

Oak Ridge Kennel Club's Third Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test



ORKC held their third TDU test on Saturday, Nov 11, 2017 at Roane State Community College in Harriman, TN. Karen Boyce and Cheryl Tisdale were our judges and they arrived Friday morning to drive the campus and pre-plot the tracks. They then met with the ORKC tracklayers and began plotting.

They plotted five TDU tracks. Articles were a bandana at the start, a leather square as the intermediate article and a glove at the end of the track.

TEST DAY!!! Saturday morning dawned in the low 30's as the tracklayers started putting in tracks for the test. Cool weather..... good for the dogs!!



Track 1 - Fail. Male Australian Shepherd - Stewart's Shades of Sherlock, TD and handler Beverly Stewart of Nashville, TN drew the first track. This dog began strongly and made the first turn, but got confused for some reason on the second leg and couldn't recover. This dog has a TD, so a TDU is in its near future. Good tracking dog!



Track 2 - Fail. Female English Springer Spaniel - Caribel's Fortunate Keziah and handler Patricia A Gresham from Sandy Springs, GA. This little girl veered to the left after the second flag and never found the leg that went to the left about 40 yards beyond the flag. Nice tracker and will surely earn her TDU soon!

Track 3 - Fail. Male Golden Retriever - OTCH The Rosehill Connection, UDX6, OGM, MH, MXJ, CGC, TKA and handler, Lorie Jolly from Sparta, TN. This dog began very strongly, made the first turn without a problem, but missed the leather article and continued on the track. This team is no stranger to training as you can tell by the titles. They will do it!!



Track 4 - Fail. Male Golden Retriever - Morningstar Turning Point, UD, MH, OMI, AX, AXJ and handler, Lorie Jolly from Sparta, TN. This team started easily. Made the first turn to the left a bit early, and then drifted further left, away from the track. They corrected back toward the track where the leather article was, but missed the article and kept on going straight when he could have picked the track back up by making a left turn. Just kept on going and going away from the track until he was whistled. This dog will definitely earn its TDU in the future!



Track 5 - Fail. Female Golden Retriever - Loving Paws Rainbow's Dancin' Angel, TD, TDX, CGC, and handler Pat Kowalsky from Fairfield Glade, TN. This team began nicely, but at the first turn the handler

probably failed to follow fast enough, so the team didn't progress any further. Very nice tracking dog!

This year's test was a disappointment because we had no passes. We all try to analyze these things to death, but we really don't know exactly what the dog is smelling; and while it may appear to the tracklayers, spectators, helpers, and even the judges that it was this fault or that fault, we don't know the dogs like the handlers do. We should not be judgmental or critical of the teams at the tests.

Thank you to the entire test committee, the workers, drivers and the club for a well-run test. If just *one* person had not shown up to help, the test could not have run as smoothly. I am so thankful for ORKC having such faithful and dependable workers for our tracking test. It is a true blessing.

Anyone that comes to an ORKC tracking test doesn't know what all goes on behind the scenes. We get many compliments from our entrants on how well our tests are run. Tracks don't just appear, food doesn't just cook itself, and people don't magically appear where they are supposed to be on time. This all takes planning and hard hard work from our volunteers who love the camaraderie and fun that we have at our tests. Our tracklayers were Linda Hargis, Jean Burdick, Gurusahai Khalsa-Moyers, and Stephanie Wesloh. ORKC prides itself in the excellent tracklayers that have been developed over the years. There are more tracklayers that could not make it to the TDU. Maybe they can participate at our TD in March. Chief tracklayer and judges' escort, Sharon Fesmire, did a fantastic job as usual. A huge thank you to Susan Corum



and Joyce Cardwell, who worked so very hard to see that we had good food and got the entrants to their tracks on time. Suzanne West and Kathy Haynes did a wonderful job of seeing that the food stayed warm so we could have a hot meal when returning from the college. Mary Jo is always an excellent test secretary! Kathy Frank was on

hand again to fill in the gaps and do the extras that were needed. Susi Wilcher is a good fit for our crowd control. She knows how and what needs to be done and is not afraid to take charge. She is badly needed in her capacity. Our new workers this year were children that needed volunteer hours for their Beta Club. They were map holders, Ivy Tilson and Mary Willis; and photographer, Cole Tilson. Good job. Belmont College student, Emery Francis, was a first-timer at tracklayer transportation. She did an excellent job. It is nice to have workers that make the jobs look easy (which they aren't). Our president, Ken Dudley, attended his first tracking test with us and seemed to enjoy the good companionship and food. Another one of our members, Sharon Walker, was on hand to observe. Hopefully we will have more members become interested in tracking so we can have more helpers and earn those tracking titles! Tracking people are the best!!!!





Pictures courtesy
Cole Tilson

Thank you all

**Happy
Tracking!**

