



THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

6091 E State Hwy 21
Bryan, TX 77808
www.asca.org

P: (979) 778-1082
manager@asca.org
executive.secretary@asca.org

ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules

1 Disqualified Dogs

1.1 Disqualification

A Judge must 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 will 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, and will take steps to inform the owner or owner's agent as soon as reasonably possible and will 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 must be submitted to the Business Office as part of the Show/Trial results for any dog which has been disqualified. The Office will send a Notice of Disqualification to the owner of such dog.

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

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 or Committee must fill out the Incident Report Worksheet.

1.4 Disqualifying an Excused Dog

A Judge, 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 Committee's opinion the attack on another dog was so severe that disqualification is warranted.

1.5 Incident Report

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

1. The entry form for any dog which has been disqualified
2. The "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs"
3. Written statements from:
 - a. The person bitten
 - b. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog
 - c. All witnesses including the Judge(s)
4. Supporting photos of the offending dog and the wound
5. Statements describing wound/s, if any, from the victim and/or attending medical professionals
6. A summary of the investigation and the findings by the Affiliate or Committee with their recommendations

1.6 Materials to ASCA Board of Directors

The Business Office will submit the materials submitted by the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee concerning any such incident to the Executive Secretary, who will 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 their request.

1.7 Review by Counsel

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

1.8 Ineligibility

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

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. While the appeal is pending, the dog remains disqualified.

1.10 ASCA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has the 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 the dog was disqualified or excused from the ring/trial arena by the Judge, Affiliate, or Show/Trial Committee.

2 Excused Dogs

2.1 Excusal

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

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 Committee has jurisdiction if the Judge did not witness the occurrence in their own ring/trial arena. The Affiliate or Committee will decide 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 will cover all circumstances surrounding the Incident. If the Affiliate or Committee decides to excuse a dog, the Board of Directors will either validate or invalidate the Affiliate's or Committee's decision, basing its action on the details of the investigation and a recommendation from Counsel.

2.3 Incident Report

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

1. The entry form for any dog which has been excused
2. "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs"
3. Written statements from:
 - a. The person threatened or person owning the dog that was aggressively threatened or attacked
 - b. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog
 - c. All witnesses, including Judges
4. Supporting photos
5. A summary of the investigation and the findings by the Affiliate or Committee with their recommendations

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.

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 will notify the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will take whatever action it deems necessary which may include disqualification.

3 Definitions under the Dog Aggression Rules

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 feet from such physical barriers.

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.

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.

3.4 Excused Dog

An “excused dog” is a dog that 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 it is 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.

4 Reinstatement of Dogs Disqualified Under These Rules

4.1 Right to Reinstatement

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

4.2 Reinstatement

ASCA may consider the 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.

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 when applying for reinstatement.

4.4 Other Considerations for Reinstatement

Successful completion of a reinstatement program is not a guarantee that the Board will reinstate the dog. The Board, 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.

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 it. While there is no waiting period before an owner may apply to the Board for reinstatement of a dog, if a dog is denied reinstatement, the owner must wait one year before reapplying.