

Copies to be given to the gunners

**ARIZONA POINTING DOG CLUB
CRITERIA
ON SELECTING AND BEING A GUNNER
TRIALS & TESTS**

TRAITS OF A TEST/TRIAL GUNNER

- **They must first of all be alert, calm, level headed and responsible.** There are a lot of people in the area at the test/trial. The safety of the participants, spectators, as well as the dogs, is of paramount importance.
- **They must be accustomed to shooting over pointing dogs** and realize that it is the dog's performance that is under judgment. The gunner's role is to assist the dog through timely and safe shooting.
- **They must understand the rules of the test** and be capable of accepting instructions. There are times when safety dictates that a bird not be shot even though the rules require that a shot be fired to test for steadiness. There are other times when Judges make requests of the gunner regarding shooting or positioning to assure a correct and fair judgment. These requests must be followed efficiently.
- **They must be physically capable of walking on rough ground at a reasonably fast pace.** They must possess the physical agility to put themselves into the best position to shoot safely without interfering with the performance of the dog.
- **They must concentrate on their task and take it seriously** even if the dog is having a bad day or the handler is an old buddy. All dogs and handlers must be treated with the same consideration and respect.
- **They must be a good shot with a "break action" gun on birds, not just on clay pigeons,** and they must be knowledgeable enough to hold their fire until the bird is at a suitable distance to allow a clean shot and a good retrieve.
- **They must be a good sportsperson in every sense of the word;** from the time they arrive at the test/trial until their last contact with test/trial participants. The gunner must have considerable self-control. A handler, whose dog has had a bad day, may wish to attribute their dog's failures to the gunner.
- **Under no circumstance may a gunner consume any alcohol or mind-altering substance.**