



The Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, Inc.
An AKC Member Club

March 29, 2000

Jim Hutchins, PhD
President, Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, Inc.
128 Chippewa Circle
Jackson, MS 39211-6513

Director
The American Kennel Club
260 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Dear :

Thank you for giving the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America the opportunity to express our official opposition to several of the proposed changes in herding regulations currently before the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club. As the Parent Breed Club for Australian Cattle Dogs, we are writing to fulfill our obligation to our breed and to preserve the inherent ability of Australian Cattle Dogs to perform their intended purpose. Additionally, it is of vital importance that we continue to host cost-effective AKC Herding events in order to display and quantify that inherent ability. Our primary concern is the selection for type and function of the Australian Cattle Dog and preservation of those traits unique to that type and function. Several of the proposed changes would seriously compromise our breed and our financial ability to host AKC herding events with cattle at our National Specialty, or for regional Australian Cattle Dog clubs to host cattle trials.

Fortunately, based on our many years of hosting herding events offering sheep and cattle, we have some alternatives to offer which provide for the intended benefits of the proposed regulation changes while protecting our breed. We think these alternatives will provide various herding breed clubs the tools necessary to select for type and function, and to host financially viable AKC herding events offering multiple types of stock at National Specialties.

Although we fully participated in the Herding Advisory process, the elected club Delegates were not afforded the opportunity for organized discussion as was the case with the last two Herding Advisory Committees. This left many unanswered questions as to how some changes might affect the welfare of individual breeds or if they would be in compliance with the AKC Charter or Mission Statement. Parent Breed Clubs were not allowed any additional input to voice their specific concerns. We tried to communicate our concerns directly to the Performance Events Department without any success. At this point our only alternative is to contact the Board of Directors for your assistance. Parent breed clubs have the additional burden of representing a breed while making changes to AKC events that all-breed clubs do not. We would like to recommend returning to the previous configuration of the advisory process for herding, with live or organized electronic discussion amongst breed club representatives. We would appreciate anything the Board could do to help Parent Breed Clubs discharge their responsibilities to their breed while promoting AKC Herding Events that are non-discriminatory to any breed.

Please find the attached list of the specific regulation changes we oppose, the reason for our opposition, data to support our conclusions, and some possible alternatives. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our club Delegate, Mrs. Kathryn Hamilton. She will provide you with any needed information. She can be reached at (503) 647-0946 or by e-mail at: redwing@TELEPORT.COM. Thank you for your help with these matters.

Sincerely Yours,

Jim Hutchins PhD, ACDCA President

Pamela Mansfield, ACDCA Secretary

Kathryn Hamilton, ACDCA AKC Delegate

1. HCH Points on Ducks revision: Proposed Revision; Chapter 4, Section 4, Herding Champion, paragraphs 2 & 3. "The number of points awarded will be determined by the total number of dogs defeated, including dogs with HX and Herding Champion titles. There shall be no differentiation between dogs working sheep, cattle or ducks or between courses (combined total in the advanced class) when determining championship points." "The scores from all advanced classes are combined and sorted in order of scores. A dog that qualifies in more than one HX class is credited and listed only once, with it's highest score."

Why we oppose this revision:

- As proposed, there is no stock or course designation for Herding Champions. The title remains HC, eliminating the ability to determine the course or stock on which the Herding Championship is earned, while allowing it to be earned on more docile stock. The prerequisite Herding Excellent title is not indicative as it can be earned on multiple courses and stock types.
- Herding is the only AKC performance event where breeds with vastly differing traits enter and/or are judged against one another on the same courses and stock at the same event. IE: Pointers enter pointer trials, retrievers enter retriever trials, spaniels enter Spaniel trials and none of them can cross-over or are judged against one another for legs, titles, points, or Field Championships. Herding dogs are not restricted in this manner because some breeds are generalists and some breeds are specialists. As an example, Australian Shepherds are generalists. They have been selected for duck, sheep or cattle work. Those selecting Australian Shepherds for reproductive purposes would want to know each individual's traits, as it isn't readily apparent by breed as it is in Field Trials. That is the fundamental difference between an undesignated herding Champion title and a Field Champion Title. This designation is very important to Australian Cattle Dogs because the regulations allow entries on all courses and types of stock. As the name implies, Australian Cattle Dogs are cattle specialists, not generalists. To select for type and function in Australian Cattle Dogs we must be able to distinguish between cattle Champions and duck Champions.

Our suggested solutions:

- Reject the revision adding Herding Champion points on ducks or;
- Approve Herding Champion points on ducks and provide stock specific prefix designations for Herding Champions as previously approved for all other herding class suffix titles. (HCd, HCs, HCc)
- Approve Herding Champion points on ducks and provide the same stock **and** course prefix designations for Herding Champions as previously approved for all other class suffix herding titles. (HCAdsc, HCBdsc). C course is sheep only, so it would not need to be added. Whether prefix or suffix, the designation itself is more important than position and we would welcome the opportunity for either.

NOTE: The previously approved course and stock designations and ensuing interpretations from Performance Events, restricts dogs to accruing Herding Championship points on the course and stock where the Herding Excellent title is earned. Providing stock and course designations to Herding Champion Titles would increase participation and income by encouraging Herding Champions to enter on additional courses and stock types for additional designations. This would be a cumulative type designation, similar to the Lure Coursing Excellent titles recently approved for Lure Coursing Champions. (LCX, LCXII, LCXIII, etc) except shown as prefix attachments (HCd, HCs, HCc). There is no negative effect in designating stock type and course(s) in the Herding Champion Title, but the reverse is not true, especially for specialists like Australian Cattle Dogs. The reasoning for this suggestion is exactly the same as for adding the designations to the class level titles, which were previously approved by the Board and in affect January 1, 2000. We think this is a logical progression which provides the ability to identify the inherent abilities of AKC Herding breeds and encourages continued participation at all levels.

2. High in Trial revision: Proposed revision to Chapter 1, Section 10. Ribbons and Rosettes. (B) Trials, fourth paragraph: "Each club or association holding a licensed or member club herding trial shall award one High in Trial and Reserve High in Trial placement ribbon." Additionally, although not included in the ballot, this would require amending Chapter 2, Section 10 (Trials) last sentence, first paragraph: "If more than one type of stock is used, High in Trial and reserve should be awarded for each kind of stock."

Why we oppose this revision:

- The point schedule currently provides double points up to a maximum of five Championship points for winning High in Trial, regardless of stock or course. With this proposal, cattle dogs would be in direct competition with dogs working more docile stock (sheep and ducks) for the one High in Trial and double Championship points available at events offering sheep or ducks in addition to cattle. This includes the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America National Specialty. The rough equivalent would be judging pointers

and retrievers at a retriever specialty in one common event and awarding only one set of points; to a pointer or retriever, but not both. AKC doesn't do this for a very good reason. Besides avoiding discrimination, Pointing and retrieving require completely different traits in the same way duck, sheep and cattle work require completely different traits, even on the same course.

- AKC Herding is scored on a "line", points being deducted by variation from the prescribed course as contained in the suggested scoring in the regulations, regardless of the stock. Because cattle are larger, slower, and more powerful than ducks or sheep, they are far more difficult to hold on the prescribed course. This is why Australian Cattle Dogs exist! This revision places dogs working cattle at a disadvantage for scores and Herding Champion points however they are decided, when more docile types of stock are offered at a trial.
 - Ties for placements, High in Trial, majors, and championship points between all courses and stock are broken by best score, best score on the tie-breaking course section, (A course/cross-drive; B course/outrun; C course/wide graze) and best time. Because cattle are larger, slower, and more powerful than ducks or sheep, they take much longer to complete the same courses. However these matters are decided, this revision places dogs working cattle at a further disadvantage to dogs working more docile stock for points, majors, High in Trial and ultimately, Championships. If there is only one High in Trial, in order to finish a Herding Championship, an Australian Cattle Dog would be forced to enter on ducks or sheep to earn majors and points from High in Trial unless the trials were cattle only.
 - This revision saves clubs a few dollars on rosettes but doesn't account for stock related losses at national Specialties. We approve of the ability to enter on all courses and stock because cattle, unlike sheep and ducks, are very expensive, not because it benefits our breed in any other way. The income from sheep (and sometimes ducks) makes cattle trials possible. Ducks can be rented for \$1-\$3 per head per day, sheep can be rented for \$3-\$6 per head, per day. Cattle can be as high as \$25 or more per head, so the income from sheep is required to offer cattle. Thus, one High in Trial, if it discourages cattle entries or promotes working on more docile stock, has a severe negative impact on our breed and our ability to host cattle trials.
- **EXAMPLE:** For the last four years the ACDCA has offered sheep to pay for our cattle costs at our National specialties and to encourage beginners to enter on cattle after gaining some experience with sheep. We think this is both good for entries and is safer for beginners. If this proposed regulation change had been in effect for that time, majors for Herding Champion points and High in Trial at the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America National Specialty Trials would have been on sheep. However, we have had the very useful stock specific (cattle) High in Trial to provide points and majors to dogs working cattle at our nationals. Besides paying the bills, sheep entries translate into entries on cattle. This, in turn, allows us to judge the form and function of the dog on the stock for which it was intended. If this revision is approved as presented, we will be forced to choose between losing money on cattle-only trials or, losing the ability to test our breed in a realistic simulation of it's inherent ability and the opportunity to award points for that specific purpose at our own national specialty. In addition, if we offer cattle only, our beginners would lose the opportunity to enter with some sense of security on sheep, the entry level for the program. We are asking for some way to resolve this problem for our breed.

NOTE: The final sheet of this packet contains two Specialty Herding Trial budgets for our upcoming Nationals, one without sheep and one with sheep. We think they will be most informative, and aside from our breed concerns, will illustrate very well our financial problems resulting from the one High in Trial revision as presented. Please pay special attention to what happens to the AKC fees when this happens. It hurts everyone financially!

Our suggested solutions:

- Reject the one High in Trial revision and retain stock specific High in Trials, or
- Approve the One High in Trial revision. Remove double championship points for High in Trial. Double points for High in Trial is a leftover from the days when we didn't have enough dogs participating to make points. Since that is no longer a problem, removing double championship points would resolve the one High in Trial issue completely.
- Approve the One High in Trial revision. Provide double championship points for the high scoring dog from each type of stock whether "High in Trial" or not. This would maintain the intent of the proposed revision. This is a version of the previous suggestion, resolving the one High in Trial issue while still awarding double points.

- Approve the One High in Trial revision. Allow all Herding Breed Parent or Regional Clubs holding trials limited to one breed to specify the stock the High in Trial will be offered on at specialty trials offering more than one type of stock, if they choose. This could be done during the application process. Participants in specialty events would know of the restriction from the premium list. Perhaps limit the number of these events a breed club could hold to two per year.
- Approve the One High in Trial revision. Allow National and Regional Breed clubs to offer a separate class or event with points (not exhibition only) which is limited to one breed and has a separate event number from the National or Regional Breed Specialty trial(s). This would allow Breed clubs to offer a breed/stock specific High in Trial for that event/class and the accompanying points at their National Specialties while holding a corresponding herding event awarding the one High in Trial and points as presented in the revision. The separate class would replace the corresponding class in the regular trial so there would not be a duplicate class. The only change would be the separate event number. Perhaps limit the number of these events a breed club could hold to two per year.
- We ask only for the opportunity to develop a dialog or process to resolve these breed specific issues to everyone's satisfaction. We think the program can grow and be profitable for everyone involved if it serves the AKC mission and is held to that standard.

Note: The One High in Trial revision not only affects the bottom line of herding clubs, but it affects the AKC as well. Please note the difference in AKC fees when sheep and cattle are offered as opposed to cattle only.

Actual Budget Examples:

2000 ACDCA Specialty Budget without sheep (2 days):

Herding Test I and II-----Herding Trials I and II		
Herding Secretary/Catalogs-----	\$1,245.00	
Hotel for Secretary (3 nights @ \$70)---	\$210.00	
Arena-----	\$400.00	
Cattle (40 head @\$20)-----	\$1600.00	
Hay and feed -----	\$200.00	
Herding Judges		
Fee (\$150 X 4)-----	\$600.00	
Travel (driving)-----	\$500.00	
Hotel (3 nights @ \$70.00)-----	\$210.00	
Food (\$50 per day, per judge)-----	\$200.00	
<u>AKC fees(35 per day X 2days X \$3)-----</u>	<u>\$210.00</u>	
Judges gifts-----	\$100.00	
Herding Entries 70 @ \$40-----	\$2,800.00	
Herding Catalog Ads and Sales-----	\$800.00	
TOTAL HERDING-----	\$5,475.00	\$3,600.00-----(\$1,875.00) LOSS

2000 ACDCA Specialty Budget with sheep (2 days):

Herding Test I and II-----Herding Trials I and II		
Herding Secretary/Catalogs-----	\$1,245.00	
Hotel for Secretary (3 nights @ \$70)-----	\$210.00	
Arena-----	\$400.00	
Cattle (40 head @\$20)-----	\$1600.00	
Sheep (50 head @ \$5.00)-----	\$500.00	
Hay and feed -----	\$300.00	
Herding Judges		
Fee (\$150 X 4)-----	\$600.00	
Travel (driving)-----	\$500.00	
Hotel (3 nights @ \$70.00)-----	\$210.00	
Food (\$50 per day, per judge)-----	\$200.00	
<u>AKC fees (80 per day X 2=160 X \$3=)-----</u>	<u>\$480.00</u>	
Judges gifts-----	\$100.00	
Herding Entries 160 @ \$40-----	\$6,400.00	
Herding Catalog Ads and Sales-----	\$800.00	
TOTAL HERDING-----	\$6,345.00	\$7,200.00-----\$855.00 PROFIT