
AKC Fetch

Judge and Participant Guide



February 19, 2024

AKC Fetch

Table of Contents

	Page
PART I – General Information	
What is AKC Fetch.....	5
Why participate in AKC Fetch	5
Checklist for planning an ATT	6
Age of dogs	6
Aggression	6
Backing up.....	6
Bitches in season	6
Certificates (see Title certificates).....	7
Clickers	7
Coats.....	7
Collars, harnesses, leashes	7
Concurrent events.....	7
Conduct of Evaluators	7
Conflict of interest	7
Corrections	7
Course design (see layout)	7
Date conflicts.....	7
Disabilities	8
Handlers	8
Dogs	8
Disqualifications	8
Disqualification (DQ) by Judge	8
Disqualification (DQ) by Event Committee & Reinstatement.....	9
Dog not working (Zoomies, joy rides, standing still)...how long?.....	9
Eligibility	9
Clubs	9
Dogs	9
Encouragement.....	10
Evaluators – see Judges	10
Event.....	10
Event application	10
Event Committee	11
Exchanging ball for food or another ball.....	11
Excusals	11
Failure (also see Retest)	12
Feedback to handlers	12
Fencing.....	12
Flooring	12
Food rewards	12
Format	12
Greeting participants	13
Handlers	13
Helper.....	13
Instructions to handlers	13

Judges	13-14
Judging limits	14
Judging scenarios (see Part V. – When the dog does this...does it pass?).....	14
Layout of test area	14
Leashes (see Collars)	14
Locations	14
Mileage conflicts	14
Move-ups.....	15
Number of Judges and Helpers	15
Obstacles.....	15
Order of testing	15
Paperwork	16
Club	16
Evaluator	16
Owner	16
Premium list	16
Refusals on the send	17
Registration	17
Repeat throws.....	17
Restart.....	17
Retest	17
Rewards, reinforcers, lures.....	17
Ribbons and Rosettes	18
Scoring the test (see Part IV)	18
Sending dog.....	18
Signals.....	18
Sign-ups at the test (see Registration)	18
Size of test area.....	18
Soiling the test area.....	18
Spectator area	19
Starting position.....	19
Submitting results (see Test Summary Form)	19
Test equipment	19-20
Test Summary Form	20
Throwing the ball/bumper.....	20
Time to complete the retrieve.....	20
Title (requirements for)	21
Qualifications	22
Judges	22
Helpers	22

PART II. AKC Fetch Test 23-26

Novice (FTN).....	23
Intermediate (FTI)	24
Advanced (FTA).....	25

Retriever (FTR).....	26
PART III. AKC Fetch Test Summary Chart	27
PART IV. Scoring the AKC Fetch Test	28-31
Novice (FTN).....	28
Intermediate (FTI)	29
Advanced (FTA).....	30
Retriever (FTR).....	31
PART V. Scenarios for Judges.....	32-34
When the dog does this....does it pass?	
CONTACT INFO	35

PART I: What is AKC Fetch?

When dog owners are asked about activities they like to do with their dogs, the most common responses are to take their dog for a walk, and to play ball (fetch) with the dog.

AKC Fetch titles were created as another activity in which owners could have fun with their dogs in the AKC Family Dog program. Earning AKC Fetch titles provides opportunities for both physical and mental exercise. While some dogs are natural retrievers, AKC Fetch, especially at the advanced levels, will involve teaching new skills such as retrieving.

AKC Fetch is designed for all breeds.

AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test. The four levels of titles (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Retriever) assess the ability of the dog to retrieve. In the Advanced and Retriever levels, the dog must respond correctly to signals. There is also a memory component in Advanced and Retriever because a retrieving bumper or ball is dropped (or thrown) behind a blind where it cannot be seen.

For each of the four titles, the dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges.

CGC Evaluators or AKC judges of any type may be judges for AKC Fetch if they have completed the Fetch training in Canine College.

AKC Fetch is administered by AKC licensed or member clubs or AKC Approved (current) Canine Good Citizen Evaluators who have submitted an event application. The AKC Fetch test may be held in conjunction with an AKC event such as a dog show or trial or as a stand-alone (AKC club) event. It may also be held by CGC Evaluators who have completed the training and submitted the event application.

For a CGC Evaluator to hold a test, they must fill out the same Event Application as an AKC club.

- There is a fee for the Event application of \$35.
- The application must be submitted 1 month in advance.
- AKC Fetch tests will be listed on the AKC Events Calendar at akc.org

Why Participate in AKC Fetch?

AKC Fetch provides a form of exercise for dogs and their owners. Dogs learn new skills and many handlers will learn to teach a skill (i.e., retrieving) they have not previously taught.

AKC Fetch titles are fun to earn, and they can be used as a required AKC title for earning the Gold level of AKC FIT DOG. For info on AKC FIT DOG, see: <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>

Checklist for planning AKC Fetch

Additional details for planning an AKC Fetch test are located at <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

The general steps for planning an AKC Fetch test are:

- **Identify a judge.** This may be an AKC judge of any type or a CGC Evaluator. All must have completed the required training modules and passed the AKC Fetch online test. In Fetch, CGC Evaluators are referred to as “judges.”
- **Assemble AKC Fetch materials** for the courses (boxes, distractions/obstacles, blinds, etc.) (Club or judge assembles these).
- **Decide on a place, time, and number of dogs.**
- **Submit an AKC Event application.** This is done by the club or judge. The application must be turned in one month before the event.
- **The Fetch test should be uploaded in the Events calendar.**
- **List in the premium list if the test is at an AKC event (e.g., show or trial).** Specify the fee and if sign-ups may be done at the event. If the AKC Fetch test is held at a stand-alone event (e.g., club graduation night or Evaluator’s training school), the club/judge will determine how participants will be notified.
- **Download forms for dogs to be tested.** This may be done by the club or judge.
Forms are located at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>
 - AKC Fetch Title Application
 - AKC Fetch Judge Checklists
 - AKC Fetch Judge and Participant Guide (at least one copy at registration table)
- **Test Summary Form** – must be completed by the Evaluator within 7 days to close out the event and issue titles. This online form can be accessed at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

Age of dogs

Dogs must be at least 6 months of age to participate in the AKC Fetch test.

Aggression (see Disqualification)

Backing up

Ideally, dogs will be trained to return the ball/bumper to the handler at the start line. However, handlers may back up within reason (a maximum of 5 steps) to encourage the dog to return to the handler. The handler may not run forward with the dog.

Bitches in season

Bitches in season may be tested as the last dog(s) at the end of the day. If there are two events on one day, a bitch in season may only be tested as the last dog in the last event. A bitch in season may return if there are events on a second day, and again, be tested as the last dog of the last event at the end of the day. Bitches in season should not be waiting in the area with other dogs.

Certificates (see Title Certificates)

Clickers

While we recognize that clickers may be valuable training tools, they are not permitted in the AKC Fetch test.

Coats

Dogs may wear coats in the Fetch test in cold weather. Dogs may not wear clothes/costumes in the test.

Collars, harnesses, leashes

Dogs may wear slip collars, buckle collars, and Martingales in the AKC Fetch test. They may not wear prong collars, e-collars, head collars, muzzles, or body harnesses.

Leashes should be 4 ft. to 6 ft. long and should be made of fabric, leather or biothane.

Concurrent Events

There may be concurrent AKC Fetch tests, meaning that more than one test may be held at the same time. As an example, in one testing area, there might be a Novice test, while in another area at the same time, different judges may be testing Intermediate dogs.

Conduct of Evaluators

Evaluators/judges in the AKC Fetch test must be professional at all times. This applies to demeanor, and the manner in which information is communicated to handlers.

Conflict of interest

An AKC Fetch judge may not judge a dog they own or co-own or is co-owned by anyone in their immediate family or household. This would be a conflict of interest. A second judge may test the dog of another judge at the beginning or end of the event.

Corrections

In the AKC Fetch test, handlers may talk to their dogs, but not excessively. There should be no leash corrections. Depending on the severity of the correction, the Evaluator may give the handler a reminder or may dismiss the handler.

Course design (also see Layout)

The course for the AKC Fetch test will be set up the morning of the event. The club/judge should do everything possible to ensure there is no practicing on the field the day of or the day before the test. If the test is held at a show, the club should do its best to prevent other show exhibitors from using the Fetch test area as an exercise or potty area for their dogs before the Fetch test.

Date conflicts

There are no restrictions pertaining to date conflicts with other events. (This means that more than one club may hold an AKC Fetch test on the same day).

Disabilities

Handlers: Accommodations should be made for handlers with disabilities in AKC Fetch.

Examples include allowing a wheelchair or permitting someone with visual disabilities to have someone guide them to the start line and describe the location of the distractions and/or blinds.

Dogs: Dogs with disabilities may participate in AKC Fetch.

Some examples include hearing impairments (in which case the dog may be directed by hand signals), or dogs with a missing limb.

Disqualifications

If a dog exhibits aggressive behavior (e.g., biting) during the AKC Fetch test, the dog must be dismissed immediately. If the aggression occurs on the Fetch course, the judge will complete the "DQ by Judge" official AKC form. If the aggression occurs outside the Fetch course, a "DQ by Committee" form should be completed.

Disqualification (DQ) by the Judge

A dog is not eligible to be entered in a licensed or member club or CGC Evaluator sponsored AKC Fetch test if the dog has on one occasion been made subject to the following report: If a dog, while under judgment at an AKC Fetch test event attacks another dog or person, and the judge is of the opinion that such an attack was without reasonable cause, the judge shall identify the offending dog on the "Dog DQ by Judge at a Performance Event Form" found online at:

<http://images.akc.org/pdf/AEDSQ5.pdf>

The name of the offending dogs shall be listed on the form and sent to the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not compete in any AKC Fetch tests until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated. Barking and/or growling, in and of itself, does not constitute aggression. A dog shall not be disqualified for defending itself when attacked. Any dog that is disqualified by a judge will not qualify (pass) the AKC Fetch test.

Disqualification (DQ) by the Event Committee

Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee or the American Kennel Club, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event including an AKC Fetch test, resulting in an injury, and is believed by that Event Committee or the American Kennel Club to present a hazard to persons or other dogs should be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed immediately with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club. This form is online at: <http://images.akc.org/pdf/AEDSQ4.pdf>

The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated. Any dog that is disqualified by a judge will not qualify (pass) the AKC Fetch test.

Con't.

REINSTATEMENT. *A dog disqualified twice is not eligible for reinstatement. For eligible dogs, the privilege to participate may be reinstated upon completion of the following: 1. A minimum of a calendar month of retraining. For dogs that are Disqualified by the Event Committee, the earning of a Canine Good Citizen title is a very logical step in retraining. 2. Certification in writing by two licensed judges or an AKC field representative stating the dog acted appropriately during two reenactments of the incident. The reenactments should involve different dogs or people, depending on the nature of the incident. Neither of the two judges may be owners, co-owners, immediate family of the owners or co-owners, nor reside in the same household as the owners of the disqualified dog. 3. A letter requesting reinstatement, a check made out for \$50.00 payable to the AKC, and the certifications must be sent to The American Kennel Club from the owner of the dog. 4. A decision by the AKC to reinstate said privilege.*

Dog not working (Zoomies, fooling around, joy rides, standing still) How long?

There are times that the dog will be sent to fetch and the dog will run around the course off-task. He may or may not have the ball/bumper in his mouth, but he is not returning directly to the handler.

How long can the dog be off-task before he does not pass this test item?

- Novice – 90 seconds (1.5 minutes) or more, then the dog does not pass
- Intermediate – 30 seconds, then the dog does not pass
- Advanced and Retriever – must be making reasonable progress toward retrieving including searching for the bumper, etc. For Advanced and Retriever, an interruption in the dog working (e.g., drops ball, scratching, sits and rests), must not exceed 15 seconds.

Handlers may instruct the dog to fetch when it is off-task.

The clock for Novice (90 seconds), Intermediate (30 seconds) and Advanced and Retriever (15 seconds) starts at the point the dog is off-task, not when the whole exercise begins.

Eligibility

Clubs: AKC licensed and member clubs are eligible to hold AKC Fetch tests. In addition, qualified AKC CGC Evaluators (see ‘Judges’ below) may hold AKC Fetch tests at their facilities.

Judges: AKC Approved CGC Evaluators and AKC judges of all types may administer the test as long as their Evaluator/judge status is current, they have completed the online Fetch course in Canine College and passed the test. CGC Evaluators who judge AKC Fetch tests are referred to as “judges.”

Dogs: Dogs who are at least 6 months of age are eligible to take the AKC Fetch test as long as they are registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC, PAL or AKC Canine Partners number.

Encouragement

Handlers may talk to their dogs and they may encourage them by calling them and praising them (“Good boy!”). Handlers may pat their legs to encourage the dog to come to them.

Evaluators (see Judges)

Event

Each AKC event has its own event number, and an application is submitted for each event. An event must start and be completed within one day.

There can be no more than two events (each with its own event number) held by the same club/judge on the same day. Example: a club/host may have on the same day Event #001 and Event #002.

There can be more than one level of Fetch testing per event number (i.e., the club may have Fetch testing with one event number and offer up to 4 levels of Fetch testing - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Retriever).

A dog can only enter one testing level per event. An event is defined by the event number.

This means that under one event number, a dog may only enter one time. As an example, for Event #1234 that offers Novice and Intermediate, if the dog enters Novice, it may not enter the same event (number) for Intermediate. It must enter a separate event (number) for Intermediate.

Titles must be earned in order.

Dogs may move up (see Move-ups) after they have earned a lower-level title if the next higher class has its own event number. This means there must be two passes under two different judges and two different event numbers before the dog moves to the next higher-level testing.

If a dog incorrectly earns legs at a higher level prior to earning two passes at the lower-level title, or if both titles were earned under the same event number, the higher-level title will not count.

Dogs who pass two tests at a given level may move-up (see Move-ups) to the next higher-level class at a future event before receiving their certificate from AKC.

Event application

An AKC official event application should be submitted to AKC for approval of a club’s AKC Fetch test. See <https://www.akc.org/fetch> for the link to an application form.

If the club/judge has two AKC Fetch tests on consecutive days (e.g., one on Saturday, one on Sunday), each test counts as a separate event and a separate Event application is needed.

A club/judge may put a limit on the number of dogs that will be accepted in their test.

Any club, host or judge may not hold more than 12 events per year.

Event Committee

A minimum of five (5) people is needed for the AKC Fetch test committee.

The Event Committee is a group organized by the Chairperson of the event. The Chair appoints the Event Committee to:

- address any misconduct complaints.
- meet and decide if a hearing is warranted.

The Committee Chair ensures the procedures in the Judges Guide are followed.

The Secretary handles entries and related issues during the event.

The Fetch judge may not be on the Committee. This is because if there is a hearing, the Judge needs to be able to keep judging.

The Secretary and Chair may be the same person.

There may be more than one (1) alternate judge.

Exchanging ball for food or another ball

When the dog returns to the handler with the ball/bumper, the handler may not exchange the ball the dog is returning for food, or another ball/bumper, or toy.

This means the handler may not have two balls/bumpers and show a second one to the dog when it returns to get the dog to release the object in its mouth.

Food may be used as a reward and may only be given when the dog has completed the retrieve, and the handler has taken the object from the dog. If food is used as a reward, the dog may not be shown the food while it is still holding the retrieving object.

Excusals

If a dog shows signs of aggression, it is Disqualified. An excusal is used in situations such as when the handler requests to be excused because the handler is not feeling well, does not want to proceed with the test, etc. Other examples include a dog that may also be excused by the judge for being out of control (e.g., running around the course), urinating or defecating on the course, being so fearful it will not work, or simply not being trained to perform the test items.

Dogs may be excused from the Fetch test or test area by a judge for excessively delaying during the test, being found unfit to compete, interference with the test in progress by the owner or handler, or not being present when called to be tested. Dogs must be given 5 minutes grace time to arrive at the test area when called. When a dog is excused during an AKC Fetch test, the excusal must be recorded on the Test Summary Form.

Failure (also see Retest)

If the dog does not pass the test, the judge should keep the paperwork for at least 1 year. The number of dogs that did not pass will be needed to complete the Test Summary Form. The names of handlers and/or dogs who did not pass the test will not be sent to AKC, however, they should be recorded on the Fetch judge's form.

Feedback to handlers

There are times when the judge will need to give feedback to the handler. Feedback should be given in a calm, unemotional and supportive manner. Examples of when feedback is needed may include when:

- A handler should attempt the test item again.
"Let's try that again. This time, you should throw the ball *between* the obstacles."
- The dog needs to repeat the test item.
"Try that again. This time, make sure your dog is at your side when you start."
- The handler is physically correcting the dog.
"Remember, you should not be correcting your dog with tugs on the leash."
- When the dog fails the test:
"Your dog did great on two of the three retrieves, but he only came within 15-ft of you on the third one, so he didn't pass the test. He is close – this is something you can work on and try again."

Fencing

The premium list should state if the Fetch test area is fenced.

Flooring

The location for the test will be outdoors or in an equivalent setting (for example, an indoor agility facility).

For indoor settings, flooring must be used that will prevent dogs from being injured while running. Examples include turf or dirt that is suitable for dogs to run on, or mats with padding (3/8-inch) that are used for sports such as agility or flyball. Not acceptable are uncovered concrete, or thin ring matting (1/8-inch).

Food rewards

While we recognize that food can be a very valuable tool when teaching a skill, food may not be used to lure the dog in the AKC Fetch test. Further, handlers may not use "imaginary food" where they attempt to guide the dog with an empty hand (as though they were holding food) to get it into position. Food may be used as a reward, but only when the dog has completed the retrieve, and the handler has taken the ball/bumper from the dog. The dog may not be shown the food while it is still holding the retrieving object.

Format

The AKC Fetch test is held outdoors or in an equivalent setting (e.g., an indoor agility facility with turf or dirt that is suitable for dogs to run on). The test is in-person only; no video tests are allowed.

Greeting participants

The purpose of greeting the handler at the beginning of the test is to provide a warm welcome and set the stage for the rules of the test. Here is the general tone of an ideal greeting:

“Welcome to the AKC Fetch test. May I have your paperwork?” (Evaluator takes paperwork and looks at forms, or already has forms on clipboard).

“This is the Novice course. This is three single retrieves, one each to the left, right and center of the course. You need to throw the ball between the ____.” (Name the distractions/obstacles—box, chair, etc.) “Do you have any questions? Let’s get started. Are you ready?”

Handlers

While we hope the owner of the dog will want to participate in the Fetch tests, someone other than the owner may handle the dog.

Helper

In most cases, in Novice and Intermediate, a handler will throw their dog’s ball, bumper, or toy. If necessary, a handler may have a helper throw the ball or bumper. The helper may serve as a thrower only. Helpers may not give tips or guidance to the handler. The helper may also not talk to or send the dog.

For Advanced and Retriever, a helper associated with the event (club, etc.) will be dropping the bumper behind the blinds. A handler may choose to throw their bumper/ball in Advanced and Retriever.

Instructions to handlers

The judge may say something like, “Welcome to the Novice Fetch test,” then tell the handler what is expected, such as,

“Your dog will must do 3 retrieves at 30-ft. One will be to the right, one to the center, and one to the left. You may do these in any order. Your dog must stay until the ball stops moving.”

For Novice and Intermediate, the judge will instruct the handler as to where ball should be thrown (between obstacles).

Judges

The judges for AKC Fetch are AKC judges of all types or AKC Approved CGC Evaluators. All judges must have completed the required training modules and passed the online test in Canine College. The assistants (who help set up the courses, etc.) are referred to as “helpers.” AKC judges will use their AKC Judge number and CGC Evaluators will use the Fetch judge ID assigned to them for Fetch judging. (This is different than a CGC Evaluator number).

For more information on the approval process that involves completing online training and passing an online test, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

Con’t.

Responsibilities of judges include working with the club to plan the test, approving the layout of the course, directing the helpers re: the placement of blinds and obstacles, and completing the required online Test Summary Form within 7 days after the test so that titles can be issued.

The club or judge will determine who will provide the materials for the test and course (paperwork, course obstacles, blinds, etc.) At the test, the judge must also complete the "Record of All Dogs Tested," a short form for his or her own records that lists the owner and dog name and breed and whether or not the test was passed. For this form, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

Substitution of judge: If a judge needs to be replaced after the AKC Event application has been submitted, this should be noted on the Test Summary Form.

The host club or host judge should contact AKC immediately regarding changes.

Judging limits

There are no AKC judging limits regarding the number of dogs that may be judged at an AKC Fetch event, however, the event must start and be completed within one (1) day.

A club/host may put a limit on the number of dogs that will be accepted in their test.

Tests must be done in daylight hours unless the test is held indoors.

Any club/host or judge may not hold more than 12 events per year.

Layout of test area

See pages 23-26 of this Guide for diagrams of the AKC Fetch courses. See the module on "Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses" (<https://www.akc.org/fetch>) for photos and examples of the distractions and blinds on the courses.

Leashes (see Collars, leashes)

Locations

The AKC Fetch test is held at AKC licensed or member club events. In addition to AKC Judges of all types, AKC Approved CGC Evaluators may serve as judges for the test. AKC judges and CGC Evaluators must have completed and training and testing in Canine College in order to become AKC Fetch Judges.

The location for the test will be outdoors or in an equivalent setting (e.g., an indoor agility facility).

For indoor settings, flooring must be used that will prevent dogs from being injured while running. Examples include turf or dirt that is suitable for dogs to run on, or mats with padding (3/8-inch) that are used for sports such as agility or flyball. Not acceptable are uncovered concrete, or thin ring matting (1/8-inch).

Mileage conflicts

There are no restrictions pertaining to mileage conflicts with other events. This means that two clubs that are close by may hold an AKC Fetch test on the same day.

Move-ups

Move-ups will be permitted in AKC Fetch Tests. If a dog has passed both of the required Fetch tests (e.g., passed Novice Fetch twice), it may be moved up to the testing for the next higher-level title at the next event (as defined by a different event number) before receiving the title certificate from AKC.

Under one event number, a dog may only enter one time. As an example, for Event #1234 that offers Novice and Intermediate, if the dog enters Novice, it may not enter the same event (number) for Intermediate. It must enter a separate event (number) for Intermediate.

The handler must request that the dog be moved up by the club/host at least 30-minutes before the starting time of the event.

Move-ups are handled by the Fetch Test Secretary at the Fetch test registration area.

A move-up form must be submitted to the AKC Fetch Test Secretary. Move-up forms are under Judges Resources at www.akc.org/fetch

For more information, also see Events.

Number of Judges and helpers

There will be one judge per test. The judge will judge the dogs and score the Checklist. The number of helpers per test will be determined by the club/host. For most tests, in addition to the judge, a minimum of 2 helpers would be needed. One would handle sign-ins, and the other one would assist with the course set up and dropping the bumpers for Advanced and Retriever.

Obstacles

Details pertaining to obstacles are specified in the module "Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses" (www.akc.org/fetch under AKC Fetch Judge Resources).

Obstacles may include boxes, packing crates, storage crates, laundry baskets, etc. See the module for photos and dimensions.

Order of testing

There are four levels of titles for AKC Fetch testing. These are Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Retriever. The judge may determine the order in which these are tested. However, particularly in hot weather, it is suggested that the Retriever testing goes first, followed by Advanced, then Intermediate and Novice.

There will most likely not be many dogs testing at the Retriever level, so scheduling them first will prevent them from having to wait all day for a large group of Novice dogs to be tested. Further, because of the longer distances that the dogs must run in Retriever and Advanced, it is best to conduct their tests earlier during hot weather.

Paperwork

Club: The club is required to submit the official AKC Event application. See <https://www.akc.org/fetch> for the link to the Event Application.

Judge: The judge or club decide who will download the AKC Fetch test forms for the test from <https://www.akc.org/fetch>. The forms needed for testing include:

- 1) AKC Fetch Title application form for each participant,
- 2) AKC Fetch Judge Checklist for each participant,
- 3) the online Test Summary Form at <https://www.akc.org/fetch> to be completed by the judge within 7 days of the test so the event can be closed and the titles issued.
- 4) At the test, the judge must also complete the "Record of All Dogs Tested." This is a short form for the judge's records that lists the owner and dog name and whether or not the test was passed. The link to this form is at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

Judges must have the Checklists at the test in order to judge. For good customer service, it is very helpful to participants if the judge also gives those completing their title a Title Application form so all paperwork is ready to submit. Copies of Title Applications can be downloaded from: <https://www.akc.org/fetch/titles/>

Owner: Once the dog has passed the AKC Fetch test twice, the dog owner sends to AKC:

- 1) a copy of the AKC Fetch Title Application and fee and
- 2) both copies of the AKC Fetch Judge Checklist.

The dog owner may submit the title online at:

<https://www.apps.akc.org/title-application-portal/>

If the dog passes the AKC Fetch title, the judge should give the dog owner the AKC Fetch Title Application form and the AKC Fetch judge Checklist to send to AKC to request the title.

If the dog does not pass the test, the judge should keep the handler's paperwork. The results from dogs that did not pass will be needed to complete the online Test Summary Form. The names of handlers and dogs who did not pass the test will not be sent to AKC.

Premium list

When the AKC Fetch test is held at shows or trials, the test should be listed in the club's premium list. Clubs should state whether there is a limit to the number of dogs, the times for the test, the fee for testing, if sign-ups will be accepted at the event and how to preregister. The premium list should state whether the test is restricted to a particular breed (such as in the case of a Specialty show). For a sample premium list, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

When the AKC Fetch test is held as a stand-alone event such as at an AKC club's test, or at a CGC Evaluator's training school, the club/host will decide how participants are to be notified.

If the premium list is updated for any reason, an updated premium list should be sent to fetch@akc.org

Refusals on the send

If the dog refuses to retrieve when given the cue by the handler, it may restart the following number of times:

- Novice – 2 restarts per test (not per throw)
- Intermediate – 2 restarts per test (not per throw)
- Advanced – 1 restart per test (not per throw)
- Retriever – 1 restart per test (not per throw)

Registration

The club/judge may decide how registrations will be handled. The club/judge may decide whether or not to accept preregistrations and sign-ups at the event.

Repeat throws

When a handler or helper throws the ball or drops the bumper in error (e.g., it goes off the course, in front of the blind, etc.), the ball or bumper may be thrown or dropped again.

If the handler throws 3 times and cannot get the ball on the course or to the minimum distance, the judge may have a helper throw, or the ball/bumper may be placed by the helper or judge.

Restart

A restart may occur when the:

- 1) dog refuses to leave the start line when directed.**
The handler may repeat the cue (e.g., “Fetch it!”) to start.
- 2) dog picks up the retrieving object but drops it on the way back to the handler.**
The handler may prompt and encourage the dog (“Get it! Get it!”)
- 3) dog is off-task, for example, gets the “zoomies.”**
The handler may repeat the cue (e.g., “Fetch!” “Fetch!”).
 - The handler may not go and get the dog and return it to the start line.
 - If the dog exceeds the time allowed (see Dog Not Working , page 9) it does not pass.
- 4) dog leaves the start line before directed and is recalled to start over.**

Retest

If a dog does not pass the AKC Fetch test, it may take the test again as soon as the handler feels the dog is ready. If there are two tests that are two different events on the same day (each with its own Event number) the handler may enter the second test if sign-ups at the event are permitted. There should be no training on the Fetch test course at the event.

Rewards, reinforcers, lures

While we recognize that food can be a very valuable tool when teaching a skill, food as lure (to guide the dog into position) is not permitted in the AKC Fetch test. Further, handlers may not use “imaginary food” where they attempt to guide the dog with an empty hand as though they were holding food. Food may be used as a reward, but only when the dog has completed the retrieve, and the handler has taken the ball/bumper from the dog. The dog may not be shown the food while it is still holding the retrieving object.

Ribbons and Rosettes

A club or Fetch judge holding a licensed or member club Fetch test shall offer qualifying ribbons. CGC Evaluators who are judges for AKC Fetch tests must also provide ribbons. A ribbon shall be awarded to a dog who passes the test. Each flat ribbon shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and primarily green in color and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the American Kennel Club, the words "Qualified," and the Fetch test level (e.g., Novice). There are ribbons in the AKC Online store, or a club/judge may make their own ribbons as long as they comply with the above specifications. The club/judge may choose to include the AKC Fetch logo or a club logo on the ribbon.

The club/organizer may choose to also offer a rosette. Some clubs offer a "New Title" rosette when dogs complete the AKC Fetch title. Rosettes may be of a color chosen by the club. The center button should have the AKC logo, and the AKC Fetch logo may appear on one of the streamers.

Scoring the test (see Part II)

Sending dog

The dog should be sent to retrieve once the ball is "dead." This means the dog may be sent when the ball has stopped moving.

Signals

The dog must respond to signals. Signals may include verbal cues ("Fetch it!"), hand signals, whistles, or a combination.

Sign-ups at test (see Registration)

Size of test area

The AKC Fetch test is given outdoors or in an equivalent setting (e.g., an indoor agility facility with turf or dirt that is not hard-packed). The test area should be at least 100 x 100 ft. if all 4 levels of Fetch are to be administered (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Retriever) but it may be larger.

The club is permitted to offer only the lower levels of the AKC Fetch test. If only lower levels are offered, the size of the test area must be the size required for the largest level of test offered plus 20 ft.

Novice only	= for a 30 ft. retrieve + 20 ft. = a 50 x 50 ft. test area is required
Intermediate	= for a 50 ft. retrieve + 20 ft. = a 70 x 70 ft. test area is required
Advanced	= for a 70 ft. retrieve + 20 ft. = a 90 x 90 ft. test area is required
Retriever	= for an 80 ft. retrieve + 20 ft. = a 100 x 100 ft. test area is required

As can be seen above, if a club chose to only offer Novice testing, they could use a 50 x 50 ft. test area. If the club chose to only offer Novice and Intermediate, the Fetch test area would need to be a minimum of 70 x 70 ft.

Soiling the test area

Dogs who urinate or defecate on the AKC Fetch test course do not qualify.

Spectator area

The spectator area should be at a distance so as not to disturb or distract the dogs in the test. Dogs that are entered in the test should not be waiting close to the test area or start line.

Starting position

The test begins with the dog at the handler's side. Either side may be chosen.

Novice and Intermediate – The dog may sit, down, or stand to start. The dog may be between the handler's legs.

Advanced and Retriever – The dog must start from the sit or stand position. The dog may not be between the handler's legs.

Submitting results (also see Test Summary Form)

To submit the results of the Fetch test to AKC, the judge should:

- Complete the online Test Summary Form within 7 days of the test so the event can be closed and the titles issued. For the link to the Test Summary Form, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

If a dog passes the test, the handler is given two forms to send to AKC with the fee to request the Fetch title. These are the:

- 1) AKC Fetch Title Application, and the
- 2) AKC Fetch Judge Checklist (send Checklists for 2 passing tests)

For these forms, see: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

At the test, the judge must also complete the "Record of All Dogs Tested." This is a short form for the judge's records that lists the owner and dog name and whether or not the test was passed. This form can be downloaded at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

Test equipment

The equipment for the AKC Fetch test includes 1) the paperwork (see Paperwork above), 2) the retrieving objects, and 3) the obstacles and blinds.

The Retrieving Objects

The Retrieving objects are described in the module, "Setting Up Your AKC Fetch Courses" at www.akc.org/fetch

- In the Novice and Intermediate tests, the retrieving object may be either a tennis ball or equivalent, a retrieving bumper, or a handler's choice toy (e.g., KONG Wubba™).
- Dumbbells or gloves may not be used as retrieving objects.
- Discs (Frisbees) may not be used as retrieving objects.
- Stuffed animals may not be used as retrieving objects.
- Bumpers (or other retrieving objects) may not be scented or filled with food.

Con't.

- Retrieving objects may not be launched from a mechanical apparatus such as a ball gun or an automatic ball throwing device.
- In the Advanced and Retriever tests, the retrieving object may be a bumper or tennis ball or equivalent.
- The retrieving objects may be provided by the handler. The club/host should also have a ball and bumpers in case a handler did not bring theirs.

The Obstacles and Blinds

- The club/judge may choose from a variety of obstacles and blinds. See the module, “Setting Up Your AKC Fetch Courses” at: <https://www.akc.org/fetch> for photos and examples of the distractions and blinds on the courses.

Test Summary Form

The judge must submit the online AKC Fetch Test Summary form within 7 days of the test so that the event can be closed out and the titles awarded. The online Test Summary Form takes only a few minutes to complete. See: <https://www.akc.org/fetch>

There is a place on the Test Summary Form to indicate Disqualifications (dismissals) and Excusals.

Title Certificates

Title certificates are sent by AKC when the Title Application, two passing Checklists, and fee are received. The club/host is not responsible for issuing certificates.

Throwing the ball/bumper

In Advanced and Retriever, the ball/bumper may be thrown or dropped. A Chuckit! may be used if the ball is thrown. A helper (provided by the handler) may throw the ball/bumper in Advanced and Retriever. Since most handlers will not be able to throw 70-80 ft., in most cases in Advanced and Retriever, the ball/bumper will be dropped by a helper (see videos).

In Novice and Intermediate, the handler may throw the ball. A Chuckit may be used. A helper may throw for the handler.

If the handler throws 3 times and cannot get the ball on the course or to the minimum distance, the judge may have a helper throw, or the ball/bumper may be placed by the helper or judge.

Time to complete the retrieve

The time it takes the dog to complete the retrieve is up to the discretion of the judge. However, once the dog stops working and is off-task, there are time limits to how long the dog can be off-task before it does not pass the test. See Dog not working, page 9.

Title (requirements for)

The AKC Fetch titles are designated by the suffixes FTN (Novice), FTI (Intermediate), FTA (Advanced), and FTR (Retriever).

There can be no more than two events (each with its own event number) held by the same club/judge on the same day.

The dog must pass each test level two times at two separate events (two separate event numbers) under two different judges to earn a title.

Fetch titles must be earned in order.

This means a dog cannot start testing at the Advanced or Retriever level without having passed Novice and Intermediate.

Any dog regardless of experience must start at Novice and earn the Novice title before progressing to the next level, and so on.

Test passes will only count towards the current title the dog is working on achieving. If a test pass from a higher level is earned without having earned the previous level title, the pass will not count.

How Passes Are Counted

- If the Novice test was only passed one time, and the handler went into the Intermediate test and passed, because Novice had not been passed twice, the Intermediate leg (if passed) would not count.
- Events #001 and #002 were offering all 4 levels of Fetch testing on the same day. There were two different judges. If the dog had two passes in Intermediate at Event #001 and Event #002, the dog could not be moved up to Advanced under the same event numbers. Dogs must pass twice under two different judges at two separate events (two separate event numbers).

The dog owner must submit the AKC Fetch Title application and Judge's Checklists from two passed tests along with the title processing fee to receive each title. The dog must be registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC number, a PAL number, or an AKC Canine Partners number.

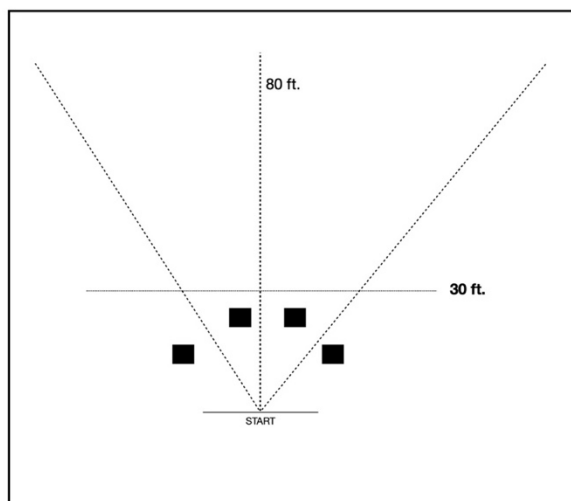
Qualifications

Judges: The judges for AKC Fetch are AKC judges of any type or AKC Approved CGC Evaluators. To become AKC Fetch judges, both AKC judges and CGC Evaluators must complete the AKC Fetch online training and pass the online test. AKC CGC Approved Evaluators must have completed the CGC Evaluator approval process, complete the online training for CGC Evaluators, and passed the CGC Evaluator online test before getting approved as an AKC Fetch judge. For the CGC Evaluator application, see: https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/visitor_catalog_class/show/810302

Helpers: The assistants in the AKC Fetch test are referred to as “helpers.” The helpers are selected by the judge or club. Helpers should be trained by the judge on how to set up the course and any other required roles (e.g., retrieve out-of-course balls, drop the bumpers, etc.)

PART II. AKC Fetch Test

NOVICE (FTN)



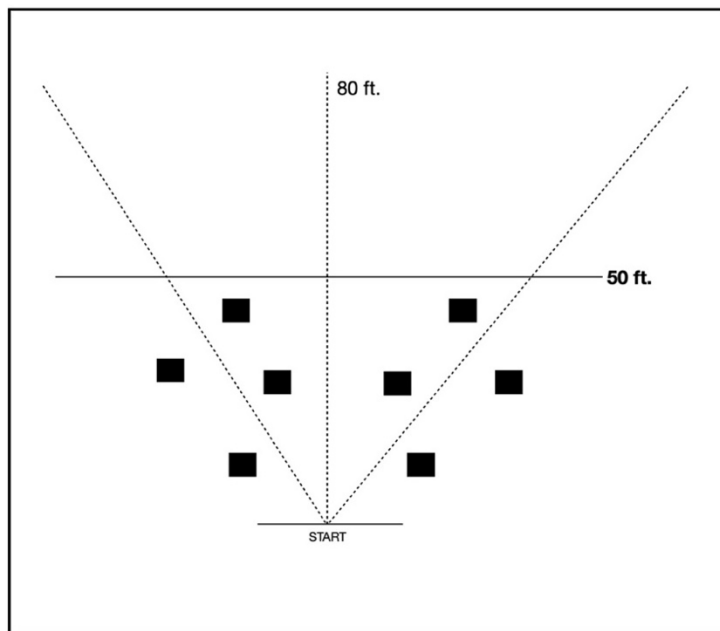
In the Novice Fetch test, the handler will throw an object—a ball, bumper, or toy, and the dog will retrieve from at least 30-ft.

- The ball (or bumper or toy) will be thrown between the obstacles.
- The handler (or helper) will throw 3 singles (in an order determined by the handler):
 - 1 to the left, 1 to the center, and 1 to the right as shown by the dotted lines in the diagram.
- The dog will be able to see the ball as it goes between the obstacles.
- The Novice course has 4 obstacles. If boxes are used, they must be approximately 14 inches tall. Do not use small boxes like shoe boxes. One “fun” obstacle may be used such as a lawn chair or lawn ornament.
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one pass on Sunday to earn the title.

Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the handler throws the first ball, bumper, etc.
- In Novice, the handler may hold the collar until the ball is thrown and stops moving.
- The ball must stop moving before the handler sends the dog.
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come within 2 steps of the handler. These may be large steps. The handler may take the ball.
- There should not be an extended game of tug when the dog returns the ball.
- If the dog starts and then stops, in Novice, the handler may resend the dog 2 times (in the whole test, not 2 times per retrieve).

INTERMEDIATE (FTI)



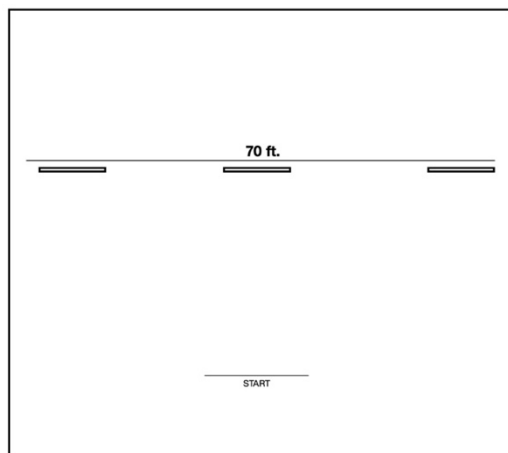
In the Intermediate Fetch test, the handler will throw an object—a ball, bumper, or toy, and the dog will retrieve from at least 50-ft.

- The ball (or bumper or toy) will be thrown between the obstacles.
- The handler (or helper) will throw 4 singles (in any order determined by the handler).
 - Retrieves are 1 each to the center, right and left, then one more to the right or left as shown by the dotted lines in the diagram.
- The dog will be able to see the ball as it goes between the obstacles.
- The Intermediate course has 8 obstacles. If boxes are used, they must be approximately 14 inches tall. Do not use small boxes like shoe boxes. A maximum of two “fun” obstacles may be used such as lawn chairs, or lawn ornaments.
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one pass on Sunday to earn the title.

Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the handler throws the first ball, bumper, etc.
- In Intermediate, the handler may hold the collar with 1 finger until the ball is thrown and stops moving. The ball must stop moving before the handler sends the dog.
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come within 1 step of the handler. The handler may take the ball. There should not be an extended game of tug when the dog returns the ball.
- If the dog starts and then stops, in Intermediate, the handler may resend the dog 2 times (in the whole test, not 2 times per retrieve).

ADVANCED (FTA)



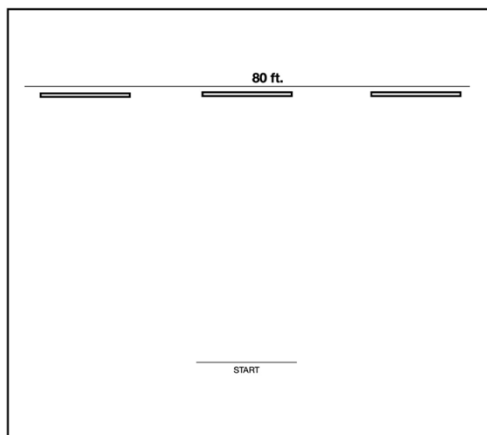
In the Advanced Fetch test, the dog will retrieve bumpers (or balls) from at least 70-ft. These are **marked retrieves** in which the dog can see a ball or bumper as it is dropped or thrown. The dog retrieves balls or bumpers that are behind blinds.

- The bumpers will be dropped behind the blinds by an event helper. The handler may request to throw the bumpers rather than have them dropped.
- The dog must do 2 singles and 2 doubles (the order of the singles and doubles and the retrieves will be determined by the handler).
 - 2 Singles: 1 to the center, and 1 to the right or left. These will go behind the blinds.
 - 2 Doubles: Bumpers for Doubles must be 2 different directions (e.g., 1 center, 1 left). They cannot be the same direction.
- The Advanced course has 3 blinds at least 24 inches tall and 10 ft. to 12 ft. long. Blinds may be no taller than 30 inches. See photos of blinds in the module, “Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses.”
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one on Sunday to earn the title.

Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the helper begins to drop bumpers behind each of the blinds. The handler will tell the helper which blinds should have bumpers dropped behind them (e.g., for the Double, “right and center”, “left and right”, etc.)
- In Advanced, the handler may not hold the collar. The bumpers must land before the handler sends the dog. **The handler will tell the judge which blind the dog is being sent to (left, center or right).**
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come close enough for the handler to take the bumper (or the dog delivers to hand).
- If the dog starts and then stops, in Advanced, the handler may resend the dog 1 time.

RETRIEVER (FTR)



In the Retriever Fetch test, the dog will retrieve bumpers (or balls) from at least 80-ft. These are **marked retrieves** in which the dog can see a ball or bumper as it is dropped or thrown. The dog retrieves balls or bumpers that are behind blinds.

- The bumpers will be dropped behind the 3 blinds by an event helper. The handler may request to throw the bumpers rather than have them dropped.
- The dog must do 2 doubles and 1 triple (the order of the triple and doubles and the retrieves will be determined by the handler).
 - 2 Doubles: To the center, right or left behind the blinds. There must be 2 balls thrown in 2 different directions (e.g., they cannot both be thrown to the left).
 - 1 Triple: Must be 1 center, 1 right, 1 left (behind the blind).
- The Retriever course has 3 blinds at least 24 inches tall and 10 ft. to 12 ft. long. Blinds may not be taller than 30 inches. See photos of blinds in the module, “Setting Up AKC Fetch Courses.”
- The dog must pass a total of two times at two events under two different judges to earn the title. Example: one pass on Saturday, one on Sunday to earn the title.

Procedure:

- The handler/dog will walk up to the start line with the dog on leash. The leash will be removed before the helper begins to drop bumpers. For the Doubles, 2 bumpers are dropped/thrown; for the Triple, 3 bumpers are dropped/thrown.
- In the Retriever test, the handler may not hold the collar. The bumpers must land before the handler sends the dog. **The handler will tell the judge which blind the dog is being sent to (left, center or right).**
- Dog fetches, returns, and must come close enough for the handler to take the bumper (or the dog delivers to hand).
- If the dog starts and then stops, in Retriever, the handler may resend the dog 1 time.

Part III. AKC Fetch Test Summary Chart

AKC Fetch

	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Retriever
Format of test	In-person only	In-person	In-person	In-person
Who may test?	CGC Evaluator or AKC judges (who complete training)	Same as Novice	Same as Novice	Same as Novice
Distance	30 ft.	50 ft.	70 ft.	80 ft.
Number of retrieves	3 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to left, 1 to right).	4 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to left, 1 to right, then 1 more to left or right - handler's choice).	2 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to right or left) 2 doubles All behind blinds	2 doubles 1 triple All behind blinds
Number of obstacles	4	8	3 blinds	3 blinds
Nature of obstacles	May be boxes/ crates, etc., items found in yard such as a lawn chair	May be boxes/ crates, etc., items found in yard such as a lawn chair	3 blinds at least 24- inches tall, no taller than 30 inches	3 blinds at least 24-inches tall, no taller than 30 inches
Thrower/Helper to Drop Bumpers	Dog owner or helper if needed.	Dog owner or helper if needed.	Event helper drops bumpers behind blinds. May throw.	Event helper drops bumpers behind blinds. May throw.
Restarts	2 restarts	2 restarts	1 restart	1 restart
The Send	Ball must stop moving before send- may hold collar	Ball must stop moving before send - may hold collar w/ 1 finger	Bumper must land- no holding collar	Bumper must land- no holding collar
Return to Handler	Must come within 2 large steps of handler, may give or drop	Must come within 1 large step of handler, may give or drop	Handler must be able to take from dog, or dog delivers to hand	Handler must be able to take from dog, or dog delivers to hand
Retrieving objects	Tennis ball or equivalent, bumper, handler's choice toy— wubba, etc.	Tennis ball or equivalent, bumper, toy	Bumper May use tennis ball or equivalent	Bumper May use tennis ball or equivalent
Number of times to pass	2	2	2	2
Title letters	FTN	FTI	FTA	FTR

Part IV. Scoring the AKC Fetch Test



AKC Fetch Novice Checklist

Event Number _____

Owner name _____ Dog call name _____

Dog AKC number _____ Breed _____

Club (or Judge if no Club) _____ City, State _____

NOVICE - 30 ft. - 3 single retrieves

MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST

	Pass	Needs training
1. Dog under control at the start line (owner may hold collar)		
2. Handler throws 3 singles - (center, left, right) in any order To CENTER Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball w/in 2 steps		
To LEFT Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball w/in 2 steps		
To RIGHT Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball w/in 2 steps		
3. Does not qualify <input type="checkbox"/> Runs off course <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates/defecates on course <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal <input type="checkbox"/> Does not finish in time <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Judge name _____ Judge number _____

Judge signature _____ Date _____



AKC Fetch Intermediate Checklist

Event Number _____

Owner name _____ Dog call name _____

Dog AKC number _____ Breed _____

Club (or Judge if no Club) _____ City, State _____

INTERMEDIATE- 50 ft. - 4 single retrieves
MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST

	Pass	Needs training
1. Dog under control at the start line (owner may hold collar w/ 1 finger)		
2. Handler throws 4 singles - (center, left, right) in any order, then throws another right or left To CENTER Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step) _____		
To LEFT Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step) _____		
To RIGHT Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step) _____		
To LEFT or RIGHT Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball (within 1 step) _____		
3. Does not qualify <input type="checkbox"/> Off course <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates/defecates on course <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal to retrieve <input type="checkbox"/> Does not finish in time <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Judge name _____ Judge number _____

Judge signature _____ Date _____



AKC Fetch Advanced Checklist

Event Number _____

Owner name _____ Dog call name _____

Dog AKC number _____ Breed _____

Club (or Judge if no Club) _____ City, State _____

ADVANCED- 70 ft. - 2 Double retrieves + 2 single retrieves

MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST

	Pass	Needs training
1. Dog under control at the start line (owner may not hold collar)		
2. Handler throws 2 singles - (1 center, 1 left or right) in any order, then throws another right or left) To CENTER - single Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball to handler _____		
To LEFT or RIGHT - single Dog goes to ball _____ Picks up ball _____ Returns ball to handler _____		
3. Handler throws 2 Doubles - Double #1 Dog goes to Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Picks up Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Returns to handler Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No		
Double #2 Dog goes to Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Picks up Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Returns to handler Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No		
4. Does not qualify [] Off course [] Urinates/defecates on course [] Refusal to retrieve [] Does not finish in time [] Other:		

Judge name _____ Judge number _____

Judge signature _____ Date _____



AKC Fetch Retriever Checklist

Event Number _____

Owner name _____ Dog call name _____

Dog AKC number _____ Breed _____

Club (or Judge if no Club) _____ City, State _____

RETRIEVER - 80 ft. - 1 Triple retrieve + 2 Double retrieves - any order

MUST PASS ALL ITEMS TO PASS THE TEST

	Pass	Needs training
1. Dog under control at the start line (owner may not hold collar)		
2. Handler throws 1 Triple - Ball #1 []Left []Right []Center Dog goes to Ball #1 []Yes []No Picks up Ball #1 []Yes []No Returns to handler Ball #1 []Yes []No ----- Triple - Ball #2 []Left []Right []Center Dog goes to Ball #2 []Yes []No Picks up Ball #2 []Yes []No Returns to handler Ball #2 []Yes []No ----- Triple - Ball #3 []Left []Right []Center Dog goes to Ball #3 []Yes []No Picks up Ball #3 []Yes []No Returns to handler Ball #3 []Yes []No		
3. Handler throws 2 Doubles - Double #1 (must have Yes for Ball 1 & 2 to pass) Dog goes to Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Picks up Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Returns to handler Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No ----- Double #2 (must have Yes for Ball 1 & 2 to pass) Dog goes to Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Picks up Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No Returns to handler Ball #1 []Yes []No Ball #2 []Yes []No		
4. Does not qualify [] Off course [] Urinates/defecates on course [] Refusal to retrieve [] Other:		

Judge _____ Judge number _____

Judge signature _____ Date _____

PART V. Scenarios for Judges

When the dog does this.... does it pass?

1. *The dog retrieves the ball. He brings it back, goes directly behind the handler and drops it. Does he pass?*

AKC Fetch: Yes, he passes for all levels. The wise handler will pivot around and take the ball.

2. *A Novice dog is sent, runs past the ball, and does not pick it up. He gets the "zoomies" and takes large loops around the course, passing the handler. The handler is saying, "GET IT! GET IT!" The dog finally picks up the ball and returns it to the handler.*

AKC Fetch: See in the Guide, page 9, Dog not working.

Once the zoomies start, in Novice, if the dog returns the ball to the handler within 90 seconds, it should pass.

3. *Very similar to #2 above. An Intermediate dog was sent, she ran out and picked up the ball. and then, she got the "zoomies" and took loops around the course with the ball in her mouth. Her handler was saying, "HERE! HERE!" The dog returned the ball to the handler in 20 seconds.*

AKC Fetch: The dog should pass because she was under the allowed 30 seconds (once the zoomies began) for Intermediate.

In Intermediate, if the dog went 30 seconds being out of control, the judge should call time and not pass the dog.

4. *A dog in our test retrieved the bumper, and on the way back to the handler, stopped to "say hello" to a photographer that was in the ring. The dog did not drop the bumper but tried to interact with the photographer. The handler called the dog, and he came to the handler with the bumper.*

AKC Fetch: The dog retrieved and should be passed. As for the issue with photographers in the ring, the club/host may wish to have them outside the ring, or at least ask the handlers if they mind if a photographer is in the test area.

5. One dog came all the way back with the ball. The handler reached to get it, and the dog ran away (about 15 ft.). The dog came back after being called by the handler several times. The dog did not drop the ball.

AKC Fetch: See page 9, Dog not working.

Once the dog ran away, if the dog returned the ball within the allotted time for Novice (90 seconds) or Intermediate (30 seconds), the dog should pass.

For Advanced and Retriever, the dog would not pass.

6. In Novice, the dog returned to the handler with the toy. The dog would not give the toy to the handler. When the handler reached for the toy, the dog would jerk its head away.

AKC Fetch: For Novice and Intermediate, the handler must be able to take the toy from the dog. They should be able to do this without prying the mouth open or having a game of tug.

For Advanced and Intermediate, the dog must willingly release the object.

7. How do we judge it if a dog goes between the obstacles on the way out but goes around them on the way back to the handler?

AKC Fetch: The dog should pass. The point of the exercise is for the dog to retrieve. In Novice and Intermediate, the handlers must throw the object between the obstacles, but the dog can choose its own course on the way out and back as long as it returns the object to the handler. Most dogs will take the shortest route and go through the obstacles, but it is not required.

8. In an Intermediate test, when coming back to the handler, the dog drops the bumper. The dog stands there looking around. The handler says, "BRING IT! BRING IT!" six times and the dog finally picks up the bumper and brings it to the handler. Does this dog pass?

AKC Fetch: The dog did not leave the bumper. If the dog returned the bumper to the handler within the allowed 30 seconds for Intermediate, it should pass.

9. This question was similar to #8 above, but in the Advanced test (a practice), the dog was $\frac{3}{4}$ way back, dropped the bumper, quickly picked it up, and delivered it to the handler. If this was a real test, would the dog pass or not since this was Advanced?

AKC Fetch: This dog would pass all 4 levels of the test.

10. We were practicing for the Retriever level. The dog was sent to retrieve, went past the bumper, and started to search. His nose was on the ground, and he was casting back and forth like he was hunting for the bumper. He did not stop working, but this continued for a while. He found the bumper and took it to the handler. Should he pass?

AKC Fetch: This dog was continuing to work, and he was making progress toward finding and retrieving the bumper. The dog should pass the test.

For questions, contact:

fetch@akc.org

<https://www.akc.org/fetch>

