

# Stöberprüfung [Random Search Test]

## 1. Trial Degree Levels for the Stöberprüfung

The requirements vary according to level and are matched with the respective VPG level.

Level	Size of Field	Articles	Points	Search Time
1	20 x 30 meters (~65 x 100 ft)	2 Handler's own articles Size: 10 x 3 x 1 cm (~4 x 1¼ x 3/8 in) Material = Can both be same material 1 article left; 1 article right	10/10	10 minutes
2	20 x 40 meters (~65 x 130 ft)	4 Stranger's articles Size: 10 x 3 x 1 cm (~4 x 1¼ x 3/8 in) Material = different materials 2 articles left; 2 articles right	5/5/5/5	12 minutes
3	30 x 50 meters (~100 x 165 ft)	5 Stranger's articles Size: 5 x 3 x 1 cm (~2 x 1¼ x 3/8 in) Material = different materials At the discretion of the person laying them	4/4/4/4/4	15 minutes

## 2. General

The prerequisite to performing this test is that the respective dog is a minimum of 15 months old and has taken and passed the VDH BH test.

Upon entry the Handler reports to the judge in a sportsmanlike manner with his name and the dog's name and the trial level. After that the handler goes with the dog on lead to the designated start position and assumes the basic position.

The work in the search is done with the dog off-lead. However, the handler is to carry the lead with him.

Any compulsion and use of force is to be discontinued. Slight overshooting of the boundaries of the search field is not incorrect.

Spectators must stay back a reasonable distance from the search field.

## 3. Nature of the Terrain for the Random Article Search

Surface: All natural grounds (grass, dirt, forest floor). Stand of trees is possible (Visual search must possibly be prevented, therefore no short grass or other similar surface.) The search area shall be crossed and laterally walked through multiple times by people before laying down or throwing in the articles, in order to prevent any "track" when the articles are placed in the field.

The search area boundaries are not to be marked with stakes or something similar.

## 4. Articles

Material: Wood, leather, imitation leather, cloth

The articles laid down may not differ substantially from the surface terrain and should not be visible.

The articles will be laid out by the judge.

While the articles are being placed, the dog and handler must be out of sight. There is no waiting time required. After laying out the articles, the start can begin immediately.

## 5. Starting the Dog on the Random Search

The judge will indicate to the handler the intended center line and boundary outline of the search area. A brief conditioning period of the dog at the designated centerline of the search field is allowed.

The handler moves along the designated center line. He may only briefly leave [the center line] in order to hold up the article the dog has indicated. Afterwards, the dog is again started on the search from the center line. Verbal and visual commands are permitted. The verbal command "Verloren" ("Lost") can be supplemented by "Such" ("Search"). Searching with a "high nose" is not incorrect. The area can be searched repeatedly.

## 6. Behavior at the Articles

Articles must be indicated convincingly and may not be touched by the dog. The articles are to be indicated by [the dog] lying down. No commands are allowed in order to get the dog to lie down at the article. If the dog indicates an article, the handler goes to the dog, shows the article to the judge by holding it up, returns again to the designated center line and starts the dog from there to resume the random search.

The direction the dog lies down at the article is not dictated. However, the article found must lie directly in the area of the front paws. The handler always approaches to the side of the downed dog and may not stand in front of the dog. Briefly praising the dog after holding up the article is permitted.

After finding the last article, the dog is put on lead. After that the articles are shown to the judge and the handler reports out.

## 7. Scoring

The maximum number of points for the Random Article Search Test 1 – 3 is 100 points. In order to pass, a minimum of 70 points must be earned.

The scoring principles for all 3 degree levels:

a) Dog's Willingness (Obeying the handler's verbal and/or visual commands)	20 Points
b) Dog's Scenting Intensity (Willingness/Ability to absorb/persue the scent)	20 Points
c) Endurance (Sustaining the Drive to Search until locating the Article)	20 Points
d) Handler's Behavior (Influence on the Dog)	20 Points
e) Locating the Article (Indicates Convincingly)	20 Points

Maximum Points	Excellent (V)	Very Good (SG)	Good (G)	Satisfactory (B)	Insufficient (M)
100 Points	100 – 96	95 – 90	89 – 80	79 – 70	69 – 0

## 8. Implementation (or Execution)

The exercise begins with the basic position at the edge of the search area and ends after reporting out to the judge. The articles found by the dog are to be presented [to the judge].

### *Favorable Criteria:*

Steady, calm and smooth work. Quickly starting the search (upon command). Immediate reaction to commands. Persistent and purposeful work by the dog. Wide lateral searches by the dog.

### *Incorrect is:*

Picking up the articles by the dog. Articles which are indicated with heavy handler help are not to be scored.

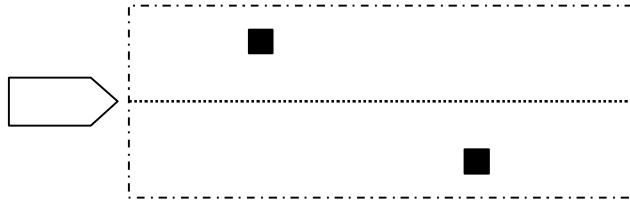
Touching the Article [by the dog]	1 – 3 Point Deduction
Prematurely getting up [from the article], inadmissible commands	1 – 3 Point Deduction
Handler leaves the designated center line	2 – 5 Point Deduction
Mousing, defecating (or similar)	4 – 8 Point Deduction
Listless work by the dog	4 – 8 Point Deduction

After the prescribed search time is exceeded, work is to be terminated. Points awarded up to then are to be scored.

*Additional negative scoring criteria are:*

Restless behavior while indicated [the articles], barking, prohibited handler help, excessively overrunning of the search field boundaries by the dog.

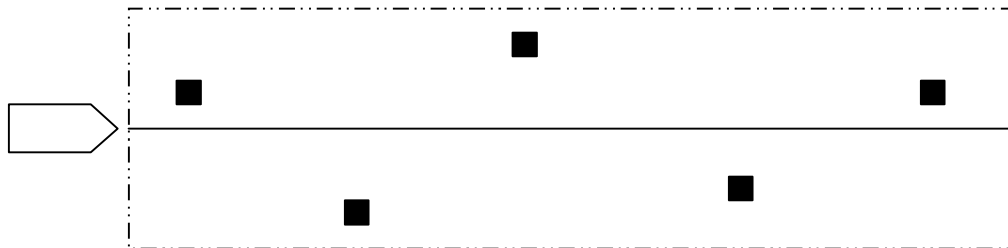
**Stufe 1** Field Size: 20m x 30m (~65 x 100 ft)



**Stufe 2** Field Size: 20m x 40m (~65 x 130 ft)



**Stufe 3** Field Size: 30m x 50m (~100 x 165 ft)



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