

## MASCA HERDING PROGRAM

### **Mission Statement**

The MASCA Herding Program will allow dogs and handlers to demonstrate their stock skills at graduated levels of training and ability on various types of stock.

### **Sanctioning of Events**

1. Events may be open to all breeds or limited to Australian Shepherds/Australian Shepherds of the miniature variety. This will be determined by the host club or host individual.
2. MASCA'S sanctioning form must be completed 21 days in advance and sent to the MASCA board.
3. Copies of MASCA'S score sheets will be provided by MASCA. They can be downloaded at the website at [www.mascaonline.com](http://www.mascaonline.com).
4. A copy of the premium list will be provided to the MASCA board at least 2 weeks prior to the event. It will include: start time for classes, ribbons and awards to be given, description and diagrams of courses, type of stock offered, cost per run.

### **Organization and Recording**

1. The event secretary must be present throughout the event.
2. The course director is responsible for setting up the course. The course director will also be in charge of stock for the event.
3. There will be a minimum of two time keepers and two people counting points at designated obstacles.
4. Good sportsmanship will be shown at all times. Any disputes will be referred to the course director. If the dispute can't be resolved, the facts can be sent in writing to the MASCA board for resolution.
5. Awards and ribbons or patches to qualifiers (**Herding Dog Levels 1,2,3,4,5** and placing of 1-4 in each class **Herding Dog Levels 1,2,3,4,5**).
6. The owner of the dog will receive the original score sheet.
7. A trial report form will be sent to the MASCA Treasurer, who will forward to the Herding secretary. The report form must show scores, places and list all qualifying runs for recording purposes. A \$1.00 filing fee per run will accompany the score sheets. **This will be due 15 working days from the trial date.**

### **Eligibility:**

1. The program will be open to all dogs 6 months of age and older, **depending on each individual level.**
2. Bitches in heat may participate, but will run at the end of the order.
3. Dogs must be sound and in good health. The course director will determine if the dog is unfit to participate. Examples: Lameness, injury, illness, advanced pregnancy.
4. Owners of participating dogs need not be members of MASCA. **A MASCA tracking number can be obtained so the titles can be earned and recorder.**
5. The qualifying score for each run is a minimum of 70 percent of the total score available (within the total score, **no dog can earn a qualifying score if any obstacle is scored a zero.**

### **Levels of Certificate:**

**HIC - Herding Instinct Certificate - See MASCA herding instinct form.**

### **Levels of Tittles:**

**HD-L1** - Herding Dog Level 1 - The dog is capable of a short outrun and gather. The dog can drive or fetch the stock through panel runways and through a panel gate. One leg has to be earned on Course A & one leg has to be earned on Course B. - See course for HD-L1.

**HD-L2** - Herding Dog Level 2 - The dog is capable of the following: outrun, gather, fetch. Handler will be able to walk the course with the dog and enter all obstacles. One leg has to be earned on Course A &

one leg has to be earned on Course B. Dogs can have little or no trial experience, but must be able to control the stock. - See Courses for HD-L2.

**HD-L3** - Herding Dog Level 3 - The dog is capable of the following: outrun, gather, fetch or start of a drive, take pen, and re-pen. Handler will be able to walk the course with the dog, There is no handler line. One leg has to be earned on Course A & one leg has to be earned on Course B. Dogs can have little or no trial experience, but must be able to control the stock. - See courses for HD-L3.

**HD-L4** - Herding Dog Level 4 - The dog is capable of all skills listed for the HD-L3. One leg has to be earned on Course B & one leg has to be earned on Course A or Course C. In addition, the dog is capable of controlling and rating the stock. The dog will have a parallel drive and the start of a cross drive. It will also be able to work a center pen or obstacle. The dog should be able to work at a distance from the handler, so there is a handler line. - See courses for HD-L4.

**HD-L5** - Herding Dog Level 5 - The dog is capable of all skills listed for the HD-L4. One leg has to be earned on Course B and one leg has to be earned on Course A or Course C. The dog will also be able to work at any distance from the handler. - See courses for HD-L5.

#### **Regulations for Trial Levels:**

Once a dog has trialed at or earned a leg toward a particular title, it may not enter at a lower level in regular classes. Titles are earned separately, however, on different types of stock and in a different trial program (Arena or Farm & Ranch), so a dog may enter at a lower level in a different trial program or a different type of stock in regular trial classes. Dogs may enter at any level on any type of stock or course for exhibition-only runs with the permission of the course director.

#### **Reasons for Being Excused From The Arena:**

The course director will make all necessary calls.

1. Unnecessary gripping or gripping in severe manner. Grips should only be on the head and legs. For ducks, there should be no mouthing, gripping or pouncing on. A warning need not be given.
2. Overrunning of the stock by the dog.
3. Handler taking hold of the dog in the arena.
4. Any dog that can not be called off the stock and has to be chased down by the handler.

#### **Run Order**

1. Run Order will be determined by random drawing.
2. Drawn positions will not be altered after the draw with the following exception: Back to back runs will be avoided, by providing at least one handler between the drawn back to back runs.

#### **Run Start Time To Finish Time:**

1. The clock will start when the handler releases his dog, or when the handler opens the take pen gate.
2. If the dog is sent before the stock has cleared the pen on a set out, the clock will be started.
3. A 3 minute warning will be given.
4. Time will be called at 6 minutes (HD-L1), 8 minutes (HD-L2 & HD-L3), 10 minutes (HD-L4 & HD-L5).
5. Time stops when the last head of stock crosses the finish line or the pen gate is closed.
6. Time to be used - to the 1/100 of the second: i.e. 6:45:27.

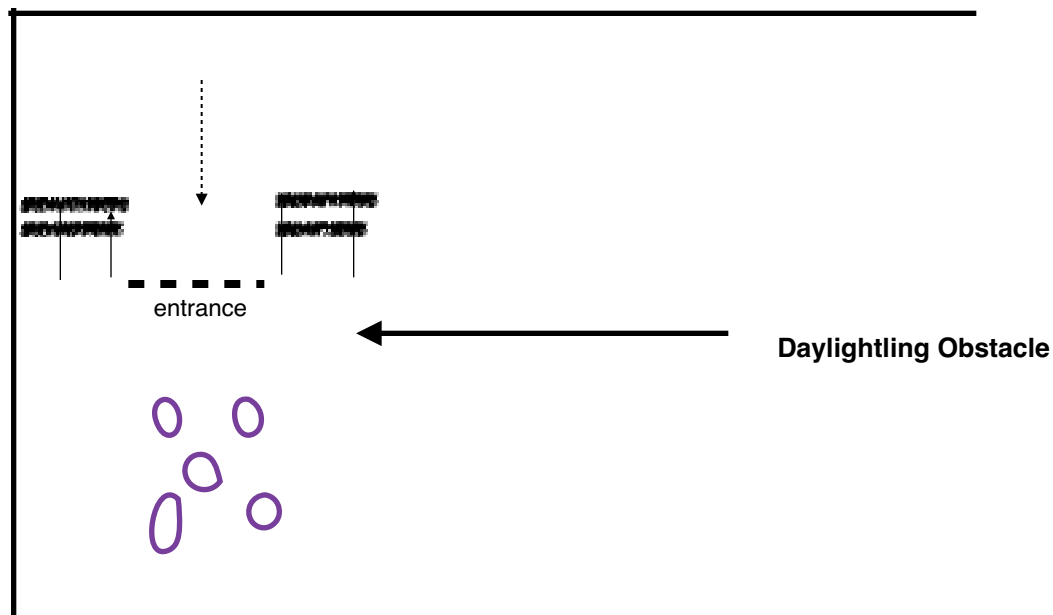
#### **Handler Rules**

A handler meeting will be held prior to the start of the trial to answer any questions and to brief the handlers on the course and stock.

1. You **cannot** touch the stock unless they pose a threat to your safety.
2. You **cannot** run or climb over gates or fences unless there is a threat to your safety.
3. You may carry a crook or cane. The only noise maker allowed is a whistle.
4. Dogs cannot wear training collars in the arena.
5. Dogs will enter the arena on leash. They will work off leash.

6. You must leave all gates set as they were at the beginning of your run.
7. You must not physically abuse any dog.
8. Handlers are expected to act in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. Abusive or abrasive behaviors will not be tolerated and could be met with disqualifications.
9. Daylighting means to completely come out of the obstacle before attempting it again.

**Example:** If for some reason the stock go into the obstacles through the exit, they must be brought clear out of the obstacle and back into the obstacle through the entrance in order to receive Course points. (See diagram). This includes all of the obstacles, including the center gate or angle chute. All head of stock must clear the entrance of the obstacle before being turned back around for Course points to count. Only those head of stock that clear the daylight line will count for Course points.



10. Handler and dog **must be** at the handler post before stock is set out to work.
11. Handler **must not** go thru the obstacles for the HD Levels 3, 4 and 5 courses. **But** may enter the take pen in HD Level 3.
12. Handler can go through the obstacles for the HD Levels 1 and 2 courses. Handler **may** help the dog exhaust stock from the take pen in HD Level 2.
13. Handler cannot enter the re-pen area when re-penning the sheep.
14. The dog cannot enter the re-pen area at the end of the run.
15. **A score of zero on any obstacle constitutes a non-qualifying run.**
16. The course director can also call an obstacle, when the stock is obviously not being controlled by the dog. The obstacle will not be scored if the handler is moving the stock and the dog is not within range of the stock.
17. Dogs not registered with MASCA can obtain a tracking number for \$5.00
18. **Time is recorded after the third obstacle to break ties, if final point scores and final times are the same.**
19. A run is complete when the last head of stock crosses the finish line or the gate to the re-pen is closed.

**Determining Winners and Places:**

1. High points will determine the winner and subsequent place for each trailing level.
2. Ties will be resolved by the lowest time elapsed for the entire run, and then by the median time.
3. Ribbons or Patches and awards will be given through 4 places in:  
Herding Dog Levels: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
4. Qualifying Ribbons or Patches will be given for all qualifying scores in:  
Herding Dog Levels: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5. High In Trial can be given for:  
Herding Dog Levels: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

There will be separate HIT's awarded for Aussies/Mini Aussies (MASCA, ASCA, NSDR and AKC) from other breeds (i.e. Border Collies, Shelties, North American Shepherds, etc.) HIT's will also be given for other breeds. HIT can be given daily or accumulated over the number of days the trial is held. The hosting club makes that decision.

**Livestock Charts:**

**3 Head of Stock/Group**

**4 Head of Stock/Group**

# of Stock	Max # of runs	Max # of runs	Max # of runs	# of Stock	Max # of runs	Max # of runs	Max # of runs
	Ducks	Sheep Goats	Cattle		Ducks	Sheep Goats	Cattle
3	n/a	3	4	4	n/a	3	4
6		6	9	8		6	8
9		9	12	12		9	12
12		12	16	16		12	16
15		15	20	20		15	20
18		18	24	24		18	24
21		21	28	28		21	28
24		24	30	32		24	32
27		27	36	36		27	36
30		30	40	40		30	40
33		33		44		33	
36		36		48		36	
39		39		52		39	



### 5 Head of Stock/Group

# of Stock	Max # of runs	Max # of runs	Max # of runs
	Ducks	Sheep Goats	Cattle
5	4	3	4
10	8	6	8
15	12	9	12
20	16	12	16
25	20	15	20
30	24	28	24
35	28	21	28
40	32	24	32
45	36	27	36
50	40	30	40
55		33	
60		36	
65		39	

### HERDING PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

**Fencing** - Fencing shall be safe for stock to work in without injury.

**Panels** - All panels should be easily visible and of sturdy construction

Size: Ducks - 4'-5' x 2' high  
 Sheep, Goats, Cattle - 8'-12'

**Pens** - All gates must swing open on a hinge.

Take Pen/Re-pen Size:

Ducks - 6'x6' to 16'x16' with a gate minimum of 6'  
 Sheep/Goats/Cattle - 8' to 16' with gate a minimum of 8'

Center Freestanding Pen Size:

Ducks - 4'-5' square  
 Cattle/Sheep/Goats - 8' to 16' panels with the gate a minimum of 8'

All other dimensions will be listed on the individual courses.5