



RETRIEVING AUSTRALIA

CHECK LIST FOR RETRIEVING & FIELD TRIALS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

*Heading off to compete in a Retrieving or Field Trial?
Check this handy list before you leave.*

If you are taking a bitch, check if she is in heat (oestrus) before doing anything else! *

The day or night before...

- Fuel-up car
- Charge batteries for mobile phone, camera, torches, etc

Before leaving make sure you have...

- Trial meeting location information and directions*
- Trial schedule and handler number/s (if provided beforehand)
- All seasons clothing* - for hot, cold, wet & windy, plus a personal towel
- A hat and sunglasses
- Sunblock
- Fold-up chair/s
- Food and drinks*
- Dog lead/s, collars, tie down & long line
- Dog water* container and eating/drinking bowl
- Dog biscuits, treats etc
- Dog towel/s*
- Your mobile phone, reading glasses, wallet/purse and some cash*

Optional items

- Gumboots or water-proof hiking shoes (*highly recommended*)
- A white (or bright) jacket or top
- Whistle and lanyard
- Dummies and other training equipment
- Shade cloth or tarp to cool down car and cover windows
- Pocket pen & notepad

For overnight stays add...

- Camping or accommodation location and booking details
- Medicines, toiletries & cosmetics
- Dog crate and / or bedding for your dog/s
- More food and drinks
- Dog food + spoon & can-opener

Optional items

- Esky or cold food bag and freezer block
- For Camping – camping gear, warm bedding, torch, toilet paper, garbage bag/s, eating & cooking implements, etc.

** See notes overleaf...*



Provided by Retrieving Australia and Working Gundog Club Inc. (Affiliated with Dogs NSW).

Notes

Preparing for your first Retrieving or Field Trial can be an exciting time full of anticipations. To take some of the guesswork out of what to expect, consider the following.

Destination

Practically all Retrieving and Field trials are held in rural locations. Frequently on farm properties and often tens of kilometres from the nearest town. This means that you should plan to be self-sufficient while you are at the trial.

As you are most likely heading to a location you are unfamiliar with, make sure you have all the information needed to find the Trial Meeting Point. This is where the Trial Manager, Stewards, Judges and Competitors will assemble for briefings before heading off to various nearby trial sites for the day. This may be off the main road somewhere, so study your trial directions / map closely before you leave. Arrange to follow someone if possible. It's easy to take a wrong fork on country roads.

Leave plenty of time to get there as well. You need to allow at least 30 minutes extra to exercise and check your dog/s in when you arrive. If you get lost or run late, don't panic. If you have mobile phone reception try to let somebody at (or heading to) the trial know. Most importantly, consider your precious cargo and don't rush. We want to see you arrive eventually.

Vetting and briefings take place early, often 7:00am or 8:00am. If you are going to the trial on the same day as competition prepare for an early start and get as many things out of the way as you can the day before, such as fuelling-up the car, charging batteries, and packing, etc.

Food

Always check catering details for the trial as well. Catering at trials is more the exception than the rule these days and there is no time to duck down the road for a Chiko Roll if you get hungry during the day. So, if catering is not provided, prepare to bring whatever food and drink you intend to consume with you. A packed lunch, drinks, and thermos of tea or coffee should keep you going most times.

Don't forget your pup/s either. Pack whatever snacks and meals they would expect to receive from sun-up to sun-down each day including sufficient water. Bringing water from home is best. Local water can potentially lead to an upset tummy and put Rover off his form, which would be a shame.

Clothing

Trials are conducted in open environments at times of the year when temperatures across the day can vary dramatically. In high-country particularly, changes can occur suddenly and go from burning sun to drenching rain in the blink of an eye almost. Packing clothing for all seasons will ensure you are comfortable throughout the day/s ahead (and night/s which can be very cold indeed). Some wet weather protection is also a good idea, plus a towel just in case. Packing a few spare towels for Rover is also recommended. After all, he is going for at least one swim in cold water.

Two final points: 1) Clubs need funds to operate and provide you with an enjoyable event. These are often raised through raffles and other things during the day, so do please take a little spare cash to help out, and 2) Importantly, if you own a (entire) bitch, before you do any of the above make sure she is not in season before you leave. Bitches in oestrus (on heat) are banned from grounds where trials take place. So don't leave it till vetting time to find out that it is all over Miss Rover before you even started ...otherwise, all the best!

