

# White Shepherds in N. Florida Go Herding

Written by: Scarlett Sanders

I took Easy and Diamond herding today. We went to David Saunders place just outside of Tallahassee, FL. for the UKC herding test trial fun days. **And fun it was!** My dogs and I had never done this before, I had a great time and I know the dogs did as well. David took us into the pen with the sheep and helped us to get started, showing me how to keep control of my dog and the situation. It was amazing to watch my dogs work the sheep, so naturally and effortlessly! First I worked Diamond, she's a little older than Easy and I figured she'd be a bit more settled for my first try at this. She did great! She listened to me and followed my commands pretty well. David showed me how to keep her from getting too close to the sheep so they wouldn't get too frightened and bolt. Next came Easy, being the young boy he is he was more excited and didn't want to listen at first. All he could think of was chasing the sheep. He soon settled down though and began listening better. David had me start with a rope on the dogs at first but before each one of them was done for the day, he had me drop the rope and work each dog free. They both did very well, David told me that if this had been a herding event they would have qualified for a Herding instinct certificate. He actually had us taking the sheep around the pen in circles in both directions. We even did some figure eights! By the end of their practices both dogs were moving the sheep pretty well.



**Easy & I herding with David keeping watch**

After we finished up with the dogs, David took me out into the trial field and showed me how the course would be run. This looked like it would be fun, once you and your dog are working well together as a team. Quite a challenge!





**David explaining the course to me Diamond is still interested in the sheep!!**

A little later on a few of the more experienced folks gave the course a try. It was quite a sight, to see the dogs and their handlers run this course!! They made it look so easy.



**Amy Hill & her little Corgi "Bellie" making the course look easy**

I even brought out the younger dogs and the baby to see the sheep. Missy really wanted to chase the sheep! And the baby, Sky wanted to chase the dogs that were chasing the sheep!! LOL She thought they were having a great time and she wanted to play too!

Needless to say, we're hooked!! This is definitely something I want to pursue, once you get a taste you have to go back for more!!