BCCA Herding Instinct Program

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Presented by the BCCA Herding Committee, August 2013: Barbara Claxton, Cindy Mendonca, Tish Pollock, Elsa Sell (Chair), Marilynn Snook, Brian Wistrom and Ann Witte

History of Herding Instinct Testing in Bearded Collies

Under different herding chairs and with various umbrella organizations, the BCCA has long supported Instinct Testing for Bearded Collies

Herding Committee Chairs

1983 - fall 1986 Susan Holm fall 1986 – 1989 Carl Widell 1990 – 1991 Mike Tupa 1992 Ann Witte 1993 – fall 1994 Carl Widell fall 1994 – 1997 Joel Levinson 1997 – 1998 Pam McGarvey

1998 – 2009 Ann Witte (co-chairs: Cindy Mendonca ~ 02-06; Brian Wistrom 08-09)

2009 – present Elsa Sell

Instinct Tests

Over the years, different tests have been used by the BCCA. A single qualifying test has been required for the certificate, regardless of which test was used.

1985 – fall 1993: Working Collie Association/BCCA instinct certification or AKC HT

Fall 1993 – late 2008: AHBA Herding Capability Test (HCT)

Late 2008 – present: BCCA HIC

Number of Beardies with Herding Instinct Certification

2423 Beardies have been herding instinct certified as of 1/1/13. Test forms are available on 1326.

Test periods/test type

• 1985 – fall 1993 (BCCA instinct test or AKC HT): n=416

• Fall 1993 (AHBA HCT) – late 2008: n=614

Late 2008 (BCCA HIC) – spring 2013: n=446

Herding Characteristics on Different Tests

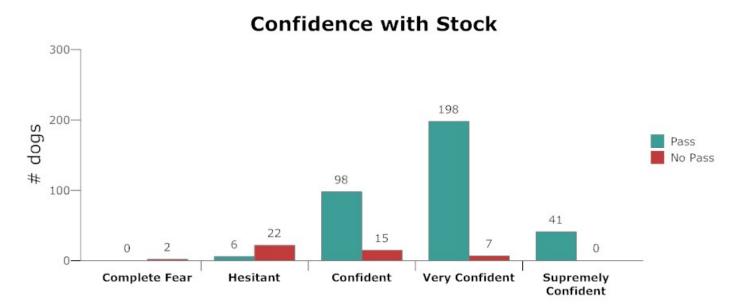
J	Number of Descriptors for Each Characteristic				
Characteristic	Working Collie, BCCA Instinct	AKC HT	AHBA	BCCA HIC	
Style	3	3	5	No	
Approach	3	3	3	No	
Wearing	3	3	3-5	No	
Bark	3	3	4	5	
Eye	3	3	3	3	
Power	3 (term aggressiveness)	3	4	5	
Temperament	3	3	4	No	
Balance	No	3	4	5	
Responsiveness	No	3	4	5 (term bidability)	
Interest	No	3	4	5	
Grouping	No	5 (term – movement of stock)	4	5	
Confidence with stock	No	No	No	5	
Confidence with people	No	No	No	5	

BCCA HIC

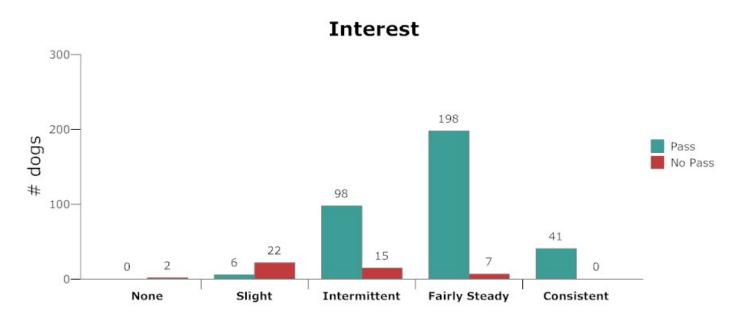
The graphs include tests through spring 2013. As with the AHBA tests, testers do not always mark all of the characteristics for each dog, so the numbers differ slightly. There were 343 passing and 99 non-passing tests, with a passing rate of 77.6%. Herding characteristics were checked on about 1/3 of the non-passing dogs and for most of the passing dogs. Comments written for non-passing dogs included: very distracted, too attached to mom, no interest, immature, can't take any pressure, no response to pressure or needs more exposure. The bar graphs display the number of dogs in passing and not passing groups.

Confidence with Stock

(343 Pass; 46 No Pass)

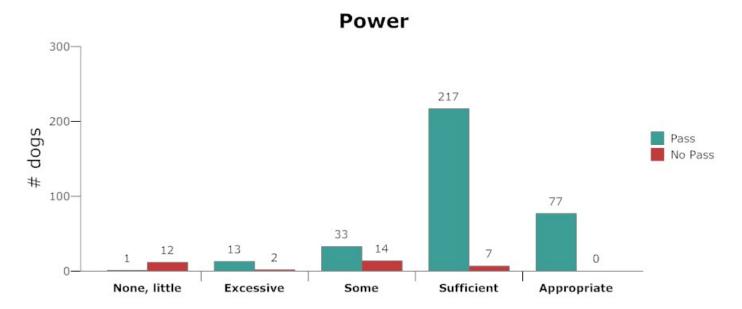


Interest (341 Pass; 55 No Pass)



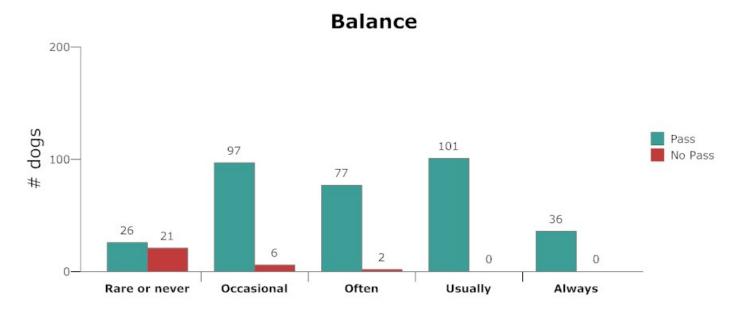
Power

(341 Pass; 36 No Pass)



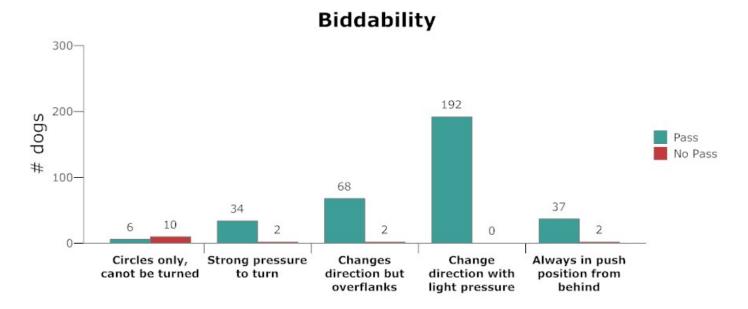
Balance

(337 Pass; 29 No Pass)



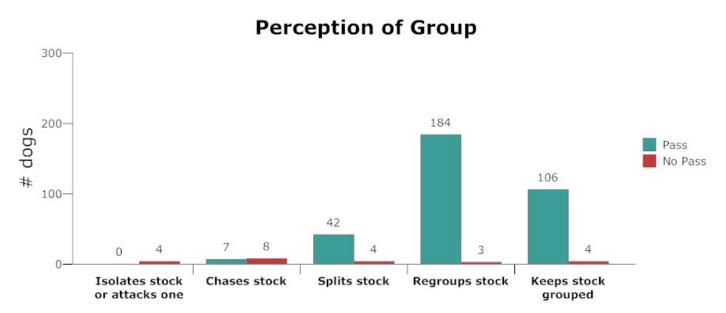
Biddability

(337 Pass; 16 No Pass)

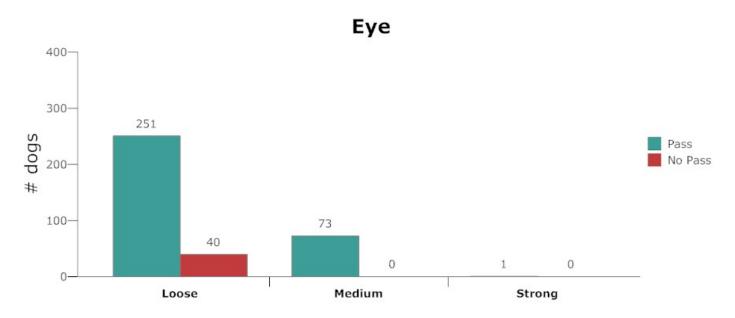


Perception of Group

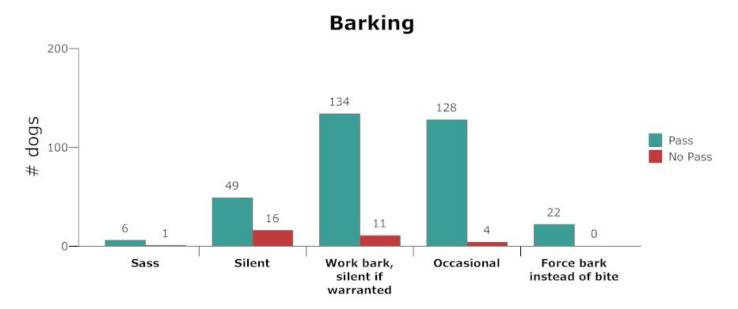
(339 Pass; 23 No Pass)



Eye (325 Pass; 40 No Pass)

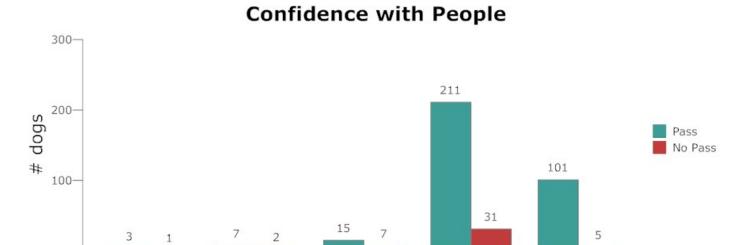


Barking (340 Pass; 32 No Pass)



Confidence with People

(337 Pass; 46 No Pass)



Comparison of Eye in Different Periods

Overlysocial

Shy, can't touch

Eye is the only characteristic which has been defined identically across all time periods. There is a trend toward looser eye in recent years. In the future if there were an effort by breeders to breed for stronger eye, it might be reflected in a change on the HIC.

Hesitant with

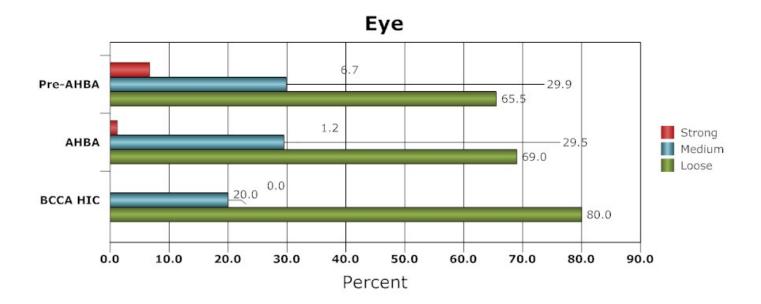
Strangers

Outgoing,

friendly

Calmly

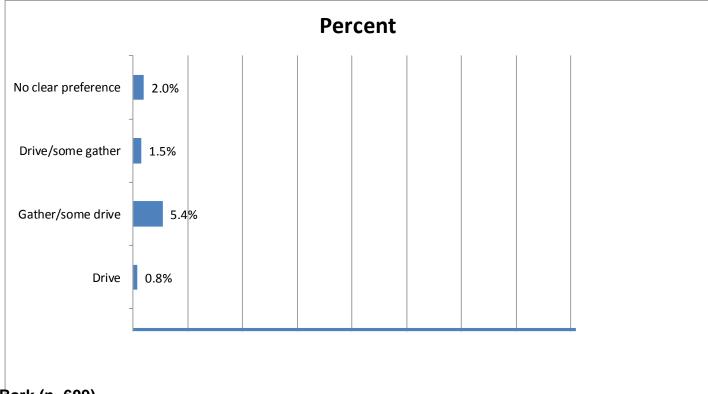
self-assured

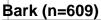


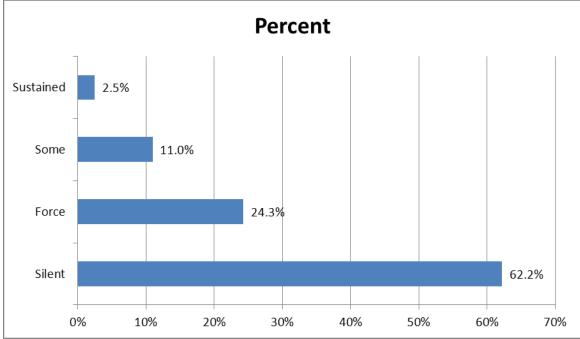
AHBA Instinct Test Period

This was utilized from sometime in the fall of 1993 until fall 2008. The data are for passed tests only because non-passing test forms were not submitted to the records secretary.

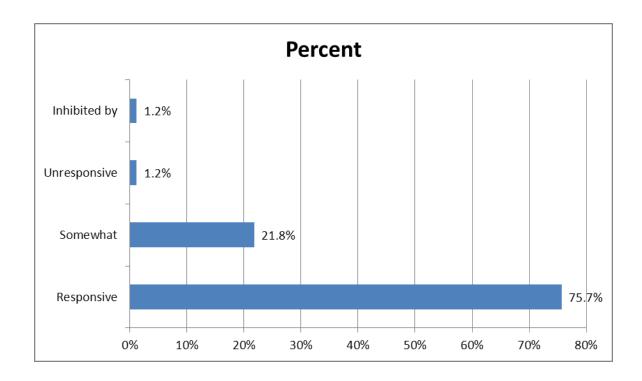
Style (n=611)



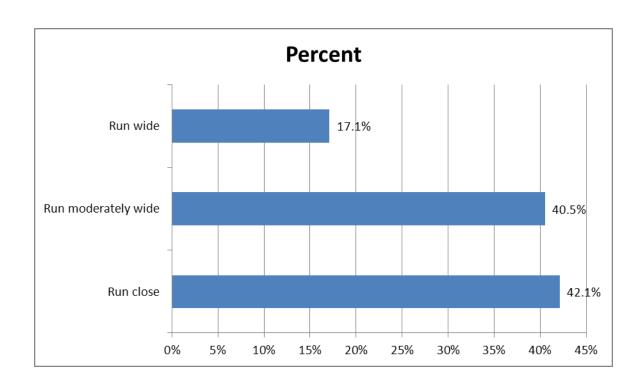




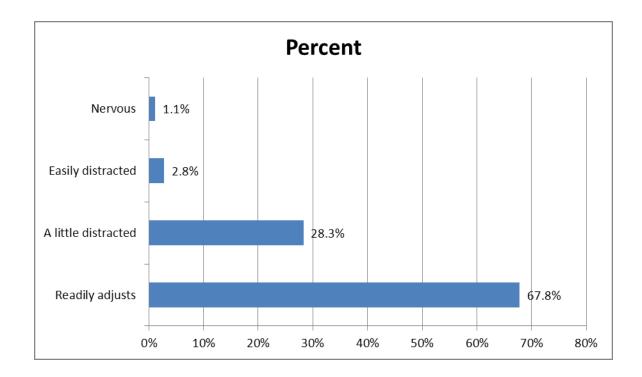
Responsiveness to Guidance/Control (n=606)



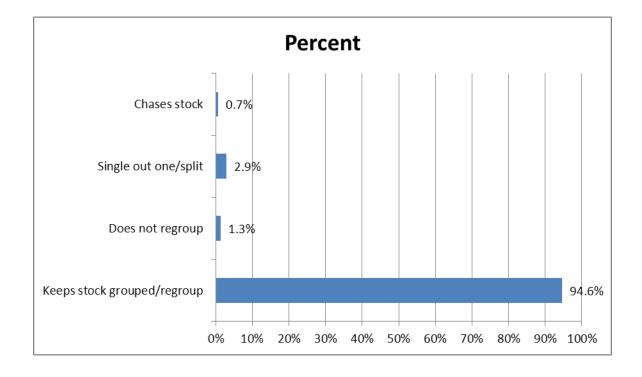
Approach (n=613)



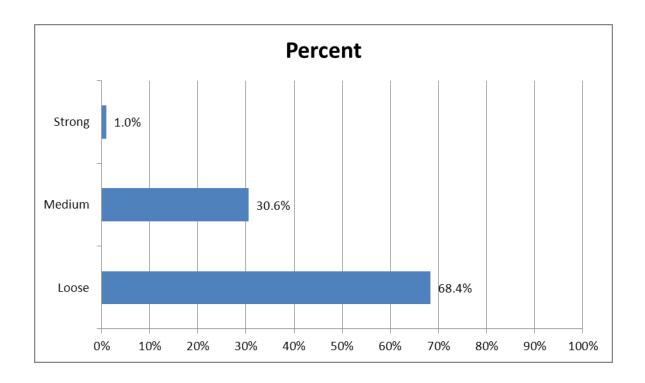
Temperament (n=612)



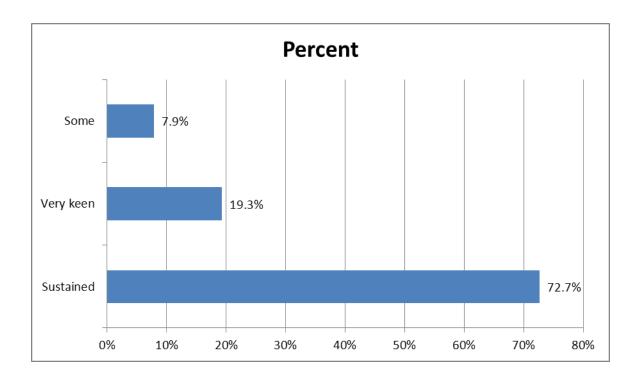
Grouping (n=596)



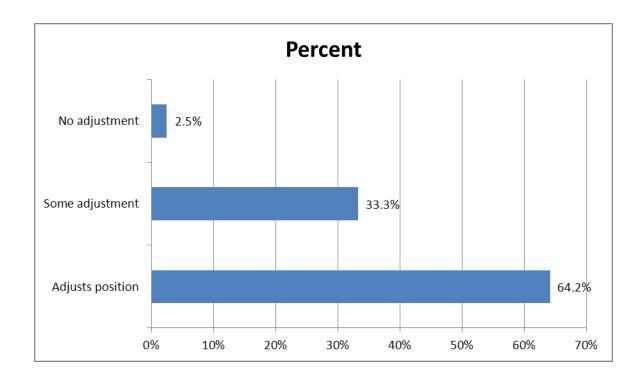
Eye (n=611)



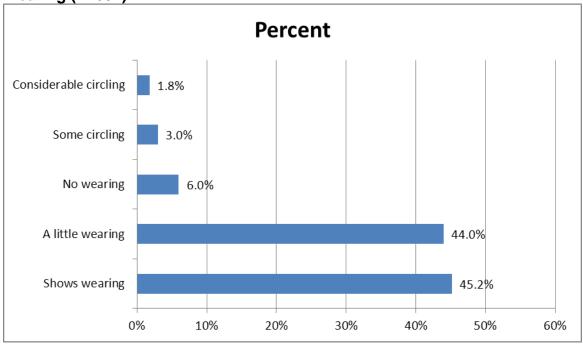
Interest (n=605)



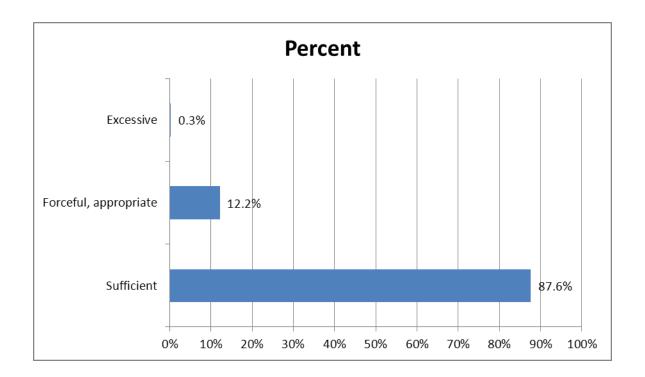
Balance (n=592)



Wearing (n=604)

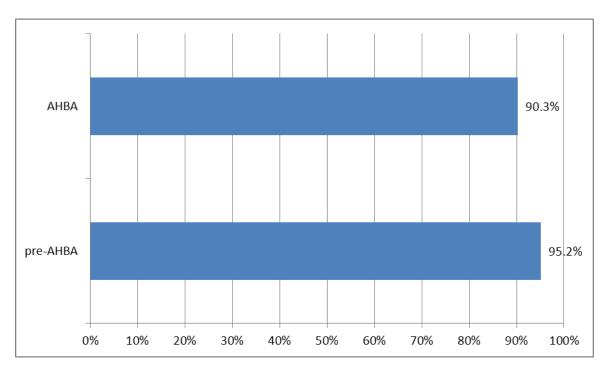


Power (n=606)

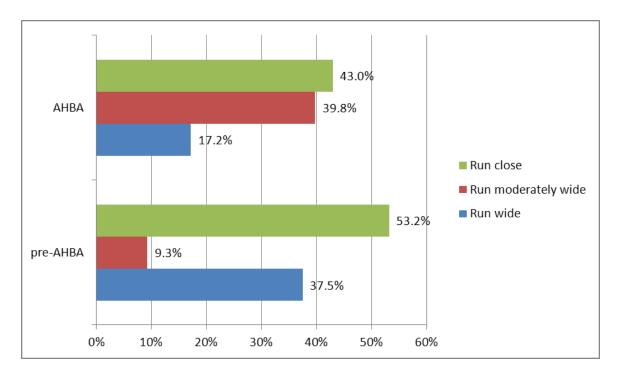


Comparison of Selected Characteristics in Different Periods

Gathering Style



Approach



Summary

There is cumulative experience of herding characteristics recorded on 1472 forms for instinct tested Bearded Collies between 1985 and spring of 2013. A total of 2575 Bearded Collies (plus or minus a few since the records have passed through many hands and many data keeping systems) are recorded as having received the HIC or its predecessor the HC.

The data from various instinct tests over these years support the long held opinion that the Bearded Collie has predominantly a gathering style, runs closer to the stock, is capable of wearing behind stock, is loose-eyed, and may bark. Over time, the dogs may be becoming more loose eyed. Certainly barking does not happen in 100% of the dogs. Silence was recorded in 62% of the AHBA tested dogs. Since the bark definitions changed with the new BCCA HIC test, it's not possible to compare results with the prior tests. Suffice it to say, Beardies can pass the HIC test with good work that does not include barking.

Herding characteristics have been recorded in only about 1/3 of the Beardies who did not pass the BCCA HIC instinct test. Even so, comparison of the available data show that those passing this test were more confident with stock, had more interest, perceived the stock as needing to be kept grouped together, were biddable, often were in balance with the stock, and had sufficient power to do the work. Both passing and non-passing dogs were similar in their people interactions.

Review of the BCCA HIC test forms in the summer of 2013 found that some testers were passing dogs on the HIC but had marked one or more herding characteristics as not passing. Past procedure had been for a test sponsor to give the tester an instruction sheet to read and sign; the sheet defined what herding behaviors were to be considered not passing. Future procedure will be to review this topic with sponsors as they apply to have the test, to have the tester read and sign the instruction

sheet each time they do a test, and marking the non-passable test items in bold italics on the test form. It is anticipated these measures will improve compliance.

The BCCA HIC data is updated approximately yearly. HIC records are maintained electronically in two locations and with regular backup so the BCCA can rest assured that the information is not to be lost.