



By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

Fourteen dogs worked hard despite the heat of the Chase County Fair last week as they competed in the stock dog trials.

It was the second year for the event, started last year at the fair following several requests. There are few such contests in this area, according to participants.

There was one participant from California. Anna Guthrie said she had been in the area for other contests and decided to take in Chase County's, as well.

The contest at the fair was sanctioned by the U.S. Border Collie Association, so points earned last week by the owner and his/her dog can be included in their totals for national contest qualification.

Temperatures in the 90s and high humidity last Wednesday made it tough working conditions for the dogs.

Dogs competed in open, pro-novice, novice and a rancher's class, all competing against time in their divisions. The rancher's class was added for local contestants and did not count toward qualifying points, according to organizers.

In this year's contest, three steers were turned out into the pen at the grandstand arena area.



First, the dog had to bring the trio of cattle to the other end of the pen.

Then, they were timed as they herded cattle through a series of obstacles—through a narrow alleyway, between two sets of panels and into a pen.

The dog handler is allowed to aid their partner with commands and directions, and some use whistles.

Cash prizes were awarded to first, second and third in each division.

Organizing this year's contest were Dan Korf of Haigler and Charlie Collins of Wauneta.

The contest was sponsored by Budweiser.

Here are the results.

Open class (most experienced)

1st Anna Guthrie, Valley Center, CA with Riddle; 2nd Dan Korf, Haigler, with Tater; 3rd Anna Guthrie with Tickle.

Pro-novice

1st Dan Korf with Colt; 2nd Bob Wagner, Nunn, CO, with Abby; 3rd Bill Stone, North Platte, with Jade.

Novice

1st Stephanie Whipps, Max, with Dose; 2nd Jan Wagner, Nunn, CO, with Pearl.

Rancher's class

1st Levi Whipps, Max, with Dose; 2nd Jancy Collins, Wauneta, with Mag; 3rd Jancy Collins with Babe.