

# The American Boerboel Club Boerboel Specific Test ABC BST

A Boerboel should be agile, steadfast, confident, biddable, and courageous. The ABC BST is set up to test each of these traits.

The dog must be at least 15 months of age to be evaluated.

The dog shall wear a heavy leather collar, fur saver, or choke chain with 6 ft leash attached to the dead ring during the Agility and Obedience portions of the ABC BST. The dog shall wear either heavy leather collar or harness during the Courage portion of the ABC BST. All leashes, collars, or harnesses must be inspected and deemed suitable by the ABC BST judge prior to beginning each test.

Pregnant bitches or bitches in whelp are not permitted to enter the test. Bitches in heat will be tested last. Please notify an ABC Official that your female is in season prior to the event.

Each entry will be allowed at least one trial run of the course prior to testing. Bitches in heat will not be allowed a trial run of the course with the other dogs. Bitches in heat will be allowed a trial run after all the other dogs have tested and left the field.

Before each test, prior to the Agility portion, the handler must present the dog to the judge for a visual inspection. Dogs should be healthy, alert, groomed, and focused. The judge has the right to dismiss any entry that appears neglected or does not appear as mentioned above.

The ABC BST is PASS or FAIL; in order to pass the ABC BST a dog must pass all three phases. Along with a passing score will be a grade of Excellent, Very Good, Fair, or Poor for the Courage test.

- Excellent. Dog was confident throughout the Courage phase. Displayed strong guardian instincts.
- Good. Dog was confident throughout most of the Courage phase. Showed only minimal signs of stress. Displayed good guardian instincts.
- Fair. Dog showed modest signs of stress throughout the Courage phase but still gave a fair display of protectiveness
- Poor. Dog was indifferent to the agitator or only gave a weak display when approached by the decoy during the Courage phase

***If a dog displays fear, shyness, or attempts to flee during the Courage phase that dog will FAIL.***

*A dog can be retested at any time, but it can only be tested once per day.*

## **ABC BST AGILITY PHASE**

This phase is design to test the Boerboel physical ability and mental soundness when experiencing different surface and sudden noises. This phase will be on leash. Handler can encourage dog freely but no corrections are to be given.

Obstacles will be randomly picked prior to the event. The dog will be given two attempts at each agility obstacle and surface prop. The test is judging if the dog can complete the exercise not how precisely or cleanly the exercise is preformed. Noise prop will be only given one attempt. A dog maybe startled by the noise prop, but must recover quickly. Failure to recover, fear, shyness, or excessive aggression wiil result in failure of the noise prop exercise. If instructed by the judge handler can encourage dog to investigate a thrown object. Dog must complete 3 of the 4 exercises to pass the Agility phase.

Handler will present dog to judge for visual inspection as describe earlier. The judge will then give the handler instruction on where to start. The judge will alert handler when to proceed to the next obstacle.

The order will be one jump or climbing followed by a balance or crawl obstacle. The handler and dog will then proceed to a surface prop. After the surface prop, handler and dog will go to a designated area. The noise prop will be given along the way to the designated area. Dog should be on a loose lead in a casual manner. Judge will indicate when to move to next obstacle.

Jump or Climbing Obstacles.

1. 40-inch hurdle. ( hurdle should be of solid construction )
2. "A" frame wall 6 foot
3. hay bale pyramid 6 foot ( square bales )
4. long barrel jump ( 3, 55-gallon barrels or trashcans laid on try sides together )
5. hay bale jump ( 2 square bale stacked one on top of the other )

Balance or Crawling Obstacle

1. Cat walk. ( 12inches wide by 10 foot long )
2. Agility tunnel ( 6 to 7 feet long )

Surface Obstacle

1. Plastic tarp ( 15 ft by 6 ft. Only dog needs to walk on but handler is permitted)
2. Plastic tarp with water (15 ft by 6ft. Only dog needs to walk on but handler is permitted)
3. Kiddy pool with water (2 to 3 inches deep. Only dog needs to walk in but handler is permitted)

4. Kiddy pool with plastic bottle (Only dog needs to walk in but handler is permitted)
5. Bed Sheet covering linoleum (15 ft by 6 ft. Only dog needs to walk but handler is permitted)

#### Noise Prop

1. Cap Gun (at 20 feet from dog)
2. Metal Pots (banged together or throw in front or behind at 20 feet from dog)
3. Milk jug filled with rocks (throw in front or behind at 20 feet from dog)
4. Horn ( at 20 feet from dog)

## ABC BST OBEDIENCE PHASE

This phase is design to test the Boerboel's biddablity. The Boerboel is powerful dog and can be dominate. It is therefore important that a Boerboel be willing to accept the leadership of its master. Basic obedience is necessary. This phase will be on leash

Dog must score a minimum of 55 out of 80 possible points to pass the Obedience phase.

#### **Heeling Exercise (50 points maximum)**

*Heeling on leash (25 points max)*

*Sit (10 points max) 5-point deduction for each repeat command*

*Down (15 points max) 5-point deduction for each repeat command*

From the basic position handler gives "heel" command. Handler and dog heel straight head 40 paces at a normal pace then execute an about right turn and continued back with a minimum of ten paces of normal pace heeling. Without stopping dog and handler will then continue in a fast pace heel for a minimum of 10 paces, again without stopping, dog and handler will continue at a slow pace heel for a minimum of 10 paces. Then dog and handler will continue at normal speed for an additional 10 paces and execute a right turn, followed by 10-15 paces with an about left turn and continue at least 3 paces and execute a sit and a down. Dog should remain at handler's left and the dog's shoulder should be even with the handler's knee. Handler influence and dogs that forge ahead or lag behind will have points deducted. The heel command may be given when changing pace. The leash is to be held in the handler's left hand and should be slack at all times. Multiple commands can be given for both the sit and the down but each repeat command will result in a 5-point deduction for that portion of the exercise. A maximum of 2 commands can be used for the sit and 2 for the down.

#### **Group Exercise (30 points maximum)**

*Heeling through Group (10 points max)*

*Sit (10 points max) 5-point deduction for each repeat command*

*Demeanor towards group (10 points max) signs of stress, fear, or aggression will incur deduction of points.*

At judge's instruction, handler and dog heel toward a designated area where a group of four people in a square like position are standing approximately 6 feet apart from one another mingling. Dog and handler will then heel through the middle of the group continuing in a figure eight pattern around two of the four people then coming to a stop the handler will immediately give the dog a sit command in the middle of the group. If a dog becomes aggressive in the group exercise, the judge has the right to excuse the dog from the field, which will result in failure of that phase. Judge will then signal when the exercise is complete.

## ABC BST COURAGE PHASE

The Boerboel is a natural guardian and should be willing to stand in the face of any danger to protect its family and their property.

In this phase a dog will be test against a decoy for it's willingness to protect. During this phase, the dog's nerve will be tested. This portion of the test can be stressful to the dog; it is recommended that you wait until you feel the dog is mentally mature enough to handle the pressure. The minimum age is 15 months.

The dog should be wearing either a heavy leather collar or harness attached to a 6 foot leash. An ABC Official will inspect equipment before the beginning of this phase. At the judges request a dog can be asked to wear an additional collar.

Handler and dog will proceed to a designated area where they will find a 15-foot heavy line back tied to a sturdy object (fence post, trailer hitch, etc...). *There must be exactly 15 ft of loose line after it has been tied.* Handler will attach lead to the dog's collar or harness as instructed by the judge. The judge will then ask the handler to show that the equipment is attached correctly. Handler will stand at a designated area, approximately 9 foot from the sturdy object, to either side of the dog. When the handler is set, the judge will signal the start of the exercise.

**Handler cannot correct the dog, but can give encouragement and must keep eyes focused forward and on the helper/decoy not the dog.**

Decoy will appear at a distance of 40 meters from the dog in raincoat, overalls, overcoat, hat, hood, etc.. Big baggy and distracting clothe giving a menacing appearance. A HIDDEN SLEEVE must be worn under the clothing just in chase a dog breaks both lines. Decoy will walk dog down by using eye contact and presence in a deliberate manner while grumbling or making odds noises. At about 50 ft from the back tie, the decoy will become increasing aggressive and will progress to a marker that is 20 ft from the back tie leaving a 5 foot space between the end of the heavy line and the decoy. Decoy will continue pressure for a few seconds (10 to 15 seconds) then run off.

Scores will be a grade of Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor for the Courage test.

- Excellent. Dog was confident throughout the Courage phase. Displayed strong guardian instincts.
- Good. Dog was confident throughout most of the Courage phase. Showed only minimal signs of stress. Displayed good guardian instincts.
- Fair. Dog showed modest signs of stress throughout the Courage phase but still gave a fair display of protectiveness
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