



# Helper Program

Issue 7.1  
Effective December 1, 2008

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	2
REVISION HISTORY .....	4
SECTION 1: PURPOSE .....	5
SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES .....	5
SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS .....	5
SECTION 4: HELPER COMMITTEE .....	5
SECTION 5: HELPER COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES .....	5
SECTION 6: HELPER PROGRAM DIRECTOR .....	5
SECTION 7: ROLE OF REGIONAL TRAINING DIRECTORS .....	6
SECTION 8: HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM .....	6
SECTION 9: HELPER SEMINARS AND COLLEGE .....	6
Section 9.1: Helper Seminars .....	6
Section 9.2: Helper College .....	6
Section 9.3: Helper Seminar and College Documentation .....	7
SECTION 10: HELPER EVALUATION .....	7
Section 10.1: Helper Evaluation Participation .....	7
Section 10.2: Helper Evaluation Criteria, Exercises and Form .....	8
Section 10.3: Helper Evaluation Grading .....	8
Section 10.4: Helper Evaluation Documentation .....	8
SECTION 11: PERFORMANCE EVALUATION BY JUDGE .....	8
Section 11.1: Performance Evaluation Criteria .....	9
Section 11.2: Performance Evaluation Ratings .....	9
Section 11.3: Performance Evaluation Comments .....	9
Section 11.4: Trial Secretary and Trial Paperwork .....	9
SECTION 12: HELPER CLASSIFICATIONS .....	9
Section 12.1: Helper Classification Definitions .....	9
Section 12.2: Helper Utilization .....	10
Section 12.3: Helper Classification Maintenance .....	11
Section 12.3.1: Unsatisfactory Rating from Judge .....	11
Section 12.3.2: Failing Grade(s) during Helper Evaluation .....	11
Section 12.4: Disciplinary Action .....	11
SECTION 13: TRIAL HELPER RECORD BOOK .....	11
Section 13.1: Trial Helper Record Book Prerequisites .....	11
Section 13.2: Trial Helper Record Book Obtainment .....	12
Section 13.3: Trial Helper Record Book Description .....	12
Section 13.4: Trial Helper Record Book Utilization .....	12
Section 13.5: "Old" Helper Books .....	12
SECTION 14: ROLE OF USA TEACHING HELPER .....	12
Section 14.1: Teaching Helper Responsibilities .....	12
Section 14.2: Maintaining Teaching Helper Classification .....	13
SECTION 15: APPRENTICE TEACHING HELPER .....	13
Section 15.1: Apprentice Teaching Helper Prerequisites .....	13
Section 15.2: Apprentice Teaching Helper Application .....	13
Section 15.3: Teaching Helper Apprenticeship Process .....	14
SECTION 16: NATIONAL EVENTS .....	14
Section 16.1: Helper Pre-Selection .....	14
Section 16.2: Helper Final Assignment .....	14
Section 16.3: Helper Selection Criteria, Exercises and Form .....	14
Section 16.4: Restrictions .....	15
Section 16.5: Removal from Event .....	15
SECTION 17: EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT .....	15
Section 17.1: Helper Seminars and Helper Evaluations .....	15

Section 17.2: Expense Reimbursement .....	15
<b>SECTION 18: AWARDS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>APPENDIX A: HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM - TEXT .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Section I: Helper Regulations .....	16
Section II: Technical Instruction for the Exercise “Prevention of an Escape Attempt by the Helper” .....	16
Section III: Technical Instruction for the Exercise “Driving a Dog” .....	17
The Running Drive .....	18
The Step-Skip Drive .....	18
The Power-Skip Drive .....	18
Section IV: Technical Instruction for Catching a Dog in the Exercise “Attack on the Dog Out of Motion” .....	19
Section V: Breed Survey and Sieger Show Exercise “Attack on Handler” .....	20
<b>APPENDIX B: HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM - VIDEO .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: HELPER SEMINAR AND EVALUATION REGISTRATION/RESULTS FORM .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>APPENDIX D: HELPER EVALUATION WRITTEN EXAMINATION .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Helper Classification .....	25
Helper Utilization .....	26
<b>APPENDIX E: HELPER RELEASE FORM .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>APPENDIX F: TEACHING HELPER APPLICATION .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>APPENDIX G: HELPER TRYOUT FORM .....</b>	<b>29</b>

## REVISION HISTORY

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Changes</b>	<b>Prime</b>
1.0	02/21/2004	Initial Draft	L. Roetemeyer
2.0	06/24/2004	Revised Format and Organization, Revised Content based on Comments from Executive Board	D. Vander Linde
3.0	09/24/2004	Added Table of Contents, Corrected Appendix A to include Section Numbers, Prepared for Printing	D. Vander Linde
4.0	11/04/2004	Approved at General Board Meeting in Nashville, TN	D. Vander Linde
5.0	01/31/2005	Revised Section 16.2.3 to reflect Helper Tryouts at the Event Revised Appendix A to Reference USA Trial Rule Book Helper Regulations Added Technical Description of Back Transport and Side Transport to Appendix A Changed Classification Participation Requirements in Section 10.1	
6.0	11/6/2006	Revised Section 16 to reflect Helper Pre-Selection with Final Assignment at the Event Revisions Approved at General Board Meeting in Gadsden, AL	D. Vander Linde
7.0	8/1/2008	Incorporated changes requested by Helper Committee Revised Sections 3, 7, 8, 9.1, 9.3, 10.2, 12.1, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 15.3 Added Sections 9.3, 10.4, 16.5 Removed Sections 14.3 Revised Appendices C, D and G (Appendix H prior to removal of Appendix F) Removed Appendix F (Trial Helper Record Book)	D. Vander Linde
7.1	11/6/2008	Revisions Approved At General Board Meeting Hutto, TX	D. Vander Linde

## **SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Helper Program is to educate and increase the number of Trial Helpers that can properly and safely execute the Protection Exercises performed at USA Events.

## **SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Helper Program are presented below.

- A. Provide “standardized” education.
- B. Increase the number of Trial Helpers in the United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USA).
- C. Promote Membership involvement and participation through ongoing Helper education.
- D. Facilitate USA objectives of preserving the German Shepherd Dog (GSD) as outlined in USA’s Bylaws.
- E. Address the interests of the USA Membership as they relate to Helpers and Trial helperwork.

## **SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Event	USA-Sanctioned Event.
Helper	Trial Helper in a USA-Sanctioned Event.
Judge	Presiding Judge at a USA-Sanctioned Event.
National Event	GSD-National Championship, USA Working Dog Championship
Office	USA Office
Regional Event	Regional Championships
Teaching Helper	USA Teaching Helper
USA-Sanctioned	Official Event of USA

## **SECTION 4: HELPER COMMITTEE**

Appointed by the President, the Helper Committee shall consist of eight (8) Members as follows: USA President, USA Director of Judges, Helper Program Director, two (2) USA Teaching Helpers and three (3) other USA Members the President deems necessary to execute the objectives of the Helper Program and represent USA’s Member’s interests as they relate to Helpers and Trial helperwork.

## **SECTION 5: HELPER COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Helper Committee is responsible to assist the Helper Program Director in the development, implementation and management of the Helper Program. In addition to these responsibilities, the Helper Committee shall act in an advisory role and provide support and assistance to Helpers that have been selected to perform helperwork at a National Event.

## **SECTION 6: HELPER PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

The responsibilities of the Helper Program Director are presented below.

- A. Preside over the Helper Committee.
- B. Provide the Executive Board with detailed quarterly reports that outline current activities, Helper Program progress, Helper status and recommendations for Program enhancements.
- C. Provide general information for the USA Magazine, website and newsletter.
- D. Development, written evaluations and oversight of Teaching Helpers.
- E. Modify the Helper Program Curriculum as required to ensure the Curriculum includes the exercises and instruction necessary to develop Trial Helpers that can properly and safely execute the Protection Exercises described in the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH) Trial Regulations and those required for USA Breed Surveys and the USA Sieger Show.
- F. Provide educational materials (e.g., books, videos, etc.) to Regional Training Directors and Teaching Helpers.
- G. Provide assistance to Regional Training Directors in selecting Teaching Helpers and scheduling Helper Seminars in Regions.
- H. Make recommendations to the Helper Committee for the selection of Classified Trial Helpers for National Events.
- I. Organize a Helper College each year.
- J. Approve Guest (e.g., SV) Teaching Helpers for participation in Helper Colleges.
- K. Attend the General Board and Regional Congress Meetings each year.

## **SECTION 7: ROLE OF REGIONAL TRAINING DIRECTORS**

*Duties: To promote proper and safe training for Trial Helpers, Training Helpers and Handlers throughout their Region by the use of Required Educational Seminars and Organized Fun Matches. The Regional Training Director will receive direction from the Helper Committee with regard to the required educational Teaching Helper Program. (USA Regional Policy).*

The Regional Training Director's duties are an integral part of the educational process at the Region and Club Level. Since these duties include training for Helpers, communication between Regional Training Directors and the Helper Program Director is essential.

The Regional Training Director shall be the Regional Liaison to the Helper Program Director and shall:

- A. solicit Regional Clubs and the Region's Members to determine the needs of Regionally-Sponsored Helper Seminars; and
- B. administer one (1) Regionally-Sponsored Helper Seminar per year.

## **SECTION 8: HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

The Helper Program Curriculum includes by reference the Helper Regulations presented in the latest release of the "United Schutzhund Clubs of America Official Rule Book for all Working Dog Evaluations". The Helper Regulations contained therein describe in detail the "Requirements for the employment as Helper in Phase C" and the "Regulations concerning the conduct of Trial Helpers", including detailed instruction on how the Protection Exercises contained in the VDH Trial Regulations are to be performed during an Event. The Curriculum also includes Technical Instruction to develop a Helper's skills (e.g., mechanics, ability to take direction, body positioning, equipment positioning, balance, timing, awareness, presence, attitude, etc.) to enable him/her to properly and safely comply with the Helper Regulations. The Technical Instruction is presented in moderate detail in text, as shown in Appendix A and to exacting detail in video, as presented in Appendix B. Proper equipment for the Trial Helper is also included as part of the Curriculum.

*To meet the Helper Program objective of "standardized" education, the Helper Program Curriculum does **not** include instruction to develop a Helper's knowledge as a Training Helper, since the philosophies of how to train dogs in protection vary drastically, and thus are not "standard". The teaching of training helperwork to Helpers is the responsibility of Regional Training Directors through the required Educational Seminars as discussed in Section 7. The Helper Program Curriculum will be taught by Teaching Helpers at Regional or Local Helpers Seminars and the Helper College. Deviations from the Curriculum are not permitted.*

## **SECTION 9: HELPER SEMINARS AND COLLEGE**

### **Section 9.1: Helper Seminars**

The purpose of Helper Seminars is to educate and develop Helpers that can properly and safely execute the Protection Exercises described in the VDH Trial Regulations and those required for Breed Surveys and the Sieger Show. Helper Seminars provide any Helper who has been issued a Trial Helper Record Book (Section 13) the opportunity to receive one-on-one instruction and improve their Trial helperwork. Helpers are encouraged to participate in a Helper Seminar prior to participating in a Helper Evaluation (Section 10). Helper Seminars are presided over by a Teaching Helper(s) who teach the Helper Program Curriculum presented in Section 8.

### **Section 9.2: Helper College**

Every year in conjunction with the GSD-National Championship a Helper College will be conducted by the Helper Committee. The purpose of a Helper College is to provide a forum to discuss helperwork to be performed at Events, teach and demonstrate safe and proper helperwork, review and revise the Helper Program to better serve the interests of USA's Members and provide the opportunity for Guest Teaching Helpers to assist in Helper education. Participation in the Helper College is open to Helpers that have been issued a Trial Helper Record Book, Regional Training Directors and Judges.

Topics to be discussed during a Helper College include, but are not limited to, the following.

- A. Appropriate testing of dogs in Events.
- B. Safety, being in control and selflessness by the Trial Helper.
- C. Developing a better understanding of the temperament and drives of the dogs being worked during an Event.

D. Importance of the Helper's role in assisting the Judge to evaluate the dogs entered in the Event.

The Helper Program Curriculum will be taught to Helpers during the Helper College. "The Standard" for proper Trial helperwork (Section 11.2) will be demonstrated by Members of the Helper Committee or Teaching Helpers.

The Helper College will be organized by the Helper Program Director or a Member of the Helper Committee. The venue for the Helper College shall: (i) be a different field than the location for the GSD-National Championship; and (ii) be provided by the Host of the Championship. The purpose of this location restriction is to avoid interference with the practice of Competitors entered in the Championship. The Helper College shall be completed prior to the start of the Championship. Prior notice of the location, date and time of the Helper College shall be posted on the Event website for the GSD-National Championship.

### **Section 9.3: Helper Seminar and College Documentation**

Helper Seminars shall be sanctioned by USA and hosted by a Local Club and/or Region. To host a Helper Seminar, the Local Club and/or Region shall complete an Event Authorization Form In addition, Helper Seminars are separate events from Helper Evaluations. Helper Seminars may be held prior to (e.g., the day or morning before) a Helper Evaluation.

The Trial Helper Record Book is the official record of the owning Helper's Seminar Attendance, and therefore, participation in the Helper Program. Each Helper who participates in a Helper Seminar should bring a dog for use during the Seminar.

The Presiding Teaching Helper for a Helper Seminar or College shall complete the Helper Seminar and Evaluation Participation Form presented in Appendix C and submit it to the USA Office within seven (7) days of completion of the Seminar.

### **SECTION 10: HELPER EVALUATION**

Helper Evaluations serve as a vital instrument to meet the objectives of the Helper Program. Helper Evaluations are a test of a Helper's attainment, or lack thereof, of the skills necessary to properly and safely perform the Protection Exercises for an Event. Helper Evaluations provide the Helper Committee, and therefore the Membership of USA, with the mechanism to identify Helpers that need further development, and should therefore attend a USA-Sanctioned Helper Seminar prior to performing helperwork in a Club Trial or, on the other hand, have shown advanced abilities and should be considered for Regional and National Events. Helper Evaluations shall:

- A. take an honest consideration of the Helper's ability on the day of the Evaluation and on the dog utilized;
- B. be sanctioned by USA;
- C. be presided over by a Teaching Helper(s); and
- D. be hosted by a Local Club and/or Region.

The results of Helper Evaluations are the Classification (Section 12) of Trial Helpers. The Trial Helper Record Book is the official record of the owning Helper's Evaluation History, and therefore, advancement through the Helper Program. Thus, Helper Evaluations are part of the education process, testing Helpers and providing them with the opportunity to receive constructive comments about their performance during simulated Trial conditions.

Helper Evaluations are separate events from Helper Seminars. Helper Seminars may be held prior to (e.g., the day or morning before) the Helper Evaluation. Helpers under evaluation are not to receive instruction from the Presiding Teaching Helper during their Evaluation other than an explanation or clarification of the Evaluation Criteria and Exercises or direction necessary to participate in the Evaluation. The purpose of this requirement is to keep the Evaluation impartial.

### **Section 10.1: Helper Evaluation Participation**

All Helpers who currently have been issued a Blue Helper Book, hereinafter referred to as a "Old Helper Book", must be evaluated within two (2) years of this Program becoming effective (November 4, 2004) to continue their eligibility to perform helperwork at any Event.

Prior to participating in a Helper Evaluation, the Helper who is requesting the Evaluation must:

- A. present the Presiding Teaching Helper with their USA Membership Card, which shows that they are a current Member of USA;
- B. present the Presiding Teaching Helper with their Trial Helper Record Book; and

- C. present the necessary documents to prove that they meet the prerequisites for the Classification (Section 12) that they desire to be evaluated at.

### **Section 10.2: Helper Evaluation Criteria, Exercises and Form**

Helper Evaluations will be based on the Helper's performance of the Protection Exercises for SchH/VPG 3, which will be performed under simulated Trial conditions, including but not limited to: field setup, distances/directions for the Escape, Re-Attacks with Drives, Long Attack and direction by the Protection Judge. The Evaluation will consider numerous aspects of the Helper's performance of the front half and back half exercises; including, but not limited to the following.

- A. Is the Helper under control at all times?
- B. Does the Helper's performance reflect that the safety of the dog, Judge and him/her self is paramount?
- C. Does the Helper know the Protection Exercises of the VDH Trial Regulations for all Levels (e.g., SchH/VPG 1 through 3)?
- D. Does the Helper take/follow direction from the Protection Judge?

In addition to the above, the Evaluation will also consider if the Helper knows the Attack-on-Handler Exercise, which is to be performed as part of USA Breed Surveys and the USA Sieger Show.

The Exercises that a Helper will be evaluated on are shown on the Helper Evaluation Form presented in Appendix C. The Helper will receive a Pass/Fail Grade for each Exercise that they perform.

In addition to the above, Helpers will be required to take a Written Examination as part of their Evaluation. The Written Examination will test a Helper's basic knowledge of the VDH Trial Regulations Protection Exercises, the Attack-on-Handler Exercise, proper presentation of the dog for evaluation by the Protection Judge, the role of the Trial Helper in ensuring the safety of the dog, Judge and him/her self during an Event, and the Helper's knowledge of the Helper Program. The Written Examination is presented in Appendix D.

### **Section 10.3: Helper Evaluation Grading**

The Grading of Helpers can only occur by a USA Teaching Helper during a Helper Evaluation. The Grades for each Exercise are presented below.

**Pass** – Procedurally correct, is under control while performing the Exercise, takes direction from the Judge while performing the Exercise, and performs the Exercise in a manner that is safe for the dog, Judge and him/her self.

**Fail** – Not procedurally correct (e.g., feeding the dog the sleeve during the escape bite), out or lack of control (e.g., inability to drive dog and place stick hits at proper interval), does not take direction from the Judge while performing the Exercise or unsafe (e.g., endangerment of dog and self) while performing the Exercise or improper presentation of the dog to the Judge (e.g., the dog's back is presented away from the Handler).

### **Section 10.4: Helper Evaluation Documentation**

The Trial Helper Record Book is the official record of the owning Helper's Evaluation Participation and Classification History.

The Presiding Teaching Helper for a Helper Evaluation shall complete the Helper Seminar and Evaluation Participation form presented in Appendix C and submit it to the USA Office within seven (7) days of completion of the Seminar.

## **SECTION 11: PERFORMANCE EVALUATION BY JUDGE**

The Judge at an Event has the unique opportunity to evaluate the performance of a Helper under actual trial conditions. The Helper Program takes advantage of this unique opportunity by requiring the Judge to rate and comment on the Helper's execution of the Protection Exercises in an Event. The Rating and Comments from the Judge are entered in the Helper's Trial Helper Record Book, which is the official record of the owning Helper's Performance Evaluation History.

Performance Evaluations by Judges provide the Helper Committee, and therefore the Membership of USA, with the mechanism to identify Helpers that perform proper and safe Trial helperwork, or those that do not, and therefore need

further education and development. Thus, Performance Evaluations by Judges are part of the Helper education process and a vital instrument to meet the objectives of the Helper Program.

### **Section 11.1: Performance Evaluation Criteria**

The Rating and Comments by the Judge shall take an honest consideration of the Helper's performance on the day of the Trial and not be based on a Helper's past performance(s) or reputation. The Judge shall, at a minimum, evaluate the following aspects of the Helper's performance.

- A. Is the Helper's performance consistent and impartial?
- B. Is the Helper under control at all times?
- C. Does the Helper's performance reflect that the safety of the dog, Judge and him/her self is paramount?
- D. Does the Helper properly execute the Protection Exercises of the VDH Trial Regulations for all Levels (e.g., SchH/SchH/VPG 1 through 3) and/or the Attack-on-Handler Exercise, which is to be performed as part of Breed Surveys and the Sieger Show?
- E. Does the Helper take/follow direction from the Judge?
- F. Does the Helper know the Handler's responsibilities during the execution of the Protection Exercises in the circumstance the Helper is required to assist the Handler?

### **Section 11.2: Performance Evaluation Ratings**

The Ratings available for use by the Judge are based on the following definition of the Rating "Good", and are presented below.

**Excellent** – Well above "The Standard".

**Very Good** – Above "The Standard".

**"GOOD"** = **"The Standard"** – *Defines correct and safe helperwork for what the Judge considers essential to be able to properly evaluate a dog's performance.*

**Unsatisfactory** – Below "The Standard".

### **Section 11.3: Performance Evaluation Comments**

The Comments rendered by the Judge should be of a constructive nature and offer the Helper specific suggestions on how to improve their performance. In the event the Judge issues the Helper an Unsatisfactory Rating, the Judge shall note in the Comment Section of the Helper's Trial Helper Record Book "Improper Performance" and state the specific action(s) that warranted the Unsatisfactory Rating. In the event the Judge removes a Helper from an Event, the Judge shall note in the Comment Section of the Helper's Trial Helper Record Book "Removed from Trial" and state the reason as one of the following: "Improper Performance", "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" or "Improper Performance and Unsportsmanlike Conduct".

### **Section 11.4: Trial Secretary and Trial Paperwork**

The Trial Secretary for any Event shall record, at the location(s) specified on the Trial Paperwork, the Rating issued by the Judge for the Helper(s) of the Event.

## **SECTION 12: HELPER CLASSIFICATIONS**

### **Section 12.1: Helper Classification Definitions**

The Classifications for Helpers and the associated requirements to attain the Classification are described below. The Classifications must be advanced through sequentially except Teaching Helper, whose requirements are described in detail in Sections 14 and 15.

**Entry Level** – The Entry Level Classification is for all Helpers that have been issued a Trial Helper Record Book and do not meet the requirements for the remaining Classifications. Entry Level Helpers shall attain Basic Level Classification before being permitted to participate as a Trial Helper in an Event.

**Basic Level** – The Basic Level Classification is for Helpers that have attended at least one (1) Helper Seminar, successfully passed the Written Examination and have received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.

**Club Level** – The Club Level Classification is for Helpers that have met the following requirements.

- Participated in at least one (1) Helper Seminar.
- Received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.
- Performed Trial helperwork in at least:
  - one (1) Club Trial working at least twelve (12) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) with a minimum Rating of Good from the Judge; or
  - two (2) Club Trials working at least six (6) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) with minimum Ratings of Very Good or Excellent from two (2) different Judges.

**Regional Level** - The Regional Level Classification is for Helpers that have met the following requirements.

- Participated in at least two (2) Helper Seminars.
- Received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.
- Performed Trial helperwork in at least ten (10) Club Trials, or six (6) Club Trials and one (1) Regional SchH Championship, with minimum Ratings of Good from the Judges.
- Worked at least forty (40) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) in Trials.

**National Level** - The National Level Classification is for Helpers that have met the following requirements.

- Participated in at least three (3) Helper Seminars.
- Received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.
- Performed Trial helperwork in at least fifteen (15) Club Trials and two (2) Regional SchH Championship, or twelve (12) Club Trials, one (1) Regional SchH Championship and one (1) National SchH Championship, with minimum Ratings of Good from the Judges.
- Worked at least eighty (80) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) in Trials.

**Teaching Helper** - The Teaching Helper Classification is for Helpers that have met the requirements described in Sections 14 and 15.

Note: For the purpose of meeting the requirements described above, SchH 1 through 3 from the “Old Helper Book” (Section 13.5) are equivalent to SchH/VPG titles.

**Section 12.2: Helper Utilization**

Helpers who have attained a Classification may perform the duties of a Helper in an Event as presented below.

**Helper Utilization Matrix**

Event Type	Helper Classification					
	Entry	Basic	Club	Regional	National	Teaching
Club	-	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Regional	-	-	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
National	-	-	-	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted

### **Section 12.3: Helper Classification Maintenance**

The results of Helper Evaluations are the Classification of Helpers. The result of the Performance Evaluations by Judges is the identification of Helpers who perform proper and safe helperwork, or those that do not. Once a Helper has attained Basic or Club Level Classification, he/she must continue to perform proper and safe helperwork in Events, must be re-evaluated once every four (4) years and must receive a Passing Grade on each Exercise during their Helper Re-evaluation in order to maintain Basic or Club Level Classification. Once a Helper has attained Regional or National Level Classification, he/she must continue to perform proper and safe helperwork in Events, must be re-evaluated at least once every two (2) years and receive a Passing Grade on each Exercise during their semi-annual Helper Re-evaluation in order to maintain their current Classification. If a Helper does not meet these requirements, he/she will face reclassification to a lower level or withdrawal of their Trial Helper Privileges as described below.

#### **Section 12.3.1: Unsatisfactory Rating from Judge**

Upon receipt of the Trial Paperwork by the USA Office, the USA Office will inform the Helper Program Director of the name and Trial Helper Record Book Number of the Helper who received an Unsatisfactory Rating from the Judge. The Helper Program Director will then contact the Helper in writing and inform the Helper that their Helper Privileges (i.e., Trial Helper Record Book) have been suspended until the time the Helper attends a Helper Seminar and is then re-evaluated at their present Classification during a Helper Evaluation.

#### **Section 12.3.2: Failing Grade(s) during Helper Evaluation**

Any Helper who receives a Fail Grade on an Exercise during their Helper Evaluation will not be classified at the Helper Classification that they requested. Any Helper that is above the Entry Level Classification and receives two (2) or more Fail Grades during their Helper Evaluation will be required to attend a Helper Seminar prior to requesting re-evaluation to remain at their current Classification.

### **Section 12.4: Disciplinary Action**

Any Helper may have their Trial Helper Privileges (i.e., Trial Helper Record Book) suspended or terminated by the Helper Committee. The causes for disciplinary action include improper or unsportsmanlike conduct, failure to take direction from the Judge while performing helperwork during an Event, or conduct, which in the opinion of the Helper Committee, is detrimental to USA. Any Helper whose conduct or helperwork is questioned will be given the opportunity to present his/her case to the Helper Committee. Should the Helper Committee find that the Helper's conduct or helperwork warrants disciplinary action(s), the Helper Committee will file charges with USA's Board of Inquiry (BOI). Disciplinary action(s) will not take affect until the findings from the BOI's investigation are issued.

## **SECTION 13: TRIAL HELPER RECORD BOOK**

The Trial Helper Record Book is a record of Helper participation in Helper Seminars, Helper Evaluations, Trials, and Breed Surveys, and indicates the level of achievement the Helper has obtained through the Helper Program and as a Trial Helper. The Helper Program Director, a Member of the Helper Committee, a Teaching Helper, a Trial Secretary, Judge or Member of the BOI may review the contents of the Trial Helper Record Book. However, the contents may not be discussed with the others without permission of the individual Helper who the Trial Helper Record Book was issued to. Helpers that wish to actively participate in **any** Event where helperwork will be performed **shall** possess a Trial Helper Record Book.

### **Section 13.1: Trial Helper Record Book Prerequisites**

To obtain a Trial Helper Record Book, one must meet the following prerequisites.

- A. Be a current Member of USA in good standing.
- B. Be a minimum of 18 years of age or have parental or legal guardian consent in the form of a signature in the Helper Book and a signed consent form presented at all USA events.
- C. Complete a Trial Helper Record Book Application Form.
- D. Sign a Helper Release Form stating that the undersigned understands and acknowledges that Trial helperwork, and helperwork in general, may be physically strenuous and dangerous, and that they are in good health and accept all the risks and liabilities with regard to their own safety and health while performing helperwork at an Event. The Helper Release Form is presented in Appendix E.

### **Section 13.2: Trial Helper Record Book Obtainment**

Trial Helper Record Books are issued by the USA Office. To request a Trial Helper Record Book, Applicants must meet the prerequisites listed above and submit one (1) copy of each of the following to the USA Office along with the applicable registration fee.

- A. USA Membership Card;
- B. Proof of Age;
- C. Completed Trial Helper Record Book Application Form; and
- D. Signed Helper Release Form.

### **Section 13.3: Trial Helper Record Book Description**

The Trial Helper Record Book contains three (3) Sections as described below.

- A. Section I – Name of Helper, USA Membership Number of Helper, date Book was issued, Name of Issuer of Book and Book Number. Description of the objectives of the Helper Program and the six (6) Classification Levels for Helpers.
- B. Section II – Record of the Helper Seminars that the Helper has participated in.
- C. Section III – Record of the Helper Evaluations that the Helper has participated in.
- D. Section IV – Record of the Events (i.e., Trials and/or Breed Surveys) that the Helper has performed helperwork in, including the type (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2 or SchH A) and quantity of dogs worked.

### **Section 13.4: Trial Helper Record Book Utilization**

The Trial Helper Record Book and a Current USA Membership Card shall be presented to the Trial Secretary before performing helperwork at any Event, or to the Presiding USA Teaching Helper before participating in any Helper Seminar or Evaluation. Upon completion of participation in any of the aforementioned, the Trial Secretary or Presiding Teaching Helper, as applicable, will complete the appropriate Sections in the Trial Helper Record Book regarding location, dates, and name of the Event, and the number of dogs worked. **Only** the Helper Program Director and Teaching Helpers may make entries into Sections I and II of the Trial Helper Record Book. **Only** Judges may make entries into Section III. From Section III of the Trial Helper Record Book, the Trial Secretary for any Event shall record, at the location(s) specified on the Trial Paperwork, the Rating and Comments issued by the Judge for the Helper(s) of the Event.

### **Section 13.5: “Old” Helper Books**

Helpers who have been issued an “Old Helper Book” by the USA Office shall contact the USA Office and request a new Trial Helper Record Book prior to participating in their Initial Helper Evaluation. During the Helper’s Initial Helper Evaluation, the Helper shall present their “Old Helper Book” to the Presiding Teaching Helper as documentation of attaining the requirements to be evaluated at the requested Classification. Once the Helper has completed their Initial Helper Evaluation, the Helper’s “Old Helper Book” will no longer be accepted at Events and will be marked on the inside front cover with “Obsolete” and signed by the Presiding Teaching Helper. Two (2) years after the effective date of this Program (November 4, 2004), only Trial Helper Record Books, which contain the Classification of the Helper, will be accepted at Events.

## **SECTION 14: ROLE OF USA TEACHING HELPER**

The primary purpose of a Teaching Helper is to educate and develop Classified Trial Helpers that can properly and safely execute the Protection Exercises performed at an Event.

### **Section 14.1: Teaching Helper Responsibilities**

- A. Teach at Helper Seminars (Section 9) using approved Helper Program Curriculum (Section 8).
- B. Classify Helpers in accordance with Section 10, Helper Evaluation.
- C. Conduct a minimum of one (1) Helper Seminar every two (2) years.
- D. Conduct a minimum of two (2) Helper Evaluations every two (2) years.
- E. File a Report to the Helper Program Director of Official Activities (i.e., Helper Evaluations, Seminars, Apprenticeships, etc.).
- F. Promote camaraderie and sportsmanship.
- G. Act in an advisory role and provide support and assistance to Helpers that have been selected to perform helperwork at National Events.

## **Section 14.2: Maintaining Teaching Helper Classification**

- A. Maintain USA Membership.
- B. Attend and participate in a minimum of one (1) Helper College every four (4) years and / or participate in or on a USA Helper event (i.e., Helper selection for events, member of the Helper Committee).
- C. Conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times and adhere to the USA Code of Ethics.
- D. Shall not advertise their Teaching Helper Classification solely for personal or monetary gain.
- E. Shall not hold office or an official designation in a competing German Shepherd Dog Organization located in the United States of America.
- F. Complete the Teaching Helper Responsibilities presented in Section 14.1.

Failure to meet the above requirements will result in reclassification of the Teaching Helper to the Classification that they were last evaluated at prior to applying to become a Teaching Helper.

## **SECTION 15: APPRENTICE TEACHING HELPER**

The purpose of an apprenticeship for Teaching Helpers is to ascertain if the Applicant possesses above-average ability in the areas of leadership and teaching skills and to assist the Applicant with understanding the Role of the Teaching Helper (Section 14) in the Helper Program.

### **Section 15.1: Apprentice Teaching Helper Prerequisites**

- A. Have attained at least Regional Helper Classification.
- B. Met the requirements of Section 12.3, Helper Classification Maintenance.
- C. Have handled, owned and trained at least one dog to SchH/VPG 3. (Note: The Helper Committee may make an exception to this requirement if the Applicant is currently training a dog towards that goal and has showed extensive and exceptional abilities in the areas of leadership, teaching skills, and knowledge of Event helperwork).
- D. Be an active Trial Helper and Training Helper in a Local Club.
- E. Be a Member in good standing of USA for a minimum of three (3) years.
- F. Not hold office or an official designation in a competing German Shepherd Dog Organization located in the United States of America.
- G. Have attended a minimum of two (2) Helper Seminars within a 2-year period and one (1) Helper College prior to applying to be an Apprentice Teaching Helper.

### **Section 15.2: Apprentice Teaching Helper Application**

Only those persons who demonstrate high standards of personal conduct, good sportsmanship, a sound mastery of the basics of Schutzhund and Trial helperwork, a willingness to teach people one-to-one and intelligently promote the sport of Schutzhund will be considered. The Applicant shall submit the following items to their Regional Training Director to declare their intentions to become an Apprentice Teaching Helper.

- A. A Letter of Recommendation from the Applicant's Local Club signed by two (2) Club Officers.
- B. Two (2) additional Letters of Recommendation from any two (2) of the following:
  - a. USA Regional Training Director;
  - b. USA Judge;
  - c. Member of the USA Executive Board; or
  - d. USA Teaching Helper.
- C. A completed Teaching Helper Application (Appendix F), including: copies of the Applicant's Trial Helper Record Book and written proof of meeting the prerequisites listed above.
- D. After review by the Helper Committee, and if accepted for apprenticeship, the Applicant will be placed on the Apprentice Teaching Helper List by the Helper Program Director and is therefore permitted to begin his/her apprenticeship.

The Applicant's Regional Training Director shall acquaint him/her self with the Applicant. The Regional Training Director shall forward all of the above information along with the Applicant's Application to the Helper Program Director within thirty (30) days of receipt of the items. The Helper Program Director shall confirm that the Applicant has met the requirements of Sections 15.1 and 15.2. The Helper Program Director shall distribute the items submitted by the

Applicant to the Helper Committee for review. The Helper Committee shall review the items submitted by the Applicant and either approve or disprove the Applicant to be placed on the Apprentice Teaching Helper List. The latter shall be performed within sixty (60) days of receipt of the items by the Helper Program Director. The Helper Program Director shall inform the Applicant and the Applicant's Regional Training Director of the approval or rejection of the Applicant as an Apprentice Teaching Helper within ninety (90) days of receipt of the items by the Regional Training Director.

### **Section 15.3: Teaching Helper Apprenticeship Process**

Once the Helper Committee approves the Teaching Helper Applicant for apprenticeship, the Apprentice shall become familiar with all facets of the Helper Program. The Apprentice shall apprentice with three (3) different Teaching Helpers at a minimum of one (1) Helper Seminar, one (1) Helper College and two (2) Helper Evaluations. The Apprentice Teaching Helper will be encouraged to teach during the Seminars and evaluate during the Evaluations. The Apprentice Teaching Helper shall perform the following activities.

- A. Receive permission from the Presiding Teaching Helper prior to apprenticing at a Helper Seminar or Helper Evaluation.
- B. The Apprentice Teaching Helper must complete the apprenticeship process within two (2) years of their placement on the Apprentice Teaching Helper List.

If the Helper Committee rejects the Teaching Helper Applicant for apprenticeship, the Helper Program Director shall inform the Applicant and the Applicant's Regional Training Director of the reason(s) why the Applicant was rejected. Rejected Applicants shall wait ninety (90) days prior to resubmitting their Teaching Helper Application for reconsideration.

## **SECTION 16: NATIONAL EVENTS**

*The Selection Process for Helpers at National Events shall be approved by the USA General Board (GB). (USA Policy).* Helper selection for National Events will be performed using the Pre-Selection Process described below.

### **Section 16.1: Helper Pre-Selection**

All Helpers that: (i) are a current Member of USA in good standing for a period of more than one (1) year; (ii) have attained Regional, National or Teaching Helper Level Classification; and (iii) have not received an Unsatisfactory Rating from a Judge, are eligible for pre-selection for a National Event. Helpers who meet these requirements will be reviewed by the Helper Committee and contacted to solicit their participation in a forthcoming National Event. The contact will occur at least three (3) months prior to the Event and will also assess the Helper's availability, fitness and desire to work the National Event. Based on the results of this inquiry, the Helper Committee will recommend a slate of Helpers for the Event to the Executive Board for approval. Upon approval by the Executive Board, the Helper Committee will contact and confirm the Pre-Selected Helpers for the Event.

### **Section 16.2: Helper Final Assignment**

Four (4) Helpers will be pre-selected for each Event; however, three (3) Helpers may be pre-selected if the overall entry for the Event is less than 30 dogs. Final assignment (i.e., SchH/VPG 1, 2 or 3, Front-Half, Back-Half or Alternate) of the Helpers will be performed by a minimum of three (3) Members of the Helper Committee during a Helper Tryout at the Event. The Helper Tryout may not be conducted more than two (2) days prior to the Event. Should the Helper Committee not be able to fulfill this obligation, the Helper Committee may delegate two (2) of the required three (3) positions to people they deem capable of performing this role, such as, a USA Teaching Helper, Executive Board Member or USA Judge, excluding the Protection Judge for the Event.

### **Section 16.3: Helper Selection Criteria, Exercises and Form**

Helper selection will be based on the Helper's performance of either the Protection Exercises for SchH/VPG 3 or the Attack-on-Handler and Long Attack Exercises as appropriate for the National Event. The Exercises will be performed under simulated Trial conditions, including but not limited to: field setup, distances/directions for the Escape or Attack on Handler, Re-Attacks with Drives, Long Attack and direction by the Judge. The Evaluation will consider numerous aspects of the Helper's performance; including, but not limited to the following.

- A. Is the Helper under control at all times?
- B. Does the Helper's performance reflect that the safety of the dog, Judge and him/her self is paramount?
- C. Does the Helper know the Protection Exercises?
- D. Does the Helper take/follow direction from the Protection Judge?

- E. Does the Helper perform equally with a dog that he/she is familiar with and one that he/she is unfamiliar with?

Each Tryout is divided into an Initial Evaluation and a Final Selection. During the Initial Evaluation, the Helper may use a dog with whom he/she is familiar with. During the Final Selection, the Helper must use a dog with whom he/she is unfamiliar with.

The Exercises that a Helper will be evaluated on are shown on the Helper Tryout Form presented in Appendix G. The Helper will receive a score for each Exercise that they perform. A score of zero (0) on any Exercise will result in immediate disqualification from the Tryout. No exceptions will be made to this criteria. The front-half and back-half Exercises will be subtotaled separately. The total score (i.e., sum of the subtotals) will be used to identify the four (4) best Helper performances. The subtotals will then be used to distinguish the two (2) Helpers who perform the front-half or back-half Exercises better out of the four (4) remaining Helpers.

#### **Section 16.4: Restrictions**

The four (4) Helpers selected **shall not** work dogs entered in a National Event after the close of entries for the Event and **shall not** derive personal income from being selected as a Helper for a National Event. Any violation of these restrictions will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will result in suspension of the Helper's Trial Helper Privileges (i.e., Trial Helper Record Book) as described in Section 12.4.

#### **Section 16.5: Removal from Event**

Helperwork performed during at a National Event must be consistent with the Helper Program. If in the opinion of the Helper Committee a Helper is not performing helperwork at a National Event in accordance with the Helper Program, the Helper Committee may remove the Helper from his/her assignment regardless of the Presiding Protection Judge's wishes.

### **SECTION 17: EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

#### **Section 17.1: Helper Seminars and Helper Evaluations**

Teaching Helpers shall be provided per diem and reimbursement of expenses for Helper Seminars and Helper Evaluations they conduct. The per diem and reimbursement shall be made by the Host Region and/or Club. The per diem rate and reimbursable expenses will be the same as those outlined in the Judges Program.

#### **Section 17.2: Expense Reimbursement**

Travel and hotel accommodations for the four (4) Helpers selected for a National Event will be the responsibility of the Event Host, and shall include: roundtrip transportation (e.g., airfare, rental car, or driving, which shall be reimbursed at the current year's Federal Mileage Rate), accommodations and per diem of \$50.00 per day of the Event. The maximum reimbursement amount per Helper is \$500 per Event. The Host Club shall also provide two (2) banquet tickets and a two (2) stadium passes for each Helper for the Event.

### **SECTION 18: AWARDS**

The Helper Committee will acknowledge those USA Members whose past efforts have played a vital role in building a strong foundation for safe and proper helperwork in USA. Those Members will be recognized and awarded with the Classification of Teaching Helper Emeritus.

Other individual or group awards on a Regional and/or National Level may be developed by the Helper Committee in the future. The purpose of these awards will be to recognize Helpers who have shown outstanding advancement in and/or service to the Helper Program.

## **APPENDIX A: HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM - TEXT**

### **HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM – TEXT**

#### **Section I: Helper Regulations**

The Helper Regulations that govern Trial Helpers during Events are presented in the latest release of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America Official Rule Book for all Working Dog Evaluations, and are herein by reference.

#### **Section II: Technical Instruction for the Exercise “Prevention of an Escape Attempt by the Helper”**

The Helper is called out of the blind by the Handler and moves to a designated position (marked escape position) at a normal pace. This position must allow the Handler to put his dog in a down at the sleeve side of the Helper at a distance of approximately 5 paces. In order for the Handler to position his dog correctly, the direction of the impending escape must be recognizable for the Handler.

Upon a signal from the Judge the Helper makes an escape attempt at a quick and energetic pace in a straight line without running exaggeratedly and out of control. The sleeve itself is not put into motion; the dog should have an optimal opportunity to make the bite. The Helper is not permitted to turn towards the dog during the escape attempt, but he may keep the dog in his field of vision. The Helper may not pull the sleeve away from the dog. Once the dog has gripped the sleeve, the Helper continues to run in a straight line and while moving pulls the sleeve close to his body.

To perform this exercise in accordance with the above-described guideline several technical pieces warrant closer examination.

The Helper's start position is a crucial part of the exercise. In order to perform a fast running start, the foot position of the Helper has to allow him to burst into his escape run without further adjustment. That means the Helper has to be comfortable with the width of his stance, the set up of his feet, and the position of his upper body and arms. There is little time to make adjustments between the start of the escape and the point of impact of the dog. So if the start position is not correct, the exercise will be difficult to perform.

The sleeve may not be set in motion during the escape; therefore its position should be already set in the start position. The sleeve should be at the side of the body; the Helper's hand inside the sleeve should be forward enough that it is in front of the hipbone. The arm should be held at an angle slightly greater than 90 degrees with the elbow behind the hip of the Helper. The bite bar should be angled downwards and slightly backwards so it faces the dog. If the Helper sets his sleeve arm up as if he is attempting to put his hand in his pants pocket it should approximate the correct position.

The speed of the escape determines the level of control the Helper will have during this exercise. Speed and stride length during this exercise causes Helpers the most difficulties. Helpers who run too close to their maximum speed will surely lose balance upon the impact of the dog. Helpers who run too slowly commonly have the dogs knock the sleeve arm forward, which often leads to tripping and loss of balance. Many Helpers also vary the speed by slowing down as the dog grips the sleeve, which either leads to the dog knocking the sleeve ahead of the Helper's body causing tripping and loss of balance, or the dog suddenly drops his weight to stop the Helper causing the Helper to lose his forward direction and his balance. Slowing down to handle the dog's impact is a very natural thing to do, and therefore very common. But it is technically one of the worst things a Helper can do in that exercise.

The Helper should control his speed by bursting into the escape at a pace that still allows him some degree of acceleration during his run without having to go beyond his own limits.

In order for the dog to catch the Helper he has to run faster than the Helper until the moment he grips the sleeve. Therefore, there will always be a moment at which one side of the Helper's body experiences a weight and speed change. Expecting this speed change and being prepared for it allows the Helper to maintain control during the exercise.

The Helper runs quickly but at less than maximum speed, then at the moment the dog grips the sleeve he accelerates slightly to balance out the impact the dog has on his body during the run. This helps maintain speed, direction, and control

over not only his own body but also the additional weight of the dog, which is now attached to the body of the Helper. During this slight acceleration the Helper pulls the sleeve (now with the dog attached) close to his body and ensures that his hand inside the sleeve stays in front and pressed against his own hip. This enables the Helper to use his entire body to hold and move the dog, not only his arm.

Of course running speed cannot be discussed without mentioning stride length. It is natural for Helpers to lengthen their stride when running fast. Yet again, what comes natural is not ideal in the performance of this exercise. The Helper should concentrate on keeping his stride length very short. The legs should move quickly and give the appearance of pumping pistons. This gives the Helper the ability to maintain his balance and move even heavy dogs along without losing control. It also avoids the danger of having the dog's legs get between his own as he runs and tripping.

Throughout the exercise the Helper has to work with power and be in control not only of his own body, but also the dog. Power does not always have to equal strength. Power can come from proper application of technique as well. Helpers who learn how to use their own body to control the dog can exert sufficient power to perform this exercise correctly.

During the portion of the escape when the dog is on the sleeve, the Helper has to ensure that his body alignment is such that the strongest parts of his body are opposing the weight and force of the dog. This means, shoulder and back to lift the dog; midsection and hips to anchor the dog's weight; and the legs to push forward. Each Helper has to learn how to align his body to allow the proper power transfer. It requires that shoulders and hips face the direction of the escape. Turning towards the dog, or taking large strides which turn the hip will not allow that. The weight of the dog is on the shoulder and back. The pulling force of the dog is against the hips. The only motor driving the Helper and the dog forward are his legs. So a slight body lean may be necessary to line legs, hip, back, and shoulder up in such a way as to effectively oppose the dog's efforts.

The escape is the first exercise during which the dog grips the Helper, ensuring proper set up, correct running speed and stride length, and how to properly control the dog with power allows the Helper to perform this exercise safely in accordance with Trial Regulations.

### **Section III: Technical Instruction for the Exercise "Driving a Dog"**

Driving a dog is required during all attack exercises on the dog. These exercises are "Attack on the Dog During the Guarding Phase", "Attack on the Dog out of Motion", and "Attack on the Dog out of the Back Transport". During the exercise "Attack on the Dog During the Guarding Phase" two stick hits are performed, during all other drives the stick is used to threaten the dog. The drive itself is referred to in the Trial rules as the "pressure phase", the term "to drive" in German is "bedrängen", which means pushing, crowding, pressuring. It is important for Helpers to understand what the intent of the action really is.

During all drives the Helper has to place the dog alongside his body and he has to perform the drive in a straight line, and in a manner that allows the Judge to observe the dog, his behavior during the pressure phase, his grip behavior, and the subsequent release and guarding phase. Driving the dog towards the Handler is not permitted.

To perform a drive correctly the Helper has to ensure that his drive has the following elements.

- A. Physical control over the dog.
- B. Physical and psychological pressure and confrontation against the dog.
- C. Sustained threat and dominance against the dog throughout the drive.
- D. Correct use of the soft stick during the drive and especially when placing the stick hits.
- E. Speed while it plays a role is not a required element. The Helper should never give up control, power, and confrontation for speed. It is also not the duty of the Helper to go to extremes to pressure dogs or to use the stick in a manner intended to injure any dog. A drive should be a controlled exercise during which a controlled degree of pressure is exerted over the dog for evaluation purposes.

There are three technical forms of driving. Helpers may have one preferred style and technique but should always be familiar with all three techniques in order to perform their duty correctly with all dogs. The three driving techniques are: (i) the running drive; (ii) the step-skip drive; and (iii) the power-skip drive. The major differences between the drives are footwork and sleeve position.

## **The Running Drive**

The running drive requires the Helper to be able to hold the dog on the sleeve high enough so the sleeve is held approximately across the Helper's chest and close to his body. It is not necessary to lift a dog into that position. The dynamic motion of a catch during an attack or the momentum of the dog during an attack from the guarding phase allows the Helper to bring the sleeve to that level. The Helper should use his shoulder and back muscles to hold the sleeve in that position during the drive. It is very difficult and tiring to try to lift a dog into that position before a drive. So the Helper should learn the technique to place the dog into that position.

The Helper has to maintain a square shoulder position against the dog in order to exert proper confrontation and threat. The body of the dog is placed along the side of the Helper's body opposite to his sleeve arm. The Helper has to take care to control the dog's body enough to keep him from interfering with his leg action.

The Helper's legs move in a running motion as the name implies, however the run has to be performed in such a manner that the steps are kept short, the cross over distance of his thighs is minimal, and that the knee action is high and short like pumping pistons. This will allow more pushing power, more control, and minimize loss of balance and tripping.

The Helper's hips should be facing the same direction as his shoulders to ensure straight power transfer from the legs into the upper body in order to move the dog.

The Helper has to be able to maintain visual contact with the dog not only to know where the dog is at all times, but also to exert psychological pressure on the dog and aim correctly with the stick. The stick and stick arm should always be kept over the head and shoulders of the dog to maintain continuous threat. The only dominance that is exerted against the dog during this drive is the keeping the dog off the ground and some psychological dominance through eye contact.

This drive suits fast, athletic Helpers well as long as they make certain they can provide all the required elements in the drive. Simply running along side a dog, or running while pulling a dog along behind is not correct and does not allow the Judge to assess the dog's behavior under sustained pressure.

## **The Step-Skip Drive**

The step-skip drive gives the Helper slightly more physical control over the dog and allows him to show a great degree of dominance and threat against the dog during the entire performance. The sleeve is held across the body of the Helper near the bottom of his rib cage. Most dogs are not far off the ground. The Helper is slightly bent over the top of the dog exerting threat and dominance against the dog with maximum ability to show the dog the stick. It also allows for great accuracy during stick hits. The sleeve is held close to the body by the Helper's mid-section thereby using the Helper's own weight and momentum against the dog. The weight of the dog is held on the back and shoulders of the Helper. The foot and leg movement during this drive is crucial. The Helper uses the leg on the side he carries the sleeve on as his lead leg and this leg stays in the lead throughout the entire drive. Since the dog is not completely lifted off the ground, the back leg of the Helper has to perform two functions. It lifts the body of the Helper and with it the dog's weight upwards while it propels the body of the Helper and the attached dog forward. The lead leg merely steers the drive and provides stability.

The hip should be slightly turned so the side of the lead leg leads and the side of the back leg is turned slightly backwards. By maintaining this turn of the hip, the Helper ensures that the power generated by the back leg is transferred forwards and upwards in a straight line into the midsection of the Helper, which pushes against the dog. The Helper's legs provide the power and motor to the drive and alignment is very important. If the Helper crosses his legs during this drive and by doing so moves his hip, he will lose a lot of his power and control.

The skipping action is performed in rapid succession creating a powerful and controlled drive. The upper body as described faces the dog and creates threat and dominance against him. The stick should be kept above the dog's head and shoulders so it is visible and threatening to the dog throughout the drive.

This drive allows for very good control and exertion of pressure on the dog. The movements are very controlled and can be performed by any Helper. This drive lacks some of the speed of the running drive and may be difficult with some fast dogs that try to outrun the Helper to escape his pressure.

## **The Power-Skip Drive**

This drive is a power drive and is to be used for dogs that are extremely difficult to drive and control. There is no other way to describe it than to say that the dog is literally pushed along despite all his efforts to stop the Helper. The sleeve position for this drive is very low, directly against the hip of the Helper. The front and lead leg is bent; the back leg has to push in a direct line against the hip that has the sleeve held against it.

The Helper has his upper body over the dog, he has to use his entire upper body to control the weight of the dog from side to side to ensure that the sleeve stays lined up with the lead leg hip. The lead leg has to be set low in a way that allows most of the force generated by the extension of the back leg to be going forward against the hip that has the sleeve against it. With strong powerful forward pushes, the dog is moved one step at a time. This looks much like the lunges of a speed skater, but only one leg is used to do the driving forward.

The stick and stick arm should provide threat directly over the head and shoulders of the dog. Emphasis during this drive is to ensure that the dog despite his efforts to stop the Helper from physically controlling him does not succeed and feels physically controlled by the Helper. Every Helper should learn to perform this drive to ensure that he can pressure even the most difficult dogs with all elements of a drive, including physical control.

**Note:** Driving a dog is one of the most important functions of a Trial Helper in aiding the Judge in his assessment of the dog. Helpers need to ensure they can drive all dogs safely and have all required elements in each drive. No matter which style of driving a Helper prefers, some dogs will make things difficult for him. Driving is not about speed, appearance, or style; it is about applying the necessary pressure on each dog to allow the Judge to make his evaluation. And in order to do this job effectively, all Helpers should make the effort to familiarize themselves with all three drives.

#### **Section IV: Technical Instruction for Catching a Dog in the Exercise “Attack on the Dog Out of Motion”**

After the Helper reaches the centerline, he attacks the Handler and dog frontally, by running directly toward them while trying to chase the dog away through yelling and by making threatening gestures with the soft stick after going approximately 30 paces toward them down the centerline. In order to not reduce the attack speed, the initial running pace should not be too exaggerated. It is better to begin the attack at a more moderate speed and if possible to accelerate somewhat than to begin too fast and out of control and have to slow down. Shortly before the dog is caught the Helper should reduce the length of his strides so that he has the opportunity to position himself optimally for the catch.

The Helper should hold the sleeve at his side up until the moment he offers it during the catch itself. Then he must hold the sleeve in such a way that he provides enough elasticity so that he does not jam the dog. That means the sleeve should be held somewhat away from the body so that the force of the dog can be absorbed slightly by letting it give a bit. The Helper should pay attention that the sleeve is not offered too low to dogs that jump very early and attack high. That way he can avoid flinging the dog upward, which so often leads to spinal injuries.

According to the Trial Regulations the dog should be caught without the Helper coming to a halt. A better description is to say that the Helper should not be coming to a stand still **before** the actual catch. In order to have an optimal opportunity to grip, the dog has to have a target point at which he can aim. That means that the target point should not change for the dog once he leaves the ground. Which in turn means that **at or after** the point at which the dog launches the sleeve should no longer be moving. This is only possible if the Helper stands still for a fraction of a second. It is after all physically impossible for a dog to change direction once he has left the ground. The exact point of the catch is defined as follows: the exact point in time at which the dog launches or reaches up to make contact with the sleeve is the moment of the catch. Exactly at this point in time the Helper **must** be standing still for a fraction of a second. Therefore it is also important to take short strides before the catch so the Helper can optimally control his body positioning.

The Helper has to position himself in such a way that he is standing in a forward stepping position. It is very important to pay attention that during a right catch the right leg is set back and the left leg is set forward and during a left catch the left leg is set back and the right leg is set forward. It does not matter whether the Helper wears a right or left sleeve, the leg position has to be adhered to as described above. This leg positioning allows the Helper's body to twist to the right or to the left at the moment of contact in such a way as to catch and intercept the momentum of the dog without losing his balance and without the dog colliding hard into the Helper. The Helper merely lets a twisting motion of his hip with a slight body turn happen, which is caused by the momentum of the dog.

If the sleeve is held in an elastic manner as described above and positioned in a way that the re-direction of the dog's momentum can be steered in a controlled way, then the Helper can catch the dog with the necessary hip twist, place him along his side (in the pocket) and go straight into the drive. What does that look like?

A dog that comes at the Helper without slowing down and then only reaches up to grip the sleeve bumps the Helper during the grip in a way that the slightly turned hip (right or left, set up through the forward stepping position and leg

positioning) twists backwards. This hip twist causes the body of the Helper to turn so that the body axis of the Helper acts like a hinge to steer the momentum of the dog. As soon as the momentum is caught in a way that the Helper can dictate the direction he can take the dog, he places the dog along his side (in the pocket) and goes into the drive.

A dog that jumps very high should be offered a higher target. The catch is performed as above where the dog causes the Helper to twist as he makes contact. However, with the target set higher the Helper gives himself the opportunity to “pull the dog out of the air” and to steer the dog’s momentum downwards as well as twisting with him. Therefore the Helper can direct the momentum of the dog during his twisting motion downwards, set the dog on the ground, and can go straight into the drive out of this catch as well.

This catching technique allows the Helper to attack a dog frontally and to stay on the same path at all times without stepping around the dog, evading the dog, or lessening the attack speed. It also allows the Helper to control the direction of the drive, which is also advantageous for consistent Helperwork.

#### **Section V: Breed Survey and Sieger Show Exercise “Attack on Handler”**

The attack on Handler is just that, the Handler not the dog. The Helper should wait out of sight in the blind. Under no circumstances can the Helper attack before the Judge's command, even if the dog breaks from the Handler out of control for the blind. When called or signaled to attack, the Helper will come out of the blind and attack in the general direction of the Handler with a threatening posture and a high stick. The protective sleeve is to be carried in front of the Helper close to the body. Any additional movement of the sleeve is to be avoided. Once the dog has a grip, the Helper places the dog, out of motion to the side and the pressure phase begins in a straight direction. The Helper must drive all the dogs in the same direction. Therefore, the Judge must position himself/herself in such a manner that it is possible to observe and evaluate how the dog acts while attacking, during the pressure phase, evaluate the grip, the release and the guarding phase. Driving the dog towards the Handler is not permitted. The hits with the soft stick are to be placed on the dog’s shoulders and the area of the withers. The intensity of the stick hits has to be the same for all the dogs. The first hit is applied after 4-5 paces, the second hit after 4-5 more paces during the pressure phase. After the second stick hit additional pressure without stick hits is to be demonstrated. **Note:** If the dog should fail to bite during the attack, the Helper must continue to attack until stopped by command of the Judge. Stopping of this exercise is presented above in Section I, B, h. For additional technical reference regarding this exercise refer to Section III, Driving. For additional technical reference regarding this exercise refer to Section IV, Catching.

## **APPENDIX B: HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM - VIDEO**

### **HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM – VIDEO**

The Helper Program Curriculum Video is available by download from the USA Website, or on a DVD from the USA Office. The Video provides examples of the correct execution of the Protection Exercises contained in the VDH Trial Regulations giving consideration to the performing Trial Helpers style. The Video also provides examples of incorrect execution of the Protections Exercises to clearly demonstrate the performance that would receive a Failing Grade during a Helper Evaluation.

The video can be found on the USA Forms page under the “USA Information” section.

<http://germanshepherddog.com/members/Helper%20Program/helpervideo.htm>

## APPENDIX C: HELPER SEMINAR AND EVALUATION REGISTRATION/RESULTS FORM

### GRADES

**Pass** – Procedurally correct with the VDH Trial Regulations, is under control while performing the Exercise, takes direction from the Judge while performing the Exercise, and performs the Exercise in a manner that is safe for the dog, Judge and him/her self.

**Fail** – Not procedurally correct with VDH Trial Regulations (e.g., feeding the dog the sleeve during the escape bite), out or lack of control (e.g., inability to drive dog and place stick hits at proper interval), does not take direction from the Judge while performing the Exercise or unsafe (e.g., endangerment of dog and self) while performing the Exercise or improper presentation of the dog to the Judge (e.g., the dog's back is presented away from the Handler).

## APPENDIX D: HELPER EVALUATION WRITTEN EXAMINATION

### HELPER EVALUATION WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Helper Name:

USA Helper Book #:

Date:

Location:

Teaching Helper(s):

Helper Evaluation Written Exam will include twenty or more questions that will be changed periodically by the National Helper Committee.

1. The correct arm to be used during a trial is
  - a. the arm that you have trained with
  - b. an soft arm
  - c. an arm with a bite bar
  - d. only a new arm and cover
2. In a trial only helpers that are right handed (sleeve on the left arm) may do helper work.  
True                  False
3. What type of stick or whip may be used in a trial?
  - a. any whip
  - b. a rattan / reed stick
  - c. a soft padded stick
  - d. the helpers choice
4. If the dog does not stay in the blind it is OK for the helper to make slight attraction / noise to help the dog in a trial.  
True                  False
5. When the helper is called out of the blind he/she should
  - a. walk out to the escape position, keeping an eye on the dog
  - b. walk out to the escape position with his back to the dog
  - c. walk out to the escape position and move the arms and stick in a excited manner
6. If the dog attempts to grip the helper somewhere other than the sleeve it is OK for the helper to defend himself using the sleeve  
True                  False
7. On trial day the helper's job is to
  - a. help the handler and dog by providing safe and consistent work
  - b. help the club by working the dogs in the trial
  - c. help the judge, evaluate the dog by providing safe and consistent work
8. A trial helper should always do he/her best to safely and consistently and with good sportsmanship work all dogs in a trial  
True                  False
9. A protection Jacket is required to do helper work in all USA Trials  
True                  False
10. In what level(s) does the helper run out of the blind for the long grip?  
a. SchH 1    b. SchH 2    c. SchH 3

11. The position for the sleeve in an attack position is 90 degrees.

True      False

12. The angle of the sleeve arm on the lock up for the out should be:

- a. slightly higher than the attack position
- b. slightly less than attack position.
- c. straight up and down (180 degrees)

13. The stick should be in clear sight of the dog at all times.

True      False

14. On the escape grip, the helper should:

- a. run slow so that all dogs can make the grip
- b. run quickly in an effort to escape while giving the dog a clear target for the grip
- c. hide the sleeve from the dog's view in an effort to prevent them from gripping

15. It is permissible at the beginning of the escape for the helper:

- a. to pump the sleeve one time to get moving quickly into their running speed.
- b. to pump the sleeve many times in an effort to attract the dog.
- c. to flinch or scuff their feet prior to taking off on the escape.

16. During the escape exercise the helper should make a strong threat by using the stick.

True      False

17. On the reattack the helper should lock up in the out position immediately after the second stick hit.

True      False

18. During the rear transport the stick and sleeve should be visible to the dog at all times.

True      False

19. On the attack of the handler out of the back transport, the helper should turn into the dog with his sleeve side leading the move into the handler and dog's path.

True      False

20. Name at least two USA members whose influence and dedicated work on the USA Trial Helper Program made it a reality.

1.

2.

21. Bonus Question – How many teeth should an adult German Shepherd Dog have?

## **Helper Classification**

Below are the Classifications for Helpers and the associated requirements to attain the Classification are described below. The Classifications must be advanced through sequentially except Teaching Helper, whose requirements are described in detail in Helper Program. Read the below and then sign your Written Examination

**Entry Level** – The Entry Level Classification is for all Helpers that have been issued a Trial Helper Record Book and do not meet the requirements for the remaining Classifications. Entry Level Helpers shall attain Basic Level Classification before being permitted to participate as a Trial Helper in an Event.

**Basic Level** – The Basic Level Classification is for Helpers that have attended at least one (1) Helper Seminar, successfully passed the Written Examination and have received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.

**Club Level** – The Club Level Classification is for Helpers that have met the following requirements.

- Participated in at least one (1) Helper Seminar.
- Received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.
- Performed Trial helperwork in at least:
  - one (1) Club Trial working at least twelve (12) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) with a minimum Rating of Good from the Judge; or
  - two (2) Club Trials working at least six (6) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) with minimum Ratings of Very Good or Excellent from two (2) different Judges.
- 

**Regional Level** - The Regional Level Classification is for Helpers that have met the following requirements.

- Participated in at least two (2) Helper Seminars.
- Received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.
- Performed Trial helperwork in at least ten (10) Club Trials, or six (6) Club Trials and one (1) Regional SchH Championship, with minimum Ratings of Good from the Judges.
- Worked at least forty (40) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) in Trials.

**National Level** - The National Level Classification is for Helpers that have met the following requirements.

- Participated in at least three (3) Helper Seminars.
- Received a Grade of Pass on all the Exercises during their Helper Evaluation.
- Performed Trial helperwork in at least fifteen (15) Club Trials and two (2) Regional SchH Championship, or twelve (12) Club Trials, one (1) Regional SchH Championship and one (1) National SchH Championship, with minimum Ratings of Good from the Judges.
- Worked at least eighty (80) dogs (SchH/VPG 1 to 3, IPO 1 to 3, DPO 1 and 2, or SchH A) in Trials.

**Teaching Helper** - The Teaching Helper Classification is for Helpers that have met the requirements described in Helper Program.

Note: For the purpose of meeting the requirements described above, SchH 1 through 3 from the “Old Helper Book” (Section 13.5) are equivalent to SchH/VPG titles.

**Helper Utilization**

Helpers who have attained a Classification may perform the duties of a Helper in an Event as presented below.

**Helper Utilization Matrix**

Event Type	Helper Classification					
	Entry	Basic	Club	Regional	National	Teaching
Club	-	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Regional	-	-	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
National	-	-	-	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted

I have read the foregoing, I understand it, and testify that I meet the requirements for the classification I am requested to be evaluated for.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
USA Teaching Helper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date

**APPENDIX E: HELPER RELEASE FORM**

**WAIVER  
INFORMED CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM**

I wish to participate/view the United Schutzhund Clubs of America Helper Program/Seminar (hereinafter referred to as the “program”) and to use the equipment, facilities and services (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “facilities”) made available by the program. I agree that my participation/viewing of the program and the use of the facilities are and will at all times be at my own risk. I will be responsible for my actions, the actions of any minor(s) under my supervision and for any animal(s) that I choose to handle in the program.

I hereby agree to accept all risks associated with the use of the facilities made available to me as a participant/viewer of the program and that the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, the Helper Committee, Official Teaching Helpers, \_\_\_\_\_(Region?/Local Club?, etc.) have made no guarantees or representations as to the quality and suitability of the facilities for any purpose. I acknowledge that I will seek medical advice from a doctor regarding my participation/viewing of the program or use of any facilities. I agree to report any signs or symptoms of distress or abnormalities to the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, the Helper Committee, Official Teaching Helpers, \_\_\_\_\_ (Region/Local Club, etc.) and hereby consent to the administration of any resuscitation measures deemed advisable by such person.

In consideration for my participation/viewing of the program and use of the facilities, I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, do hereby release and forever discharge the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, the Helper Committee, Official Teaching Helpers, \_\_\_\_\_ (Region/Local Club, etc.) their employees, agents, successors and assigns, from all manner of actions, causes of actions, claims, demands or damages whatsoever which may have arisen or may in the future arise for or by reason of any damage, loss or injury to property or person (including death) which I have sustained or which I may in the future sustain, as a consequence of my participation/viewing of the program or use of the facilities.

I have read the foregoing, and I understand it. Any questions which have arisen or occurred to me have been answered to my satisfaction.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## APPENDIX F: TEACHING HELPER APPLICATION

### USA TEACHING HELPER APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Region and Club:

USA Membership:

Other Dog Club Memberships:

Training Experience:

Training Influences (people you have trained with that you credit MOST with teaching you about training and helperwork):

Trial Helper Experience

Local Level:

Regional Level:

National Experience:

Club Training Helper Experience:

Helpers Trained:

Other USA experience:

Why do I want to be a USA Teaching Helper?

Respectfully submitted,

Date:



