DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 11 - HERDING

Last update: 15 January 2026

To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

Table of Contents

11 JUDGES TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2

11.1 HOW TO BECOME A JUDGE 2

11.1.1 Application Procedure 2

11.1.2 Eligibility to judge all Test levels 2

11.1.3 Eligibility for Herding Started 2

11.1.4 Eligibility for Herding Intermediate 2

11.1.5 Eligibility for Herding Advanced 3

11.1.6 Training Sessions 3

11.1.7 Written Examination and Practical Tests 3

11.1.8 Judges Dress Code 4

11.1.9 Rule Changes 4

11.2 HERDING JUDGES CODE OF PRACTICE 4

11.3 COMPETENCIES FOR HERDING JUDGES 5

11.4 GUIDELINES FOR THEORY ASSESSMENTS 6

11.5 PROCEDURE FOR JUDGES THEORY ASSESSMENTS 6

11.6 PROCEDURE FOR PRACTICAL HERDING JUDGES ASSESSMENT 7

11.7 EVALUATION 8

11.8 ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION 8

11.9 EXTREME WEATHER – HERDING (15/12/25) 8

11 – HERDING

11 JUDGES TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (15/08/10)

11.1 HOW TO BECOME A JUDGE

11.1.1 Application Procedure

All applications for entry into the Herding Judges Training Scheme must be on the nominated form and be received prior to the nominated date. To be eligible to enter the Scheme the applicant must:

11.1.1.1 have been a member of a DOGS AUSTRALIA Member Body for a total period of not less than five (5) years, but dispensation may be given for persons with sufficient experience in DOGS AUSTRALIA herding events;

11.1.1.2 be over 18 years of age;

11.1.1.3 be approved by Dogs Victoria Herding Committee.

11.1.2 Eligibility to judge all Test levels

The only persons eligible to judge Test levels shall be those who have been accepted into the Herding Judges Training Scheme. Applicants must provide evidence the applicant has:

11.1.2.1 trained and trialled a dog to a Pre-Trial title;

11.1.2.2 acted as Scribe, Timekeeper and Stock Handler for at least three Herding Tests and least three Pre-Trial Tests within twelve (12) months prior to application;

11.1.2.3 attended the relevant lectures in the Herding Judges Training Scheme prior to undertaking theory examination:

11.1.2.4 passed written theory examination, and practical examination for Test levels.

11.1.3 Eligibility for Herding Started

To be eligible to apply for a Herding Started Judges Licence the applicant must provide evidence the applicant has:

11.1.3.1 a Test Levels Judges Licence;

11.1.3.2 acted as Scribe, Timekeeper and Stock Handler for at least three Herding Started Trials within twelve (12) months prior to application;

11.1.3.3 judged a minimum of two (2) Pre-Trial classes at separate events prior to undertaking theory examinations;

11.1.3.4 trained and trialled a dog to Herding Started title prior to undertaking theory examination;

11.1.3.5 attended the relevant lectures in the Herding Judges Training Scheme prior to undertaking theory examination.

11.1.4 Eligibility for Herding Intermediate

To be eligible to apply for a Herding Intermediate Judges Licence the applicant must provide evidence the applicant has:

11.1.4.1 A Herding Started Judges Licence;

11.1.4.2 acted as Scribe, Timekeeper and Stock Handler for at least three Herding Intermediate Trials within twelve (12) months prior to application;

11.1.4.3 judged a minimum of two (2) Herding Started classes at separate events prior to undertaking theory examination;

11.1.4.4 trained and trialled a dog in Herding Intermediate or Advanced class on at least three occasions;

11.1.4.5 attended the relevant lectures in the Herding Judges Training Scheme prior to undertaking theory examination.

11.1.5 Eligibility for Herding Advanced

To be eligible to apply for a Herding Advanced Judges Licence the applicant must provide evidence the applicant has:

11.1.5.1 A Herding Intermediate Judges licence;

11.1.5.2 acted as Scribe, Timekeeper and Stock Handler for at least three Herding Advanced Trials within twelve (12) months prior to application;

11.1.5.3 judged a minimum of two (2) Herding Intermediate classes at separate events prior to undertaking theory examination;

11.1.5.4 trained and trialled a dog in Herding Intermediate or Advanced class on at least three occasions;

11.1.5.5 attended the relevant lectures in the Herding Judges Training Scheme prior to undertaking theory examination.

11.1.6 Training Sessions

11.1.6.1 Completion of practical training is mandatory for all licences. A minimum of two (2) practical training sessions must be completed. Sessions must include a minimum of five (5) dogs of varying breeds where possible. Each of these training sessions to be conducted in conjunction with a Herding Judge approved by the Herding Judges Training Co-ordinator. The Herding Judge monitoring the applicant in the practical training session shall give verbal feedback to the applicant, and must provide a written report in the Aspirants log book.

11.1.6.2 Applicants may apply for only one licence in any one year. Test levels comprise one licence in total. Trial levels are three separate licences - Started, then Intermediate, then Advanced.

11.1.6.3 All applicants for licences must attend and remain for the entire relevant training sessions (theory and practical), and complete practical training where required prior to undertaking theory examination.

11.1.6.4 Failure to attend required training sessions will invalidate application for a licence, unless a written apology acceptable to Dogs Victoria Herding Committee is received within seven (7) days of the relevant lecture.

11.1.7 Written Examination and Practical Tests

11.1.7.1 All applicants for a Herding Licence must pass a written examination.

11.1.7.2 All written examinations require a pass mark of at least 75%.

11.1.7.3 A pass in a written examination will remain valid for the duration of the DOGS AUSTRALIA Rules and Regulations for Herding, applicable at time of written examination.

11.1.7.4 An applicant failing a written or practical examination may request a review. The request must provide detail of grounds for the review, and must be received by Dogs Victoria office within fourteen (14) days of notification of a result.

11.1.7.5 The review must be conducted within two (2) months of the examination.

11.1.7.6 All applicants who pass a written examination must pass a practical examination prior to being granted a licence, subject to approval by Dogs Victoria Herding Committee.

11.1.7.7 The Assessment Panel will consist of at least three (3) qualified Judges appointed by the Herding Judges Training Co-ordinator.

11.1.7.8 The Assessment Panel (all of whom are Accredited Assessors) must reach a majority decision prior to recommendation to Dogs Victoria Herding Committee that a Licence is granted.

11.1.7.9 Written (theoretical) examination papers may contain questions in multi choice, mix and match, short answer response, or other method as appropriate.

11.1.7.10 Dependent on format of written examination paper, generally one person is required to mark the papers. More than one person may mark examination papers where the result warrants.

1.1.7.11 The results are to be forwarded to Dogs Victoria following approval by Dogs Victoria Herding Committee.

11.1.8 Judges Dress Code

Neat co-ordinated attire suitable for the event is required when judging. Judges must wear appropriate footwear that has closed in toe.

11.1.9 Rule Changes

Following any Rule changes approved by DOGS AUSTRALIA, all Judges must attend Lectures conducted to explain/discuss such Rule changes. Failure to attend the relevant lecture shall render the Judge ineligible to officiate at any DOGS AUSTRALIA Herding event conducted under the Rule changes, until the Judge has attended the lecture.

11.2 HERDING JUDGES CODE OF PRACTICE

11.2.1 A Judge must act in a professional and polite manner at all times, and in particular when carrying out a judging appointment.

11.2.2 A Judge is required to be punctual in attendance to fulfil their judging assignment.

11.2.3 A Judge must give every exhibit and exhibitor fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.

11.2.4 A Judge must not influence or seek the entry of any particular dog or dogs for a class in which they are judging.

11.2.5 Should a judge be approached with an inducement to favour or disfavour, and/or a bribe to advantage or disadvantage an exhibit or exhibitor, the Judge must report the matter in writing immediately to Dogs Victoria Herding Committee.

11.2.6 A Judge must not solicit a judging appointment.

11.2.7 A Judge must complete all requirements of the judging contract, as agreed. Any verbal acceptance of an assignment by a Judge shall be subject to receipt of the contract within fourteen (14) days.

11.2.8 A Judge must honour each contract and is not permitted to accept an alternative contract that will affect his or her availability to fulfil the original contract, unless written dispensation from the original contracting body has been obtained.

11.2.9 A Judge who withdraws from a contracted appointment shall not be permitted to judge at any other canine event wherever held on a date, which would prevent him/her from attending the original contracted event.

11.2.10 Accommodation provided for the Judge to fulfil an assignment is for the Judge only unless prior mutual agreement has been reached with the contracting body for variation.

11.2.11 A Judge is responsible for the cost of all telephone calls, alcoholic beverages and any personal laundering, unless mutual agreement has been reached with the contracting body at the time the contract is accepted.

11.3 COMPETENCIES FOR HERDING JUDGES

11.3.1 Criteria satisfied according to Regulation 11.1 - "How to become a Herding Judge".

11.3.2 Knowledge of DOGS AUSTRALIA Rules/Regulations for Herding accurately demonstrated.

11.3.3 Knowledge of current Dogs Victoria Constitution, Rules and Regulations demonstrated.

11.3.4 Demonstrated ability to assess exhibitor and dog working in herding according to DOGS AUSTRALIA Herding Rules/Regulations.

11.3.5 Judges lectures delivered on an annual basis are a compulsory component of the Judges Training Scheme. The lecture content comprises the various levels of herding class including relevant courses applicable to the aspiring and trainee judges, at Test and Trial levels. The lecture content also deals with Judges practical issues in relation to contractual obligations, judging responsibilities, the ethics of judging, planning and control of the ring, instructions to stewards, handlers briefing, and aggressive dog procedures.

11.3.6 Open forum are meetings of the herding general membership that serve to promote the herding activity, as an information seminar that draws upon persons with herding experience. The Open forum is used as a vehicle by Dogs Victoria Herding Committee to introduce and explain rule changes or interpretation of the rules and regulations in herding. Members of Dogs Victoria Herding Committee facilitate the Open forum, conducted on an annual basis.

11.3.7 To maintain competency, all Herding Judges must attend Lectures/Herding Judges meetings conducted to explain/discuss rule changes approved by the DOGS AUSTRALIA. A letter to Judges address (per DOGS AUSTRALIA listing) will give notice of Herding Judges meetings, and a notice may appear in the official organ of Dogs Victoria. Failure to attend the relevant lecture/meeting will render the Judge ineligible to officiate at any DOGS AUSTRALIA Herding event conducted under the rule changes, until the Judge has attended the lecture/meeting. Prolonged failure to attend lecture/meetings may result in suspension of licence, or other action deemed appropriate by Dogs Victoria Herding Committee.

11.3.8 Herding Judges are required to attend a herding clinic conducted by Dogs Victoria Herding Committee at least every three years to maintain licence (s2.12 DOGS AUSTRALIA Herding Rules/Regulations). Failure to meet this requirement will render the Judge ineligible to officiate at any DOGS AUSTRALIA Herding event until the Judge has complied.

11.4 GUIDELINES FOR THEORY ASSESSMENTS

11.4.1 The format of the Test Level (comprises Instinct Certificate, Herding Test and Pre-Trial) theory examination will remain an open book examination, until Dogs Victoria Herding Committee determine otherwise.

11.4.2 The format of the Trial Level examinations (individual examination of one trial level class in any one year e.g. Started or Intermediate or Advanced) will be in two parts. The closed book examination must be completed prior to commencing open book examination. This format will remain until Dogs Victoria Herding Committee determine otherwise.

11.4.3 The questions in the written examination must be structured so that the answer is objective, and minimal interpretation by the applicant is required.

11.4.4 The mark weight to each question must be consistent with the detail, and level of information required in the answer.

11.4.5 A half mark may be allocated to each part of a question that has more than one component.

11.4.6 The person marking the written examination must use the answer sheet provided by the person who set the examination.

11.4.7 The written assessment will be presented in the following manner, with a pass mark of at least 75% required in each section of both closed, and open book examination.

11.4.7.1 Assessment of Herding Rules/Regulations specific for level of licence

11.4.7.2 General section

11.4.8 Distance written assessment is currently not offered in the Herding Judges Training Scheme, as the written and practical assessment are conducted on the same day.

11.5 PROCEDURE FOR JUDGES THEORY ASSESSMENTS

11.5.1 Applicants must use the candidate number allocated to them on each sheet of the exam, in the space provided.

11.5.2 Applicants are not permitted to mark the written examination paper in any manner, other than response to questions, and use of candidate number.

11.5.3 Applicants must use ink (ball point pen) to mark the written examination paper.

11.5.4 The Accredited Assessor (or delegate) supervising the written examination may at their discretion give clarity to any question an applicant is unable to understand. The Accredited Assessor will not give guidance to applicant on how to answer questions.

11.5.5 Written examination papers can only be marked by Accredited Assessors.

11.5.6 The Accredited Assessor must mark the written examination paper prior to verifying the identity of the applicant.

11.5.7 Where the result of the written examination is borderline pass/fail, another person will mark the written examination paper, prior to identity of applicant becoming known.

11.5.8 In case of divided decision in 11.5.7 above, a third person must mark the paper.

11.5.9 Applicants will be advised the written examination result prior to practical examination. Where necessary, unsuccessful applicants will be advised of the process for review as per Regulation 11.1.7.4 and 11.1.7.5.

11.6 PROCEDURE FOR PRACTICAL HERDING JUDGES ASSESSMENT

11.6.1 The Herding Judges Training Co-ordinator will organise venue, and suitably qualified dogs for testing and their handlers.

11.6.2 The Herding Judges Training Co-ordinator will select the Assessment panels, and furnish each member of the Panel with the appropriate stationery to judge the performance of the dog, as well as assessment of the applicant.

11.6.3 The Herding Judges Training Co-ordinator may delegate part of the responsibilities in 11.6.1 and 11.6.2 above to another person.

11.6.4 The applicant will judge a minimum of three (3) dogs for the test. Where circumstances warrant, additional dogs may be used, at the discretion of the Assessment Panel.

11.6.5 The applicant is required to judge, and score the dog as would normally occur in herding test/trial conditions, and mark the judges sheet accordingly.

11.6.6 Multiple applicants may be tested at the same time where circumstance warrant, provided the applicants stand independent to each other, and mark the dog independently, without conference.

11.6.7 The applicant is responsible to ensure their judging sheet is complete and correct, prior to handing the sheet to the Assessment Panel.

11.6.8 Assessment Panels comprise three Accredited Assessors, and the same panel will remain constant for the level of licence assessed.

11.6.9 Members of Assessment Panel are to position themselves to adequately evaluate both dog and applicant during the course of a run/test.

11.6.10 Members of the Assessment Panel are to independently assess the applicant, and are not permitted to enter into discussion with other Panel members or any other person, unless a point of clarification is required.

11.6.11 Members of the Assessment Panel must mark their score sheet relating to dogs performance prior to interview with applicant. Alterations to the score sheet are permitted where additional information is gained and circumstances warrant.

11.6.12 Members of the Assessment Panel must independently mark, and comment on the applicant's ability to judge at the level tested. The member must document whether recommendation for licence is made, whether recommendation for licence is withheld, and the grounds for the decision. The Panel member may use this applicant assessment sheet if the unsuccessful applicant lodges a request for a review.

11.6.13 The Assessment Panel must give completed applicant assessment sheets to the Herding Judges Training Co-ordinator (or delegate) at completion of the practical testing.

11.6.14 The Assessment Panel majority decision must be presented to Dogs Victoria Herding Committee for endorsement, prior to any licence being granted.

11.6.15 The applicants will be advised of practical test outcome, and where necessary the review process as per Regulation 11.1.7.4 and 11.1.7.5, within fourteen (14) days of the practical test completion.

11.6.16 Applicants will be eligible to receive contracts for judging appointments in the level they have qualified, following advice of practical test endorsed by Dogs Victoria Herding Committee.

11.7 EVALUATION

The Herding Committee is to conduct an annual evaluation of the Herding Judges Training Scheme as follows:

11.7.1 Analysis of the content in relation to effectiveness of the training and subsequent learning within the Judges Training Program.

11.7.2 Feedback from trainees as to effectiveness of the training program, the trainers and content and delivery methods, leading to higher pass rates.

11.7.3 Implementation of training and learning strategies and their effectiveness in achieving the desired outcomes.

11.7.4 Effectiveness of feedback from trainers to trainees as to their progress.

11.7.5 Pass rates to measure the effectiveness of the training program and competence of the trainers.

11.7.6 Detailed reports to trainees as to the reasons for passing and failing the training program using transparent and measurable methodology.

11.8 ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

11.8.1 -*Submission of draft fixture schedules and judges' contracts* - deleted (duplication) refer to regulation 3.4.12 (15/01/26)

11.9 EXTREME WEATHER – HERDING (15/12/25)

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.