

# MOST VERSATILE AUSSIE, VERSATILITY, PERFORMANCE, AND HALL OF FAME PROGRAM RULES

June 2023



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These rules were last updated:

Date	Change	Related Motion

Shaded and ~~strikethrough~~ areas indicate rule changes with the **effective date** listed.

**Program Documents on the ASCA Website:**

[Hall of Fame Sire/Dam Application Form](#)

[Hall of Fame Kennel/Breeder Application Form](#)

[Hall of Fame Excellent Kennel/Breeder Application Form](#)

[Stockdog Kennel of Excellence Application Form](#)

[MVA Evaluation Individual Score Sheet](#)

**Important Documents on the ASCA Website:**

[ASCA's Code of Ethics for Judges](#)

[ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules & Incident Report Form](#)

[ASCA's Conflict Resolution Protocol & Request Form](#)

The following contents are clickable links that will take you directly to that section.

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# Chapter 1. Most Versatile Aussie Rules for ASCA National Specialties

Approved and effective January 2003.

The Most Versatile Aussie Award is offered to recognize the dog which best combines the attributes of trainability, desire, and ability to work livestock, and faithfully represents the breed standard.

This dog exhibits the strong working ability that is the basis of the breed by attaining a qualifying score in at least one stockdog trial class. The dog demonstrates trainability and willingness to please by the combination of skill and expertise required to qualify in at least one of the recognized performance events - specifically agility, obedience, rally, and/or tracking. The dog is a true and honest representative of the breed when evaluated against the breed standard. Working ability, performance measurement, and breed evaluation are based on the rules and scorecards established by ASCA for the individual events, and the combined event "Most Versatile Aussie."

A Rule Book for Versatility will be available on request from the ASCA Business Office.

The name of the conformation evaluator and decisions optional with the club must be stated in the Premium List. The following may not be changed by any club: Bitches in-heat must be allowed to compete. LEPs are not allowed to compete. Dogs may be intact or altered.

Copies of the approved rules must be available upon request and on the Show Grounds.

The person(s) who will be responsible for versatility record keeping for the entire competition will be identified to the ASCA Board prior to the start of the Nationals.

## 1.1 Most Versatile Aussie Rules

### 1.1.1 QUALIFYING PROGRAMS

To earn the Most Versatile Aussie Award, each entry must earn a score from the Conformation Evaluation and a qualifying score from a regular Stockdog class. In addition, to remain eligible for the MVA Award, each entry must earn a qualifying score from at least one of the following four performance programs: Agility, Obedience, Rally or Tracking. Program specifics will be mentioned in these rules under each program.

Definitions:

**Q Points** - Static number of points awarded for a Qualifying score in an event at a particular skill level.

**Score Points** - Variable number of points based on the actual score received by the dog compared to the score necessary to qualify in that event, at that particular level. In the case of Agility, Score Points will be based on a clean run, versus a faulted run.

### 1.1.2 TIES

Ties for awarding the Most Versatile Aussie Award and placements will be broken using the highest Stockdog score as calculated for MVA points. In the case that a tie still exists, the dog with the highest number of qualifying scores in all MVA qualifying events will prevail. If the tie is still not broken, dual placements shall be awarded.

### 1.1.3 SCORES

Computation of all scores for awarding the Most Versatile Aussie Award will be handled by either the Most Versatile Aussie show committee, or by one identified member of the show committee. The Nationals Committee may request assistance in the tabulation and auditing of the MVA scores from the Versatility Committee, or the ASCA Board of Directors. The Nationals Committee will provide a location where all scores will be posted as soon as practicable after each eligible competition is completed. It is the owner/handler's responsibility to check the scores as posted, and report to the MVA chairperson any discrepancy no later than two hours prior to the time scheduled for awarding MVA. Awards for MVA are final once presented.

### 1.1.4 PARTICIPANT RIBBON

All entrants shall be presented with a participant ribbon during the conformation evaluation. The participant ribbon at Nationals is to be given immediately upon completion of the individual conformation evaluation. Immediately thereafter the participant may be allowed to leave the ring. All entrants who successfully earned qualifying scores in the conformation evaluation, stockdog trials and agility and/or obedience and/or rally and/or tracking events as required by these rules shall be presented with a qualifying strip ribbon at the MVA awards presentation with the top ten qualifiers receiving placement ribbons.

### 1.1.5 SELECTION OF NATIONALS MVA EVALUATOR

National MVA Evaluation Judge Selection Procedure:

1. The Judge for the MVA Evaluations must be Senior Breeder Judge.
2. MVA Judges should not have judged MVA Evaluations within the past five years.
3. The MVA Judge shall not accept any other assignments or exhibit any dogs on the day(s) they are judging MVA evaluations.
4. The Senior Breeder Judge Questionnaire circulated by the ASCA Business Office for the following year's Nationals shall include the following questions relating to the MVA Evaluation assignment:
  - a. Would you be willing to judge the MVA Evaluations? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Have you judged the MVA Evaluations within the past five years? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
5. Once the completed Questionnaires are received, the ASCA Business Office shall forward the responses to the Nationals Committee, to utilize as the basis for their list of potential MVA Evaluation Judges. Judges responding "yes" to both questions set forth in section 4 above (i.e., they are willing to judge the MVA Evaluations, but have judged MVA Evaluations within the past five years), may be considered by the Committee should the Committee not be able to secure a willing Senior Breeder Judge who has not judged MVA Evaluations within the past five years.
6. If the Nationals Committee cannot secure a judge from the group that responded to the Questionnaire, then the Nationals Committee may solicit their choice of judge from the Senior Breeder Judge list, first considering the judges who have not judged MVA in the past five years.

### 1.1.6 CONFORMATION

The MVA Evaluator must be an ASCA breeder judge; a senior breeder judge is preferred but is not mandatory. An ASCA provisional breeder judge cannot be an MVA Evaluator. The MVA Evaluator will be allowed to show prior to or subsequent to the day of the MVA evaluation. Further, any dog(s) owned by the evaluator may compete in any and all programs, other than MVA, on the same day that the evaluations are performed, provided the handler is someone other than that evaluator. Members of the evaluator's immediate family may handle the dog. If the evaluator is judging other classes or programs in addition to the MVA evaluation at the cluster, the ASCA rules pertaining to that judging shall take precedence.

One hundred points are available. The form and point schedule used will be provided to the evaluator. For MVA scoring, the total of the evaluation will be doubled to keep it weighted appropriately with the other events.

This class will not be placed, and no awards will be given. The score given by the evaluator will be used.

Only Australian Shepherds with full registration privileges will be allowed to compete in MVA. No LEP registered dogs will be allowed in MVA. This class is open to spayed and neutered animals as well as intact animals.

### 1.1.7 STOCKDOG

The dog will receive the Q Points for all qualifying scores received in Stock.

Score Points will be tabulated by taking the dog's actual score and subtracting either 69 (Started) points or 88 (Open & Advanced) points, to arrive at the number of points they earned above the necessary Q level. This will be tabulated for each qualifying score.

MVA points will be computed as follows:

1. Advanced Q = 50 points + Score - 88
2. Open Q = 35 points + Score - 88
3. Started Q = 20 points + Score - 69

Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Stockdog Trials.

### 1.1.8 PERFORMANCE SCORE

The dog must receive one MVA score from one of the four performance choices of agility, obedience, rally, and tracking in order to qualify in MVA. All Performance qualifying scores will be calculated and tabulated as noted and will be included in the total MVA score for the dog.

### 1.1.9 AGILITY

Only Regular Agility, from the standard, veterans, or junior division, will be used for versatility.

Q points will be awarded to the dog for the first qualifying run. The second qualifying run will not be awarded Q Points, only Score Points will be awarded.

Score Points will be awarded for each qualifying run, 20 for a clean run and 10 for a faulted run.

Points for MVA will be awarded as follows for the first Qualifying run. Only Score Points are awarded for the second Qualifying run in Agility.

Clean Elite run = 60 + 20  
Clean Open run = 45 + 20  
Clean Novice run = 30 + 20

Faulted Elite run = 60 + 10  
Faulted Open run = 45 + 10  
Faulted Novice run = 30 + 10

Bitches in heat will be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Agility Trial. They will run at the end of each class. A rug or tarp will be brought out to the start line and the dog will be placed on the rug or tarp to begin their run. Bitches in heat will also wear panties during their runs. Bitches in heat must be crated (not in an x-pen) prior to and during the competition, except when competing, away from the agility ring at a distance or location to be determined by the Nationals Committee. All qualifying scores will count toward the trial, as will placements. Failure to comply with this rule will result in dismissal from all agility trials held in conjunction with the ASCA Agility National Specialty.

#### **1.1.10 OBEDIENCE**

Scores from the regular classes will be used to compute MVA points. Scores from the Novice C class are not eligible for MVA competition.

Q points will be awarded to the dog for a qualifying score. If the dog is competing in Utility and Open, the second qualifying run will be awarded Score Points only.

Score Points will be awarded to the dog by subtracting 170 from the actual score the dog received in the competition. The difference will be the score points awarded to the dog.

Points will be computed as follows for the first Qualifying score. If the dog is competing in both Utility and Open, only Score Points are awarded for the second Qualifying score in Obedience.

1. Utility = 70 Q points + Actual score - 170 pts
2. Open (CDX or ODX) = 55 Q points + Actual score - 170 pts
3. Novice = 40 Q points + Actual score - 170 pts

Bitches in season entered in the MVA competition must be accommodated in the Obedience Trials. They will either run last, or in a special ring. Bitches in season must wear pants in and around the ring.

#### **1.1.11 RALLY**

Scores from A or B Advanced, Excellent or Masters class will be used to compute MVA points. Scores from Novice or C classes are not eligible for MVA competition.

Q points will be awarded to the dog for a qualifying score. If the dog is competing in Masters and Excellent, the second qualifying run will be awarded Score Points only.

Score Points will be awarded to the dog by subtracting 170 from the actual score the dog received in the competition. The difference will be the score points awarded to the dog.

Points will be computed as follows for the first Qualifying score. If the dog is competing in both Masters and Excellent, only Score Points are awarded for the second Qualifying score in Rally.

1. Masters = 50 Q points + Actual score - 170 pts
2. Excellent = 35 Q points + Actual score - 170 pts
3. Advanced = 20 Q points + Actual score - 170 pts

Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Rally Trial and will run last at the end of the day. Qualifying scores received will count for Versatility only.

#### **1.1.12 TRACKING**

Points for MVA will be awarded as follows:

100 points for a qualifying TDX track.  
80 points for a qualifying TD track.

100 points for a qualifying UTX track.  
80 points for a qualifying TDU track.

Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Tracking Trials. They will run last in Tracking and will be kept away from the tracking area until called. Qualifying scores received will count if the premium list specifically states that "bitches in season may participate."

### **1.1.13 SCORING FOR VERSATILITY COMPETITION**

There is an optional Excel program available through ASCA or the MVA Committee that will compute and tabulate MVA scores for you. Please feel free to contact ASCA or the MVA Committee to obtain a copy via disk or CD.

### **1.1.14 SPECIAL AWARDS**

The Nationals Committee shall include in their flyer any special awards to be given in the MVA competition. A memorial trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Most Versatile Aussie at every ASCA National Specialty in the name of Past President and Director Jean Carrillo (who passed away in 1997).

## **Chapter 2. Versatility Champion Requirements**

### **2.1 Eligibility**

The Supreme and Versatility Champion recognition as described below is open to Australian Shepherds with ASCA individual registration numbers.

Minimum Requirements to be met for the VCH (Versatility Champion) title:

1. CH or A-CH (Regular Class Breed Championship)
2. Two OTD (Open Trial Dog Sheep & Cattle) and one ATD (Advanced Trial Dog Ducks) in working
3. One of the following five:
  - a. CDX (Companion Dog Excellent in Obedience) or ODX (Open Dog Excellent in Obedience). Only one per dog to count.
  - b. TD (Tracking Dog) or TDU (Tracking Dog Urban)
  - c. TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) or UTDX (Urban Tracking Dog Excellent)
  - d. Three Open Agility titles: Regular, Jumpers and Gamblers (Standard, Junior or Veteran Dog)
  - e. REM (Rally Excellent/Masters)

Minimum Requirements to be met for the SVCH (Supreme Versatility Champion) title:

1. CH or A-CH (Regular Class Breed Championship)
2. WTCH (Working Trial Champion)
3. One of the following three:
  - a. UD (Utility Dog in Obedience)
  - b. Three Elite Agility titles: Regular, Jumpers and Gamblers (Standard, Junior or Veteran Dog)
  - c. REMX (Rally Excellent/Masters X)

### **2.2 Recognition**

A certificate of recognition will be issued at the ASCA Office once the above-named eligibility requirements have been met. There is no need to complete an application for this title as the ASCA office has in place a computer program that notifies them when the eligibility requirements have been met.

Australian Shepherds who have earned the Versatility Champion recognition can be viewed on the ASCA Website or a list of Versatility Champions may be ordered from the Business Office at a nominal fee.

## **Chapter 3. Performance Champion Requirements**

### **3.1 Eligibility**

The Supreme and Performance Champion recognition described below is open to Australian Shepherds with ASCA individual registration numbers or LEP numbers.

Minimum Requirements to be met for the PCH (Performance Champion) title:

1. Two ATD (Advanced Trial Dog titles)
2. Two out of the following four:
  - a. CDX (Companion Dog Excellent in Obedience) or ODX (Open Dog Excellent in Obedience). Only one per dog to count.
  - b. TD (Tracking Dog)
  - c. All of Open Regular, Open Gamblers and Open Jumpers (Standard or Veteran Dog in Agility)
  - d. REM (Rally Excellent/Masters)

Minimum Requirements to be met for the SPCH (Supreme Performance Champion) title:

1. WTCH (Working Trial Champion)

2. Two of the following three:
  - a. UD (Utility Dog in Obedience)
  - b. All of Elite Regular, Elite Gamblers, Elite Jumpers (Standard or Veteran Dog in Agility)
  - c. REMX (Rally Excellent/Masters X)

### 3.2 Eligibility for Other Breeds

The Supreme and Performance Champion recognition described below is open to all breeds with ASCA QTracker numbers that meet Appendix D in the Stockdog Rules. Refer to Appendix D in the Stockdog Rules for a list of Herding dogs eligible to Compete in ASCA Stockdog Trials.

Minimum Requirements to be met for the PCH (Performance Champion) title:

1. Two ATD (Advanced Trial Dog titles)
2. Two out of the following four:
  - a. CDX (Companion Dog Excellent in Obedience) or ODX (Open Dog Excellent in Obedience). Only one per dog to count.
  - b. TD (Tracking Dog)
  - c. All of Open Regular, Open Gamblers and Open Jumpers (Standard or Veteran Dog in Agility)
  - d. REM (Rally Excellent/Masters)

Minimum Requirements to be met for the SPCH (Supreme Performance Champion) title:

1. WTCH (Working Trial Champion)
2. Two of the following three:
  - a. UD (Utility Dog in Obedience)
  - b. All of Elite Regular, Elite Gamblers, Elite Jumpers (Standard or Veteran Dog in Agility)
  - c. REMX (Rally Excellent/Masters X)

### 3.3 Recognition

A certificate of recognition will be issued at the ASCA Office once the above-named eligibility requirements have been met. There is no need to complete an application for this title as the ASCA office has in place a computer program that notifies them when the eligibility requirements have been met.

Australian Shepherds who have earned the Performance Champion recognition can be viewed on the ASCA Website or a list of Performance Champions may be ordered from the Business Office at a nominal fee.

## Chapter 4. Sire and/or Dam Hall of Fame Requirements

GRANDFATHER CLAUSE 99:02 - Any allowed titles earned towards Hall of Fame Requirements prior to 1/1/2003 will count towards Hall of Fame requirements after 1/1/2003. Any allowed titles earned after 1/1/2003 must be earned under the new Hall of Fame requirements.

### 4.1 Requirements for Sire and/or Dam

ASCA recognizes as members of the Hall of Fame (HOF) those dams and sires who have produced titled Australian Shepherds who have met the HOF requirements and prerequisites as set forth below. Qualifying titles earned by an Australian Shepherd produced by a sire or dam counting towards that sire or dam's HOF requirements are as follows:

1. Agility: RS-O (Regular Standard Open) or RV-O (Regular Veterans Open) or RJ-O (Regular Junior Open). Only one per dog to count.
2. Obedience: CDX (Companion Dog Excellent in Obedience) or ODX (Open Dog Excellent in Obedience). Only one per dog to count.
3. Tracking: TD (Tracking Dog) or TDU (Tracking Dog Urban). Only one per dog to count.
4. Stockdog: ATDd (Advanced Trial Dog Ducks) and/or OTDs (Open Trial Dog Sheep) and/or OTDc (Open Trial Dog Cattle)
5. Conformation: CH (Conformation Champion), A-CH (Altered Conformation Champion)
6. Rally: RM (Rally Masters)

Australian Shepherds produced by the Sire must have earned a combination of twelve of the above-named titles with a combination of three Stockdog or Conformation titles and the remaining nine from any area named in 1-6 above.

Australian Shepherds produced by the Dam must have earned a combination of eight of the above-named titles with a combination of two Stockdog or Conformation titles and the remaining six from any area named in 1-6 above.



## 4.2 Recognition

A certificate of recognition will be issued at the ASCA Office once the above-named eligibility requirements have been met. The ASCA office has in place a computer program that notifies them when the eligibility requirements have been met; however, completion of the Hall of Fame Application Appendix B will expedite the process of verification of titles. It is recommended you use this form.

Australian Shepherds who have earned the Hall of Fame recognition can be viewed on the ASCA Website or a list of Hall of Fame sires and/or dams may be ordered from the Business Office at a nominal fee.

## Chapter 5. Kennel Hall of Fame Requirements

GRANDFATHER CLAUSE: 99:02 - Any allowed titles earned towards Hall of Fame Requirements prior to 1/1/2003 will count towards Hall of Fame requirements after 1/1/2003. Any allowed titles earned after 1/1/2003 must be earned under the new Hall of Fame requirements.

### 5.1 Breeder and/or Kennel Requirements

ASCA recognizes the kennels/breeders that have produced titled Australian Shepherds that have met the Hall of Fame (HOF) requirements as set forth below.

Qualifying titles counting toward a Kennel/Breeder's Hall of Fame are as follows:

1. Agility: RS-O (Regular Standard Open) or RV-O (Regular Veterans Open) or RJ-O (Regular Junior Open). Only one per dog to count.
2. Obedience: CDX (Companion Dog Excellent in Obedience) or ODX (Open Dog Excellent in Obedience). Only one per dog to count.
3. Tracking: TD (Tracking Dog) or TDU (Tracking Dog Urban). Only one per dog to count.
4. Stockdog: ATDd (Advanced Trial Dog Ducks) and/or OTDs (Open Trial Dog Sheep) and/or OTDc (Open Trial Dog Cattle).
5. Conformation: CH (Conformation Champion), A-CH (Altered Conformation Champion).
6. Rally: RM (Rally Masters).

A Kennel/Breeder must have accrued twenty qualifying titles on their progeny as follows:

1. Ten Stockdog and Conformation titles, with a minimum of three in each, and
2. The remaining ten in any category named in 1-6 above.

### 5.2 Recognition

A certificate of recognition will be issued at the ASCA Office once the above-named eligibility requirements have been met. The ASCA office has in place a computer program that notifies them when the eligibility requirements have been met for Hall of Fame (HOF); however, completion of the Hall of Fame Application Appendix C will expedite the process of verification of titles. It is recommended you use this form.

Breeders and/or kennels who have earned the Hall of Fame recognition can be viewed on the ASCA Website or a list of Hall of Fame breeders/kennels may be ordered from the Business Office at a nominal fee.

## Chapter 6. Hall of Fame Excellent Breeder/Kennel

ASCA recognizes the kennels/breeders who have produced titled Australian Shepherds that have met the Hall of Fame (HOF) requirements as set forth below.

### 6.1 Breeder and/or Kennel Requirements

Twenty qualifying titles required as follows:

1. Six mandatory Stockdog titles (individually or combined). Qualifying titles are:
  - a. ATDc (Advanced Trial Dog Cattle) (1 pt.)
  - b. ATDs (Advanced Trial Dog Sheep) (1 pt.)
  - c. RTDsc (Ranch Trial Dog Sheep/Cattle) (combined for 1 pt.)
  - d. PATDs (Post Advanced Trial Dog Sheep) (1 pt.)
  - e. PATDc (Post Advanced Trial Dog Cattle) (1 pt.)
2. Six mandatory Conformation titles. (Titles earned in HOF count towards HOFX.) Qualifying titles are:
  - a. A-CH (Altered Champion) (1 pt.)
  - b. CH (Champion) (1 pt.)

3. Five additional titles in either Performance, Stockdog, or Conformation as named above. Qualifying performance titles are:
  - a. Obedience: UD (1 pt.) (Utility Dog in Obedience)
  - b. Tracking: TDX (1 pt.) (Tracking Dog Excellent) or UTDX (1 pt.) (Urban Tracking Dog Excellent). Only one per dog to count.
  - c. Agility: (must earn ALL THREE Elite titles of Regular, Gamblers, and Jumpers) (1 pt.)
    - i. Qualifying Regular titles are RS-E or RJ-E or RV-E (Regular Standard Elite or Regular Junior Elite or Regular Veteran Dog Elite)
    - ii. Qualifying Jumper titles are JS-E or JJ-E or JV-E (Jumper Standard Elite or Jumper Junior Elite or Jumper Veteran Dog Elite)
    - iii. Qualifying Gambler titles are GS-E or GJ-E or GV-E (Gamblers Standard Elite or Gamblers Junior Elite or Gamblers Veteran Dog Elite)
  - d. Rally: REMX (Rally Excellent/Masters X)
4. THREE TITLES OF EXCELLENCE (A dog may earn more than one and two dogs must be titled in this category). Two of the three titles must be titles that include stockdog and/or conformation. Individual titles making up these specialty titles may be counted towards stockdog, conformation or performance requirements named above. Qualifying titles are:
  - a. VCH (Versatility Champion) (1 pt.)
  - b. PCH (Performance Champion) (1 pt.)
  - c. ATCH (Agility Trial Champion) (1 pt.)
  - d. OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion) (1pt) or OTCH-O (Obedience Trial Champion-Open). Only one per dog to count. (1 pt.)
  - e. WTCH (Working Trial Champion) (1 pt.)
  - f. SVCH (Supreme Versatility Champion) (1 pt.)
  - g. SPCH (Supreme Performance Champion) (1 pt.)
  - h. MTD (Master Tracking Dog) (1 pt.)
  - i. RTCH (Rally Trial Champion) (1 pt.)

### 6.1.1 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT

Hall of Fame (HOF) must be earned prior to putting in for Hall of Fame Excellent (HOFX).

### 6.1.2 LISTING OF HOFX KENNELS/BREEDERS

Kennels/Breeders will be given a number designating the numeric order in which Hall of Fame Excellent (HOFX) was earned.

### 6.1.3 GRANDFATHERING

For the first year only in which Hall of Fame Excellent (HOFX) is implemented, kennels who have earned HOFX will be kept in the same order listing (but not necessarily the same numeric number) in which they earned Hall of Fame. This will allow time for all qualifying kennels to turn in their HOFX application for processing.

## 6.2 Recognition

A certificate of recognition will be issued at the ASCA Office once the above-named eligibility requirements have been met. Completion of the Hall of Fame Excellent Application, Appendix D is required.

Breeders and/or kennels who have earned the Hall of Fame Excellent recognition can be viewed on the ASCA Website or a list of Hall of Fame Excellent breeders and/or kennels may be ordered from the Business Office at a nominal fee.

## Chapter 7. Stockdog Kennel of Excellence (SKE)

**Note:** There is no sequential numbering system for the Stockdog Kennel of Excellence recognition program. Only the year attained will be printed on the certificate.

1. For applications with all titles awarded before 1991:
  - a. Qualifying titles:
    - i. OTDc (Open Trial Dog cattle)
    - ii. OTDh (Open Trial Dog hogs)
    - iii. OTDs (Open Trial Dog sheep)
    - iv. ATDd (Advanced Trial Dog ducks). Maximum of four.
  - b. Minimum of six dogs.
  - c. Any twenty titles.

**Note:** Fewer trialing and titling opportunities.

2. For applications not covered in 1 with all titles awarded before 1998:

- a. Qualifying titles:
  - i. ATDc (Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - ii. ATDs (Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - iii. RTDc (Ranch Trial Dog cattle)
  - iv. RTDs (Ranch Trial Dog sheep)
  - v. PATDc (Post Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - vi. PATDs (Post Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - vii. WTCH (Working Trial Champion)
- b. Minimum of six dogs.
- c. Thirty titles including:
  - i. Minimum of one PATDc, PATDs, RTDc, or RTDs title
  - ii. Minimum of three Championship titles

**Note:** WTCH's were only offered since 1991 and at the end of 1997 only 243 had been awarded of which fifty-nine were earned before 1991, championships comprise 10% of required titles.

3. For applications not covered in 1 or 2 with all titles awarded before 2009:

- a. Qualifying titles:
  - i. ATDc (Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - ii. ATDs (Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - iii. RTDc (Ranch Trial Dog cattle)
  - iv. RTDs (Ranch Trial Dog sheep)
  - v. PATDc (Post Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - vi. PATDs (Post Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - vii. WTCH (Working Trial Champion)
- b. Minimum of seven dogs.
- c. Thirty titles including:
  - i. Minimum of two PATDc, PATDs, RTDc, or RTDs title; any combination
  - ii. Minimum of six Championship titles

4. For applications not covered in 1, 2 or 3 with all titles awarded before 2017:

- a. Qualifying titles:
  - i. ATDc (Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - ii. ATDs (Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - iii. RTDc (Ranch Trial Dog cattle)
  - iv. RTDs (Ranch Trial Dog sheep)
  - v. PATDc (Post Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - vi. PATDs (Post Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - vii. AFTDc (Advanced Farm Trail Dog cattle)
  - viii. AFTDd (Advanced Farm Trail Dog ducks). Maximum of two.
  - ix. AFTDs (Advanced Farm Trail Dog sheep)
  - x. AFTDm (Advanced Farm Trail Dog mixed)
  - xi. WTCH (Working Trial Champion)
  - xii. WTCH-X (Working Trial Champion - Excellent)
  - xiii. SDCH (Stockdog Champion)
- b. Minimum of seven dogs.
- c. Thirty titles including:
  - i. Minimum of three PATDc, PATDs, RTDc, or RTDs title; any combination
  - ii. Minimum of four AFTD titles
  - iii. Minimum of seven Championship titles

5. For applications not covered in 1, 2, 3 or 4 with any titles awarded 2017 and after.

- a. Qualifying titles:
  - i. ATDc (Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - ii. ATDs (Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - iii. RTDc (Ranch Trial Dog cattle)
  - iv. RTDs (Ranch Trial Dog sheep)
  - v. PATDc (Post Advanced Trial Dog cattle)
  - vi. PATDs (Post Advanced Trial Dog sheep)
  - vii. AFTD-Xc (Advanced Farm Trail Dog - Excellent cattle)
  - viii. AFTD-Xd (Advanced Farm Trail Dog - Excellent ducks). Maximum of two.
  - ix. AFTD-Xs (Advanced Farm Trail Dog - Excellent sheep)

- x. AFTD-Xm (Advanced Farm Trail Dog - Excellent mixed)
  - xi. WTCH (Working Trial Champion)
  - xii. WTCH-X (Working Trial Champion - Excellent)
  - xiii. SDCH (Stockdog Champion)
  - xiv. FTCH (Farm Trial Champion)
- b. Minimum of eight dogs.
- c. Thirty titles including:
- i. Minimum of three PATDc, PATDs, RTDc, or RTDs title; any combination
  - ii. Minimum of four AFTD-X titles
  - iii. Minimum of eight Championship titles

# APPENDIX A: ASCA Australian Shepherd Breed Standard

Created January 15, 1977, and amended June 1, 2013.

**INTRODUCTION:** First and foremost, the Australian Shepherd is a true working stockdog, and anything that detracts from his usefulness as such is undesirable. The most important breed characteristics are overall moderation in size and bone, balance with correct proportions, and sound movement.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** The Australian Shepherd is a well-balanced dog of medium size and bone. He is attentive and animated, showing strength and stamina combined with unusual agility. Slightly longer than tall, he has a coat of moderate length and coarseness with coloring that offers variety and individuality in each specimen. An identifying characteristic is his natural or docked bobtail. In each sex, masculinity or femininity is well defined.

**CHARACTER:** The Australian Shepherd is primarily a working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts. He is an intelligent, exceptional companion. He is versatile and easily trained: performing his assigned tasks with great style and enthusiasm. He is reserved with strangers but does not exhibit shyness. This unusually versatile stockdog works with the power and quickness to control difficult cattle as well as the ability to move sheep without unnecessary roughness. Although an aggressive, authoritative worker, viciousness toward people or animals is intolerable.

**HEAD:** The head is clean-cut, strong, dry, and in proportion to the body. The top skull is flat to slightly rounded, its length and width each equal to the length of the muzzle. The muzzle is of medium width and depth and tapers gradually to a rounded tip, without appearing heavy or snipey. Lips are close fitting, meeting at the mouthline. The topline of the muzzle and top skull appear close to parallel. The stop is moderate but well defined.

**(A) TEETH:** A full complement of strong white teeth meet in a scissors bite. A level bite is a fault. Teeth broken or missing by accident are not penalized. All other missing teeth should be faulted to the degree that they deviate from a full complement of 42 teeth. Disqualifications: Undershot bite, Overshot bite, Wry Mouth.

**(B) EYES:** The eyes are very expressive, showing attentiveness and intelligence. They are clear, almond-shaped, of moderate size, and set a little obliquely, neither prominent nor sunken. The pupils are dark, well defined, and perfectly positioned. Eye color is brown, blue, amber, or any variation or combination, including flecks and marbling. All eye colors are acceptable in combination with all coat colors. Faults: Any deviation from almond-shaped eyes.

**(C) EARS:** The ears are set high on the side of the head, are triangular, of moderate size and slightly rounded at the tip. The tip of the ear reaches to, but not further than, the inside corner of the nearest eye. At full attention, the ears should lift from one-quarter to one-half above the base and break forward or slightly to the side. Severe Faults: Prick ears; overly large ears; low set ears with no lift from the base.

**NECK AND BODY:** The neck is firm, clean, and in proportion to the body. It is of medium length and slightly arched at the crest, setting well into the shoulders. The body is firm and muscular. The topline appears level at a natural four-square stance. The bottom line carries well back with a moderate tuck-up. The chest is deep and strong with ribs well sprung. The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top. The croup is moderately sloping. The tail is straight, not to exceed four inches, natural bobtail or docked.

**FOREQUARTERS:** The shoulder blades (scapula) are well laid back, with the upper arm (humerus) slightly longer than the shoulder blade. Both the upper arm and shoulder blade are well muscled. The forelegs are straight and strong, perpendicular to the ground, with moderate bone. The point of the elbow is set under the withers and is equidistant from the withers to the ground. Pasterns are short, thick, and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. Feet are oval shaped, compact, with close knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient, nails short and strong. Dewclaws may be removed.

**HINDQUARTERS:** Width of hindquarters is approximately equal to the width of the forequarters at the shoulder. The angulation of the pelvis and upper thigh (femur) corresponds to the angulation of the shoulder blade and upper arm. The upper and lower thigh are well muscled. Stifles are clearly defined; hock joints moderately bent. The metatarsi are short, perpendicular to the ground, and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Feet are oval shaped, compact, with close-knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient, nails short and strong. Rear dewclaws are removed.

**COAT:** The coat is of medium length and texture, straight to slightly wavy, and weather resistant. The undercoat varies in quantity with climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head, outside of ears, front of forelegs, and below the hocks. Backs of forelegs are moderately feathered, and breeches are moderately full. There is a moderate mane, more pronounced in dogs than bitches. The Australian Shepherd is a working dog and is to be shown with a natural coat. Severe Faults: Non-typical coats such as excessively long; overabundant/profuse; wiry; or curly.

**COLOR:** All colors are strong, clear, and rich. The recognized colors are blue merle, red (liver) merle, solid black, and solid red (liver) all with or without white markings and/or tan (copper) points with no order of preference. The blue merle and black have black pigmentation on nose, lips, and eye-rims. Reds and red merles have liver pigmentation on nose,

lips, and eye rims. Butterfly nose should not be faulted under one year of age. On all colors the areas surrounding the ears and eyes are dominated by color other than white. The hairline of a white collar does not exceed the point at the withers. Disqualifications: Other than recognized colors; white body splashes; dudley nose.

**GAIT:** Smooth, free, and easy, exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced natural stride. As speed increases, both front and rear feet converge equally toward the centerline of gravity beneath the body. The top line remains firm and level. When viewed from the side the trot is effortless, exhibiting facility of movement rather than a hard driving action. Exaggerated reach and drive at the trot are not desirable. Gait faults shall be penalized according to the degree of deviation from the ideal.

**SIZE:** Preferred height at the withers for males is 20 to 23 inches; that for females is 18 to 21 inches, however, quality is not to be sacrificed in favor of size.

Other Disqualifications: Monorchidism and cryptorchidism.