

A Little History ...

The Australian Shepherd was developed in the 19th and 20th centuries as a general-purpose ranch and farm dog in the American West, where a tough, enduring, versatile stockdog with an honest work ethic was required. His usual work included moving very large herds of sheep and cattle from summer to winter grazing grounds and back, flushing range cattle out of heavy brush, and moving livestock in tight quarters such as chutes and alleys. These kinds of jobs are still where Australian Shepherds excel and are most valued. The fact that the dogs also excelled as cattle dogs made them ideal for our many diverse farm and ranch operations. The breed evolved to meet the demands of their farm and ranch owners.

Aussies have been used for many purposes. Their use with livestock demanded a natural worker who was easy to train. Their devotion to their owners made them the ideal family farm dog which was needed to guard the homestead. The original purpose of the breed as a working stockdog is still maintained across America on ranches and farms as well as through competition at stockdog trials*.

In recent years the Australian Shepherd's talents have been utilized in more diverse ways such as search and rescue, drug detection, therapy and as service dogs. The breed's intelligence and adaptability has no boundaries.

* About Aussies, Australian Shepherd Club of America, January 2019
<https://www.asca.org/the-australian-shepherd/about-aussies/>

The purpose of a stockdog is to take the place of a person's work, accomplishing what is needed without damage, undue stress, or danger to the stock. The proper frame of reference for judges and exhibitors evaluating the dog's work should be "what is best for the stock."

For more information on the
Australian Shepherd Club
of America
(ASCA)

Stockdog Program
please visit:

<https://www.asca.org/stockdog/>

To find an ASCA Affiliate Club
near you go to:

[https://portal.asca.org/#!/resources/
clublist](https://portal.asca.org/#!/resources/clublist)

THANK YOU for your interest!



Welcome to the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA®) Stockdog Program



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Why does ASCA call it a “Stockdog”

Program? ASCA believes in the versatility of a working dog. They may herd and protect a flock of sheep, load a group of cattle into the trailer, search for steers out on the range and gather ducks in the farmyard. A good dog can substitute for a farmhand or two when needed or compete in an arena trial for enjoyment. They can handle stock whether on the family farm or on the range of a large scale ranch. They are first and foremost a stockdog.



Who can participate? Whether a junior (up to age 17) or an adult, ASCA has a program for you!

Can my dog participate? ASCA’s Stockdog Program currently recognizes over fifty breeds. For a complete list visit the ASCA Stockdog Rulebook at <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/StockdogRules.pdf>. The list can be found in the Appendix section.

What does ASCA offer? We’re so glad you asked. ASCA has designed numerous fun and rewarding programs to help you enjoy your dog and display his or her talents. You’ll be recognized for your efforts by earning certificates and titles from the Started Trial Dog all the way to the coveted Farm Trial Champion, Working Trial Champion and Stockdog Champion titles.

Our **Arena Trial Program** will test your teamwork on a variety of predesigned courses. Beginning at the Started level, you can progress through the Open, Advanced and even Post Advanced divisions. Arena competition is offered on different classes of stock that include either ducks or geese, sheep or goats, and cattle.



We have a **Farm Trial Program** to simulate work on the small family run operation and a challenging **Ranch Trial Program** that will test your handling as well as your dog’s skills.

Too busy to get away from the ranch? We’ll be glad to come to you. Our **Ranch Dog Inspection Program** was tailored for the true working stockdog! You’ll be able to use your facilities to demonstrate the skills, talent and training you’ve worked so hard to develop.

What’s my next step? Start by contacting your local affiliate. ASCA has over 120 affiliated clubs throughout the United States, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden. A complete list with contact information can be found at: <https://portal.asca.org/#!/resources/clublist>.

Visit an event near you. ASCA maintains a comprehensive calendar of sanctioned events. Visit us at : <https://www.asca.org/asca-calendar/>. We’ll do our best to welcome you and answer your questions.

Check out the Stockdog Rulebook found at: <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/StockdogRules.pdf>

Go to the ASCA website: <https://www.asca.org/>. While you’re there check out our agility, dock jumping, conformation, junior showmanship, MVA, obedience, rally and tracking programs too!

We’ll be looking for you!