

The Working Flatcoated Retriever Development Programme on Dummies

The FCRS Working Flatcoated Retriever Development Programme was devised following the outcome of the online survey conducted in the autumn of 2023 which indicated that handlers wanted a training programme that was available nationally and that offered structured goals to work towards.

Overview:

The WFRDP on dummies consists of 4 levels each covering Control, Obedience, Hunting and Retrieving.

Foundation Level is the entry level and is eminently achievable by those with pet gundogs or those new to gundog training. It is also suitable for those with puppies and young dogs and might be suitable preparation for puppy or NDNH working tests.

Level 1 is the standard of the KC Working Gundog Certificate on Dummies.

Level 2B is aimed at building the skills needed for successful competition in Novice Working Tests and

Level 3B is aimed at further developing skills for Open dogs and those interested in Working Tests on Field Trial lines.

Levels 2A, 3A and 4 encompass the introduction of dogs to game and progression to training on live game. These are described in a separate article.

Each level is achievable by a number of different means - Each has a checklist of the skills, behaviours and experiences expected at that level. These checklists may be downloaded from the [Working Test Forms page](#) of the FCRS website. The checklists for Foundation Level and Levels 1, 2B and 3B may be signed off as achieved by an independent gundog trainer, by another gundog club, by a trainer on a FCRS training day(s), by a [FCRS Area Working Test and Training Organiser](#), or by a FCRS approved mentor, or (exceptionally) signed off via submitted videos. (If needing to be signed off via video please contact the [Working Test Secretary](#) to discuss).

If you want to take part, please download the checklist that seems most relevant to you and your dog, take it along to your next training session and get started. The FCRS will endeavour to put on a number of training days and courses aimed at helping you with each of the different levels. These will be advertised on the FCRS website and via social media.

Handlers and dogs achieving each level and submitting a checklist/sign off form to the FCRS Hon Working Test Secretary will receive a certificate from the Society, to say that they have completed that level of training. The certificate will also indicate any areas needing further development and practice and will suggest what your next steps might be. Certificates will cost £5 to members of the FCRS (£7.50 to non-members) to cover printing and postage. (Certificates obtained via FCRS WFRDP training days are included in the cost of the training day). Rosettes will be available for an additional charge of £5 to members of the FCRS (£7.50 to non-members). When emailing your checklist/sign off form to the FCRS Hon Working Test Secretary please give your name, your dog's name (as you want it to appear on the certificate), your full postal address and please state whether you want a certificate or certificate and rosette. Checklist/sign off forms may be submitted via [email](#) (preferred) or post to:

Sarah Young FCRS Hon Working Test Secretary
13 Beadon Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 9AS

Payment should be made by Bank Transfer Sort Code 20-20-65. A/C no. 70822329. A/C name Flatcoated Retriever Society, please give your name and WFRDP as a reference; or by PayPal fcrsshop@gmail.com (note the double 's' in the middle) again please give your name and WFRDP as a reference; or

by Cheque made payable to the Flatcoated Retriever Society. Thank you.

The Programme will, from time to time, be supported by online interactive seminars. These will be advertised on the FCRS website and via social media. Some possible seminars are detailed below.

Outline of the WFRDP on Dummies

Foundation Level (on dummies)

Control, Obedience, Hunting and Retrieving, including:

Basic obedience
Heel work on and off lead
Sit stay with and without handler
Recall, including
Recall from distractions
Retrieving canvass dummies and tennis balls (seen)
Marking (handler and dog)
Marking while walking to heel.
Retrieving canvass dummies and tennis balls (unseen) - memories
Delivery to hand
Introduction of stop whistle
Introduction of hunt whistle
Introduction to casting, left, right and back.

Handler experience of Working Tests (helping out)
Readiness for Puppy or NDNH Working Tests

Entering my flatcoat in Working Tests

Online seminar for Novice Handlers covering:

How to find and enter Working Tests
How to prepare for a Working Test
What to expect on the day
What to do (and what not to do)
How Working Tests are judged
How the J regs apply to Working Tests
Glossary of terms that may be used at Working Tests
The seminars include demonstration videos of dogs and handlers and discussion of how these exercises could be scored in a Working Test.

Level 1 (on dummies)

Control, Obedience, Hunting and Retrieving, including:

Off lead heel work;
Steadiness to shot, thrown dummies, other dogs working and being left briefly while their handler retrieves a dummy;
Hunting effectively in different cover and conditions;
Picking up and retrieving dummies from a variety of different locations including over obstacles and from water;
Participating in simulated drives and walked up scenarios

Readiness for NDNH or Novice Working Tests and for the KCWGC on Dummies.

Level 2 B (on dummies)

Control, Obedience, Hunting and Retrieving, including:

Holding a line, including over obstacles eg water, fences, ditches
Handling/casting left, right and back
Stop whistle at a distance
Dry runs (recalling a dog that has not found a retrieve)
Ignoring distractions
Double marks
Blind retrieves
Hunting and holding an area
Retrieves where the fall of the dummy is out of sight

Readiness for Novice Working Tests
Walked up on FT lines training on dummies

Level 3 B (on dummies)

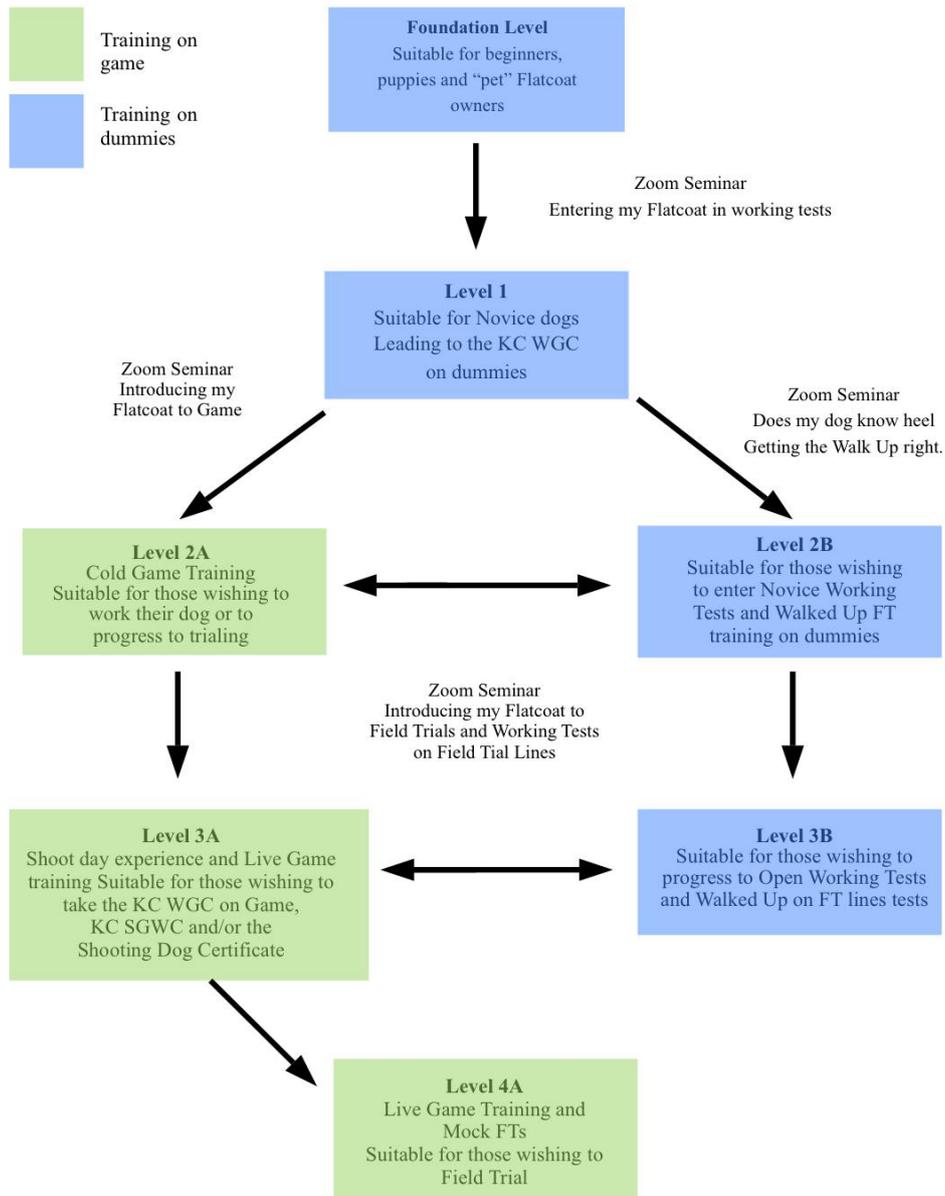
Control, Obedience, Hunting and Retrieving, including:

Building on the skills and behaviours of Level 2B to include:
More challenging ground and cover

Handler experience of using the terrain
Handler experience of using the wind
Walked up in challenging terrain and cover
Taking a line across challenging terrain
Control and handling at a distance
Marking in challenging terrain
Hunting in challenging cover
Blind retrieves
Retrieves where the fall of the dummy is out of sight

Readiness for Open Tests
Walked up on FT lines tests

The whole WFRDP pathway looks like this (there is no one correct route):



FCRS WFRDP devised by
Andrew Sweeney, FCRS FT sub Committee Member,
Heather Harley, FCRS Cotswold Area Working Test and Training Organiser
Sarah Young FCRS Hon Working Test Secretary
April 2024
 (Updated September 2024)