

# **HERDING WORKING TEST**

## **“FCI-HWT”**

- Traditional Style -

*(excluding Border Collie and Kelpie)*



**April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009**

The test is carried out to evaluate the qualities of the dogs such as herding aptitude, obedience, initiative and gentleness. The test shall promote the selection for breeding of dogs which are used for herding. It should help understand how to train the dogs. It reflects "**traditional herding**".

**Generalities:**

a) The test is open to sheep and cattle dogs (**with the exception of Border Collies and Kelpies**) of at least one year old. Monorchid, cryptorchid and sick dogs are not allowed to compete. Bitches in season must be kept apart and will run last.

b) The flock is to consist of minimum 10 sheep and must be changed after each test. They should be selected in such a way that each competitor shall work with sheep of equal quality. Preferably, the sheep used for the Test shall all come from the same flock and be similar in type. The sheep shall be well dogged and in good health. Lambs should be weaned.

The organizing committee should make sure to have sufficient sheep in order that each lot of sheep should not be stressed and should not be used more than necessary.

The course has to be designed in such a way that the handler can perform correctly:

- Pen or Sheepfold
- Management and manoeuvre (including 1 stop)
- Grazing to the square (the distance from the pen to the grazing area has to be at least 75 m.)

The test can be organized under the authority of the national canine organization with their national sheepdog working group. The test can only be judged by qualified judges who must be recognized by the national canine organisation of their country.

The judge has to control the behaviour of the dog.

This "FCI Herding Working Test" must be recognized by all FCI members and contract partners.

This "FCI Herding Working Test Certificate" qualifies a dog for the title of International Beauty Champion.

Dogs that have passed the HWT are allowed to compete in the "working class" at FCI international shows.

**EXERCISES**

<b>Pen or Sheepfold</b>		<b>20 points</b>
	-exit from the pen (10) -re-entry (10)	
<b>Conduct and manoeuvre</b>		<b>30 points</b>
	-covering the flock ( <b>20</b> ) -1 stop ( <b>10</b> )	
<b>Grazing</b>		<b>20 points</b>
	-grazing to the square (15 x 15 m)	
<b>Behaviour to the sheep, gentleness, activity</b>		<b>20 points</b>
<b>Obedience</b>		<b>10 points</b>
		<hr/> <b>100 points</b>

- Pass Mark is 60 % -

The results must be noted in the dog's scorebook or any equivalent document (e.g.: Herding Working Test Certificate).

## QUALIFICATION :

<b>&gt;= 90 points</b>	<b>EXCELLENT (EXC)</b>
<b>&gt;= 80 - &lt; 90 points</b>	<b>VERY GOOD (VG)</b>
<b>&gt;= 70 - &lt; 80 points</b>	<b>GOOD (G)</b>
<b>&gt;= 60 - &lt; 70 points</b>	<b>SUFFICIENT (SUF)</b>
<b>&lt; 60 points</b>	<b>INSUFFICIENT</b>

**>=** means “**higher than or equal to**”

**<** means “**lower than**”

Each country will issue a “Herding Working Test Certificate”.

### Behaviour Test

It is up to the judge to decide how to test. The dog should be tested in its natural behaviour. It is not allowed to attack or to stress the dog. It can be done while the handler is leading his dog (on leash) through a small group of persons while the judge is talking to him. Part of the test is to control the tattoo number or micro-chip.

The dog must be natural and lively. Shy or aggressive dogs are not allowed to run. A little reserve to strangers is accepted.

### Pen or Sheepfold

**Exit:** On the judge's command the handler may open the pen for the dog to enter (which he can accompany or not), in order to accomplish the exit of the flock. The exit is accomplished by the active work of the dog under the command of the handler. It must be done calmly and the taking in hand of the flock should be immediate.

The judge evaluates the behaviour of the dog in contact with the flock, its calmness and firmness.

**Re-entry:** It should be accomplished by the active work of the dog under the command of the handler: It must be calm and without jostling. Near the sheepfold, the flock should be halted and held in place by dog, while the shepherd opens the gate.

### Conduct and manoeuvre

a) After the exit from the pen the flock must be moved to the grazing area. The distance from the pen to this area is at least 75 m while the handler is using a simulated road or path. The judge appreciates the movement of the flock in all the positions of the test. The dog will be noted for its ability to guide the flock.

b) *Graze:* The work consists of grazing to the square or elongated in a natural field or temporary field with its limits marked by four stakes at the corners or along the front of an authorized space (15 x 15 m). The judge appraises the shepherd's handling, the position of the dog in relation to the flock and the ability of the dog to bring the flock into the graze and keep it in place with calm, efficiency and initiative.

c) *Stop (immobilization):* the dog should be capable of stopping the flock (OK). This can be done when the handler comes back from the grazing and moves to the pen for re-entry. The judge indicates the point for stopping.

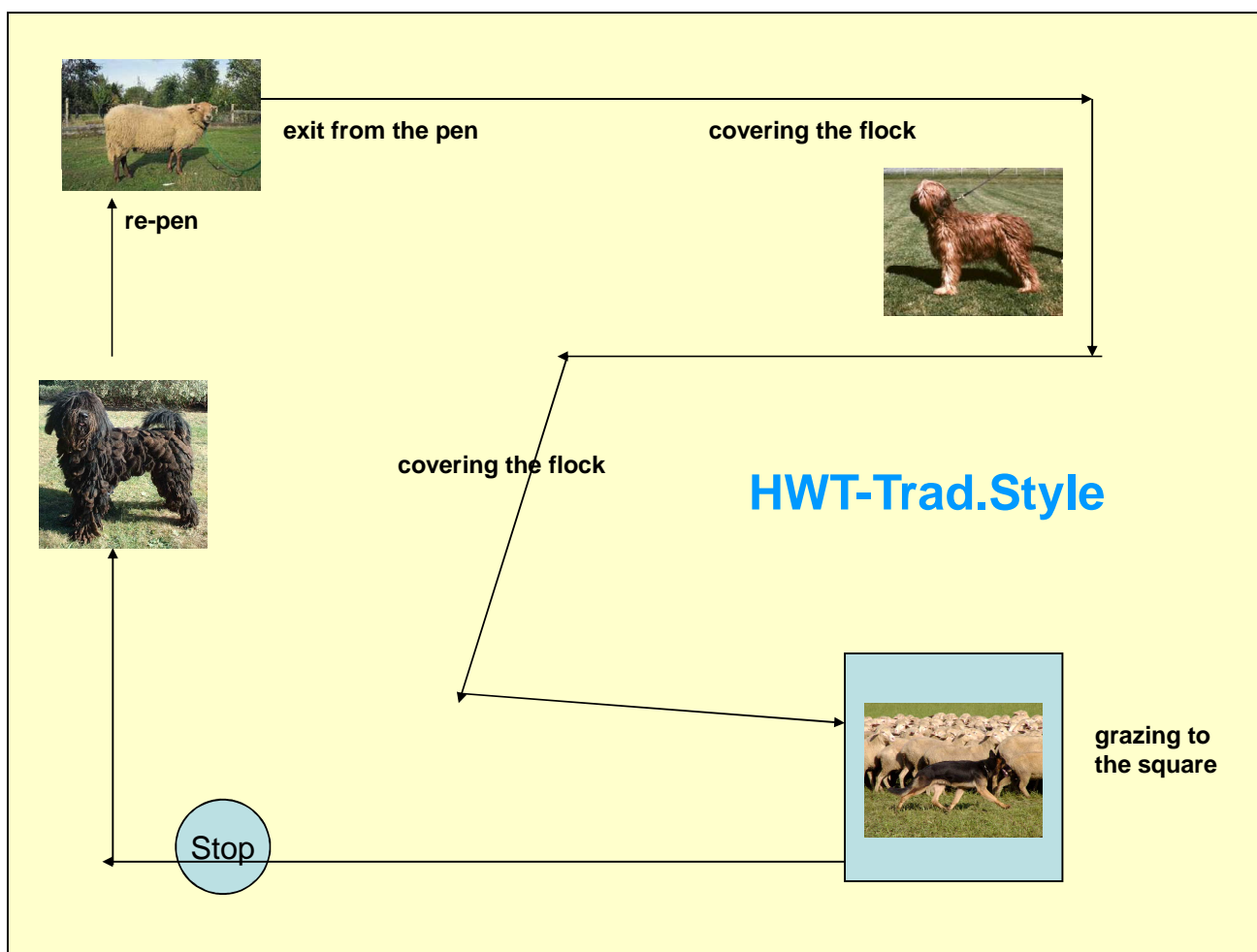
## Intelligence of execution

a) *Commands*: they can be done by voice, gesture or whistle and will have a great influence on the behaviour of the dog and the quality of its response.

b) *Obedience*: this should be immediate, complete and definitive: It conditions a good control of the flock.

c) *Activity-initiative-gentleness (behaviour towards the sheep)*: the judge evaluates the ability of the dog to guide, stop or move the flock according to the handler's instructions as well as the ability of the dog to intervene on its own initiative and upon instruction direct, stop or hold the flock in place, and regroup strays.

Apart from exceptional cases the dog should not bite the sheep and all brutality is severely penalized. A brief nip is admissible, only when necessary and in order to keep control of the flock. Obvious and untimely bites are the cause for immediate disqualification and the dog should not endanger the sheep.



**Point deductions: (-)**

**A. Pen or sheepfold**

- *anticipates departure* 2
- *too hurried or too slow in work* 2 - 5
- *allows re-entry* 2 to 5
- *allows runaway of more than 30 meters* 2 - 5
- *does not work, does not control sheep* 2 - 8
- *does not keep the sheep back from handler when both are inside pen,* 2 - 5
- *allows runaway of more than 50 meters* 2 -5

**B. Conduct and manoeuvre**

- *dog poorly placed* 1
- *goes through the course too rapidly/too slowly* 1 -5
- *late in putting the flock in place* 1 - 5
- *difficulty in immobilizing the flock* 1 -5
- *tentativeness in catching/holding the marked sheep* 2
- *choppy, winding, imprecise transit of the course* 1 - 8
- *scattering or jostling the sheep* 2 - 8
- *grazing out of limits* 2 – 5
- *loss of control, little work* 2 -10
- *does not immobilize sheep* 5
- *movement of flock during "hold" and "stops"* 5
- *dog returns to handler during graze* 5
- *complete escape of flock* 10

**C. Stop**

- *a sheep that pushes past* 1 - 5
- *sheep pull back too far* 0,5
- *slight overflow from the flock, but controlled* 2 - 5
- *late in resuming motion* 2 - 5
- *stop done by the handler, not the dog* 2 - 8
- *dog keeps working, does not stop* 2 - 8
- *allowing total movement* 10

**D. Intelligence of execution**

**a) commands**

- *useless or not performed* 1 - 3
- *too numerous, lacking in firmness* 1 - 3
- *wrong command* 2 - 5
- *recalling the dog on its abandoning work* 3
- *correcting the dog* 6

**b) obedience**

- *does not obey command* 1
- *late in obeying* 1 - 3
- *obeys command in a wrong way* 2 - 5
- *abandons the flock: disqualification*

**c) activity - initiative - gentleness**

- *wandering, chasing* 1 - 3
- *difficulty in asserting itself, fearfulness* 3
- *cutting into the flock, scattering the flock* 3

- *lack of interest in work, inattentive 2 - 5*
- *dog places itself poorly, allows escapes 1 - 3*
- *does not move when ordered 1 - 3*
- *brutality, rough gripping 2 - 5*
- *unnecessary grip 1 (max.5)*

#### **E. Disqualifications**

- *wrong act by the handler*
- *drunken and/or under the effect of drugs*
- *unjustified dispute*
- *hindrance of the normal unrolling of the course*
- *abandoning the flock*
- *refusal to obey, flagrant disobedience*
- *unjustified or dangerous bites*
- *repeated brutalities by the dog or handler*
- *frequent scattering of the flock*
- *fearfulness or aggressiveness*
- *failure to control the flock*
- *dog wandering during the passage of another competitor*

The English text is the authentic one.

A 5-year transition period, starting from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, is given to all dogs having already taken part in national Herding tests. The results obtained by these dogs in those trials make them eligible to take part in the FCI International Herding Tests (Traditional Style), in addition to the FCI Herding Working Test (Traditional Style).

**These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee at the meeting in Berlin, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. They become effective from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.**

***The changes in bold and italic character were approved by the FCI General Committee in March 2009.***