



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

## VARIABLE SURFACE TRACKING (VST)

### Dear Applicant:

To assist applicants and to prevent you from applying prematurely, we request that you review the following **minimum requirements**. Failure to meet any requirement will result in the application being returned.

1. You must be an approved TDX judge or an approved regular status TD/TDU judge who has owned, trained and handled a dog that has been awarded a VST title.
2. Observed tracking judges in planning and plotting VST tracks by:
  - a. Serving as a tracklayer for a minimum of four (4) VST tracks at AKC member or licensed tracking tests. You must submit completed charts of at least two (2) tracks of which you served as a tracklayer.
  - b. Apprentice judge under two (2) different sets of judges. The apprentice assignments must be at two (2) different VST tests with three or more dogs entered and judged. The judge may not be a member of the apprentice's household or immediate family.

Note: Track laying and apprenticeship requirements must be done at separate events and may not be combined.

3. Provide a current passport photo (head shot) with this application.

All applicants will be required to pass verbal and written tests. Part I – consists of an open book test and is enclosed along with the application forms. The answers to these questions are to be returned with your completed application. You must pass earn a passing score to proceed.

Part II Test and Interview will be scheduled by the Companion Events Department. The written test is a multiple-choice question test (covering: *Tracking Regulations, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Dealing with Misconduct*).

Exemptions from some requirements may be made for applicants in Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico.

Following publication and passing of test and interview, applications are referred to the Judges Approval Committee for final determination. Following review, applicants will receive written notification of the Committee's action.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Companion Events Department at (919) 816-3575. You may also email any questions to [tracking@akc.org](mailto:tracking@akc.org).

**Email the completed relevant application, required documentation, and Part I to [tracking@akc.org](mailto:tracking@akc.org).** If email is not an option, you may fax the documents to 919-816-4204 – Attention Companion Events Department, or snail mail the documents to the Companion Events Department, PO Box 900068, Raleigh, NC 27675-9068 to begin the approval process.



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# Provisional Variable Surface Tracking Judging Application

COMPANION EVENTS [TRACKING@AKC.ORG](mailto:TRACKING@AKC.ORG)  
PO Box 900068, RALEIGH, NC 27675 ~ Tel. 919-816-3575

**READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.** Retain a copy of this application for your records. Answers should be brief, yet informative. Should additional space be required to answer any question, please use 8½ x 11 paper. Clearly indicate the question that is being answered on supplemental sheets of paper. Incomplete applications will be returned.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I am applying for approval to judge **Variable Surface Tracking (VST)**.

2. NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one: Dr., Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms. other: \_\_\_\_\_)

3. HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

4. EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you currently an AKC Delegate? **YES** or **NO** (check one) If yes, list the name of the complete name of the club (no initials) you represent: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Business, Profession or Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe position: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name (or Self-employed): \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you in any way connected with a dog-related occupation? **YES** or **NO** (check one) If YES, please describe in detail your duties and activities:

If your occupation or the occupation of a person with whom you reside falls under Part I of the [Occupational Eligibility Addendum](#), you must submit a letter(s) with your application giving your (both) assurance(s) that if approved to judge you (both) will no longer be engaged in this occupation 30 days following the Committee's approval of your application and for the duration of your judging involvement.

8. Have you ever been suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club? **YES** or **NO** (check one) If YES, state the date and circumstances:
9. Do you or anyone in your household or family train dogs owned by others for competition in tracking tests or obedience trials? **YES** or **NO** (check one). If YES, are you or they compensated in any way? **YES** or **NO** (check one) If YES to either question, give details.

10. Are you or have you ever been a professional handler? **YES** or **NO** (check one) If yes, state the date and circumstances:

11. List below dogs owned by you, which you have personally trained and handled at TD or TDU, TDX and/or VST tests.

AKC Registration / Listing Number	AKC Registered Name	Breed	Highest Tracking Title Earned	Year

12. List below VST classes that you have attended.

Location	Training Classes	Dates You Were Active

13. List below the names of clubs that are approved to hold tracking events that you have been a member of.

Complete Club Name (no initials)	Date	Position Held

14. List below clubs or classes, dates and position held where you serve or have served as trainer, assistant trainer, occasional trainer or training director for VST.

Complete Club Name (no initials)	Class	Date	Position Held

15. List the licensed or member tracking tests where you have served as a VST tracklayer for at least four (4) different tracks.

Complete Club Name (no initials)	Date	Class

16. List the AKC sanctioned VST matches you have judged and the apprenticeships you have completed.

Match	Date	Class

17. List the names and contact information of two **fully approved** judges who may be used as personal references.

Judges Name	Phone Number	Email
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

18. List some of the VST tests over the last five years where you have observed the judging of VST.

Trial	Date	Class
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

19. Which of the following have you read in general preparation for the test that is being applied for?

*Tracking Regulations*

*Rules Applying to Dog Shows*

*Dealing With Misconduct*

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. List any AKC seminars you have attended within the past 5 years.

Complete Club Name (no initials)	City/State	Date
_____	_____	_____

21. Please provide any information not requested in the application that you believe supplements your background or experience that you feel might qualify you to judge VST.

## CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY submit my application to the Judging Approval Committee of the AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB for its consideration and make the following certifications:

I certify that I am occupationally eligible to judge under AKC *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* and will adhere to the restrictions, if applicable, outlined in the [Occupational Eligibility Addendum](#) clarifying Chapter 7, Section 1.

I certify that I am familiar with the American Kennel Club's Rules, Regulations, Policies, *Tracking Regulations*, *Obedience Regulations*, and *Obedience Judges' Guidelines* and agree to abide by them.

I certify that if granted provisional or regular judging status, I fully understand that my judging eligibility is conditional and, therefore, reviewable by the AKC Board of Directors at any time subsequent to the date the status was initially granted.

I certify that upon review, AKC's Board of Directors may relieve me of continued judging eligibility.

I certify that I fully understand and stipulate that the Committee's authorization to judge on a provisional basis does not guarantee or imply eventual approval as a regular judge.

I certify that I understand and acknowledge that if I am charged with cruelty, inhumane treatment of animals, or similar offense involving inhumane or cruel treatment of dogs, or charged with any crime involving moral turpitude, especially as it concerns dog-related activities, the AKC may temporarily place my judging privileges on referral while the charges are pending. Further, after receiving notification of the referral, I am prevented from judging or from accepting assignments to judge. When the charges are resolved and AKC's inquiry into the matter determines that no action will be taken by the AKC to cause a suspension of my judging privileges, the temporary judging referral will be removed.

I certify that I am in good standing with the American Kennel Club, 21 years of age or older and that all information submitted in this application is truthful and accurate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current passport photo (head shot) attached.



## VARIABLE SURFACE TRACKING JUDGING APPLICANT TEST

### PART I

1. In **detail**, explain how the scent may be affected by the various factors with a VST track.
2. In **detail**, describe what you, as a judge, would take into consideration in plotting each VST track in a test. List the specifics in the order of importance.
3. **Provide specific details.** State the discussion you would have with your co-judge, then your tracklayer with regards to each item below at a VST test.
  - What would you discuss prior to plotting?
  - What would you discuss during your plotting?
  - What would you discuss on the day of the test, prior to the draw?
  - What would you discuss during the test?

4. Draw a VST track as it would appear in your Judge's book and mark it for a dog that passed. Then, on a separate piece of paper state each of the details that you included to meet the requirements of the *Tracking Regulations*.