**A Comparison of AKC Tracking Tests and Their Requirements**

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| TEST LEVEL | TD | TDU (Optional) | TDX | VST |
| Prerequisite | Certification Test | Certification Test | TD or TDU | TD, TDU, or TDX |
| Length | 440 to 500 Yards | 400 to 500 Yards | 800 to 1,000 Yards | 600 to 800 Yards |
| Aged | 1/2 to 2 Hours | 1/2 to 2 Hours | 3 to 5 Hours | 3 to 5 Hours |
| Start Flag | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 30 Yard Flag | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Restart Allowed if Dog is no further than: | 30 Yards from the start | 30 Yards from the start | None | None |
| Number of Turns | 3 to 5  Both left and right  At least two turns must be 90 degrees.  none less than 90 degrees | 3 to 5  At least two left and right 90 degree turns.  None less than 90 degrees.  No turns will be non-vegetated surfaces. | 5 to 7  Both left and right  At least three turns must be 90 degrees, none less than 90 degrees. | 4 to 8  Both left and right  At least three turns must be 90 degrees, none less than 90 degrees. One 90 degree turn must be on non-vegetated surface |
| Cross Tracks | None | None plotted | Two | None plotted |
| Number of Articles | 2  including start article | 3  including start article | 4  including start article | 4  including start article |
| Type  (Most the size of a glove or wallet) | Start article must be cloth.  Last article will be glove or wallet | Start article must be fabric or leather.  Last article will be glove or wallet | Start article must be cloth.  Last article will be glove or wallet | One leather, one plastic, one metal, one fabric.  First article must be fabric  May be as small as 2” x 4” |
| Changes in Cover | Minor | Minimum of two different surfaces, vegetated and non-vegetated. | At least two obstacles: | Minimum of three different surfaces with two areas of non-vegetation |
| Non Vegetated Surface | May cross sidewalks, bike and jogging paths. | 10% to 30% must be non-vegetated  No physical obstacles | Change in cover, roads gullies, plowed land, woods, streams, fences | 1/3 to 2/3 total distance  No physical obstacles |
| Maximum Dogs two Judges may test per day | 12 | 12 | 6 | 8 |
| Substitution Factor | 2 TD = 1 TDX  2 TD = 1 VST | 2 TDU = 1 TDX  2 TDU = 1 VST | 1 TDX = 2 TD  1 TDX = 2 TDU  1 TDX = 1 VST | 1 VST = 2 TDU  1 VST = 1 TDX |