



The Shepherd's Whistle

Volume 11, Issue 1 January 2008

The St Louis Herding Club's purpose is to encourage, promote, educate herding to the public and to provide herding events in accordance to the guidelines and provisions of the sanctioning club.

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Hair Sheep Breeds

Africana, Barbado, Barbados Blackbelly, Blackhead Persian, Brazilian Somali, Damara, Dorper, Katahdin, Masai, Morada Nova, Pelibuey, Rabo Largo, Sahel-type, Santa Ines, Somali, St Croix, Touabire, Uda, West African Dwarf, Wiltshire Horn

Look for more information on each of these breeds in upcoming issues

Africana



Other Names: *Pelona, Camura, Red African, Rojo Africana, Colombian Woolless, West African*

The Africana is found in Colombia and Venezuela. They are usually brown, ranging in shade from tan to brown and cherry-red to dark red. They are very similar to the Pelibuey in size and confirmation. The breed is polled and the male is sometimes maned.

Barbado



The Barbado breed originated in Texas. The breed originated from [Barbados Blackbelly](#) sheep which were crossed with [Rambouillet](#) and mouflon. One of the uses of the Barbado is as a trophy animal on game ranches due to its large curled horns. It is typically tan, tan with a pale or black belly or pied. The coat varies from short hair to coarse wool with a large amount of kemp fibers. Males show the horns for which the breed was selected and the females are polled. The Barbado should not be confused with the [Barbados Blackbelly](#) although the two are related. Barbados Blackbelly exhibit the distinctive color pattern of the breed, tan with black belly and face, which is often times absent in the Barbado. In addition, both sexes of the [Barbados Blackbelly](#) are polled while the males of the Barbado are horned. Also the fecundity level in the [Barbados Blackbelly](#) is very high with the average litter size being between 1.5 and 2.2.

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Hi Tracy,

Yesterday we received such a nice surprise—cookies from the St. Louis Herding Club! Thank you! We are so blessed to have such caring folks in the herding community supporting us! For you guys to recall that Steve is a “cookie

monster” is so remarkably thoughtful. Please tell the club membership that Steve is touched, humbled and encouraged by the club’s caring.

An update on Steve—we saw the second opinion neurosurgeon yesterday and are scheduling Steve’s surgery today. It’ll probably be 2-3 weeks from now. Steve is doing well. He’s working from home and has even been given the go ahead to give some herding lessons prior to surgery, as long as he isn’t working the dog for the owner, and isn’t becoming overly tired. I will update Steve’s condition on herders-I, once he’s had the surgery. Til then, please keep Steve in your thoughts and prayers. We are firm believers in the power of prayer!

Take care,

Julie

—
Steve and Julie Waltenburg
Trail’s End Ranch

Tracy,

I just realized that St. Louis sent a wonderful card signed by lots of wonderful folks, and not cookies! I am so sorry for the faux pas!! We were just as touched by the card from your herding club! To take the time to get folks to sign a card means so much. The dog community is truly filled with great folk!

If you can, please pass along the sentiment to your follow club members and the herding community in the St. Louis area.

Best,

Julie

Steve and Julie Waltenburg

Trail’s End Ranch

<http://www.trailsend-acds.com>

Understanding Flight Zone and Point of Balance

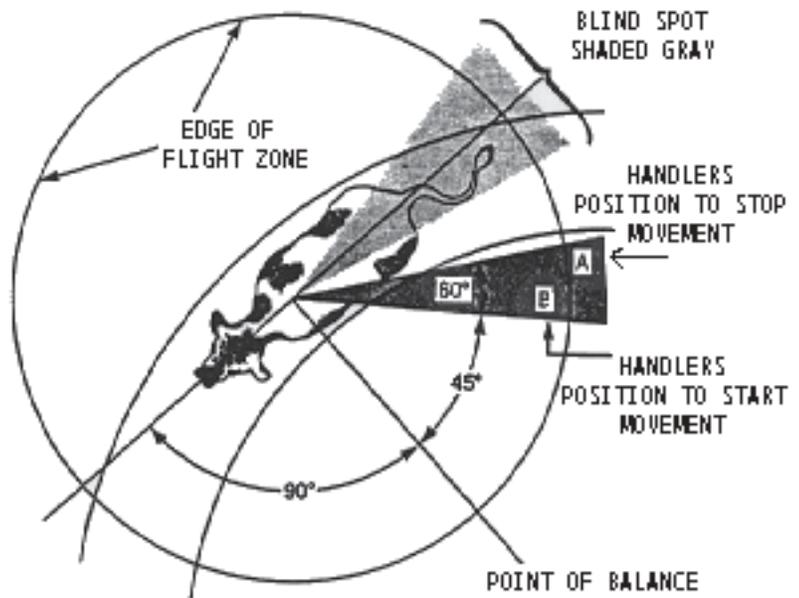


This picture illustrates the flight zone of a large flock of sheep, herds of cattle behave much the same way. Notice that the sheep are circling around the handlers while maintaining a safe distance and keeping the people in sight. Note that the sheep tend to move in the opposite direction of handler movement. Walking in the opposite direction of the direction of desired movement can be used to move groups of animals. Walking in the opposite direction tends to speed up movement and walking in the same direction tends to slow down movements. These principles work with all herding animals.

The point of balance is at the animal's shoulder. All species of livestock will move forward if the handler stands behind the point of balance. They will back up if the handler stands in front of the point of balance. Many handlers make the mistake of standing in front of the point of balance while attempting to make an animal move forward in a chute. Groups of cattle or pigs in a chute will often move forward without prodding when the handler walks past the point of balance in the opposite direction of each animal in the chute. It is not necessary to prod every animal. If the animals are moving through the chute by themselves, leave them alone. Often they can be moved by tapping the side of the chute.

This diagram illustrates the general flight zone of an animal. The actual flight zone of an individual animal will vary depending on how "tame" the animal is.

An animal's flight zone will vary depending on how calm it is. The flight zone gets bigger when an animal becomes excited. The flight zone is also bigger when you approach "head on". Calm cattle are easier to move. If cattle become excited, it takes 20 to 30 minutes for them to calm back down.



Handlers who understand the concepts of flight zone and point of balance will be able to move animals more easily. The flight zone is the animal's personal space, and the size of the flight zone is determined by the wildness or tameness of the animal. Completely tame animals have no flight zone and people can touch them. An animal will begin to move away when the handler penetrates the edge of the flight zone. If all the animals are facing the handler, the handler is outside the flight zone.

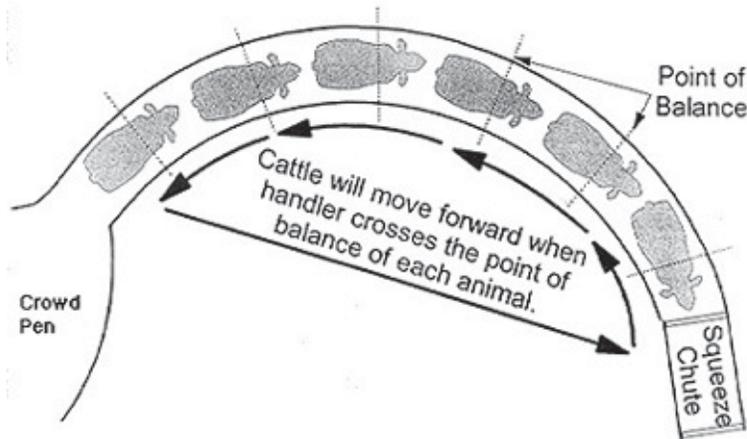


When the handler is **outside the flight zone** the animals will turn and face the handler, and maintain a safe distance.

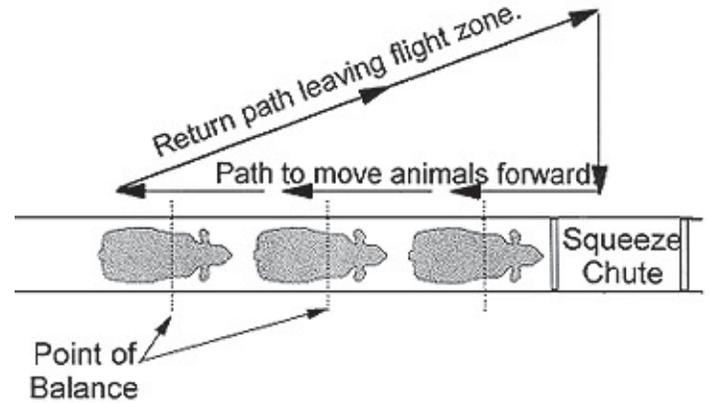


When the handler **enters the flight zone** the animals will turn away.

Handler movement pattern to keep cattle moving into the squeeze chute in a curved chute system.



Handler movement pattern to keep cattle moving into a squeeze chute or restrainer.

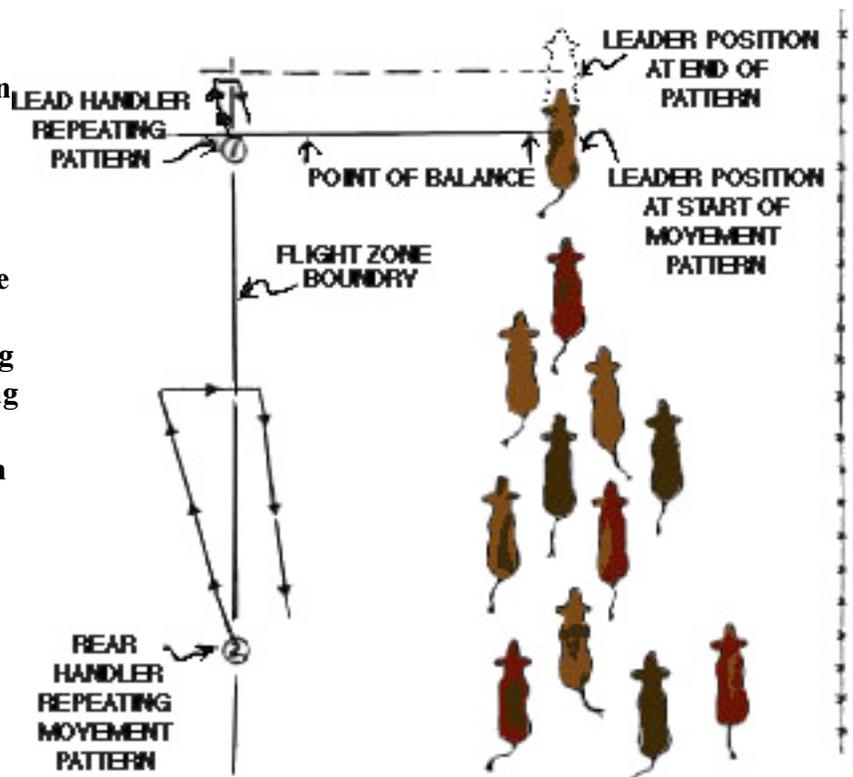


Cattle and other ruminants have a tendency to move in the opposite direction when a handler walks deep in their flight zone. The principle of these two diagrams is that the handler walks inside the flight zone in the **opposite** direction of desired movement. When the handler returns, he or she walks outside the flight zone in the same direction.

When an animal is being held in the squeeze chute the handler should stand outside the flight zone. To move the next animal into the squeeze chute, the handler enters the flight zone and the animal will move forward after the handler crosses the point of balance at the shoulder.

To move only one animal, the handler should stop walking when the point of balance of the animal is crossed.

When moving livestock from a large open area, understanding flight zone behavior and utilizing a few basic principles, moving animals in a calm and orderly fashion becomes very easy. To keep the animals moving in an orderly manner the handler alternates between penetrating the collective flight zone and withdrawing from the collective flight zone. Alternating pressure on the flight zone is more effective than continuous pressure. When the handler moves in the zig zag pattern he/she penetrates the flight zone when walking in the opposite direction of desired movement and retreats from the flight zone when walking in the same direction of desired movement.



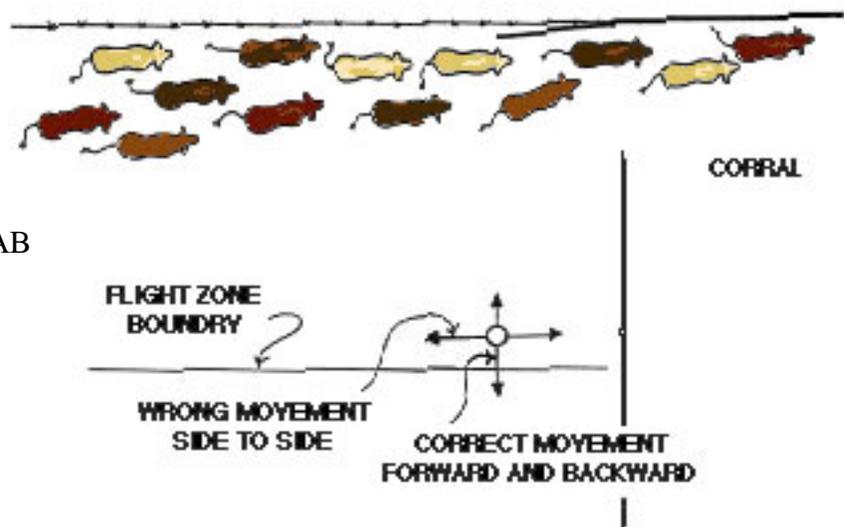
To keep animals calm and move them easily, the handler should work on the edge of the flight zone. He penetrates the flight zone to make the animals move and he backs up if he wants them to stop moving. The handler should avoid the blind spot behind the animal's rear. Deep penetration of the flight zone should be avoided. Animals become upset when a person is inside their personal space and they are unable to move away. If cattle turn back and run past the handler while they are being driven down a drive alley in the stockyard, overly deep penetration of the flight zone is a likely cause. The animals turn back in an attempt to get away from the handler. If the animals start to turn back, the handler should back up and increase the distance between himself and the animals. Backing up must be done at the first indication of a turn back. If a group of animals balk at a smell or a shadow up ahead, be patient and wait for the leader to cross the shadow. The rest of the animals will follow. If cattle rear up in the single file chute, back away from them. Do not touch them or hit them. They are rearing in an attempt to increase the distance between themselves and the handler. They will usually settle down if you leave them alone.



A group of cattle moving as a herd maintains eye contact with each other, that way the entire herd can move as a coordinated whole. The next animal behind the leader is positioned just behind the leader's point of balance.

*** This is the same position that a person would stand in to move the animals.**

Using the principles of flight zone behaviour, a handler is able to move cattle into a pen in a calm and orderly way. Using the positions shown on this diagram will enable the handler to control the flow of cattle through the gate. Cattle movement can be slowed or speeded up by moving forward or backward



References :

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Glasgow United Kingdom

AKC Trials @ RottiEwe Farm December 1-2, 2007

Note from the Chairman: We started off cold on Saturday but all was good, everyone had a great day. Sunday started off great with warmer weather then the temperature dipped and the rain and wind moved in. Everyone took it in stride. Thanks to all that helped make the trials a success. We offered 50 runs each day between ducks and sheep and we drew 42 runs.

FOR COMPLETE RESULTS & MARKED CATALOG SEE THE WEBSITE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 16, 2008

AKC Judge's Seminar

Purina Farms

Contact Kate for information

April 25-27, 2008

AHBA Clinic and Trials

Sandra Holmberg's Whiskey Creek Sheep Farm

Pending Sanction/Approval

Ranch Sheep & Cattle

HTAD Sheep, Cattle, & Ducks

Judges Louis Thompson & Peggy Richter

May 31—June 1, 2008 in conjunction w/ Western

Kentucky GSD Club

AKC A & B Course Sheep & Ducks

Purina Farms

September 20-21, 2008

Pending AKC Approval/Sanction of our Application

AKC Trials Sheep, Ducks & Cattle

Whiskey Creek Sheep Farm

Judges Louis Thompson and Linda Rhorem

November 2008

AKC Trials

Sheep and Ducks

RottieEwe Farm/Wright City, MO

This is in the planning stages for Turkey Day Weekend.

I'll

update soon

Liver Treats

Raw Liver, maybe a pound or so.

Oatmeal

Cornmeal (can be omitted)

1 Egg

Canola Oil, a few Tbsp

Gran. Garlic, a few tsp

Add Liver, Egg, Oil, and garlic to food processor and blend till it's a paste. Add oatmeal/cornmeal until the consistency becomes that of a cookie dough.

Spray a cookie sheet with nonstick spray.

pat out dough on sheet approx 1/4 " thick... bake until firm.

Let cool. Cut or break off into treat size pieces.

Keep extra treats refrigerated

Will keep for 7 days.