

RBTF 11TH ANNUAL TRACKING DOG TEST, 02/07/2021, MATHER REGIONAL PARK, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

Congrats to RBTF on another successful tracking test! This is usually a combined TDX-TD test but this year, using only local judges (who are judging ALL the region's local tests, bless their hearts, since covid made it difficult to accommodate out-of-area judges), it ended up being a TD-only test. Fortunately, there seems to be a huge backlog of TD demand – local tests are easily filling. Our test maintained its wonderful pass rate (5 out of 6 tracks), our first big winter storm a couple weeks prior to it brought perfect dry but verdant conditions to the field, and the morning draw signaled that the stars were aligned for us. All the dogs in the test, numbered 101, 102, 103, 104, and 105, drew track numbers in order #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5. The test being run by the terv club meant it was allowed to give priority to terv entrants, of which we had three – the first three dogs in the catalog. Our judges were the inestimable Bob Rollins from Davis and Pat Beauchamp from Santa Rosa. Our tireless chief tracklayer was our own Erin Shaw.

Track #1 was Linda Knowles and her 10-mo terv bitch Elsa, the only track located adjacent to the Mather picnic area. She unerringly penciled in the track with nary a glance at the wild turkeys, finishing the 460 yards 5-leg track in 5 minutes. Linda running the whole way. SAFARI LIVING THE ADVENTURE TD TKN.

Track #2 was Alice Webber's 10-yo terv dog Joey. Joey squeaked in his certification the day before the test closed, with Alice saying that she had a breakthrough training revelation that settled Joey into the job at the start flag. It showed, in the test: finished in 6 minutes, including the time spent, 10 yards before the end, investigating and discussing a torn-up rag left on the track. Is that the end article? It's disgusting, it couldn't be. But it's on the track and the end must be soon? But it maybe it's in the end article's scent pool? The gallery was having a heart attack for the minute that this discussion took, and then Joey moved on to find the glove. LABARGE N EPIC UN JOVIAL PLUME TD PT.

Track #3 was Anita Aborn's 15-mo terv dog Pio. Another 5 min track done at a run. Some investigation at the corners, strong fast finish. PLEASE LOVE ME DU BOIS DU TOT TD.

Track #4 was our first non-terv of the test, although it was a herding dog: Shay Cook's GSD bitch. After a fair amount of investigation turning past the trees, eazy peazy pass in 9 minutes. CANYON WREN VON SONTAUSEN TD.

Track #5 was a young promising 2.5yo Rhodesian Ridgeback girl. By now the temperatures had warmed up to at least 70 and the sun was blazing, and this youngster felt it. She worked hard until the final turn, despite being a little worried about the judges and other distractions in this well-used suburban open space. She ended up drifting a tad off the track as she approached the final turn and couldn't find the turn. A good effort that bodes well for this dog's future.

The test having run brilliantly to this point, we were happy to be able to run our alternate dog on the Alternate track. Heather McDowall's 6mo golden retriever dog Ted (who also rambunctiously squeaked in her certification the day before the test closed). Ted took off like a rocket, had plenty of time to check out every blessed tree and rock, and still finished in 7 minutes. **ACORN'S ROUGH RIDER TD**. That's 5 passes on 6 tracks, well done everyone!

RBTF tests are always a delight to put on, as are all the tests in our region – the volunteerism and enthusiasm and INTEREST that the people in our region have is inspiring. Makes me want to volunteer more, and definitely makes me want to train more! Very huge thank you to our judges Bob and Pat, and to our own apprentice judge Lizanne Kaiser who got to shadow Bob and Pat. Thank you to CTL Erin who is becoming quite the experienced CTL. Our tireless tracklayers were our own Darlene Hernandez, Pam Edgcombe, and first-time tracklayer Patti Moore whom we are adopting. We also were honored to be able to pull in tracklayers Meg Azevedo and Debi Best at the last minute, THANK YOU! Linda Knowles brought all the awards and equipment that is filling up her garage (you definitely need to install shelving, Linda!). We had a handful spectators who came to learn and be inspired, including Ana with her camera that ended up stepping up to take better-than-iPhone-quality photos of the tracking and of our awards celebrations.

I can't wait til next year's test! Congratulations to everyone!
Respectfully submitted, test secretary Karey.