BSCA "French Style" Course
2020

The BSCA French course is intended to provide a venue to evaluate Belgian Sheepdogs and similar herding breeds in non boundary tending work on both sheep and cattle. The primary intent of the course is to emulate the kind of work a tending dog might encounter and to evaluate the dog and handler's ability to ensure the management and control of the stock in a simulation of this work. The overall quality of the work is paramount; it is intended that dogs which manage their flock/herd in reasonable order should pass. While skill and maneuvering should obtain higher scores and errors result in lower ones, the primary focus should remain on the overall essence of the work required to take a flock or herd from a pen to a graze site, allow the animals to properly graze in designated areas, and return the flock or herd safely to the pen, using existing roads and pathways.

Livestock;
Sheep: The flock is to consist of groups of 25 to 60 head for Started and Open, and 50 to 80 head minimum for advanced.
Cattle: the herd is to consist of groups of 5 to 10 for all classes.
Goats: the herd is to consist of groups of 20-30 for started and Open and 30 – 50 for advanced.

Both sheep and cattle should be well accustomed to being managed and worked by close-working dogs in a tending format. Goats should be well accustomed to being managed and worked by close-working dogs in a tending format. The use of dairy goats in milk is restricted to advanced dogs only. Use of dry dairy goats and meat goats for any class is allowed. It is preferred, where possible, that animals be at least one year of age.

The trial encompasses, on a course as natural as possible, almost all tasks a farmer and his dog are asked to perform in the usual course of work on their operation:
Working in a pen or sheepfold;
Moving a flock from one place to another;
Putting them into facilities for sorting;
Gathering and driving at a distance;
Immobilization of the animals, their care, their separation.

The courses are divided into sections or exercises:
Pen or sheepfold
Difficult passages
Handling and maneuvering
Stopping the flock

The location of difficult passages and the graze may vary so long as the graze is no closer than 300 feet (100 yards) from the pen. Difficult passages must allow sufficient distance for proper set up for any required maneuvers.

Pen or Sheepfold: It is not necessary that the pen be freestanding. The pen should be sturdy enough to contain the flock or cattle. The size is 32 feet x 32 feet to 48 feet x 48 feet. The gate should be at least 12 feet, preferably located on one corner of the pen

and must open easily. It may swing or be a panel that lifts out. A jumping platform or A frame may be located on one of the sides of the pen.

Pen, protection of handler, Exit from pen: Scoring begins upon the dog's entrance into the pen. For sheep, the dog should be sent into the pen ahead of the handler, either through the gate or by jumping/ climbing in. Jumping / climbing in is at the handler's option and may only be done where it is safe. For cattle, the dog should be sent in via the gate. The dog shall move the stock, clearing a passage so that the handler, circling the stock can emulate inspection of the stock prior to the exit. Once the stock have been inspected, the handler should open the gate, positioning the dog as necessary to ensure a quiet calm exit.

Re-pen: Scoring begins approximately 20 feet before the pen and ends when the gate is closed. To return the flock to the pen, in started, the handler may lead the stock a few steps into the pen and then stand by the gate on the outside of the pen. In Intermediate and advanced, the handler should step aside as the gate is reached and allow the dog to pen the stock. The dog may enter the pen as needed but must exit the pen before the gate is closed. The run is completed when the handler closes the gate.

Road: Scoring encompasses all work between the exit of an exercise and the 20-foot beginning marker for the next exercise. The road connects all phases of the course. It can be a natural lane, an actual road, or marked by mowing, furrows, hedges or other physical cues. Where ever possible, naturally existing paths or roads are to be preferred. The dog shall keep the stock IN the road, preventing the stock from bunching up, straggling, or wandering off the designated route. The dog shall work the sides or front and rear as necessary to keep the stock moving in a calm steady pace. The dog should work either on the road or next to the road and not at a distance from the stock.

SHEEP: The road should be 1,320' (440 yards) long - 1620' (540 yards) for started, 1620' (540 yards) to 2340' (780 yards) for intermediate, and 2340' (780 yards) to 2640' (880 yards for advanced.

CATTLE: The first part of the road is along a fence, over a length of 165 feet and 26 feet wide bounded by poles or similar markers every 25 feet. A panel or chute may be used to lead to the second part, which is also a distance of 165 feet along a natural path or between two fences about 20 feet apart as in a chute.

GOATS: The road should be 1,320' (440 yards) long - 1620' (540 yards) for started, 1620' (540 yards) to 2340' (780 yards) for intermediate, and 2340' (780 yards) to 2640' (880 yards for advanced. The first part of the road may be along a fence, over a length of 165 feet and 26 feet wide bounded by poles or similar markers every 25 feet.

The handler may lead the stock, walk alongside the stock or follow the stock as necessary. The dog may change sides or work the front or rear as necessary. Dogs that work naturally shall be preferred to those requiring constant, repeated commands.

Passage of car: The passage of a car is included as part of the road work. The road at this point must be sufficiently wide to allow for the car to pass (20 feet minimum) and have a fence to allow the flock or herd to "lean" on the fence as the dog works the opposite side. The car pass shows the dog's ability to channel the flock in difficult

situations with a vehicle passing from the front or overtaking the flock from behind. True roads are to be preferred. Vans and 4x4 vehicles are to be avoided, for the safety of the dog; small quad-type vehicles are recommended. The dog should be between the car and the stock, preventing the stock from interfering with the car or being endangered by the car. The flock should continue to move during the passage. In started, and intermediate, the car is parked. In Advanced, there is one, which may be from either direction.

Difficult passages: At least two difficult passages are required. As many as three may be included. Difficult passages are narrow, well-defined, and as natural as possible between crops, hedges or fences, courtyards or fields; a bridge; loading a small group of sheep on a truck or putting them into a corridor for sorting or treatment. Difficult passages: Use of Y chutes, loading chutes, bridges, and loading stock into a trailer are examples of difficult passages that may be set up along the course. In addition, use of existing alleyways, movement between trees, passing open gates, passages between existing obstacles may also be used. Width of the passages should be between 4' and 6' to enable the stock to safely enter. Wings may or may not be utilized as applicable to the obstacle.

In Started and Intermediate, the handler may position themselves as necessary to accomplish the task. In advanced, the handler must go no further than the edge of the obstacle and must remain there until the dog pushes the stock thru the obstacle, whereupon the handler may move.

Stops: The dog must be able to stop the flock in all circumstances and the course will include, necessarily, a minimum of two "Stops", for started and intermediate, four for advanced. Stops may be placed at turns, a natural boundary, road, path, enclosure, crop, etc. The stopping of the flock is a very important maneuver that must be done by the dog, not the handler.   After the flock has stopped and the handler has ascertained that moving onto the road or proceeding can be done safely, the restart must be done quickly, without crowding, with the dog ensuring control.

The graze- the flock (if sheep) or herd (if cattle or goats) is kept in the space designated for this exercise, which may be an area along a path, a crop or in an area marked by stakes or other physical markers. The graze area may be round, oval, rectangular or square in form. The size should be no less than 50 feet by 50 feet to no more than 150 feet by 150 feet (or 22,500 square feet). The graze should last at least 5 minutes during which the stock must be seen to settle and graze or lie down.

Work at a distance: At some point, either during the graze or at another point, the stock are settled. The advanced handler must leave the stock and the dog taken to a point at least 490 feet away and no more than 984 feet away. This location shall be used as the advanced post for the gather.

Gather: Sheep, goats, or cattle: At the completion of the graze, the dog must be called to the handler. For started class dogs, this may be at the exit point of the graze. For intermediate, this shall be at the halfway point from the advanced handler's post. The advanced handler must send the dog from the advanced post. The dog should collect the stock and fetch them to the handler to recommence road work. *This is not an outrun. Commands may be used to position the dog or direct it (both stops and "redirects"), and the dog is penalized for failure to collect and bring the stock in a calm*

orderly manner along the designated path only (ie, the dog is not required to make an outrun, but may take any route to the stock so long as the stock are not thereby disturbed).

Hold/ Catching a sheep: At the direction of the judge, the dog must demonstrate ability to control the stock and maneuver them so as to allow the handler to catch and hold a sheep or, alternatively, to remove a ribbon from the neck of a sheep. During this process, the stock must be contained in the graze or other designated area and the dog shall not interfere with the handler.

Hold/ Catching a goat: At the direction of the judge, the dog must demonstrate ability to control the stock and maneuver them so as to allow the handler to catch and hold a sheep or, alternatively, to remove a ribbon from the neck of a goat.   During this process, the stock must be contained in the graze or other designated area and the dog shall not interfere with the handler.

Hold/shedding cattle: cattle should be briefly held at the graze and either at the graze or at a pen with appropriate gate, one animal shall be shed out from the herd.

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SCORING:
Must obtain 70% of the score. 50% rule does not apply.
Level 1 (started) – 75 total points
Level 2 (open) –100 total points
Level 3 (advanced) 150 total points
Over the time: -- scoring stops.

SUGGESTED SCORING **The following are maximum deductions. Minimum deductions are in half point increments. Smaller deductions should be applied for minor faults and increase based on the severity of the fault. Scoring should be based on the overall quality of the work.**

Scoring is for the actual obstacle, which is marked using a visible safe material indicating the beginning (approximately 20 feet before the obstacle) and ending as the stock or dog exit, the obstacle. The rest of the scoring is under Road work.
In all exercises and obstacles, a dog, which responds independently, and properly to a problem, which arises, will receive a higher score than a dog, which must be extensively directed by the handler.

A. Pen, protection of handler, Exit from pen:
1. Up to 2 points if the dog fails to enter the pen ahead of the handler by either walking thru the gate or jumping/ climbing in.
2. Up to 2 points deducted if the flock escape the pen while the handler is opening the gate.
3. Up to 5 points if the stock exit too fast or too slow.
4. Up to 5 points if the stock return to the pen during the exit.
5. Up to 8 points if the dog does not control the stock.
6. Up to 5 points if the dog fails to move stock sufficiently for the handler to inspect them prior to exit.
7. Up to 2 points deducted for stock hitting, banging or crowding the gate.
8. Up to 1 point per head for leaving stock behind on the exit or splitting the stock on the exit.

9. *Up to one point per head for leaving stock behind or splitting stock on the repen*.

B. Road

1. Up to 10 points for the dog misplaced by working too far off the stock (in adjacent fields, off the course).
2. Up to 5 points deducted for the dog causing the stock to move too quickly or too slowly.
3. Up to 8 points for uneven (too fast, too slow) movement or taking stock off the course.
4. Up to 8 points for the dog not being between the car and the stock during the pass.
5. Up to 8 points deducted for the dog splitting the flock.
6. Up to 10 points for lack of control of the stock or the dog failing to show due diligence to manage the stock.
7. Up to 10 points for total loss of the herd/flock
8. *Up to 1 point deducted for stopping the stock at undesignated places during their forward motion.*
9. *Up to 2 points for the vehicle having to slow down due to dog or stock during traffic pass.*
10. *Up to 5 points if stock stop during traffic pass.*

C. Difficult passages

1. Up to 5 points for stock going past the opening or entrance of the obstacle (offline) and require repositioning in order to negotiate the obstacle.
2. Up to 5 points if dog is not properly placed during the obstacle negotiation.
3. Up to 5 points for offline or poor negotiation of the passage.
4. Up to 5 points if stock stop during the negotiation of the passage.
5. Up to 5 points for handler intervention or assistance
6. Up to 5 points if the flock/herd bypasses the obstacle
7. Up to 5 points for loss of control upon exiting the passage.
8. *Up to 5 points if advanced handler fails to step to the side to allow the stock to enter the difficult passage first, followed by the dog.*

D. STOPS

1. Up to one point if stock run into the handler before stopping.
2. Up to one half point for stock stopped too far from stop.
3. Up to 5 points for the stop being late.
4. Up to 5 points for failure to restart the flock/herd following the stop.
5. Up to 8 points for the stop performed by the handler and not the dog.
6. Up to 8 points for the dog failing to stop
7. Up to 10 points for the flock/herd not stopping.

E. GRAZE (includes catch/hold or ribbon pull for sheep and work at a distance)

1. Up to 5 points for failure to settle the stock in the graze, preventing the stock from grazing.
2. Up to 5 points for stock grazing outside the graze limits.
3. Up to 3 points for redirects to remind the dog to attend to the job.
4. Up to 10 points for not working. **NOT QUALIFYING** if the dog abandons the flock or herd.
3. Up to 5 points for failure to stop the stock for the ribbon pull/ catch& hold
4. Up to 5 points for failure by the handler to catch sheep or accomplish ribbon pull.

5. Up to 5 points if dog interferes with handler or disrupts stock during the catch and hold
6. Up to 5 points if the dog comes or follows handler instead of remaining with the flock when left by handler.

F. GATHER
1. Up to 8 points for splitting the stock
2. Up to 5 points for stock being brought to handler too fast or too slow.
3. Up to 8 points if the dog does not control the stock

G. General Deductions
1. Up to 3 points for disobeying commands or requiring repeated commands to obey.
2. Up to 5 points for handler giving the wrong command
3. Up to 3 points for dog failing to call off or leave the stock when commanded.
4. Up to 3 points for off contact (dog wandering, hunting, etc).
5. Up to 1 points for unnecessary bites
6. Up to 5 points for severe bites. The dog must be removed and may not qualify if stock are given an abusive grip.

Maximum points available (advanced):
1. Exit from Pen and Re-Pen.................. 25
2. Difficult passages --------25 points (advanced), 15 (Intermediate)
3. Roadwork and graze -- 50 points
4. Stops   -- 25 points
5. general overall work 25 points
TOTAL... 150

Intermediate:
1. Exit from Pen and Re-Pen.................. 25
2. Difficult passages --------15 (Intermediate)
3. Roadwork and graze -- 20 points
4. Stops   -- 15 points
5. general overall work 25 points
TOTAL... 100

Started:
1. Exit from Pen and Re-Pen.................. 25
2. Difficult passages -------
3. Roadwork and graze -- 20 points
4. Stops   -- 5 points
5. general overall work 25 points
TOTAL... 75

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 The BSCA will issue a title certificate for sheep for Belgian Sheepdogs and any other AKC recognized herding dog **OTHER** than a Border collie or Kelpie who successfully qualifies at the specified level three times under at least two different approved judges in a BSCA approved trial. The titles will be suffix titles -- FS (French Style) level (eXcellent, Intermediate, Started) stock FSXs, FSIs, FSSs, The BSCA will issue a title certificate for cattle for Belgian Sheepdogs and any other AKC recognized herding dog **including a** Border collie or Kelpie who successfully qualifies at the specified level three times under at least two different approved judges in a BSCA approved trial. The titles will be suffix titles -- FS (French Style) level (eXcellent, Intermediate, Started) stock FSXc, FSIc, FSSs