

**UNITED BLOOD TRACKERS, INC.**

*JUDGE APPROVAL PROCESS AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM*

As of February 10, 2024

UBT Judges:

- are knowledgeable about the UBT testing rules and procedures;
- are experienced and skilled in evaluating dogs under the UBT testing rules and procedures;
- may conduct non-event UBT tests without prior authorization;
- are current UBT members and will maintain their membership as a requirement to continue judging, and
- must judge a UBT test or attend a judge's seminar every 3 years to maintain their license to judge.

Judges will automatically be suspended for failure to maintain their qualifications to judges.

Becoming a UBT Judge:

- Participation in the UBT Apprenticeship Program is not required, however, it is the most likely path to becoming a UBT judge. Individuals seeking to become a UBT Judge without participating in the Apprenticeship Program will have similar qualifications.
- Participation in the Apprenticeship Program is limited to 3 years. Extensions may be granted upon written request and approval by the Director of Testing.
- Judges must be approved by the UBT Board of Directors.
- Completion of the minimum requirements of the Apprenticeship Program, or having similar qualifications, will not guarantee approval to become a UBT judge.

*APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM*

PRIOR to requesting entrance into the Apprenticeship Program, the individual will:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Train and handle tracking dogs for real world recovery of wounded deer.
3. Train and handle a dog to a passing performance of a UBT 1.

NEXT, the individual will:

1. Request participation in the Apprenticeship Program from the UBT Director of Testing in writing. A detailed resume of general dog experience, hunting background and specific blood tracking history must be included with the request for participation in the Apprenticeship Program.
2. Maintain a record of the dates, events, activities and names of judges worked with to document their Apprenticeship Program qualifications. UBT will not be responsible for documenting qualifications. The attached form **MUST** be used.

THEN, accomplish the following:

1. Independently lay a minimum of ten test lines – at least five UBT 1's and at least five UBT 2's, and serve as the line expert. Independently laying lines would normally occur after assisting on other lines.

2. Conduct all aspects (lay line, conduct test, provide feedback to handler) of at least three UBT 1's and three UBT 2's under the oversight of an approved judge (the approved judge must approve and co-sign the test results). These tests may be included in the ten test lines above. At least one test "judged" must be a failed test.
3. Participate in testing at a minimum of four different events.
4. Participate in testing with at least five different judges.
5. Train and handle a dog to a passing performance of a UBT 2. This may have occurred prior to entering the Apprenticeship Program, but if not, must occur before requesting approval to judge.

LAST, the individual will:

1. Request three judges to submit letters of recommendation to the Director of Testing.
2. Submit a letter to the UBT Director of Testing requesting approval to judge. The Apprenticeship Qualifications Form documenting their experiences must be included.
3. Please note – requests that do not include all of the following will not be considered:
  - a. Letter requesting approval,
  - b. Apprenticeship Qualifications Form, and
  - c. Names of three judges who have been requested by the apprentice to send letter of recommendation.

The UBT Director of Testing will forward the individual's information to the UBT Board of Directors for consideration. The UBT Board of Directors may consider other combinations of knowledge, skills and abilities other than those listed above when reviewing the individual's qualifications.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS for approval to judge the UBT 3 and/or the UBT OL:

UBT 3 - For consideration of an individual to judge the UBT 3, an already approved judge must first assist on laying the lines for three UBT 3's and/or train and handle a dog to a passing performance of a UBT 3, then submit their request in writing to the Director of Testing who will take it to the Board of Directors.

UBT OL - For consideration of an individual to judge the UBT OL, an already approved judge must submit their request with qualifications in writing to the Director of Testing who will take it to the Board of Directors.

