

Getting started in Australian National Kennel Club (ANKC) herding

Membership and registration

1. You must be a [member of Dogs Victoria](#) (or state equivalent)
2. Your dog must be registered with Dogs Victoria (or state equivalent):
 - Main/Limit Register: dogs registered with the ANKC
 - [Sporting Register](#): dogs registered with an [approved non-ANKC organisation](#)
 - [Associate Register](#): desexed dogs (must be a [herding breed or apparent mix](#) to compete in herding)

The title system

In ANKC herding, you compete in order to gain a qualification (or pass) at the level you have entered. To do this, you need to earn a specified number of points – generally 65 out of 100 for standard classes.

A specified number of qualifications earn you a title i.e. 2 passes at Pre-trial (PT) level earn you a PT title, 3 passes at Started level earn you a Started title and so on.

In order to compete at the next level, you must have earned any prerequisite titles AND submitted (i.e. posted or hand delivered) a [title application](#) to your state body e.g. to trial in Started trial levels, you must have earned 2 passes at PT level and submitted a title application for the PT title to your state body.

Letters are added to your dog's registered name to denote which titles they have earned.

Levels of competition

Tests	Instinct certificate (IC)	Optional	1 x pass, not a title
	Herding test (HT title)	Optional	2 x passes under 2 different judges
	Pre-trial test (PT title)	Required to continue onto trial levels	2 x passes under 2 different judges
Trials	Started	Pre-requisite: PT title	
	Novice (optional)	Pre-requisite: Started title	
	Intermediate	Pre-requisite: Started title	3 x passes under 2 different judges
	Advanced	Pre-requisite: Intermediate title	

You can earn Masters titles at the Started and Intermediate levels by first gaining the relevant title and then earning 8 additional passes over 90 points in the same level.

Once you have gained an Advanced title, you can earn Championship titles by earning a specified number of additional passes over 85 points in the Advanced level.

Course and stock types

There are: 3 course types - A (arena), B (paddock), and C (tending)
3 stock types - sheep, ducks, and cattle.

Trials do not need to offer all courses or all stock types. You should refer to the trial schedule to see what classes are available. Tests are typically offered on sheep only.

Once you have earned a PT title, you can enter any stock type on any course at the Started level.

When you submit your title application, you specify which course and stock you have trialled on. For example, a Started A course title on sheep would be noted as HSAs on your dog's registration papers.

Helpful links

- [ANKC herding rules](#)
- [Victorian Herding Association website](#) – includes calendar of events and trial schedules
- [Herding test and trial entry forms](#)