

Sponsor Information Sheet – BCCA Herding Instinct Test

PURPOSE: The non-competitive Herding Instinct Test is to assess the herding capabilities of the breed and individuals within the breed, and to encourage herding activities with Bearded Collies. The test outcome is a guide to the dog's interest and instincts; if a dog shows no interest, retesting at a later time is strongly advised.

PASSING TEST BENEFITS: The BCCA Herding Register of Merit for Instinct (and Instinct Excellence) Awards for sires and dams are measured by the number of progeny passing instinct tests or herding test/trial classes. **The information requested from a test sponsor is essential for both a dog's certificate preparation and recording credits toward the ROMI(X) of sire and dam. Please assure that every detail is provided promptly after the event.**

MINIMUM AGE: 6 months (per SR SR 02/08-05).

SPONSOR: The Sponsor for a BCCA Herding Instinct Test should be a Club; on a few occasions an individual may do so. In either case, the Sponsor **MUST** have Liability Insurance in force at the time of the Test; likewise for the farm and livestock owner. A waiver of liability should be signed by each entrant in the event which is best obtained with the dog's entry form and fee.

ORGANIZING THE EVENT:

1. Select date, location and stock
2. Select and hire Judge(s)
3. Create flyer for event to include: Judge(s), Location, Date(s), Required paperwork, Stock, Supervised pre-exposure if available, fee, and link to Introduction to Herding Instinct Presentation on BCCA Web site (http://www.beardedcolliclub.us/wp-content/uploads/herding/HIC_Slide_Presentation_August_2012.pdf)
4. Contact the BCCA Herding Chair at least 30 days in advance of the event by email and include the proposed flyer. Current chair (summer 2026) (Jack Szalka – jszalka@aol.com). You should receive confirmation from chair with followup by the instinct test herding committee secretary to offer assistance.
5. Prepare and complete all necessary paperwork well in advance of the event. Block print or type all information required. Have extra test forms in case needed.
6. All forms are downloadable from the BCCA Website.
 - a. Judging forms should be made up in triplicate (Office Max/Depot, Staples)
 - b. Copies are
 - i. Original **SIGNED BY THE JUDGE** after each dog's run is completed. Sent with all other paper work to Statistician/HIC secretary: Tish Pollock, 3822 NW 130th Ave, Ocala, FL, 34482. 503-550-9346. runningmtnranch1@gmail.com
 - ii. Copy retained by the Sponsor for 6 months
 - iii. Last copy to the entrant

7. Pre-Exposure: it is encouraged but not required that sponsors of Herding Instinct Tests arrange to have EXPERTLY SUPERVISED prior exposure to stock available on the day(s) of the Test(s) for those entrants who have NO experience.
8. The Sponsor should
 - a. Give the Judge(s) with the judge's Information Sheet ahead of the event
 - b. Judge(s) read, sign, and date a copy of the JJIS for return with other paperwork to HIC secretary
 - c. Complete all required paperwork and forward it to BCCA Herding Instinct Secretary within 2 weeks following the Test(s).
 - i. Original of the judging form both for passing and not passing dogs.

Sponsors may want to provide a list of trainers and training locations available to entrants. If you do, you must include a sentence saying: "The BCCA and Sponsor(s) of this Herding Instinct Test have supplied this list as a courtesy and do not specifically recommend, nor guarantee quality in any way, any of those on this list."

PROCEDURAL ESSENTIALS:

Testing Area: A round or oval arena (preferred), or a square or rectangular field with corners rounded with sturdy fencing or panels, of approximately 50' to 75' diameter, fenced to prevent escapes by, or injury to, dog or stock.

Stock: 3 to 5 head of well dog-broke sheep. Other stock may be used by special permission of the BCCA Herding Committee.

Judges: Any person who is approved to judge AKC, AHBA or CKC Tests / Trials is automatically approved. Other persons may apply to the BCCA Herding Committee for approval by supplying proof of experience in herding with upright dogs. The Judge of any Test offered by a Sanctioning body other than BCCA must be notified in advance of the use of the BCCA form. Provide both the judges' information sheet and judge's information form prior to the event

Application to Hold Test: Notification of test(s) to be sanctioned by AKC and AHBA should be send by email to the BCCA Herding Committee Chair. Tests to be sanctioned only by BCCA requires submission of information pertaining to items above.

Test/Judging Form: The BCCA Approved Herding Instinct Test form. If the Test will be held in conjunction with AKC or AHBA Instinct Tests, the BCCA form is to be supplied by the Entrant or Sponsor and completed and signed by the Judge in addition to the primary sponsor.

Note: One passing test is required for the BCCA honorary title of HIC

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS: Three items sent (mail or electronic) to the HIC Secretary provided the needed information

1. The completed and signed Judge's Test form
2. Photocopy of the dog's AKC, CKC or Other Registration paper to supply official record of birth date and parentage
3. Signed and dated copy of the Judge's Information Sheet
4. Registered or PAL (or the equivalent) dogs may be formally acknowledged with the HIC if passing.

Revised, 5/26/2026