

Steward Roles and Responsibilities

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a Draft Test Steward! You can learn a lot from watching others perform the exercises. And it helps pass the time! Your role is very important to the safe and smooth running of a Draft Test and we couldn't do it without you. The following list states the various jobs that need to be done:

a. Chief Steward. The Chief Steward and Draft Test Chair select the stewards for the Draft Test and, under the supervision of the judges, instruct the stewards of their duties.

b. Number of Stewards. Up to five stewards are needed to assist the judges in the ring work.

1. One Gate Steward
2. One Visual Distraction Steward
3. One Load Steward
4. One Unload Steward
5. One steward (preferably two) to measure and set the Narrow Passageway. This steward(s) could also serve in another steward capacity.

The presence of extra stewards is advised to provide relief, especially if a steward is also a handler. The relief stewards need to understand their assignments so when they step in minimal changes occur. For safety reasons, one steward needs to accompany each team on the Freight Haul.

c. Stewards' Responsibilities. Stewards assist the judges and they may act only on the judges' instructions. The success of a Draft Test depends, in part, on the efficiency of the stewards. The stewards must, therefore, present themselves for duty on time and perform their duties in an efficient and timely manner. The stewards should be familiar with the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations.

1. Equipment Check: Stewards may be assigned by the Chief Steward to assist the judges in the Equipment Check and must be supervised by the judges. The stewards may record the figures on the Data Worksheet for the judges, but they may not make the measurements or read the measurements of the cart or team width.
2. Gate Steward: The Gate Steward is responsible for:
 - a) Assisting the Draft Test Secretary with the Check-In of the exhibitors and to distribute the armbands & rubber bands (if used) and cart numbers & clips with which to attach the numbers to the rigs.
 - b) Ensuring that the next dog to be judged is available when the judges indicate that they are ready.
 - c) Bringing the rig into the maneuver area and place it at where indicated by the judges.
 - d) Marking the Pass/Not Pass Chart after each exercise.
3. Visual Distraction Steward: The Visual Distraction Steward will be assigned a place outside the maneuver area to perform the distraction. The judges will instruct the steward how to present the distraction.
4. Load Steward: The steward will be seated outside or on the edge of the maneuver area. The judges will direct the team to proceed to the loading location and halt for loading. Upon the handler's indication of readiness, the Steward will stand and approach with the load, greeting the handler verbally and shaking the handler's hand. The Steward will then hand the load to the handler. The Steward remains in place, returning to his or her original position after the team moves to the next station.

5. Unload Steward: The job of the Unload Steward is similar to that of the Load Steward except this steward will pet the dog. The steward will be seated outside or on the edge of the maneuver area. The judges will direct the team to proceed to the unloading location and halt for unloading. Upon the handler's indication of readiness, the steward will stand and approach, greeting the handler verbally and asking to pet the dog. Upon the handler's acknowledgement, the Steward will pet the dog once on the back of the neck or shoulders. The Steward will then ask for the load. The Steward remains in place returning to his or her original position after the team moves to the next station.
6. Narrow Passageway Steward(s): This job can be done by one steward, but is easier if done by two stewards. Before each team begins the Harness and Hitch exercise, the steward(s) sets the narrow passageway to the specified width on the Draft Apparatus Worksheet. The narrow passageway needs to be measured both at the top and at the bottom of both ends of the passageway and secured accordingly.
7. Freight Haul Stewards:
 - a) Team Steward. The Chief Steward provided each team with a steward for the Freight Haul. The steward should remain a discrete distance from its assigned team (usually to the rear). The steward's primary responsibility is to look out for the safety of its assigned team. Except in the case of emergency, the steward may assist the teams only if requested to do so by the handlers or the judges.
 - b) Lead Steward. The Lead Steward leads the freight haul. S/he should be thoroughly familiar with the freight haul route. The pace of the Lead Steward should be moderate and can be modified at the judges' discretion. No team is allowed to pass the Lead Steward.