



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

## Performance Events Department

July 2021

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

Subject: **Judges and Stock Dogs Allowed to Participate**

This is to inform your club of two changes made to the *AKC Herding Regulations*. The first change allows a herding judge to handle dogs at a herding event other than the testing levels or class they are judging. This is intended to make the logistics of planning judging panels and the accepting of assignments easier for both clubs and judges. The second change allows stock dogs to be entered in a test or trial except for the class in which they are setting stock. Both changes lift restrictions in participation without compromising the integrity of the trial or test. These changes are effective July 1, 2021.

The exact wording of these changes are noted in bold, underline and will appear in the next printing of the regulations as follows:

### (1) Chapter II. Section 5. Judging Restrictions and Eligibility.

An approved **Herding Trial** judge shall not handle a dog in any level at the **Trial** where they are judging. **A Herding Trial judge may handle a dog in a testing level. A Herding Test judge may handle a dog in any trial level or test level other than those they are judging. A judge may not interrupt their judging assignment in order to handle a dog.** No dog owned or co-owned by the judge or any member of his or her family or household may be entered under that judge at a test or trial for which he or she has been advertised as a judge. Dogs owned by a member of a judge's family or household may be entered under other judges at the event.

### (2) Chapter II. Section 3. Judge's and Herding Committee's Responsibilities.

The Herding Trial Committee and officials of the trial-giving club are responsible for providing the stock, fencing, facilities and equipment which meet the requirements of these Regulations. The Committee is responsible for providing adequate livestock handling crews, particularly when more than one arena is used at an event. It is strongly recommended that the Committee arrange to have one or two experienced stock dogs and their handlers present throughout the test or trial. **If no non-entered experienced stock dogs are available, the stock dogs may be entered in the event but not in the class for which they are setting stock.** Stock handlers, who are entered in the event, must not have been involved in the selection of the stock for their run.

These regulation updates are posted to the [Herding Regulations Update](#) webpage and communicated to all Herding clubs and approved judges. Please send any comments or questions to: [herding@akc.org](mailto:herding@akc.org) If you send a request to update your email address, please provide your name, city and state.