

# **Rules for cattle herding trials in Sweden**

## **Swedish cattle and sheep dog club (SVAK)**

### **Gather**

The cattle shall be gathered from the appointed place to the handler, who will remain at the post from the commencement of the run.

The gather contains three phases (outrun, lift and fetch) which are judged separately.

- a) Outrun - The dog must be positioned close to the handler/post, at most a stick's length away. On the initial set off command the dog should choose an effective, quick and determined way to the point of balance without disturbing or losing contact with the cattle.
- b) Lift - The dog will take control in a firm and quiet manner. The lift should be smooth and balanced where the cattle move away in a direct line to the first obstacle or the handler.
- c) Fetch - The cattle must be brought at a steady pace and in a straight line from the place of lifting to the first gate and thereafter in a straight line to the handler/post where the handler drive the cattle around the post /behind the handler as close as is practical and the whole work should be done before next phase.

### **Double Gather (Finals course)**

Two herds of cattle shall be gathered from the appointed places to the handler, who will remain at the post from the commencement of the run.

### **Outrun**

Run 1 will be right or left as decided by the Trials Committee before the Trial and all competitors will run on that side, the second run to be on the other side.

The first herd should be brought the shortest way through the fetch gate and thereafter to the turn back post. When the dog reaches the turn back post it should be redirected to the other side from the first run to gather the second herd the shortest way through the fetch gate. When the herds are parallel the dog will unite the two by gathering the first herd and bringing them to the second herd and thereafter brought in a straight line to the handler/post and around in the direction of the next gate.

Otherwise the same ideal for the gather applies.

### **Driving 1**

The cattle shall be driven from the handler towards a designated point or through two gates according to the course. The handler will remain at the post. The dog is directed to drive the cattle well collected, effectively and in a gentle and steady way in a straight line, according to the course, through the gates or a designated place.

### **Driving 2**

The cattle shall be driven on a direct line across the course. The handler's placement is optional. Throughout the drive the cattle should be kept moving gently and without

disturbance throughout the whole phase of work. The dog should balance and keep the herd well collected the shortest way at a calm and steady pace. Every cow in the herd shall pass through the gates. The dog and the handler don't need to.

### **Shedding**

In the shedding ring a predetermined number of cows shall get separated from the rest of the flock and kept under control. The shed should be in the designated direction.

### **Sorting Pen**

In the sorting pen a number of cows shall get sorted from the pen in an optional way.

### **Shedding**

The handler and the dog shall work together in an effective way to find a position to shed. The dog shall shed on the first try and keep the cows under control without any impact from the handler. The dog shall drive away the separated cows a bit from the rest of the cows.

### **Sorting**

The handler and the dog shall in an effective collateral sort the number of cows predetermined from the pen in an optional way.

### **Penning**

The handler will open the pen and stay at the end of the gate. The handler and the dog work together to maneuver the cattle into the desired position to conclude a successful pen. When the cattle is in the pen the handler can close the gate.

### **Pen out**

The handler shall send the dog to the other side of the pen. The dog must go into the pen without hesitation and drive the cattle out at a steady pace. When all is out the handler must close the gate. The dog must take control after releasing the cattle.

### **Open pen**

The handler sticks with working the side of choice when the phase of work starts. The handler is free to move as needed on the chosen side. The handler and the dog work together to maneuver the cattle into the desired position to conclude a successful pen.

### **Open pen out**

The handler shall send the dog to the other side of the pen. The dog must go into the pen without hesitation and drive the cattle out at a steady pace. The dog must take control after releasing the cattle.

### **Overall impression**

The judge makes a marking of the dog's ability to work independently and how it cooperates with the handler.

***The organizer can choose to take the moments in a different order day 1 and day 2.***