



# THE NORTH AMERICAN COWDOG

\$5.00  
Premiere Edition

*Dedicated to improving working stockdogs.*



- *Dog Breaking Cattle*
  - *Rules and Bylaws of the North American Professional Stockdog Handlers Association*
  - *Meet some of North America's Cowboys and their Stockdogs*
- Next Issue:*
- *Training Tips from Leading Trainers*
  - *Stockdog Stories*
  - *Upcoming Trials and Clinics*

## From Puppies To Finished Stockdogs



Hangin' Tree Working "Blue," RD-X ATD<sub>dsc</sub>, Winner of 1988 Australian Shepherd Stockdog Futurity.



## A HANGIN' TREE ENTERPRISE PRODUCTION



This video shows you how to train a dog from a raw pup on up to a stockdog capable of gathering sheep and cattle & loading them into a stock trailer on the open range. It has over 5 hours of information on how to position your dog at any place instantly. We believe that this will be the best tool a stockman can use in training a willing working partner. There are also tips on training for stock dog trials — both Australian Shepherd trials & Sheep Dog trials.

At our ranch we raise and train Border Collies and Australian Shepherds and have puppies, started, and trained dogs for sale most of the time. We also train a few dogs for the public. If you have any questions on this **VIDEO**, our **CLINICS**, or about acquiring a **DOG** that is **BRED TO WORK**, please **phone us (208) 756-4383** or **come by & SEE OUR DOGS WORK**. We think you'll be impressed.

TRAINING VIDEO — **\$50.00 Plus \$2.00 Shipping**  
CHECK OR C.O.D.

### **ADDITIONAL VIDEOS AVAILABLE:**

Starting The "Cowboys Horse"

Solving Stockdog Problems and Gathering Wild Cattle

Thank you,  
Gary and Donna Ericsson & Family  
Rt. 1 — Box 256  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

# THE NORTH AMERICAN COWDOG



## Table of Contents

*Editorial .....	5
*The North American Professional Stockdog Handlers Association .....	6
*NAPSHA Rules .....	7
*NAPSHA Trial Courses .....	9
*Recipe For a Successful Trial .....	12
*Why a "New" Breed? .....	13
*Meet Some of North America's Cowboys and their Stockdogs .....	15
*Starting Young Dogs on Stock .....	29
*Dog Breaking Cattle .....	34
*Transferring a Dog to a New Owner .....	38

## Information

The North American COWDOG magazine is published bi-monthly, and is dedicated to improving working stockdog breeds and the skills of stockdog handlers here in North America.

**Choc Ericsson**  
Publisher and Editor

**Gary Ericsson**  
Assisting Editor

**Art City Publishing**  
Printer

We reserve the right to edit all material submitted to NAC Magazine. The views and opinions stated in this magazine are not necessarily the same as the members of the staff. We are not responsible for any ads other than our own. Any statements, guarantees, or claims made or implied by an advertiser are their own, and NAC will not take any responsibility for them.

**All rights are reserved.** Reproductions of any type, whether in part or in whole, are expressly forbidden, except where written permission has been granted by the NAC Magazine Editor.

Please send your letters, articles, and permission to publish your work

to the attention of the Editor, **The North American COWDOG, 120 W. 400 N., Springville, UT 84663.** Photos will be returned if requested, and if possible.

This magazine is sent bulk mail and will not be forwarded. Please send your new address to the magazine so that we can ensure that you keep receiving your subscription.

#### **SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

Subscription monies should be paid in US funds only. The rate is \$25.00/yr (Canadians, please include an additional \$6.00.) for the magazine which is published bi-monthly. For an extra \$5.00 you can have your name and address included in the Stockdog Breeders Directory or the Livestock Breeders Directory. If you use this option, be sure to include the breed of dog or livestock. Send your subscription monies (check or money order only) along with legible name and address to the magazine office.

#### **ADVERTISING RATES**

The following are rates for black and white, camera-ready advertisements (Width x Length):

Full Page \$100.00 or \$550.00/yr  
7.5" x 9.5"

3/4 Page \$90.00 or \$500.00/yr  
7.5" x 7.25"

1/2 Page \$75.00 or \$420.00/yr  
3.5" x 9.5" or 7.5" x 4.75"

1/3 Page \$65.00 or \$370.00/yr  
7.5" x 3.25"

1/4 Page \$50.00 or \$290.00/yr  
3.5" x 4.75" or 7.5" x 2.25"

1/8 Page \$30.00 3.5" x 2"

Business Cards \$20.00 3" x 2"

Breeder (name & address) \$5.00

Inside Covers\* \$150.00 or  
\$840.00/yr 7.5" x 9.5"

2/3 Back Cover\* \$150.00 or  
\$840.00/yr 7.5" x 6"

\*Call for availability on covers.

The submission deadline is the first day of the month previous to the issue at hand. For example: Any advertisement for the July-August issue must be received at least by June 1.

Make all checks or money orders (no cash or Visa) payable to: "The North American COWDOG." Ads will be printed if complete, and if payment is received with them. Send ads and payment to: The North American COWDOG, 120 W. 400 N., Springville, UTAH 84663. The phone number is (801) 489-9343.



**Choc Ericsson**

# EDITORIAL

## Choc Ericsson

My name is Choc Ericsson. I have grown up primarily around Salmon, Idaho which is located among the mountains along Idaho's North-Eastern border. My wife Catherine and I presently live in Utah while attending school. To pay our way, I train horses and a few dogs. We thought that publishing a magazine based upon a topic and a type of people that we were familiar with, would be a good idea. What in the world have I gotten myself into now?! As you can probably see, I have not published too many works of this magnitude, but I am having a ball! My banker and I hope that you enjoy this new magazine which is right on the cutting-edge of stockdog technology.

The North American COWDOG Magazine is dedicated to helping the working rancher, stockman, and stockdog trial enthusiast, to learn of more effective ways of handling their dogs. Each issue will contain articles that treat topics such as: training tips by leading trainers, upcoming trials and results of past trials, stockdog stories, and the rules and bylaws of The North American Professional Stockdog Handlers Association (NAPSHA). Here on the Editorial page, we will print training questions that folks send in. We will try to match the question up with ranchers or trainers who have had a similar situation, and perhaps we will get some answers back that we can print.

As the name implies, The North American Professional Stockdog Handlers Association has been organized for handlers who want to compete on a professional level. This does not mean that all who will compete are professional dog trainers, but that they have developed a professional attitude about the sport. Our trials are going to be fun without a doubt, but they will also be tough. The courses will be set up so that they will be challenging to the dogs as well as

the handlers. This is the only way that the handlers and their dogs will improve. Some associations have only a couple of trial courses that they can run on, and the size of the course is limited. The learning opportunities for this type of association is then limited as well. NAPSHA is progressive; not stagnant. The dogs that win our trials should be able to win anywhere, and we plan to have enough prize money at the trials to encourage tougher (but friendly) competition. This is a new association, so everyone is starting out even. It ought to be a lot of fun, and we can all learn and progress together.

Since this is strictly a working dog association, and "pretty is as pretty does," there will not be any confirmation nor obedience classes. Confirmation classes have and are killing off the working instincts of dogs in many associations, and if your dog doesn't "obey" than you probably will not win much at our trials anyway! Fluff does not amount to much here.

I sure hope that you enjoy this magazine, and that you will look into joining our new association. I am sure that it will be quite awhile before we can get all of the kinks completely worked out, but we'll give it a go! We would greatly appreciate any comments and constructive criticism that you have especially if it will help us to put out a better magazine. Thanks for your support.

Choc Ericsson

The North American COWDOG  
120 W. 400 N.  
Springville, UT 84663  
(801) 489-9343



## The North American Professional Stockdog Handlers Association      NAPSHA

The main purposes of this association are to improve the stockdog training and handling abilities of stockmen in north America and to improve our stockdogs to a point where they can handle any kind of livestock.

This association is a place for cowboys, sheepmen, ranchers, and dog trainers to get help with their dogs and their handling techniques. It will also be a place to "showcase" you and your dog's talents.

By meeting with other dog handlers and trainers on a regular basis, for training sessions and trials, we can learn which breed of dogs will work best for each of our outfits and where to get the strain

of dogs that will best suit our needs. This will also give us a broader gene pool to help keep our strain of dogs healthy and strong.

By having all of our dogs work both sheep and cattle at each of our trials, we will develop a smoother handling dog and keep from producing dogs which lack power. Many times we see trial winning sheep dogs that don't have the courage to move a sheep if it turns to face the dogs. These dogs are worthless in a ranch situation, especially in a cattle operation. Most people will agree that it is easier to back a "courageous" dog off than it is to call on a "wimp"!

Each state that wants to join

must hold a minimum of 5 (preferably Saturday) trials, before the National Finals, each year. In conjunction with these trials, a free training clinic for members, should be held the evening before each trial.

Starting in 1991, we will hold the North American Supreme Championship Stockdog Finals Trial each

fall. Those eligible to compete will be the top 2 advanced dogs and the top 2 junior dogs from each state. The top 5 dogs in each of the 2 classes, at the finals, will receive trophy belt buckles, money, and other prizes. There will be a North American Supreme Stockdog Champion and a Reserve Champion named in both classes (divisions).

## ***NAPSHA Rules***

1. Each member will pay \$50.00 yearly dues into the National Association (member may show as many dogs as he or she wants within their State association.)
2. The National Association will furnish the STOCKDOG MAGAZINE containing training articles, trial dates and results, plus other pertinent information to each member.
3. The National Association will be responsible for furnishing all of the livestock, prizes (including trophy buckles), and judges at the National Finals. The only additional charge at the Finals, is an entrance fee, which will all go for prize money.
4. In each State, local trial sponsors will be expected to obtain and furnish all of the dog-broke livestock, and prizes at their trial free of charge so that all entrance fees will be returned to the winning contestants as prize money.
5. Each dog will work both sheep and cattle and the 2 scores will be combined for a final score for that trial.
6. If either the first or second place dog is unable to attend the finals, then the order moves up, and the third place dog may move into the second place slot.
7. All ties must be broken, before the National Finals, in order to distinguish position (Only in the case of a year-end tie in points.) This is done by a 'run-off'.
8. For computing each State's year-end totals: the winning dog of each trial will receive 50 points, second place--40 points, third place--30 points, fourth place--20 points, and fifth place--10 points.  
For example: If you win third at your 1st trial=30 pts.  
first at your 2nd trial=50 pts.  
sixth at your 3rd trial= 0 pts.  
second at your 4th trial=40 pts.  
first at your 5th trial=50 pts.  
your year end total=170 pts.
9. All trials in each State will count towards the year end

- totals. This will insure support for all trials (try to set the number of trials, their location, and date, at the beginning of the year so that everyone can plan their schedules (for example: The second Saturday of each month.)
10. Dogs under 1 1/2 years of age as of January 1 of that trial year, may compete in the Junior division. A proof of age is required on Junior dogs.
  11. In order for a State to be eligible to send contestants to the "finals", they must have had a minimum of five trials with at least 5 dogs competing in each division in which they plan to send dogs to the Finals Competition.
  12. There will be 5 trial courses (see illus.) Each "local" committee may choose the one best adapted to their area, the size of the course, and the time limit for completing the course.
  13. A dog may only be shown in one trial by someone other than the regular handler during the year. Remember, this Association is set up to help each of us learn to be better dog handlers--not to hire some "professional" to show our dogs for us.
  14. At the North American Supreme Championship Finals, dogs will be judged on the number of animals put through each obstacle on the first pass. If animals pass by on the outside of an obstacle, no points will be allowed for those animals--however, you must put at least one head of stock through each obstacle before being permitted to go to the next obstacle. All ties will be broken on time.
  15. As these are all events for the whole family, there will be no alcoholic beverages allowed, also no trials will be held on Sunday. (Let's all work to keep this a fun and happy Association and help each other all we can. If producing a great dog is more important than just winning trials, then we will all enjoy this Association for years!)
  16. In addition to your regular divisions, it is fun to have brace competitions with the handler of a Junior Division Dog drawing an Advanced Dog handler out of a hat--then they each work their own dog and work together to get the stock through the course.
  17. If trials require having horses, then horses must be provided for those handlers who could not bring their own.
  18. A president and committee should be elected in each State. These people will report to the State members and the National office. They report past and future trials and results. They will keep track of scores and trialing positions. They will settle disputes about rulings. They will help keep this a fun association for everyone.

# NAPSHA Trial Courses

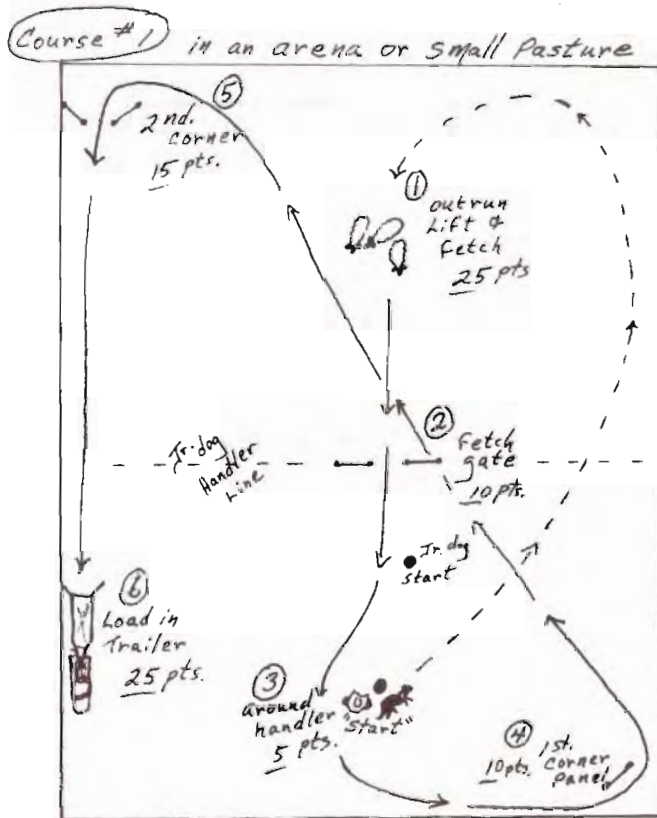
First of all lets remember that the main objective of using a stock dog is to be able to get our stock worked from start to finish in the easiest way possible. It does not do us any good to send a dog to do the work and then have to go do it ourselves. In other words, if you send your dog to gather a pasture and to put all of the stock into a trailer--that means all of the stock into the trailer! This is far more important to you than super straight fetch and drive lines.

These 5 courses are to be used as suggestions only and may be expanded or changed to fit your set up. Two phases that are important, however, are the:

1. Outrun, lift, and fetch.
2. Loading into a stock trailer.

The rest of the obstacles are only used to show off your dog's stock handling ability. The number of points deducted for an animal missing an obstacle is not important as long as it is the same for each run.

Have fun with these courses and set them up so that they challenge you and your dogs. Remember you only get better when you are challenged.



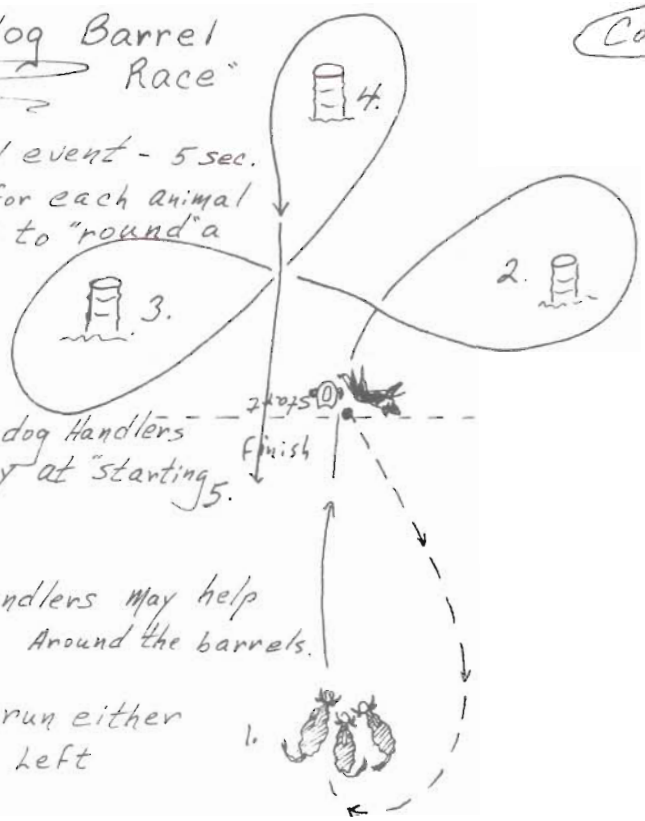
Course May be set up either Right or Left handed.

1. "Advanced dogs" handler must stay at the start post until dog completes obstacle ⑤.
2. "Jr. dogs" handler may work with his dog any place behind the center line as soon as obstacle ③ is completed.
3. only one pass at each obstacle is allowed.
4. On "outrun - lift & fetch" deduct for "cross over", scattering stock, roughness, missing part of stock, ETC.
5. Trailer moved away from fence for "Advanced dogs".

# "Stockdog Barrel Race"

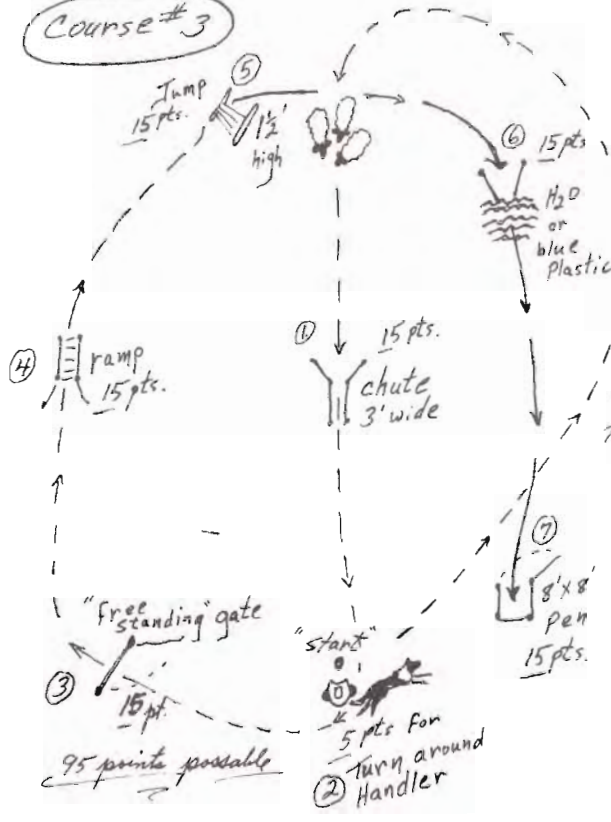
Course # 2

a timed event - 5 sec.  
penalty for each animal  
that fails to "round" a  
barrel.



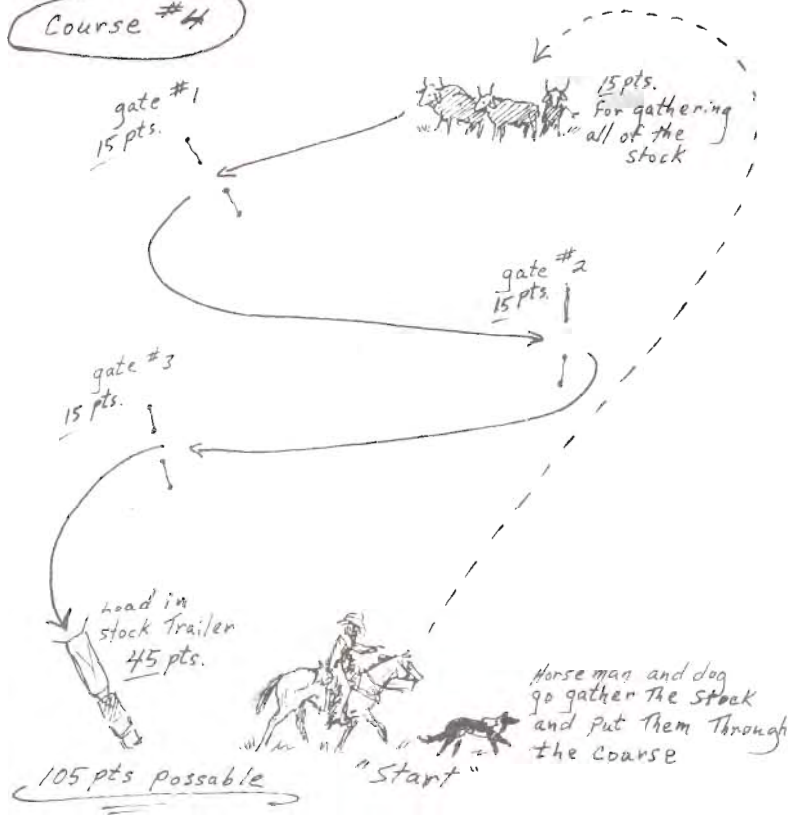
1. Advanced dog Handlers  
Must stay at "starting  
Post"
2. Jr. dogs Handlers may help  
Their dogs Around the barrels.
3. May be run either  
Right or Left

# Course # 3

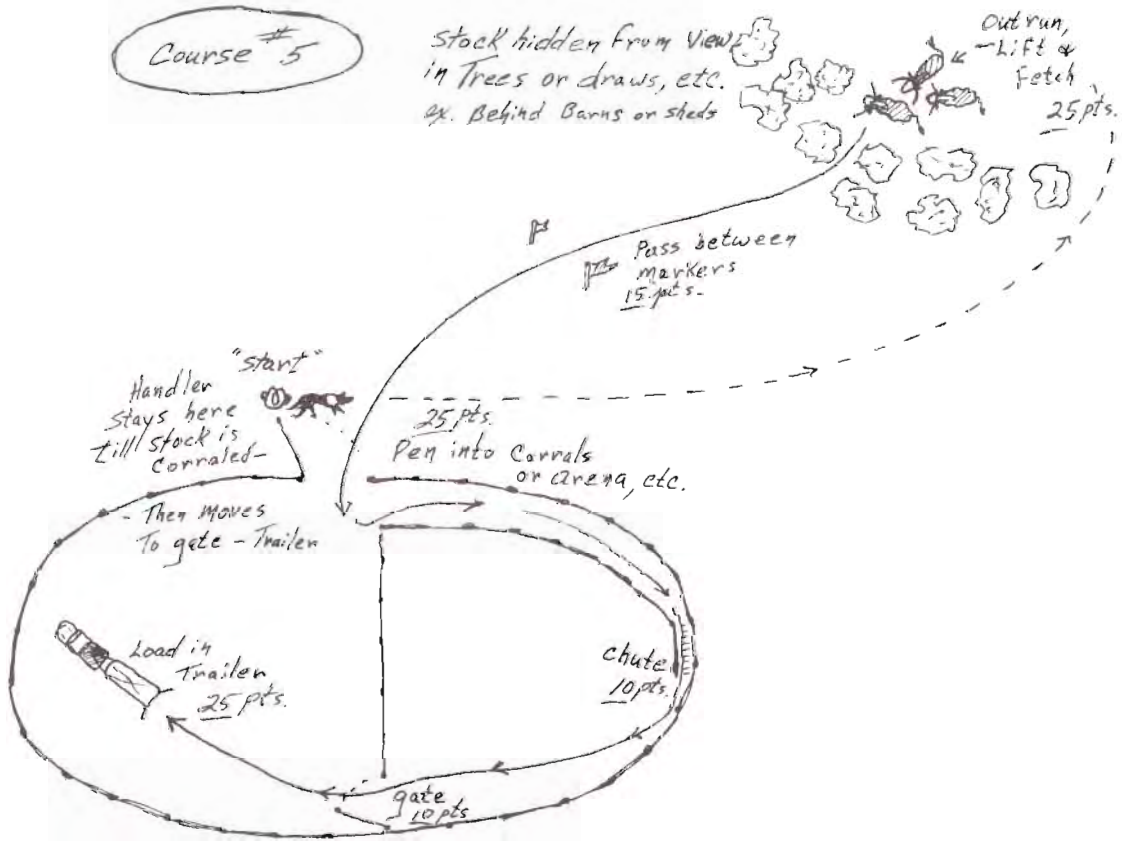


1. only one pass per obstacle
2. Advanced dog Handlers  
Must stay at "starting Post"  
until stick is brought around  
them - Then They help Their  
dog Through the course.
3. Jr. dog Handlers may help  
their dogs with the chute.

Course #4



Course #5



1. Keep entrance fees low and do not have a stock charge if possible.
2. Try to line up places for out of town contestants to stay or camp.
3. Let people know where they can relieve their dogs.
4. Have a free training clinic the night before the trial.
5. Have the course set up the night before the trial.
6. Have "dog-broke" livestock there the night before the trial.
7. Have "easy to score" score sheets, pencils etc. lined up the night before the trial.
8. Start early in the morning so that it doesn't get too hot for the livestock and the dogs.
9. Work the sheep first and the cattle last.
10. Most spectators show up later, so work your advanced dogs last if possible to leave the spectators with the memory of great dogs working.
11. Work on getting stores, businesses, and dog food companies to sponsor prizes and dog food.
12. Have shade and refreshments for your judges. It gets to be a long day for them--so show some appreciation, as they are usually doing this for free and doing the best that they can.
13. Contestants can take turns helping put stock out, etc. if you are short of help, and it gets everybody involved.
14. Work at least 3 animals per "run" and preferably 5 head.
15. Have a score board available for the contestants and the public. Keep scores posted as soon as you receive them (This keeps interest up).
16. Have someone to explain the event to spectators.
17. Make this a family affair:
  - a. Have a pot-luck dinner (it brings everyone closer).
  - b. Have games and places for the kids to play.
  - c. Assign different people each time to help with the kids.
  - d. Everyone should remember that they are guests in another family's home and should behave like proper guests!
  - e. Have Rest Room facilities.
18. Contestants help clean up the area, put stock away etc. while they are waiting for the awards ceremony. Remember, your hosts will be really tired!