Section 1. Course D.
Course D reflects the day to day control and management of livestock in a varied ranch, farm and/or stockyard setting. The dog should demonstrate instinct, ability, versatility and training as an effective stock dog and working partner with the handler while controlling and moving livestock calmly and efficiently through a given course.

Course D provides for a combination of obstacles commonly applied in a ranch setting incorporating areas in and around the herding facility. All elements cannot be restricted to a single arena and must include a combination of arena, pen, and pasture/field work. While the obstacle types are constant, the actual course will vary from facility to facility as designed by the course director. The course should provide for access and clear viewing for the judge at all times.

Sheep/goats are used on Course D Type of stock available for each class must be stated in the Premium List. Each run will be allotted a minimum of 10 head of stock for every scored section, with larger numbers preferred (Fewer than 10 heads may be involved in a component within a scored section, for example, where sorting or gate work is done).

Course D represents a unique combination and order of obstacles tailored to each host facility. The course(s) for each event and class will not be available until one hour before the start of the event, and at such time will be posted by the Event Secretary. Each course is designed by the Trial Committee’s Course Director. However, the Judge shall have final authority over course design, provided any modifications are applied 90 minutes prior to the start of the first Course D class to allow sufficient time for the posting of the course layout. Alternatively, the Course Director may communicate with the judge prior to the event to coordinate for optimal course design.

The type of obstacles to be used for the Course D must be included in the Premium List.

All stock must be accustomed to being worked by dogs on the designated course and be conditioned prior to the trial.

The club must ensure that facilities are provided for the separation of fresh and exhausted stock. Stock will be sorted by gate run or into groups primarily on the basis of uniformity, and used in the prescribed groups throughout the trial; these groups will be run in a pre-determined order, except that groups may be deleted from the run order or individual animals may be substituted within groups where a group member is found to be unsound or otherwise unfit for use.

Selection of particular stock for a particular competitor will constitute misconduct and will be grounds for a formal complaint.

Priority must always be given to care of livestock. Trial schedules should be adjusted to provide adequate breaks for livestock as necessary.

The trial hosting club is responsible for ensuring an adequate number of livestock has been hired for the number of runs at their trial. Regardless of the type of stock used, clubs must arrange to have additional stock in reserve.

At the discretion of the Course Director, one or more dogs may be used to facilitate stock handling, provided that they do not interfere with livestock behavior during judging. A dog competing in that weekend’s trial events may not be used for stock handling until after it has completed its final run for the day.
Section 2. Course Director.
The trial-host club must appoint a Course Director, whose duties are to design and construct or supervise the construction of the course or courses; to assist and advise in all matters pertaining to the courses and the running of same; and to supervise the care of the trial stock during the running of the trial. The Course Director or stewards will be responsible for keeping all competing dogs that are not on course or in the ready position from disturbing livestock, contestants, spectators or dogs that are on course and being judged. The Trial Committee and the Course Director will be responsible for ensuring that all non-competing dogs except stock handler’s dogs are barred from the immediate run area.

The Course Director may appoint one or more Course Stewards to assist him/her.

Course D will not be confined to an arena, but should encompass a group of locations depending on the specific course design. There must be a perimeter fence or other natural barrier containing the trial area, but this need not coincide with the course boundaries. The minimum size of the course must be no less than 2 ½ acres or 108,000 square feet.

Section 3. Pens & Obstacles.
The take pen must be a minimum 12 feet by 12 feet. The exhaust pen may be the same pen as the take pen. If the exhaust is a separate pen, it must be large enough to accommodate the number of stock being used. The take and exhaust pens must have a gate that latches and swings easily.

Gate widths must be sufficient to accommodate stock movement without undue risk of stock contact with the gate or gateposts.

For Course D trials the freestanding pen will have a 6 foot rope firmly affixed to the gate and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed.

Fence line obstacles in all levels must consist of a section of fencing, a fence panel, or an object such as a barrel placed so that the stock must go:

(a) Through an opening in the obstacle; or
(b) Between the obstacle and the arena fence. The opening for stock to negotiate in all fence line obstacles or between the fence line obstacle and the arena wall must be 8 ft.

Freestanding obstacles: The opening for stock to negotiate in all freestanding chutes must be 14 ft. to 16 ft. wide.

Trailers, chutes, footbaths, bridges and stalls etc. must be of sufficient size to safely accommodate the stock, dog and handler as required. If other obstacles are used, i.e., trees, bushes, boulders, tractors, hay wagons, round bales of straw etc., sufficient space should be available for safe passage of the stock, dog and handler as required.

All obstacles shall be a minimum height of 3 ft.

Section 4. Course Design & Safety.
The course design for each level shall be decided upon by the Course Director, approved by the judge, and posted one hour before the start of the trial.

Before the trial, the Course Director and his stewards will ensure that the trial grounds are cleared of all litter and dangerous objects such as broken glass, loose wire, etc. and they shall inspect all obstacles and fences to be used in the trial to ensure that they are sturdy and safe with no nail projecting, broken boards, etc., that might cause injury to livestock, dogs, or competitors.

Where natural hazards (e.g. thorned vegetation, wasps) on the site are known to exist and be consequential, the nature of these known hazards should be disclosed to competitors before the trial begins.
Livestock guardian dogs should be secured, preferably out of visual range while visiting dogs are on the trial site.

It is the responsibility of the Course Director, the judge, and the exhibitor to ensure the safety of the course.

**Stock**
Sheep/goats used in AKC Course D trials must be lambs, wethers or ewes, and in the case of wool sheep over 1 year of age, must have been shorn within the past year.

People attending to sheep should know how to properly handle them under the jaw or by the flank, and how to hold them under the jaw for restraint or controlled movement.

The proper use of a crook, by a competent operator, is also an acceptable catching method. Sheep should never be caught by grabbing their fleece.

Sheep must never be lifted by the head, ears, horns, tail or fleece.

**Section 5. Trial Levels.**
The levels at a Course D trial shall be Started, Intermediate and Advanced. An owner may enter a dog in any trial level he or she deems appropriate; however, once that dog has acquired a qualifying score in such level at a licensed or member trial, it shall be ineligible to be entered in any lower level.

A Course D trial need not include all levels, but in order to hold an Intermediate level the trial must include the Started level. If an Advanced level is offered, Intermediate and Started levels must also be offered at licensed and member club trials. A dog will remain eligible to compete in levels for both Course D Started and Course D Intermediate for 60 days when according to the owner’s records the dog has completed the requirements to be awarded an AKC Excellent title at that trial level. Dogs that have achieved any title of Course D advanced (HXD) are eligible to compete in Course D advanced (HXD) class for an indefinite period of time.

**Section 6. Qualifying Scores.**
A qualifying score shall be 60 or more points (per Chapter IV, Section 2) with no incomplete sections in all classes.

A qualifying score must never be awarded unless the run is completed "on course". For a run to be "on course", all stock must leave the take pen, and each required element of the course must be completed before the next required element may be considered. This includes entire distance of the HI & HX drive.

If a handler attempts a course element out of the correct sequence, the judge may notify the handler that the run is off course. However, such notification must be done in a consistent manner for all handlers.

In the case of obstacles, completion of the element requires that at ALL stock pass completely through or in the obstacle in the required direction.

A hold must be attempted before the re-pen and the score will reflect the quality of the hold or attempt. The dog need not be between the handler and the stock, as long as stock are viewed as being held off the pen so as to prevent crowding at the exhaust pen gate as it is being opened.

Completion of a run “on course” requires penning of all stock before the handler closes the exhaust pen gate and completing the sorting of all stock as specified for that course.

**Section 7. Course D General Requirements.**
For a D Course Trial, each required element will occur in its own scored section of the course subject to possible modification by the judge. Scoring is for the actual element, which is marked approximately 20 feet before the element and ending as the stock exit. The remainder of the scoring i9s under the Stock Control section of the score sheet.
The Judge and/or Course Director will determine the time allotted for the course. Before a trial, the course should be tested with livestock similar to the trial stock, and the test should be timed. This testing and timing should be done sufficiently early to enable any appropriate changes in the course before the course design is posted. All elements must have increasing degrees of difficulty for each level.

**Course D Required Elements**
All levels must include all seven (7) Required Elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to qualify:

- **Outrun** – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers and completes the outrun or gather as close to the balance point as possible (8 points)
- **Lift** - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performing a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock (4 points)
- **Fetch** - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point (8 points)
- **Fetch and/or Drive** - The stock will be moved through the course in a straight line between elements or designated destinations - Maximum points will be awarded for demonstrating a calm fetch and/or drive in a straight line or lines through the designated parts of the course (20 points)
- **Take pen** - The take pen may be a stall in a barn, a fence line pen or a freestanding pen. Maximum points will be awarded for the stock leaving the pen calmly and in control (10 points)
- **Freestanding obstacle** - The freestanding obstacle may be anywhere on the course, but at least 12 feet from any fence line. Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt (10 points)
- **Exhaust pen** - The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for penning all stock in a calm manner. The dog and handler may be required to remain outside the pen (10 points)

**Course D Optional Elements**
All levels must include three (3) Optional Elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to quality:

Optional Elements may be the same for all levels, or course design may use different elements for each level. Each optional Element shall be assigned 10 points:

- **Load & unload chute** - Chutes must not have solid sides and a gate on the closed end. They may vary from 3 to 6 feet in width and may or may not have a floor. Chutes may be configured in a variety of shapes including straight, “L”, or “Y”. Chutes may have entry wings with a width of no more than 12 feet. Stock enters the opening, and is let out through the gate on the other end. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: Started handlers are unlimited in their movement. Intermediate handlers may go to the wing or entrance. Advanced handlers must remain 10’ from any part of the chute until they open the gate. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently loading and unloading all the stock.
a) **Sort Chute** – Two or more stock will be sorted into pens or stalls. Dog will hold stock in alleyway while handler works the gate. Handler may touch sheep lightly with no abuse to equipment or livestock. Maximum points will be awarded for efficiency and calm handling of the stock. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: At the Started level, any stock may be sorted; at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) must be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner. Stock may be marked with ribbons, or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting.

b) **Bridge** - A bridge may be an actual existing bridge or an obstacle set up for the course. In the latter case, an obstacle designated as a “bridge” is distinguished from a chute in that the bridge has a floor and should be no less than 6 feet in length and no more than 12 feet in width. Actual bridges may have any surface and may be narrower than 8 feet but no less than 4 feet in width. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock over the bridge on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by one of two methods: Started - 2 wings; Intermediate – 1 wing; Advanced - no wings or handler positioning restrictions for each level.

c) **Gate work** - Gate work should encompass adding or removing stock from one group to another from adjoining areas. At the Started level, any stock may be sorted, while at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) should be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner. Stock may be marked with ribbons, or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting.
d) **Extra obstacles** - Extra obstacles may include trees, bushes, rocks, farm equipment, and bales of hay or straw, etc. to either pass between as panels or to make turns around. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly putting all the stock through or around the obstacle on the first attempt.

e) **Figure 8** - The stock must move in a figure eight pattern. Cones, barrels or natural objects may be used to set out the pattern and the stock must pass through the center three times to complete the pattern. Started handlers may move anywhere; Intermediate must stand centered between the markers; Advanced handlers must remain stationary outside the figure 8. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock around the pattern.

f) **Mock footbath** – The handler and dog must move stock through a footbath containing only water. Absolutely no chemicals may be used in the footbath. The footbath should be from 2 to 4 feet in width, but large enough for the stock to move comfortably through. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently putting stock through the footbath on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by: Started - a minimum of 1/3 of the flock into bath, Intermediate a minimum 2/3 of the flock into bath, and advanced all stock into foot bath.

g) **Stock Trailer** - The trailer should be of a suitable size to ensure the safety of the stock and the dog. The stock must be loaded into the trailer without the dog entering the trailer. Once the stock has entered the trailer, the trailer door will be closed. The dog may enter the trailer to unload the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock in and out of the trailer on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined in one of the following:

+ Started to load trailer to 1/3 of its capacity. Intermediate to load trailer to 2/3 of its capacity. Advanced to load trailer to full capacity. Or;
+ Started handlers may enter trailer while loading. Intermediate handlers may stand in opening of trailer. Advanced handlers must remain outside during loading.

h) **Alleyways** – 2 panels of sufficient length are set approximately 15 – 25 feet parallel from the perimeter Fence line, with a distance of approximately 10 to 16 feet apart, to simulate an alleyway with an open gate on one side. Started handlers may walk through the alleyway with the gate closed. Intermediate handlers may not walk through, and dogs need to get the sheep through the alleyway not allowing the stock to go through the ‘open’ gate. Advanced handlers may not walk through, but must turn the stock to go through the side gate. Alternatively, a Maltese could be used using similar criteria to differentiate levels.

![Alleyway Diagram]
AKC Herding Regulations
Chapter VIII
Course D

i) Shed/hold – Started handlers will hold the stock in a designated area that must be away from any fence line. Intermediate handlers will follow all of the same shedding criteria as Advanced, except that they may use a fence line. Advanced handlers must remain in the designated shedding ring. The stock must be split into two groups by the combined efforts of the dog and handler. When the handler calls the dog in to take control, the dog must come immediately, and turn the group indicated by the handler away from the remaining stock. If the dog does not come in when the handler asks, it will be considered a failed attempt and points will be deducted at the judge’s discretion. The stock must be moved away from the remaining stock and held until the judge indicates that the shed is complete. Maximum points will be awarded for a successful shed on the first attempt.

j) Freestanding pen with rope – The pen shall be between eight feet by eight feet (8’ x 8’) and twelve feet x twelve feet (12’ x 12’). A 6 foot (6’) rope must be firmly affixed to the gate and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed. When ready to pen the stock, the handler must open the gate, and after all the stock are penned, the handler must close the gate. However, after penning, the handler and/or the dog may enter the pen to exhaust the stock. Upon completion of penning, the rope will be loosely hung over the pen. Maximum points will be awarded for penning and exhausting the stock efficiently. Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by the following:

- Started handlers do not have to hold onto the rope and may enter the pen.
- Intermediate handlers do not have to hold onto the rope and may not enter the pen.
- Advanced handlers must hold onto the rope and may not enter the pen.

(l.) Stock Setting - Dog will set stock for an un entered dog. Dog will take stock to a designated area and allow an un-entered dog to pick them up. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog who allows pick up the stock with minimal commands. Degree of difficulty may be determined by the size of the area that the stock is set out in or by competitor dog being on lead for Started, dragging lead for Intermediate or off-lead for Advanced.

Section 8. Levels.
Started Level Course D—Description

The D Course Started course consists of the 7 general elements, namely a take pen, gather, lift, fetch, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle and fetch and/or drive plus three of the optional elements. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Started level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Gather - The dog will be at a distance of at least 60 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 15 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow (8 points)

Lift - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performing a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock (4 points)

Fetch - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point (8 points)

Fetch and / or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement
of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element (20 points)

**Take stock out of pen** - All stock must leave the take pen. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate (10 points)

**Freestanding obstacle** - Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt (10 points)

**Exhaust pen** - The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated before penning the stock, but it is not necessary to hold them while the gate is open. Maximum points will be awarded for stock walking into the pen (10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

### Intermediate Level Course D—Description

The Course D Intermediate course consists of the 7 general elements namely a take pen, outrun, lift, fetch, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle, drive plus three of the optional elements listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Intermediate level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

**Outrun** - The dog will be at a distance of at least 100 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 50 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow (8 points)

**Lift** - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift without upsetting the stock (4 points)

**Fetch** - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance point (8 points)

**Fetch and/or Drive** - Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The drive distance will be a minimum of 75 feet. The handler must be at least 15 feet behind the dog during the drive. The entire 75’ must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element (20 points)

**Take stock out of pen** - All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge’s discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen (10 points)

**Freestanding obstacle** - Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt (10 points)
**Exhaust pen** - The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated while the handler is opening the gate. Maximum points will be awarded for the livestock walking into the pen (10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

**Advanced Level Course D—Description**

The Course D Advanced course consists of the 7 general elements namely a take pen, outrun, lift, fetch, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle, drive plus three of the optional elements from listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D advanced level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

**Outrun** - The dog will be at a distance of at least 220 feet from the stock. The handler must stand at the post and send the dog from that point. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow (8 points)

**Lift** - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performing a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock (4 points)

**Fetch** - Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance point (8 points)

**Fetch and/or Drive** - Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The line of the drive will be at least 30 feet from any parallel fence, and the drive distance will be a minimum of 125 feet. The handler must remain stationary during the drive. The entire 125’ must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element (20 points)

**Take stock out of pen** - All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge’s discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen (10 points)

**Freestanding obstacle** - Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt (10 points)

**Exhaust pen** - The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated with the gate open before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the stock walking into the exhaust pen (10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.
Section 9. Judging Course D.

Points will be deducted in 1/2 point or whole point increments only.

SUGGESTED SCORING:

A. Outrun/Lift/Fetch:
1. Up to 1 1/2 points deducted for a redirect while the dog is in motion.
2. Up to 3 points deducted for a stop and redirect.
3. Up to 10 points deducted if the handler leaves the handler’s post prematurely.
4. Up to 10 points deducted for a crossover between the handler and the stock on the outrun.
5. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog starts straight ahead towards the stock and then completes the outrun correctly.
6. Up to 10 points deducted if the dog runs straight up the middle on the outrun.
7. Up to 20 points deducted if (caused by the dog) the stock run down the course out of control.
8. Up to 5 points deducted for dog crossing behind the handler on the outrun.

B. Drive/Fetch: Note: Applies to movement of the stock over the entire course. Penalty is to be deducted under the exercise(s) where the error(s) occurs. The correct path of the livestock through the course will be a zone approximately 12 feet wide, or 12 feet in from the fence line
1. Up to 1 point deducted each time for flanking the dog too far off the stock.
2. Up to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out.
3. Up to 1 point deducted each time for causing the stock to weave by over-flanking.
4. Up to 2 points deducted each time the dog circles the stock.
5. Up to 3 points deducted each time the stock (one or more) are off-line.
6. Up to 3 points deducted each time for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split.
7. Up to 3 points deducted for retreating on the course.
8. Up to 3 points deducted for the dog leaving the stock due to lack of interest or off contact.

C. Obstacles: Retries are permitted at all obstacles. No obstacle may be attempted more than twice. After two tries, the stock are moved to the designated distance that marks the beginning of the next obstacle. It will be counted as an attempt if the stock run past the obstacle.
1. Up to 1 point per head deducted for each attempt at an obstacle which is missed.
2. Up to 1 point per head deducted for the dog bringing the stock back through an obstacle from the wrong direction.
3. Up to 1 point per head deducted on the Hold/Exam pen for each head of stock leaving the pen before the Judge’s signal to exit. The stock may leave in single file or as a group after the Judge’s signal.
4. Up to 7 points deducted if the handler crosses over the opening of the Hold/Exam pen or moves behind the pen before the Judge signals a hold.
5. Up to 2 points deducted for handler forgetting to close the exhaust pen gate.
6. Up to 3 points deducted if the dog loses control of the stock while the handler opens the exhaust pen gate.
7. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog brings the stock back out of the exhaust pen.
8. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog voluntarily leaves the stock and accompanies the handler to the exhaust pen gate.
9. Non-qualifying if the handler walks through an obstacle

D. General Deductions:
1. Up to 1 point deducted each time for the dog stopping and sniffing.
2. Up to 3 points deducted for excessive commands.
3. Up to 3 points deducted each time the dog refuses to obey commands.
4. Up to 3 points deducted for the handler moving the stock.
5. Up to 5 points deducted each time the handler touches the dog or the stock.
6. Up to 5 points deducted or removed for unacceptable grip. Dog must be removed for second unacceptable grip or excused for abusive grip.
AKC Herding Regulations
Chapter VIII
Course D

7. Up to 5 points deducted each time the dog fouls the course.
8. Up to 5 points deducted if, when entering the arena (or working area), the dog remains on lead as the handler leaves the gate area to proceed to the appropriate post or if, when leaving the arena (working area), the lead is applied early rather than just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena or working area.

9. Up to 3 points deducted, each incident, for the excessive or threatening use of the crook or stock stick, or use of threats causing dog to cringe.
10. If the stock simply follows the handler through the course, or if the dog simply heels or follows off contact through the course, the dog must not qualify.
11. Up to 8 points deducted if stock does not respect dog.
12. Up to 10 points deducted if the dog needs repeated commands to perform tasks.
13. Up to 10 points deducted if the dog fails to control situations on its own initiative.

In order to receive a qualifying score in any level, a dog must have a total of at least 60 points, provided none of the above point categories are scored at less than 1/2 of the available points.