

MASCA HERDING PROGRAM

MASCA chose to go with a points/time trial format to make it easier for members to host trials anywhere in North America or overseas. This format alleviates the costs of flying in judges from other areas, which greatly reduces the costs of hosting a trial. Your basic costs are facilities, stock, and prizes. The trial can be small or large. The members can determine what levels they want to have available at the trial.

The Herding Instinct Test is done under a qualified ASCA/AKC/AHBA or MASCA board approved judge. The other levels, Herding Dog Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 are point/time events, supervised by the designated course director. It is a good idea to schedule your judge for a herding clinic the day before the trial. It helps bring in participants and revenue.

A points/time trial does not encourage running the stock around the course to “get the fastest time”. Proper stock handling is required to move smoothly through the course, putting the stock through each obstacle. Not getting any head of stock through an obstacle results in a non-qualifying run. A run can also be called for abusing or running the stock. A no score on an obstacle can be called when the dog is obviously not in contact and moving the stock. The handler can not move the stock without the dog. For example, the dog can't be off sniffing or in a down position off stock when the stock goes through the obstacle. The dog and handler can attempt most obstacles a second time, if a no score is called for the dog not being in contact with the stock. This is determined by the course director, who should be experienced in handling stock.

The pre-trial levels consist of the Herding Instinct. The trial levels at this time are Herding Dog Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. There are two courses, A and B, for required legs in HD-L1, HD-L2, and HD-L3. Three courses are available for the HD-L4 and HD-L5, with a choice of B course for one leg, and A or C course for the other leg.

There is also a Farm and Ranch Program which consists of trial courses specific to the trial setting with F/R Levels 1, 2 and 3. These skills are consistent with typical chores on a farm or ranch. They are also point/time trials.

Additional trial courses and levels can be added as our dogs are ready for more advanced work, such as a Championship level course. A Herding Trial Championship on each type of stock can be earned by attaining an HD-L5 and a F/R-L3. The Championships can be earned on ducks, sheep, goats, and cattle.

MASCA encourages everyone to participate in this very important part of our dogs' heritage, working stock.

Ribbons or medals will be presented at each trial. Additional awards are optional.

Ribbons can be ordered from: Hodges Badge Company www.hodgesbadge.com 1-800-556-2440

Medals can be ordered at <http://www.crownawards.com/StoreFront/indexmain.html>

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