

North American Working Bouvier Association

Carting Trial Regulations

Revised July 15, 2015

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Guidelines	3
Titles	3
Awards	4
Entry Requirements	4
Entries	5
Carting Trial Committee	5
Carting Trial Secretary	6
Stewards	6
Veterinarian	7
Judging	7
Equipment	8
Maneuvering Course	8
Freight Haul	10
Scoresheet	11
Entry Form	12
Release Form	13

NAWBA CARTING TRIAL REGULATIONS

Introduction

The Bouvier des Flandres has historically functioned as a general farm dog, protecting the farm and family, herding cattle, and as a draft dog. During World War I, Bouviers were used to carry supplies to the front lines, deliver messages, detect the living-wounded on battlefields, and pull ambulance carts.

The NAWBA carting trial is a set of exercises designed to demonstrate the abilities of the Bouvier des Flandres to work as a team with its handler. The dog should show enjoyment and willingness to maneuver a cart through obstacles and haul freight for a distance. These exercises are meant to show the skills and training needed in a real working situation. However, never become so serious that the fun goes out of working for either you or your Bouvier.

Guidelines

It is desirable that a carting clinic or other form of carting education be held in conjunction with a trial.

North American Working Bouvier Association Competitive Event Policy and Regulations shall apply to all persons and dogs except as these NAWBA Carting Trial Regulations direct otherwise.

All entrants and officials should be familiar with both the NAWBA Carting Trial Regulations and NAWBA Competitive Event Policy and Regulations.

NAWBA invites any dog to enter a NAWBA carting trial. This includes dogs from other breeds as well as mixed breeds with an interest in carting.

The dogs should be of condition to perform all exercises.

At the annual NAWBA Championships, the carting trial may be Bouvier only at the discretion of the Championship committee.

Dogs with a Draft Dog title plus passing the Aptitude Test level of the NAWBA Character Test may be eligible to enter the NAWBA Championships Conformation Competition in the Working Class.

All entrants must be on time with their equipment for the judge's equipment check.

No food or toys are allowed on the courses.

Handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. All dogs must be kept on lead or crated at all times except while competing.

Exercising of dogs within the designated trial area is prohibited.

Titles

Novice Draft Dog: A dog with a qualifying score in the novice trial shall earn the NAWBA title Novice Draft Dog, to be abbreviated NDD.

Draft Dog: A dog with a qualifying score in the advanced trial shall earn the NAWBA title Draft Dog, to be abbreviated DD.

Brace Novice Draft Dog: Dog teams with a qualifying score in the Novice trial shall earn the NAWBA title Brace Novice Draft Dog, to be abbreviated BNDD. Both dogs must have at least a Novice Draft Dog title to compete in Brace Novice Draft Dog.

Brace Draft Dog: Dog teams with a qualifying score in the Advanced trial shall earn the NAWBA title Brace Draft Dog, to be abbreviated BDD. Both dogs must have a Draft Dog title to participate in Brace Draft Dog.

Advanced Novice Draft Dog: A dog with qualifying scores in 5 novice trials (at least 3 must be NAWBA) shall earn the NAWBA title Advanced Novice Draft Dog, to be abbreviated ANDD.

Advanced Novice Brace Draft Dog: Dogs with qualifying scores in 5 novice brace trials (at least 3 must be NAWBA) shall earn the NAWBA title Advanced Novice Brace Draft Dog, to be abbreviated ANBDD

Master Draft Dog: A dog with qualifying scores in 5 advanced trials (at least 3 must be NAWBA) shall earn the NAWBA title Master Draft Dog, to be abbreviated MDD.

Grand Master Draft Dog: A dog with qualifying scores in 10 advanced trials (at least 5 must be NAWBA) shall earn the NAWBA title Grand Master Draft Dog, to be abbreviated GMDD.

Master Brace Draft Dog: Dogs with qualifying scores in 5 advanced brace trials (at least 3 must be NAWBA) shall earn the NAWBA title Master Brace Draft Dog, to be abbreviated MBDD.

Grand Master Brace Draft Dog: Dogs with qualifying scores in 10 advanced brace trials (at least 5 must be NAWBA) shall earn the NAWBA title Grand Master Brace Draft Dog, to be abbreviated GMBDD.

Awards

Awards shall only be given for qualifying scores.

In accordance with NAWBA's Competitive Event Policy and Regulations there will be first, second and third place in each class and High in Trial for Bouviers and first, second and third place in each class and High in Trial for other breeds.

A certificate of title will be mailed to all those with a qualifying score signed by the NAWBA President.

During the annual NAWBA Championship the winner at the highest level (advanced) of the carting competitions for that year's championships will earn the right to use the title 2XXX NAWBA Carting Champion. This is in accordance with NAWBA's Competitive Event Policy and Regulations.

Entry Requirements

Definitions: "Dog" applies to both sexes. "Team" applies to dog and handler. All terms and instructions that refer to a single dog also apply to a brace.

Eligible dogs: The Carting Trial may be open to all breeds & mixed breeds. Preference will be given to Bouvier des Flandres.

Age: The Carting Trial may be entered by dogs 24 months or older on the day of the Carting Trial.

Bitches in Season: Bitches in season may compete but must go after all other dogs and must go last in the freight haul. They must wear panties so they do not mark the test area for the next day trial. They are not allowed on the trial site beforehand.

Classes: There are four classes.

Novice Carting: The Novice Carting class shall be open to all dogs who have not earned the title and Novice Draft Dog title holders who wish to compete in the same level before earning the Draft Dog title.

Advanced Carting: The Advanced Carting class shall be open to all dogs sufficiently trained to work off lead. A dog does not have to have the Novice title to compete in Advanced.

Dogs that have earned the Draft Dog title may continue to compete in Advanced

Brace Novice Carting: The Brace Novice Carting class shall be open to all dogs who have not earned the title and Brace Novice Draft Dog title holders who wish to compete in the same level before earning the Brace Draft Dog title. Both dogs must have first earned the Novice Draft Dog title individually.

Brace Advanced Carting: The Brace Advanced Carting class shall be open to all dogs who have earned the Draft Dog title. Dogs that have earned the Brace Draft Dog title may continue to compete in Brace Advanced.

Ineligible Dogs: No dogs owned or co-owned by the judge or any member of his/her immediate family may compete.

Entries

Handlers entering the carting trial agree to abide by the North American Working Bouvier Association's Competitive Event Policy and Regulations and the NAWBA Carting Trial Regulations.

The handler enters the dog at his/her own risk and declares that their dog is healthy and fit to carry out both the maneuver course and the freight haul. If it appears to any official before or during the trial that a dog is not fit enough the dog will not be allowed to continue. The handler also declares that their harness and draft rig are appropriate and safe for the dog.

Maximum number of entries shall be twenty. The Carting Trial Committee may further limit entries. The trial secretary will accept entries until the closing date. When the advertised number of entries has been received, additional entries received up to the closing date shall be put on an alternate list. Entries will be accepted in the order received. Bouviers will be given preference over other breeds.

The carting trial secretary shall notify all entries of their position in the trial and if they are on the alternate list. Alternates may attend and compete, depending on their position on the alternate list, if a team does not attend or is unable to compete, thereby leaving an entry slot open. Entrants who learn they will not be able to attend must contact the trial secretary immediately in order that entrants on the alternate list may attend.

After the closing date, no entry fees will be refunded unless an alternate takes their place.

If space permits, day of entries will be allowed at the discretion of the trial chair and secretary.

Moveups will be allowed on the day of the trial at least 30 minutes before the trial begins.

Carting Trial Committee

The Carting Trial Committee shall consist of at least three people. As per the NAWBA Competitive Event Policy and Regulations one member of the Trial Committee must be a NAWBA member.

Except for the Championship Carting Trial, the committee is responsible for obtaining NAWBA endorsement for the trial by contacting the Board of Directors as per the NAWBA Competitive Event Policy and Regulations.

They shall be responsible for everything pertaining to the event as per NAWBA Competitive Event Policy and Regulations. Except for the Championship Trial, NAWBA assumes no financial or other liability for the event.

The Trial Committee is responsible for setting up the Maneuvering Course and the Freight Haul.

The Trial Committee shall supply:

All necessary obstacles, signs, and distractions

Placement ribbons and optional trophies and/or prizes.

Tape measure

Stop watch

Identifying numbers (one for the handler and the same number for the cart)

Scale for weighing freight loads

First aid kit and cell phone for emergencies

Light weight item for the load/unload exercises, i.e. pillow or blanket

A diagram of the maneuvering course available to each handler and officials

Copies of the NAWBA Carting Trial Regulations and NAWBA's Competitive Event Policy and Regulations

Carting Trial Secretary

The Carting Trial Committee shall appoint a Carting Trial Secretary. The Carting Trial Secretary shall:

- Prepare a Premium to be mailed at least 6 weeks prior to the event.
- Accept all entries.
- Establish a running order
- Contact each entrant after the closing date, to verify the entry, the time of judging, the running order, directions to the site, and name of the judge.
- Prepare a catalog containing the name of the dog, registry and registration number, date of birth, name of breeder, sire, dam, name and address of owner.
- Prepare a score sheet for each entry (Two copies using carbon or NCR paper—original for NAWBA records and duplicate for entrant)

On the Day of the Event: The Carting Trial Secretary will:

- Have a copy of these NAWBA Carting Regulations and NAWBA Competitive Event Policy and Regulations available for use by entrants, committee, and judge.
- Have all original entry forms available.
- Record all scores in the Catalog
- At the conclusion of the trial, have qualifying, placement, award information, and awards ready.

Premium List: The Carting Trial Premium will contain the following:

- The statement “North American Working Bouvier Association Carting Trial.”
- A list of the members of the Carting Trial Committee including the Chairman's address and phone number and/or e-mail address
- The name, address, and phone number and e-mail address of the Carting Trial Secretary.
- The name of the judge with their state and breed affiliate
- The date, time and location of the Carting Trial
- The entry limits
- The closing date for the entry
- A list of awards or prizes
- The statement “Entrants are responsible for obtaining the NAWBA Carting Trial Regulations and NAWBA Competitive Event Policy and Regulations and being familiar with them” and give the web site where they are available
- An approved NAWBA entry form which includes the release form

Reporting Procedure: The Carting Trial Secretary shall send to the NAWBA Carting Committee Chair, within ten days following the Carting Trial, the following materials:

- Original Scoresheets
- Two catalogs marked with qualifying scores and placements, including the High In Trial.
- All completed entry forms.

The Carting Committee Chair or her designee shall send NAWBA title certificates to those who qualified after having them signed by the NAWBA President..

Stewards

The stewards will assist the judge as required and only act under the judge's instructions.

A steward will be assigned as a timer and to assist the judge as needed.

There shall be a sufficient number of stewards for the appropriate obstacles in the maneuvering course.
There shall be a lead steward to lead the freight haul course and set a brisk pace.
There shall be one steward for each team or one steward for every three teams (depending on traffic or other local situations) in the freight haul course for safety and to assist the judge as instructed.

Veterinarian

A veterinarian shall be on call and at a reasonable distance from the trial site.

Judging

Judges: Any qualified judge who is in good standing for other breed carting/draft tests/trials and agrees to follow the NAWBA Carting Trial Regulations and North American Working Bouvier Association's Competitive Event Policy and Regulations may judge at a NAWBA Carting Trial.

The judge shall act in an impartial, consistent and pleasant manner.

The judge's decisions are final in matters concerning the scoring and ability of the teams.
The judge is in charge of the Carting Trial area until the trial is over.

If the judge feels that the maneuvering and/or freight haul course is not safe or does not provide a smooth flow of obstacles he/she may make suggestions for improvement.
The judge may not add or delete any carting trial requirements.

Judging is based on completion of exercises, performance, attention, ability, and willingness of the dog. To obtain full points, the dog must respond promptly and correctly. The handler may walk next to, in front of, or behind the dog and may change positions. Reasonable and appropriate multiple commands, signals and encouragement are allowed. Frequent yelling or harsh reprimands are undesirable and may cause failure. The trial actually tests the handler and dog partnership, not just the capabilities of the dog.

For both the maneuvering course and the freight haul, any natural or unplanned distraction will be judged the same as the planned distractions.

To qualify the team must pass both the maneuvering course and the freight haul.
70 percent of the score is passing.

There is no time limit as long as the dog continues to work.
The maneuvering course will be timed. All ties will be decided by the time.

Double handling is not allowed.

Dogs not under control or with unsafe equipment will be dismissed.

Dogs that are lame, wearing bandages, have stitches or open sores will be dismissed.

The reason for dismissal of a dog must be stated on the score sheet.

The judge is encouraged to discuss the teams' performances with the handlers for educational purposes after the trial.

In the *Novice level*, all exercises are to be done on a loose lead, except stays.

In *Advanced* all exercises including the freight haul will be off lead.

Equipment

“Draft rig” applies to cart, wagon, or other appropriate wheeled apparatus that can carry the freight load. It must be equipped so that the draft rig cannot run up on the dog when hauling downhill.

The handler must provide their own draft rig, harness, freight load as listed under Freight Haul, and a means to secure the freight.

A well fitted buckle or snap collar, limited slip (martingale) collar, or slip collar may be used. Brace dogs may be coupled or uncoupled. E-collars, pinch/prong collars, and halti type collars are not permitted.

All equipment, including freight, will be presented one hour before the trial begins in the designated area. The same equipment will be used throughout the trial. The condition of the equipment is the responsibility of the handler. The judge may excuse a team from competition if the equipment is faulty or inadequate.

The Maneuvering Course

The maneuvering course may be set up in any order as long as it creates a smooth flow. The team will proceed through the course with the judge’s instructions and following signs. The course should be laid out on flat or nearly flat ground. It may include natural obstacles of the trial site, i.e. trees, fence, etc.

It must include:

Harness, hitching and inspection
At least one right and one left turn
360 degree circle in both directions
Weave
Low narrows
High narrows
Visual distraction
Object load with friendly stranger
Object unload with friendly stranger
Gate
Stays
Backup

Harness, Hitching, and Inspection

The steward brings the cart and harness to a place indicated by the Judge and the handler stands with the dog in front of the cart. At the judges command the handler will take the harness out of the cart and harness and hitch the dog. The shafts may be brought up to the dog or the dog may step through the shafts for hitching.

The handler then moves the dog a few feet forward for the judge to inspect the equipment for comfort and safety. The Judge may touch the dog and equipment during the inspection. The dog must be under control and should stand and accept harness, hitching and inspection without shyness, fear or aggression.

The team will then proceed thru the course following the judge’s instructions and signs.

Right and Left Turns 10 points total, 5 points each direction

There shall be at least one 90 degree right turn and at least one 90 degree left turn.

Circles 20 points total, 10 points each direction

There shall be a 360 degree circle to the right and to the left, can be around a pylon or other object. They may be at different spots in the course. They should be small circles, not large broad circles.

Weave 15 points

The team will weave through 4 pylons set in a straight line 8 feet apart.

Low narrows 10 points

The team will go through a low narrows, one foot wider than their cart or wagon and at least 5 feet long. It can be made of easily movable logs, PVC pipe, etc.

High narrows 10 points

The team will go through a high narrows 6 foot wide, at least 3 feet high and at least 8 foot long. It can be made of lattice, fencing, hay bales, etc.

Visual distraction 5 points

A ball or toy thrown, an umbrella opening, a plastic bag or towel waved, or an animal shaped toy on a rope pulled near the dog's path approximately 15 feet from the dog.

Object load 10 points

The team will halt; the dog may stand, sit or down stay. The steward will approach, shake hands with the handler and give him/her a light load, i.e. blanket, pillow, etc, and then leaves. The handler then secures the load in their cart and continues the course.

Object unload 10 points

After the load has been hauled to another part of the course, the team will stop. The dog may stand, sit or down stay. A steward will greet the handler and pet the dog. The handler will then unload the object and hand it to the steward, who will then leave. The team will then continue the course.

Gate *novice* 10 points , *advanced* 20 points

The gate must be 4 foot wide. It may be a real gate or a pole on 2 boxes or other objects 4 foot apart.

For novice the team will stop, the dog will stay in stand, sit or down position while the handler opens the gate. The handler will return to the dog and the team will walk through the gate. The dog will again stay in stand, sit or down position while the handler closes the gate and returns to the dog.

For advanced the team will stop, the dog will stay in stand, sit or down position while the handler opens the gate and goes through. The handler will then call the dog through the gate. The dog will again stay in stand, sit or down position while the handler closes the gate and returns to the dog.

Stays 10 points

For novice the dog will stay in stand, sit or down position while the handler walks approximately 25 feet forward turns and faces the dog for 2 minutes, then returns to heel position at the judge's command. The handler may go straight to heel position or walk around the dog and cart.

For advanced the dog will stay in stand, sit or down position while the handler walks to the designated out of site area. In 3 minutes at the judge's command a steward will tell the handler to return. The handler may go straight to heel position or walk around the dog and cart.

Backup 10 points

For novice the team will stop, a two foot marker will be placed next to the wheel, the dog will back the cart up two feet.

For advanced the team will stop, a four foot marker will be placed next to the wheel, the dog will back the cart up four feet.

The Freight Haul

The purpose of the Freight Haul is to show the dog's ability to haul freight over a distance with variable terrain and distractions. It will follow the conclusion of the maneuvering course. There may be a break at the judge's discretion.

The freight haul is a group exercise and may include novice and advanced in the same group. The judge may decide how many handler/dog teams in a group depending on the trial site. All teams must be in sight of the judge at all times. Bitches in season will go at the very end.

Freight Load

The freight load should weigh between 20 and 75 lbs.

Brace teams will haul between 40 and 150 lbs.

The handler will select the appropriate weight load for his/her draft rig, considering the age and size of the dog and the conditions of the trial site.

The handler must provide the freight load. It may be marked dumbbell weights, unopened bags of dog food, sand or other objects in a clearly marked, factory sealed container. A steward will weigh any freight material at the judge's discretion.

The freight load must be present at the equipment check in before the trial starts.

It is encouraged that you carry water for yourself and your dog, a repair kit, first aid supplies and any other equipment you feel necessary on the freight haul. These do not count as part of the weight of the freight load. These are items you should consider having at all times away from home, be it practice, a test/trial, farmers market, etc.

Freight Haul Course 50 points

The freight haul course will be approximately one mile long, ideally it should include variable surfaces, hills, and may include natural obstacles i.e. gates, bridges, trees, potholes, curbs, etc. Any dangerous obstacles such as unseen holes will be clearly marked. If there is a steep hill, the approach should be at an angle or zigzag. A bicycle rider, sounding a bell or horn, shall approach from behind and pass approximately five feet on the right of the teams. At a later spot the bicycle rider will approach from the front and pass approximately five feet on the right of the teams. If a bicycle is unavailable, a runner may be substituted and marked as such on the score sheets. The course should start and end in the same area. There is no time limit as long as the dogs continue to work.

The draft rigs and loads will be set at a distance apart so as not to interfere with each other. The dogs may have their harnesses on. At the judges command the handlers will hitch their dogs and load their freight. When everyone is ready the judge will have them move a short distance to the beginning of the freight haul course. They will go in catalog order, except in season bitches. The judge will observe the teams to make sure they are hitched correctly, the weight is not too heavy, and the load is balanced and secured. The dog's safety is of the utmost importance. The handler may rebalance or re-secure the load at this time with point deductions.

At the judges command the lead steward will start the course. The teams will follow in catalog order with an assigned steward. The judge may allow the teams to find their position within the group according to each teams working speed. Each team must stay behind the lead steward and within sight of the judge. The judge may call for a halt or rest break. If equipment breaks and the handler can repair it on his/her own within 10 minutes the team may continue. While the equipment is being repaired the other teams will have a rest break. With permission of the judge, a handler may help the dog move the rig over an obstacle such as a curb.

At the end of the freight haul the judge shall watch as the dogs are unhitched from their draft rigs. The dogs should remain under control. When all are unhitched the judge will say that the exercise is finished. At that time the Advanced handlers will put their lead on the dog.

North American Working Bouvier Association Carting Scoresheet

Entry No. _____ Breed _____ Time: _____

Cart Width _____ Freight Load Weight _____ Class _____

Exercise	Disqualifying	Point Deduction	Maximum Points	Deductions	Score
Harness, Hitching & Inspection	Dog out of control Panics or fights cart Handler does not properly harness or hitch the dog	Resists hitching Uncomfortable with cart Breaks stay command	20		
Right Turn – 90 Degree		Lacks smoothness Too wide or cuts corner Resists direction. Tight leash	5		
Left Turn – 90 Degree		Lacks smoothness, Too wide or cuts corner Resists direction. Tight leash	5		
Right 360 Degree Circle	Goes wrong direction. Fails to make full circle.	Tight leash. Wider circle.	10		
Left 360 Degree Circle	Goes wrong direction. Fails to make full circle.	Tight leash. Wider circle.	10		
Weave	Does not complete Knocks over cones/posts	Bumps cones/posts. Tight leash	15		
Low Narrows	Refusal. Dog or cart bumps narrows more than 2 times.	Carts bumps sides. Tight leash	10		
High Narrows	Refusal. Dog or cart bumps narrows more than 2 times.	Carts bumps sides. Tight leash	10		
Visual Distraction	Dog uncontrollably moves toward or away from distraction	Shies or stops but recovers	5		
Object Load with Friendly Stranger	Aggression/extreme shyness when greeted. Does not stop for load.	Moves while being greeted or loading.	10		
Object Unload with Friendly Stranger	Aggression/extreme shyness when greeted/patted. Load fell out of rig. Does not stop for unload.	Moves while being greeted or unloading.	10		
Gate	Knocks down gate or refuses	Breaks stay at gate Hits posts with cart Backs up to clear gate. Tight leash	10/20		
Stay	Doesn't stay	Extra commands. Dog barks or whines. Changes position (e.g. from down to sit/stand)	10		
Backup	Doesn't back required distance Excessive hovering to force back-up	Doesn't back straight Dog turns while backing Tight leash	10		
Total Maneuvering	Qualifying: Novice 98 Qualifying: Advanced 105		140/150		

Freight Haul (Qualifying 35)	Dog urinates or defecates more than once on freight haul. Handler does not clean up. Equipment breaks and can not be repaired within 10 minutes. Passes lead steward.	Load unbalanced & needs to be repositioned. Dog rig bumps object. Leash guidance. Slow to follow commands.	50		
-------------------------------------	---	--	-----------	--	--

Total Points			190/200		
---------------------	--	--	----------------	--	--

Mandatory Failure	Dog does not complete course or out of control. Aggression/threatening behavior Dog fouls maneuvering course Turns over cart				
-------------------	---	--	--	--	--

Qualified No Yes

Judges Signature: _____ Date: _____

REGISTRATION AND RELEASE FORM

EVENT DATE AND LOCATION

DOG'S NAME: _____

REGISTRY: _____

REGISTRATION NO. _____

BREED IF OTHER THAN BOUVIER: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ SEX: _____

SIRE: _____

DAM: _____

BREEDER: _____

OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CLASS ENTERED:

NOVICE ADVANCED

NOVICE BRACE ADVANCED BRACE

WIDTH OF DRAFT RIG IN INCHES _____

ENTRY FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH THE RELEASE FORM ON THE BACK SIGNED.
ANY ENTRIES RECEIVED WITHOUT THE SIGNED RELEASE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

ENTRY FEE \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO _____

RELEASE FORM

Please read and sign the following disclaimer as a precondition to entering any dog in a NAWBA sponsored event.

It is understood that every dog at this event will at all times be in the care and control of the dog's handler. It is further understood that the undersigned agrees to be fully responsible for the actions of his/her dog(s) while on trial grounds. I agree to hold the North American Working Bouvier Association, and the event giving club and their directors, officers, members, volunteers, and judge, the owner and or leaser of the premises HARMLESS for any loss or injury that may have allegedly been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by any act of my dog(s) while on trial premises. I hereby assume all responsibility and liability for such claims.. I further relinquish all claims and agree to hold the North American Working Bouvier Association, and the event giving club, their officers, directors, members, volunteers and judge, the owner and or leaser of the premises HARMLESS for any loss or injury (including death) to myself or to my dog which may have allegedly been caused directly or indirectly to myself or my dog(s) during participation in this trial.

I agree to abide by the North American Working Bouvier Association Competitive Event Policy and Regulations and the NAWBA Carting Regulations.

I certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. I further certify the handler and dog entered is of sound health and condition to complete the trial including the one mile freight haul.

Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

Date: _____