



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Show Border Collie Herding Test

Guidelines

Cost of Test - £125 per dog payable to 'The Kennel Club'. A cheque for £100 would be paid to the hosting club.

An owner who believes that their dog is competent to take the test should send the completed application form together with full payment to the Kennel Club. The Kennel Club would then contact the owner's preferred breed club, as indicated on the application form; the owner must be a member of their preferred breed club. At the test the dog may be handled by someone other than the owner.

The breed club would be requested to assist with the organisation of the test by booking a suitable venue of their choice and appointing two judges from the list below. The test should ideally be arranged within three months of the application, but this timescale may be longer, subject to weather conditions and venue or judge availability. The test should be arranged even if only one application has been received. The test cannot take place at a venue belonging to one of the appointed judges; no judge may officiate at a test for a relative.

A representative from the host club should be present on the day of the test to ensure that valid insurance is available.

Current Approved Judges

Mrs J Goulder
Mrs M Turner
Mr N Vyas
Mr B Kilsby
Mrs R Spencer
Mrs D Whiting
Miss J Mockford
Mrs H Turner
Dr J Preiss
Miss K Gaylard
Mr P Johnson



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Approval of Judges

Breed Clubs should nominate potential judges to the Kennel Club Working Dog Activities Department.

Those potential judges meeting one or more of the following criteria would be exempt from assessment and would automatically be approved to judge at a test:-

- Has competed or currently competes and/or judged(s) in national or international sheepdog trials
- Has passed the SBCHT, handling their own or someone else's dog

Potential judges who do not meet the above criteria should be assessed at a test with one current judge before being approved.

Exemptions

Exemptions from taking the test

- Dogs placed in the first ten in an Open Trial, where a minimum of 40 dogs are competing, affiliated to the ISDS.
- Dogs placed in the first six in any Nursery or Novice Trial, affiliated to the ISDS, where a minimum of 25 dogs have competed.

Rules for the Test

Objective

'The herding test is designed to assess a dog's instinct to herd sheep in a controlled manner and under instruction of the handler'.

Outrun

With the handler standing at a starting point, the dog should be sent on an outrun to left or right at handler's choice, to collect the sheep (which will preferably be in sight) approximately 100 metres away. The handler would be required to be at the post from the start and not to move too far away.

Bring / Fetch

The dog to bring / fetch the sheep to the handler in a controlled manner.

Balance

The dog should turn the sheep around the post and handler ready for the drive, in the direction decided by the judges prior to commencement of the test and confirmed to handlers at the judges' briefing.



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Drive

The dog (and handler should they wish) should drive the sheep in a controlled manner, approximately 50 - 70 metres in the direction decided by the judges prior to the test (and confirmed to handlers at the judges' briefing). The test will end as soon as all the sheep have been driven to the judges satisfaction, to a designated point.

Passing the Test

Each dog should pass each section. If a dog failed one section then it would be at the judges' discretion whether they would be allowed to attempt part of the test again.