

AUSDS Inc. ASSESSMENTS of PRACTICAL 'UTILITY' STOCK DOGS

Inc. No. A0092012P

Fostering Excellence in Breeding Practical 'Utility' Stock Dogs

Sound breeding of *Practical 'Utility' Stock Dogs* always takes into account the assessments of their practical working ability and merit – to collect, control and move stock (both sheep and cattle). Sensible selection depends upon it.

Assessment records of dogs that compete in AUSDS Inc. trials are available to AUSDS Inc. Members

Assessments are determined through testing dogs with both sheep and cattle work. This combination tests the ability and merit of as many *Essential Natural Traits* as possible, and is based upon the four major 'utility' aspects;

- (a) *long searching casts and mustering*
- (b) *paddock and obstacle work*
- (c) *yard work and*
- (d) *cattle handling*

Assessments of (a), (b) and (c) are obtained with sheep, and (d) are obtained with cattle

*NB (a) and (b) can apply to both sheep and cattle work; (c) applies to sheep work only

Maximum points are allocated for a whole array of tests. Sections, within the trials, are made-up of these points, which in turn make-up the total maximum points allocated for (a), (b), (c) and (d) respectively. These four major 'utility' aspects are of equal importance and percentage value (25.0% each). The combination of (a), (b), and (c), with sheep, and (d), with cattle, make-up the **total maximum percentage scores allocated** (100.0%).

When assessing/judging trials, the four separate percentage scores given for (a), (b), (c) and (d) are calculated and tallied to derive at the **total percentage scores given** (out of 100.0%). Percentages taken to the nearest decimal point gives a relative and precise account. The scores are derived at by giving points out of the maximum points allocated for each section, rather than deducting points for inferior and erroneous work.

Points are given for completed sections of trials, including the stock work undertaken to and from obstacles. An assessment (only) is given for sections attempted and those sections partly completed (handlers can continue on without being disqualified).

*NB If a section/ obstacle is not completed a score of zero points is given for that particular section/obstacle.

If time expires before completion of trial runs, appropriate scores are retained.

Emphasis is not on: 'what's been done', but '**how it is being achieved**'

Many factors require consideration when determining the overall working ability and merit of stock dogs including the following:

- (i) The number of Society trials for which each dog has been assessed
- (ii) The degree of difficulty of the trials assessed

Assessments have a greater degree of accuracy when dogs are allowed to work naturally – using their own initiative

(see AUSDS Inc. Judging Guidelines for Trials)