a regional club; by acquiring an AKC Junior Hunter (or higher) title; by completing land and water back-to-back series in an AKC licensed field trial; or by completing successfully one AKC hunt test provided that the dog shall have met the requirements set forth above. The owner of the dog is responsible for making arrangements with the hunt test/field trial judges and the hosting club BEFORE the test/trial, and for providing a form (see sample at the end of the brochure) for their signature to verify the "pass" upon completion of the test.

Important Guidelines for the Evaluation of a Dog's Performance in a Working Certificate Test:

1. Although delivery to hand is not required, the word "retrieve" in the performance criteria means that the birds should be returned to the handler. Accordingly, it is

suggested that an area of delivery within easy reach of the handler be established by the judges before the test.

2. The WC is not a marking test and it is not to indicate the extent of training the dog has received, so the following should be considered:
 - a. In the land test, the bird should fall in light cover.
 - b. Water tests should be set up to show courage to re-enter the water. Angled entries, excessive distances in the water, and "lines" set far back from the water are to be discouraged.
 - c. One bird should be retrieved from swimming water if at all possible.
 - d. Tests are generally run on pheasant and ducks, but pigeons and ducks are acceptable. AKC recommendations and local rules on the use of live birds should be followed.
 - e. The dog need not be steady; the collar may be held until the dog is sent to retrieve. Line manners are not to be judged. As long as the bird is delivered to the area of the handler, the exercise is marked as a completion.

Who Can Judge a Working Certificate Test?

Any Director of the LRC, Inc., or any judge of an AKC licensed field trial (need not be a point judge; may have judged only a minor stake,) or any judge of an AKC licensed hunting retriever test may officiate at a Working Certificate Test. Only one judge is needed; two are permitted.

Who May Hold a WC Test?

Any local Labrador Retriever club or other organized group may sponsor a WC test as long as the judge(s) meet the LRC, Inc. requirements for such a test. Tests for individuals may be set up if the judge, gunners and required facilities are agreeable

and no other group testing is available. Dogs competing in hunt test or field trials may also qualify for a WC if prior arrangements have been made with the judges and the hosting club for approval and certification.

Which Dogs Are Eligible To Receive a Working Certificate?

Any AKC registered Labrador Retriever which successfully completes the Working Test must provide the LRC, Inc. with the requested verification materials and fee in order to receive an official Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Working Certificate. It is not necessary to be a member of LRC, Inc. or to have a championship in order to obtain the Working Certificate.

How To Obtain A WC:

The following material is required to process a request for a Working Certificate:

1. Copy of dog's registration certificate. If you wish the WC to reflect current AKC titles or a CGC or LRC Inc CC, then copies of the title certificates must also be enclosed.
2. Copy of the AKC Junior Hunter title certificate OR a copy of the judge(s) sheet showing completion of the test and signed by the judge(s) indicating his/her qualifications. See sample form in this brochure.
3. Owner's name and current address
4. Check to LRC, Inc. for \$25.00.

Mail the requested material to:

Julie Kirk

**P.O. Box 1020, • Benton City, WA 99320
(509) 588-6712**

E-mail: redwick@televar.com

Please allow four weeks for processing. Working Certificates are done on an individual basis in order to ensure quality and this takes time. The certificates are well suited for framing. Funds generated by this program help support the increasing variety of LRC, Inc. activities.