

Changes Recommended to the AKC Herding Regulations

Below is a 6 page summary version of recommended changes to the AKC Herding Regulations. These originated from the Herding Advisory Committee and the Performance Events Department.

There are a total of 21 recommendations. A more complete version of the recommendations can be viewed at www.akc.org/pdfs/events/herding/recommendations2010.pdf.

Please e-mail comments or suggestions to Lisa Carroll LAC@akc.org prior to March 1, 2010.

Herding Recommendations - Summary

January 8, 2010

<u>Recommendation</u>		<u>Page in Regulations</u>
1. Distribution of:		
- Premium Lists	Ch. 1, Sec 12, 2 nd paragraph	9
- test/trial programs	Ch. 1, Sec 15, 2 nd paragraph	12

Intent: Clubs have the option to distribute premiums and programs electronically.

Add – *“At the club’s option, the premium list can be made available on-line, however the premium list must be available for mailing if requested by participants.”*

Add – *“The program must be mailed, e-mailed, or distributed to each handler, each Judge and to the AKC at least seven days prior to the events. A club must mail the program if requested.”* Copies of the program must be available for distribution on the day of the event.

2. Number of sheep for PT boundary	Ch. 2, Sec 11	23
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Intent: PT bountry style will better serve as a first step to Course C.

Add a paragraph above the section entitled “Stock Usage” –
“When sheep are used for PT boundary style, a maximum of 12 head can be provided for each run. Separate groups could be used if available. If separate groups are not available, larger groups could be made up of smaller groups, e.g. a group of 10 could be made with two groups of 5.”

Add section d. under “Stock Usage – Sheep:” –
“d. When separate groups are available for PT boundary style, five to twelve head per run for five runs per day with at least 1/2 hour rest between runs.”

3. Clubs Offering PT Boundary style	Ch. 3, Sec. 11	29
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Intent: The recommendation allows clubs the option as to which style of PT test they wish to offer. If the type of PT test is limited, it must be stated in the premium.

Add a paragraph – *“Event-giving clubs, at their option, may choose to not offer the PT Boundary style test, or they may choose to only offer the PT Boundary style test. The premium list must state if all PT test styles will not be offered.”*

Changes to Course A

4. Centerline Gate Specification Ch. 5, Sec 2 36

Intent: Current regulations do not mention the length of the panels used in building the center-line gate.

Add wording to the description of the Centerline Gate – “Two 8 to 12 foot long panels (4 to 6 for ducks) are placed on the centerline of the area, parallel with the long walls of the area. The opening for the centerline gate is 16 feet for sheep and cattle and 6 feet for ducks. The midpoint of the opening (gate) is approximately 1/3 the length of the arena, measured from the top of the arena.”

5. Time Allowed for Cattle Ch. 5, Sec 3 39, 41, 43

At all three levels (started, intermediate and advanced) allow up to 12 minutes for cattle. (currently 10 minutes)

6. Lead is Removed as the Dog Enters Ch. 5, Sec 3 39, 41, 43
Ch. 5, Sec 4 46

At all three levels (started, intermediate and advanced) change the wording to “lead is removed as the dog enters the arena”. Currently dog enters the arena off lead.

Under Scoring – General Deductions #8, add the wording – “Up to 5 points if the dog remains on lead after entering the arena.”

Changes to Course C

- 7A. Clarify the distance the sheep following the Exit from Pen Ch. 7, Sec 1, paragraph 3 60

Add at the end of paragraph 3 – “...and provided that the exercise following the Exit from the Pen is a least 100 yards in length.”

- 7B. Description of Exit from Pen Ch. 7, Sec 2 60

Intent: Emphasize the dog’s function and less on the dog’s position.

The handler removes the lead from the dog before the gate is opened. The dog prevents the escape of the flock while the gate is opened. The handler commands the dog to enter the pen, either by jumping in or moving through the gate.

The handler will call the flock and set the sheep in motion *with the aid of the dog*. If the sheep do not begin the exit from the pen, the dog ~~should~~ ~~may move back~~ move to assist in getting the flock started. Once the flock begins to move, the dog protects the sheep and fence from possible damage. ~~The best position for this is inside the pen, close to the protruding edge of the fence.~~ *The dog's position should not be so far into the gate opening that it stops or inhibits the smooth exit of the sheep.* The flock should exit calmly and quietly through the gate without rushing. The dog follows the last sheep out of the pen.

7C. Description of Re-Pen Ch. 7, Sec 2 61

Reword to emphasize the dog's function and less it position – “The dog takes a position ~~opposite the handler~~ outside the pen...”

7D. Description of Pause of the flock Ch. 7, Sec 2 62

Add to the 2nd paragraph – “The traffic road must be at least 20 to 25 feet wide *with a clearly discernable boundary.*”

Delete in paragraph 4 and 5 the word boundary in the term roadside ~~boundary~~.

7E. Time for Wide Graze Ch. 7, Sec 2 63

Adjust the time for the wide graze – “The time for the wide graze is ~~5 to 10 minutes~~ *8 to 12 minutes in the started class and 8 to 15 minutes in the Intermediate and Advanced classes, at the Judge's discretion, and must be consistent for each run in a class.*”

8. Breaking Ties Ch. 4, Sec 9 35

Intent: Clarifies how to break ties for HIT, RHIT or to award championship points.

Section 9. Ties. All ties, ~~including High-In-Trial and for championship points,~~ *within the same level and the same course* shall, if possible, be decided by (in order):

Course A: Best score on crossdrive;
Best time.

Course B: Best score on outrun;
Best time.

Course C: Best score on grazes;
Best time.

~~Ties between courses are broken by score on the crossdrive, outrun or wide graze.~~ *Ties between levels or between courses (to decide High-In-Trial, Reserve High-In-Trial or for championship points, or to award special trophies) shall, if possible, be broken by (in order) highest level class, then by best percentage of score on the crossdrive, outrun or grazes, then by best time.*

9. Triple Champion Ch. 4, Sec 4 34
 Clarify wording for Triple Champion – “Any dog, which has been awarded the titles of *Dual Champion and the title of Obedience Trial Champion or Tracking Champion or Agility Champion* ~~Champion of Record, Obedience Trial Champion and Herding Champion~~ may be designated as a “Triple Champion”.
10. Leaving the PT Area on Lead Ch. 3, Sec 11, 11th paragraph 30
 Intent: Demonstrates that the dog is under control at the completion of the run.
 Add to the last sentence of paragraph 11 – “Once a dog has attempted or completed all test elements, regardless of whether it qualifies, it must leave the arena *on lead.*”
11. Stock Usage, Sheep Ch. 2, Sec 11, 23
 Intent: Simplify the rest period for sheep – 30 minutes in all cases.
 Sheep:
 a. Three head per run for three runs per day *with at least ½ hour of rest between runs, or*
 b. Three to five head per run for four runs per day with at least ½ hour of rest between runs, or
 c. Five head per run for five runs per day with at least ½ ~~¾~~ hour of rest between runs.
12. Livestock Specifications Ch. 2, Sec 11 23
 Remove age for cattle and increase the weight – “Cattle should weight *at least 450 lbs. from 350 lbs. to 700 lbs., and should be about six (6) months to eighteen (18) months of age depending on the breed.*”
 Clarify that ewes with nursing lambs must not be used – “Ewes with nursing lambs *must should* not be used.”
13. Preamble additions Ch.1 3
 Move the following from the beginning of Chapter 2 to the beginning of Chapter 1 –
 “Whenever the word “sheep” is used in these Regulations, it is understood that goats may be used in place of sheep, provided the premium list states that sheep and/or goats will be used.
 Whenever the word “ducks” is used in these regulations it is understood that geese and turkeys may be used in place of ducks, provided the premium list states that geese or turkeys will be used.”

Table below compares current and recommendations laid out side-by-side.

Current Requirements

Advisory Recommended Requirements

Prior to Judging Any Class in a Test or a Trial

Minimum Age:	21	<i>No change</i>
Seminar:	Yes - For first assignment, must have attended within 18 mths.	<i>No change</i>
Written Test:	Yes - score 85%+	<i>No change</i>
Sport Experience:	Five years of herding experience inc. work with dogs and stock.	<i>No change</i>
Handling Experience:	Must have trained and handled a dog that has earned an AKC Herding Excellent (HX) title	Different for test or trial – see below

Prior to Judging a Herding Test

There are three levels in Herding Tests – Herding Instinct (Certificate); Herding Tested (HT) and Pre-Trial Tested (PT).

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apprenticeship: Prior to being allowed to judge at each test level, a person must apprentice judge or serve as a judge's scribe at that level at least three times. ● Handling Experience: Trained & handled one dog to an HX title. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>No change</i> ● Trained & handled <u>two</u> dogs to HX titles. <i>Clubs are responsible for insuring judges have trained & handled dogs to the proper titles.</i> |
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Prior to Judging a Herding Trial

There are three course types in Herding trials – Course A; Course B and Course C.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apprenticeship: Prior to being allowed to judge on each course type, a person must apprentice judge or serve as a judge's scribe on that course at least three times. ● Handling Experience: Trained & handled one dog to an HX title. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apprentice judge or serve as a judge's scribe on that course at least three times <u>under different Judges. If applying for Course A or B, required to have apprentice judged a min. of 100 dogs on these two courses combined. If applying for Course C, required to have apprentice judged a min. of 25 dogs. Clubs are responsible for insuring judges have apprentice judged the required number of dogs.</u> ● Trained & handled <u>two</u> dogs to HX titles <u>on the first course applied for and one dog to HS title on all other courses applied for. Clubs are responsible for insuring judges has trained & handled dogs to the proper titles.</u> |
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To Maintain Ability to Judge

Seminars:	Attend a seminar every 3 years.	● Attend a seminar every <u>5</u> years.
Written Test:	Yes, pass the test given at the seminar.	<i>No change</i>
Frequency of Judging:	No requirements	<i>No change</i>

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| 15. | Closing of Entries | Ch. 1, Sec 13 | 11 |
| | Add 2 nd paragraph – “A club must treat all entrants in a similar manner. No club or member of a club shall offer any special consideration to an entrant. This includes but is not limited to special treatment regarding entering an event, special treatment during the draw, or any financial or in-kind incentive.” | | |
| 16. | Making Application - | Ch. 1, Sec 5 | 6 |
| | A. Shorten lead time for making application from 24 weeks to 3 months. | | |
| | B. Number of Herding Tests- A club may hold as many Herding Tests as it desires. | | |
| 17. | Herding Test Secretary | Ch. 1, Sec 6 | 7 |
| | Add - For a stand-alone Herding Test (the test has its own event number and is not on the same day as a trial), dogs owned by the Test Secretary may enter the Test. | | |
| 18. | Age to enter Instinct Test | Ch.1, Sec 3 | 4 |
| | Add - Dogs may enter Instinct Tests at six months of age. | | |
| 19. | Eligibility of Dogs | Ch.1, Sec 3 | 4 |
| | Add - A dog may enter a class (the same level, course, stock) only once per event. | | |
| 20. | Breaking the Stay in HT and PT Tests | Ch. 3, Sec 8 – Herding Test | 27 |
| | | Ch. 3, Sec 11 – Pre-Trial Test | 29 |

Currently the Regulations state that a dog in both HT and PT tests “must” stay in position until sent by the handler. The recommendation is to differentiate the HT and PT test requirements.

For the Herding Test – In HT a dog should stay until sent by the handler. If it does not, it shall not fail for that reason alone.

For the Pre-Trial Test – In PT a dog must stay until sent by the handler. If it does not, it shall not qualify.

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| 21. | Deductions | Ch. 5, Sec 4D –“A” gen. deductions | 46 |
| | | Ch. 6, Sec 4G –“B” gen. deductions | 58 |
| | | Ch. 7, Sec 4H –“C” gen. deductions | 70 |

Reinforce the following statement shown in Ch. 2, Sec 7 by adding this sentence to the general deductions section for each Course – “If the stock simply follows the handler through a course, or if the dog simply heels or follows off contact through a course, the dog must not qualify.” With this addition, all situations that impact scoring are located in the scoring section for each course.