

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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Guidelines for the canine disciplines of the Solo competition: Questing, giving tongue, calling and leading.

These guidelines are not an amendment to the existing regulations, but will help the judges accurately assess the different disciplines.

Our experience showed that the judges must make a difference between **questing** and **giving tongue**.

Questing = the work of the dog before it has tracked a scent.

Giving tongue = the work of the dog once it has scented a trail.

Questing

When judging the quest the judge should take into consideration the speed of the quest and the area covered by the hound. After being slipped the hound should start questing with much interest the hunting ground which has been delimited for him. If the hound does not scent any trail, it should from time to time run back to the handler. The quest must be methodical and extensive enough. A too short or too extensive quest is not desirable.

20-17 points	The dog's speed during the quest is good. The dog quests about 300-500 meters in all directions or the questing varies between 10 and 20 minutes.
16-13 points	The dog's speed during the quest is good. The dog quests about 300 meters in all directions or the questing takes about 10 minutes.
12-9 points	The dog's speed during the quest is appropriate. The dog quests about 200 meters in all directions or the questing varies between 5 and 10 minutes.
8-5 points	The dog is slow in questing. It quests about 100 meters in all directions or the questing is shorter than 5 minutes.
4-1 points	The dog quests within 50 meters, during 1 or 2 minutes only.

If within 5 minutes after being slipped for the first time the hound scents a trail, it must be slipped in another hunting ground with fewer hares, so that the judge can assess the quest.

Giving tongue

When giving tongue the dog should flush out the prey as quickly as possible. The dog's ability to make a difference between an evening/early night trail or a morning trail plays a role in how quickly it will flush out the prey. A hound which can scent an early evening trail with zeal and relatively quickly should be rewarded.

15-13 points	The dog noses with much interest and quickly comes near the hare's burrow. The dog does not bark or does not bark much.
12-10 points	The dog noses and comes near the hare's burrow. The dog does not bark much or only barks a little.
9-7 points	The dog comes from time to time back and scents the trail slowly to the hare's burrow.
6-4 points	The dog works slowly and does not have experience. It is difficult for him to make a difference between an older and a more recent scent and he barks a lot.
3-1 points	The dog does not work methodically, has no experience and barks so much that hunting is simulated.

Calling and leading

During the different stages of the trial the judge has to observe the handler's influence on the dog during the quest, when the dog gives tongue or during the hunting.

15 points	During the hunting the handler can give the final call or blow the final whistle at a distance of more than 100 meters. All day long the dog is controlled by the handler and works excellently together with the handler.
14-13 points	During the quest or when giving tongue or after giving up hunting the handler gives the final call or blows the final whistle at a distance of more than 100 meters. All day long the dog is controlled by the handler and works very well together with the handler.
12-10 points	The handler can give a final call or blow a final whistle at a distance of about 50 meters. All day long the dog is controlled by the handler and works well together with the handler.
9-7 points	When coming in the area of the handler, the dog easily accepts to be leashed and works all day long together with the handler.
6-4 points	The handler can only leash the dog when it is very close to him and after a severe reprimand. The dog cooperates in a sufficient manner.
3-1 points	All day long the handler can only leash the dog through trickery. The dog has not cooperated all day long in a sufficient manner.

These guidelines were adopted by the FCI Commission for Hounds in Cognac (France) on January 8th, 2004 and approved by the FCI General Committee in Brussels on March 24th, 2004.