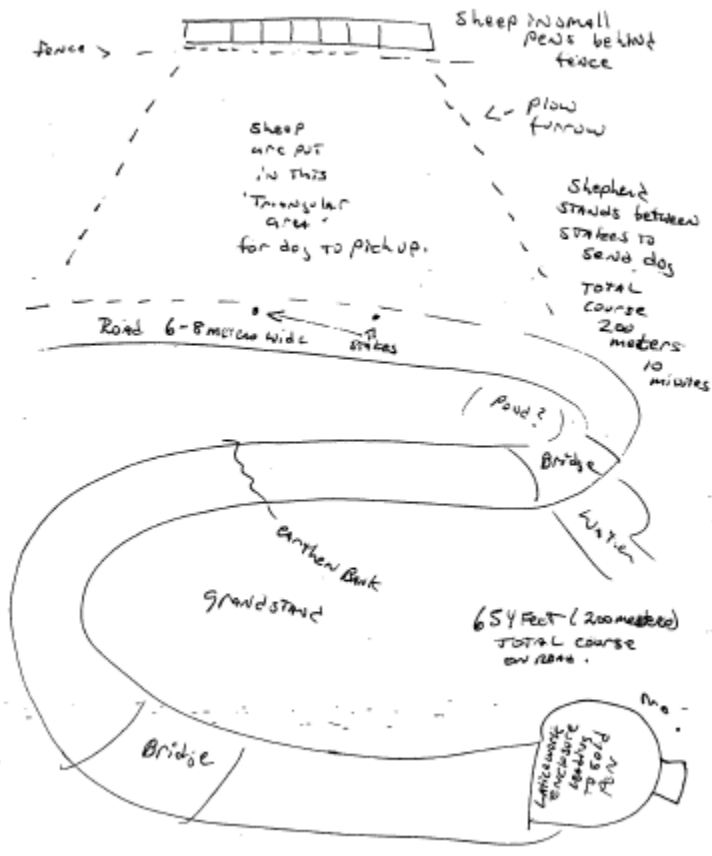
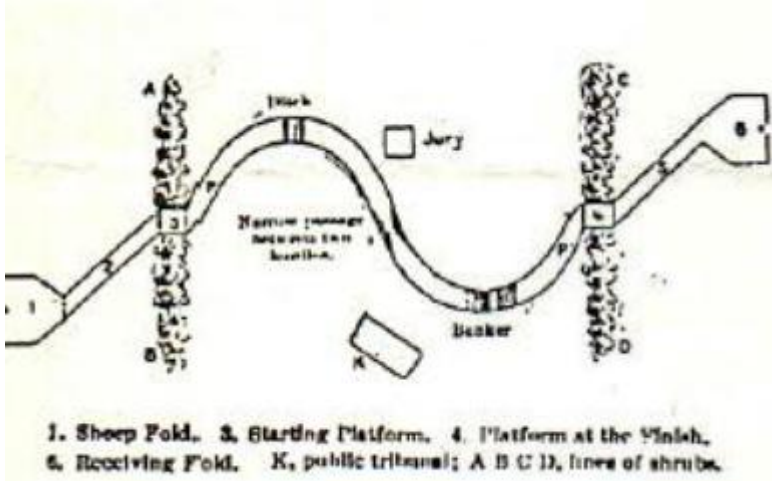


French Tending part 2:

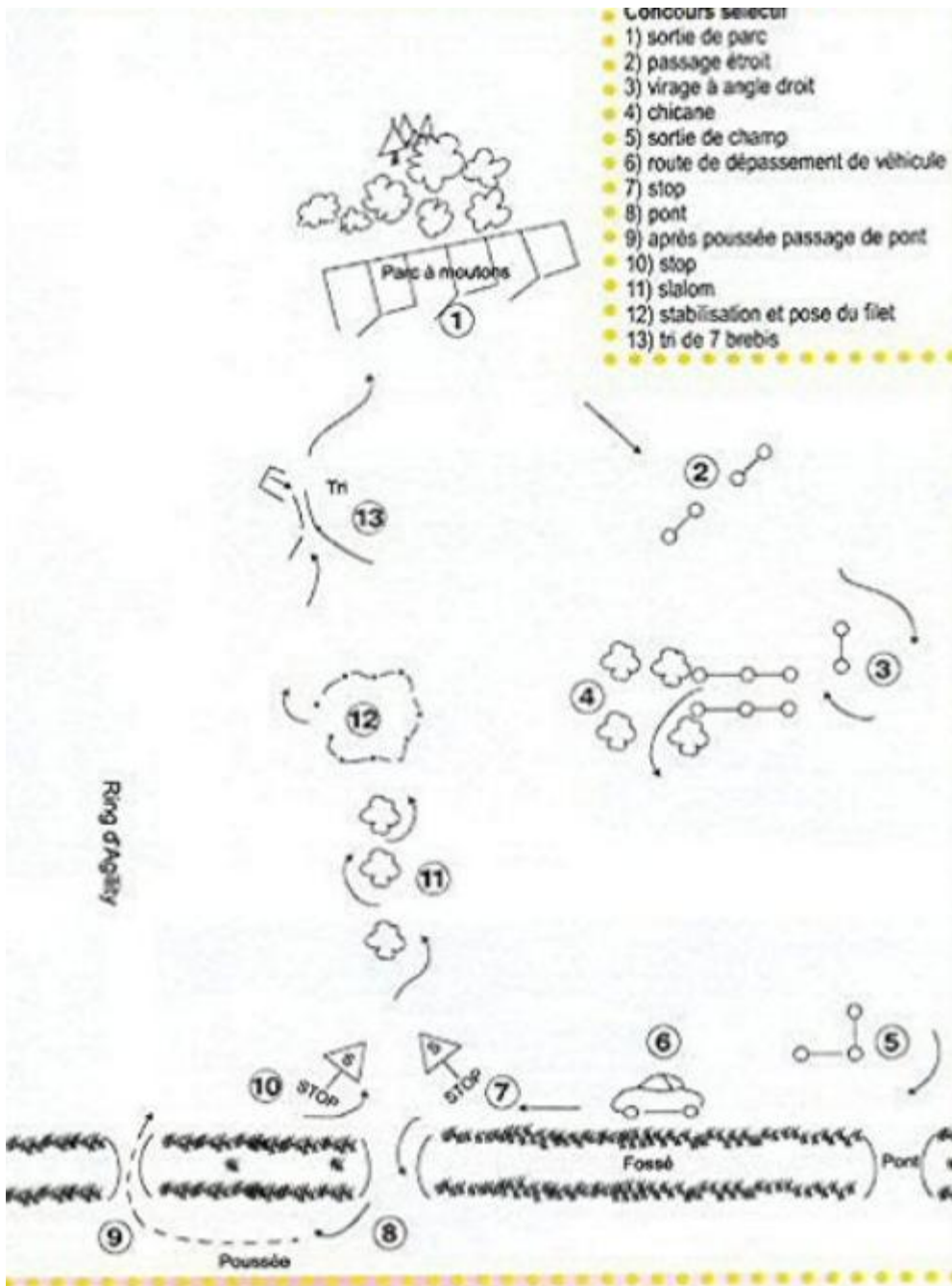
Like many professionals, herdsmen sometimes get together and compete for “who has the best dog” of the day. Formal trials in the tending format are documented starting in the 1890s. In May, 1892, a herding trial was held in Gent, Belgium, for Belgian shepherds (see full description in <http://www.kuymal.com/articles.html>) below is the diagram of the course.



In 1898 Herding trials in France were established (reference: THE STRAND MAGAZINE Vol. XVI, Jul – Dec 1898, Scientific American, May 7, 1898)



Trials of this sort have been continued since, largely restricted to professional shepherds up thru the 1990s. –a modern course:



Belgian Shepherds competed in France under the French rules starting in the 1898 trials and some still compete in France today. So what does this kind of course look like?  
It starts with the stock in a sheepfold:



e of this preview: 600 X 533 pixels. Other resolutions: 320 X 213 pixels | 640 X 426 pixels.



The dog climbs in or jumps into the pen, the gate is opened, and the run begins:  
 Credit: 7/21/2010  
 Tchad du Chant des Bergers à Dominique Babillot en concours sélectif (niveau III) le 18 juillet 2010 à la Jasserie de Garnier (42) dans le cadre de la fête du  
 ...[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xe3rls\\_tchad-beauceron-en-concours-troupea\\_animals](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xe3rls_tchad-beauceron-en-concours-troupea_animals)



Note that there are sheep in adjacent pens. UNLIKE C course, in French tending, the dog & handler should be able to cope with distractions right next to where they are working. Photo of a Beauceron (credits: Concours Troupeau ChateauMeillant 2012.wmv8/19/2012Concours du Dimanche, niveau 3 Réservé aux chiens de bergers Français, Beauceron, Brillard, Picard, Pyrennées.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMbDEdV3Wh0>

Note panels on one side, simple marker of survey tape marking the other side of this passage.

There were no “furrows” for the road. This is a photo of the “traffic road” where the stock have a side they are to “lean on” – the dog pushes the stock to the side so that the vehicle can pass.

In this photo, the dog (a Bouvier) is out of position for the passage of the vehicle.



YES, this IS the passage of the vehicle! (in this run, the dog didn't move the stock to the side as efficiently as is ideal). Normally the vehicle IS a car or ATV, but this was what was used at one trial.



Note the spectators right on the edge of the course. This is normal in European trials.  
 Credit:  
 Concours Troupeau ChateauMeillant 2012.wmv8/19/2012Concours du Dimanche, niveau 3 Réservé aux chiens de bergers Français, Beauceron, Brillard, Picard, Pyrénées.<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMbDEdV3Wh0>



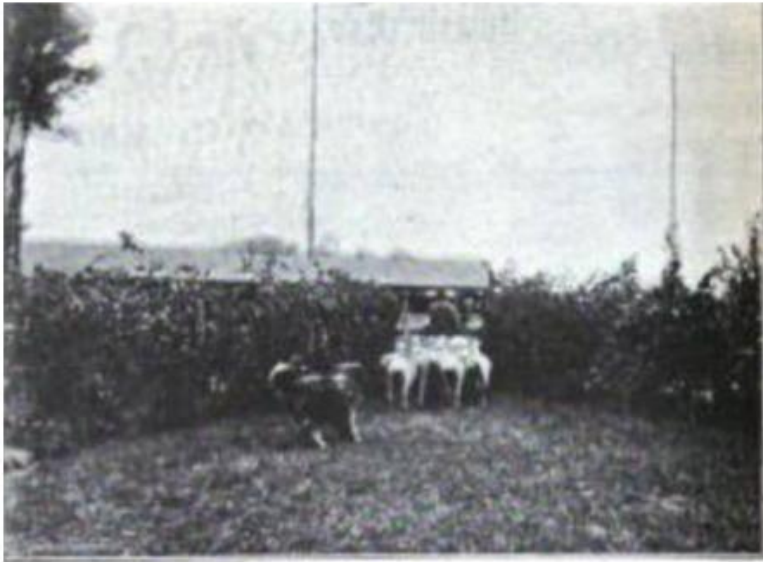
Negotiating a panel with the flock. Handler is on one side, dog holds the other side.

Unlike C course, but a bit like B, this is a freestanding obstacle and there are no furrows or markers. The handler and dog are expected to follow the flock after negotiation of the obstacle.

Another "Y" type obstacle



And an example from the past (1896 trial)



*V-SHAPED PASSAGE THROUGH WHICH THE COMPETING DOGS DRIVE THE SHEEP.*

Putting the flock thru a raceway.





Note there are no furrows.

On the graze, the stock are grazed in a small area (called "grazing to the square". 80 head might be grazed in an area 90 feet by 90 feet). There are usually posts or other natural markers for the graze, but NOT always any "furrows" or path.



Credit: Urkan chien Beauceron à l'entraînement troupeau 2°6/23/2010  
Un peu de travail à distance en dehors du terrain, au milieu du Larzac.  
[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdsoyv\\_urkan-chien-beauceron](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdsoyv_urkan-chien-beauceron)

The two white posts mark the graze.



A French course graze in the US.

During the graze the handler must use the dog to help him /her catch and hold a sheep: The dog must help the handler select the sheep and then control the rest of the herd while the selected sheep is held.



The handler leaves the flock and the dog is left to control them (work at a distance). The dog is then recalled and sent on a gather (up to 350 feet, which is the same as a B course advanced level outrun)

On the way back, there may be more obstacles and required stops of the flock.

The two bushes mark an obstacle.  
Credit: Urkan chien Beauceron à l'entraînement troupeau 2°6/23/2010  
Un peu de travail à distance en dehors du terrain, au milieu du Larzac.  
[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdsoyv\\_urkan-chien-beauceron](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdsoyv_urkan-chien-beauceron)





Finally, one pens the stock  
Note how far off the dog is allowed to be.



Here the pen is a stock trailer.



In the French tending program, the rules allow for working cattle as well – there are fewer (5 – 10 head) and a simpler course but the essence is the same.

[roupeau6.JPG](#)  
[chasseurdombre.free.fr](#)



So HOW does this all differ from C course and the Other AKC herding:

1. The French program allows for cattle, which is not allowed in C.
2. The French program does NOT use "boundary" furrows.
3. The French program INCLUDES drive work.
4. The French program includes multiple obstacles like trailer loads, y chutes, in and out of obstacles (a little like giant weaves) none of which are in C.
5. It includes leaving the dog in charge of the livestock while the handler moves off,



6. It includes an outrun/gather every bit as long as a minimum B course.
7. It includes a shed / gate sort and moving one part of the flock /herd while leaving the others behind.
8. When working the flock, the handler is not required to be in the lead -- in fact, there are portions where the handler is required to be in the REAR of the flock.

Beyond the trial:



*SHEEP BEING DRIVEN INTO A PEN WHERE THEY ARE SORTED FOR SALE.*



*EMBARKATION COMPETITION AT THE RAILWAY*

