

American Working Malinois Association Training and Trial Policy

Dog training, especially of large and robust dogs, imposes serious obligations to maintain the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. It is critical to ensure the safety of participants and a humane experience for the dogs.

Abusive or inhumane training is a matter of personal responsibility and is defined by action rather than the specific equipment utilized. Abusive training is possible with even the most simple and innocuous equipment, such as a leash and an ordinary chain, fabric or leather collar.

For these reasons:

- ☐ Training and trial procedures must at all times be conducted so as to provide a safe and humane experience for the dog, the trainer and all other persons and animals present.
- ☐ It is the responsibility of each individual to train in a safe and humane way, and to insist that all others follow similar practices. If abusive actions are observed, the response should be to intervene and appeal to reason and/or to seek assistance from civil authorities. Abuse cases will be considered by the AWMA Board of Inquiry. By default, tolerance or non-response to abusive actions condones such actions.
- ☐ The appearance of humane and sportsmanlike conduct is second only to the fact that each of us must conduct our training and especially our trials so as to project our core values of sportsmanship and a commitment to the safety, security and well being of our dogs.