



MANTRAILING

GLOBAL

ASSESSMENT
RULES & REGULATIONS

EFFECTIVE 1ST JANUARY 2024

PURPOSE

Mantrailing is a sport that teaches dogs to find people by following their unique scent trail. All dogs have a natural ability to hunt, and therefore, Mantrailing provides them with an outlet to do this in a safe, controlled, and constructive way.

We teach them how to harness their amazing sense of smell and turn it into a super fun activity for pet dogs and owner teams to enjoy together as a recreational sport.



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DEFINITIONS

Decoy: A person who is part of the trail setup as a distraction, but is not the person the dog is looking for.

Dog: Refers to a dog of either sex.

Expel: To terminate the assessment.

Handler: The person who works with the dog.

Head Office: The office where the business of Mantrailing Global is conducted on a regular, ongoing basis.

Indication: The behaviour the dog exhibits to indicate that it has found the correct Trail Layer.

MTG: Mantrailing Global

MTG Assessor: The person conducting the assessment.

Trail Layer: The person who has laid the trail for the dog and handler team and is the person the dog is trailing.

Rules & Regulations, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of the assessment and shall apply to all dogs and handlers participating in them, except as these Rules & Regulations may otherwise provide.

All Assessors conducting MTG assessments are required to have the latest edition of the Assessment Rules & Regulations available to view in-person or online.

ELIGIBILITY

All clients who train under an MTG Instructor are entitled to undertake an MTG assessment, provided they have fulfilled the required number of training sessions recorded in their log books and have been signed off by their MTG Instructor prior to booking the assessment.

A dog must meet the following requirements to be eligible for assessment:

- 1. Be over 12 months of age.**
- 2. Female dogs cannot be in season.**
- 3. Must not be injured or lame (it is the assessor's responsibility to determine whether a dog is lame or injured).**
- 4. Must not have bandages, sutures, or visible wounds.**
- 5. Must not have any communicable disease, nor have been housed with another dog with a communicable disease, nor have recovered from a communicable disease within 30 days prior to the assessment.**
- 6. Be fully vaccinated or have a titre test where your country's government or veterinary medicines directorate advises it is compulsory.**
- 7. We strongly recommend handlers have third-party liability insurance for their dog.**

OFFICIALS

Only certified MTG Assessors can act as assessors for MTG assessments.

The MTG Assessor is responsible for:

- 1. Setting up the trails under the criteria, rules, and regulations set out by MTG.**
- 2. Thoroughly briefing the Trail Layer/Decoy on the assessment criteria and what is expected of them, including any important information passed on about the dog and handler team.**
- 3. Ensuring that all parties involved have been briefed on health & safety.**
- 4. Conducting a short handler's briefing prior to the start of the assessment.**
- 5. Confirming whether the indication and handler confirmation are correct or incorrect.**
- 6. Recording and videotaping the assessment for any potential discrepancies that may arise.**
- 7. Timekeeping.**
- 8. Awarding certificates, badges, and rosettes.**

An MTG Assessor must conduct themselves in a manner that is fair and not prejudicial to the assessment.

Our assessors have undergone training by MTG to ensure they can competently run assessments under the MTG assessment rules & regulations. If you are aware of an MTG Assessor running MTG assessments that do not follow the MTG assessment rules & regulations, please report this to the MTG office at info@mantrailingglobal.com.

OFFICIAL TIMINGS

The MTG Assessor is in charge of timekeeping during the assessment and shall monitor and record the time to ensure that the team does not exceed the maximum allowable time for the assessment. They will also provide a time warning as dictated by the handler, should they request it.

The time allowed during the assessment is dictated by the criteria specified in the assessment guidelines.

The start of the assessment is classified as the moment the dog is asked to take scent by the handler; this is the point at which the stated time for the level begins.

The end of the assessment is classified as either:

- 1. The dog-handler team finding the Trail Layer and the handler confirming correctly.**
- 2. The expiration of the allotted time.**
- 3. The handler incorrectly confirming the Trail Layer to the assessor.**
- 4. The dog indicating on the correct Trail Layer, but the handler not confirming it as correct.**
- 5. The handler choosing to stop the trail at their own discretion.**

The MTG Assessor is authorized to stop an assessment on safety and welfare grounds. Depending on the reason, the team may or may not be allowed to continue the assessment. This decision is at the discretion of the MTG Assessor.

DISABILITIES

It is the responsibility of the MTG Assessor to discuss with the handler's MTG Instructor regarding any disability requirements.

At the discretion of the MTG Assessor, a modification to the criteria may be made to accommodate a handler with disabilities, provided that such modification does not aid the dog's performance or inhibit the performance of other dogs.

Dogs with physical challenges (including amputees) are eligible to participate, provided that, in the opinion of the assessor, they display no signs of physical discomfort and can safely complete the assessment.

Deaf dogs and blind dogs are allowed to enter. Dogs that are both blind and deaf can participate as long as the handler maintains control of the dog at all times, the dog can complete the requirements of the assessment, and the dog does not appear to be under undue stress, in the opinion of the MTG Assessor.

The dog is required to perform all components of the assessment criteria as other dogs would.

FAILURE TO HOLD AN ASSESSMENT

An MTG Assessor shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an assessment based on whether they believe the team is ready for assessment, considering the information provided by the handler and instructor.

When circumstances beyond its control make it necessary or advisable to change the date, time, or venue of the assessment, it is at the discretion of the MTG Assessor to change, cancel, or postpone the assessment.

Should an assessment be canceled for any reason, the refund policy will be determined by the individual MTG Assessor.

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DOCTORS & VETERINARIANS

Every MTG Assessor shall have available the emergency contact information for the nearest qualified veterinarian or after-hours emergency veterinary clinic.

Every MTG Assessor shall also have available the emergency contact information for the nearest doctor's surgery or after-hours emergency medical facility.

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COLLARS, LEASHES & HARNESSSES

Dogs must wear a properly fitted harness designed to minimize restriction of the dog's movement.

No training tools such as electronic collars, spray collars, prong collars, head halters, choke chains, or no-pull harnesses may be used during the assessment. Martingale collars are permitted.

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ASSESSMENT VENUE

All handlers must exercise care and control of any dog in their possession while attending an assessment.

There shall be no aversive or abusive training of dogs within the venue of the assessment.

No dog will be allowed off-leash during the assessment.

The dog and handler team are not permitted to do a warm-up trail in the same location as the assessment. If the handler chooses to do a warm-up trail, it must be done in a separate location away from the assessment venue.

All handlers must pick up after their dogs and dispose of waste correctly. If no bins are provided, handlers must take waste with them and dispose of it themselves.

MOVING UP THE LEVELS

In order for a dog and handler team to be eligible to move up a level, they must have successfully passed the prior assessment level and be signed off by the assessor.

If it is established by MTG that a dog moved up to the next level without completing the requirements for the lower level, then they will be ineligible to undertake the assessment.

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POOR CONDUCT

It shall be deemed as poor conduct if a person, during the running of, or in connection with an assessment, abuses or harasses their dog, the MTG Assessor, or any other person present in any capacity at the assessment.

Any handler who displays poor conduct or is seen kicking, striking, or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog at any time during the assessment may be expelled from the assessment.

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APPLYING FOR ASSESSMENT

An MTG Assessor shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an assessment booking based on whether they believe the team is ready for assessment, taking into account the information provided by the handler and their instructor.

The dog and handler must meet the eligibility criteria set out on page 5.

An MTG assessment must be arranged and booked directly with the assessor, and will be subject to their individual terms and conditions and cancellation policy.

Upon booking, all handlers must have completed the required evidence submissions and sign-offs within their log books.

Handlers must also complete the pre-assessment form prior to attending their assessment. This form will be provided by the MTG Assessor at the time of booking.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Level 1 criteria:

- **Single blind**
- **Trail length: 200-400m**
- **1 change of direction (90 degrees)**
- **Age of trail: 30 min - 1hr**
- **Max. 30 min to find Trail Layer**
- **Terrain: Rural**
- **1 Trail Layer - sitting/laying/standing**
- **No indication required**
- **1 Flanker allowed**

It must be one 90 degree turn which is clearly visible on the Mantrailing App when being reviewed.

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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Level 2 Criteria:

- **Double blind**
- **Trail length: 400-600m**
- **2 changes of direction (90 degrees)**
- **Age of trail: 30 mins-1hr**
- **Max. 30 min to find Trail Layer**
- **Terrain: Semi-rural (Semi-Urban until Jan 2024)**
- **1 Trail Layer, sitting/laying/standing**
- **Indication required**
- **1 Flanker allowed**

It must be two 90 degree turns which are clearly visible on the Mantrailing App when being reviewed.

The handler is to clearly indicate verbally or via hand signal (confirmed in assessment form) to the assessor that they believe the dog has indicated on the Trail Layer. This will be taken as the final decision on assessment.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Level 3 Criteria:

- **Double blind**
- **Trail length 400 to 600m**
- **2 changes of direction (90 degrees)**
- **Age of trail: 1-2hrs**
- **Max. 45 min to find Trail Layer**
- **Terrain: Semi-rural**
- **Spilt Trail (1 Trail Layer and 1 Decoy) -
Sitting/laying/standing**
- **Indication required**
- **1 Flanker allowed**

The split can be a Y or T shaped but must be a clear shape.

Trail layer and decoy both need to be out in position when the dog is taking it's assessment.

It must be two 90 degree turns from the Trail Layer which are clearly visible on the Mantrailing App when being reviewed.

The handler is to clearly indicate verbally or via hand signal (confirmed in assessment form) to the assessor that they believe the dog has indicated on the Trail Layer. This will be taken as the final decision on assessment.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Level 4 Criteria:

- **Double Blind**
- **Trail Length: 300 to 400m**
- **4 Changes of direction (90 degrees)**
- **Age of trail: 30 mins to 1 hour**
- **Max 30 mins to find Trail Layer**
- **Terrain: Semi-rural**
- **Trail Layer, sitting/laying/standing**
- **Indication required**
- **1 Flanker allowed**
- **Handler to make own scent article**

The handler is to make their own scent article using sterile gauze (provided by the assessor) taking swabs from the trail layers shoe or hat. The handler is to be given sterile gauze, gloves and a plastic bag to store the scent article in from the assessor.

They are to be offered a shoe and hat the Trail Layer has worn (These items need to have been worn for at least two minutes prior to the trail layer leaving to lay the trail). The handler can choose to use one item to make the scent article from. Once the gauze wipe has been created, the Trail Layer items need to be stored away in a vehicle.

The handler is taken to the starting area by the assessor and the time starts when they ask their dog to take scent from the gauze wipe they have created.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Level 4 continued...

The objects must be brought by the Trail Layer and not produced by the assessor to avoid cross contamination and both must be offered to the handler.

It must be four 90 degree turns which are clearly visible on the Mantrailing App when being reviewed. The 90 degree turns cannot make a square, they need to move away from the start of the trail and where the trail is laid. It cannot cross over itself.

The handler is to clearly indicate verbally or via hand signal (confirmed in assessment form) to the assessor that they believe the dog has indicated on the Trail Layer. This will be taken as the final decision on assessment.

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PRICING FOR ASSESSMENT

An MTG Assessor must charge for assessment the price at which is set out by MTG as an organisation. This is as follows:

£75 / 85 Euro / 85 Swiss Franc / \$95 US / \$126 CAN / \$126 AUD

A re-sit of a failed assessment is charged at the same price.



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PRIZES

Upon successfully passing an MTG assessment, you will receive a certificate, badge, and rosette from the MTG Assessor, reflecting the level you have achieved.

The costs of the certificate, badge, and rosette are included in the assessment fee.

All prizes will be presented by the MTG Assessor.



TRAIL LAYER / DECOYS

It is the responsibility of the MTG Assessor to ensure that adequate Trail Layers are allocated for an assessment.

The identities of the Trail Layers/Decoys should not be divulged to the handler before or during the assessment.

The Trail Layer cannot be someone from the same household as the dog or someone the dog has regularly trailed for.

The Trail Layer/Decoys should be hidden before the student arrives. Handlers should not see the Trail Layer setting off or laying the trail.

The Trail Layer's scent article will be presented in a sealed plastic bag at the start of the trail. It must be a fabric item, which can vary in size from a sock to a t-shirt, and presented in a sealed plastic bag, unless specified otherwise in the assessment criteria.

The handler can choose whether the item is presented to the dog in the bag, on the floor, or in hand.

THE TRAIL

The handler must carry their dog's rewards with them during the assessment.

Handlers are allowed to wear treat pouches or training skirts/vests to carry dog rewards. The final decision on whether an accessory is permitted rests with the MTG Assessor.

Dogs may be outfitted with accessories such as paw covers or booties, jackets, sweaters, and hair ties or bows, as deemed necessary by the handler for the dog to safely and comfortably navigate the assessment.

The handler may reward the dog with a food or toy reinforcer upon correctly identifying the target.

The dog is permitted to defecate or urinate in the trailing area if necessary during the assessment.

One flanker is allowed for health and safety reasons but may not assist the handler.

The handler is not to receive any guidance from the assessor or a third party during the assessment.

THE INDICATION

In the Level 1 assessment, the dog does not need to perform an indication.

From Level 2 onwards, an indication is required. The dog must demonstrate a clear indication behaviour (not specifically defined) by staying within 5 meters of the Trail Layer and maintaining the behaviour for a minimum of 5 seconds.

Once the dog has indicated, the handler must clearly communicate to the assessor, either verbally or through a hand signal, that their dog has correctly indicated the Trail Layer. This communication will be considered the final decision for the assessment. Once made, this decision cannot be reversed, and if incorrect, it will result in a failure of the assessment.

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PROTEST

If a handler wishes to contest a failed assessment, in the first instance, please discuss this directly with your MTG Assessor.

If the issue remains unresolved, an appeal to the MTG Head Office may be made via email within 14 days of the assessment taking place. Send your appeal to info@mantrailingglobal.com, providing details of the nature of your complaint.

MTG will then request video and logging evidence of the assessment from the MTG Assessor and investigate your dispute.

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LIABILITY

MTG shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injuries to any member, person, partnership, club, or corporation arising from or due to an assessment held under any rules adopted by MTG.

Every owner of a dog undergoing an MTG assessment is required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog behaves safely and is under control. In particular, owners must prevent the dog from threatening, menacing, or biting an MTG assessor, another dog, or any other person present. Failure to take such reasonable steps may result in disciplinary action.

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AMENDMENTS

These rules are subject to amendment by MTG.

Amendments to these rules may also be proposed by a person, association, club, representative group, or body by presenting such a proposal to MTG for its consideration.

The effective date of any approved amendment shall be determined by MTG.

MTG, at its sole discretion, may choose to conduct a non-binding poll to gather general input before making a final decision on any proposed amendment to these rules. Upon MTG reaching its final decision regarding any amendment to these rules, all MTG Assessors shall be notified with an update. The amendment will be made public by ensuring its publication in this Assessment Rules & Regulations handbook and any other relevant public materials as soon as possible thereafter.



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+44 (0)7555 806904

INFO@MANTRAILINGGLOBAL.COM

WWW.MANTRAILINGGLOBAL.COM