



AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

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Dog Aggression Rules

Chapter 1 Disqualified Dogs

Section 1.1 Disqualification

A Judge shall disqualify any dog that such Judge determines has attempted to attack any person in the ring/trial arena where the Judge is judging. In accordance with this rule, the Judge shall mark that dog as "Disqualified" stating the reason for the disqualification on the score sheet, Judge's book, or Judge's Report depending on the program, shall take steps to inform the owner or owner's agent as soon as reasonably possible and shall give the Show/Trial Secretary a brief report of the dog's actions using the "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs". The "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs" and entry form shall be submitted to the Business Office as part of the Show/Trial results for any dog which has been disqualified. The Business Office shall send a Notice of Disqualification to the owner of such dog.

Section 1.2 Jurisdiction

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over an attack on any person which occurs outside of the ring/trial arena as defined below. The Affiliate or Show/Trial Committee shall have jurisdiction if the Judge did not witness the occurrence in their own ring/trial arena. The decision to disqualify a dog shall be based on the incident investigation which shall cover all circumstances surrounding the incident. The Board of Directors will either validate or reverse the Affiliate's decision, basing its action on the details of the investigation and a recommendation from Counsel. The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee shall take reasonable steps to inform the owner and the owner's agent of the disqualification as soon as reasonably possible.

Section 1.3 Investigation

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee must perform an investigation of any incident in which a dog has bitten a person, whether it occurred in the ring/trial arena or on the show/trial grounds. The Affiliate must fill out the Affiliate Incident Report Worksheet.

Section 1.4 Disqualifying an Excused Dog

A Judge or Affiliate, or its Show/Trial Committee, which has excused a dog pursuant to Section 2 (Excused Dogs) below, may further disqualify the dog if, in such Judge's, Affiliate's or Show/Trial Committee's opinion, the attack on another dog was so severe that disqualification is warranted.

Section 1.5 Incident Report

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee shall submit a report of any such incident to the Business Office including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. The entry form for any dog which has been disqualified.
- B. The "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs."
- C. Written statements from:
 1. The person bitten
 2. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog
 3. Any and all witnesses, including Judge/s
- D. Supporting photos of the offending dog and the wound.
- E. Statements describing wound/s, if any, from victim and/or attending medical professionals.
- F. A summary of the investigation and the findings by the Show/Trial Committee with their recommendations.

Section 1.6 Materials to ASCA Board of Directors

The Business Office shall submit the materials submitted by the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee concerning any such incident to the Executive Secretary, who shall forward these materials to the Board of Directors and ASCA's Counsel. The

Business Office will provide the report and all supporting documentation to the owner of the offending dog at the owner's request.

Section 1.7 Review by Counsel

ASCA's Counsel shall review the materials and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Section 1.8 Ineligibility

Any dog which has been disqualified by a Judge or Show/Trial Committee under this Rule shall immediately be ineligible to participate in any ASCA event in any discipline unless and until such dog is reinstated by the Board of Directors.

Section 1.9 Appeal

The owner of any dog disqualified under this Rule may appeal such disqualification to the Board of Directors in accordance with the program specific reinstatement process in effect or a process outlined by the Board of Directors. While the appeal is pending, the dog remains disqualified.

Section 1.10 ASCA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has authority to disqualify any dog whose conduct the Board finds is subject to this Rule or whose actions demonstrate aggressive behavior which the Board finds is likely to cause injury or damage to persons or animals, regardless of whether or not the dog was disqualified or excused from the ring/trial arena by the Judge or Show/Trial Committee.

Chapter 2 Excused Dogs

Section 2.1 Excusal

A dog which exhibits aggressive behavior towards people or aggressively threatens or attacks another dog shall be excused from the ring/trial arena by the Judge or from the Show Grounds by the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee. The Judge shall mark the dog "Excused" on the score sheet, in the Judge's Book or the Judge's Report depending on the program, shall take steps to inform the owner or owner's agent of the dog as soon as reasonably possible and shall give the Show/Trial Secretary a brief report of the dog's actions on the "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs", which shall be submitted to the Business Office with the Show/Trial Results.

Section 2.2 Jurisdiction

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over any dog that threatens or attacks another dog outside of the ring/trial arena as described below. The Affiliate or Show/Trial Committee has jurisdiction if the Judge did not witness the occurrence in their own ring/trial arena. The Affiliate or Show/Trial Committee shall make a decision to simply warn or excuse the dog from further competition at such show or trial. The decision to excuse a dog should be based on the incident investigation which shall cover all circumstances surrounding the Incident. If the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee decides to excuse a dog, the Board of Directors will either validate or invalidate the Affiliate's decision, basing its action on the details of the investigation and a recommendation from Counsel.

Section 2.3 Incident Report

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee shall submit a report of any such incident to the Business Office including but not limited to the following:

- A. The entry form for any dog which has been excused.
- B. "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs."
- C. Written statements from:
 1. The person threatened or person owning the dog that was aggressively threatened or attacked.
 2. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog.
 3. Any and all witnesses, including Judges.
- D. Supporting photos.
- E. A summary of the investigation and the findings by the Show/Trial Committee with their recommendations.

Section 2.4 Report and Documentation to Owner

The Business Office will provide the report and all supporting documentation to the owner of the offending dog at the owner's request.

Section 2.5 ASCA Board of Directors

If a dog has been excused for its behavior under this Rule on two separate occasions, the Business Office shall notify the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall take whatever action it deems necessary which may include disqualification.

Chapter 3 Definitions under the Dog Aggression Rules

Section 3.1 Ring/Trial Arena

The “ring/trial arena” is the bounded area in which judging of an ASCA event occurs and over which the Judge has authority pursuant to the Dog Aggression Rules. The boundary is defined by physical barriers plus a buffer zone extending ten (10) feet from such physical barriers.

Section 3.2 Show Grounds

The “show grounds” are the boundaries of the grounds on which ASCA events are being held. They include, but are not limited to, all areas outside the ring/trial arena (including the buffer zone) set aside for grooming, holding of dogs, and parking of vehicles of the exhibitors.

Section 3.3 Disqualified Dog

A “disqualified dog” is a dog no longer eligible to participate in any ASCA program event from the time of disqualification.

Section 3.4 Excused Dog

An “excused dog” is a dog which has been asked to leave the ring/trial arena for aggressive behavior or instability of temperament. Such a dog is not eligible to compete further in the program from which excused at the event but may participate in other programs at that event. An “excused dog” also refers to a dog that has been excused from an event for aggressive behavior or instability of temperament outside the ring/trial arena by the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee.

Chapter 4 Reinstatement of Dogs Disqualified under the Dog Aggression Rules

Section 4.1 Right to Reinstatement

A dog disqualified under the Dog Aggression Rules has no right to be reinstated for competition.

Section 4.2 Reinstatement

ASCA will consider reinstatement of a dog disqualified under the Dog Aggression Rules in accordance with the program specific reinstatement process in effect or a process outlined by the Board of Directors after the dog satisfactorily completes the reinstatement process.

Section 4.3 Documentation for Reinstatement

To be considered for possible reinstatement, documentation showing the dog has attended obedience training, handling classes and/or behavioral therapy with letters from trainers and/or behavioral specialists stating the dog has completed training and/or behavioral therapy and is not a threat must be submitted along when applying for reinstatement.

Section 4.4 Other Considerations for Reinstatement

Successful completion of a reinstatement program is not a guarantee that the Board will reinstate the dog. ASCA’s Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may consider other conditions before reinstatement. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, requiring the dog’s owner to carry a personal liability policy for the dog in an amount determined by the Board. The Board may also require that such policy include ASCA as an additional named insured at such owner's sole cost and expense.

Section 4.5 Eligibility

There are various conditions that lead to disqualifying a dog for biting/menacing. Not all dogs may be eligible for reinstatement as some conduct is so egregious that reinstatement will never occur. No dog is entitled to reinstatement and following the reinstatement procedures is no guarantee the Board will reinstate. While there is no waiting period before an owner may apply to the BOD for reinstatement of a dog, if a dog is denied reinstatement, the owner must wait one year before reapplying.