

# Herding Test Diagram

## Herding Test, Description and Test Elements:

Two pylons or similar markers are placed on the (longer) centerline of a fenced arena approximately 10 feet in from the fences at opposite ends of the arena.

Time allowed is ten (10) minutes with no minimum time for completion. A dog must complete all test elements within the allotted ten (10) minutes to qualify.

Stock should be freestanding at the top of the arena and may be held in the general pen area by a stock handler should it be determined necessary by the judge.

The handler will enter the arena with the dog on lead and, with the Judge, will move to a position appropriate for the start of the test.

The Judge establishes that the dog is under control. When the Judge determines that the dog is under control, the test may begin.

The handler is instructed to place the dog in a sit, stand or down/stay position and remove the lead. Testing and time commence when the lead is removed.

The dog should 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 should remain in position.

The Judge then signals or instructs the handler to send the dog. A dog that “breaks the stay” shall not fail for that reason alone.

During the test, the Judge should be positioned so as to observe the dog and provide verbal assistance, but shall not interfere with the movement of the stock, handler or dog unless as necessary to remove the dog from the arena.

The dog must be under control and demonstrate controlled movement of the stock from the first pylon to the second pylon, turn the stock at or near the second pylon, and move the stock back to the first pylon, where they are again turned (at or near the pylon) and moved back to the second pylon.

At the handler’s option, the dog may work the stock across the open arena or along the fence line. The test is concluded at or near the second pylon with a stop followed by a recall. The Judge indicates completion of the test, and the handler leashes the dog and leaves the arena.

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

1. A controlled pause or stop at the beginning;
2. and 3. Two changes in direction at or near the proper pylon while exhibiting controlled movement of the stock;
4. A stop
5. Followed by a recall at the conclusion of the run.

Once a dog has attempted or completed all the test elements, regardless of whether or not it qualified, it must leave the arena. It may not repeat the test, attempting a different path through the course or repeat the same path using a different style of herding.

The timer shall give no warning of time remaining but shall announce when time has expired.