



Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.

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Test Regulations Character Assessment and SV Breeding Disposition Test (SV BDT) 2021 Version

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Preamble

SV has been breeding purebred dogs for over 125 years. Until now, however, there have been no records on impartiality, social behaviour, noise sensitivity, confidence with movement, play and prey instinct or the basic character of our breeding animals.

Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V. would like to start with a Breeding Disposition Test and first examine and classify every German Shepherd to be used for breeding in a character assessment. Trained character assessors objectively record the assessments, and the dog presented receives its assessment as an annex to the pedigree, analogous to the breed survey certificate.

The Test Regulations distinguish between two kinds of assessor within the meaning of the SV Judging Regulations:

1. Character assessors (CA)
2. Breeding Disposition Test assessors (BDTA)

It is possible for a person with the appropriate expertise to be appointed as a CA and as a BDTA for both activities.

An IGP test is not a substitute replacement for a character assessment.

General abbreviations used in these TR:

AI	=	Assessor instruction
BDTA	=	Breeding Disposition Test assessor
CA	=	Character assessor
LG	=	Federal group (Landesgruppe)
OG	=	Local group (Ortsgruppe)
SV	=	Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.
SV HO	=	SV Head Office
TR	=	Test regulations

A.) Character assessment

I. General

1) Preparation for the assessment

The federal groups shall assign the task of carrying out the character assessment to the local groups in November of the year prior to each assessment.

The OG shall inform the LG in advance of the appointment of a head assessor and an email address for the entries.

The dates shall be coordinated in the LG and assigned in agreement with the SV Head Office.

The assessors to be used shall be coordinated by the LG and appointed after consultation with the SV HO.

The nationwide dates of the character assessments shall be published in the SV Magazine (February) and on the SV Homepage along with the details of the assessor and head assessor.

Character assessments shall always be carried out in public.

2) Character assessors

Each CA shall arrive at the appointment with their own assistant, who actively accompanies the character assessment.

The SV HO has the possibility to send an additional character assessor to attend the appointment.

3) Procedure

For an objective, uniform assessment of character, it is necessary to carry out the entire procedure in a standardised manner and in the order of stations specified.

The order of the procedure and the nature of the equipment for all character assessments are therefore specified below.

Structure of the character assessment

1. Impartiality check
2. Social behaviour
3. Noise sensitivity
4. Confidence with movement
5. Play and prey instinct
6. Basic character

This is followed directly by a public discussion of the behaviour shown during the entire character assessment.

4) Requirements for participation

All German Shepherds registered in the SV breed registry or annex register or in a breed registry or annex register recognised by SV and which can be identified by a chip number are eligible to participate.

The participating dog must not be younger than nine months and not yet thirteen months old at the time of the character assessment.

The owner/handler is not required to be an SV member in order to participate in the character assessment.

Each handler is allowed to present a maximum of two dogs at each character assessment.

5) Minimum number of participants

The minimum number of participants is four dogs with four different handlers; the maximum number per day and assessor is twelve dogs. The same regulations apply as in the IGP area as far as the number of dogs per test day is concerned, i.e. twelve dogs each on Saturday or Sunday, and six dogs on Friday as a half-day.

6) Test days and registration

As a rule, test days should take place at the weekend and on public holidays. Friday tests may be applied for in conjunction with a Saturday.

Fridays may only be approved if more dogs are entered on Saturday than can be shown. The test may not start before 12:00 noon. The number of participants is limited to one half.

Half-days before weekday public holidays may not be approved.

The public holiday regulations of the respective federal states must be observed.

The closing date for entries 12:00 midnight at the end of the day on the Tuesday before the event. If the event does not take place on a weekend, the closing date shall be brought forward accordingly. The local group organising the event shall send the entry forms to the SV Breed Registry Office immediately after the closing date (on the following day).

The organiser must inform the assessor of the number of dogs entered.

The participants shall be published on SV-DOxS by the Breed Registry Office.

II. Equipment

The following equipment is to be kept available by the OG in charge of the character assessment.

- Assessment sheets, completely filled in.
- At the beginning of the assessment, the order of the dogs shall be determined. The fixed procedure shall be announced on a notice board.
- The handlers must wear a start number during the assessment.
- A public address system is to be provided by the OG in charge for public discussion of the dogs.

For the character assessment stations:

1. Impartiality check

- Chip reader
- Breed survey measurements
- Measuring plate
- Table to store the CA's documents

2. Social behaviour

- Ball on a ribbon, Bringsel with loop, chewing sausage etc. (to be brought by the handler)

3. Noise sensitivity

- Chainsaw (without blade)
- Chain (stable iron chain, approx. 150 cm)
- Sheet metal (approx. 100 x 100 cm)
- Alarm pistol 6 mm

4. Confidence with movement

- Wobble table (industrial pallet with a smooth surface (120 x 100 cm) with fixed 10 cm round timber in the middle, underneath the pallet)
- 6 standard beer garden tables
- Climbing aid (fixed beer garden table with non-slip base as a climbing aid)

5. Play and prey instinct

- A toy known to the dog (ball on a ribbon, chewing sausage etc.)
- Fruit crate made of perforated plastic or similar.
- Room with a smooth floor (tiled floor approx. 30 m²)
- Metal food bowl

6. Basic character

- Place where the dog can be secured (post, fence or tree, which must not be on the training grounds).
- 1.5 m leash (better: a thin steel chain with a carabiner)

III. Character assessment

1. Impartiality check

Exercise 1 - ID check

The handler reports with their dog on a leash to have its chip checked. The CA checks the dog's identity by means of a chip reader.

The CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the identification check.

Exercise 2 - Dental check

The handler shows the dog's teeth to the CA or their representative. It is, of course, also possible to delegate the active part of the dental check to the CA or their representative.

In this case, the CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the dental check. The dental status is not entered in the assessment sheet and the result is not recorded.

Exercise 3 - Measurement on platform

The handler leads their dog on to the platform. The dog must stand freely and unrestrained. The handler is permitted to hold the dog.

The CA or their representative measures the height at withers and the depth of chest. These values are not recorded.

If the dog is male, the testicles are also checked.

The CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the measurement and the testicle check, the latter of which is obligatory for male dogs.

2. Social behaviour

Exercise 4 - Dog/handler relationship

The handler approaches the assistant standing alone at a distance of about 15 metres. The handler unleashes their dog on command and moves casually with the dog. Voice commands

to call the dog are permitted.

The dog's bond with its handler is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 5 - Behaviour in a group of people

After exercise 4, the dog is called by its handler and leashed. The handler hands over their dog to the assistant on a leash and moves away behind the group of at least eight people. On command, the dog is called by its handler. The assistant unleashes the dog and releases it.

The dog should move happily and directly through the group to its handler. The handler then moves casually through the moving group with their dog still following freely.

The dog's behaviour is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 6 - Encounter with an unknown dog

For this exercise, the next team should be at the ready.

The handler walks their dog on a leash to the left past an unknown dog two times at a distance of about 3 metres. The other dog is also on a leash.

The CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the encounters with the unknown dog.

3. Noise sensitivity

Exercise 7 - Noise source: chainsaw, without blade

The handler goes to a designated position and remains there with the dog on a leash. The assistant walks neutrally around the dog at a distance of about 4 metres with a motor (chainsaw without blade) running at different speeds and then switches off the motor and place it on the ground if necessary. The handler then goes with their dog to the source of the noise.

The dog's behaviour in relation to the noise source is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 8 - Noise source: chain

The handler goes to a designated position (about 5 metres away from a metal base) and remains there with their dog on a loose leash. The dog faces the CA. The assistant should

have previously positioned a chain in such a way that it falls on to a sheet metal plate on command. As soon as the chain has fallen, the handler and their dog go directly towards the source of the noise. Verbal assistance during the approach by the handler is permitted.

The dog's behaviour in relation to the chain as a noise source is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 9 - Shot sensitivity

The handler takes the dog on a leash to a designated position and stays there. The dog must remain standing on a loose leash with its handler.

The assistant fires two shots with a 6 mm alarm pistol at an interval of 5 seconds.

The dog's behaviour in relation to the shot as a noise source is recorded and described by the CA.

4. Confidence with movement

Exercise 10 - Wobble table

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the prepared wobble table, which consists of an industrial pallet with a smooth surface. The dog should stand freely on the pallet on a loose leash.

The assistant moves the pallet with their feet accordingly.

The dog's confidence with movement and motor skills are recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 11 - Target on wobble table

After exercise 10, the dog is offered its motivational object by the handler. The object was given to them by the assistant at the beginning of the exercise.

The assistant moves the pallet in the same way as in exercise 10.

The CA records and describes how intensively and with what motor skills the dog engages with its motivational object under stress.

Exercise 12 - Climbing/height sensitivity

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the stairway. The handler leads their dog on a loose leash up the stairway on to the arranged tables (total length of the set-up, without stairway, L-shaped: 5 tables, approx. 11 metres, width of tables approx. 70 cm, 10 cm gap in front of last table). When the dog reaches the end, it turns and goes back.

The dog may jump off or be carried. During the exercise only verbal assistance is permitted.

The dog's behaviour with regard to its motor skills and lack of sensitivity to height is recorded and described by the CA.

5. Play and prey instinct

Exercise 13 - Play with the handler

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the designated position near the assistant. The assistant gives the motivational object to the handler.

The dog is taken off leash and the handler plays with their dog.

The CA records and describes the intensity of the dog's play with its handler.

Exercise 14 - Play with the assistant

After exercise 14, the handler throws the motivational object to the assistant.

The assistant motivates the dog to play with them. The assistant may also moderately block the motivational object. The assistant gives the dog the opportunity to bite and, after briefly preying with the motivational object, leaves it to the dog.

The CA records and describes the intensity of the dog's play with the assistant.

Exercise 15 - Inclination as a retriever

The dog is handed over to the assistant on a leash at the designated place.

The handler goes with their motivational object to the prepared, fixed vegetable crate and places the motivational object under it. The motivational object must be completely covered by the crate.

The handler goes to the assistant to get the dog back.

The dog is taken off leash and released by the handler. Verbal aids are not permitted.

The CA records and describes the intensity of the dog's efforts to get the motivational object.

Exercise 16 - Confidence with movement on a smooth surface

The handler goes with their dog on a leash into the prepared clubhouse. A firm, smooth floor (e.g. tiles, laminate) is mandatory.

The handler moves through the room with their dog off leash following the CA's commands. In this phase, background noise is produced by dropping a metal food bowl.

The dog's confidence with movement, boldness and motor skills are recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 17 - Play and prey instinct on a smooth surface

The handler plays with their dog briefly on command and throws the motivational object into a concealed corner of the clubhouse. They then release the dog on command.

When the dog has found the object, the handler takes it from the dog and hands it to the assistant. The assistant briefly motivates the dog, held by the handler, to play and hides the object in a concealed, not freely accessible place in the clubhouse.

As soon as the assistant is back with the handler, the handler releases the dog.

The intensity of playing and searching for the motivational object is recorded and described by the CA.

6. Basic character

Exercise 18 - Behaviour when left alone

After exercise 17, the handler goes with their dog on a leash to the designated position (not on the exercise grounds), ties their dog to a leash about 1.50 metres long and leaves the area.

The handler must be out of sight. No other people may be in the dog's field of vision.

After the dog has been left alone for at least five minutes, the CA moves neutrally towards the dog, passes it neutrally and returns to their basic position.

The handler collects their dog when instructed and puts its leash back on.

The CA records and describes the behaviour of the dog left alone.

The CA then publicly discusses the behaviour shown throughout the character assessment.

If the CA terminates the character assessment in the dog's best interest, the CA must document this on the assessment sheet and submit it to the SV HO.

Termination in the dog's best interest may also take place in the event of injury or illness of the dog. It is at the discretion of the CA to terminate the character assessment.

The dog may then be presented at the next possible appointment.

If the dog is older than 13 months, the assessment may be repeated within three months without any special permission. Repeating at a later date requires special permission from the Breed Registry Office, which is subject to a fee.

IV. Assessment documents

Each participant receives an assessment sheet and, if desired, a certificate after successful completion of the character assessment.

The character assessor enters the character assessment into the pedigree. If participation was successful, an additional stamp is placed on the first page of the pedigree. The results must be reported by the assessor to the Breed Registry within seven days. The results are published in SV-DOxS by the Breed Registry.

B) Breeding Disposition Test (SV BDT)

General

The BDT serves SV as a breeding-relevant test of the working dog characteristics of the German Shepherd breed and consists of the following sub-areas:

- Character assessment
CA (from 9 to less than 13 months of age)
- Endurance test
ET (according to SV Test Regulations,
minimum age 16 months)
- Breeding Disposition Test
BDT (minimum age 18 months)

The three sections of the BDT are intended, on the one hand, to show that the individual dogs are suitable for their respective purpose and, on the other hand, to maintain or increase the dogs' health and performance from generation to generation in order to improve their serviceability. The aim is to promote and maintain their characteristics as working dogs. The results of the character assessment and the Breeding Disposition Test are recorded in a database and made available for public inspection.

The successful passing of a BDT may alternatively replace the previously required BH/IGP as one of the requirements for breeding approval. It is to be regarded as fully valid.

The tests are always open to the public. The location and start date must be announced to SV members.

Only BDTs successfully passed as part of a scheduled SV event are valid as a training mark.

As the Breeding Disposition Test (BDT) may be taken by specially trained and approved assessors during a scheduled OG test, the general provisions of the International Test Regulations (FCI Guide to International Utility Dog Tests, 1st General Part as well as the SV Preamble to the FCI Guide) must be observed, unless these Test Regulations provide otherwise.

Implementing Regulations for the BDT

All requirements not specified in these Test Regulations for the BDT are laid down in the Implementing Regulations for the Breeding Disposition Test.

Test supervisory

Test supervisors may be appointed by SV. Only competent persons shall be appointed to observe the proper performance of the BDT.

The BDT consists of three sections per dog.

The working part of the BDT may be repeated a maximum of two times.

If a dog is obviously injured during the BDT, it is the responsibility of the assessor to remove the dog from the test. Such an attempt will not be counted as one of the three chances.

If dogs are reported sick during the BDT, the following procedure is to be followed: If the handler reports their dog sick after a section has already been taken, the entry in the test records shall be: 'terminated due to illness'. This attempt counts as one of the three chances to participate in a BDT.

Collar requirement/carrying the leash

For insurance reasons, the handler must carry a leash during the entire test. This requirement also mandates that the dog must wear a simple single-row, loose-fitting chain collar, which is not set for pulling, at all times.

Other additional collars such as leather collars, tick collars, training collars and the like are not permitted during the test.

The leash is to be carried around the dog (lock on the side facing away from the dog) or in a way that is not visible.

If there is any suspicion of tampering, the assessor may demand a change of collar. However, this must be done before the start of the respective section.

If there is any suspicion of cheating (motivational objects or similar), the assessor must exclude the participant from the remainder of the test by disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct.

In addition to the required chain collar, a search harness or identification coat may be worn during tracking work.

Entry requirements

In order to participate, the handler and the owner must provide proof of membership in SV or a VDH member club.

On the day of the test event, the dog must have reached the prescribed age of 18 months. In order to start the test, the dog must have successfully passed a character assessment.

The Breeding Disposition Test (BDT) Examination of work performance

The examination is divided into:

Nose work section with the following variants:
tracking or search work

Obedience section

Positioning, guarding and defence exercise section

Evaluation principles:

In the individual sections, the overall performance of all given exercises is first assessed by the assessor.

The findings on overall performance in the section are then recorded and announced in the form of adjectives in the individual statements to be described on the basis of the weighting provided for the work shown by the dog.

The emphasis of the assessment is on the way the dog acts with its handler, in particular on the abilities and dispositions of the dog presented. The point of the assessment is not to be 'more precise, higher, faster, further' etc.

The statements about the dog's work are described by the assessor using adjectives.

The assessor's description of the dog in the form of adjectives is stored in the SV database.

In order to successfully pass the BDT, the dog must achieve the following percentages of the BDT requirements in the following sections:

Nose work - at least 50%

Submission - at least 50%

Positioning, guarding and defence exercises - at least 60%

For each individual section, only the statement 'pass' or 'fail' is given.

If the three individual sections of the BDT are passed, the mark 'BDT' is awarded.

BDT nose work section: tracking variant

Exercise requirements:

Own track, at least 200 paces, 2 legs, 1 angle (90°), 2 objects belonging to the handler (utility objects, inconspicuous in colour, with a max. size of 5 x 10 cm), at least 20 minutes old, finishing time 15 min.

A voice command for: 'search'

The voice command for 'search' is permitted at the beginning of tracking and when restarting after the first object or after a wrong find.

At the end of the discussion in the sections scent detection, object work and tracking disposition, the assessor only gives the mark 'pass' or 'fail'.

Assessment weighting Nose work tracking variant

Scent detection 10%

Finding and indicating 20%

Tracing disposition/work 70%

At least 50% must be achieved to pass the exercise.

BDT search work variant

Exercise requirements:

A search area of 20 x 30 metres, walked by several people, 2 objects belonging to the handler (utility objects, inconspicuous in colour, with a max. size of 5 x 10 cm), uniform material permitted, 1 object on the left, 1 object on the right, search time 10 minutes.

Voice and visual commands are permitted. The voice command 'lost' may be supplemented by the voice command 'search'.

At the end of the discussion in the sections search work detection, search disposition and object work, the assessor only gives the mark 'pass' or 'fail'.

Assessment weighting Nose work search variant

Search work detection 10%

Finding and indicating 50%

Search disposition/work 40%

At least 50% must be achieved to pass the exercise.

BDT obedience section:

Examination of shot indifference

Exercise 1 Free pursuit

Exercise 2 Sitting while in movement

Exercise 3 Sit and approach

Exercise 4 Fetching on level ground

Exercise 5 Climbing jumps over a 160 cm sloping wall

Exercise 6 Free jumps over a 100 cm hurdle

Exercise 7 Down with encounter

Examination of shot indifference:

The handler goes to the place with their dog on leash and reports to the assessor. On command, the handler goes with their dog to a predetermined position. The dog is to stand on a loose leash. Two shots (6 mm) are fired an interval of at least 3 seconds at a distance of 10 metres.

Exercise 1 Free pursuit:

In addition to two changes of gait, two U-turns, two right turns and one left turn are to be shown according to the prescribed pattern. The team must also show its demonstration in a moving group of people.

Voice commands: one voice command each for: 'heel' at the start and at the changes of gait.

Exercise 2 Sitting while in movement:

The team is to demonstrate a 10-15 step development from the initial basic position. The handler then gives the voice command 'sit' while the dog is in movement and moves a further 15 paces away from the dog and turns around directly. The dog must move directly and calmly towards the given position when it hears the voice command. The dog must remain in its position calmly until it is collected again on the assessor's command.

Voice commands: one voice command each for: 'heel', 'down'.

Exercise 3 Sit and approach:

The team is to demonstrate a 10-15 step development from the initial basic position. The handler then gives the voice command for 'down' while moving, moves a further 30 paces away from the dog and turns around directly. The dog is to lay down directly on hearing the voice command. The dog must remain calmly in

this position until, on the assessor's command, it is called away by the handler's voice command for 'approach'. The dog must run happily and directly to the handler, sit up straight and then change to the final basic position on hearing the voice command.

Voice commands: one voice command each for: 'heel', 'down', 'approach', 'go to basic position'.

Exercise 4 Fetching on level ground:

The handler throws a 650 g fetching stick or an object belonging to the handler (approx. 20-30 cm long, approx. 4 cm in diameter, e.g. a bringsel, no balls!) approx. 10 metres with their dog sitting calmly in the initial basic position. A lunge is permitted. On hearing the voice command, the dog must pick up the object, take it to the handler and sit in front of them. After the object is accepted, on hearing the voice command, the dog must change to the final basic position.

Voice commands: one voice command each for: 'fetch', 'hand over object', 'go to basic position'

Exercise 5

Climbing jumps over a 160 cm sloping wall:

The handler uses the voice command 'sit' to put their dog in the initial basic position at a distance of at least 4 metres in front of the sloping wall, and then moves to the other side of the sloping wall.

On hearing the voice command, the dog must then demonstrate a climbing jump over the sloping wall. The dog sits and changes to the final basic position when it hears the voice command. The return jump follows in the same way. The dog is leashed.

Voice commands: one voice command each for: 'climb', 'sit', 'go to basic position'.

Exercise 6 Free jumps over a 100 cm hurdle:

The handler uses the voice command 'sit' to put their dog in the initial basic position at a distance of at least 4 metres in front of the hurdle, and then moves to the other side of the hurdle. On hearing the voice command, the dog must then demonstrate a jump over the hurdle. The dog sits and changes to the final basic position when it hears the voice command. The return jump is then conducted in the same way. The dog is leashed.

Voice commands: one voice command each for: 'jump', 'sit', 'go to basic position'.

Exercise 7 Down with encounter:

The handler goes with their dog on leash to the designated down position, lays it down with a voice com-

mand and secures the dog with the attached safety line. The handler moves to the designated position at a distance of at least 30 paces. The handler must remain with their back to the dog. After 3 minutes, a neutral person crosses past the dog at a distance of 5 metres, remains briefly on the line of sight between it and the handler and then continues. After a further 2 minutes, the handler picks up their dog on the assessor's command. On command, the handler puts the prone dog in the final basic position with a voice command and leashes it.

Voice commands: one voice command each for: 'down', 'go to basic position'.

Overall obedience assessment

For the BDT, the overall impression of all exercises in obedience should be described in four individual assessments in the form of adjectives. These are: teamwork, execution/technique, fetching performance and jumping ability.

In the assessment, the focus is on the dog's basic abilities and dispositions when interacting with its handler. That means: how does the dog work with the handler, how is its technique, how does the dog fetch and how does the dog jump.

In the assessment, the following criteria are weighted as follows:

Assessment weighting Obedience

Teamwork	25%
Performance + technique	25%
Fetch	25%
Jumps	25%

At least 50% must be achieved to pass the exercise.

Positioning, guarding and defence exercise section

Exercise 1 Patrol for the helper

Exercise 2 Cornering and barking

Exercise 3 Handling under stress

Exercise 4 Ambush on handler

Exercise 5 Confrontation at a distance

General regulations:

A hiding spot for barking and a hiding spot for the ambush on the handler are to be provided in a suitable place. The necessary markings are to be determined by the assessor.

Security helper/security clothing

The helper must be equipped with a protective suit, protection sleeve and soft stick. The helper may only work when instructed by the assessor. The handler is free to decide on the manner in which they remove the soft stick from the helper during disarming.

One or two helpers may be used during BDT tests. The same helper(s) must be used for all handlers within a BDT. A single change of helper is permitted if the helper is themselves an active dog handler at the event.

Exercise 1 Patrol for the helper:

Starting in the basic position on the imaginary centre line, the handler takes their dog off leash and sends it in the direction of the helper's hiding spot with a voice command and a visual command.

Voice command: one voice command for: 'patrol'

Exercise 2 Cornering and barking:

The dog must corner the helper as soon as it finds them. At the same time, the dog must bark at the helper. On the assessor's command, the handler fetches or calls the dog to put it back on leash.

Voice command: one voice command for: 'approach', 'heel'.

Exercise 3 Handling under stress:

On the assessor's command, the handler proceeds with their dog on leash from the barking hiding spot to the marked position for the start of transport. The course of transport is determined by the assessor. The transport is first carried out with the dog on leash to

a ground marker about 25 paces away from the ambush point. There, the handler puts the dog back in its basic position and unleashes it. The handler may hang the leash over their shoulders or put it in their pocket. Further transport it conducted with the dog following freely in the direction of the ambush point.

Voice command: one voice command for: 'heel'

Exercise 4 Ambush on handler:

When the team is about 7 paces away from the ambush point, on the assessor's command, the helper ambushes the handler. On its own and without the handler's assistance, the dog must thwart the ambush. The helper must push the dog in a straight line for about 15 paces. The dog must withstand two sticks during the exercise. On hearing the voice command, the dog must release the helper and guard them until it is retrieved.

Voice command: one voice command for: 'release', 'heel'

Exercise 5 Confrontation at a distance:

The handler proceeds with their dog on leash to the starting position for retrieving. The dog must be attentive to the helper. The dog may be held by the collar in the basic position, but must not be stimulated by the handler.

On the assessor's command, the helper comes out of cover, walks to the imaginary centre line and then makes a frontal attack on the dog handler at a run. At a distance of 40 paces, the handler, on the assessor's command, releases their dog with a voice command. The dog must thwart the attack by the helper. During the stress phase, the dog must remain unimpressed. The helper stops on the assessor's command. After the helper has been stopped, the dog must release on voice command. The dog must then guard the helper. On the assessor's command, the handler walks directly to their dog at a normal pace, puts it in the basic position and puts its leash on. The soft stick is taken from the helper. A short sideways transport of the helper to the assessor follows. The group stops in front of the assessor, the handler hands over the soft stick to the assessor and announces the end of the positioning, guarding and defence exercise section.

Voice command: one voice command for: 'release', 'heel'

Overall assessment Cornering, barking and defence exercises

In the assessment, it is important to describe the dog with accurate adjectives in the five assessment fields. The assessor additionally converts the adjective-ba-

sed assessment for the individual items into an internal numerical score for the purpose of statistical evaluation. No points are awarded. Instead, the working method and disposition of the dog are described. The focus is on the dog's basic abilities and dispositions when interacting with its handler. This means: how does the dog work when cornering and barking, how is its defensive behaviour when the handler is ambushed and how does the dog present itself when confronting at a distance, how is its grip behaviour and how easy is the dog to handle under stress.

In the assessment, the following five criteria are weighted as follows:

Assessment weighting

Defence exercises

Handling	10%
Cornering and guarding	20%
Ambush on handler	30%
Confrontation at a distance	20%
Grip behaviour	20%

At least 60% must be achieved to pass the exercise.

Termination/disqualification

If a dog fails a defence exercise or allows itself to be displaced, the cornering, guarding and defence exercises section is to be terminated.

If a dog fails to release on the second additional voice command during a defence exercise or bites the helper outside the protection sleeve, the team is to be disqualified.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a 'pass'/'fail' rating is given.