FCI INTERNATIONAL RULES FOR HERDING WORKING TEST
COLLECTING STYLE

(FCI HWT CS)

(for Border Collie exclusively)

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1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1.   The FCI Herding Working Test Collection Style (HWT CS) is carried out in order to preserve the characteristics related to the ability to handle sheep and obtain its aptitude through the work of many herding dog generations at sheep flocks. The HWT CS rules are set up in this sense.

1.2.   A successful passing of HWT CS is a recommendation for the use of the dog in breeding and it is necessary to participate in FCI Herding Trials Collection Style (IHT CS).

1.3.   In the HWT CS the dogs have to prove that they have the basics to become a working sheepdog. The tasks of the dog are:
   a)   taking the flock out of the pen and stabilising the flock;
   b)   controlling the movement of the flock in a 'drive together' (several directional changes, at least 2 times on both sides);
   c)   gathering the sheep (outrun, lift and fetch);
   d)   controlling the movement of the flock in a 'drive away';
   e)   stabilising the flock and driving the flock into the pen.

1.4.   The test is carried out to evaluate the qualities of the dogs such as herding aptitude, obedience, initiative and gentleness.

2.   GENERAL CONDITIONS

2.1.   The main principles for HWT CS are to be found in the "GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF FCI HERDING EVENTS".

2.2.   The HWT CS is open only for Border Collies.

2.3.   The test is open to Border Collies of at least twelve months old.

2.4.   The HWT CS must be recognized by all FCI members and contract partners.

2.5.   Only the Border Collies which have successfully passed the HWT CS are allowed to compete in the working class at FCI international shows and/or are allowed to qualify for the title of International Beauty Champion.

3.   SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

3.1.   Area and its equipment

3.1.1. **Area** – the field has to be at least 75 x 150 meters, preferably even larger; it may be with natural barriers such as trees, but clearly framed. Fencing is recommended, but the border can be natural or artificial. The field must be clean before the event starts and must be without unnecessary artificial obstacles.

3.1.2. **Pen** – with a perimeter at least 10 meters, with a gate of at least 2 meters wide (with a rope approx. of 2 m tied to it) ideally on hinges and with functional protection against opening by the sheep.

3.1.3. **Drive together course** – the judge will decide which direction to walk with 4 changes of direction. The whole drive together should be at least 150 m.

3.1.4. **Markings** – poles or other items or a natural point to mark the places of change of direction.

3.2. Number of sheep

3.2.1.   The flock for each run must consist of at least 10 sheep.

3.2.2.   The total number of the competing teams must be limited by the organizer in view of the total number of the sheep available, with respect to the requirements on arranging the animals' welfare. No sheep shall run more than 3 times a day.

3.3. Time

3.3.1. The measuring of time starts when the handler touches the gate to open it and ends when the the set time is up.

3.3.2. The judge decides, and tells at the briefing, how much time is given for the course, which will be the same for all dogs. It is recommended 15 minutes.

4. EXERCISES

4.1. Out of the Pen

Purpose: The dog takes the sheep out of the pen, calmly and without stressing the sheep.

Description: Time starts when the handler touches the gate to open it. After the handler opens the gate, the dog will drive the sheep out of the pen. It is up to the handler to decide which strategy to put the sheep out from the pen. It is recommended to send the dog around the pen. The handler and the dog stabilize the flock outside of the pen and the handler closes the gate while the dog controls the flock. The evaluation of the pen ends when the handler sends the dog to lift the flock.

Serious mistakes: Dog hurries the sheep or chases and splits them; their exit was too fast. The sheep go back to the pen. Handler does not shut the gate.

4.2. Drive together

Purpose: Driving together about 150 meters, the dog must demonstrate that it is able to control the flock so that the flock moves, changes direction and walks the course calmly and smoothly, without stress.

Description: After leaving the pen and stabilizing, the dog lifts the sheep towards the handler. The dog must accompany the flock in a calm, uninterrupted manner. The handler walks in front of the flock. The judge should mark 4 places for a change of direction (a pole, tree, outer corner of a fence, etc.). The dog must work in a calm way not pressing the flock unnecessary. The movement around the sheep must be calm, making the sheep flow in the specific direction down to the marked point, where the drive away will start.

Serious mistakes: The dog loses control of the flock, or is not able to influence the flock.

4.3. Drive away

Purpose: Driving the sheep away at least 25 m from the handler.

Description: The sheep are required to go in a straight line. The dog is behind the sheep. The handler stays at the marked point. Once the flock has reached the marked point of the drive away, the handler calls his dog back to the starting point of the outrun.

Serious mistakes: The dog loses control of the flock.

Note: Before the outrun starts, helpers will hold the sheep at the marked point of the outrun.

4.4. Outrun

Purpose: Gathering the sheep over a distance of 75 meters.

Description: The handler and the dog must stay at the marked point. For the outrun, the dog can be directed on either side. A good outrun should be in a pear shape, not too straight or too wide or too short. At the end of the outrun, a slow down or stop command is not penalized. The outrun will end when the dog is behind the sheep.

Serious mistakes: The dog crosses. The dog doesn't find the sheep or tries to return to the handler. The dog drives sheep away, or chases or splits them.

4.5. Lift

Purpose: The dog lifts the flock gently towards the handler.

Description: At the end of the outrun, whether the dog has come to a full stop or slowed down, the dog should be smooth, cautious and steady. The dog should not rush in and scare the sheep.

Serious mistakes: the dog loses control of the flock, the dog is not able to influence the flock.

4.6. Fetch

Purpose: Bringing the flock to the handler by the dog.

Description: The sheep should be brought at a steady pace and in a straight line from the place of lift to the handler. The dog should not unnecessarily hurry or over-flank his sheep, giving a zigzag movement to the sheep.

Serious mistakes: The dog loses control of the flock.

4.7. Pen

Purpose: To drive the sheep into the pen, in a calm way.

Description: It should be accomplished by the active work of the dog under the command of the handler, it must be done calmly and without rush. Near the pen, the flock should be stabilized and held in place by the dog, while the handler opens the gate. The handler will stand at the gate, holding the rope, until all sheep are inside. Closing the gate means the end of the test.

Serious mistakes: The dog is not stabilizing the flock, or a sheep runs out again.

4.8. Behaviour

Purpose: The judge evaluates functional activity and gentleness of the dog and cooperation with the handler all over the fulfilment of the exercises, from the start until the end of the run. A good cooperation between the handler and the dog reflects in how the dog responses to commands.

Description: The judge evaluates primarily the dog's aptitude for herding, which is reflected in the style of work of a Border Collie. The judge evaluates the power of the dog, sense of balance, the initiative of the dog and its desire to work.
The commands should have a distinctive effect on the dog's behaviour.

Serious mistakes: The dog ignores the commands. The dog has low interest in the sheep.

5. EVALUATION

5.1. Evaluation points

5.1.1. The judge decides how many points to take off for each task (it can be all points for one task).

5.1.2. The judge can only take off whole points.

5.1.3. No points are awarded when:
    a) the dog grabs or nips sheep unnecessarily,
    b) the dog is not working and leaves the field,
    c) sheep leave the trial field.

5.1.4. Disqualification from the event when the dog is aggressive to sheep, other dogs or people.

5.1.5. Judge's point-table:

Name of exercises	Points
Pen	10
Drive together	15
Drive away	15
Outrun	15
Lift	10
Fetch	15
Re-Pen	10
Behaviour	10
Sum	**100**

5.2. Qualifications

Evaluation	Abbreviation	Points
Excellent	EXC	90 - 100 points
Very Good	VG	80 - 89 points
Good	G	70 - 79 points
Satisfactory	SAT	60 - 69 points
Not Passed	NP	less than 60 points
Retired	RET	no points
No points awarded	NPA	no points
Disqualification	DIS	no points

6. CLOSING PROVISIONS

6.1. These rules fully replace the rules valid from January 1, 2018

6.2. These rules were approved at the meeting of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission held in Helsinki June 15, 2018

6.3. These rules were approved by the FCI General Committee in Thuin, November 2018.

6.4. In case of translation discrepancies, the English text is considered the original.

ANNEX 1. RECOMMENDED JUDGES SHEET FOR "FCI HWT CS"

		Catalogue No
FCI	**SCORE CARD** **HWT CS**	**Start No**

Event		Place		Date
Dog name				Born
Pedigree No		Chip		Sex
Owner				Breed
Handler				Club and membership number (TNo)

Exercises	Max	Minus	Score	Comments	Time
Out of pen	10				
Drive together 150 m	15				
Drive away 25 m	15				
Outrun 75 m	15				
Lift	10				
Fetch	15				
Into pen	10				
Behaviour	10				
Points total	**100**			**Evaluation**	

Judge, No Name, signature	Authorization