Judging Instruction Sheet for BCCA Instinct Test (HIC)

Purposes of the HIC: Assess the potential herding capabilities and bidability of the untrained Bearded Collie and to encourage herding activities with Bearded Collies. Other program forms may also be used but only the official BCCA HIC form will be accepted by the BCCA.

Passing the HIC Test: The dog should pass each section in order to pass the Test. Any of the following behaviors, which indicate that the dog is unlikely to become a useful herding dog, will result in an overall "NOT PASS" for this Test. These include fear of stock, no or little interest, aggression, and the lack of bidability. Although the ideal is for the dog to pass all sections of the Test, a Judge may choose the "NOT PASS" designation for the following items that could be trainable or improve with additional stock exposure, but still pass the dog for overall instinct. These items include barking and power.

The Judge should indicate the assessment number that come closest to describing a dog's responses.

Not Passable Characteristics: (the # matches the item definition on the test form).

- Confidence with stock. #1. Fear of stock or situation. #2 Hesitant of stock or tries but runs from stock
- Biddability. #1. Refusal to take direction.
- Barking. #1. Consistent barking at, or attention on, individuals or objects other than the stock; "sass" barking.
- Interest. #1 and #2. Lack of or little interest.
- Power (intrinsic). #1 and #2. No power or excessive power; excessive playfulness.
- Perception of Group. #1, #2, #3. Aggression toward stock; chasing or constant splitting of stock. Occasional splitting is acceptable.

In all cases, Judges should make every effort to assist the dog and handler toward success; however, the decision of the Judge will be final. Reruns may be permitted on the same day should unusual circumstances occur or the Judge feels a second opportunity is appropriate.

Judges should encourage owners of dogs which show herding talent to train and compete in trials.

General Descriptions

Qualification Requirements: A dog owned by the judge or any member of the judge's household may not be evaluated by that judge, nor may a judge evaluate a dog of which that judge has been the owner or primary trainer/handler within the last six months.

Minimum Age: 6 months (per SR SR 02/08-05).

Handler: Either the owner (or his agent) or the Judge, or both, may handle the dog at the judge's discretion.

Instruction: The Judge will instruct novice handlers on ways to assist the dog.

Control: The dog must exhibit some self-control at the beginning and end of the Test by demonstrating a brief pause and an eventual recall.

Training Aids: Note: some Beardies are sound-sensitive. Judges should not use noisy tools for these dogs. Stock sticks, crooks, PVC pipe (1/2" diameter maximum), buggy whips, shaker bottles, lightweight rolled papers, plastic rakes and other safe training tools may be used BY THE JUDGE to aid in controlling intense dogs.

Metal or heavy solid objects or prong or electronic collars may not be used under any conditions. Every effort must be made to prevent injury to dog, person(s), or stock.

Lead: A lead or line of 4' to 10' length will be on the dog when entering the arena. The lead must be dropped or may be removed at the judge's discretion.

Time: Maximum; approximately 10 minutes in total: sustained interest / work for approximately 2 minutes. The welfare of the stock must be of utmost importance.

Style: Fetch or drive, bark or silent, loose or strong eye. Light and appropriate grip acceptable.

Temperament: Usually friendly, sometimes reserved.

Bidability: Responsive to appropriate direction and/or correction.

Balance: The dog should show some natural balance.

Barking: It is permissible if aimed at or used for control of stock.

Judges Signature:	Г	Date:	
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(August, 2013)