



POLICY DOCUMENT
SHEEPDOG TRAINING AREA
 Bill Spilstead Complex For Canine Affairs

Amended:	BOARD April 2005
	BOARD 8 March 2006 (refer Item 7.4 Sporting Committee 20 February 2006)
	Executive Committee May 2006
	BOARD 13 Sept 2006 (refer 6.5 Secretary's Report – Item 9)
	November 2007
	Updated 21 January 08
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1. GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim is to promote good sportsmanship and friendly competition amongst handlers while training their dogs.

This applies to all clubs involved in stock work.

To create an educational informative atmosphere so that workers can train working dogs to work.

To promote the safe, careful, efficient handling of livestock.

To prevent the maltreatment of dogs or stock. This will not be tolerated under any circumstances and any cruelty will be reported to DOGS NSW.

If any sheep has been injured, the Stock Manager must be notified and the incident noted on day sheet.

The instructor must decide if veterinary attention is required.

2. HIRE OF SHEEPDOG AREA

2.1 Hire fees are set by DOGS NSW.

2.2 Only affiliated clubs may make bookings.

2.3 Fees for training and trials will be decided by the club conducting the event.

2A. HIRE OF EQUIPMENT IN SHEEPDOG AREA (04/16)

- 2A.1 Hire fees are set by DOGS NSW.
- 2A.2 Only Affiliated Clubs may hire equipment.
- 2A.3 Equipment is to be returned and assembled in its original position - if not, a charge for reassembly will apply.
- 2A.4 Hire is subject to availability. Affiliates holding approved Trials on the grounds will have priority and the Stock Manager must approve hire.

3. WELFARE POLICY

The welfare of stock and dogs is paramount at all times.

- 3.1 Herding Training/Trials must cease, or not begin at all if the weather conditions are unfavourable. All events must cease if the temperature rises above 30 degrees Celsius as measured by BOM Badgerys Creek. Stock must be returned to the large paddock until the temperature drops. **(09/18)**
(Refer to DOGS NSW Regulations Part II-Show, Section 19: Extreme Weather and Safety Regulations)
- 3.2 Sheep that are panting are stressed and must be returned to rest immediately and replaced with rested stock. Sheep at rest must have access to shade and water. Stress is also dependent on humidity- and may occur at mild temperatures.
- 3.3 The maximum time for any one run is 15 minutes (with the exception of graze work – where the sheep are not being worked, longer times are permitted). Sheep are to be rotated regularly after 3-5 runs. The decision of rotation of sheep can be affected by temperature conditions, or if the sheep have stood quietly. The instructor on the day needs to decide if it is up to 3 or 5 runs. **(04/16)**
- 3.4 Each dog must have a minimum 15 minute break between the dog's runs in any area.

4. GROUND RULES

The ground rules listed below will apply to any person using the sheepdog area and facilities. These rules will apply to training days, tests and trials, fun days, clinics and grading competitions, etc.

- 4.1 The instructor must have a competent well trained working dog available to them at all times
 - Point 4.1 *“competent well trained working dog”*. Reworded to read:-
“an instructor must have a competent well trained working dog available to them at all times to assist in the moving of stock from one training area to another.
- 4.2 NO dogs are to be tied to any of the herding fences. Handlers are to supply their own pegs. Dogs must be kept quiet near the working area. Noisy dogs should be taken to an area where they cannot see the stock and kept quiet.

- 4.3 No person will be permitted to work a dog on stock at any time without a qualified instructor being present. At no time should any person be moving or working stock alone including Instructors, there must always be at least one other person present.
- 4.4 The instructor will ask the handler to remove any dog which is working in a manner which may cause injury to the stock. The owner of the dog will pay for any damages to any injured sheep. These dogs will then be required to wear a muzzle until the dog is under control.
- 4.4.1 All beginner handlers and dogs must have a lead on the dog at all times whilst in herding training rings.
- 4.5 If a worker refuses to take a dog off the training ground due to biting or injuring stock by running them into fences, the rostered instructor will be asked to intervene and an incident report will be submitted on the day sheet and also reported to the Stock Manager outlining the alleged misconduct, naming the handler and dog involved and including the names of any witnesses to the incident. Any dog or handler being reported three times or more will be suspended from using the sheepdog area and referred to DOGS NSW.
- 4.6 Once a handler has reached trial standard and has attended several sheepdog clinics/or completed in trials, they should be encouraged to attend an instructor course.
- 4.7 Bitches in season will not be allowed in the sheep dog area during training.
- Rational: As bitches in season are allowed to run in ANKC Ltd Herding Trials at the end of the trial, however, they are not permitted in the herding precinct during training times. This clause was added in case of confusion.
- 4.8 A day sheet is to be kept by all clubs using the sheep area, in which all injuries to sheep/dogs and handlers are to be recorded. The entry is to be signed by the instructor on the day. A copy of the report is to be sent to the Stock Manager who will submit a copy of incident report to the Office if it is believed necessary. As to the Insurance claims situations, the Stock Manager will liaise with the Office about this.
- 4.9 A First Aid Kit and suitable Vet Box is to be available at all times (4/05) (Refer BOD April 2005, Item 7.3 – Sporting Committee 21 March 2005)
- 4.10 No horse whips, stock whips or any item that can be intended to be a whip be allowed in the area at any time

5. GROUND HOURS

This section is to be read in conjunction with Section 3 - Welfare Policy. The welfare policy takes precedence above any other recommended time and/or event.

Training times are a maximum of 6 hours on any one day:-

- Spring/Summer (or in any period of high humidity/heat) a maximum of 6 hours from official sunrise **OR** 6 hours before official Sunset.
- Autumn/Winter between 9am and 4pm (includes an hour for lunch).

6. CARE OF GROUNDS

- All gates MUST be closed after use, to prevent sheep moving into the wrong areas.
- Garbage and litter is to be cleaned up and placed in the bins provided after every event.
- All handlers whose dogs defecate on the grounds must clean up the dog's droppings immediately and place in the bins provided.

7. INSTRUCTORS

7.1 The individual Herding Clubs are responsible for approving all their own instructors. Such instructors will have had experience up to the level of competition in stock dog trials, or at the discretion of the Chief Instructor of a Herding Club.

7.2 An approved instructor must be present at ALL times.

Criteria for Instructors

Instructors will have had experience up to the level of competition in sheep dog trials or ANKC Ltd Herding and Trials and must be a financial member of DOGS NSW.

An approved instructor will be expected to meet the following criteria:-

- A person who has been involved with stock for some time and with training stock dogs.
- A person who has trained a dog to work a variety of stock.
- A person who has with the aptitude to pass on knowledge to other handlers.
- A person who has bred and trained working dogs and knows what is required in a dog to make a good stock dog.
- A person who can work a dog in yards.
- A person who can move sheep in an arena and in yards.
- A person who has attended a number of herding clinics/seminars presented by different instructors.
- A person who has entered sheepdog or ANKC Ltd Trials with a dog they have trained themselves.
- A person who has successfully trained a variety of breeds and working styles.

8. HANDLERS

8.1 Footwear and attire.

Handlers should wear footwear that protects them at all times. Sturdy boots, joggers, or shoes are acceptable. NO thongs, scuffs, sandals or open toed shoes permitted.

8.2 Conduct

Any person at, or within, the precincts of the "sheep dog training area" who:-

- A) behaves contrary to the manner in which a reasonable person ought properly to conduct him or herself;
- B) causes embarrassment to any person(s) at training;
- C) otherwise causes misconduct; or
- D) mistreats the dog or sheep while training;

may be cautioned by a representative of the affiliate concerned and, if thereafter, he/she further offends in a manner referred to above, he/she may be asked to leave the grounds (and to remove any dog/s thereon) and if he/she does not leave voluntarily he/she (and any such dog/s) may be removed there from by the affiliate concerned.

The affiliate or person concerned shall report the misconduct in writing to DOGS NSW.

- 8.3 Children under the age of 12 years are not permitted to enter the sheepdog training area unsupervised.

9. CARE OF THE DOG

- All dogs and bitches that participate at stock training must be fully vaccinated against parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis.
- Any dog on the grounds:-
 - A) displaying clinical symptoms of an infectious or contagious disease; or
 - B) which is known to have been in contact with an infectious or communicable disease within 30 days prior, or has been kenneled on premises that such infectious or contagious disease existed within 30 days prior;
 shall NOT be allowed to enter or remain on the training area. Affected dogs shall not be eligible to re-enter the training area until a vet certificate is produced that the dog is clear.
- All dogs will be given shade and MUST be supplied with fresh water at all times.
- The bath tubs provided MUST be filled with clean water each training day so dogs can cool down and to prevent overheating. Failure to comply could cause a problem with the RSPCA with respect to cruelty to animals as dogs can die if they overheat.
- All dogs MUST remain on lead at all times in herding area.
- All dogs MUST be on a fixed collar, or part fixed collar and chain.
- All dogs MUST be secured, eg, by staking to the ground, secured in vehicles or in crates, etc.
- NO DOG is to be left in a closed vehicle.
- ALL DOGS are to be provided with adequate shade/shelter.
- Dogs MUST be under the handlers control at all times.
- All dogs MUST be kept quiet near the working area, occasional barking will be tolerated, continual or excessive barking is not permitted. Noisy dogs will be asked to leave the training area and be kept quiet.

10. CARE OF THE SHEEP

To be read in conjunction with Section 3 - Welfare policy

- Sheep are to be gathered and placed in the yards if necessary.
- Sheep are to be checked for injuries or sickness before being drafted off for training sessions.
- No lame or injured sheep may be worked.
- Sheep must have access to water at all times
- At the conclusion of the day sheep are to be returned to the field and the affiliate is responsible for ensuring that the area they are held in is secure (ie, a check to ensure all boundary gates are closed is a minimum *and the sheep have access to water*).

11. COMPETITIONS

11.1 Sheepdog and Yard Dog Trials

- Any arena trial or Yard dog trial is to be run under the rules and regulations of the NSWDSWA Inc and/or NSW Yard Dog Association governing sheepdog trials.
- Judges of sheepdog trialling events must be accredited with the NSWSDWA Inc or the NSW Yard Dog Association or similar interstate organisations.

11.2 ANKC Ltd Herding Tests and Trials

- Any tests or trials are to be held under the ANKC Ltd Rules and Regulations governing herding.
- Any person judging an official Test or Trial must be an approved ANKC Ltd Judge.

12. USE OF STOCK

12.1 A stock of 150 sheep are to be kept on the grounds. Rotation of stock will be determined by the Sporting Committee in consultation with the Stock Manager. Turnover of sheep is dependent on:-

- A) current price; and
- B) if the sheep have become extremely “dog wise”.

12.2 No person is allowed on the Complex to work their dogs on DOGS NSW stock (sheep and cattle) at any time other than the specified approved training/trial dates.

12.3 The Stock Manager will facilitate movement, treatment or stock management needs of sheep.

12.4 For OH&S and Public Liability reasons, the Stock Manager will keep a register and an account of stock movement.