

**The Leonberger Club would like to thank the Newfoundland Club for allowing us to adopt their Water test exercises as a guide.**

## **5 WATER TEST EXERCISES**

### **5.1 Judges Notes**

The aim of these exercises is to demonstrate the dogs ability to perform specific tasks that display the Leonberger's talent for Water Rescue work.

The exercises are divided into three sections of increasing difficulty. As the level of difficulty increases, so too do the standards of performance expected. Thus dogs performing at Beginners level should be regarded in terms of their finish and precision than dogs performing at Senior level, but should still demonstrate the ability to perform the specific exercise.

Judges will often be required to exercise their discretion in the judging of the exercises, as there are variables that cannot be controlled or given hard and fast rules.

Prevailing conditions at the test site must be taken into consideration by judges. What may be a safe action in flat calm may not be safe in a three-foot swell. For example, where a dog must travel alongside the boat, in rough conditions the dog would be expected to be a greater distance from the boat than in calm conditions when the dog may be quite close. Or, where the oars are used on a boat, the dog should not swim in such a position as to endanger or be endangered by the oars.

Consideration should be given to the unpredictability of the sea or lake edges. For Example, handlers are penalised for entering the water. While there is a duty of care on the handler to position themselves so that they are not caught by waves washing up, the event of a freak wave that travels further up the beach than may reasonably have been predicted may require leniency.

Handlers may move along the shore within the test area only. Where an article drifts out of the test area, the dog is expected to return to the handler in the test area. Dogs should not head for the closest point of land. (the closest point of land may be an unsafe site).

**Lack of Control:** Without limiting the actions this covers, it may include such things as; excessive barking, extreme difficulty in having the dog ready to start an exercise, leaving the on-shore test area, or any action which indicates that the handler does not have the dog under control.

**Physical correction:** Where the handler comes into physical contact with the dog on order to direct, re-direct, restrain or otherwise control a dog, note the accidental contact between dog and handler owing to prevailing conditions does not constitute physical correction, but there is a duty of care on the handler to take reasonable steps to ensure this does not happen i.e. the distance between dog and handler