

AWSA Sponsored Herding Trials September 8, 2014 *Submitted by Jean Reeves*

AWSA hosted it's second American Herding Breeds Association herding trial on September 8th at the Burr Oak Farms in Valparaiso, Indiana. Doug Lemster kindly allowed us to use his farm and some of his sheep to put together this event in conjunction with a herding clinic that is an annual event. The farm is well set up, with plenty of room for exhibitors and dogs to relax and enjoy the ambiance of being at a sheep herding event!

The day was perfect, no rain, a few clouds and not too hot. The dogs were excited to be working at a skill that they were born to excel in - herding!

Most of the dogs participating were a little too excited but managed to keep their minds on the work that needed done and passed the tasks they were asked to do. Others let their enthusiasm get the best of them and decided not to listen as well as they should have. Unfortunately those that are too revved are given a "Thank You!" response from the judge. This signals the handler to gather their dogs and exit the field.

The trial level dogs had their work cut out for them, but most handled the jobs of fetching, working the sheep through obstacles and penning them into a free standing pen with style and elegance that is a joy to watch. The test levels are fun, seeing the dogs turn onto their natural instincts. Loving every minute of their time with the sheep. The judges were great. Very helpful and able to give some pointers to those just beginning.

Herding can be a really fun event that most of our White Shepherds really love. It is time well spent connecting with your dog on a deeper level of training. Enjoying the outdoors, burning off energy and increasing the connection between the two of you as a team. When done correctly, herding looks simple and uncomplicated. In reality, it takes a lot of training and communication between the handler and their dog to be able to correctly maneuver sheep, who have a mind of their own, in the desired direction.

Hopefully we have started several people down the path of new herding adventures in the future!

When a herding run goes very well and the team are both happy and satisfied with the performance, hearing a joyous "That'll do!" can be the sound of music to everyone's ears.

Congratulations to all who were able to attend the AWSA herding event.

2014 AWSA Sponsored AHBA Herding Trial – New titles and Certificates

Royal Lady Isis IQ

Sis - HTAD - Herding Trial Arena dog -new title
Breeder/Owner - Jean Reeves

Royal Wish Upon a Star

Leah - JHD - Junior Herding Dog - new title
HTAD - Herding Trial Arena Dog - qualified 1st leg
Breeder/Owner - Jean Reeves

Born to Win White Outlander

Chaos - HCT - Herding Capability Test - new title
Breeder-Monika Laneman Owner - Miranda Reeves

Joyous Starfyre Royal Whisper

Holly - HIC - Herding Instinct Certificate
HCT - Herding Capability Test - new title
Breeder - Sabine Wiczorek, Owner - Sharyl Sadowski

Royal I'm Here for the Party

Gretchen - HCT - Herding Capability Test - new title
Breeder/Owner - Jean Reeves and Anita Beaudion

Serenity Sheeza Spasz von Tasz

Bubbles - HIC - Herding Instinct Certificate
HCT - Herding Capability Test - new title
Breeder – Missy Lee Owner - Diana Updike

