

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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FCI RULES FOR HERDING WORKING TESTS TRADITIONAL STYLE (FCI-HWT TS)

(excluding Border Collie)



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N.B.: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The FCI Herding Working Test Traditional Style (**FCI-HWT TS**) is an international test and is carried out in order to preserve the characteristics related to the ability to handle sheep and obtain its instinct through the work of many herding dog generations at sheep flocks. The **FCI-HWT TS** rules are set up in this sense.
- 1.2. A successful passing of **FCI-HWT TS** is a recommendation for the use of the dog in breeding and it is necessary to participate in FCI Herding Trials Traditional Style (**FCI-IHT TS**).
- 1.3. The breeds eligible for participating in the FCI HWT TS have very different backgrounds. Some breeds evolved in boundary work (guarding border) in agricultural areas, others were used to control the movement of sheep.
- 1.4. In the TS there was and is daily contact of the farmer/shepherd with his flock to feed them or to graze them in unfenced areas. Their sheep have no fear of humans or dogs, they just respect them. The sheep trust their shepherd and are willing to follow him to new grazing land or to be milked.
- 1.5. In the **FCI-HWT TS** the dogs have to prove that they have the basics to become a farm dog or herding dog. The task of dogs is handling the flock by taking them in or out of a pen and controlling the movement of the flock in simple manoeuvres and correcting sheep that split off the flock.
- 1.6. The FCI carefully provides exercises which all dogs in the TS are able to perform, looking for the common ground of variability of the herding style of the breed.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 2.1. The main principles for FCI-HWT TS are to be found in the **GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF FCI HERDING EVENTS (FCI-NHAT – FCI-HWT – FCI-IHT)**.
- 2.2. The FCI-HWT TS must be recognized by all FCI members and contract partners.
- 2.3. Dogs of several breeds (subject to a working trial according to the FCI breeds nomenclature that have successfully passed the **FCI-HWT-TS**) are allowed to qualify for the title of **FCI International Beauty Champion (C.I.B.)**.
- 2.4. Dogs of several breeds that have successfully passed the **FCI-HWT-TS** **are allowed to compete in the working class at international FCI-CACIB shows**, only upon approval by the FCI. The list of the breeds involved is available in the [Lists of Herding and Livestock Guardian dog breeds that can take part in FCI events and receive FCI Titles and awards](#).

3. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

3.1. Area and its equipment

The area and its equipment must be in relation to the number of sheep used during the test.

- 3.1.1. **Area** – a surface of 50 x 100 meters at least, 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.

- 3.1.2. **Pen** – with a size suitable for the flock (the shape is not prescribed, it may be oval, square or rectangular), with a gate of at least 2 meters wide, ideally on hinges and with functional protection against opening by the sheep or by the dog.
- 3.1.3. **Re-Pen** – it can be the same as the exit-pen, or it can be in another place and it can be a smaller one as the exit-pen.
- 3.1.4. **Course** – natural or simulated way from the pen to the grazing area which must be long at least 75 m. The whole course should not be less than 200 m and not more than 400 m.
- 3.1.5. **Markings** – poles or other items or a natural point to mark the places of change of direction (at least 4), stopping area (at least 4), grazing area (at least 4), or possible places that should be avoided.
- 3.1.6. **Grazing area** – with a perimeter of at least 80 meters; square or rectangular; preferably with vegetation for the sheep to graze. The boundaries of the grazing area should be marked, e.g. by poles (rods) on the edges, sand, sawdust, a ploughed furrow etc., ideally natural boundaries like a path or a mowed strip. The grazing area may be not fenced, or only on one or two sides.

3.2. **Number of sheep**

- 3.2.1. The flock for each run must consist of a minimum of 10 sheep, but preferably more.
- 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 respecting animal welfare.

3.3. **Time**

- 3.3.1. The measuring of time starts when the handler touches the gate to open it and ends when the handler has shut the gate after re-pen.
- 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.

4. **EXERCISES**

- 4.1. The exercises which include control of the flock

4.1.1. **Pen**

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

Description: The task is based on the fact that in TS practice the sheep know the dog and the shepherd. As they usually do not know each other, they must be first introduced to each other. So, the handler at first can take his dog around the pen and introduce the dog to the sheep outside of the pen.

Time starts when the handler touches the gate to open it. The handler may enter the pen with the dog to observe their behaviour and to introduce them to the dog inside the pen.

Then the handler places the dog near the gate to prevent the sheep from taking off. After the handler opens the gate, the dog will lift the sheep out of 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 is too fast or if a sheep that already was outside runs back inside.

4.1.2. Stop

Purpose: As the flock must sometimes stop on the way to the grazing land and back, for example before a crossroad where vehicles run, the exercises include also stopping the flock and protecting the stop-line.

Description: The flock must be stopped within a delimited space with the active work of the dog that also protects the stop-line after the flock has stopped. As soon as the flock has calmed down, the handler goes to the delimited stop-line and looks both ways, similarly to crossing a real crossroad.

Serious mistakes: Dog or the flock pass the stop-line of the space in the direction of movement, if the dog was not involved in stopping the flock.

4.1.3. Graze

Purpose: Grazing of the sheep in a defined area. Calming down and starting the sheep to graze (or eat) are important exercises. The sheep must not be disturbed and stressed, to be able to graze or eat. However, it is important for them not to graze outside the borders of the grazing area.

Description: After taking the sheep to the grazing area (preferably to its centre), the handler and the dog must leave the grazing area. The sheep should start grazing (or eating), or at least calm down when they don't want to eat. The task of the handler and the dog is to watch that the flock stays in the delimited space; if a sheep leaves the space, the dog should bring it back. The style of the dogs in guarding the boundaries depends on the specific working style of their breed. Important is that the dog observes the sheep and keeps them in the delimited area on its own initiative.

Before the flock leaves the grazing area and continues the course, the sheep must graze a while. The judge gives a signal when the handler must order the dog to retrieve the flock on its own, leaving the grazing area and bringing it back to the handler.

Serious mistakes: Sheep leave the delimited area because the dog did not manage to guard it; or if the dog drives the sheep away.

4.1.4. Re-Pen

Purpose: To bring the sheep to their resting place, the pen, in a calm way to avoid injuries, the sheep must not return too rapidly to the pen; jamming at the gate is not desirable.

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 immobilized and held in place by the dog, while the shepherd opens the gate. As soon as all sheep are inside the pen, the handler closes the gate while the dog is blocking the gate opening. Closing the gate means the end of the test and the end of the time measurement.

Serious mistakes: The dog is not able to keep the sheep immobilized, or to re-pen them, or if a sheep that already was inside runs out.

4.2. The exercises which include conduct exercises

4.2.1. Moving

Purpose: Passaging on the way to the grazing area and back the dog must demonstrate that it is able to control the flock so that the flock moves, changes direction and walk the course calmly and smoothly, without stress.

Description: Pick up the sheep to go towards the handler calmly without stress. The dog must accompany the flock in a calm, uninterrupted manner.

The judge should mark 4 places for a change of direction (a pole, tree, outer corner of a fence, etc.) to be passed around on the real or simulated way. The dog must work with sense of distance from the flock, not pressing the flock unnecessarily. The movement around the sheep must be calm, making the sheep moving fluently in the specific direction, preventing them from crowding around the handler or, on the contrary, from going too far from the handler.

Serious mistakes: Dog loses control of the flock, if the dog is not able to influence the flock, or if a sheep takes a shortcut. Dog drives sheep away or chases and splits them.

4.3. Behaviour and handling

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. The dog must be also self-active, not only obey commands. 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 its breed. The judge evaluates the power of the dog, sense of balance point, the initiative of the dog and its desire to work. The more negative characteristics the dog has the less points it can get for its activity. If the dog is not active from its own initiative, it is hard to motivate it to perform well.

The commands should have a distinctive effect on the dog's behaviour, they should be given calmly and convincing. In more difficult conditions and with "more difficult" sheep, the judge should take consideration of that situation or evaluate positively the handler's and dog's way of managing it.

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

Disqualification mistakes: Grabbing or biting 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 point (not half or less).

5.1.3. Judge's point-table:

Name of exercises	Points
<u>Control of the flock:</u>	
Pen	10
Re-Pen	10
Stop	15
Graze	15
<u>Conduct exercises:</u>	
Moving	30
Behaviour	20
Sum	100

5.2. Qualifications


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

6. CLOSING PROVISIONS

- 6.2. These rules fully replace the rules valid from 1st *January 2018*.
- 6.3. These rules were approved at the meeting of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission held in Dortmund (DE), July 9-10 2022.
- 6.4. These rules were approved by the FCI General Committee in Budapest, March 2023. They are valid as from May 1st 2023.
- 6.5. In case of translation discrepancies, the English text is considered the original.

ANNEX 1: RECOMMENDED JUDGE'S SHEET "FCI-HWT TS"

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 <p style="text-align: center;">SCORE CARD FCI-HWT TS</p>				Catalogue No		
				Start No		
Event		Place		Date		
Dog name				Born		
Pedigree Reg. No		Chip		Sex		
Owner				Breed		
Handler				No		
Exercises	Max	Minus	Score	Max. time min	Time	
Pen	10			Control of the flock		
Stop	15					
Graze	15					
Re-Pen	10					
Moving	30			Conduct exercises and behaviour		
Behaviour	20					
Points total	100			Qualification	PASSED	NOT PASSED
Judge No, Name, Signature					Clarification by	