



ISCA VERSATILITY PROGRAM

The primary objective of the Irish Setter Club of America, Inc (ISCA) Versatility Program is to demonstrate the Irish Setter's hunting ability, reasonable obedience to the handler's commands and to determine whether the overall breeding adheres to the Irish Setter Standard. Dog shows give the breeder an opportunity to demonstrate the progress made in breeding type and quality as outlined in the Standard. Companion events demonstrate the usefulness of the purebred dog as a companion to mankind. Field events are a demonstration of a sporting dog's ability to hunt in his natural environment, proving his natural instincts.

For the purposes of this document – the following definitions apply:

- Conformation – Breed Standard
- Companion Events – Obedience, Agility, Rally and Tracking
- Field Events – Field Trials and Hunting Tests

CLUB PROCEDURE

VC Conformation tests can be held at hunt tests, field trials, fun days, club meetings, specialties, supported events, etc.

1. Any AKC Irish Setter Club, recognized by and registered with ISCA, shall be eligible to conduct Versatility Tests provided the club complies fully with all portions of the Procedures, Rules and Requirements of the Versatility Program.
2. All tests shall be witnessed either by a board member of ISCA or a local club board member who is approved by ISCA and is thoroughly familiar with the rules and regulations. This local club board member, in conjunction with the Testing Committee, shall be willing to vouch for the accuracy, honesty and compliance with the rules and regulations during the tests.
3. The local club shall appoint a Test Committee consisting of a Chairman, Test Secretary, Field Representative and Conformation Representative (as appropriate to the type of test given) who shall be knowledgeable in their respective areas. The club board member may be any one of the Committee. The Test Committee shall be responsible for the entire running of the tests and the selection of the judges.
4. The Secretary of the local Irish Setter Club desiring to conduct the Versatility Test(s) shall make a written request to the ISCA VC Chairman, using the VC Application form available on the ISCA website. Each request shall include:
 - a. Date(s) and starting time of the event(s)
 - b. Exact location of the event(s)
 - c. Names of the judge(s). At least two (2) judges are required for the field test and one (1) for the conformation test. They shall be selected by the Test Committee and shall be in good standing with the AKC.
 - d. Types of birds to be used must be indicated for the field test(s)

- e. Names and addresses of the Club Test Chairman, Secretary, Committee, local club board member or ISCA board member.

IF NO CONFORMATION VC TEST IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

If there are no VC tests in your area, you should contact the VC Chairman for assistance.

1. VC Chairman may contact AKC approved Irish Setter judges in the area where the dog lives to see if there is a judge willing to conduct the VC Conformation Test
2. Once a judge is identified, the VC Chairman will put the judge and dog owner in contact to schedule the test
3. VC Chairman will supply the judge with all supplies, instructions and a self-addressed stamped envelope (for returning forms and unused supplies)
4. There is no entry fee for a test done through this clause
5. No entry form will be given to the judge. The dog's registered information will be filled in after the judge has marked the form as pass or fail.
6. Proof of these passes lies with the dog owner. They should be sure they are given a copy of the form in case the judge does not return the ISCA copy to the VC Chairman. If a judge does not return the copy and the dog owner does not keep a copy, the pass is void.

ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS

1. Any AKC registered, ILP or PAL Irish Setter who has reached the age of six (6) months on the first advertised day of the test(s) may compete for any or all tests offered.
2. All owners must be members of Irish Setter Club of America. If a co-owner is deceased, but was a member in good standing of ISCA at the time of their death, his/her ownership is considered valid for the purpose of the VC (VCA, VCX).
3. Bitches in season are not permitted to participate in the Field Test.
4. Spayed bitches and neutered dogs shall be eligible for all tests.

RULES

1. The Versatility Program is an ISCA event. Results of all tests shall be sent to the VC Chairman who shall be a member of the Board of Directors of ISCA.
2. All ratings are to be Pass or Fail and no rating is to be considered official until confirmed by ISCA. Aside from Pass or Fail, judges may make recommendations, and/or suggestions.
3. Applications to hold a Versatility Test and judging sheets will be issued by ISCA.
4. Entries must list the registered name of the dog, sex, AKC registration number, whelping date, sire and dam, breeder, test(s) entered, name of handler if different from the owner, and name and address of owner.
5. Entry may be made as many times as necessary to complete the Certificate, but no dog may be entered twice for the same test(s) in any one event.

6. Entries for all tests must be received by the Test Secretary at least one (1) week prior to the test date. Day of event entries may be taken at the discretion of the Test Secretary.
7. The Versatility Test(s) may be conducted at Field Trials, Specialties or in conjunction with any ISCA event, but for more practical purposes a special day should be set aside by the local club for the running of the test(s).
8. The Field and Conformation Tests may be conducted on the same day or may be conducted separately whichever is convenient for the local club. If they are conducted in conjunction with any AKC event, their scheduling must not interfere with the programming of the licensed show or trial and AKC permission will be required in advance.
9. An entry fee may be charged by the local club to offset the expenses of running the event.
10. When a Field VC, VCA or VCX Test is conducted in conjunction with a Field Event, the drawings should be concurrent. Drawing for an independent Field VC, VCA or VCX Test should be no later than the Wednesday preceding the test date.
11. No entry or substitution may be made after the draw.
12. The Field Test shall be conducted as in the judging of the Derby Stake (VC), VCA Stake or Gun Dog Stake (VCX) with each dog in the brace evaluated separately and marked Pass or Fail with recommendations permitted. A dog that does not point cannot be passed.
13. The Conformation Test shall be conducted in the format of a regular class in a point show with no placements made. The Judge shall mark his book Pass or Fail and may state his reasons or recommendations.
14. The required information on each dog qualifying in a test must be recorded in duplicate on forms provided by ISCA. The original copy must be received by the ISCA VC Chairman within fourteen (14) days after completion of the test(s). All unused ISCA supplies will be returned at the same time.

JUDGES REQUIREMENTS

Conformation: Any person approved by AKC to judge Irish Setters.

Field Test: Any AKC field trial judge or hunting test judge. See field tests for further qualifications.

GUIDELINES FOR CONFORMATION VERSATILITY JUDGING (VC only)

Versatility Conformation judging should be based on the present Standard which emphasizes the make and fit of all the parts and over-all balance. You are not attempting to determine whether the dog is of championship caliber in conformation but whether the specimen reflects the qualities of a pure-bred Irish Setter. A Versatility Pass should be withheld only if you would withhold a ribbon at a regular AKC Breed Show. Dogs will be presented in a condition that will allow for the adequate evaluation of coat, color, structure and movement. Three (3) passes under three (3) different judges is required.

The judging will be guided by the following scale of points:

Head	20
Body	20
Running Gear	30
Coat	5
Size, temperament, and general appearance	25

GUIDELINES FOR FIELD VERSATILITY JUDGING

VC FIELD TESTS

The tests shall be run as a modified AKC Derby Stake. The modification is in the time limit of the stake and the age eligibility. Any dog six (6) months of age or older shall be eligible. Three (3) passes under three (3) different pairs of judges at field tests are required. The judges must have judged a combined total of five (5) AKC pointing dog trials (Derby Stakes). Comparable Junior Hunting Test judging experience may be substituted. Stake shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes.

Derby Stakes: Derbies must show a keen desire to hunt, be bold and independent, have a fast, yet attractive style of running, and demonstrate not only the intelligence in seeking objectives but also the ability to find game. Derbies must point but no additional credit shall be given for steadiness to wing and shot. If the handler is within reasonable gun range of a bird which has been flushed after a point, a shot must be fired. A lack of opportunity for firing over a Derby dog on point shall not constitute reason for not passing when it had game contact in acceptable Derby manner. Derbies must show reasonable obedience to their handler's commands. Each dog is to be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future promise. A dog that does not point cannot be passed.

VCA FIELD TESTS

VCA dogs must show all the attributes of a VC dog. In addition, they must be steady to wing, staying in position until the bird is flushed on every bird encounter. Whenever it encounters its bracemate on point, a VCA dog is expected to honor (stop and acknowledge a dog on point), but it may be given a verbal command to do so. A VCA is expected to stop on a wild-bird flush but it may be commanded to do so. A dog that does not point cannot be passed.

Three (3) passes under three (3) different pairs of judges at field tests are required. The judges must have judged a combined total of five (5) AKC pointing dog trials (Gun Dog Stakes). Comparable Senior Hunting Test judging experience may be substituted. Stake shall be limited to twenty (20) minutes.

VCX FIELD TESTS

The Test shall be run under AKC Gun Dog Stake Rules. Three (3) passes under three (3) different pairs of judges at field tests are required. The judges must have judged a combined total of five (5) AKC pointing dog trials (Gun Dog stakes). Comparable Senior Hunting Test judging experience may be substituted. Stake shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes.

Gun Dog Stakes: A Gun Dog must give a finished performance and must be under its handler's control at all times. It must handle kindly, with a minimum of noise and hacking by the handler. A Gun Dog must show a keen desire to hunt, must have a bold and attractive style of running, and must demonstrate intelligence in quartering and in seeking objectives. It must also have the ability to find game. The dog must hunt for its handler at all times at a range that is dependent on whether the handler is on horseback or on foot and should show or check in front of its handler frequently. It must cover adequate ground but never range out of sight for a length of time that would detract from its usefulness as a practical hunting dog. The dog must locate game, must point staunchly, and must be steady to wing and shot on every bird encounter. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, accurate nose, and style and intensity on point are essential. A dog that does not point cannot be passed.

APPLYING FOR THE VERSATILITY CERTIFICATE TITLE (VC-VCA-VCX)

1. Upon successful completion of the Field, Breed and Companion requirements, the applicant must submit proof of his dog's qualifications to the VC Chairman of the ISCA. Copies of the following will be accepted as verification of the dog's eligibility. Mail (or scan to email) all of the following items that apply to the dog:
 - a. Photocopy of AKC Title Certificates for Bench, Field, and Companion Championships, AKC Certificates for all Companion and Performance Titles or AKC website indicating that these titles or points have been awarded.
 - b. ISCA Conformation Test Form and Field Test Certification Form received at the test. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to have kept copies of these forms.
 - c. Copies of the AKC website, indicating appropriate placements in applicable field events, companion events or show classes.
2. Application for VC (VCA or VCX) Certificates must be made within five (5) years of the title being earned and must include proof of actual owner(s) (AKC Certificate of Title is sufficient).
3. After issuance of the Versatility Certificate by the ISCA, the letters VC (VCA or VCX) may be used after the dog's name.

ISCA VERSATILITY CHAIRPERSON

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VERSATILITY CERTIFICATE (VC)

In 1979, the Versatility Program became effective and operational. The VERSATILITY PROGRAM, which is a Pass or Fail program, has proven the Irish Setter's credibility for duality.

Three (3) credits or more must be earned; at least one (1) credit must be earned in each of the three (3) categories. If points and placements are earned on the same day, they must be in separate events.

CONFORMATION

3 Championship Points – 3 different judges	1 credit
3 Placements in AKC class of 6 or more – 3 different judges.....	1 credit
3 Wins at AKC shows defeating 6 or more – 3 different judges	1 credit
Winning: Reserve Winners	
Best of Opposite Sex	
Best of Breed	
3 VC Conformation Test passes – 3 different judges	1 credit
Any combination of the above requirements which totals 3.....	1 credit

Only AKC titles, points and placements in a class of six (6) or more at AKC licensed shows will be credited.

COMPANION EVENTS

Obedience Titles (PCD, CD, GN)	1 credit
Tracking Titles (TD, TDU)	1 credit
Rally Advanced (RA) Title	1 credit
Novice Agility Titles (NA, NAJ, NAP, NJP, NF, NFP, T2B, T2BP).....	1 credit
Therapy Dog Title (ThD) plus 1 of the following	1 credit
Obedience – Novice pass	
Rally – Advanced pass	
Agility – Novice pass	
Any combination of the following which totals 3	1 credit
Obedience – Novice pass	
Rally – Advanced pass	
Agility – Novice pass	
CGC certificate or Beginner Novice Title (BN) or Rally Novice title (RN) or	
Rally Intermediate title (RI)	

Only AKC titles, degrees or placements in companion classes at AKC licensed trials will be credited.

FIELD EVENTS

3 Field Championship Points – 3 different pairs of judges.....	1 credit
3 placements in AKC Field Trial Stakes with 4 or more competing	1 credit
Puppy Stakes do not count	
3 VC Field passes – 3 different pairs of judges	1 credit
2 VCA Field Passes – 2 different pairs of judges	1 credit
3 Junior Hunter passes	1 credit
Any combination of the above requirements which totals 3.....	1 credit

Only AKC titles, points, passes and placements in any Derby Stake or higher at AKC Licensed Field Trials, Hunting Tests or local club VC field tests will be credited.

VERSATILITY ADVANCED (VCA)

As of January 1, 2010, the Versatility Advanced Program became effective and operational. The VERSATILITY ADVANCED bridges the gap between the VC and VCX titled Irish Setters.

Six (6) credits or more must be earned; at least one (1) credit must be earned in each of three (3) categories. If points and placements are earned on the same day, they must be in separate events.

CONFORMATION

8 Championship Points – 3 different judges	3 credits
5 Championship Points – 3 different judges	2 credits
3 Championship Points – 3 different judges	1 credit
4 Placements in AKC class of 6 or more – 3 different judges.....	1 credit
4 Wins at AKC shows defeating 6 or more – 3 different judges	1 credit
Winning: Reserve Winners	
Best of Opposite Sex	
Best of Breed	

Only AKC titles, points and placements in a class of six (6) or more at AKC licensed shows will be credited.

COMPANION EVENTS

Obedience Titles (PCDX, CDX, GO)	3 credits
Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) or Variable Surface (VST) Title	3 credits
Open Agility Titles (OA, OAJ, OAP, OJP, OF, OFP)	3 credits
Rally Titles (RE, RM).....	2 credits
Any combination of the following which totals 4	2 credits
Obedience – Open pass	
Rally – Advanced or Excellent pass	
Agility – Open pass	
Obedience Titles (PCD, CD, GN)	1 credit
Tracking Titles (TD, TDU)	1 credit
Rally Advanced (RA) Title	1 credit
Novice Agility Titles (NA, NAJ, NAP, NJP, NF, NFP, T2B, T2BP).....	1 credit
2 Placements in Graduate Novice, Graduate Open, Open or Utility Obedience	1 credit
2 Placements in Rally Advanced or Excellent.....	1 credit
2 Placements in Open Agility (Standard, Jumpers, FAST).....	1 credit

Only AKC titles, degrees or placements in companion classes at AKC licensed trials will be credited.

FIELD EVENTS

5 Field Championship Points	3 credits
4 Field Championship Points	2 credits
Senior Hunter (SH) Title.....	2 credits
3 Field Championship Points	1 credit
2 placements in AKC Field Trial Gun Dog Stakes	1 credit
3 VCA Field Passes – 3 different pairs of judges	1 credit
2 VCX Field Passes – 2 different pairs of judges	1 credit
2 Senior Hunter Passes	1 credit

Only AKC titles, points, passes and placements in any Gun Dog Stakes or higher at AKC Licensed Field Trials, Hunting Tests or local club VCA field tests will be credited.

VERSATILITY EXCELLENT (VCX)

As of January 1, 1984, the Versatility Excellent Program became effective and operational. The VERSATILITY EXCELLENT PROGRAM transcends the original VC program in order to honor Championship-type Irish Setters who denote excellent qualities and abilities. The VCX achievement attests the highest merits of Irish Setter duality inherent in the breed. This program is selective and difficult but not impossible.

Six (6) credits or more must be earned; at least one (1) credit must be earned in each of three (3) categories. If points and placements are earned on the same day, they must be in separate events.

CONFORMATION

Championship (CH)	3 credits
8 Championship Points – 3 different judges	2 credits
3 Championship Points – 3 different judges	1 credit
4 Placements in AKC class of 6 or more – 3 different judges	1 credit
4 Wins at AKC shows defeating 6 or more – 3 different judges	1 credit
Winning: Reserve Winners	
Best of Opposite Sex	
Best of Breed	

Only AKC titles, points and placements in a class of six (6) or more at AKC licensed shows will be credited.

COMPANION EVENTS

Obedience Titles (PUTD, UD, VER)	3 credits
Champion Tracker (CT) Title	3 credits
Excellent Agility Titles (AX, AXJ, AXP, AJP, XF, XFP)	3 credits
Obedience Titles (PCDX, CDX, GO)	2 credits
Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) or Variable Surface (VST) Title	2 credits
Rally Titles (RE, RM)	2 credits
Open Agility Titles (OA, OAJ, OAP, OJP, OF, OFP)	2 credits
Obedience Titles (PCD, CD, GN)	1 credit
Tracking Titles (TD, TDU)	1 credit
Rally Advanced (RA) Title	1 credit
Novice Agility Titles (NA, NAJ, NAP, NJP, NF, NFP, T2B, T2BP)	1 credit
Any combination of the following which totals 5 credits	1 credit
Obedience – Open or Utility pass	
Rally – Advanced or Excellent pass	
Agility – Open or Excellent pass	
2 Placements in Graduate Novice, Graduate Open, Open or Utility Obedience	1 credit
2 Placements in Rally Advanced or Excellent	1 credit
2 Placements in Open or Excellent Agility (Standard, Jumpers, FAST)	1 credit

Only AKC titles, degrees or placements in companion classes at AKC licensed trials will be credited.

FIELD EVENTS

Field Championship (FC)	3 credits
Amateur Field Championship (AFC)	3 credits
Master Hunter (MH) Title	3 credits
5 Field Championship Points – 3 different pairs of judges	2 credits
3 Master Hunter passes	2 credits
2 placements in AKC Field Trial Gun Dog Stakes	1 credit
3 VCX Field Passes – 3 different pairs of judges	1 credit
1 Master Hunter Pass	1 credit
Senior Hunter (SH) Title	1 credit

Only AKC titles, points, passes and placements in any Gun Dog Stakes or higher at AKC Licensed Field Trials, Hunting Tests or local club VCX field tests will be credited.