

Do you have a senior PWD that loves to work in the water but is now retired from water competition? Well, the 2019 PWDCNC Water Trial has the perfect event for you! Announcing the first PWDCNC Specialty Senior Water Dog Challenge – Hooray!

The challenge consists of 4 exercises that are based on traditional PWDCA Water Trial exercises that have been modified to accommodate older dogs that may not have the jumping ability nor the stamina of their younger years.

The usual disclaimers:

- This is not a titling nor certificate event for the PWDCA.
- This event is for all Senior dogs that are unable to compete with the traditional exercises in PWDCA water work. Dogs entered in this event may NOT be entered in either the Saturday or Sunday sanctioned trials.
- The usual equipment regulations will apply (gear, life vest, closed toe shoes, dog harness)
- Senior PWDs should be 8 years of age or older
- All dogs and their handlers should be prepared to have FUN and enjoy some time together in the water!

The exercises are as follows and there will be a 3 minute warm up allotted for each entry:

1. Dummy throw – dog and handler stand behind the 3' line. Handler may not hold onto dog at this time. At judge's direction, the handler throws dummy 35-50' into water with the dog alongside the handler, under control. Upon judge's direction, the handler sends dog to retrieve dummy. Dog delivers dummy to handler after crossing 3' line. The dog/handler have 2 minutes to complete the exercise
2. Underwater retrieve – Same as AWD exercise- The handler and dog enter the water to a depth of water that will allow the dog to complete the task as required. The dog must be at the handler's side (either side), facing the same direction as the handler. Dog and handler will be parallel to shore. The area from the dog's head to the dog's shoulder shall be approximately in line with the handler's hip. On the judge's signal, the handler places the object in the water at arm's length in front of the dog and parallel to shore. The object must sink immediately. As soon as the object sinks, and without further direction from the judge, the handler sends the dog and the dog retrieves the object and delivers it to hand above the surface of the water. The dog/handler have 1 minute to complete the exercise.
3. Gear Bag retrieve – Same as WWD exercise. On the judge's signal the steward will, in full view of the handler, quietly place the gear bag on land 25' feet away from the team, and move out of the immediate area. On the judge's signal, the handler will send the dog to retrieve the gear bag. The dog may pull or carry the bag, but must deliver it to the handler. The exercise ends with the delivery of the gear bag. The dog/handler have 1 minute to complete the exercise. The dog should be alongside the handler, under control before being sent to retrieve the gear bag. The dog does not need to sit. The gear bag may contain items or be empty.
4. Double Directed Retrieve – Dog and Handler remain on the shore while the steward boat rows out to the 50' line in the center of the two markers with the two dummies. Upon the judge's direction, the steward in the boat will throw the dummies in the order decided by the judge. The dummies will be thrown towards shore approximately halfway between the marker and the shoreline. Upon the judge's direction, the handler will send the dog to the first dummy. The handler may then wade out to receive the first dummy at the dog's swimming depth. Once the first dummy is received, the handler will send the dog to the second dummy. The handler may stay in the water or return to shore to receive the second dummy. The exercise is complete once the dummy is delivered to hand. The dog/handler have 3 minutes to complete the exercise.

The Senior Water Dog Challenge will take place immediately following the conclusion of the Water Trial on Saturday. PRIZES will be given to all pre-registered entrants. NOTE: There will be a separate check-in for the Challenge after all regular Saturday teams are checked in.

Handlers will be allowed to use treat/toy rewards.

We anticipate being able to accommodate 10 teams. Preferred entry will be given to oldest dogs first then descending order of age.

As there is no title or certificate involved there will be a volunteer judge in the ring to direct the team to perform the exercises but there will be no scoring. The only goal is to have FUN with your dog!

If this sounds like it is right up your alley, then please sign up!

