

# Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America, Inc.

## Nationals Most Versatile Aussie Program



### Most Versatile Aussie

The Most Versatile Aussie Award (MVA) is offered to recognize the dog that best combines the attributes of trainability, desire and ability to work livestock, and represents the MASCA breed standard. The dog must be a MASCA registered dog before the competition starts. The dog also cannot be registered with any registry as a breed other than an Australian Shepherd. The dog should demonstrate trainability and willingness to please with the combination of skill and expertise required to qualify in at least one of the recognized performance events: Agility, Rally Obedience, Obedience, or Scent & Find. The dog should be representative of the breed, when evaluated against the breed standard. Working ability, performance measurement, and breed evaluation are based on the rules and scorecards established by MASCA for the individual events. Hosting clubs must offer: Conformation, Arena Herding (sheep), and at least one other herding trial (example: Farm & Ranch or Arena ducks or cattle) and 2 performance events: Agility, Obedience, Rally Obedience, Scent & Find.

Additional Points can be earned in: Disc Dog, Dock Diving, and Acrobatics

#### MVA SCORING

To qualify for the MVA award, one must:

1. Earn a score for the conformation evaluation.
2. Earn a **Qualifying** score in Arena Herding sheep or Farm & Ranch Herding sheep.
3. Earn a **Qualifying** score in at least one Performance event (Agility, Obedience, Rally Obedience, or Scent & Find.)

MVA Qualifying certificates will be awarded to all qualifying dogs. MVA 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> places will receive medallions or ribbons.

In the event of a tie for the MVA award or for placements, the tie will be decided by the highest score earned in the herding arena trial on sheep. In the event a tie still exists, the dog with the highest conformation evaluation score will be the winner

#### Point Calculation

**See each event for points to be awarded**

Bonus points will be added for each additional **qualifying** herding run.

Arena Herding: 5 points for Level 2, 10 points for Levels 3, 15 points for Level 4, 20 points for Level 5

Farm & Ranch: 10 points for Level 1, 15 points for Level 2, 20 points for Level 3

Bonus points will be added for each additional **qualifying** performance event category (Agility, Rally Obedience, Obedience, Scent & Find): 5 points for Novice, 10 points for Open, 15 points for Advanced

EXAMPLE: If your dog's highest "Performance score" is in agility, it receives 110 points for agility. Bonus points are available for other Agility qualifying runs, Rally Obedience, Obedience, or Scent & Find.

A qualifying score in Rally Obedience Level 2 = 10 points bonus

A qualifying score in Novice Obedience = 5 points

No qualifying score in Scent & Find = 0 points

Total Performance score with bonuses in this example = 125 points

**ULTIMATE VERSATILE AUSSIE (UVA) AWARD:** When the 1<sup>st</sup> Place MVA dog is also the 1<sup>st</sup> place Extreme Aussie Games dog at the current Nationals, then the title of UVA (Ultimate Versatile Aussie) will be awarded. A certificate will be awarded at the Nationals Award Ceremony with a prize to follow.

#### MVA CHAIRPERSON

An MVA Chairperson will be chosen by the MASCA Board and will handle computation of all scores for awarding the MVA awards. The MVA Chair cannot be entered in MVA. The MVA Chair will also head a complaint committee. Two additional complaint committee members will be chosen by the MASCA Board prior to the event. The Host Club will provide a location where all scores will be posted as soon as practical after each eligible competition is completed. It is the owner/handler's responsibility to check the scores as posted, and report to the MVA chairperson any discrepancy no later than two hours prior to the time scheduled for awarding MVA. **Complaints may only be filed by the handler** for the event where there is a discrepancy. The complaint committee has full power and rights to make decisions on location at the event for any complaints filed. The MVA awards will be presented at the Award Ceremony. Judges placements/decisions for all events are final. **Awards for MVA are final once presented. Complaints will not be accepted after the event.** The MVA Chairperson will keep records for a minimum of one year after the event. The MVA Chairperson and complaint committee may also be the Extreme Aussie Games chairperson and complaint committee leader.

#### MVA SPORTSMANSHIP

Complaints must be filed in writing to the MVA Chairperson. Contestants will not complain about results/postings to other contestants, but maintain good sportsmanship. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. The MVA Chairperson and complaint committee has the right and responsibility to remove contestants/spectators that are disrupting the event without refunding entry fees. Those removed will not be eligible to participate or attend any other events at the current Nationals.

#### MVA ENTRANTS

All MVA participants must be a minimum of 12 months of age as of the first day of the competition. Individual events may have additional age criteria. MVA entrants must be registered with MASCA prior to the 1st day of the event.

A copy of the MASCA registration papers must be attached to the MVA Entry Form.

**MVA CONFORMATION EVALUATION** (See Conformation Worksheet) **(MANDATORY FOR MVA)**

- A. The MVA evaluation judge must be an ASCA judge or an AKC herding judge. The MVA Evaluation judge will not be allowed to enter MVA.
- B. One hundred points are available. The form and point schedule used will be provided to the evaluator.
- C. This class will not be placed and no awards will be given. The score given by the evaluation judge will be used for MVA.
- D. Only Australian Shepherds registered with MASCA are eligible for the MVA competition. Both full and limited registrations qualify. This class is open to spayed and neutered animals as well as intact animals.
- E. Dog must obtain a score greater than 0 to be eligible for MVA qualification.

**MVA ARENA HERDING Sheep (MANDATORY)**

- A. MVA Herding runs will be scored using the MASCA Arena Herding Dog scores.
- B. The highest score earned from Arena Herding will be used to compute MVA.
- C. The dog must qualify in Arena Herding Dog Level 2 or Farm & Ranch Level 1.
- D. Points will be awarded as follows for qualifying runs:
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 5(HD-L5) 120 points (20 Point Bonus)
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 4(HD-L4) 110 points (15 Point Bonus)
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 3(HD-L3) 100 points (10 Point Bonus)
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 2(HD-L2) 90 points (5 Point Bonus)
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 1 scores will not be accepted for MVA points.
- E. Bitches in heat will be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Arena Herding Trial.

**MVA FARM & RANCH HERDING (Bonus Herding for MVA) (sheep run can be used for mandatory points in place of Arena sheep)**

- A. Points will be awarded as follows for qualifying runs:
  - Farm & Ranch Level 3 (F&R-L3) 120 points (20 Point Bonus)
  - Farm & Ranch Level 2(F&R-L2) 110 points (15 Point Bonus)
  - Farm & Ranch Level 1(F&R-L1) 100 points (10 Point Bonus)
- B. Bitches in heat will be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Farm & Ranch Herding Trial.

**MVA ARENA HERDING Ducks or Cattle (Bonus Herding for MVA)**

- A. Points will be awarded as follows for qualifying runs:
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 5(HD-L5) (20 Point Bonus)
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 4(HD-L4) (15 Point Bonus)
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 3(HD-L3) (10 Point Bonus)
  - Arena Herding Dog Level 2(HD-L2) (5 Point Bonus)
- B. Bitches in heat will be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Arena Herding Trial.

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR THE MANDATORY PERFORMANCE EVENT.**

**Agility, Obedience, Rally, Scent & Find**

**AGILITY (for MVA)**

- A. MASCA MVA Agility runs will follow venue rules when such items are not addressed in this document.
- B. The jump heights for MVA agility will be in accordance with venue's rules.
- C. Veteran runs are accepted for MVA points.
- D. Agility Point schedule for qualifying runs only:
  - Standard Advanced clean = 115(15 Point Bonus)
  - Standard Advanced faulted = 100 (15 Point Bonus)
  - Standard Open clean= 95 (10 Point Bonus)
  - Standard Open faulted = 90 (10 Point Bonus)
  - Standard Novice clean = 85 (5 Point Bonus)
  - Standard Novice faulted = 80 (5 Point Bonus)
- E. Standard Introductory scores will not be accepted for MVA points.
- F. Bitches in heat will not be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Agility Trial. Failure to comply with this rule will result in dismissal from all agility trials held in conjunction with the MASCA Agility National Specialty.

**RALLY OBEDIENCE (for MVA)**

- A. MASCA MVA Rally Obedience runs will be scored using MASCA rules and regulations and criteria for entering all levels.
- B. The score will be determined from the results of the trial held at the Nationals Specialty Rally Obedience Trial. Participants who enter multiple rounds of the MASCA Nationals Rally Obedience competition may count the best score earned towards MVA.
- C. Only the highest qualifying scores earned in the trial will count towards MVA points.
- D. Please see APDT Rally Obedience Rules for additional information.
- E. Points will be awarded for qualifying runs as follows:
  - MASCA Rally Advanced clean (200+ Points) = 110, faulted = 100 (15 Point Bonus)
  - MASCA Rally Open clean (200+ Points) = 95, faulted = 90 (10 Point Bonus)
  - MASCA Rally Novice clean (200+ Points) = 85, faulted = 80 (5 Point Bonus)
  - MASCA Rally Introductory scores will not be accepted for MVA points.
- F. Bitches in heat will not be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Rally Obedience Trial. Failure to comply with this rule will result in dismissal from all performance trials held in conjunction with the Rally Obedience National Specialty.

### **OBEDIENCE (for MVA)**

- A. MASCA MVA Obedience runs will be scored using MASCA rules and regulations and criteria for entering levels.
- B. The score will be determined from the results of the trial held at the Nationals Specialty Obedience Trial. Participants who enter multiple rounds of the MASCA Nationals Obedience competition may count the best score earned towards MVA.
- C. Only qualifying scores earned in the trial will count towards MVA points. Pre-Novice does not count towards MVA.
- D. Please see MASCA Obedience Rules for additional information
- E. Points will be awarded for qualifying runs as follows:  
MASCA Utility clean = 115, faulted = 105 (15 Point Bonus)  
MASCA Open clean = 100, faulted = 95 (10 Point Bonus)  
MASCA Novice clean = 90 faulted = 85 (5 Point Bonus)  
\*MASCA Pre-Novice Obedience scores will not be accepted for MVA points
- F. Bitches in heat may be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Obedience Trial, please check with the Obedience trial secretary.

### **Scent & Find (for MVA)**

- A. MASCA MVA Scent & Find runs will be scored using MASCA rules and regulations and criteria for entering all levels.
- B. The score will be determined from the results of the trial held at the Nationals Specialty Scent & Find Trial.
- C. Please see MASCA Scent & Find Rules for additional information.
- D. Points will be awarded for qualifying runs as follows:  
MASCA Scent & Find Advanced clean = 100, faulted = 95 (15 Point Bonus)  
MASCA Scent & Find Open clean = 90, faulted = 85 (10 Point Bonus)  
MASCA Scent & Find Novice clean = 80, faulted = 75 (5 Point Bonus)  
MASCA Scent & Find Introductory scores will not be accepted for MVA points.
- E. Bitches in heat will be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Scent & Find Trial. They will run at the end of the competition and wear an appropriate cover.

### **ADDITIONAL EVENTS FOR BONUS PERFORMANCE POINTS ONLY**

#### **Disc Dog**

Distance: Advanced (15 Point Bonus) Open (10 Point Bonus) Novice (5 Point Bonus)  
Freestyle: Advanced (15 Point Bonus) Open (10 Point Bonus) Novice (5 Point Bonus)

#### **Dock Diving:**

Distance: Post Advanced (15 Point Bonus) Advanced (10 Point Bonus) Open (5 Point Bonus)

#### **Acrobatics:**

Single: Advanced (10 points) Open (5 points)

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

The Host Club for the MASCA Nationals shall include in their flyer any special awards to be given in the MVA competition. For questions regarding the MVA rules please contact the MASCA board.

Sample of MVA scoring in case of a tie:

	Dog A	Dog B:
Conformation score:	95	95
Herding score:	95	85
Performance score:	100	100
Performance Bonus (bonus not awarded for event used in "Performance" Score).		
Agility	N.A.	10
Obedience	10	10
Rally Obedience	10	N.A.
Scent & Find	0	10
MVA Total:	310	310

**Dog A wins MVA award, because it has a higher score for herding.**