

# Pre-Trial Test Description

## Pre-Trial Test, Description and Test Elements.

Time allowed is ten (10) minutes once the lead is removed with no minimum time for completion.

A dog must complete all test elements within the allotted ten (10) minutes to qualify.

Event-giving clubs, at their option, may choose not to offer the PT Boundary style test or they may choose to only offer the PT Boundary style test.

The premium list must state if all PT test styles will not be offered. A dog is not required to work in a particular style of herding according to its breed. The entry form must be marked "Boundary" if the handler wishes the dog to be tested in a boundary situation.

A handler may not excessively touch or correct the dog once the stock begins moving. The dog must respond in a reasonably prompt manner without threatening actions or movements by the handler.

The Judge must observe the handler and the dog and may not physically assist the handler and/or the dog in controlling the livestock.

The Judge may advise the handler on how best to encourage the dog to move the stock and how to maneuver around the course.

The dog should be permitted to work the stock as much as possible with a minimum of commands by the handler.

Testing and time commence when the lead is removed.

The dog must demonstrate a controlled pause (stay in position until released or sent).

Once the lead is removed, the handler may assume a position away from the dog and appropriate in relation to the stock, but the dog must remain in position.

The Judge then signals or instructs the handler to send the dog. A dog that "breaks the stay" shall not qualify.

Stock should be freestanding at the top of the arena and may be held in the same manner as the Herding Test.

The dog will enter the arena on lead. The Judge will instruct the handler when to remove the lead and when to send the dog. If the dog is being tested on the boundary, the dog will lift the stock from the area near the pen and will contain the stock within the graze area for no more than three minutes before reversing the course to return the stock through both gates to the pen.

The handler may take any position relative to the stock and dog throughout the course. The dog must be under control and move the stock under control, either on or off the fence, throughout the course.

The dog will move the stock through the first gate at the side of the arena, across the narrow end of the arena through the second gate.

Direction is reversed at approximately the midpoint of the long side of the arena.

The stock moves back through the second gate, across the narrow end, through the first gate and to the pen.

While the handler opens the gate the dog will sit, stand or down stay until commanded to pen the stock.

Four gate passes are required and at some point on the course the handler must demonstrate that the dog can hold a stop (controlled pause).

The test is completed when the gate is closed and the handler may leash the dog as soon as the gate is closed.

Once a dog has attempted or completed all test elements, regardless of whether it qualifies, it must leave the arena on lead.

**The five elements of the test, which must be executed, are:**

1. A stay (a controlled pause);
2. Controlled passage of the stock (which includes clearing four gates and a change of direction);
3. One stop on the course;
4. One stop while the handler opens the pen gate;
5. Penning the stock.

Retries at the gates and pen are a judgmental consideration and there is no general limit on retries except as dictated by the time allowed, and when the dog's attempts are nonproductive or the stock exhibits lack of forward progress.

Recalcitrant stock are a consideration, and a dog can be considered as having met the requirements if all but one head pass through the gates and are penned, provided the dog qualifies in all other aspects of its work. Generally, 80% of the stock should be penned.