



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

March 2017

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Hold Herding Events**

Subject: **Three Recent Changes to Herding Regulations**

This communication is to inform your club of three recent changes to the Herding Regulations.

1. Clubs are now allowed to hold up to twelve herding trials per calendar year. Previously the limit was ten. This change is effective immediately.
2. Norwegian Elkhounds are eligible to participate in the AKC herding program. This change is effective April 1, 2017.
3. Junior handlers may handle a dog in a lower level herding class even if the dog has earned a qualifying score at a higher level. A junior handler is someone less than 18 years old. When this occurs, the dog is not eligible for High In Trial or Reserve HIT. Normally a dog that has earned a qualifying score at a higher level is not allowed to enter a lower level class. The change is meant to promote junior participation in herding and is effective immediately.

Specific changes regarding #3 are:

Chapter 4. Section 1. Trial Levels. The regular levels at a Herding trial shall be Started, Intermediate and Advanced. An owner may enter a dog in any trial level he or she deems appropriate; however, once a dog has acquired a qualifying score in such level at a license or member trial, it shall be ineligible to be entered in any lower level on that course/stock. Except a junior handler may handle a dog in a lower level even if the dog has acquired a qualifying score or a title at a higher level. In this case the dog is not eligible for High In Trial or Reserve HIT. Trial secretaries are asked to indicate on the result forms when a dog is handled by a Junior. If the dog has not earned a title at the lower level, a title certificate will be issued once the necessary numbers of qualifying scores have been acquired. If the dog has previously earned a title at the lower level, no further title certificates will be issued. A Junior handler is someone less than 18 years old.

Chapter 4. Section 4. Herding Champion. *Paragraph #4.* When a dog from an Advanced class goes High In Trial, one Championship point is earned if there is only one dog in the Advanced classes, and two Championship points are earned by the highest scoring dog when there are two dogs in the advanced classes. Note: A dog that has earned a qualifying score or a title at a higher level and is being handled by a Junior in a lower level class is not eligible for High In Trial or Reserve HIT.

These changes will be reflected in the next reprinting of the Herding Regulations book.

This e-mail is being sent to the President and Secretary of all clubs licensed to hold Herding Tests/Trials and will be posted on the AKC Herding website. Comments can be e-mailed to the AKC at Herding@akc.org.