

# Northland Water Test Report



Northland held its first water test since 1978 on August 22-23, 2020. We were nervous enough with it being so long from our last test and then COVID-19 made it even more interesting! With New York and the Northeast numbers being relatively good, we felt comfortable moving forward with our tests. We were in touch with other regional clubs in the area (NCNE and NewPenDel)

along with the WDC to compare what each was doing. We decided to follow NCNE's lead and do two junior tests on Saturday and two senior tests on Sunday. Each test was limited to 10 entrants, both for the social distancing, etc and because we wanted to do a good job and with the smaller entry we wouldn't be overwhelmed. By doing both junior tests on the same day, it was felt that the entrants could test twice and then head home afterwards unless they had qualified and wanted to move up the next day. That seemed to work well but some felt it asked a bit much for the dogs to test twice in a day.

We filled for the Saturday tests (had 17 entries before people on the alternate list pulled). Sunday tests we ended up with 4 entries after an entrant had to pull because his state was on NY's quarantine list.

We limited attendance to entrants, judges, stewards and essential club personnel. We asked everyone to bring their own food and drink although we did have individually wrapped juice boxes, yogurts and fruit cups with individual packets of eating utensils available.

We had our Safety Officer check everyone's temperature and asked them 3 questions relative to their recent health, if they had any possible exposure to someone with or exposed to COVID and if they had been in any of the restricted states for more than 24 continuous hours within the last 14 days as they entered the property. If any answer to these was yes they would not be allowed on the site. If their temp was over 100, they would be asked to stay in their car with air

conditioning on and they would be checked again. If it was above 100 a second time they would not be allowed on site.

We kept a tracking sheet with contact info their temp and had them sign it. To expedite the process, if they were a club member, judge or exhibitor we noted that and got their contact info from our records. We also had a Wavier for anyone not entered or not a Club member to sign to protect the Club from possible liability from injury or COVID.



We had plenty of hand sanitizer on hand along with extra masks although we repeatedly reminded everyone to bring plenty of sanitizer and masks for themselves, which everyone was happy to comply with. There was extra disinfectant in the Port-A-Potty and signs asking people to disinfect after use. We also paid \$5 more to have hand sanitizer in the Port-a-Potty. We stressed social distancing and with the expanse of lawn available, it was easy to set up EZ Ups at appropriate distances. Everyone wore their masks and the judges gave the entrant in the testing area the option of removing their mask while working their dog. The mask was placed by their leashes for easy retrieval. Test record forms and catalogs were emailed a few days ahead and the signed copied were just dropped off at the secretary's table. Equipment check was set up so that each entrant's equipment was at least 6 feet apart and the entrant held up each piece of equipment which the judges inspected from 6 feet away. Stewards wore gloves and masks. We did hold an award presentation with everyone masked and socially distanced.



The test ran very smoothly. Everyone was very cooperative and glad to be able to enjoy a weekend with our Newfs and each other. The COVID-19 restrictions did make for a little extra work and thought, but it was not that burdensome. Like everyone, we are hopeful that next year's tests will be back to normal!! - Mary Lou Cuddy