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FCI RULES FOR NATURAL APTITUDE TEST FOR LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOGS

“FCI NGAT”

(for livestock guardian and herding dog breeds)



1st June 2023

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N.B.: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. FCI NGAT determines the organization and procedure for carrying out the test aimed to preserve the dogs with breed qualities and abilities to certain reactions, which are necessary to guard and to escort the livestock.
- 1.2. The Natural Ability Test includes three equal chapters: test for social compatibility, test for an attitude to sheep, test for guarding natural reactions.
- 1.3. Successful FCI NGAT is necessary to enter the dog for FCI GWT.
- 1.4. The judge of this test must have experience of judging, herding and protection work.

2. PARTICIPANTS

- 2.1. The test is intended for dogs which belong to the breeds historically used to guard and escort flocks. The list of recommended breeds is available at Annex 1. Each NCO has the right to modify that list.
- 2.2. The required age limit for "FCI NGAT" is minimum 18 months.
- 2.3. "GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF FCI HERDING EVENTS (NHAT – HWT – IHT)" must be applied except 7.5.
- 2.4. A dog may wear a leather/fabric collar or harness throughout the event. It is prohibited to use pinch collar, e-collar and other similar types of the equipment.

3. THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST

3.1. Test for social compatibility

- 3.1.1. **Heeling on leash.** A handler with a dog on a loosely hanging leash moves along a path determined by the judge. The path should include several turns, walking alongside a group of relaxed people who behave naturally and freely.
- 3.1.2. **Meeting with the judge.** At the end of the route, the handler -with the dog- has to come to the judge and introduce himself and the dog to the judge.
- 3.1.3. **Reaction to a noise.** On the sign of the judge a helper produces a strange noise near the dog and the judge evaluates the dog's reaction. A controlled reaction towards the noise is permitted.

3.2. Test for the attitude to livestock

- 3.2.1. The minimum number of animals in the livestock: 10 sheep or 4 (cattle, horse, donkey, etc.). They must be placed in a safety pen, size and fencing depending on the kind of animals used.
- 3.2.2. The handler with the dog on leash, at the signal of the judge, comes to the pen and moves around it at normal speed.
- 3.2.3. If the dog does not show aggression, the judge decide that the test can be continued inside the pen.
- 3.2.4. The handler with the dog on the leash goes inside the pen and moves in slow motion behind the flock. The handler must control the behaviour of the dog.

3.2.5. If a dog shows aggression towards the livestock or makes unrecoverable attempts to disperse the animals, the test should be immediately terminated. Fear towards livestock is not accepted.

3.2.6. The ideal behaviour of the dog, if the livestock does not show fear, is that the dog calmly follows the livestock when it moves. Or the dog is neutral and friendly, when the flock stops. The judge must evaluate the reaction of the animals to the dog's behaviour. Slight movements towards and with the livestock are also accepted.

3.3. Test for guarding reactions

3.3.1. The dog is set up safely. Animal welfare must be taken under consideration. On a signal from the judge a "disturbance" is simulated (helper, dogs, etc.).

3.3.2. The handler stays with the dog throughout the test.

3.3.3. At the signal from the judge, the helper moves towards the dog without making threatening movements.

***Example:** Coming close to the dog, but remaining outside the area, when the dog is not able to catch him, the helper, firstly, passes in one direction and then in the other, attracting the attention of the dog with loud yelling or clapping the stick. Then, at the signal from the judge, the helper tries to disturb the dog, making threatening movements in the direction of the dog.*

- *If the dog is active and shows a threatening bark, then the judge, about a minute after the beginning of the disturbance, stops the helper.*
- *If the dog hesitates and retreats, then the judge makes a sign to the helper to run away from the dog, and then come back again and continue the disturbance.*
- *If the dog again shows signs of lack of confidence or fear (or fearing behaviour) the test is terminated.*

4. EVALUATION.

4.1. Failure at any part of the test is the reason that the dog cannot continue the test.

4.2. Final grade. The final grade of the full test is «Passed» or «Not passed».

5. ISSUED CERTIFICATES.

5.1. According to the results of passing the test, a record is made in the scorebook. Such record does not constitute an admission for a dog to be registered for in the working class at the dog show. This mark can be a recommendation for breeding, if the National Breed Club (NBC) or NCO makes such a decision.

6. CLOSING PROVISIONS

6.1. **These rules were approved at the meeting of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission held in Dortmund (DE) on 9th-10th July 2022.**

6.2. **These rules were approved by the FCI General Committee in Budapest, on 21-22 March 2023. They are valid as from 1st June 2023.**

6.3. **In case of translation discrepancies, the English text is considered the original.**


ANNEX 1. LIST OF LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOG BREEDS THAT CAN TAKE PART IN “FCI NGAT”

Some breeds can be added depending on FCI-NCO’s regulations.

FCI titles and awards can only be awarded to the specific breeds listed in the Lists of breeds that can take part in FCI events **and** receive FCI titles and awards.

Standard	Breed name	Group
53	KOMONDOR	1
54	KUVASZ	1
87	GOS D’ATURA CATALA	1
142	SLOVAKIAN CHUVACH	1
201	CANE DA PASTORE MAREMMANO ABRUZZESE	1
252	TATRA SHEPHERD DOG	1
326	SOUTH RUSSIAN SHEPHERD DOG	1
349	ROMANIAN MIORITIC SHEPHERD DOG	1
350	ROMANIAN CARPATHIAN SHEPHERD DOG	1
41	YUGOSLAVIAN SHEPHERD DOG - SHARPLANINA	2
340	SAO MIGUEL CATTLE DOG	2
353	CIMARRON URUGUAYO	2
355	TORNJAK	2
137	PYRENEAN MOUNTAIN DOG	2
145	LEONBERGER	2
247	ATLAS MOUNTAIN DOG (AIDI)	2
170	CASTRO LABOREIRO DOG	2
173	ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOG	2
96	RAFEIRO OF ALENTEJO	2
357	ROMANIAN BUCOVINA SHEPHERD	2
328	CAUCASIAN SHEPHERD DOG	2
335	CENTRAL ASIA SHEPHERD DOG	2
278	KARST SHEPHERD DOG	2
92	PYRENEAN MASTIFF	2
91	SPANISH MASTIFF	2
230	TIBETAN MASTIFF	2
331	KANGAL SHEPHERD DOG	2
58	GREAT SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG	2
346	PRESA CANARIO	2

ANNEX 2: RECOMMENDED JUDGES SHEET "FCI NGAT"

		Catalogue No
		Start No
SCORE CARD NGAT		
Event	Place	Date
Dog name		Born
Pedigree No	Chip	Sex
Owner	Breed	
Handler		No
Exercises	Comments	
Heeling on the leash	Test for social compatibility	
Evaluation	Passed	Not Passed
	Test for an attitude to livestock	
Evaluation	Passed	Not Passed
	Test for guarding reactions	
Evaluation	Passed	Not Passed
Total Evaluation	PASSED	NOT PASSED
Judge No., name, signature		Clarification