

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. **The WC is A TEST OF NATURAL RETRIEVING INSTINCT. It is not a marking test. It is not to indicate the extent of training the dog has received.**
2. 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. One bird may be a shot flyer if safe and feasible.

3. In the land test, the bird should fall in light cover.

4. 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.

5. 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. Handling is not permitted.

6. 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.

7. There is no dress code; white for gunners and handlers is traditional. Verbal calls and/or shot(s) may be used to get the dog’s attention, shot timing to be at the judge(s) discretion. Duck calls & decoys are not to be used. Wingers are at the club’s discretion. Gunners are to remain visible.

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 regional 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.

Which Dogs Are Eligible To Receive a Working Certificate?

The owner of 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**

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.