

# ***Herding with Icelandic sheepdogs***



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*“Selective breeding is necessary to preserve physically and mentally qualities in dogs.”*

*Geneticist Per-Erik Sundgren*

# ***Different Ways of Herding:***



# ***The Icelandic Sheepdogs***

## ***Way of Herding***

*From the breed standard:*

*Behaviour and temperament: The Icelandic Sheepdog is a hardy and agile herding dog which barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving livestock in the pastures, in the mountains or finding stray sheep. The Icelandic Sheepdog is by nature very alert and will always give visitors an enthusiastic welcome without being aggressive. Hunting instincts are not strong. The Icelandic Sheepdog is cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful and unafraid.*

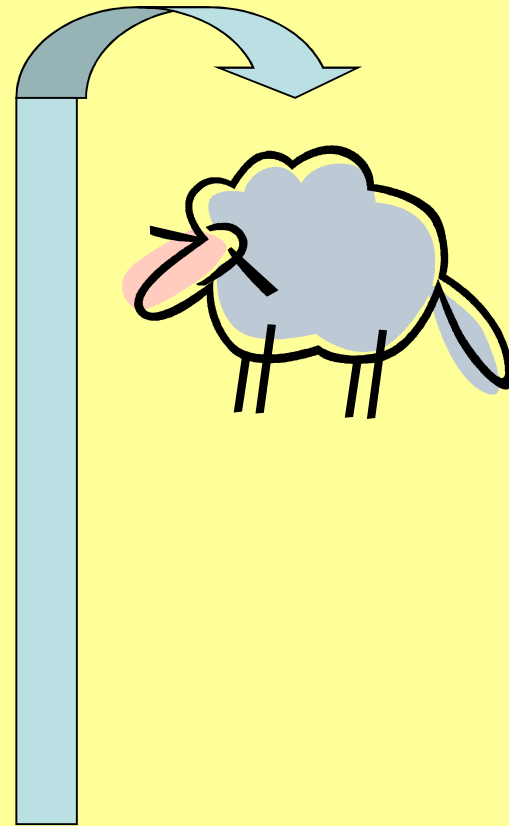
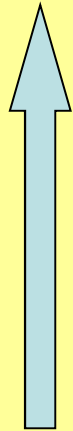
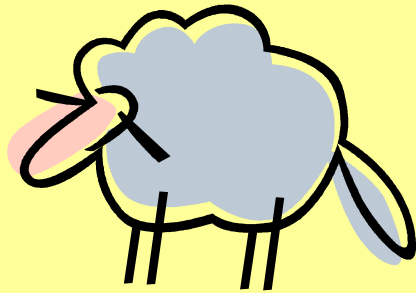


# ***The Icelandic Sheepdogs Way of Herding***

- *Upright*
- *Close*
- *Loose-eyed*
- *Driving, but also:*
- *Gathering*
- *Barking*
- *Cirkles to contain the sheep*
- *Drives animals away from home fields*



# *Driving vs gathering*



# ***Traits That Makes a Good Herding Dog***

## *Instincts:*

- *Herding instinct*
- *Gathering or driving*
- *Holding, circling*
- *Balance, distance*
- *Barking*
- *Gripping*
- *Eye*

## *Temperament:*

- *Power*
- *Collaborative skills*
- *Anticipation*
- *Fear*
- *Hardiness*
- *Concentration*

# ***Herding instinct test***

- *FCI-HWT Herding working test*  
– *traditional style*
- *AHBA*
- *AKC*
- *Kroppsvallarna – Sweden*
- *Swedish Vallhund instinct test*



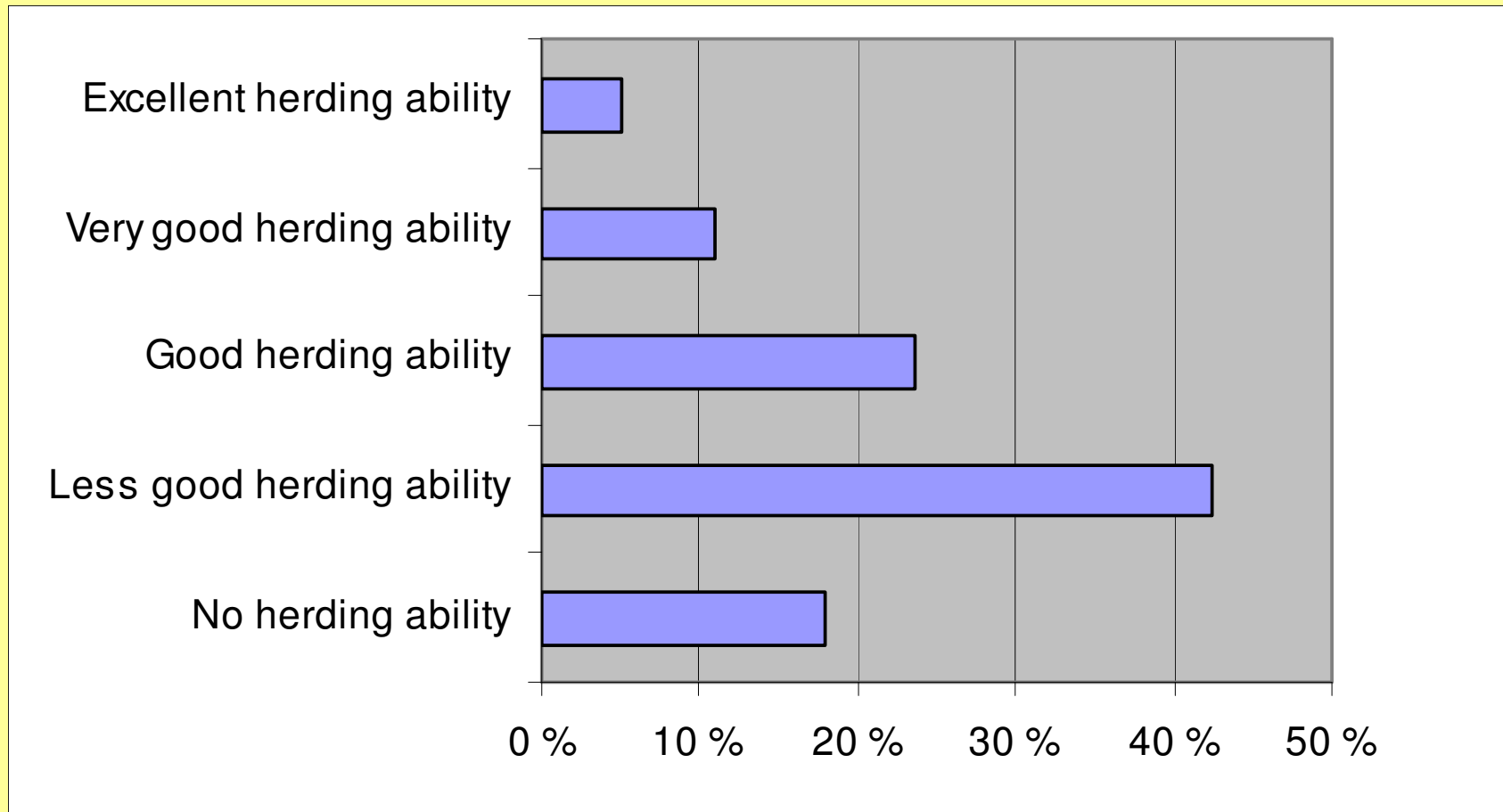
# ***Herding instinct test in Finland***



**Herding instinct test for icelandic sheepdogs in Finland**

	1	2	3	4	5
Experience	No experience	Stock at home	Herding trained		
Interest	No interest	Attentive, still	Doubtful forward	Determined forward	Rushes
Driving	Not at all	Doubtful	Determined	Rushes	Hunts
Bark	Yes	When necessary	No		
Distance to stock	Close	Keeps distance			
Grip	No	In the air	Single times	When necessary	All the time
Wearing	No	Tendency	Single times	Almost all the time	All the time
Gathering	Not at all	Tendency	Splits	Gathering but leaves some behind	Gathering
Endurance	None	Single times	Several times with breaks	Quits when called	Don't quit
Distance to handler	Close	Works at far distance			
Power	None	Weak	Acceptable	Good	Very good
Collaborative skills	No contact	Some contact	Good contact	Very good contact	
Working temperament	Afraid	Hot but afraid	Calm	Excellent	Hot
The dog has today showed:	No herding ability	Less good herding ability	Good herding ability	Very good herding ability	Excellent herding ability

# *Results*



# Results

