



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

March 2025

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Herding Tests and Trials and Approved Herding Judges**

Subject: **Course D – Various Updates / New Titles for Course D Cattle To Be Offered**

This is to inform all clubs licensed to hold herding events and approved judges that changes will be made to the *AKC Herding Regulations*. These changes pertain to various revisions made to Course D including the expansion of livestock to include cattle with new Course D titles on cattle to be offered. This change is effective May 1, 2025. Event applications received on or after May 1, 2025 will be allowed to have cattle listed for livestock.

The exact wording of these changes are noted via underline and will appear in the next printing of these regulations. Due to the extensive number of revisions a new booklet has been initiated and will be made available in approximately 4-6 weeks. The new book will have a light green cover. The changes are as follows:

Section 1. Course D. Course D reflects the day to day control and management of livestock in a varied ranch, farm and/or stockyard setting. The dog should demonstrate instinct, ability, versatility and training as an effective stock dog and working partner with the handler while controlling and moving livestock calmly and efficiently through a given course.

Course D provides for a combination of obstacles commonly applied in a ranch setting incorporating areas in and around the herding facility. All elements cannot be restricted to a single arena and must include a combination of arena, pen, and pasture/field work. While the obstacle types are constant, the actual course will vary from facility to facility as designed by the course director. The course should provide for access and clear viewing for the judge at all times.

Sheep/goats are or cattle may be used on Course D. Type of stock available for each ~~class~~ course must be stated in the Premium List.

Each run will be allotted a minimum of 10 head of stock for every scored section, with larger numbers preferred (Fewer than 10 heads may be involved in a component within a scored section, for example, where sorting or gate work is done). The stock can be used up to eight times per day.

Course D represents a unique combination and order of obstacles tailored to each host facility. The course(s) for each event and class will not be available until one hour before the start of the event, and at such time will be posted by the Event Secretary. Each course is designed by the Trial Committee's Course Director. However, the Judge shall have final authority over course design, provided any modifications are applied 90 minutes prior to the start of the first Course D class to allow sufficient time for the posting of the course layout. Alternatively, the Course Director may communicate with the judge prior to the event to coordinate for optimal course design.

A given course at a given facility may only be used once per event number, and that exact course may not be used again by a given club for three months. Nor should a course knowingly be used again by other clubs trialing at that facility for three months. Using the same elements/obstacles in a different order will constitute an adequate change of course, provided a minimum of one element/obstacle has been moved to a different part of the course.

The type of obstacles to be used for the Course D must be included in the Premium List.

All stock must be accustomed to being worked by dogs on the designated course and be conditioned prior to the trial.

The club must ensure that facilities are provided for the separation of fresh and exhausted stock. Stock will be sorted by gate run or into groups primarily on the basis of uniformity, and used in the prescribed groups throughout the trial; these groups will be run in a pre-determined order, except that groups may be deleted from the run order or individual animals may be substituted within groups where a group member is found to be unsound or otherwise unfit for use. An animal that is deemed by the judge to demonstrate inappropriate behavior that is inconsistent with the rest of the stock prior to or during a run may be removed and substituted. The judge upon their discretion may allow a rerun at the time of the substitution.

Selection of particular stock for a particular competitor will constitute misconduct and will be grounds for a formal complaint.

Priority must always be given to care of livestock. Trial schedules should be adjusted to provide adequate breaks for livestock as necessary.

The trial hosting club is responsible for ensuring an adequate number of livestock has been hired for the number of runs at their trial. Regardless of the type of stock used, clubs must arrange to have additional stock in reserve.

At the discretion of the Course Director, one or more dogs may be used to facilitate stock handling, provided that they do not interfere with livestock behavior during judging. ~~A dog competing in that weekend's trial events may not be used for stock handling until after it has completed its final run for the day.~~

Section 2. Course Director. The trial-host club must appoint a Course Director, whose duties are to design and construct or supervise the construction of the course or courses; to assist and advise in all matters pertaining to the courses and the running of same; and to supervise the care of the trial stock during the running of the trial. The Course Director determines differentiators of difficulty by level if not specifically defined. The Course Director will determine how ties are broken. Tie-breakers will be announced prior to the start of the course.

The Course Director or stewards will be responsible for keeping all competing dogs that are not on course or in the ready position from disturbing livestock, contestants, spectators or dogs that are on course and being judged. The Trial Committee and the Course Director will be responsible for ensuring that all non-competing dogs except stock handler's dogs are barred from the immediate run area.

The Course Director may appoint one or more Course Stewards to assist him/her. The Course Director is not eligible to run in the D Course classes for which they created the course, but may run in other classes at the same trial.

Course D will not be confined to an arena, but should encompass a group of locations depending on the specific course design. There must be a perimeter fence or other natural barrier containing the trial area, but this need not coincide with the course boundaries. The minimum size of the course must be no less than 2½ acres or 108,000 square feet.

Section 3. Pens & Obstacles. The take pen must be a minimum 12 feet by 12 feet but always large enough to accommodate the number and type of stock being used. The exhaust pen may be the same pen as the take pen. If the exhaust is a separate pen, it must be large enough to accommodate the number of stock being used. The take and exhaust pens must have a gate that latches and swings easily. There cannot be stock in the exhaust pen other than the stock on course.

Gate widths must be sufficient to accommodate stock movement without undue risk of stock contact with the gate or gateposts.

For Course D trials, the freestanding pen will have a 6-foot rope firmly affixed to the gate ~~and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed.~~

Fence line obstacles in all levels must consist of a section of fencing, a fence panel, or an object such as a barrel placed so that the stock must go:

(a) Through an opening in the obstacle; or

(b) Between the obstacle and the arena fence. The opening for stock to negotiate in all fence line obstacles or between the fence line obstacle and the arena wall must be 8 ft.

Freestanding obstacles: The opening for stock to negotiate in all freestanding chutes must be 14 ft. to 16 ft. wide.

Trailers, chutes, footbaths, bridges and stalls etc. must be of sufficient size to safely accommodate the stock, dog and handler as required. If other obstacles are used, i.e., trees, bushes, boulders, tractors, hay wagons, round bales of straw etc., sufficient space should be available for safe passage of the stock, dog and handler as required.

All obstacles shall be a minimum height of 34 ft.

Section 4. Course Design & Safety. The course design for each level shall be decided upon by the Course Director, approved by the judge, and posted one hour before the start of the trial.

Before the trial, the Course Director and his stewards will ensure that the trial grounds are cleared of all litter and dangerous objects such as broken glass, loose wire, etc. and they shall inspect all obstacles and fences to be used in the trial to ensure that they are sturdy and safe with no nail projecting, broken boards, etc., that might cause injury to livestock, dogs, or competitors.

Where natural hazards (e.g. thorned vegetation, wasps) on the site are known to exist and be consequential, the nature of these known hazards should be disclosed to competitors before the trial begins.

Livestock guardian dogs should be secured, preferably out of visual range while visiting dogs are on the trial site.

It is the responsibility of the Course Director, the judge, and the exhibitor to ensure the safety of the course.

Stock Sheep/goats used in AKC Course D trials must be lambs, wethers or ewes, and in the case of wool sheep over 1 year of age, must have been shorn within the past year.

Cattle should be of the type, size and disposition as described in Chapter 2, Section 11. People attending to cattle should know how to properly manage them.

People attending to sheep should know how to properly handle them under the jaw or by the flank, and how to hold them under the jaw for restraint or controlled movement.

The proper use of a crook, by a competent operator, is also an acceptable catching method. Sheep should never be caught by grabbing their fleece.

Sheep must never be lifted by the head, ears, horns, tail or fleece.

Section 5. Trial Levels.

~~The levels at a Course D trial shall be Started, Intermediate and Advanced. An owner may enter a dog in any trial level he or she deems appropriate; however, once that dog has acquired a qualifying score in such level at a licensed or member trial, it shall be ineligible to be entered in any lower level. A Course D trial need not include all levels, but in order to hold an Intermediate level the trial must include the Started level. If an Advanced level is offered, Intermediate and Started levels must also be offered at licensed and member club trials. A dog will remain eligible to compete in levels for both Course D Started and Course D Intermediate for 60 days when according to the owner's records the dog has completed the requirements to be awarded an AKC Excellent title at that trial level. Dogs that have achieved any title of Course D advanced (HXD) are eligible to compete in Course D advanced (HXD) class for an indefinite period of time.~~

Section 6. Qualifying Scores. A qualifying score shall be 60 or more points ~~(per Chapter 5, Section 2) with no incomplete sections in all classes; provided no single point category is scored at less than one-half the available points.~~

A qualifying score must never be awarded unless the run is completed "on course". For a run to be "on course", all stock must leave the take pen, and each required element of the course must be ~~completed~~ attempted before the next required element may be considered. ~~This includes entire distance of the HI & HX drive.~~

If a handler attempts a course element out of the correct sequence, the judge ~~may~~ will notify the handler that the run is off course and score accordingly. ~~However,~~ such notification must be done in a consistent manner for all handlers.

~~In the case of obstacles, completion of the element requires that at ALL stock pass completely through or in the obstacle in the required direction.~~

A hold must be attempted before the re-pen and the score will reflect the quality of the hold or attempt. The dog need not be between the handler and the stock, as long as stock are viewed as being held off the pen so as to prevent crowding at the exhaust pen gate as it is being opened. A qualifying score must never be awarded if no attempt is made.

Completion of a run “on course” requires penning of all stock before the handler closes the exhaust pen gate and completes the sorting of all stock as specified for that course..

Section 7. Course D General Requirements. For a D Course Trial, each required element will occur in its own scored section of the course subject to possible modification by the judge. Scoring is for the actual element, which is marked approximately 20 feet before the element and ending as the stock exit. The remainder of the scoring is under the Stock Control section of the score sheet.

The Judge and/or Course Director will determine the time allotted for the course. Before a trial, the course should be tested with livestock similar to the trial stock, and the test should be timed. This testing and timing should be done sufficiently early to enable any appropriate changes in the course before the course design is posted. All elements must have increasing degrees of difficulty for each level.

Course D Required Elements

All levels must include all ~~seven (7)~~ five (5) Required Elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to qualify:

~~Outrun~~ Gather – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers and completes the outrun or gather as close to the balance point as possible...~~(8 points)~~

~~Lift~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock ~~and (4 points)~~

~~Fetch~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point.....~~(8 points)~~

Fetch and/or Drive – The stock will be moved through the course in a straight line between elements or designated destinations – Maximum points will be awarded for demonstrating a calm fetch and/or drive in a straight line or lines through the designated parts of the course(20 points)

Take pen – The take pen may be a stall in a barn, a fence line pen or a freestanding pen. Maximum points will be awarded for the stock leaving the pen calmly and in control(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle - The freestanding obstacle may be anywhere on the course, but at least 12 feet from any fence line. Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated~~ must be attempted before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for holding the stock off the open gate on the first attempt and penning all stock in a calm manner. The dog and handler ~~may~~ are required to remain outside the pen.....(10 points)

Course D Optional Elements

All levels must include three (3) optional elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to qualify.

Optional elements may be the same for all levels or course design may use different elements for each level. Each optional element shall be assigned at 10 points. The Course Director selects the optional elements.

a) Load and unload chute – Chutes must not have solid sides and must have a gate on the closed end. They may vary from 3 to 6 feet in width and may or may not have a floor. Chutes may be configured in a variety of shapes including straight, “L”, or “Y”. Chutes may have entry wings with a width of no more than 12 feet. Stock enters the opening, and is let out through the gate on the other end. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: Started handlers are unlimited in their movement. Intermediate handlers may go to the wing or entrance. Advanced handlers must remain 10’ from any part of the chute until they open the gate.

Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently loading and unloading all the stock on first attempt.

a-b) Sort Chute – Two or more stock will be sorted into pens or stalls. Dog will hold stock in alleyway while handler works the gate. Handler may touch sheep lightly with no abuse to equipment or livestock. Maximum points will be awarded for efficiency and calm handling of the stock. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: At the Started level, any stock may be sorted; at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) must be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner on the first attempt. Stock may be marked with ribbons, livestock paint or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting. Should the stock be sorted incorrectly, it shall be counted as a missed attempt, all stock should be returned to the main group and the exercise begun again.

b c) Bridge – A bridge may be an actual existing bridge or an obstacle set up for the course. In the latter case, an obstacle designated as a “bridge” is distinguished from a chute in that the bridge has a floor and should be no less than 6 feet in length and no more than 12 feet in width. Actual bridges may have any surface and may be narrower than 8 feet but no less than 4 feet in width. Handler may leave the designated position to move to the next obstacle once the first head exits the bridge and if necessary to reach the next obstacle, the handler may cross the bridge after the first head of stock exits the bridge. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock over the bridge on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels ~~may be determined by one of two methods:~~ Started - ~~2 wings~~ Handlers are unlimited in their movement. This includes driving or fetching on the bridge if safe to do so; Intermediate – ~~4 wing~~ Handler may stand at either side of the bridge entrance and change position once; Advanced - ~~no wings or handler positioning restrictions for each level~~ Handler may move to either side of the bridge entrance and must remain in that position.

e d) Gate work – Gate work should encompass adding or removing stock from one group to another from adjoining areas. At the Started level, any stock may be sorted, while at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) should be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner on the first attempt. Stock may be marked with ribbons, livestock paint, or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting.

d e) Extra obstacles – Extra obstacles may include trees, bushes, rocks, farm equipment, and bales of hay or straw, etc. to either pass between as panels or to make turns around. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly putting all the stock through or around the obstacle on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by the Course Director.

e f) Figure 8 – The stock must move in a figure eight pattern Cones, barrels or natural objects may be used to set out the pattern and the stock must pass through the center three times to complete the pattern. Started handlers may move anywhere; Intermediate ~~must stand centered between the markers~~ handlers must remain outside the figure 8 but may move freely outside of the obstacle; Advanced handlers must remain stationary outside the figure 8. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock around the pattern on the first attempt.

f g) Mock Simulated footbath – The handler and dog must move stock through a footbath ~~containing only water~~ located in a fence line chute that must have an entry wing with a width of no more than 12 feet for the Started and Intermediate levels and no wing for Advanced. Absolutely no chemicals may be used in the footbath, but it must contain 2 to 4 inches of water and have a non-slip surface. The footbath should be ~~from approximately 2 to 4 feet in width but large enough for the stock to move comfortably through-~~ and a minimum of 8 feet in length, and located towards the exit end of the chute. The handler may touch the stock with hands or crook to encourage them into and through the obstacle but must not abuse them. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently putting all stock designated for this obstacle through the footbath on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels ~~may will~~ be determined by: Started – a minimum of 1/3 of the flock into bath, Intermediate a minimum 2/3 of the flock into bath, and advanced all stock into foot bath.

g h) Stock Trailer – The trailer should be of a suitable size to ensure the safety of the stock and the dog. The stock must be loaded into the trailer without the dog entering the trailer. An approximately 8-to-12-foot panel will be used as a wing on the opposite side of the trailer from the door to assist loading for the Started

and Intermediate levels. The handler may touch the stock with hands or crook to assist with loading, but may not abuse them. For all levels on cattle, no dog may enter the trailer when loading. Once the stock has entered the trailer, the trailer door will be closed. The dog may enter the trailer to unload the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock in and out of the trailer on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels ~~may~~ will be determined ~~in one of the following:~~ by:

- ~~Started to load handler or dog may not enter the trailer but may otherwise move freely while loading the trailer to 1/3 of its capacity. Started handlers may enter trailer while loading.~~
- ~~Intermediate to load handler or dog may not enter the trailer but may otherwise move freely while loading the trailer to 2/3 of its capacity. Intermediate handlers may stand in opening of trailer.~~
- ~~Advanced handlers must remain outside during loading~~ hold the trailer door until the stock is loaded and dog may not enter trailer while loading to full capacity. For cattle only, Advanced handlers must remain on the door side of the trailer but need not hold the door.

h j) Alleyways – 2 panels of sufficient length are set approximately 15 - 25 feet parallel from the perimeter fence line, with a distance of approximately 10 to 16 feet apart, to simulate an alleyway with an open gate on one side. Started handlers may walk through the alleyway with the gate closed. Intermediate handlers may not walk through, and dogs need to get the sheep through the alleyway not allowing the stock to go through the ‘open’ gate. Advanced handlers may not walk through, but must turn the stock to go through the side gate. Alternatively, a Maltese Cross could be used using similar criteria to differentiate levels.

i j) Shed/hold – Started handlers will hold the stock still in a designated shedding area that must be away from any fence line. The dog is not required to stop before the hold is called, as long as the stock are still. Intermediate handlers will follow all of the same shedding criteria as Advanced, except that they may use a fence line. Advanced handlers must remain in the designated ~~shedding~~ ring area. The stock must be split into two approximate equal groups with no fewer than four head per group by the combined efforts of the dog and handler. When the handler calls the dog in to take control, the dog must come immediately, and Advanced Started & Intermediate turn the group indicated by the handler away from the remaining stock. If the dog does not come in when the handler asks, it will be considered a failed attempt and points will be deducted at the judge’s discretion. The stock must be moved away from the remaining stock and held until the judge indicates that the shed is complete. Maximum points will be awarded for a successful shed on the first attempt.

j k) Freestanding pen with rope – The pen shall be ~~between eight feet by eight feet (8' x 8') and twelve feet x twelve feet (12' x 12')~~ of an adequate size to contain all of the stock in the group. A 6-foot (6') rope must be firmly affixed to the gate ~~and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed.~~ When ready to pen the stock, the handler must open the gate, and after all the stock are penned, the handler must close the gate. ~~However, after penning, the handler and/or the dog may enter the pen to exhaust the stock.~~

Upon completion of penning, the rope will be loosely hung over the pen. The dog and handler may not enter the pen to exhaust the stock.

Maximum points will be awarded for penning and exhausting the stock efficiently and then closing the gate.

Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by the following:

- Started handlers do not have to hold onto the rope and may ~~enter the pen~~ move freely.
- Intermediate handlers do not have to hold onto the rope ~~and may not enter the pen~~ but must remain on the gate side of the pen.
- Advanced handlers must hold onto the rope, ~~and may not enter the pen.~~

k l) Stock Setting - Dog will set stock for an un-entered or stock setter’s dog. Dog will take stock to a designated area and allow an un-entered or stock setter’s dog to pick them up. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog who allows pick of up the stock with minimal commands. Degree of difficulty ~~may~~ will be determined by ~~the size of the area that the stock is set out in or by~~ the competitor dog being on lead for Started, dragging lead for Intermediate or off-lead for Advanced.

Section 8. Levels.

Started Level Course D—Description.

The D Course Started course consists of the ~~7~~ 5 general elements, namely a take pen, gather, ~~lift, fetch,~~ exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle, and fetch and/or drive plus three of the optional elements.

The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Started level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

~~Outrun~~ Gather – The dog will be at a distance of at least 60 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 15 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow....(~~8 points~~), **~~Lift~~**—Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift ~~at the correct speed in the correct direction~~ without upsetting the stock....(~~4 points~~), **~~Fetch~~**—Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that and fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point.....(~~8~~ 20 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, ~~unassisted by the handler~~ on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated~~ must be attempted before penning the stock but is not necessary to hold them while the gate is open. Maximum points will be awarded for stock walking into the pen holding the stock off the open gate and then allowing stock to exhaust calmly. A run in which the handler does not attempt a hold off the gate shall not qualify.....(10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

Intermediate Level Course D—Description.

The Course D Intermediate course consists of the ~~7~~ 5 general elements namely a take pen, ~~outrun, lift, fetch~~ gather, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle and fetch and/or drive plus 3 of the optional elements listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order. ~~The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.~~

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Intermediate level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun Gather – The dog will be at a distance of at least 100 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 50 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow.....~~(8 points)~~ **Lift** ~~Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift in the correct direction without upsetting the stock...~~~~(4 points)~~ **Fetch** ~~Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that and fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance point.....~~ (20 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The drive distance will be a minimum of 75 feet. The handler must be at least 15 feet behind the dog during the drive. The entire 75 feet must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge's discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated~~ must be attempted while the handler is opening the gate or when the gate is opened. Maximum points will be awarded for holding the stock off the open gate and then allowing stock to exhaust calmly. A run in which the handler does not attempt a hold off the gate as it opens or when open shall not qualify......(10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

Advanced Level Course D—Description.

The Course D Advanced course consists of the ~~7~~ 5 general elements namely a take pen, ~~outrun~~, ~~lift~~, ~~fetch~~, ~~gather~~, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle, fetch and/or drive plus 3 of the optional elements from listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

~~The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.~~

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Advanced level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun Gather – The dog will be at a distance of at least 220 feet from the stock. The handler must stand at the post and send the dog from that point. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow.....~~(8 points)~~ **Lift** ~~Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performing performs a calm lift at in the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock...~~~~(4 points)~~ **Fetch** ~~Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that and fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance point.....~~ (20 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The line of the drive will be at least 30 feet from any parallel fence, and the drive distance will be a

minimum of 125 feet. The handler must remain stationary during the drive. The entire 125' must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge's discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle ~~unassisted by the handler~~, on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated with the gate open~~ must be attempted before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for ~~the stock walking into the exhaust pen~~ holding the stock off the open gate and then allowing stock to exhaust calmly. A run in which the handler does not attempt a hold off the open gate shall not qualify.....(10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

Section 9. Judging Course D.

Points will be deducted in 1/2 point or whole point increments only.

Suggested Scoring:

The scoring below is a suggestion. Judges may score above or below the suggested scoring as they deem appropriate. The following deductions are intended to be for each instance.

A. **The Gather-** The Gather consists of outrun, lift and fetch together.

A. **Outrun/Lift/Fetch-** **A-1. Outrun:**

- ~~Up to 1 1/2 points deducted for a redirect while the dog is in motion.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog being too far away from the post, more than 5 feet.
- ~~Up to 3 points deducted for a stop and redirect.~~
- ~~4 to 8 points deducted for the dog running to the exhaust pen and must be called back. The dog is removed the third time.~~
- ~~Up to 10 points deducted if the handler leaves the handler's post prematurely.~~ 1/2 to 1 point deducted for each redirect on the outrun.
- ~~Up to 10 points deducted for a crossover between the handler and the stock on the outrun.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted for each stop and redirect.
- ~~Up to 5 points deducted if the dog starts straight ahead towards the stock and then completes the outrun correctly.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog stopping and then receiving a redirect.
- ~~Up to 10 points deducted if the dog runs straight up the middle on the outrun.~~ 2 to 4 points deducted if the dog runs straight up the middle of the field and casts out.
- ~~Up to 20 points deducted if (caused by the dog) the stock run down the course out of control.~~ 2 to 4 points deducted for the dog running narrow.
- ~~Up to 5 points deducted for dog crossing behind the handler on the outrun.~~ 1 to 3 points deducted for the dog being off contact with the stock, running too wide, fence or boundary running.
- 3 to 5 points deducted for the dog running straight up the middle of the field.

10. 4 to 5 points deducted if the dog crosses over the center of the line on the outrun.
11. ½ to 1 point deducted for running to the dog holding the stock.
12. 1 to 2 points deducted for overrunning the stock.
13. 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog stopping short.
14. 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog too close to the stock at top of the outrun.
15. 2 to 3 points deducted for the dog running to the setout pen, removed on the second time.
16. 2 to 4 points deducted if the dog is tight at top, will not stop and rushes stock.
17. Non-qualifying if the handler leaves the handler's post prematurely.

A-2. Lift

1. 1 to 3 points deducted for difficulty lifting the stock
2. 3 to 5 points deducted for a rushed lift, causing the stock to run or split.
3. 1 to 5 points deducted for the dog causing offline direction of the flock.

A-3. Fetch: The correct path of the livestock through the course will be a zone of a size appropriate to accommodate the efficient and organized movement of the number and type of stock being used with allowances for flighty stock.

1. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out.
2. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog turning in circles.
3. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog causing the stock to weave by over-flanking.
4. 2 to 3 points deducted each time the stock retreat on the course.
5. 1 to 2 points deducted if the dog leaves the stock due to lack of interest, or is off contact.
6. 1 to 2 points deducted each time the dog circles the stock.
7. 1 to 2 points deducted each time for the stock being offline depending on severity.
8. ½ to 1 point deducted for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split.

B. Drive and/or Fetch: Note: Applies to movement of the stock over the entire course. Penalty is to be deducted under the exercise(s) where the error(s) occurs. The correct path of the livestock through the course will be a zone approximately 12 feet wide, or 12 feet in from the fence line. The drive/fetch applies to the movement of the stock over the entire course, and penalties are to be deducted under the exercise where the error(s) occur(s). The correct path of the stock through the course will be a zone of a size appropriate to accommodate the efficient and organized movement of the number and type of stock being used with allowances for flighty stock.

1. Up to 1 point deducted each time for flanking the dog too far off the stock. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out.
2. Up to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog turning in circles.
3. Up to 1 point deducted each time for causing the stock to weave by over-flanking. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog causing the stock to weave by over-flanking.
4. Up to 2 points deducted each time the dog circles the stock. 2 to 3 points deducted each time the stock retreat on the course.
5. Up to 3 points deducted each time the stock (one or more) are off line. 1 to 2 points deducted if the dog leaves the stock due to lack of interest, or is off contact.
6. Up to 3 points deducted each time for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split. 1 to 2 points deducted each time the dog circles the stock impeding progress.
7. Up to 3 points deducted for retreating on the course. 1 to 4 points deducted each time for the stock being offline, with greater points for greater severity.

8. Up to 3 points deducted for the dog leaving the stock due to lack of interest or off contact. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split.
9. ½ to 1 point deducted per head of stock for missing the obstacle.
10. ½ to 1 point deducted per head of stock if the dog brings the stock back through the obstacle.

C. Obstacles: This section applies to all obstacles including the take pen, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle and optional elements. Retrievers are permitted at all obstacles. No obstacle may be attempted more than twice. After two tries, the stock are moved to the designated distance that marks the beginning of the next obstacle. It will be counted as an attempt if the stock run past the obstacle. Runs in which there is a failure to attempt any obstacle or element required on the course is a non-qualifying run.

1. Up ½ to 1 point per head deducted for each attempt at an obstacle which is missed.
2. Up ½ to 1 point per head deducted each time for the dog bringing the stock back through an obstacle from the wrong direction.
3. Up to 1 point per head deducted on the Hold/Exam pen for each head of stock leaving the pen before the Judge's signal to exit. The stock may leave in single file or as a group after the Judge's signal. 2 to 3 points deducted each time if the dog loses control of the stock while the handler opens the exhaust pen gate.
4. Up to 7 points deducted if the handler crosses over the opening of the Hold/Exam pen or moves behind the pen before the Judge signals a hold. 4 to 5 points deducted each time if the dog brings the stock back out of the exhaust pen.
5. Up to 2 points deducted for handler forgetting to close the exhaust pen gate. 4 to 5 points deducted each time, if the dog brings the stock back out of the trailer, sort pen, or other stopped obstacle prior to the handler giving the command to do so.
6. Up to 3 points deducted if the dog loses control of the stock while the handler opens the exhaust pen gate. 4 to 5 points deducted if the dog voluntarily leaves the stock and accompanies the handler.
7. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog brings the stock back out of the exhaust pen. Non-qualifying if the handler walks through an obstacle non-designated walk-through obstacle.
8. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog voluntarily leaves the stock and accompanies the handler to the exhaust pen gate. 4 to 5 points deducted for handler forgetting to close a gate.
9. Non-qualifying if the handler walks through an obstacle ½ to 1 point per head deducted each time for circling a freestanding pen or trailer.
10. 4 to 5 points deducted each time for rough handling of the stock.
11. 2 to 5 points deducted each time for missorting stock.
12. ½ to 1 point deducted for shed being done by handler.
13. 1 to 2 points deducted for handler standing too long without trying to shed.
14. 2 to 3 points deducted if the stock cut off from the group, rejoin the group (no hold following the shed).
15. 5 to 6 points deducted for not trying to do a shed.
16. 3 to 5 points for the dog not coming in when asked on the shed.
17. 3 to 5 points deducted for the stock going into the trailer, chute, or freestanding pen and then escaping.
18. .5 to 2 points deducted for appearing to intentionally slam a gate.
19. Non-qualifying for Advanced handler voluntarily dropping rope at freestanding pen.
20. 3 to 5 points deducted for interfering with pickup on setting stock exercise.
21. Non-qualifying for failing to attempt a hold off the exhaust pen.

D. General Deductions:

1. Up ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog stopping and sniffing.
2. Up 1 to 3 points deducted for excessive commands.
3. Up 1 to 3 points deducted each time the dog refuses to obey commands.

4. ~~Up 1 to 3 points deducted for the handler moving the stock.~~
5. ~~Up to 5 points deducted each time the handler touches the dog or the stock.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted each time for a dog turning tail.
6. ~~Up 4 to 5 points deducted or removed for first unacceptable grip as defined in Chapter 1, Section 22. Dog must be removed for second unacceptable grip or excused for abusive grip.~~
7. ~~Up 3 to 5 points deducted each time the dog fouls the course.~~
8. ~~Up 3 to 5 points deducted if, when entering the arena (or working area), the dog remains on lead as the handler leaves the gate area to proceed to the appropriate post or if, when leaving the arena (working area), the lead is applied early rather than just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena or working area.~~
9. ~~Up 1 to 3 points deducted, each incident, for the excessive or threatening use of the crook or stock stick, or use of threats causing dog to cringe.~~
10. If the stock simply follows the handler through the course, or if the dog simply heels or follows off contact through the course, the dog must not qualify.
11. 5 pts deducted to NQ if a handler runs off course.
12. ~~Up 1 to 8 points deducted if stock does not respect the dog.~~
13. ~~Up to 10 1 to 3 points deducted or removed if the dog needs repeated commands to perform tasks.~~
14. ~~Up to 10 5 to 8 points deducted if the dog fails to control situations on its own initiative.~~
15. After five minutes of lack of forward progress the dog must be removed.

Maximum Points Available:

Course D – All Levels – 100 points

1. Gather.....	20
2. Fetch and/or Drive.....	20
3. Take Pen.....	10
4. Freestanding Object.....	10
5. Exhaust Pen.....	10
6. (3 Optional Elements).....	30
TOTAL.....	100

This regulation update has been posted to the [Herding Regulations Update](http://herdingregulationsupdate.com) webpage. Please send any comments or questions to: herding@akc.org