

## Table of Contents

Definition and Purpose .....	2
Chapter 1 – General Regulations .....	3
Chapter 2 – Overall Regulations for Performance.....	21
Chapter 3 – Course Set-up .....	25
Chapter 4 – Awards and Prizes.....	28
Chapter 5 – Regulations for Road Trial Rest Periods.....	30
Chapter 6 – Regulations for Performance and Judging .....	31
Chapter 7 – Regular Road Trial Classes and Titles .....	35
Chapter 8 – Optional Titling Classes and Non-Regular Classes .....	40
Chapter 9 – Judge Exercises and Scoring .....	43
Chapter 10 – Glossary of Road Trial Terms.....	50

Dalmatian Club of America Road Trial Regulations  
Updated August, 2021

Definition and Purpose

A Dalmatian Road Trial is a performance event and test “in the field” designed to evaluate the Dalmatian’s ability to “coach”, or follow the horses. Exhibitors compete as handler on horseback or in a horse-drawn carriage with dog(s) off-leash. The Dalmatian Standard of the American Kennel Club states that the Dalmatian “...should be capable of great endurance, combined with a fair amount of speed...”; qualities essential to their successful use as a horse/rider and horse/carriage escort. The purpose of a Road Trial is to demonstrate the use of purebred Dalmatians as a companion of man in the role that they have been bred to perform.

There are three levels of regular Road Trial competition. The “Coaching Certificate” and “Coaching Certificate Carriage” classes evaluate the Dalmatian’s ability to coach. The “Road Dog” and “Road Dog Carriage” classes evaluate coaching ability and moderate endurance. The “Road Dog Excellent” and “Road Dog Excellent Carriage” classes evaluate coaching ability and extended endurance. Road Trials demonstrate Dalmatians’ ability to behave in public places such as on riding trails and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport and on purebred dogs. The performance of dog and handler over the Road Trial course must be accurate and correct and must conform to the requirements of these Regulations. It is also essential, however, that the dog demonstrates willingness and enjoyment of his work throughout.

Road Trials are sport, and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship at all times. Dalmatian Road Trials are sanctioned by, and titles awarded by, the Dalmatian Club of America.

## **CHAPTER 1 - General Regulations**

### **SECTION 1. Compliance with Regulations and Standards.**

In accordance with the certification on the entry form, the handler of each dog and the person signing each entry form must be familiar with these Road Trial Regulations and the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club; and, by entering the Road Trial, agrees to comply with said Rules and Regulations. A copy of the AKC pamphlet *Dealing with Misconduct at AKC Events* will be available at each trial.

### **SECTION 2. Risk.**

The owner or agent entering any dog and/or horse in a Road Trial does so at his own risk and agrees to abide by the rules of The American Kennel Club, the Dalmatian Club of America, and these Road Trial Regulations. Activities involving horses and/or dogs involve an inherent risk which is acknowledged by each participant by signing the entry form. The host club, group, or individual, its Event Committee and any/all of its members or officers, the owner(s) of the site, the Dalmatian Club of America and its members, shall not be responsible for nor assume any liability in the event of any accident or misfortune to either dogs, horses, exhibitors, escorts, stewards, helpers, or spectators participating in or attending any DCA sanctioned Road Trial. All participants and attendees, including exhibitors, escorts, judges, stewards, rental horse suppliers, and spectators will be required to sign a liability release form.

The Host Club, individual, or group hosting the event shall reserve the right to determine an exhibitor's riding ability before allowing him to compete in their Road Trial. Should it be determined by the Host that a rider might present a safety hazard to himself, his horse, or to others, the rider may be excused from competition and his entry fee shall be refunded.

It shall be the exhibitor's responsibility to determine which medical inoculations are deemed necessary for his dog(s) and horse(s) for the geographic area of a particular Road Trial. The exhibitor may be required to show veterinary certificates of certain inoculations, as specified in each Road Trial's premium list.

### **SECTION 3. Equipment.**

Exhibitors, escorts, carriage drivers, and the Judge shall be required to wear American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) approved safety riding helmets and riding boots or riding shoes with at least a ½ inch heel. Exhibitors, escorts, carriage drivers, and the Judge shall also be required to carry a medical information card on their person during the Road Trial.

### **SECTION 4. Use of Collar, Leash, and Dog Equipment.**

Dogs should be kept on a leash when not competing.

Dogs may be brought to the starting line on a leash if the handler chooses. The handler will remove the leash before crossing the starting line. There shall be collars and leashes available at the Mid-Point Rest Stop(s) for exhibitors to use if needed.

Dogs may not wear protective boots. No dogs shall be allowed on the premises of the Road Trial or on the course wearing a choke, prong, shock, or any other type of training collar. A plain buckle collar may be worn at the handler's discretion. At the discretion of the handler, a bell will be permitted on the collar of any entered dog. At the handler's discretion, a GPS locating collar may be attached to the dog after the Judged Exercises and while the dog is on the distance portion of the course. Any GPS locating collar must be first inspected & verified by the Judge.

It is advisable that each dog wears some means of identification such as a tattoo, tags, or microchip. Dogs may wear color-coded collars or jackets for identification (see Ch. 1 Sec. 13).

**SECTION 5. Road Trial Classes Offered.**

Clubs may elect at their option to apply to hold a Dalmatian Club of America sanctioned Road Trial limited to the Regular Classes (Mounted and/or Carriage) or limited to the Coaching Certificate/Coaching Certificate Carriage only. A DCA sanctioned full Road Trial need not include the Optional Titling Classes and need not include the Carriage Classes, but a club/individual will not be approved to hold the upper level classes without the lower level classes being offered in the same titling program, and a club/individual will not be approved to hold the Road Dog level classes without also offering the Road Dog Excellent level classes. Any club/individual that has been approved to hold a DCA sanctioned Road Trial for the Regular classes may also offer a mix of the Optional Titling classes and/or Non-Regular classes upon DCA approval.

Regular classes are the traditional Mounted and/or Carriage classes of Coaching Certificate/Coaching Certificate Carriage, Road Dog/Road Dog Carriage, and Road Dog Excellent/Road Dog Excellent Carriage. Optional Titling classes offer a variety of intermediate and standard exercises as described in Chapter 8. Non-Regular classes are not DCA titling classes. A clear and complete description of both the eligibility and performance requirements of any Non-Regular class offered shall appear in the Premium List.

<b>REGULAR MOUNTED CLASSES (Titling)</b>	<b>REGULAR CARRIAGE CLASSES (Titling)</b>	<b>OPTIONAL MOUNTED CLASSES (Titling)</b>	<b>OPTIONAL CARRIAGE CLASSES (Titling)</b>	<b>NON-REGULAR CLASSES (non-titling)</b>
CC	CCC	CCN	CCNC	To be determined by Host Club
RD	RDC	CCI	CCIC	
RDX	RDXC			

## **SECTION 6. Road Trial Hosts.**

An all-breed dog show club may be granted permission to hold a Licensed or Member Road Trial in conjunction with its Dog Show; and a Dalmatian specialty club, any other group of Dalmatian fanciers, or individual may also be granted permission to hold a Licensed or Member Road Trial if, in the opinion of the DCA Road Trial Committee such club, group, or individual is qualified to do so, and the Dalmatian Club of America Board of Governors approves the Road Trial Committee's recommendation. Such a group or individual may apply to host a Road Trial by writing to the Dalmatian Club of America Road Trial Committee. Approvals by the Board of Governors may occur via email between board meetings if necessary.

## **SECTION 7. Responsibilities and authorities of Host Club.**

A Host Club may host a full Road Trial (CC, RD, & RDX with or without Carriage Classes and with or without Optional Titling Classes) or a CC/CCC Only Test (with or without Optional Titling Classes). Both will be referred to as a Road Trial. A club may hold a Road Trial on the same day as its AKC Show and/or Performance Event, and the Road Trial may be announced in the premium list for the Show and/or Trial, and the Road Trial entries may be included in the Show and/or Performance Event catalog. If the entries are not listed in the catalog for the Show and/or Performance Event, the club must provide at the Road Trial several copies of a typewritten sheet or sheets (the Road Trial Pamphlet), giving all the information that would be contained in the catalog for each dog.

If the Road Trial is to be held within 7 days of the Show and/or Performance Event, the entries may be sent to the same person designated to receive the Show and/or Performance Event entries, and the same closing date may apply. If the Road Trial is not to be held within 7 days of a Show and/or Performance Event, or if the host club chooses a different organization/person to receive entries, the club will name the person/organization to receive the entries in the premium list and may specify a different closing date for entries.

### **SECTION 7a. Trial Secretary.**

A club that has been granted permission by The Dalmatian Club of America to hold a sanctioned Road Trial must appoint a Road Trial Secretary and submit their name to The DCA Road Trial Committee for its records. Any qualified person may act as Road Trial Secretary.

### **Section 7b. Event Committee.**

Any Host club holding a DCA sanctioned Road Trial must appoint a Host Club Road Trial Event Committee that will exercise all the authority of a dog show's Event Committee. Any qualified person who is a member in good standing with the Dalmatian Club of America may act as the Host Chair of the Event Committee. The Event Committee will investigate any report of abuse or severe disciplining of dogs on the grounds or premises of a show, trial or match. Any person whose conduct is in any manner prejudicial to the best interests of the sport will be dealt with promptly. The judge must immediately report any abuse of a dog on the course to the Event Committee.

#### **SECTION 7c. Compliance.**

The Host Club Road Trial Event Committee and Road Trial Secretary shall be held responsible for compliance with all of the Road Trial Regulations except those coming under the sole jurisdiction of the Judge. When a dog or horse is seriously injured or dies in connection with an event, the Event Committee must conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if negligence or the willful conduct of an individual caused the injury or death. If the preliminary investigation determines that there was no negligence or willful conduct causing the injury or death, then a written report of the findings of the preliminary investigation must be submitted to the DCA within five (5) days. If the Event Committee determines that negligence or willful conduct may have caused the death or serious injury, the Event Committee must hold an Event Hearing.

#### **SECTION 7d. Decisions.**

At the Road Trial, the decisions of the Judge shall be final in all matters affecting the scoring and the working of the dogs and their handlers while on the course. The Host Road Trial Event Committee shall decide all other matters arising at the Trial, including protests against dogs made under Chapter 19 of the AKC Dog Show Rules, subject, however, to the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.

#### **Section 7e. Weather.**

Weather is an important consideration for the Road Trial Host Club. The safety of participants and animals is of utmost importance. Extreme weather such as lightening, strong winds, heat or cold, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. The Host Club Road Trial Event Committee, in consultation with the Judge, has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted due to weather and at what point the event shall resume. If a weather delay results in an entrant being unable to participate, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the Host Club Road Trial Event Committee. If an entire event or part of an event is cancelled due to weather, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the Host Club Road Trial Event Committee.

#### **Section 7f. Clusters.**

Any series of Road Trials held on consecutive days in the same location or locations that are close together shall be defined as a "cluster." Any dog entered in the RDX/RDXC on any day of any cluster may not enter any class with more than 3 miles distance on the next consecutive day of the cluster.

An exhibitor who hopes to title a dog during a cluster and may wish to move up to a different class during the cluster must put a notification of such on their entry form. Move-ups may be limited due to the availability of rental horses. All move-ups or class changes may be allowed at the discretion of the Host Club.

#### **Section 7g. Rental horses/Rental horses & carriages.**

The Host Club is not required to provide rental horses nor rental horses & carriages. The Host Club may supply potential exhibitors with information regarding the availability of rentals, but any rental agreements and resulting liability will be between the rental provider and the exhibitor/participant.

## **SECTION 8. Composition of the Road Trial Event Committee.**

### **SECTION 8a. National Specialty Event Committee.**

When a Road Trial is held in conjunction with a Dalmatian Club of America National Specialty, the National Specialty Event Committee shall exercise all the authority vested in a Dog Show's Bench Show Committee. The National Specialty Event Committee is appointed by the Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) Board of Governors and is comprised of five members – a Dalmatian Club of America Governor; the National Specialty Show Chair; the DCA Steering Committee Chair; and two others appointed by the DCA Board of Governors, both of which are performance exhibitors (persons who compete in Obedience, Rally, Tracking, Agility, and/or Road Trials). The two performance positions may be replaced, at the request of the DCA Road Trial Committee Chair to the DCA Board of Governors, by two members of the DCA Road Trial Committee.

### **SECTION 8b. Host Club Road Trial Event Committee.**

AKC's Rules and Regulations require that the Premium List contain a listing of members of the Event Committee (of which there must be at least five) along with the name and address of the Host Chair. The Host Chair must be a member in good standing of the Dalmatian Club of America. It is not necessary that every member of the committee participate in the proceedings, but a majority of the committee must participate. (A "majority" is interpreted to mean at least three committee members.) Four member(s) must be from the event-giving club and must be in good standing, and the fifth member must be a DCA Governor. In the event of a hearing, the DCA Board member must participate via phone if necessary.

No person should serve on an Event Committee unless he or she is prepared to carry out the duties fairly and impartially. Reasons for a committee member's recusal or disqualification include the following: (1) the member will appear as a witness at the hearing; (2) an immediate family or household member of the committee will appear as a witness at the hearing; (3) the committee member has a personal or business relationship with the accused or complainant; (4) the member co-owns a dog or dogs with the accused or complainant; (5) the member does not feel that he or she can be impartial; or (6) the member witnessed the event. A recusal occurs when a committee member voluntarily withdraws from the committee; and a disqualification occurs when a majority of the other committee members affirmatively vote to disqualify a member from further participation in the proceedings. For more information, see AKC booklet "Dealing with Misconduct."

## **SECTION 9. DCA Sanction.**

Dalmatian Club of America sanction must be obtained by any club/host that holds a Road Trial in order for entrants in that trial to be eligible for existing challenge trophies and or DCA Certificates of Participation and DCA Certificates of Title.

## **SECTION 10. Dog Show Rules.**

All of the American Kennel Club Dog Show Rules, including, but not limited to the AKC Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline and the AKC Guide for Event Committees “Dealing with Misconduct,” where applicable, shall govern the conduct of Road Trials, and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, and also to un-entered dogs within the show precincts except as these Road Trial Regulations may provide otherwise. These documents must be available at the event.

## **SECTION 11. Un-entered Dogs.**

Only dogs entered in the Road Trial or being used for the Road Trial shall be allowed within the Trial precincts. This shall include dogs being used for the Distraction exercise and dogs acting as official mascots, such as to escort the carriage or vehicle carrying judges and stewards to points along the course. The Host may designate a specific crating area for un-entered dogs, away from the Judged Exercises.

There shall be no benching, offering for sale, breeding, nor displaying of un-entered dogs. If a Host wishes to allow the presence of un-entered dogs in a designated crating area, these dogs shall be subject to all rules relating to health, conduct, and the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club. The owners or agents shall be responsible for the care and safety of such dogs.

## **SECTION 12. Escorts and Drivers.**

For their safety and enjoyment, an exhibitor entered in the RD/RDC or the RDX/RDXC classes is encouraged to choose an un-entered companion to ride on horseback or in the carriage with them on the course. This escort may not at any time give commands or signals to any of the entered dogs, and must ride and behave in such a way as to not interfere with the exhibitor, their dog(s), the carriage, Judge’s line of vision during any portion of the Road Trial. It is preferable that any mounted escort or passenger escort remains at a predetermined waiting area during the judging of the Exercises. The escort may join the exhibitor team after the judging of the Exercises has been completed. Except in extenuating circumstances or when a waiting area is not available, any mounted escort for a particular handler shall remain at least twenty feet behind the Judge and shall make certain not to interfere with any dog, exhibitor, Judge, or Judge’s line of vision during any exercise.

This escort shall be subject to act in accordance with these Regulations and the AKC Rules and Regulations governing Dog Shows. If rental horses are offered, the needs of the exhibitors shall be met regarding rental horses before such horses are made available to escort riders. In the event of a shortage of rental horses, an escort rider using a rental horse may be required to forfeit the use of such rental horse to an exhibitor if an exhibitor needs it.

If a rented carriage and driver are used by an exhibitor in any carriage class, the driver shall not at any time give commands and/or signals to any of the entered dogs and must drive and behave in such a way as to not interfere with the exhibitor, their dog(s), and/or the Judge.



### **SECTION 13. Identification.**

No badges, club jackets, coats with kennel names, or other identifying logos, markings, names, or ribbon prizes may be worn or displayed by an individual or dog when exhibiting a dog at a Road Trial. Multiple dogs on a team shall be identified on the course solely by either color-coded jackets or wide, color-coded collars. At the discretion of the exhibitor, the dog(s) may wear identification jackets or collars that are of cooling material or insulating material. Handlers shall be identified by a large number worn on their backs. Identification worn by dogs and handlers shall be clearly visible to the Judges. Handlers should carry medical information and personal identification in the form of a USEA medical card or similar on their person.

The catalog or Road Trial Pamphlet shall indicate both handler number and colors assigned to each of the dogs on a team. The numbers and/or colors assigned by the Host Road Trial Committee for each member of each team shall be printed in the Show Catalog or Road Trial Pamphlet. In the case of an exhibitor handling a single dog, the number displayed on the exhibitor may serve as sufficient identification for the dog.

### **SECTION 14. Multiple Entries.**

Each handler may enter up to three dogs on a single team in a Road Trial. All dogs on a single team must be judged in the exercises as a team. At the discretion of the Host Club, dogs on a team may be entered in different classes as long as the dogs are still judged in the Judged Exercises as a team, and as long as each dog is able to complete their required Exercises and distance as described in these Regulations.

### **SECTION 15. Limitation of Entries.**

The number of entries in a Road Trial may be limited at the discretion of the Host Club. Any limitation of entries must be stated in the Premium List. With a limited entry, entries will close when limits are reached as defined in the Premium List. At the discretion of the Host Club, the Host may choose to establish a wait list in order to fill openings created by entries that are withdrawn prior to the event closing day. If a club is maintaining a wait list, this shall be stated in the Premium List. The Premium List must state an opening date/time for when entries will be accepted. Entry may also be limited according to available daylight hours. This number shall be calculated by figuring the maximum number of teams which the Host can accommodate before sunset.

Those entrants selected to compete shall be notified electronically or by phone within 5 days of the closing date for entries, and entry fees for all other entries shall be refunded.

### **SECTION 16. Change in Judges.**

If for any reason an announced Road Trial Judge is unable to complete their assignment, an alternate Judge shall be named. Notification of this change shall be promptly made to the owner of each entry. The owner shall be permitted to withdraw such entry and the entry fee shall then be refunded.

## **SECTION 17. Order of Running.**

After the closing date for entries has passed and/or entry limits have been reached, and prior to the printing of the Show Catalog or Road Trial Pamphlet, the Host Road Trial Secretary shall draw by lot the order in which handlers shall begin the Trial with their dog(s). Numbers, colors, and judging times shall be assigned accordingly, as much as is practical, with the following considerations:

Carriage entrants competing on the 25-mile course shall be run first, followed by horseback entrants competing on the 25-mile course, followed by carriage entrants on the 12 1/2 mile course, followed by horseback entrants on the 12 1/2 mile course, followed by Coaching Certificate (carriage or mounted) entrants. The Coaching Certificate class may be conducted on the day before the RDX/RDXC & RD/RDC classes are held, or if held on the same day as the other classes, shall be conducted after all entries for RDX/RDXC and RD/RDC have completed the judged exercises. The Optional Classes, if offered, shall be conducted after the judging of the RD/RDC and RD/RDXC classes.

### **SECTION 17a. Bitches in Season.**

The host club, at its discretion, may allow bitches in season to compete if scheduling permits them to be run last, but they must be run last, and at the owner's risk. It shall be the handler's responsibility to notify the Host Club Road Trial Committee by 7 AM on the day of the Road Trial if his bitch is in season. If, in the opinion of either Judge, any bitch is in season whose handler has not notified the Road Trial Committee by 7 AM on the day of the trial, that handler and dog shall be barred from the competition, and the Official Judge's Book shall be marked, "Excused, in season, not reported." Bitches in season, whether competing in the RDX/RDXC or the RD/RDC class, shall be run last (at the end of the RD/RDC entries, but before the CC/CCC entries). The location of the CC/CCC class may be adjusted by the Judge if a bitch in season has run before the CC/CCC testing begins.

## **SECTION 18. Catalog Order.**

Catalog order is determined by class level and by random draw as described in Chapter 1, Section 17. Dogs should be judged in catalog or Road Trial Pamphlet order. At a team's appointed official starting time, it is the responsibility of each exhibitor to be ready with his dog(s) and horse and await instructions from the Judge or the Start/Finish Steward. At the Judge's or the Start/Finish Steward's discretion, and if agreeable to the Exhibitor, the Judge or Steward may request that an exhibitor who is ready and waiting at the starting line be judged ahead of an exhibitor who has delayed proceeding to the starting line. At the Mounted Judge's or the Start/Finish Steward's discretion, and if agreeable to the Exhibitor, a team may start out on the course before the approximate fifteen minute to half-hour interval from the departure of the preceding team has elapsed. Such early departure by a team shall not necessitate subsequent teams being at the starting line before their scheduled start times.

## **SECTION 19. Purebred Dalmatians only.**

As used in these Regulations, the word "dog" refers to either sex but only to Dalmatians that are purebred and eligible for registration in the American Kennel Club studbook or a limited registration or other registry as described in this Section. An eligible unregistered dog for which the American Kennel Club has issued an ILP/PAL number may also be entered. Any dog that is registered in the official registry of another country as a purebred Dalmatian may also be entered in a Dalmatian Club of America Road Trial. All Dalmatians entered in a Dalmatian Club of America Road Trial will be eligible for any prizes or titles offered at said trial as described in these Regulations.

## **SECTION 20. Dogs/Horses That May Not Compete.**

For each individual Trial, no dog belonging wholly or in part to a Trial judge, on-call veterinarian, Show Superintendent, or to any member of such a person's immediate family or household, shall be entered in that Road Trial, nor may any of these officials handle or act as agent for any dog entered in the Road Trial at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate. If allowed by the Host Club, the Host Chair and/or Host Road Trial Secretary may enter dogs owned or co-owned by the Host Chair/Secretary and may handle dogs in the Road Trial. The Host Chair's/Secretary's priority must be the handling of official duties in a timely manner. If participation in the trial interferes with these duties, other arrangements for handling dogs must be made.

No dogs shall be entered nor shown under a judge at a Road Trial if the dog has been owned, sold, held under lease, handled on the course, boarded, or has been regularly trained or instructed, whether professionally or as amateurs, by the Judge or by any member of their immediate family or household within six months prior to the date of the Road Trial, and no such dog shall be eligible to compete.

If the Road Trial is held within 7 days of a Dog Show or other Performance Event given by the same Dog Show or Host Club as the Road Trial, the Road Trial Judge, on-call veterinarians, and officials shall be eligible to compete in such Dog Show and/or Performance events.

No dog less than 6 months of age on the day of the Trial may compete at any Road Trial. No dog less than 12 months of age may compete in the CCN/CCNC, CCI/CCIC, RD/RDC classes. No dog less than 18 months of age may compete in the RDX/RDXC classes.

Spayed bitches, castrated dogs, monorchid or cryptorchid males, and dogs that have faults which would disqualify them under the breed standard for Dalmatians may compete in Road Trials if otherwise eligible under these Regulations.

A dog or a horse that is lame or otherwise unsound may not compete in a Road Trial. Lameness is defined as any irregularity of locomotion. The judge must determine, without a veterinarian's opinion, whether a dog or horse is lame. If, in the opinion of the Judge, a dog or horse is lame or otherwise unsound, the animal shall not be allowed to compete or to continue to compete, and the official judge's book shall be marked "Excused-lame".

Bitches in season shall be allowed to compete as stated in Chapter 1 Section 17a.

Dogs listed on the AKC Ineligible List are not eligible to compete in Road Trials until officially reinstated by the American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 21. Just Cause.** An Event Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from its trial for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for so doing with The Dalmatian Club of America. (See “Rules Applying to Dog Shows”, Chapter 11, Section 15).

**SECTION 22. Disqualification, Ineligibility, Excusal, and Change in Appearance of Dogs.**

**SECTION 22a. Ineligibility.**

If an ineligible dog has been entered in any DCA sanctioned Road Trial, if the name of the owner on the entry form is not the person(s) who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, if the dog is run in a class for which it has not been entered without the proper transfer, if the dog is entered in the same class more than once, or if the dog’s entry is unacceptable to the DCA, all resulting awards will be cancelled. Such ineligible dogs will not be counted as having competed regardless of whether they have received awards.

Any time a judge marks a dog “Disqualified” or “Excused” the judge must state the reason in the judge’s book and will give the trial secretary a brief written report of the dog’s actions. The judge’s book will be submitted to the DCA with the report of the trial.

**SECTION 22b. Disqualification by Judge.**

A dog that is blind, deaf or has been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons may not compete in any Road Trial and will be disqualified. Blind means without useful vision. Deaf means without useful hearing. The judge will not obtain the opinion of a veterinarian.

When a Judge finds any of these conditions in any dog s/he is judging, s/he shall disqualify the dog, marking the Judge's Book "Disqualified", and stating the reason. The dog shall then be excused from further competition.

The judge will disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person and fill out the required “Judge’s Form: Disqualification for Attacking a Human” which is available for download from the DCA website (similar to AKC form AEDSQ1). The completed form will be submitted to the DCA Corresponding Secretary ~~Board~~.

When a dog has been disqualified under this section as being blind or deaf, for having been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons, or for having attacked or attempted to attack a person on the premises, all awards made to the dog at the trial will be cancelled by the DCA. The dog may not again compete unless the owner applies for and receives reinstatement.

The judge must excuse a dog that attacks another dog and fill out the required “Judge’s Form: Excusal: Dog on Dog or Dog on Horse Attack” which is available on the DCA website (similar to AKC AEDSQ3). The completed form will be submitted to the DCA Corresponding Secretary. The owner of any dog that has been excused on two occasions for attacking or attempting to attack another dog or a horse will be notified that the dog is no longer eligible to be exhibited in Road Trial classes. The judge must excuse a dog that appears dangerous to other dogs.

Any dog that has been excused or disqualified shall be immediately removed from the course. It is the handler's responsibility to immediately remove his disqualified or excused dog from the course, and they must do so before continuing to compete with any other dog(s) on their team.

**SECTION 22c. Dog Attacks/Disqualification by Event Committee Hearing.**

If an Event Committee becomes aware of any significant act of dog aggression that takes place in association with their event, the Event Committee must investigate the incident (except in the case of a dog that is disqualified by the Judge) and complete the DCA form “Dog Disqualified by Event Committee” which is available on the DCA website (similar to the AKC form AEDSQ4), and send that form to the DCA Corresponding Secretary. No exhibitor complaint is required.

Any dog that, in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person, a horse or a dog at a DCA sanctioned Road Trial event resulting in injury and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons, horses or other dogs, shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Corresponding Secretary of the Dalmatian Club of America. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any DCA sanctioned event nor be on the grounds of a DCA sanctioned event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the Dalmatian Club of America, the owner receives official notification in writing from the DCA that the dog’s eligibility has been reinstated. Refer to Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11 Section 8-A, “Event Committee Procedural” (RDEOB1) and “Dog Disqualified by Event Committee” (AEDSQ4). DCA does not have authority to ban a dog from AKC sanctioned events hosted by DCA.

**SECTION 22d. Excusal.**

The Judge must excuse a dog that appears dangerous to other dogs. The judge must excuse a dog that attacks another dog or a horse and fill out the required JUDGE’S FORM: EXCUSAL: “Dog on Dog or Dog on Horse Attack” (available on the DCA website). The form will be filled out and submitted to the DCA Corresponding Secretary. The owner of any dog that has been excused on two occasions for attacking or attempting to attack another dog or a horse will be notified that the dog is no longer eligible to compete in Road Trials. Such dogs are ineligible to be on the grounds of any DCA Road Trial unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the Dalmatian Club of America, the owner receives official notification in writing from the DCA that the dog’s eligibility has been reinstated.

An Event Committee may remove any dog from its trial for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for so doing with The Dalmatian Club of America (see Chapter 1 Section 20).

It is the handler's responsibility to immediately remove their excused dog from the course and confine it, and they must do so before continuing to compete with any other dog(s) on his team.

If, in the opinion of the Judge, any bitch is in season whose handler has not notified the Road Trial Committee by 7 AM on the day of the trial, that handler and dog shall be barred from the competition, and the Official Judge's Book shall be marked, "Excused, in season, not reported," as defined in Chapter 1, Section 17a of these Regulations.

All awards made to any disqualified or excused dog at the Road Trial shall be canceled by the Dalmatian Club of America.

Dogs that have been excused because they are "unfit to compete" as described in Section 20, or "in season – not reported" as described in Section 17a, or lame or unsound, will not lose future eligibility and do not need reinstatement of eligibility.

### **SECTION 23. Disturbances.**

The Judge of a Road Trial must remove from competition any dog or horse which its handler cannot control and may excuse from competition any dog or horse which the judge considers unfit to compete. The Judge must excuse any dog that is not under its handler's control. If a dog or handler is excused by the Judge, the reason must be stated in the Judge's book or in a separate report.

The handler shall be immediately advised verbally that their dog or horse has been excused, and that the dog or horse shall not be allowed to continue to compete. If a dog or horse has been excused, the reason shall be stated on the judge's score sheet and on the aggregate score sheet.

If a horse has been excused or removed from competition, the exhibitor shall be allowed to substitute another mount if such substitute mount is available within a reasonable time frame. The clocking of the exhibitor's time shall stop and be re-started when a substitute mount has been obtained. It is not the responsibility of the Host to provide substitute mounts, however, and exhibitors should be advised that if their mount is excused, they might not be able to finish the course.

The Judge may excuse from competition any handler/exhibitor/escort who interferes willfully with another competitor or his dog or horse on the course, or any handler/exhibitor/escort who displays behavior contrary to the principles of good sportsmanship. Foul or abusive language or behavior by any exhibitor or exhibitor's escort in a Road Trial shall not be tolerated.

In cases where a dog has been excused during the Road Trial as described in Chapter 1, Section 20, Section 21, Section 22, the Judge shall immediately advise an exhibitor and/or their escort that the exhibitor, escort, dog(s) and/or horse has been excused, and, in these cases, the dog(s) and/or exhibitor and/or escort shall be immediately removed from the course.

If a handler/exhibitor/escort is expelled or excused by a Judge or Event Committee, the reason shall be stated in the Judge's Book or in a separate report, and the handler/exhibitor/escort shall be prohibited from competing/participating in future DCA sanctioned Road Trials until the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the DCA Board of Governors.

#### **SECTION 24. Misbehavior and Miscellaneous Penalties.**

Any unusual display of fear or nervousness by the dog, or any uncontrolled behavior of the dog such as snapping, barking (excepting for a bark that warns of an impending danger) or running away (excepting if a dog starts after game encountered on the course but willingly returns on command), whether it occurs during a specific exercise or anywhere on the course, must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior. The Judge may subtract points from the dog's total score or may excuse the dog from further competition. If such behavior occurs during an exercise, the penalty must first be applied to the score for that exercise. Should the penalty be greater than the value of the exercise during which it is incurred, the additional points shall be deducted from the total score as Misbehavior under Miscellaneous Penalties. If such behavior occurs before or after the judging or between Exercises, the entire penalty shall be deducted from the total score. Any additional deductions from the score shall be listed under Miscellaneous Penalties on the score sheet.

Exhibitors are expected to remain mounted or seated in the carriage and maintain forward progress except when necessary to do otherwise, as described in Chapter 2 Section 9. Misbehavior on the part of the exhibitor regarding these issues will be penalized by the Judge with a substantial deduction to the overall score according to the seriousness of the misbehavior. The judge will subtract points from the score of all dogs on the team as described above.

#### **SECTION 25. Training On the Grounds.**

There shall be no drilling nor intensive or abusive training of dogs on the grounds or premises at a Road Trial. Special training collars shall not be allowed on the grounds or premises at a Road Trial. The judge shall not permit any handler to train his dog by excessive verbal commands or by moving toward the dog to correct it in any way, except in the case of aggression, and shall excuse from further competition in the Road Trial any dog whose handler does either. Exhibitors shall be allowed and encouraged to ride/drive their horse on the course the day before the Trial without dogs. Exhibitors shall be allowed to ride/drive their horse with dog(s) at hock in an area away from the Judged Exercise area if such an area is available. These requirements shall not be interpreted as preventing a handler from moving normally about the grounds or premises with his dog at heel on leash or at hock, nor from giving such commands or signals in a normal manner as would be necessary and usual in everyday life. Physical or abusive verbal disciplining of dogs shall not be permitted, except in the case of an attack on a person or another dog. Likewise, physical abuse of a horse shall not be permitted. A dog whose handler disciplines it on the

course must be immediately reported by the Judge to the Host Road Trial Committee for action under Chapter 1, Section 23 & 27. The Event Committee, Road Trial Secretary, and the members of the Host Road Trial Committee shall be responsible for compliance with this section and shall investigate any reports of infractions (see also: AKC “Dealing with Misconduct”).

#### **SECTION 26. Abuse of Dogs or Horses.**

The Host Road Trial Committee shall investigate any reports of abuse of dogs or horses or severe disciplining of dogs or horses on the grounds or premises of a show. Any person who, at a Road Trial, conducts himself in such manner or in any other manner prejudicial against the best interest of the sport, or who fails to comply with the requirements of Chapter 1, Sec. 27, shall be dealt with promptly, during the Trial if possible, after the offender has been notified of the specific charges against him, and has been given an opportunity to be heard in his own defense in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 27. Any abuse of a dog or horse on the grounds of the Road Trial must be immediately reported by the Judge or witness to the Host Club Road Trial Event Committee for action under Chapter 1, Section 27 and the exhibitor shall be excused from competition. (see also: AKC “Dealing with Misconduct”)

#### **SECTION 27. Discipline.**

The Dalmatian Club of America shall have the right to suspend any person from the privileges of DCA for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of pure-bred dogs, Road Trials, or the Dalmatian Club of America, alleged to have occurred in connection with or during the progress of its Road Trial, after the alleged offender has been given an opportunity to be heard.

Notice in writing must be sent promptly by registered mail or hand delivered by the Event Committee to the person charged, and a duplicate notice giving the name and address of the person charged, and full details as to the reasons for the charges, must be forwarded to the Dalmatian Club of America Corresponding Secretary within seven days.

An appeal may be taken from a decision of the DCA Board of Governors. Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100US) must be sent to the DCA within thirty days after the date of suspension. The DCA Board of Governors may itself hear said appeal or may refer it to a committee of the Board, or to a Trial Board to be heard. The \$100 deposit shall become the property of the DCA if the decision is confirmed, or shall be returned to the appellant if the decision is not confirmed. (see also: AKC “Dealing with Misconduct”)

#### **SECTION 28. Reinstatement**

When a dog has been disqualified from Road Trial competition for aggression, the owner of the dog may apply for reinstatement by completing the following:

- a) A letter requesting reinstatement, which is to be sent to both the current Road Trial Committee Chair and the Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) Corresponding Secretary.



b) The letter should state the circumstances that led to the disqualification/excused status and why the owner feels the dog should be reinstated. (A dog's prior record is not sufficient reason for reinstatement.)

c) A \$100 non-refundable fee payable to the Dalmatian Club of America must accompany the reinstatement request sent to the DCA Corresponding Secretary.

Once the letter requesting reinstatement and the reinstatement processing fee is received by the DCA Corresponding Secretary:

1. The DCA Corresponding Secretary will retrieve the dog's official and complete DCA Road Trial competition records.

2. The DCA Corresponding Secretary will create a packet containing the letter requesting reinstatement, along with the dog's official and complete DCA Road Trial competition records.

3. The DCA Corresponding Secretary will forward the packet to the appropriate reviewer(s). The reviewer(s) will examine the dog's official and complete DCA Road Trial competition records to see if there are any similar incidents. To be considered for reinstatement, the judge or the DCA staff committee (as appropriate) must agree that the dog is suitable for reinstatement consideration.

(a) If the disqualifier was the judge, then the document packet will be forwarded to the judge for the initial review.

(b) If the disqualifier was the event committee, then the document packet will be forwarded to a DCA staff committee for the initial review. The DCA staff committee will be composed of three people – one DCA board member, one obedience or agility committee member, and one road trial committee member.

4. After receiving this concurrence from the judge or the staff review committee, the owner of the dog will be asked for recent documentation of stability training such as successful obedience training or a Canine Good Citizen test completion. If the judge or the staff review committee do not concur with your request for reinstatement, then the applicant may apply for reinstatement directly to the DCA Board of Governors.

5. The request for reinstatement, the judge's or DCA staff committee's (as appropriate) concurrence of suitability for reinstatement, evidence of recent successful training, and the dog's competition records will be reviewed by the DCA Show Event Committee. If the DCA Show Event Committee decides against reinstatement, the owner of the dog will receive written notification from the DCA Corresponding Secretary.

6. If the DCA Show Event Committee decides to consider allowing the dog to return to competition, an in-person evaluation will be necessary for the final determination. The owner of the dog will be asked to attend a Road Trial or similar experience with the dog for the purpose of the evaluation at a mutually agreeable time and place. Documentation of a current rabies vaccine and personal liability insurance for the owner must be provided to DCA prior to scheduling the hands-on examination.

7. A committee appointed by the Dalmatian Club of America Board will evaluate the dog under circumstances similar to those when it was disqualified/excused. The plan for the in-person evaluation will be shared with the applicant at the time of the notification of the evaluation. The board will consider the reinstatement recommendations of this committee on or before the DCA board's next scheduled meeting.

8. The Dalmatian Club of America Board will notify the owner and the Road Trial Committee Chair in writing about the final determination of the dog's eligibility.

9. This is a thorough and time-consuming procedure; it can take four to six months to complete, as well as the time required to complete the applicable training. It is important that the owner of the dog be prepared for the reinstatement process because only one request for reinstatement will be processed on a disqualified dog.

#### **SECTION 29. Official Judges' Book.**

The Official Judges' Book shall be kept by the Road Trial Host Chair~~man~~ and shall contain an aggregate score sheet for each team entered in the Road Trial. The aggregate score sheet for each team shall indicate each dog's score for each exercise, the official start time of the endurance portion of each team, the official finish time of each team, and the time required for the On-Course Rest Stop(s). The time required for the Rest Stop(s) shall be deducted from the total time for each team. This Official Judge's Book shall be made available for the Judge to transfer their scores once they have completed their area of jurisdiction. The Judge shall also copy the official start time of the endurance portion of the course of each team into the Judges' Book, and shall copy the official finish time of each team from the Start/Finish Steward's sheets into the Judge's Book, and shall deduct the Rest Stop time(s) from the total time, and enter this Total Time on Course on each team's aggregate score sheet and Official Score Sheet. The entries and computations will then be verified by the Start/Finish Steward, and re-verified by the Judge before prizes are awarded.

No person other than the Judge may make any entry in the Official Judges' Book. Officials may enter into the Judges' Book only the information assigned to them by these Regulations. All final scores must be entered in the Official Judges' Book by the Judge. Scores are then re-checked by the Start/Finish Steward and again verified by the Judge before prizes are awarded.

Copies of the aggregate score sheets in the Official Judges' Book shall be made available through the Road Trial Secretary for examination by owners, handlers, and spectators after the completion of the Trial. If scorecards are distributed by the Host after the prizes are awarded, they must contain no more information than is shown in the Official Judges' Book, and must be marked "Unofficial Score".

**SECTION 29a. Judge's Books and Reports: WHAT HAS TO BE SENT TO THE DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA AFTER A ROAD TRIAL.**

At the conclusion of the judging of each class, a club holding a Road Trial shall provide, for the Judge's signature, a "results form" showing all placements in each class, including full particulars of all dogs placed. An official marked catalog may be submitted in lieu of the results form. The Official marked catalog must be marked with the placement awarded to the dog, information regarding the dog, and the score earned written beside the dog's name, signed and certified by the Judge. If all placements are withheld in a class, so indicate on the Judge's certification page. The Host Club must mail the originals to the Dalmatian Club of America Corresponding Secretary and keep one copy for the Club's records. At the conclusion of the trial, the Road Trial Secretary shall certify to the Judge's signature on each score sheet and results form, and shall certify to the number of entries and starters and qualifiers in each class.

The Judge's Book, together with all the entry forms, judge's score sheets, a report of any action taken by the Event Committee, and a full report of the trial, along with any required forms, shall be sent to The Dalmatian Club of America Corresponding Secretary in time to be received by them no later than seven days after date of the trial. A copy of the marked catalog or results form must also be sent to the DCA Road Trial Committee Chair for recording of results & titles. Penalty for non-compliance: twenty five (\$25.00) dollars, and five (\$5.00) dollars for each day's delay beyond the deadline, and other penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Governors of the Dalmatian Club of America. The report shall contain a list of the names of all members of the Host Club Road Trial Committee who were present at the trial, a list of the names and addresses of the Event Committee members who were present at the Trial, the names and complete addresses of the Judge, and the name and address of the Road Trial Secretary. A club or association holding a DCA sanctioned Road Trial shall retain copies of the entry forms, marked catalog, and the judge's score sheets for at least 12 months.

**SECTION 30. Veterinarian On-Call.**

The Host Club shall be required to designate a local veterinarian and/or veterinary hospital/clinic that will be on-call during the Road Trial. Such veterinarian/clinic shall be listed in the Premium List, and directions to the veterinary clinic will be available on site on the day of the Trial. The exhibitor assumes all responsibility for the health & well-being of the dog(s) they are exhibiting, and for any exhibitor-owned horses. The rental-horse supplier assumes all responsibility for the health and well-being of any rental horses provided.

## SECTION 31. **Stewards.**

The Judges are in sole charge of their particular area of judging. Stewards shall be provided to assist each, but they may act only on the Judge's instructions. Stewards shall not give information or instructions to owners and handlers except as specifically instructed by the Judge, and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of the Judge.

### SECTION 31a. **Start/Finish Steward.**

A Start/Finish Steward shall be provided who will, acting on the Judge's instructions, be responsible for maintaining an orderly flow of teams onto the course. The Start/Finish Steward shall also record the time each team crosses the starting line and the finish line, and, if possible, the time each team leaves for the endurance portion of the course. The official start time of the endurance portion of each team shall be recorded by the judge as defined in Chapter 2, Sec. 1, and shall be marked on the judge's score sheet and reported to the Start/Finish Steward. It is the responsibility of the Start/Finish Steward to record the time each team crosses the Finish Line to present that written record to the ~~Mounted~~ Judge. After the Judge has entered their scores into the Official Judge's Book, the Start/Finish Steward will verify the addition of scores.

## **CHAPTER 2 - Overall Regulations for Performance**

### **SECTION 1. Time Limits and Official Start Time.**

In classes with distance, the timing of the endurance portion shall begin immediately after the Judged Exercises have been completed unless exhibitor teams are assigned to go out together. At the discretion of the judge, the endurance portion start times may be delayed to allow exhibitors to ride together for safety. If exhibitor teams are assigned to go out together, the times of each team may be held until the accompanying team is ready to leave. The official start time of the endurance portion of each team shall be recorded by the Judge or the Steward, and shall be marked on the Judge's score sheet by the Judge. CCN/CCNC teams shall be required to complete the endurance portion of the 3 mile course within 1 hour. CCI/CCIC teams shall be required to complete the endurance portion of the 6 mile course within 2 hours. RD/RDC teams shall be required to complete the endurance portion of the 12-½ mile course, excluding the Rest Stop, within a time limit of three hours. RDX/RDXC teams shall be required to complete the endurance portion of the 25-mile course, excluding the Rest Stops, within a time limit of 6 hours. The official finish time of each team shall be recorded as the team crosses the finish line. The Finish Time shall be recorded by the Start/Finish Steward, and transferred to the Official Judges' Book by the Judge. Faster times do not produce higher scores; a Road Trial is not a race.

### **SECTION 2. Qualifying Score. Titles and Championship Legs.**

In the Pass/Fail classes of CC/CCC, no scores shall be recorded but a Pass Rating must be received from the judge in each of the exercises for the dog to earn a qualifying score and be awarded the title. In the scored classes of CCN/CCNC, CCI/CCIC, RD/RDC and RDX/RDXC, a qualifying score shall be required to earn a title. A Qualifying Score shall be comprised of Pass/Qualifying Ratings (51 - 100) on each of the Judged Exercises plus the dog's having completed the endurance/distance portion of the Trial within the designated time limit, plus the dog having completed any required Rest Stops as described in these Regulations. If a dog is competing to earn a Championship leg, the dog must complete all of the requirements for a qualifying score in that class, plus must earn a minimum score of 400 points as described in Chapter 7 Sections 11 & 12.

### **SECTION 3. Hands.**

In all Exercises on the course, the handler's arms and hands shall be in a natural riding or driving position. Any use of hand signals will be considered an extra command. Luring (to hold the hands in a manner that attracts/lures the dog or appears to suggest holding a treat for the purpose of positioning, directing, or controlling the dog) shall be a major deduction and may result in a non-qualifying score.

### **SECTION 4. Commands.**

Whenever a command is mentioned in these Regulations, a single verbal command by the handler is preferable, although extra commands may be permissible. Any extra commands or voice corrections, if needed to keep the dog(s) under control, will be scored accordingly. A

handler may praise their dog(s) during an exercise but this should not be excessive and will be scored accordingly. Delay in following a Judge's order to give a command must be penalized, unless the Judge, because of some distraction or interference, directs the delay. Any unusual noise or motion on the part of the handler may be considered a correction.

Each dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command. Excessively loud or gruff commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression and should be avoided. Commands which in the judge's opinion are excessively loud or gruff will be penalized.

#### **SECTION 5. Praise and Food.**

Verbal praise is allowed during, between, and after exercises, but should not be excessive during the judged exercises and will be scored accordingly. A handler may not carry or offer food for their dogs on the course but may arrange in advance for a snack for their dog(s) to be at the Rest Stop, or the Host may offer a snack for dogs at the Rest Stop(s).

#### **SECTION 6. Hock Position.**

Hock Position as used in these Regulations for a Horse/Rider team means that the dog shall be straight in line with the direction in which the handler and horse are facing, within one horse's length of the horse, at any point in a semi-circle behind the horse's head, as close as practicable without crowding or obstructing the horse's motion.

Hock Position for a Carriage team shall mean that the dog shall be straight in line with the direction in which the carriage and driver are facing, either directly behind the horse's heels and under the carriage, as close as practicable without crowding or obstruction the horse(s)' or carriage's motion, OR within one horse's length of the horse or carriage at any point in a semi-circle behind the horse's head. For either a Horse/Rider team or a Carriage team, the dog(s) shall not go ahead of the horse's head during the Hock or Distraction exercises.

Dogs on a team with multiple entries shall not be penalized for allowing space for other dogs in Hock Position.

#### **SECTION 7. Orders and Minimum Penalties.**

The orders for the exercises and the standards for judging are set forth in Chapter 9. The list of faults is not intended to be complete, but the more common and serious faults are specified. There is no maximum limits on penalties. A dog that makes none of the errors listed may still fail to qualify or may be scored zero for other reasons that were not specifically stated in Chapter 9, but these faults shall be described on the Judge's' score sheets.

#### **SECTION 8. Mode of Transportation.**

In these Regulations, "horse" shall be defined as a horse, miniature horse, pony, donkey, or mule. "Carriage" shall be defined as a carriage, cart, wagon, or other wheeled vehicle designed to be pulled by a horse for the purpose of human transportation. Exhibitors in the mounted

classes shall compete while mounted on horseback. Exhibitors competing in the Carriage Classes may drive a horse(s) and carriage or may ride in a carriage that is driven by someone else. If a Carriage exhibitor chooses to ride in a carriage driven by someone else, the driver of the carriage may not give commands to the dog(s) nor interfere in any way with the proceedings of the Trial, as described in Chapter 1, Section 12, and the designation “groom-handled” (“-gh”) will be added to the title.

In all classes, the exhibitor may own the horse(s), or the horse(s) may be borrowed or rented at the exhibitor’s expense and liability. The Dalmatian Club of America and the Host assume no responsibility for the financial arrangements of rental horses. The DCA and the Host also assume no liability for the use of any horse(s) at any Road Trial, nor for any damage that may be caused by such horses.

In all classes, each team shall complete the judged exercises on the same course. The requirements shall be the same, as defined by these Regulations, for each team within each class, regardless of whether the exhibitor is mounted on horseback, driving a carriage, or driven in a carriage. Exhibitors who begin the Trial driving/riding in a carriage must complete the course in a carriage and may not switch to horse under saddle.

#### **SECTION 9. Mounted /Driving Competition and Forward Progress.**

Exhibitor must remain mounted or seated in the carriage during and between judged exercises, except in the case of an emergency or as specified in these Regulations. Exhibitor may dismount/disembark during the Long Sit or Down Exercise after the “Stay” command has been given for the purpose of holding the horse as described in Chapter 9 Section 7.

Exhibitor may dismount/disembark during the endurance portion of the Trial for the Rest Stop(s).

Teams are expected to make forward progress at the normal hacking pace required to finish within the time limit during the endurance portion. Exhibitor may dismount/disembark/stop forward progress briefly during the endurance portion of the Trial only when it is absolutely necessary (such as opening a gate, waiting for another exhibitor, watering the horse or dog, adjusting tack, dealing with a difficult horse, etc.) or in an emergency.

If the Judge is a witness to an un-mounted/disembarked exhibitor on the trail or a team that is not making forward progress on the trail, or if a lack of forward progress/unmounted exhibitor is reported to the Judge, the Judge shall take the necessary steps to determine the validity of such a report and reason for such behavior. If the Judge determines the behavior to fall under “misbehavior,” the score of each dog on the team will be penalized with a substantial deduction to the overall score according to the seriousness of the misbehavior as described in Chapter 1, Section 24.

## **SECTION 10. Distance Exhibitors Who Cannot Complete the Required Distance**

To earn the title of RD/RDC or RDX/RDXC, the dog must complete the entire course, as described in this document, handled by the same exhibitor who handled the dog in the judged exercises. Any dog that qualifies in the RD/RDC or RDX/RDXC exercises, but whose handler is unable to complete the distance course for any reason, shall be considered as qualifying in the appropriate CC/CCC test, and shall be awarded the title of CC or CCC.

Any dog that qualifies in the RDX/RDXC exercises and has completed at least 12.5 miles of the course but is unable to complete the remainder of the RDX/RDXC course or whose handler is unable to complete the remaining distance of the 25 mile course, shall be considered as qualifying in the appropriate RD-B/RDC-B class. Such dog will be eligible for the appropriate RDCH/RDCCH leg if the score so warrants.

Any dog that qualifies in the Judged Exercises of the Optional Class CCN/CCNC but is unable to complete the required 3 mile distance shall be considered as non-qualifying and shall not be eligible for any other titles or legs. Any dog that qualifies in the judged exercises of the Optional Class CCI/CCIC that has completed at least 3 miles but is unable to complete the required 6 mile distance shall be considered as qualifying in the appropriate CCN/CCNC class.



## **CHAPTER 3 - Course Set-Up.**

### **SECTION 1. Rest Area for Rest Stops**

The Mid-Point Rest Stop for the RD/RDC course shall be conducted at the approximate mid-point of the course as much as is practicable. The Rest Stops for the RDXRDXC course will be conducted at the approximate  $\frac{1}{4}$  point (6 miles), mid-point (12.5 miles), and  $\frac{3}{4}$  point (18  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles) of the course. If the course consists of an approximate 6 mile loop, one rest area may serve for all Rest Stops. The judge and the Host Club Event Committee will designate the location of the Rest Stop(s). The Host will provide a steward at each Rest Stop to record the time in & time out. The Host will provide leashes and water for dogs and horses at each of the Rest Stops.

### **SECTION 2. Warm-Up.**

A starting line and a finish line shall be designated. After leaving the starting line and before beginning the Judged Exercises, each team shall be allowed approximately a one-quarter mile warm-up stretch to allow the dog(s) and horse(s) to settle. This warm-up distance shall be measured as part of the overall distance.

### **SECTION 3. Overall Course Layout.**

The Judged Exercises must be held outdoors and may not be held in an arena. The outdoor space for the Judged Exercises may be fenced or unfenced. If a fenced area is used, the fenced area must be approximately 100 yards by 100 yards (300' x 300'; or approximately 10,000 square yards) or larger, with side fencing at least 150 feet apart. If, in an emergency situation, the Host Chair deems the outdoor space to be unsafe for the Speed Exercise due to weather, the Speed Exercise may be held in a covered arena of sufficient size if one is available. All of the other Exercises must still be held outdoors, not in an arena, regardless of weather. If the conditions outdoors are unsafe for the other Exercises, the event should be cancelled.

Course layout is at the discretion of the Host Chair, and any portion of the course may be repeated in order for exhibitors to fulfill the required distances.

It shall be the responsibility of the Host to attempt to secure a site that is appropriate for both horse under saddle and carriages. A separate course for the endurance portion of the Trial may be provided for carriages if the available mounted course will not accommodate carriages and if an appropriate carriage course is available. If, in the opinion of the Host Road Trial Committee an appropriate trail or alternate trail for carriages cannot be secured, the Host shall not offer Carriage classes. If Carriage classes will not be offered, this must be printed in the Premium List for the Road Trial.

All entries will be required to perform the Judged Exercises in the same designated area and to complete the required distance for their respective classes. The location of the CC/CCC test may be adjusted by the judge if a bitch in season has run before the CC/CCC testing begins.

The length of the CC/CCC course shall equal the length of the Judged Exercises Course used for all classes. The length of the course for the classes with distance shall cover the required distance as found in the description for each respective class.

The endurance/distance portion of the course must be marked with trail markers that are bright, legible, and tamper and weather resistant. The course must be marked with a minimum of one directional marker per mile, and two directional markers per every crossroad, fork, or path. The course must also be marked with distance markers (i.e. "Mile 1", "Mile 2", "Mile 3", etc.) a minimum of every 2 miles. Water must be available for dogs at a minimum of every 3 miles.

#### **SECTION 4. Course Layout, Judged Exercises.**

A specific outdoor location shall be designated by the Road Trial Host for the Judge to conduct the Exercises under their jurisdiction (see Ch. 3 Sec. 3). The Judged Exercises portion of the course should be as close to the starting line as possible while still allowing for the required ¼ mile warm-up.

The approximate location of all Judged Exercises shall be marked with brightly colored course markers. Type of markers used shall be at the discretion of the Host Club, but small wire flags are not suggested as these can be mistaken by some dogs as electric fence markers. For the HOCK exercise, there shall be brightly colored course markers indicating the measured distance is near, followed by brightly colored course markers indicating the start of the required distance, followed by brightly colored course markers indicating the completion of the HOCK distance. The Hock Exercise for the CC/CCC, the RD/RDC, and the Optional classes shall follow an approximate straight line as much is practicable if the terrain permits. These markers shall serve as a general guide, and the Judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over the location of the course markers.

For the RDX/RDXC HOCK exercise, the exercise shall consist of a figure 8 for a total distance of 200 yards when practicable, or a 200 yard distance with at least two turns. The RDX/RDXC HOCK exercise shall be marked and flagged at the start, turns, and Finish, at the discretion of the Host. These markers shall serve as a general guide, and the Judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over the location of the course markers.

The start and finish of the RECALL, DISTRACTION, and STAY exercises shall be at the discretion of the Judge.

#### **SECTION 5. Course Layout, Speed or Change of Pace Exercise.**

A specific area of the course shall be designated for the SPEED/Change of Pace Exercise.

For the SPEED/Change of Pace exercise, there shall be brightly colored course markers indicating the start and brightly colored course markers indicating the finish of the one hundred-yard distance that the exhibitors are required to traverse. This 100-yard stretch shall not go downhill, but shall be flat or cover a gentle upward slope. The ground shall be as smooth as possible and free of holes or other hazards. The Judge shall be situated in such a way as to not

frighten the horse, preferably at a mid-way, elevated point, and their steward(s) shall be instructed to remain quiet and still during this exercise.

#### **SECTION 6. Spectator Area.**

The Host must designate and mark an area for spectators that will allow the spectators to watch without enabling them to distract or interfere in any way with the performance of the exhibitors or their dogs or horses while they are being judged.

#### **SECTION 7. Course Check Point(s).**

The Host shall prepare and require some sort of verification of each team's completion of the required distance. This may be the placement of at least one steward or sign-in sheet posted along the course; a required photograph taken at some pre-arranged location along the course; a trail camera that photographs participants on the trail; or some other method of verification which must be shown to the Judge or the Start/Finish Steward as directed by the Host Chair.

#### **SECTION 8. Review of Course and Judge's Briefing.**

The Host shall conduct a Review of the Course/Judge's Briefing with the exhibitors & Judge and shall notify the exhibitors of the time and date of this Course Review within two weeks of the date. The Course Review/Judge's Briefing may be held the day before or on the day of judging at the discretion of the Host Club. It shall be the exhibitor's responsibility to arrive at the Road Trial site in time to attend this Course Review, and the Host shall not be required to conduct subsequent reviews for exhibitors who fail to attend the scheduled review.

Exhibitors are encouraged to ride their horses (personal or rental) in the judging area without dogs on the day before the Trial. Dogs are not allowed on the Judged Exercise Course before judging begins. Exhibitors are encouraged to warm up their dogs with horses in an area away from the Judged Exercise Course the day before the Trial and the morning of the Trial if an area is available. If rental horses and/or rental carriages are available, the supplier of the rentals must make the rentals available to try out with dogs on the day before the Trial or on the morning of the Trial before judging begins, at the expense and liability of the exhibitor(s). As per these Regulations (Chapter 1, Sec. 25), no intensive training methods, special collars, etc., will be allowed during this pre-Trial Review of Course or during any warm-up or try-out ride/drive.

## **CHAPTER 4 - Awards and Prizes.**

### **SECTION 1. DCA Certificates of Title and Certificates of Participation.**

The Dalmatian Club of America shall offer Certificates of Participation, prepared by the Host, to each exhibitor who competes in a Board-approved Dalmatian Road Trial. The Dalmatian Club of America shall award Certificates of Title to the owner(s) of each dog that earns a title in a Board-approved Dalmatian Road Trial as provided in Chapter 7. It shall be the responsibility of the Host to prepare such Certificates under the direction of the DCA Road Trial Committee.

### **SECTION 2. DCA Road Trial Trophies and Awards.**

For Road Trials held in conjunction with the Dalmatian Club of America's National Specialty Show, the same trophies shall be awarded for Road Trial class placements in the regular and optional classes as are offered for regular and non-regular classes held at the National Specialty Show. For Road Trials held at locations and dates other than the annual DCA National Specialty, the host shall provide any trophies or awards to be awarded at their discretion.

### **SECTION 3. Challenge Trophies.**

For Road Trials held in conjunction with the Dalmatian Club of America's National Specialty Show, challenge trophies may be offered as approved by the DCA Board of Governors. Individuals who wish to donate Challenge Trophies must provide a trophy, a carrying case for the trophy, \$200 to cover expenses relating to the trophy, and the annual commemorative trophy that is customarily awarded; all of the foregoing subject to the Board's right of refusal to accept a donation. These challenge trophies shall be displayed during DCA week on the trophy table, and shall be held for safekeeping by the DCA Permanent Trophy Chairman during the period between Road Trials held in conjunction with DCA Specialty Shows, until the time such challenge trophy shall be won for permanent possession.

For Road Trials held at locations and dates other than the annual DCA National Specialty, the Host, at the discretion of each Host Road Trial Committee, may choose to offer or approve any challenge trophies.

### **SECTION 4. Road Trial Ribbons.**

Ribbons or rosette ribbons shall be offered for first through fourth place in each class that requires a qualifying score at any Road Trial. Qualifying ribbons or rosette qualifying ribbons shall be offered for each dog that earns a "Pass" rating in the CC/CCC Test and each dog that earns a qualifying score at any Road Trial. Each ribbon or rosette ribbon shall be at least two inches wide and at least eight inches long, and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the Dalmatian Club of America or the logo of the Host Club, and the words "Dalmatian Road Trial". The Host is not required to provide ribbons/rosettes for dogs that have "moved-up" or changed classes.

At Licensed or Member Road Trials, the Host may choose the colors of ribbons or the following colors may be used for prize ribbons or rosettes:

- First Prize.....Blue
- Second Prize.....Red
- Third Prize.....Yellow
- Fourth Prize.....White
- Qualifying Prize.....Dark Green
- Highest Scoring Dog.....Blue & Gold

**SECTION 5. Prizes and Awards.**

All official ribbons, DCA trophies, and DCA challenge trophies shall be awarded only to dogs that earn the appropriate Pass rating or a Qualifying Score in a Road Trial. Awards for the four placements in each class requiring a qualifying score shall be based solely on the number of points earned.

At the Trial Host's discretion, a certificate, ribbon of participation, or other form of recognition or prize may be awarded to dogs and/or handlers who competed in the Road Trial but who did not receive Pass Rating or a Qualifying Score. At the Discretion of the Trial Host, non-regular awards may also be offered.

**SECTION 6. Highest Scoring Dog in Road Trial.**

After any run-offs have been conducted and after the final announcement of class scores, the dog receiving the highest Qualifying score overall from the RD/RDC and RDX/RDXC classes shall be awarded the ribbon and any awards and prizes offered for High Scoring Dog in Road Trial.

## **CHAPTER 5 - Regulations for Road Trial Rest Stops.**

### **SECTION 1. Rest Stop for the Road Dog/Road Dog Carriage Course.**

The Mid-Point Rest Stop for the RD/RDC course shall be conducted at the approximate mid-point of the course, as much as is practicable, according to Chapter 3, Section 1. RD/RDC teams will be required to rest a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes at a mid-point rest area, unless otherwise directed by the judge. The RD/RDC Mid-point Rest Stop time will be recorded by the steward and will be subtracted from overall time on course. Failure to stop at a required Rest Stop or failure to spend the required time at any required Rest Stop shall result in a Non-Qualifying score. Any team that stays longer than 30 minutes at any Rest Stop will receive a Non-Qualifying Score unless they have been given more time by the Judge for the purpose of securing a different rental horse.

### **SECTION 2. Rest Periods for the Road Dog Excellent/Road Dog Excellent Carriage Course.**

The Rest Stops for the RDX/RDXC course will be conducted at the approximate  $\frac{1}{4}$  point (6 miles), mid-point (12.5 miles), and  $\frac{3}{4}$  point (18  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles) of the course, as described in Chapter 3, Section 1. RDXRDXC teams will be required to rest a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes at each of the 3 required Rest Stops unless otherwise directed by the Judge. The RDX/RDXC Rest Stop times will be recorded by the steward and will be subtracted from overall time on course. Failure to stop at a required Rest Stop or failure to spend the required time at any required Rest Stops shall result in a Non-Qualifying score. Any team that stays longer than 30 minutes at any Rest Stop will receive a Non-Qualifying Score unless they have been given more time by the Judge for the purpose of securing a different rental horse.

## **CHAPTER 6 – Regulations for Performance and Judging**

### **SECTION 1. Requirements for Judges.**

The Host of any Road Trial must secure a Judge as provided in Chapter 6, Sections 1, 1a. During the Judged Exercises, the Judge will be mounted and will follow behind the exhibitor team as described in these Regulations. Persons considered for an assignment to judge a Road Trial should have the following minimum experience:

#### **SECTION 1a. Road Trial Judge.**

1) The judge must be riding a horse (mounted) while judging, and therefore must be an experienced equestrian. 2) Must have earned an AKC obedience title or other AKC Performance title on a dog. 3) Must have competed with a dog in a Dalmatian Road Trial (*Grandfathered-in under requirement #3 only [Chapter 6 Section 1A #3]: all former Road Trial judges who judged a DCA sanctioned Road Trial before December, 2005. 'Grandfathered-in' judges must meet all other judging requirements stipulated in these Regulations*). 4) Must have a complete working knowledge of the Road Trial Regulations and must first pass an open-book certification test administered by the Road Trial Committee. 5) Must have experience with Dalmatians, either in owning, breeding, showing (conformation or performance), or having been a member of a Dalmatian Specialty Club for at least two years. The Judge will judge the Hock, Distraction, Recall, ~~and~~ Stay, and Speed/Change of Pace exercises. The Judge will score any Miscellaneous Penalties during the endurance portion and will be in charge of awarding any Pass/Fail Ratings required for distance, time on course, and Rest Stops. At the National Specialty Road Trial, a judge may serve as the Road Trial Judge only once in a five year period.

### **SECTION 2. Standardized Judging.**

Standardized Judging is of paramount importance. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercises, but must see that each handler and dog executes the various exercises exactly as described in these Regulations. A handler familiar with these Regulations should be able to enter the course under any judge without having to inquire how the particular judge wishes to have any exercise performed, and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.

### **SECTION 3. Standard of Perfection.**

The Road Trial Judge must carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog/handler/horse team against this visualized standard which shall combine the utmost in willingness, enjoyment, and precision on the part of the dog, and naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness in handling. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as must lack of precision in the dog's performance, aggression by the dog, and/or roughness in handling or commands by the handler.

#### **SECTION 4. Qualifying Performance.**

The Judges' certification in the Judge's Book of a Qualifying Score for any particular dog constitutes his certification to the Dalmatian Club of America that the dog has performed all of the required exercises at least in accordance with the minimum standards, and that this performance would justify the awarding of a Dalmatian Club of America Road Trial title or championship leg. A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog whose performance has not met the minimum requirements, nor to a dog that attacks any other dog, person, or horse met along the course, nor to a dog whose handler abuses the dog on the course, nor to a dog whose handler offers food to the dog on the course except for food that has been arranged at the Rest Stop(s).

In deciding whether a faulty performance of a particular exercise by a particular dog warrants a Qualifying Score, the Judge shall consider whether the awarding of a Road Trial Title or championship leg would be justified if all dogs in the class performed the exercise in a similar manner. The Judge must not give a Qualifying Score for the exercise if he decides that it would be contrary to the best interests of the sport if all dogs in the class were to perform in the same way.

#### **SECTION 5. Judge's Directions.**

The Judge's orders and signals should be given to the handlers in a clear and understandable manner, but in such a way that the work of the dog is not disturbed. The Judge shall take care that their horse does not come so close to any of the dogs as to interfere with any Exercise. Before starting the Recall, Hock, Long Sit or Down, and Distraction Exercises, the Judge shall state, "This will be the (particular) exercise, are you ready?" The exhibitor should then respond, "Yes," or "No." If the exhibitor is not ready, the Judge will give the exhibitor a reasonable amount of time to prepare and then ask the question again.

For the Speed Exercise, the Judge or an official Course Steward on signal from the Judge, shall state: "This will be the Speed exercise, are you ready?" The exhibitor will then respond. If the exhibitor is not ready, the Judge will give the exhibitor a reasonable amount of time to prepare, and then proceed.

At the end of each Exercise, the Judge shall say, "Exercise finished." At the end of the Speed exercise, there shall be a trail marker which indicates the end of the Exercise. After each Exercise, the Judge shall advise the exhibitor if any dog on the team has failed the Exercise, and the exhibitor shall be given the option of continuing on the course. The Judge is not required to explain their scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any exhibitor who appears dissatisfied. (See also Chapter 6 Sec. 12)

The judging of an Exercise will begin when the Judge, or official Course Steward in the case of the Speed exercise, gives the first order, not before.



## **SECTION 6. No Added Requirements.**

No Judge shall require any dog or handler to do anything, nor penalize a dog or handler for failing to do anything, that is not required by these Regulations.

## **SECTION 7. Standardized Judging.**

The same methods and standards must be used for judging and scoring dogs in all of the classes.

## **SECTION 8. Interference and Double Handling.**

Any Judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempt to control a dog by anyone other than the handler must act promptly to stop such double handling and shall penalize the dog substantially, or, if in the Judge's opinion the circumstances warrant, shall give the dog a score of zero or "Fail" for the exercise during which the aid was received.

## **SECTION 9. Re-judging.**

If a dog has failed in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged nor given a second chance. If, in the Judge's opinion, however, the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the Judge may, at their own discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise.

## **SECTION 10. Ties and Run-offs.**

In case of a tie for any prize in any of the scored classes, or for the Highest Scoring Dog in the Road Trial, the dogs involved in the tie shall be tested by being required to individually perform the Hock exercise in a straight line for 200 yards. The Road Trial Judge shall judge any such run-off. The original scores shall not be changed.

## **SECTION 11. Official Judges' Book and Judges' Score Sheets.**

The Judge must enter each dog's scores or Pass/Fail rating on their score sheets immediately after judging each team and before starting to judge the next team. The Judge shall transfer these scores into the Official Judges' Book after they have finished judging all teams. In classes with distance, the Judge shall also copy the official endurance portion start time of each team into the Judges' Book and shall copy the official finish time of each team from the Start/Finish Steward's sheets into the Judge's Book, and shall deduct the Rest Stop(s) time(s) from the total time, and enter this on each team's official score sheet and aggregate score sheet.

No person other than the Judge may make any entry in the Official Judges' Book. The Judge must enter all final scores in the Official Judge's Book. The entries and computations will then be verified by the Start/Finish Steward and re-verified by the Judge before prizes are awarded.

Judges may use separate score sheets or a recorder for their own purposes, but shall not give out nor allow exhibitors to see such sheets or hear such recordings, nor give out any other written

scores, nor permit anyone else to distribute score sheets or cards prepared by the Judge. If the Host distributes scorecards or aggregate score sheets, they must contain no more information than is shown in the Judges' Book and must be marked "Unofficial Score".

#### **SECTION 12. Announcement of Scores.**

No judge shall be required to disclose any score or partial score to contestants or spectators until the public announcement of scores, nor shall he permit anyone else to do so.

After all the scores are given final verification, the Start/Finish Steward, after consulting with the Judge, shall announce the dogs involved in any run-off, and after the run-off(s) shall call for the dogs that have won Qualifying Scores/Pass Ratings to be brought to the awards table. The Judge shall announce the scores. Before awarding the prizes, the Judge shall inform the spectators as to the maximum number of points for a perfect score, and shall then announce the score of each prizewinner, and announce to the handler the score of each dog that has won a Qualifying Score.

#### **SECTION 13. Explanation and Errors.**

No judge is required to explain their scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any contestant who appears to be dissatisfied. At the discretion of the Judge, they are encouraged to offer comment to interested handlers as to the performance of a dog. Any interested person who thinks that there may have been an arithmetical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to the Start/Finish Steward and to the Road Trial Secretary so that the matter may be investigated and rectified if necessary.

## **CHAPTER 7 – Regular Road Trial Classes and Titles**

### **SECTION 1. Coaching Certificate Class and Coaching Certificate Carriage Class; Eligibility and General Requirements.**

A Coaching Certificate and/or Coaching Certificate Carriage class shall be offered at all DCA sanctioned Road Trials. Any purebred Dalmatian, as defined by Chapter 1, Section 19 that is 6 months old or older on the day of the Trial may enter the CC/CCC class. Dogs that have already earned other Road Trial titles may also enter. At the discretion of the Host Club, a dog that is entered in the RD/RDC or RDX/RDXC or Optional Classes may be entered in the CC/CCC test at the same trial.

At the discretion of the Host, the Coaching Certificate/Coaching Certificate Carriage class may be conducted the day before the distance classes, or on the same day as the distance classes after all entries for RDX/RDXC and RD/RDC classes have completed the judged exercises as described in Chapter 1, Section 17. All Exercises are to be judged Pass/Fail. Handler shall be mounted on horseback or driving a carriage, or riding in a carriage with a driver, as provided in Chapter 2, Section 8. Dogs that qualify in the CCC class with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” (“-groom handled”) added to the title. Handlers may compete with up to three dogs on a team. No veterinary checks are required, but the Judge may excuse a dog as provided in the Regulations Chapter 1, Section 22.

To earn the Coaching Certificate or Coaching Certificate Carriage title, a dog must earn a "Pass" rating in all Exercises. These Exercises are Hock, Distraction, Long Sit or Down, Recall, and Change of Pace. The Exercises shall be performed on the same course as the RD/RDC and RDX/RDXC classes, and shall be conducted in the same manner as the exercises for the RD/RDC classes.

### **SECTION 2. Road Dog-A Class and Road Dog Carriage –A Class; Eligibility.**

Section 2a. The Road Dog-A class shall be for any dog not less than 12 months of age on the day of the Trial that has not yet earned the Road Dog title and is being handled by an exhibitor who has not previously qualified any dog for the RD title at any Road Trial.

Section 2b. The Road Dog Carriage-A class shall be for any dog not less than 12 months of age on the day of the Trial that has not yet earned the Road Dog Carriage title and is being handled by an exhibitor who has not previously qualified any dog for the RDC title at any Road Trial.

### **SECTION 3. Road Dog-B Class and Road Dog Carriage-B Class; Eligibility.**

Section 3a. The Road Dog-B Class shall be for any dog not less than 12 months of age on the day of the Trial that: 1) has already earned the title RD or RDX, and/or: 2) is being handled by an exhibitor who has previously qualified a dog for an RD or RDX title in a Road Trial. A dog may continue to compete in this class after it has earned the title RD for the purpose of earning Championship legs.

Section 3b. The Road Dog Carriage-B Class shall be for any dog not less than 12 months of age on the day of the Trial that: 1) has already earned the title RDC or RDXC, and/or: 2) is being handled by an exhibitor who has previously qualified a dog for an RDC or RDXC title in a Road Trial.

Section 3c. A dog that has already earned the title(s) RD/RDC and/or RDX/RDXC may continue to compete in the RD-B/RDC-B classes to earn the respective Championship legs.

**SECTION 4. Road Dog Excellent-A Class and Road Dog Excellent Carriage-A Class; Eligibility.**

Section 4a. The Road Dog Excellent-A Class shall be for any dog not less than 18 months of age on the day of the Trial, that has earned the title "RD", but has not yet earned the title "RDX", and is being handled by an exhibitor who has not previously qualified any dog for the Road Dog Excellent title.

Section 4b. The Road Dog Excellent Carriage-A Class shall be for any dog not less than 18 months of age on the day of the Trial, that has earned the title "RDC", but has not yet earned the title "RDXC", and is being handled by an exhibitor who has not previously qualified any dog for the Road Dog Excellent Carriage title.

**SECTION 5. Road Dog Excellent-B Class and Road Dog Excellent Carriage-B Class; Eligibility.**

Section 5a. The Road Dog Excellent-B Class shall be for any dog not less than 18 months of age on the day of the Trial that has earned the title "RD", and: 1) has already earned the title RDX, and/or 2) is being handled by an exhibitor who has previously qualified a dog for an RDX title in a Road Trial.

Section 5b. The Road Dog Excellent Carriage-B Class shall be for any dog not less than 18 months of age on the day of the Trial that has earned the title "RDC", and: 1) has already earned the title RDXC, and/or 2) is being handled by an exhibitor who has previously qualified a dog for an RDXC title in a Road Trial.

Section 5c. A dog that has already earned the title(s) RDX/RDXC may continue to compete in the B classes to earn the respective Championship legs.

**SECTION 6. Road Dog A & B Classes and Road Dog Carriage A & B Classes; General Requirements.**

Dogs entered in any Road Dog Class or Road Dog Carriage Class shall be required to pass five Judged Exercises and complete a required distance of 12 ½ miles within a time limit of three hours minus the required time spent at the required Mid-Point Rest Stop. The five Judged Exercises shall be Hock, Distraction, Long Sit or Down, Recall, and Speed, as described in Chapter 8.

The owner or any other person may handle each dog in these classes. A handler may handle up to three dogs on a team, using a horse or horse(s) and carriage as described in Chapter 2, Section 8. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to properly condition each dog to compete at this distance within this time frame. For any dog in the RD/RDC classes that is unable to complete the required distance, see Chapter 2, Section 10.

#### **SECTION 7. Road Dog Excellent A & B Classes and Road Dog Excellent Carriage A & B Classes; General Requirements.**

Dogs entered in any Road Dog Excellent or Road Dog Excellent Carriage Class shall be required to pass five Judged Exercises and complete a required distance of 25 miles within a time limit of 6 hours minus the required time spent at the required Rest Stops. The five Judged Exercises shall be the RDX/RDXC Hock, Distraction, Long Sit or Down, Recall, and Speed, as described in Chapter 9. The owner or any other person may handle each dog in these classes. A handler may handle up to three dogs on a team, using a horse or horse(s) and carriage as described in Chapter 2, Section 8. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to properly condition each dog to compete at this distance within this time frame. For any dog in the RD/RDC class that is unable to complete the required distance, see Chapter 2, Section 10.

#### **SECTION 8. Coaching Certificate Title and Coaching Certificate Carriage Title.**

The Dalmatian Club of America shall award the title “Coaching Certificate” (CC) to any dog that earns an overall “Pass/qualifying” rating in a Coaching Certificate class. Once earned, the letters “CC” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

The Dalmatian Club of America shall award the title “Coaching Certificate Carriage” (CCC) to any dog that earns an overall “Pass/qualifying” rating in a Coaching Certificate Carriage class. Dogs that qualify in the CCC class with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” (“-groom handled”) added to the title. Once earned, the letters “CCC” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

A Certificate of Title shall be prepared by the Host or the DCA, and shall be issued by the DCA. Any dog that earns the Coaching Certificate title or the Coaching Certificate Carriage title is eligible to be recorded by the American Kennel Club as earning the title “CC” under the AKC Parent Club Title Recognition Program. It is the responsibility of the owner to notify the AKC of such title and arrange for the title to be recorded on the permanent AKC record. The Coaching Certificate or Coaching Certificate Carriage title also qualifies as one of the required “performance” titles used in awarding any DCA “versatility” title.

#### **SECTION 9. Road Dog Title and Road Dog Carriage Title.**

The Dalmatian Club of America shall award the title “Road Dog” (RD) to any dog that has been certified by the Judge to have passed all of the requirements for this title. Once earned, the letters “RD” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

The Dalmatian Club of America shall award the title “Road Dog Carriage” (RDC) to any dog that has been certified by the Judge to have passed all of the requirements for this title. Dogs that qualify in the RDC class with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” added to the title. Once earned, the letters “RDC” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

A Certificate of Title shall be prepared by the Host or the DCA, and shall be issued by the DCA. Any dog that earns the RD title or the RDC title is eligible to be recorded by the American Kennel Club as earning the title “RD” under the AKC “Parent Club Title Program.” It is the responsibility of the owner to notify the AKC of such title and arrange for the title to be recorded on the permanent AKC record.

#### **SECTION 10. Road Dog Excellent Title and Road Dog Excellent Carriage Title.**

The Dalmatian Club of America shall award the title “Road Dog Excellent” (RDX) to any dog that has been certified by the Judge(s) to have passed all of the requirements for this title. Once earned, the letters “RDX” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

The Dalmatian Club of America shall award the title “Road Dog Excellent Carriage” (RDXC) to any dog that has been certified by the Judge to have passed all of the requirements for this title. Dogs that qualify in the RDXC class with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” added to the title. Once earned, the letters “RDXC” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

A Certificate of Title shall be prepared by the Host or the DCA, and shall be issued by the DCA. Any dog that earns the RDX title or the RDXC title is eligible to be recorded by the American Kennel Club as earning the title “RDX” under the AKC “Parent Club Title Program.” It is the responsibility of the owner to notify the AKC of such title and arrange for the title to be recorded on the permanent AKC record.

#### **SECTION 11. Road Dog Champion Title and Road Dog Champion Carriage Title.**

To earn the title Road Dog Champion (RDCH), a dog must have earned the title Road Dog (RD). Once the dog has earned the title RD, the dog may be entered in the RD-B class to earn RDCH legs. After May, 2012, any qualifying score of 400 points or more earned in the RD-B class by an RD dog (see above) will count as an RDCH “leg” toward the Championship title. A dog must earn THREE (3) RDCH legs under at least TWO (2) different judges to earn the DCA title "Road Dog Champion". Once earned, the letters “RDCH” may be used before the dog’s name in DCA publications.

To earn the title Road Dog Carriage Champion (RDCCH), a dog must have earned the title Road Dog Carriage (RDC). Once the dog has earned the title RDC, the dog may be entered in the RDC-B class to earn RDCCH legs. Any qualifying score of 400 points or more earned in the RDC-B class by an RDC dog (see above) will count as an RDCCH “leg” toward the Championship title. A dog must earn THREE (3) RDCCH legs under at least TWO (2) different judges to earn the DCA title "Road Dog Carriage Champion". Dogs that qualify for the RDCCH

title with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” added to the title. Once earned, the letters “RDCCH” may be used before the dog’s name in DCA publications.

The letters RDCH or RDCCH will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times a dog has met the requirements of the RDCH or RDCCH title as defined in these regulations.

Any dog that earns the RDCH title or the RDCCH title is eligible to be recorded by the American Kennel Club as earning the title “RDCH” under the AKC “Parent Club Title Program.” It is the responsibility of the owner to notify the AKC of such title and arrange for the title to be recorded on the permanent AKC record.

## **SECTION 12. Road Dog Excellent Champion Title and Road Dog Excellent Carriage Champion Title.**

To earn the title Road Dog Excellent Champion (RDXCH), a dog must have earned the title Road Dog Excellent (RDX). Once the dog has earned the title RDX, the dog may be entered in the RDX-B class to earn RDXCH “legs.” After May, 2012, any qualifying score of 400 points or more earned in the RDX-B class by an RDX dog (see above) will count as an RDXCH leg toward the title. A dog must earn THREE (3) RDXCH legs under at least TWO (2) different judges to earn the DCA title "Road Dog Excellent Champion." A Certificate of Title will be prepared by the DCA. Once earned, the letters “RDXCH” may be used before the dog’s name in DCA publications.

To earn the title Road Dog Excellent Carriage Champion (RDXCCH), a dog must have earned the title Road Dog Excellent Carriage (RDXC). Once the dog has earned the title RDXC, the dog may be entered in the RDXC-B class to earn RDXCCH “legs.” Any qualifying score of 400 points or more earned in the RDXC-B class by an RDXC dog (see above) will count as an RDXCCH leg toward the title. A dog must earn THREE (3) RDXCCH legs under at least TWO (2) different judges to earn the DCA title "Road Dog Excellent Carriage Champion." A Certificate of Title will be prepared by the DCA. Dogs that qualify for the RDXCCH title with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” (“-groom handled”) added to the title. Once earned, the letters “RDXCCH” may be used before the dog’s name in DCA publications.

The letters RDXCH or RDXCCH will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times a dog has met the requirements of the RDCH or RDCCH title as defined in these regulations.

Any dog that earns the RDXCH title or the RDXCCH title is eligible to be recorded by the American Kennel Club as earning the title “RDXCH” under the AKC “Parent Club Title Program.” It is the responsibility of the owner to notify the AKC of such title and arrange for the title to be recorded on the permanent AKC record.

## **CHAPTER 8 – Road Trial Optional Titling Classes & Non-Regular Classes.**

### **SECTION 1: Optional Titling Classes.**

The Dalmatian Club of America “Optional Titling Classes” may be offered at any Road Trial at the discretion of the Host Club. If offered, such classes shall be listed in the Premium List for the Trial. Optional Titling Classes include Coaching Companion Novice/Coaching Companion Novice Carriage and Coaching Companion Intermediate/Coaching Companion Intermediate Carriage. Scores earned in the Optional Titling Classes are not eligible to be considered for the High in Road Trial Award. The Host Club may offer ribbons or awards for these Optional Titling Classes at their discretion.

#### **SECTION 1a: Optional Titling Classes Coaching Companion Novice and Coaching Companion Novice Carriage; Eligibility, General Requirements, and Titles.**

No previous titles are required before entering the Coaching Companion Novice (CCN) Class. Dogs that have already earned the CC or the CCC may enter the CCN, but the previous title is not required. Any dog that has not yet earned the title of CCN, CCI, RD, and/or RDX may enter the CCN class. There is no A or B distinction.

No previous titles are required before entering the Coaching Companion Novice Carriage (CCNC) Class. Dogs that have already earned the CC or the CCC may enter the CCNC, but the previous title is not required. Any dog that has not yet earned the title of CCNC, CCIC, RDC, and/or RDXC may enter the CCNC class. There is no A or B distinction.

All exercises are to be scored 0 – 100 points each for a total of 400 points. Handler shall be mounted on horseback or driving a carriage or riding in a carriage with a driver, as provided in Chapter 2, Section 8. Dogs that qualify in the CCNC class with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” added to the title. Handlers may compete with up to three dogs on a team. No veterinary checks are required, but the Judge may excuse a dog as provided in the Regulations Chapter 1, Section 19.

To earn the Coaching Companion Novice or Coaching Companion Novice Carriage title, a dog must earn a Qualifying Score in all four Judged Exercises (51-100 points in each exercise) and complete a distance of 3 miles within 1 hour. Timing of the distance portion will begin after the Judged Exercises as described in Chapter 2, Section 1. The Judged Exercises are 50 yard Hock, Distraction, Long Sit or Down, and Recall. The Exercises shall be performed on the same course as the RD/RDC, and shall be conducted in the same manner as the Exercises for the RD/RDC classes when those classes are offered. The distance portion of the class shall be conducted on an appropriate trail or path at the discretion of the Host Club.



The Exercises and Requirements for the CCN/CCNC classes are as follows:

<b>EXERCISE</b>	<b>QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS</b>
Hock (50 yds.)	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Distraction	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Long Sit or Down	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Recall	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
3 mile distance within 1 hour time limit	Pass/Fail (no score)

Any dog that qualifies in the CCN/CCNC will be awarded the title of CCN or CCNC, as appropriate, by the Dalmatian Club of America. Dogs that qualify for the CCNC title with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” added to the title. A Certificate of Title will be prepared by the Host Club and awarded by the DCA. Once earned, the letters “CCN/CCNC” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

#### **SECTION 1b: Optional Titling Classes Coaching Companion Intermediate and Coaching Companion Intermediate Carriage; Eligibility, General Requirements, and Titles.**

No previous titles are required before entering the Coaching Companion Intermediate (CCI) Class. Dogs that have already earned the CC or the CCC may enter the CCI, but the previous title is not required. Any dog that has not yet earned the title of CCI, RD, and/or RDX may enter the CCI class. There is no A or B distinction.

No previous titles are required before entering the Coaching Companion Intermediate Carriage (CCIC) Class. Dogs that have already earned the CC or the CCC may enter the CCI, but the previous title is not required. Any dog that has not yet earned the title of CCIC, RDC, and/or RDXC may enter the CCIC class. There is no A or B distinction.

All exercises are to be scored 0 – 100 points, for a total of 500 points. Handler shall be mounted on horseback or driving a carriage/cart or riding in a carriage/cart with a driver, as provided in Chapter 2, Section 8. Dogs that qualify in the CCIC class with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” added to the title. Handlers may compete with up to three dogs on a team. No veterinary checks are required, but the Judge may excuse a dog as provided in the Regulations Chapter 1, Section 19.

To earn the Coaching Companion Intermediate or Coaching Companion Intermediate Carriage title, a dog must earn a Qualifying Score in all five Exercises (51-100 points in each exercise) and complete a distance of 6 miles within a time limit of 2 hours. Timing of the distance portion shall begin after the Judged Exercises as described in Chapter 2, Section 1. The Judged Exercises are: 100 yard Hock, Distraction, Long Sit or Down, Recall, and Change of Pace. The Exercises shall be performed on the same course as the RD/RDC classes, and shall be conducted in the same manner as the Exercises for the RD/RDC classes. The distance portion of the class shall be conducted on an appropriate trail or path at the discretion of the Host Club.

The Exercises and Requirements for the CCI/CCIC classes are as follows:

<b>EXERCISE</b>	<b>QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS</b>
Hock (100 yds.)	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Distraction	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Long Sit or Down	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Recall	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
100 yd. Change of Pace	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
6 mile distance within 2 hour time limit	Pass/Fail (no score)

At the discretion of the Judge, the Hock, Distraction, Recall, and Long Sit or Down exercises may be judged in any order, but should be judged in the same order as the RD/RDC and RDXRDXC exercises when those classes are offered, if possible. The Change of Pace exercise shall be judged last.

Any dog that qualifies in the CCI/CCIC will be awarded the title of CCI or CCIC, as appropriate, by the Dalmatian Club of America. Dogs that qualify for the CCIC title with handler as a passenger in the carriage (“groom”) will have the designation “-gh” added to the title. A Certificate of Title will be prepared by the Host Club and awarded by the DCA. Once earned, the letters “CCI/CCIC” may be used after the dog’s name in DCA publications.

Any dog that qualifies in the Judged Exercises for the CCI/CCIC class and completes at least 3 miles distance but is unable to complete the required 6 mile distance will be awarded the appropriate title of CCN/CCNC and be considered to have qualified in the appropriate CCN/CCNC class.

## **SECTION 2. Non-Regular Classes.**

The Host Club may offer Non-Regular classes at their discretion. The requirements and eligibility for Non-Regular classes shall be at the discretion of the Host Club. Such classes should be listed in the Premium List for the Trial, along with a description of the requirements and eligibility. No titles or prizes will be awarded by the Dalmatian Club of America for non-regular classes. The Host may offer prizes, ribbons, and awards for these classes at their discretion. At the discretion of the Host Club, non-Dalmatians may be entered in Non-Regular classes.

## **CHAPTER 9 – Exercises and Scoring.**

### **SECTION 1. Coaching Certificate Class-and Coaching Certificate Carriage Class Judged Exercises and Pass/Fail Ratings:**

To earn the Coaching Certificate/Coaching Certificate Carriage title, a dog must earn a “Pass” rating in each of the Judged Exercises. These Exercises are Hock, Distraction, Long Sit or Down, Recall, and Change of Pace, as described in Chapter 9. The exercises shall be performed on the same course as the RD/RDC and RDX/RDXC classes, and shall be conducted in the same manner as the exercises for the RD/RDC classes, except that they shall receive no score and shall be Pass/Fail. If a bitch in season has been run on the course before the CC/CCC class, the judge may choose to adjust the location of the CC/CCC class, as noted in Chapter 1, Section 15a.

The Exercises for the CC/CCC classes are as follows:

<b>EXERCISE</b>	<b>QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS</b>
200 yd. Hock	Pass (51-100)/Fail (0-50)
Distraction	Pass (51-100)/Fail (0-50)
Long Sit or Down	Pass (51-100)/Fail (0-50)
Recall	Pass (51-100)/Fail (0-50)
100 yd. Change of Pace	Pass (51-100)/Fail (0-50)

At the discretion of the Mounted Judge, the Hock, Distraction, Recall, and Long Sit or Down exercises may be judged in any order, but should be judged in the same order as the RD/RDC and RDX/RDXC Exercises if possible. The Change of Pace Exercise shall be judged last.

### **SECTION 2. Road Dog/Road Dog Carriage and Road Dog Excellent/Road Dog Excellent Carriage Judged Exercises and Scoring.**

To earn the RD/RDC/RDX/RDXC titles a dog must earn a “Qualifying Score” (51-100 pts.) in each of the Judged Exercises plus a “Pass” rating in the required distance and Rest Stops. The exercises and tests for the Road Dog/Road Dog Carriage Classes and Road Dog Excellent/Road Dog Excellent Carriage Classes are as follows:

<b>EXERCISE</b>	<b>QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS</b>
200 yd. Hock (RD/RDC or RDX/RDXC)	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Distraction	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Long Sit or Down	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Recall	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
100 yd. Speed	Q (51-100)/ NQ (0-50)
Completion of the Required Distance (12.5 or 25 miles) within the time limit	Pass/Fail (no points)
Completion of Required Rest Stops	Pass/Fail (no points)
<b>QUALIFYING SCORE</b>	<b>255 – 500 points + 7 Pass/Qualifying ratings</b>

At the discretion of the Judge, the Hock, Distraction, Recall, and Long Sit or Down exercises may be judged in any order. The Speed exercise shall be judged last.

### **SECTION 3. Hock Exercises, all classes.**

The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay close to the horse and handler when required while the horse and rider are at a trot/gait. "Hock Position" is defined in Chapter 2, Section 6.

Orders for the exercise are, "This will be the Hock Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog to hock," "Trot your horse," and "Exercise Finished." The Judge shall standardize as much as practical the place on the course that each dog is required to "Hock." When the Mounted Judge announces the exercise and asks if the handler is ready, the judge and handler shall be moving forward at a walk. When the handler replies, "Ready," or "Yes," the judge will proceed with the orders.

On the Judge's order the handler shall call each dog in and then give each dog a single command to fall into the hock position, where the dog(s) shall remain while continuing forward. Once in hock position, the team may begin a brisk trot or gait, followed by the Judge. The handler may praise his dogs as the team continues forward and may give additional commands, if necessary, recognizing that the dog(s) will be scored accordingly (points may be deducted for additional commands, hand signals, and/or excessive praise). The dog(s) shall remain in Hock position, as described in Chapter 2, Section 6, without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or coming so close to the horse or carriage as to interfere with forward motion. The team shall continue forward at a trot for the distance required for that class. At the approximate completion of the required distance, the Judge shall command "Exercise Finished." At the completion of the Exercise, the Judge will inform the Handler as to whether each dog has Passed or Failed this Exercise. The Judge shall remain at least twenty feet away from any dog but near enough to the team to ensure proper observation.

#### **Section 3a. Hock Exercise: CC/CCC Class and RD/RDC Classes.**

The Hock Exercise for the CC/CCC Classes and RD/RDC Classes shall be for 200 yards, in as straight a line as is practicable, if the terrain permits. The 200-yard required distance shall be marked as described in Chapter 3, Section 4. These markers shall serve as a general guide, and the Mounted Judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over the location of the course markers.

#### **SECTION 3b. Hock Exercise: RDX/RDXC classes.**

The RDX Hock Exercise shall be conducted in the same manner as the Hock Exercise for the RD/RDC Classes, except for the pattern required for the completion of the 200-yard distance. For the RDX/RDXC HOCK exercise, the exercise shall consist of a figure 8 pattern for a total distance of 200 yards, when practicable, or a 200-yard distance with at least two turns, all the while maintaining a trot/gait. The RDX/RDXC Hock exercise shall be marked at the start, turns, and Finish, at the discretion of the Host, as described in Chapter 3, Section 4. These markers shall serve as a general guide, and the Judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over the location of the trail markers. At the completion of the Exercise, the

Judge will inform the Handler as to whether each dog has passed or failed this Exercise.

**SECTION 3c. Hock Exercise: Optional Titling Classes.**

The Hock Exercise for the Optional Classes shall be conducted in the same manner as the Hock Exercise for the CC/CCC Classes, except that the distance shall be measured and performed according to the description of the individual Optional Class as described in Chapter 8.

**SECTION 4. Hock Exercise, Scoring (all classes).**

If a dog is unmanageable, refuses to hock, leaves the obedience/judging area, or acts aggressively toward the horse, the dog must be scored zero on this exercise.

Substantial deductions shall be made for luring the dog in any way and may result in a non-qualifying score. Substantial deductions shall be made for excessively loud or gruff commands or signals to Hock, or if a handler adapts their horse's pace to that of the dog. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, forging, interfering with the horse or carriage's forward movement, and/or going wide, or excessive barking. Substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that goes ahead of the horse during this exercise but who drops back into Hock position on command. Minor deductions may be made for repeated commands, hand signals, or excessive praise during the Hock Exercise.

**SECTION 5. Distraction Exercise: all classes.**

The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate a dog's ability to remain under the handler's voice control in the event of a distraction.

When the judge directs the handler to continue forward, the horse will be moving forward at a walk or a trot at the handler's discretion. Orders are, "This will be the Distraction Exercise, are you ready?" "Continue forward," and "Exercise Finished." The judge shall direct the Distraction Dog to pass on the "off side" of the horse, if possible, at least 15 feet away from the horse.

On signal from the Judge, a hiker with a dog on a leash shall start walking toward the approaching team, positioning themselves to pass on the side of the horse that is the farthest away from the dog at hock when possible; in other words, on the "off side." In the case of more than one dog on a team with dogs that hock on opposite sides of the horse, the Distraction Dog shall be positioned to pass on the right side of the horse or on the handler's right side, at least fifteen feet away from the horse. The handler shall continue forward with their dog(s) in Hock position from the previous Exercise, and shall be allowed to command each dog to "Hock" when they have noticed the approaching distraction. When the handler and their dog(s) have gone past the hiker approximately twenty yards, the Judge shall indicate that the Exercise is finished, and the handler may release their dog(s). At the completion of the Exercise, the Judge will inform the Handler as to whether each dog has Passed or Failed this Exercise. The hiker and the Distraction dog shall remain on the down-course side of the exhibiting team until after the Judge has completed judging the remaining exercise(s) and has started back toward the Course Start.

## **SECTION 6. Distraction Exercise, Scoring.**

A dog must receive a score of zero if it attacks the on-coming hiker or dog or if it disregards its handler's command to hock.

Substantial deductions shall be made for luring the dog in any way and may result in a non-qualifying score. Minor to substantial deductions shall be made if a dog barks repeatedly at the distraction (a single warning bark shall not be penalized); if it starts to approach the distraction but comes back to Hock on command; if it displays shyness; or if it moves out of Hock Position. Minor deductions may be made for hand signals and/or repeated commands or praise during the Distraction Exercise.

## **SECTION 7. Long Sit or Down Exercise (all classes).**

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate a Dalmatian's ability to "sit" or "down" on command and to wait under his handler's control until released.

Orders are, "This will be the Long Sit or Down Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog(s)," "Sit or Down your dog(s)," "Command your dog(s) to Stay," and "Exercise Finished."

If more than one dog is judged at the same time for this Exercise, the handler may give a separate command to each dog. The handler may choose to remain mounted or seated in the carriage, may choose to have a steward hold the horse(s)' head(s) before the exercise begins and during the exercise, or may choose to dismount or disembark after the "Stay" command has been given and hold the horse(s)' head(s) throughout the remainder of the exercise. If the handler remains mounted/seated, they may choose to move their horse(s) away from the dog(s) after the "Stay" command is given, as long as they do not interfere with the Judge's line of vision.

On order from the Judge, the handler shall call their dog(s), command each dog to Sit or Down, and command each dog to Stay. It shall be the handler's choice whether to command each dog to Sit, or to Down, and different dogs on the same team may be given different commands. After placing their dogs in a Sit or Down, the handler shall assure that their horse does not come so close to the dogs as to threaten their safety while waiting for a period of one minute. The Judge and any exhibitor's escort must remain at least twenty feet away from the dog(s). Neither the Exhibitor nor their escort shall move in any position that might interfere with the Judge's line of vision during this Exercise.

If a dog gets up and starts to roam or if a dog moves so as to interfere with another dog, the Judge shall promptly instruct one of the stewards to place the dog on a leash and take the dog aside and away from the other dogs on the team until the exercise is finished.

After one minute from the time the handler has given the "Stay" command, the Judge shall say, "Exercise Finished." The dog(s) should not move from the Sit or Down position until the handler has released them after the judge has said, "Exercise Finished." At the completion of the Exercise, the Judge will inform the Handler as to whether each dog has Passed or Failed this Exercise.

## **SECTION 8. Long Sit or Down Exercise, Scoring.**

During this exercise, the Judge's horse shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in their line of vision, and where they can see the handler without having to turn around.

Scoring of this exercise shall begin as soon as the exhibitor responds "Yes," or "Ready," to the Judge's question of "Are you ready?" Timing of the exercise shall begin after all dogs on the team have responded to the handler's command to Sit or Down, and as soon as the handler has given the command to "Stay." A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent dog, or be too close to a horse for safety, shall be required to reposition their dog.

A score of zero is required for the following: a dog's refusing to Sit or Down, moving at any time during the Exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog.

Substantial deductions shall be made for luring the dog in any way and may result in a non-qualifying score. A substantial or minor deduction shall be made for a dog that moves even a minor distance away from the place where it was left; for barking or whining during the exercise; for resisting its handler's command to Sit or Down; for not remaining in the position that was commanded (sits up from a down, lies down from a sit, or stands up from a sit or down), or for overly loud or gruff commands by the handler to Sit, Down, and/or Stay. Minor to substantial deductions may be made for hand signals and/or repeated commands or praise.

## **SECTION 9. Recall Exercise (all classes).**

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command to "Come". The horse and exhibitor will be moving forward at a walk during this exercise.

Orders are, "This will be the Recall Exercise, are you ready?" "Release your dog," "Call your dog," and, "Exercise Finished." When the dog has run naturally to the front or has dropped back at least 20 feet from the exhibitor's horse(s), on order from the Judge, the handler will give a command for each dog to come while their horse is still moving forward at a walk. If a dog will not leave or will not leave far enough when released by the handler for the recall, the Judge will direct the handler to put the dog(s) on a stay and ride/drive away from the dog(s). Once the handler has gotten at least 20 feet from the dog(s) and is still moving forward at a walk, the judge will then continue with the orders as described. Each dog must come straight in at a brisk trot or gallop to the front of the horse or to the handler's left or right side or immediately behind the horse/carriage. On the Judge's order of "Exercise finished," the handler may again release their dog(s). At the completion of the Exercise, the Judge will inform the Handler as to whether each dog has Passed or Failed this Exercise.

The Judge shall remain at least twenty feet away from the Exhibitor's horse(s).

## **SECTION 10. Recall Exercise, Scoring.**

A dog must be scored zero for failure to come when called.

Substantial deductions shall be made for luring the dog in any way and may result in a non-qualifying score. Substantial deductions shall be made for a slow response to the Come, varying with the extent of the slowness, and for a dog that comes partially in and then runs away once again before being released by their handler.

Minor to substantial deductions shall be made for dogs whose handlers repeat the command to come, use hand signals, or who continue talking to the dog(s) as they come. Minor deductions may be made for a dog that has been put on a “stay” for the recall but gets up before the Judge directs the handler to “Call your dog.”

## **SECTION 11. Speed Exercise for the RD/RDC or RDX/RDXC.**

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate a Dalmatian’s ability to exhibit a fair amount of speed, as described in the AKC Standard for the breed, sufficient to keep pace with a galloping horse. One such demonstration shall be sufficient.

Orders are, “This will be the Speed Exercise, are you ready?” “Call your dog(s),” “Extend your gait,” and “Exercise Finished” (which may be indicated by trail markers).

The total distance of the Speed Exercise shall be one hundred yards. The start and finish of the 100 yards shall be marked by brightly colored course markers. At the judge’s discretion, the judge may indicate the start of the exercise by verbal command or by the course “start” markers. Judging of the exercise will begin as the team moves forward on order from the Judge or when the team has moved forward past the start markers. On order from the Judge or at the start markers, the handler shall call their dog(s) close to their horse or carriage and increase their speed to a hand gallop, allowing their dog(s) to run in any position they choose. It is preferable that the horse break into a gallop, but if a gaited horse cannot be made to gallop, the horse must gait at a speed comparable to a hand gallop. The handler may choose to canter first and then increase to a hand gallop within the indicated 100 yard distance. When the handler has passed the “end markers” indicating the completion of this exercise, the handler shall reduce their speed. Judging of the exercise shall be finished when the team has passed the end markers. After completion of the Speed Exercise, the exhibitor shall look back to obtain a go-ahead signal from the Judge. The team may be re-judged if the Judge deems that the horse’s speed was insufficient to determine the dog’s ability for speed. At the completion of the Exercise, the Judge will inform the handler as to whether each dog has Passed or Failed this Exercise.

The Judge shall be situated in such a way as to not frighten the horse(s), preferably at a mid-way, elevated point. The Judge's steward(s) shall be instructed to remain quiet and still during this exercise.



## **SECTION 12. Speed Exercise, Scoring.**

A dog shall be scored zero for not attempting to keep up with the horse(s) or carriage, or if the handler/horse does not exhibit any increase in speed over a normal hacking pace.

Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for hand signals and/or repeated commands; for nipping at the horse(s) or carriage; for falling increasingly behind the horse(s) or carriage; for repeated barking; for an exhibitor who adjusts his horse's pace to that of the dogs; for insufficient speed; and/or if the team must be re-judged due to insufficient speed.

## **SECTION 13. Change of Pace Exercise for the CC/CCC and CCI/CCIC classes.**

Change of Pace Exercise: The principal feature of this exercise shall be for the Dalmatians on the team to demonstrate a change of pace.

Orders are, "This will be the Change of Pace Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog(s)," "Extend your gait," and "Exercise Finished" (which may be indicated by trail markers).

On order from a steward acting on signal from the Judge, the handler shall call his dog(s) close to his horse(s) or carriage. The total distance of the Change of Pace Exercise shall be one hundred yards. At the start of the measured distance and on order from the steward, the handler shall increase his speed sufficiently for the dog to show a change of pace, allowing his dog(s) to run in any position they choose. When the handler has passed the trail marker indicating the completion of this exercise, they shall reduce their speed. After completion of the Change of Pace Exercise, the exhibitor shall look back to obtain a go-ahead signal from the Judge. The team may be re-judged if the Judge deems that the horse's speed was insufficient to determine the dog(s) change of pace. At the completion of the Exercise, the Judge will inform the Handler as to whether each dog has Passed or Failed this Exercise.

The Judge shall be situated in such a way as to not frighten the horse(s), preferably at a mid-way, elevated point. The Judge's steward(s) shall be instructed to remain quiet and still during this exercise.

## **SECTION 14. Change of Pace Exercise, Scoring (CC/CCC and CCI/CCIC classes).**

A dog shall be scored zero for not attempting to keep up with the horse(s) or carriage, or if the handler/horse does not exhibit any increase in speed. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for hand signals and/or repeated commands; for nipping at the horse(s) or carriage; for failing increasingly behind the horse(s) or carriage; for repeated barking; or for an exhibitor who adjusts his horse's pace to that of the dog(s).

## **CHAPTER 10: Glossary of Road Trial Terms.**

**Carriage** – “Carriage” shall be defined as a carriage, cart, wagon, or other wheeled vehicle designed to be pulled by a horse for the purpose of human transportation.

**Disqualified** – (Ch. 1 Sec. 22 a, b, & c) “Disqualified” means the dog is removed from further competition, removed from the Trial precincts, and may not compete again in a Road Trial unless the owner applies for and receives reinstatement. When a dog has been disqualified as being blind or deaf, for having been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons, or for having attacked or attempted to attack a person on the course or for having attacked a horse with injury or another dog with injury to the other dog, all awards made to the dog at the trial will be cancelled by the DCA, and the dog may not again compete unless the owner applies for and receives reinstatement. Only the Judge or the Event Committee may disqualify a dog.

**Driving/Driver** – refers to the driver of the Carriage and/or the use of a Carriage.

**Excused** – (Ch. 1 Sec. 22d) “Excused” means the dog shall be immediately removed from further competition at this specific Road Trial and removed from the course. A dog must be excused for the following reasons: a dog that shows aggressive behavior toward a horse or another dog (without injury); a dog that is lame; a dog that is unfit to compete; if there is anything attached to it for medical or corrective purposes; if the dog is an unannounced bitch in season; a handler who willfully interferes with another competitor/ dog; a handler training/disciplining a dog on the course. The owner of any dog that has been excused on two occasions for attacking or attempting to attack another dog or horse will be notified that the dog is no longer eligible to be shown in Road Trial classes. The judge must excuse a dog that appears dangerous to other dogs. Only the Judge or the Event Committee may excuse a dog.

**Exercise Course** – the outdoor location, field, or trail where the Judged Exercises will be conducted. The Exercise Course must be held outdoors on a field or trail with sufficient space as defined in Ch. 3 Sec. 3. It may not be held in an arena. No dogs are allowed on the Exercise Course before judging begins.

**Groom handler/groom handled** – when the handler of the dog is a passenger in the carriage.

**Hands** (Ch. 2 Sec. 3) – the handler’s arms and hands shall be in a natural riding or driving position during the Judged Exercises. The hands of the rider will be used to direct the horse or to complete normal tasks related to the Exercise, but should not be used to direct the dog. Hand signals will be considered an extra command. Using the hands to lure the dog will be a major deduction and may result in a non-qualifying score.

**Hock Position** – (Ch. 2 Sec. 6) Hock Position as used in these Regulations for a Horse/Rider team means that the dog shall be straight in line with the direction in which the handler and horse are facing, within one horse’s length of the horse, at any point in a semi-circle behind the horse’s head, as close as practicable without crowding or obstructing the horse’s motion.

Hock Position for a Carriage team shall mean that the dog shall be straight in line with the direction in which the carriage and driver are facing, either directly behind the horse’s heels

and under the carriage/cart, as close as practicable without crowding or obstruction the horse(s)' or carriage's motion, or within on horse's length of the horse or carriage at any point in a semi-circle behind the horse's head.

**Horse** – in the context of these Regulations, “horse” refers to a horse, miniature horse, pony, donkey, or mule.

**Judged Exercises** – the directed exercises which are called, observed, and scored by the Judge.

**Lame** — irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe

**Lure/luring** – (Ch. 2 Sec. 3) to hold the hands in a manner that attracts/lures the dog or appears to suggest holding a treat for the purpose of positioning, directing, or controlling the dog. Luring is a major deduction and may result in a non-qualifying score.

**Major/Substantial Deduction** – 10 to 100 points deducted from the score.

**Minor Deduction** – 1 to 10 points deducted from the score.

**Mounted** – when the handler of the dog is riding the horse.

**Non-qualifying** – When the performance of the dog is not sufficient to earn a qualifying score in a Road Trial class. Any dog that earns a non-qualifying score will not earn a title, leg, or placement from that class. Any score in any scored Exercise that is less than 51 points will be considered a non-qualifying score. In a Pass/Fail class, any score of “Fail” in any exercise will be considered a non-qualifying score. Any dog that fails to complete any required Rest Stop will receive a non-qualifying score. A dog that fails to complete the requirements of the class would be considered non-qualifying in that class.

**Team** – any combination of horse/dog(s)/rider, or horse/dog(s)/driver/handler. There may be up to 3 dogs on a team. All dogs who are entered in any class with distance as a “team” must be judged together as a team before going out as a team on the trail.

**Qualifying Score** – when a dog completes all of the requirements of any class as described by these Regulations and certified by the Judge. This score must be earned in a Regular or Optional titling class at a sanctioned DCA Road Trial. There is no minimum number of dogs necessary in any class to earn a qualifying score toward a title or Championship leg.

**Rest Stop** (Ch. 5 Sec. 1) - any dog/team completing more than 6 miles distance will be required to stop for a designated time at designated Rest Stop(s). All designated Rest Stops & required rest times must be completed in order for the dog to earn a qualifying score.

**Whip handler/whip handled** – when the handler of the dog is the driver of the carriage.

**END**

***PLEASE NOTE:*** *These Regulations were originally developed in 1988 by the Dalmatian Club of America Road Trial Committee (Charles Cyopik, Linda Fulks, Meg Ispsas-Hennessey, Beth White, and Linda Myers, Chair) with help from many Dalmatian fancier, & approved by the Dalmatian Club of America Board of Governors. Successive DCA Road Trial Committees have updated these Regulations in 1994, 2001, 2007, 2012, 2016 and 2021. Each update has been approved by the DCA Board of Governors.*

DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA ROAD TRIAL REGULATIONS updated August, 2021.