

CHAPTER VIII

Farm Dog Certified (FDC) Test Regulations

Chapter 8 of the AKC Herding Regulations

(As of May 2016)

Section 1. Purpose. The FDC test is designed to assess the overall conduct of a dog in a typical farm environment. The dog must demonstrate self-control when exposed to livestock and other unique sights, sounds and scents. The dog must exhibit confidence and a willingness to comply with instructions when confronted with a variety of situations. The FDC test is not intended to confer herding ability, but rather a foundation of self-control and biddability beneficial to all working dogs.

Section 2. Regulations. All Herding Regulations will apply to FDC tests unless otherwise specified in this Chapter.

Section 3. The FDC Test. There are twelve elements to the FDC test. Dogs must successfully complete all twelve elements to pass the test. If a dog does not complete an element on its first attempt, it may try a second time. If it does not complete the element of its second attempt, it shall fail that element. The FDC test is non-competitive. Dogs shall be on leash while on the test site unless confined to a crate, kennel or vehicle. The judge may discontinue testing if he/she determines the dog is too fearful or under duress to perform the required elements.

Section 4. Eligibility of Dogs to Enter FDC Test. The FDC test is open to all dogs at least 9 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the FSS program, dogs with PAL numbers or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program. Clubs may not limit the test to certain breeds except at a specialty club event which is limited to the specialty club's breed or a Group club may limit its event to breeds in its Group. Females in season may not enter. Dogs with physical challenges (including amputees) are eligible to enter provided, in the opinion of the judge, they display no signs of physical discomfort and can safely complete the test. A dog may enter only once per event. An event is defined by an event number.

Section 5. Clubs That May Hold FDC Tests. All clubs currently licensed to hold AKC Herding Tests/Trials will be allowed to hold FDC tests. The FDC test can be held as a class at a herding test or trial or may be held as a stand-alone event. Clubs may hold only one FDC class per event, as defined by an event number.

Clubs not licensed for herding may be approved to hold FDC tests in unique situations. In this case, a special FDC test application form must be submitted to the Performance Events Department.

Section 6. Ribbons and Rosettes. Clubs holding a FDC test shall offer a ribbon or rosette to each dog that passes the test. Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least two inches wide and approximately eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words "Farm Dog Certification Test", "Qualifying", and the name of the test giving club. Ribbons or rosettes shall be a dark green in color, and rosettes shall have a white center streamer and white button. Additional information such as date and location may appear on the ribbon/rosette or may be affixed on the back with labels.

Section 7. Close of Entries for FDC Test. Clubs may at their option choose to accept day of test entries. If the clubs allows day of test entries, it shall be specified in the event premium.

Section 8. FDC Test Course/Equipment. The test elements require a variety of obstacles. The host club should carefully review each element to insure the proper obstacles have been assembled prior to the

start of the test. A complete description of the general test requirements and the test elements can be found on the AKC herding website.

Section 9. Submission of Results. Entries in the FDC test shall be included on the Event Secretary's Report that is submitted to the AKC. Results of the FDC test shall be submitted on a form which will be included in the event kit.

Section 9. Title. If a dog passes the FDC test on two occasions, under two different judges, the owner may apply for the suffix Farm Dog Certified (FDC) title by submitting a FDC title application and a nominal processing fee. The title application form is available for download from the AKC website. Clubs are encouraged to have the title application form available at the test. Once verified, the FDC title will be applied to the dog's record and will appear on the dog's AKC pedigree.