

HTD I

1. For the HTD I class, the handler may have the dog on lead while positioning it. The dog is positioned approximately even with the level of the panels (it may be further back, but no closer) and approximately in the center of the space between the two sets of panels. The handler may remain with the dog, or may leave the dog and take a position at any point on the course between the dog and the stock, but must stop short at least 15 ft. from the stock.

2. There must be a pause after the lead is removed, before the dog is sent to gather the stock. The handler shall signal the dog to begin the outrun, using any combination of voice, whistle, or movement. The outrun may be performed in either direction. When the dog reaches a position of balance with the stock, it may pause or briefly stop. The dog then fetches the stock to the handler's post. The handler may return to the post during the outrun, or may accompany the stock during the fetch. Flanking and/or stop commands may be given as needed to bring the stock successfully to the post.

3. Once the stock have reached the post, the handler should stand at the post while the stock are taken around the post. The stock should go to the right of the post if the first wear/drive panel is on the left, or vice versa. Stock are considered to have passed the post when they have crossed the line behind the post that would be a continuation of a line running lengthwise down the center of the arena from the set-out area to the handler's post.

4. When the stock have passed the handler's post, the handler may leave the post and accompany the stock and dog to the obstacles, which should be taken in the designated order.

5. The handler may take any position relative to the stock and dog, except that the handler should not go through the obstacles. If one or all of the stock pass an obstacle closely without going through, they should continue on to the next obstacle. Upon negotiating the second obstacle, the stock are taken to the pen.

6. In penning, after opening the gate the handler may move about and may assist the dog as needed, and need not hold the rope. The stock should be completely inside the pen before the gate is closed. The gate should not be slammed.

HTD II

1. The handler removes the lead just inside the limits of the course and brings the dog off lead to the handler's post. The handler may remain with the dog, or may take a position anywhere on the half of the course between the post and the line of the obstacles, not passing beyond the obstacles during the outrun, lift and fetch.

2. The handler sends the dog to gather the stock (the outrun may be done in either direction). When the dog reaches a position of balance with the stock, it may pause or briefly stop. The dog then fetches the stock to the handler's post. If not already at the post, the handler returns to the post ahead of the stock and dog, and stands there while the dog moves the stock past the post (see number 3 above for definition of passing the post). The stock should go to the right of the post if the first wear/drive panel is on the left, or vice versa. The handler may then leave the post and direct the dog to take the stock to the first obstacle.

3. As the stock are taken to the first obstacle, the handler may accompany the dog and stock, taking any position relative to them. Upon reaching the first obstacle, the handler may not go through or past the obstacle. While directing the dog to move the stock toward and through the second obstacle, the handler must remain behind an imaginary handler's line which runs from the handler's post to the edge of the first obstacle nearest the center of the arena. The handler may remain near the first obstacle or may move back toward the handler's post so long as this line is not crossed before the stock have cleared the second obstacle. If one or all of the stock pass an obstacle closely without going through, they should continue on to the next obstacle. Once the stock have cleared the second obstacle, the handler proceeds to the pen.

4. In penning, after opening the gate the handler must hold the end of the rope attached to the gate. The handler cannot release the rope during penning, but may move about within its limits and may assist the dog. With cattle, the handler need not hold the rope. The stock should be completely inside the pen before the gate is closed. The gate should not be slammed.

HTD III

1. The handler removes the lead just inside the limits of the course and brings the dog off lead to the handler's post. The handler stands at the post while the dog is sent to gather the stock. After the outrun, lift and fetch, the dog moves the stock around the handler's post. The stock should go to the right of the post if the first wear/drive panel is on the left, or vice versa.

2. The dog drives the stock toward and through the first obstacle, then cross-drives toward and through the second obstacle. If one or all of the stock pass an obstacle closely without going through, they should continue on to the next obstacle. The handler remains at the post until the completion of the second obstacle. When the second obstacle has been negotiated, the handler may go to the pen.

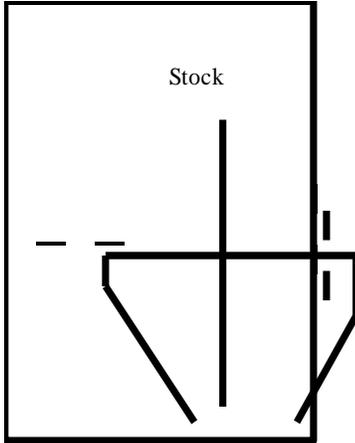
3. In penning, after opening the gate the handler must hold the end of the rope attached to the gate. The handler cannot leave the gate or release the rope during penning, and should only assist the dog in penning through whistle, verbal or hand commands. With cattle, the handler need not hold the rope. Any handler who physically assists the dog in

penning will have points deducted. The gate should not be shut until all the animals are completely inside the pen. The gate should not be slammed.

4. After penning, the animals should be removed from the pen and the gate closed. The dog should then hold the sheep to the handler so that an easily-removed ribbon may be taken gently from the neck of the marked sheep. This may be done anywhere within the roughly triangular area formed by handler's post and the panels. The ribbon may not be taken as the stock are leaving the pen, nor may the exercise be done near an exhaust gate. Animals may not be held by hand or crook. Once the ribbon is removed, the run is over.

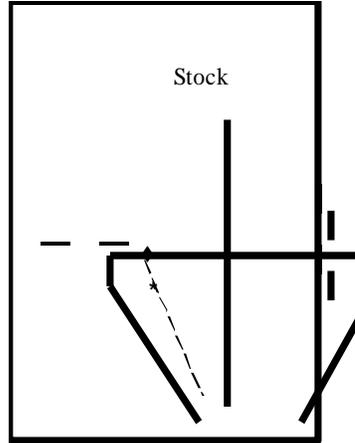
HTD COURSE DIAGRAMS

The outrun may be done in either direction at all three levels.



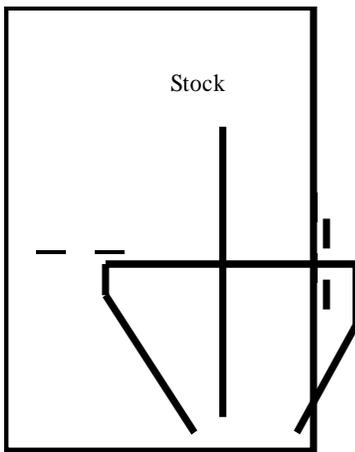
HTD I

For the gather, the dog is placed along the centerline at a point no closer to the stock than the first set of panels; the handler may move closer to the stock.



HTD II

For the gather, the dog is set out near the post; the handler may move forward but not past the panels. After moving the stock around the post and to the obstacle, the handler remains here □ or anywhere behind the handler's line while the dog moves the stock through the second obstacle.



HTD III

For the gather, the dog is set out near the handler's post. The handler remains at the post until time to go to the pen.