

**Summary of the Rules**

**Tips and tricks for the ideal performance**

This document must be read in conjunction with Schedule 11(C) Regulations for Trick Dog Tests. Should any discrepancies between the various documents arise, Schedule 11(C) will take precedence.

**SUMMARY OF THE RULES**

1. If a handler/owner believes their dog has a special disability, or there are special circumstances which need to be taken into consideration, they should contact an evaluator for further advice.
2. The same handler and dog must complete each test as a team. However, a dog may be handled by a different handler at a different level.
3. Video’s should show each trick with two consecutive, unedited, repetitions of each trick. This is to enable the Evaluators to ensure a dog understands what it is doing and that the video is not ‘one lucy shot’.
4. There are some exceptions to the ‘two trick’ rule, for example:
* Find it (area search) at Champions level – the dog finds 5 articles so it is only necessary to show the trick once.
* Brain games (Nina Ottosson type games) – the dog must find at least three pieces of food either in separate places or, if the game only has one place to hide food, in the same place three times.
* Canicross – the duration of the trick shows the necessary competence and it is not necessary to repeat this.

The number of repetitions is specified in the Guidelines but if in doubt, please contact the Evaluators at kusatrickdog@gmail.com

1. Handlers may reward their dogs after each trick unless specified otherwise, i.e. chains.
2. Platforms for video uploads such as YouTube or Vimeo are recommended but Dropbox or other similar platforms can also be used.
3. Tricks marked “not ready” can be submitted for re-evaluation within three (3) months at no extra cost.
4. Each level describes the number of tricks that need to be performed and the number of categories that need to be covered.
5. For the purpose of evaluations, luring should be interpreted as the handler using his/her hand/foot to guide the dogs movement and steer the dog into the desired position.
6. Dogs may not be physically manipulated into position unless the trick specifically calls for it.
7. A “sequence” is to be interpreted as several tricks (a minimum of three (3)) performed directly after each other, each with its own cue. A “chain” is to be interpreted as several tricks (a minimum of three (3)) performed directly after each other, but with only one (1) cue being given by the hander at the start of the chain. Dogs may not be rewarded while performing a sequence or chain but may be rewarded upon completion of the sequence and/or chain.
8. The dog’s safety is paramount and any equipment used should have a non-slip surface and be as stable as possible. It should also be of appropriate size for the breed. Handlers must consult with evaluators for clarification on suitable equipment.
9. Dogs that have earned any of the Canine Good Citizen awards from KUSA, can start at Beginners and need not do Elementary. However, Elementary is recommended so that the Handler can get used to filming their dog and submitting entries.

**TIPS AND TRICKS**

1. Ensure your video has sound so the Evaluators can hear your cues and praise.
2. Do NOT include music in your video.
3. Ensure that the Evaluator knows what trick you are performing by either using title cards, subtitles or simply stating what trick you are performing.
4. Some tricks can be clustered, for example if you are doing the Sit and Stand in Elementary, you can ask the dog to Sit (hold for 3 sec) / Stand (hold for 3 sec) / Sit (hold for 3 sec) / Stand (hold for 3 sec).
5. Tricks that cannot be clustered are those that do not allow you to ‘complete’ the trick. For example, Sit / Stay / Come. By recalling the dog from the Stay means that the handler is not able to return to the dog as is required by the Stay trick.
6. If you film in landscape, film everything in landscape; most video editors battle to cope with both landscape and portrait videos and you end up with pieces cut off. If you include a cover photo, make sure it has the same aspect (portrait or landscape) as your videos.

**PROCESS FOR VIDEO SUBMISSIONS**

1. When you are confident that your dog can perform all the required tricks, record the performance on video and upload it to a suitable channel such as YouTube.
2. Deposit the prescribed entry fee into:

Account Name: KUSA Trick Dog
Bank: Standard Bank
Account No: 10166256747
Ref:  TD/your name / dogs name(s)

Failure to use the reference formant may result in us not being able to confirm your payment and your submission not being evaluated.

1. Complete the registration and entry form (<https://kusa-trick-dog.weebly.com/how-to-enter.html>) - this should not be confused with KUSA registration.
2. Paste your video link into the entry form in the required field and upload any necessary documents.
3. Wait patiently for your results 😊

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**WHEN TO ENTER**

* *All submissions must be made by the last day of each month*, e.g. 28 February, 31 March etc.
* One or more Evaluators will be appointed depending on the number and type of entries received.
* The administrators will then have approximately the first week of the following month to confirm payments and check links.
* Once confirmed, Evaluators will have until the 20th of the month to evaluate your entry.
* All handlers will be notified of their results by approximatley the 25th of each month. Digital certificates will be mailed out and rosettes can be collected / posted after that.