

Guide for Calling Stewards at a Water Test

Introduction

This document provides guidelines to stewards who are callers at a Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) water test. It applies to the Water Dog (junior), Water Rescue Dog (senior), and Water Rescue Dog X (excellent) level of testing.

Judge's directions take precedence over anything presented here. Only a judge can give directions to stewards. Exhibitors are not allowed to instruct stewards. If an exhibitor has a request such as, "Say Cookie! Cookie!" when calling her dog, politely ask her to talk to the judges about it.

Be assured that no steward will be blamed for a dog's failure. If an unusual problem happens, then the judges can decide whether the working team will redo an exercise.

Purpose of Water Tests

The NCA water tests are a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the abilities of purebred Newfoundland dogs in an aquatic environment. Historically, the Newfoundland has functioned as a working companion to humans in draft and water rescue work. Members of the breed have participated in many heroic water rescues.

NCA water tests are not a competition; rather, they demonstrate natural ability and skills acquired through training, and they emphasize teamwork between dog and handler in simulated work and rescue situations.

Water Dog Exercises

The Water Dog (WD, also known as junior) test has 6 exercises. To earn the WD title, the working team must pass all 6 exercises. In two of the exercises, a calling steward is needed.

Take a Line

Overview

Take a Line is the 4th exercise in the WD test. This exercise demonstrates the dog's willingness to take a line to a stranger in the water. The exercise is finished as soon as the steward holds up the line that the dog brought, and the judge blows the whistle.

Part 1: Greet the Dog and Swim into Position

The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. On the direction of the judge, you will walk up to the dog, pet him briefly, and ask his name. Say something like, "Hi Fido! Are you going to help me today?"

Then, offer a nice "Good Luck!" to the handler and swim away from shore into position at the center shore marker and the 50' water marker.

Once you are in place look at the judges to see if they want to reposition you in the water. The judge will ask if you are ready, then ask the handler if they are ready.

Part 2: Call the Dog Begin calling as soon as the judge signals for the exercise to begin.

Call loudly and calmly to the dog by name. Give encouragement like, “Good girl! Come help me! Bring me the line!”

Gently splash the water while calling. Pay close attention to the dog and tone down or ramp up your calling based on the dog’s performance.

Note Use the dog’s name and use the same manner of calling for each dog.

This is not a rescue scenario. Do not act panicked or thrash wildly in the water screaming, “Save me! Save me!”

Tip To be a good caller, splash the water at a point parallel to shore next to you instead of in front of you. This splash point helps to coax the dog to swim closer, which becomes important if the dog suddenly turns away at the last second.

Part 3: Hold Up the Line Without taking a swimming stroke, stretch and grab the line as soon as you can. Hold it in the air for the judge to see. Keep showing the line until you hear the judge’s whistle indicating the end of the exercise.

Don’t take the line from the dog’s mouth and let the dog swim back to shore.

Once the exercise is finished, swim back to shore on your own. Do not hitch a ride back with the dog. If the dog gets distracted by the local duck or a swimmer in the distance, guide him back to shore.

Tow a Boat

Overview

Tow a Boat is the 5th exercise in the WD test. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog's ability to:

- Take direction and swim to the boat upon command
- Take the bumper or line in his mouth from the calling steward
- Tow the boat to shore until it touches bottom

Three conditions are required to trigger the end of the exercise:

- The boat must touch bottom
- The dog must have the bumper in his mouth
- The line must be tight

If the dog drops the bumper, then the dog must pick up the bumper again. If the boat floats onto the beach, then the dog must pull the line tight.

The judge will blow the whistle to signal the end of the exercise.

Part 1: Move into Position

In this exercise, you will be in the bow of a rowboat. The bow faces the shore, and the boat is positioned 50' from shore. You will have an 8' floating line with an attached boat bumper.

For most dogs, holding the bumper in your right hand, holding it with the line extending from the right side of the bumper, and sitting on the right side of the boat works well.

However, the regs let the dogs choose the left side for any of these aspects. It's up to you to read the dog and be prepared to switch.

Tip

To be a good caller, sit slightly back from the bow instead of at the point of the bow. This position helps to coax the dog to swim closer, which becomes important if the dog suddenly turns away at the last second.

Part 2: Splash the Bumper and Call

As soon as the judge signals the beginning of the exercise, attract the dog's attention by calling and splashing the bumper next to the boat.

Call loudly and calmly to the dog by name. Give encouragement, like, "Good girl! Come help me! Bring help! Come get your bumper!"

Gently splash the water while calling. Pay close attention to the dog and tone down or ramp up your calling based on the dog's performance.

Note

Use the dog's name and use the same manner of calling for each dog.

Keep hold of the bumper. Do not throw it in front of the dog.

Part 3: Hold Out the Bumper

As the dog nears the boat, keep calling, but stop splashing. Hold the bumper at water level so the dog can target it. Continue to sit back from the bow of the boat.

Many dogs suddenly turn away from the boat when the bumper is almost within their reach. If this happens, spring forward to the point of the bow, reach out, and try to re-engage the dog to grab the bumper.

If the dog swims to the other side of the boat, move quickly to that side, and encourage the dog to take the bumper.

It's ok if the dog takes the line instead. Don't stress if the line goes under the chin; some dogs prefer it.

Part 4: Stop Calling and Hold the Rope Low

Once the dog takes the bumper, stop calling and be quiet; try not to distract the dog. Position yourself in the point of the bow and using both hands, hold on to the end of the 8' line.

Lean out to put your hands and rope close to the water; center them at the bow of the boat. Keeping the rope low helps the dog keep his neck more aligned with his body.

Tip

To be a good caller, let the line out slowly so that the dog takes on the weight of the boat slowly. Otherwise, the dog's neck might twist hard and cause the dog to drop the bumper.

If the dog lets go of the bumper and is not responding to the handler's commands to retake the bumper, then you might restart calling. For example, if you are still far from shore, then the dog might hear you better than the handler. However, if you are close enough to shore for the dog to hear the handler well, then keep quiet and avoid distracting the dog. If in doubt, remain quiet.

You cannot move the bumper to make it more appealing.

As the dog retakes the bumper, be quiet. Hold on to the rope until you hear the judge's whistle.

The dog is required to beach the boat with the bumper in his mouth and the line tight. Sometimes the dog drops the bumper just before the boat beaches. To avoid distracting the dog, you might need to hide your face. If the handler can get him to pick up the bumper and beach the boat, then the dog will pass.

It's important that you keep holding the line when you hear the boat beach; wait for the judge's whistle!

Water Rescue Dog Exercises

The Water Rescue Dog (WRD, also known as senior) test has 6 exercises. To earn the WRD title, the working team must pass all 6 exercises. In two of the exercises, a calling steward is needed.

Take a Life Ring

Overview

Take a Life Ring is the 3rd exercise in the WRD test. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog's ability to:

- Hold the line attached to the life ring upon command
- Swim to the person in distress upon command
- Come close enough for the steward to grab hold of the life ring
- Tow the steward to shore

The exercise is over when the dog reaches his wading depth, and the judge blows the whistle.

Background

This exercise requires three stewards in the water. One steward is the caller; the other two stewards (known as inerts) are silent.

The three stewards are assigned a position: left, right, or center. The chief steward will tell the stewards their roles and positions before the test starts. They will have the same roles and positions for all dogs who do this exercise.

The beach has three main shore markers (usually orange cones) that are aligned parallel to the water line. For the WRD test, the left and right markers are each 30' away from the center marker.

Behind each main marker on the landward side (away from the water) are three secondary markers (usually a tall metal pole). The three lines formed by the two left markers, the two center markers, and the two right markers help the three stewards align themselves to their assigned place.

For the WRD test, the water has two sets of three distance markers; the markers are set at 30', 50', and 75' from shore.

Note

If the test site is set up for other water tests, then more water markers will be set up. Specifically, the WRDX tests use markers at 50', 75', and 100'. So, a test site could have water markers at 30', 50', 75', and 100' plus anchors at 75' and 150'. Stewards need to know which marker is which.

Part 1: Swim Out to Your Position

You stand on the beach with the other two stewards and align yourself with your assigned position: left, right, or center. When the judge instructs you to start, enter the water and swim straight out 75' from shore.

When you reach 75' out, stop, face shore, and align with your shore marker: left, right, or center.

As the exercise proceeds, you might drift out of position. Keep your eye on the shore and water markers to stay in position. Also watch the beach steward who might be giving you hand signals to move into the right spot.

The judge will indicate the start of the next part of the exercise by a hand signal or by one short blast on the whistle. The handler will send the dog with the life ring to the caller.

Part 2: Caller Calls for Help

If you are the caller, begin to splash and call for help, but do not call the dog by name. Call loudly and calmly to the dog. Give encouragement. You can say things like, “Help! Help me dog! Dog come here! Good dog! Right here puppy! That’s it, come save me! Bring me the ring!”

Gently splash the water while calling. Pay close attention to the dog and tone down or ramp up your calling based on the dog’s performance.

Note

Do **not** use the dog’s name and you must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

Your splashing often moves you out of position. Remember to look up, check your position against the shore markers, and reset as needed.

Tip

To be a good caller, splash the water at a point parallel to shore next to you instead of in front of you. This splash point helps to coax the dog to swim closer, which becomes important if the dog suddenly turns away at the last second.

Inerts Watch the Caller

If you are an inert (silent steward), quietly tread water, stay in position, and turn to watch the calling steward. Looking at the caller helps to focus the dog on the caller too.

Do not watch the dog or give eye contact! If the dog starts to swim to you, look or turn away, don’t let him see your face, and keep your arms still. Stay quiet, keep your position, and do not touch the dog.

Part 3: Caller Grabs the Life Ring

As the dog nears you with the life ring, ease up on your splashing, and give praise and encouragement. The dog may circle behind you to get the life ring closer to you. You may encourage this by saying “Around, good boy!”

Without taking a swimming stroke, stretch and grab the life ring as soon as you can.

Tip

Hold the life ring with two hands, bend your knees so that your lower legs are out of the water. This position shows the judge that you are not assisting the dog while the dog is towing you to shore. Now your job is to be silent, not distract the dog, and float to shore.

It doesn’t always happen perfectly. If the dog lets go of the ring, wait for the handler to redirect the dog. You might restart calling. For example, if you are still far from shore, then the dog might hear you better than the handler. However, if you are close enough to shore for the dog to hear the handler well, then keep quiet and avoid distracting the dog. If in doubt, keep quiet.

Important

Keep holding the life ring with your feet out of the water until you hear the judge’s whistle.

Take a Line/Tow a Boat

Overview

Take a Line/Tow a Boat is the 5th exercise in the WRD test. This exercise demonstrates the dog's ability to:

- Take the bumper on command
- Deliver the bumper to the calling steward in the boat
- Tow the boat to shore until it touches the bottom

Three conditions are required to trigger the end of the exercise:

- The boat must touch bottom
- The dog must have the bumper in his mouth
- The line must be tight

If the dog drops the bumper, then the dog must pick up the bumper again. If the boat floats onto the beach, then the dog must pull the line tight.

The judge will blow the whistle to signal the end of the exercise.

Part 1: Move into Position

In this exercise, you will be in the bow of a rowboat. The bow faces the shore, and the boat is positioned 75 feet from shore.

Tip

To be a good caller, sit slightly back from the bow instead of at the point of the bow. This position helps to coax the dog to swim closer, which becomes important if the dog suddenly turns away at the last second.

Part 2: Splash and Call the Dog

As soon as the judge signals the beginning of the exercise, attract the dog's attention by calling and splashing next to the boat.

Do not call the dog by name. Call loudly and calmly to the dog. Give encouragement. You can say things like, "Help! Help me dog! Dog come here! Good dog! Right here puppy! That's it, come save me! Bring me your bumper!"

Gently splash the water while calling. Pay close attention to the dog and tone down or ramp up your calling based on the dog's performance.

Note

You will **not** use the dog's name and you must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

Part 3: Hold Out Hand as Target

As the dog nears the boat, keep calling but stop splashing. Hold your hand out at water level so the dog can target it. Continue to sit back from the bow of the boat.

Many dogs suddenly turn away from the boat when you can almost reach the line. If this happens, spring forward to the bow of the boat, reach out, and try to grab the line.

If the dog swims to the other side of the boat, move quickly to that side, and encourage the dog to come close enough for you to reach the line.

Part 4: Stop Calling and Hold the Rope Low

Once you have the line, stop calling and be quiet; try not to distract the dog. Position yourself in the bow of the boat and using both hands, hold on to the end of the 8-foot line.

Lean out to put your hands and rope close to the water; center them at the bow of the boat. Keeping the rope low helps the dog keep his neck more aligned with his body.

Tip

It's helpful to let the line out slowly so that the dog takes on the weight of the boat slowly. Otherwise, the dog's neck might twist hard and cause the dog to drop the bumper.

If the dog lets go of the bumper and is not responding to the handler's commands to retake the bumper, then you might restart calling. For example, if you are still far from shore, then the dog might hear you better than the handler. However, if you are close enough to shore for the dog to hear the handler well, then keep quiet and avoid distracting the dog. If in doubt, keep quiet.

You cannot move the bumper to make it more appealing.

As the dog retakes the bumper, be quiet. Hold on to the rope until you hear the judge's whistle.

The dog is required to beach the boat with the bumper in his mouth. Sometimes the dog drops the bumper just before the boat beaches. To avoid distracting the dog, you might need to hide your face. If the handler can get the dog to pick up the bumper and beach the boat, then the dog will pass.

It's important that you keep holding the line when you hear the boat beach; wait for the judge's whistle!

Water Rescue Dog Excellent Exercises

The Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX, also known as Excellent or X) test has 6 exercises. To earn the WRDX title, the working team must pass all 6 exercises. In five of the exercises, a calling steward is needed.

Multiple Person Rescue

Overview

Multiple Person Rescue is the 2nd exercise in the WRDX test. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the superior physical fitness of the dog while simulating an open sea rescue of multiple persons in distress.

The exercise is over when the dog tows the last steward to the boat, the handler touches the hand or arm of that steward, and the judge blows the whistle.

Background

This exercise requires three stewards in the water, and all three are callers.

The three stewards are assigned a position: left, right, or center. The chief steward will tell the stewards their roles and positions before the test starts. They will have the same roles and positions for all dogs who do this exercise.

The beach has three main shore markers (usually orange cones) that are aligned parallel to the water line. For the WRDX test, the left and right markers are each 35' away from the center marker.

Behind each main marker on the landward side (away from the water) are three secondary markers (usually a tall metal pole). The three lines formed by the two left markers, the two center markers, and the two right markers help the three stewards align themselves to their assigned position.

For the WRDX test, the water has two sets of three distance markers; the markers are set at 75', 100', and 150' from shore. One steward (center) aligns with the 75' markers and two stewards (left and right) align with the 100' markers. The boat attaches to the anchor aligned with the 150' marker. When the stewards and the boat are in the right spots, their positions form a diamond shape.

Note

If the test site is set up for other water tests, then more water markers will be set up. Specifically, the WD and WRD tests use markers at 30', 50', and 75'. So, a test site could have water markers at 30', 50', 75', and 100' plus anchors at 75' and 150'. Stewards need to know which marker is which.

Part 1: Swim Out to Your Position

The three stewards stand on the beach and align themselves with their assigned position: left, right, or center. When the judge instructs you to start or when the boat with the dog and handler aboard leaves the shore, enter the water and swim straight out to your position. The left and right stewards swim out to the 100' water markers and the center steward swims to the 75' water marker.

When you reach your distance, align with your shore marker (left, right, or center), and turn away from shore to face the boat.

As the exercise proceeds, you will likely drift out of position. Keep your eye on the rower who will signal you to move as needed to stay in position.

The judge indicates the start of the next part of the exercise by one short blast on the whistle.

Part 2: Call for Help

Upon the judge's signal, two things happen simultaneously:

- The handler commands the dog to jump from the boat
- All three stewards start splashing and calling for help

Once in the water, the dog chooses a caller to rescue.

Call loudly and calmly to the dog. Give encouragement for the dog to come to you, without discouraging the dog to rescue another person first. You can say things like, "Help! Help me dog! Dog come here! Good dog! Right here puppy! That's it, come save me!" Let the dog choose who to rescue.

Many dogs become overwhelmed by multiple victims shouting for help at the same time. This situation happens more frequently if the callers are too loud or too demanding or they splash too vigorously. Even while you are acting distressed, try to coax the dog to come to you and reassure them that it's safe to approach you.

Gently splash the water while calling. Pay close attention to the dog and tone down or ramp up your calling based on the dog's performance.

For example, if the dog decides to return to the boat with one or more stewards, then any remaining stewards will soften their voices and splash softly.

If the dog looks like he might rescue another steward before returning to the boat, then resume splashing and calling to encourage the dog to come to you.

Note

Do **not** use the dog's name and you must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

However, you do not need to call in the same manner as one another, as there are differences in the mannerisms of those needing rescue.

Your splashing often moves you out of position. Remember to look up and watch the rower who will signal you to move as needed.

Part 3: Grab the Dog

As the dog nears you, ease up on your splashing, and give praise and encouragement. Without taking a swimming stroke, stretch and grab the dog as soon as you can.

Tip

Once the dog begins towing you, bend your knees so that your lower legs are out of the water. This position shows the judge that you are not assisting the dog. Now your job is to be silent, not distract the dog, and float.

The dog can rescue one, two, or all three stewards at a time. If the dog picks up two stewards, then each steward holds onto a side of the dog towards the rump. If the dog picks up all three stewards before returning to the boat, then the third steward holds onto the dog or onto a steward's life jacket.

Part 4: Touch the Handler's Hand or Arm

When you get close to the boat and while still holding onto the dog, reach out and touch the handler's hand or arm. Do this in an obvious way so that it is clear to the judges that you made contact.

Part 5: Wait Quietly Until All Are Rescued

Once you contact the handler, move off to the side of the boat towards the bow. Moving to this spot lets you make room for the remaining stewards to contact the handler. Hold onto the lip of the boat while you wait quietly until the exercise is complete.

The dogs may need to orient themselves after a rescue and may briefly circle near the boat platform to do so. If the dog comes back to check on you, do not make eye contact or talk to the dog.

When the last steward contacts the handler, the judges will whistle to signal that the exercise is complete.

Unconscious Victim

Overview

Unconscious Victim is the 3rd exercise in the WRDX test. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog's ability to perform a rescue without the victim indicating that rescue is needed and without harming the victim.

The exercise is over when the dog tows the steward close enough to shore that the handler can touch the steward and the judge blows the whistle.

Background

This exercise is unique in that no one is calling for help. These instructions are given here to help the steward perform the role of a silent victim.

For protection from the dog's grip, the steward wears a full, long-sleeved wet suit or dry suit plus long neoprene gloves on both hands, extending up toward the elbows. In extreme heat, the steward may opt for a long-sleeved neoprene jacket instead of a full suit. Whether the steward wears a full suit or a jacket, the steward must also wear the long gloves.

Before You Start

Before starting this exercise, the steward must have a good understanding of what a reasonable bite pressure is. A good time to do this is during the steward's meeting with the judges before the test starts.

The dog's hold is supposed to be gentle. As a dog begins to tow the steward and takes on the person's body weight, the steward will likely notice that the dog's grip becomes firmer.

If the dog's hold feels ok to the steward, then all is good. However, if the hold becomes painful, then the steward must stop the exercise. We all want the dog to pass, but not if the dog leaves bruises or cuts on the steward from too strong a grip. Rescuing without harm is a key part of this exercise.

Part 1: Swim Out to Your Position

Stand on the beach aligned with the center shore marker. At the judge's signal, swim straight out to the 75' distance marker.

Once there, float naturally on your back starting out with your feet pointed toward shore. Open your arms wide so that your body forms a "T" shape. Put your palms facing up.

Keep your hands fully in the gloves; do not ball up your fingers and leave the fingers of the gloves empty.

Part 2: Float and Let Dog Tow You

Keep your arms and legs floating on the water's surface as still as possible. Let the current and wind turn and move you. Do not try to stay in your original position.

Relax, float, and close your eyes. Soon you will hear the dog huffing as he draws near. Do not speak to the dog or make eye contact.

When the dog reaches you, the dog will grab an arm, hand, or life jacket. The dog may circle you once or twice to find a good spot to grab.

The dog might try to crawl over your legs or body to grab hold, or the dog might try to push you to shore. Neither of these methods are allowed. Do nothing but float silently and let the judges decide whether to call off the exercise.

Using a gentle hold, the dog will tow you to almost wading depth for the dog. Let the dog move you as needed to get you to shore. If the dog lets go, continue to float freely, and wait for the dog to regain a hold on you.

Part 3: Rescue

As you near the shore, the handler will enter the water to assist you and the dog. The handler will touch you by the hand, which will prompt the judge to blow the whistle to end the exercise. Remain still until you hear that whistle.

The judges will ask you whether the dog's bite pressure was reasonable.

Capsized Raft

Overview

Capsized Raft is the 4th exercise in the WRDX test. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog's ability to search for a victim trapped under a raft, pull the victim out, and tow the victim back to shore.

The exercise is over when the handler meets the dog at the dog's wading depth, touches hands with the victim, and the judge blows the whistle.

Part 1: Move into Position

You will be in an inflatable raft that is towed to a position that is parallel to shore, aligned with the center shore marker, and 75' from shore. Alternatively, you may be asked to swim the raft into position.

Part 2: Capsize the Raft

When the judge gives you the signal, attract the dog's attention by yelling and then capsize the raft.

From under the overturned raft, orient it so that it is parallel to shore, move yourself to the stern of the raft, and hold the shore-side of the raft up about 3 inches from the water's surface. This gap will help the dog to hear your calls and you to see the dog approaching.

Part 3: Call for Help

Once you are under the raft, call LOUDLY and calmly for help. Because you are far away and the raft is in the way, keep your volume high. Give encouragement. You can say things like, "Help! Help me dog! Dog come here! Good dog! Right here puppy! That's it, come save me!"

Pay close attention to the dog and tone down or ramp up your calling based on the dog's performance.

Note

Do **not** use the dog's name and you must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

When the dog swims to about 10' from the raft, drop the shore side of the raft onto the water. Increase your volume of your calls to ensure the dog can still hear you.

Part 4: Grab Dog and Exit the Raft

When the dog comes under the raft to find you, greet him calmly and give big praise! You must wait until the dog's whole body is under the raft before you grab hold. The rump is a good spot to hold.

Let the dog exit the raft from any side, but do not help in any way. Once the dog is out from under the raft, you can lift the raft up to avoid having it snag on your head or life vest.

Tip

As the dog tows you to shore, bend your knees so that your lower legs are out of the water. This position shows the judge that you are not helping the dog. Now your job is to be silent, not distract the dog, and float to shore.

Part 5: Touch the Handler's Hand

When you get close to shore, reach out and touch the handler's hand or arm. Do this in an obvious way so that it is clear to the judges that you made contact. The judge then blows the whistle to signal the end of the exercise.

Line to Shore

Overview

Line to Shore is the 5th exercise in the WRDX test. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog's ability to take a line from a stranded boat to shore, where people onshore can secure the line and help passengers move to safety.

The exercise is over when the steward onshore touches the line that the dog brought without stepping into the water and when the judge blows the whistle.

Part 1: Move into Position

After the dog and handler board the boat and begin to be rowed out, stand onshore aligned with the center shore marker and face the water.

Once the boat reaches 100' out, the judge signals the handler to direct the dog to take the line and jump from the boat.

Part 2: Call the Dog

Once the dog is in the water, call loudly and calmly to the dog. Give encouragement like, "Good girl! Come help me! Bring me the line!"

Pay close attention to the dog and tone down or ramp up your calling based on the dog's performance.

Note

Do **not** use the dog's name and you must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

You may walk along the beach to meet the dog, but do not step into the water.

Part 3: Touch the Line

Stretch and touch the line as soon as you can. Keep touching or holding the line until you hear the judge's whistle indicating that the exercise is finished.

The dog can keep the line so let it go after the exercise ends.

Once the exercise is over, hold the dog gently by the collar until the handler is brought back to shore.

Hidden Victims

Overview

Hidden Victims is the 6th exercise in the WRDX test. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog's ability to search for and rescue two victims who are in distress but who are not in sight.

This exercise requires two stewards in the water, and both are callers.

The exercise is over when the handler holds the hands of the second steward, and the judge blows the whistle.

Part 1: Move into Position

You and the other steward sit on the platform of the boat while being rowed out 75'. Once the boat is attached to the anchor, you each quietly exit the boat on the seaward side one at a time. Grab the lip of the boat; one of you moves to the bow and the other moves near the stern.

The rower will relay the judge's signal for you to begin calling.

Part 2: Call for Help

Call LOUDLY and calmly to the dog. Because you are far away and the boat is in the way, keep your volume high. Give encouragement for the dog to come to you. You can say things like, "Help! Help me dog! Dog come here! Good dog! Right here puppy! That's it, come save me!"

Note

Do **not** use the dog's name and you must use the same manner of calling for each dog.

However, you do not need to call in the same manner as one another, as there are differences in the mannerisms of those needing rescue.

You and your splashing must not be visible from shore.

Part 3: Grab the Dog

As soon as you see the dog come around to your side of the boat, ease up on your splashing, and give praise and encouragement.

While still holding onto the boat, stretch and grab the dog as soon as you can. The dog can rescue one or both of you at a time.

If, while towing one of you, the dog swims close enough to the second steward so that the second steward can reach out and grab the dog while still having hold of the side of the boat, then the dog will be deemed to have opted to bring in both of you at the same time.

If the dog picks up one only one of you, then the remaining steward stops calling as soon as the dog commits to shore. That steward quietly holds onto the boat until the rower relays the judge's signal to restart calling.

If the dog picks up both of you, then each of you holds onto a side of the dog towards the rump. Do not hold onto each other and keep quiet.

Tip

Once the dog begins towing you, bend your knees so that your lower legs are out of the water. This position shows the judge that you are not assisting the dog. Now your job is to be silent, not distract the dog, and float.

Part 4: Grab the Handler's Hand

When you get close to wading depth for the dog and while still holding onto the dog, reach out and grab the handler's hand. Release the dog so that the handler can grab both of your hands and help you to stand up.

When the last steward contacts the handler, the judge blows the whistle.