

OBEDIENCE GUIDELINES

Part 1

Purpose

4-H Obedience Shows and Matches are guided by the principles of good sportsmanship, both in and out of the ring . The purpose of 4-H Obedience Shows and Matches is to demonstrate the usefulness of the dog as a companion of man, not merely the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the 4-H obedience ring . All 4-H members in a class are required to perform the same exercises in the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be evaluated . However, the primary objective of 4-H Obedience Shows and Matches is to help youth develop life skills, by teaching them how to work with dogs safely and effectively . The result of this process will be a 4-H member who can apply dog handling skills in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect credit on 4-H Dog Obedience . The performances of the dog and the 4-H member in the ring must be accurate and correct, conforming to the requirements of these Guidelines . However, it is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment of its work, and that smoothness and naturalness on the part of the 4-H member be given precedence over a performance based on military precision and decisive commands.

Chapter 1: General Guidelines

Dog Show and Match Rules

The 4-H Obedience Guidelines shall govern the conduct of and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in 4-H shows and matches .

Identification

No commercial advertising of any sort may be on clothing or the equipment in the show ring . The wearing of clothing with a 4-H emblem is encouraged . 4-H T-shirts, supplied by the Fair or from the counties, may be worn .

Family Members

More than one 4-H member may show the same dog in the same year, in different classes

Dogs that May Not Be Shown

Dogs that have not been under the direct care and management of the 4-H member for a minimum of two months may not participate in 4-H Obedience Shows and Matches . This does not mean that the dog must live with the 4-H member, only that the 4-H'er must be regularly responsible for its basic care . Dogs in obvious pain from a previous illness or injury shall not be shown . Consideration of a dog's physical disability needs to be addressed between the handler and project leader before starting the project . A veterinarian's written approval is required if a dog's soundness is questioned . Dogs in season may not be shown .

When Titles Are Won

When a 4-H dog has won an outside title (i . e . AKC), it may be shown in 4-H Obedience Trials . If the 4-H member won the title, that team must show at the equivalent 4-H show level . If someone else won the title, the 4-H member must show at the highest level appropriate for that team as determined by the 4-H member, parent, project leader and/or 4-H Advisor.

Level of showing determined by experience of handler

4-H (level)	AKC (title show)
Pre-Novice	Pre-Novice
Novice	Novice
Open	Open
Utility	Utility

Once a dog and 4-H member have purpled at the state level (4-H), that team must advance to the next level . This option may be exercised at the county level if the team is unable to attend the State Fair . If a 4-H member starts over with a new dog, they may start at Basic B and progress accordingly

Risk

The 4-H member entering a dog in a 4-H Event does so at his own risk and agrees to abide by Texas 4-H Rules and Guidelines

Disturbances

Dogs that show aggression to other humans or dogs on the show grounds are not permitted to participate .

Decisions

At shows and matches the decisions of the Judge shall be final in all matters affecting the scoring and the working of the dogs and their handlers

Stewards

The Judge is in sole charge of his ring until his assignment is completed . Stewards are provided to assist him, but they may act only on the Judge's instructions . Stewards shall not give information or instructions to handlers except as specifically instructed by the Judge, and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of the Judge

Ring Conditions

The ideal ring size is at least 40 feet wide and 50 feet long . The ideal surface or covering provides firm footing for the largest dogs . Rubber or similar nonslip material totaling at least four feet in width must be laid for the takeoff and landing at all jumps unless the surface, in the Judge's opinion, is such as to not require it . At an outdoor show or trial the rings shall be about 40 feet wide and 50 feet long . The ground shall be clean and level, and the grass, if any, cut short .The Judge's table and chairs shall be of such size and location to cause no interference with the performance while in the ring .Dogs are not allowed in the match ring until they are shown

Chapter 2: Guidelines for Performance

Use of Leash

All dogs shall be kept on leash except when in the 4-H obedience ring or practice ring . Dogs must be brought into the ring and taken out of the ring on leash . Dogs may be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards, and when waiting in the ring before and after the Group exercises . When required, the leash shall be left on the Judge's table or other designated place between the individual exercises and during all exercises except the Heel on Leash and Group exercises . The leash must be of fabric or leather and, at the Pre-Novice level or lower, must be at least six feet long . For Novice level and higher, the leash must be at least four feet long to provide adequate slack in the Heel on Leash exercise

Collars

Dogs in the 4-H obedience Basic A & B and Pre-Novice rings are allowed to wear one approved training collar . These include slip/combo combination collars (martingale), choke collars (standard, show fur savers, nylon flat and American), Halti head collars, gentle leader collars (promise halters), German steel collars (sprenger, coastal and prong collars), harnesses, and plain buckle collars .

Dogs in 4-H Novice and higher classes must wear well-fitting plain buckle, slip collars, or choke collars . Slip collars of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings, one on each end are acceptable . These are to be used only for training .Collars must be well fitting . The collar length should not exceed the dog's neck measurement plus three inches . Nothing shall be hanging from the collars (no tags) . Electronic collars are not allowed in any instance .If there is a medical reason for the use of a different collar, it must be noted on the health certificate . **IF APPROVED EQUIPMENT IS NOT USED, THERE WILL AN AUTOMATIC RIBBON DEDUCTION IN THE RING**

Heel Position

In these guidelines, the Heel position means that the dog shall be straight in line with the direction the handler is facing, at the handler's left side, and as close as practical to the handler's left leg without crowding, permitting the handler freedom of motion at all times . Ideally, the dog's shoulder should be even with the handler's left hip . This shall be the definition whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down, or moving at heel

Hands

In all exercises, the arm positions shall be taken before any heeling is done .In all exercises in which the dog is required to "heel on leash" one of the options below shall be followed:

- The right hand and arm must move naturally, while the left arm is bent and the left hand shall hold the leash against, and centered in front of the body, in the area of the waist .
- The right arm is bent, and the right hand holds the leash against, and centered in front of the body, in the area of the waist, while the left hand loosely guides the leash at the handler's side .
- Both arms are bent to the waist and both hands hold the leash against, and centered in front of the body, in the area of the waist

In all exercises in which the dog is required to "heel free" one of the options below shall be followed:

- The handler's arms and hands shall move naturally at the handler's sides while in motion, and shall hang naturally at the handler's sides while not in motion
- The right hand and arm must move naturally, while the left arm is bent to the waist and the left hand shall be held against, and centered in the front of the body, in the area of the waist

The left forearm shall be carried, as much as possible, against the body . In either of the above situations the hands and arms may be adjusted during the Fast portion of an exercise, in order to maintain balance . There shall be a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions stated above .

In all exercises in which the dog is required to "come to" or "return to" the handler and "sit in front", the handler's arms and hands shall hang naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front . A deduction shall be made if a handler's arms and hands are not hanging naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front

Commands and Signals

Whenever a command or signal is mentioned in these guidelines, the handler must give a single command (either a voice command and/or a hand signal) . Any extra commands or signals must be penalized . Only two commands may use a simultaneous command and/or signal: Stay (all levels) and Drop on Recall commands (Graduate Novice/ Open) . When a signal is permitted and given, it must be a single gesture with one arm and hand only, and the arm must immediately be returned to a natural position . When a signal command *only* is used it cannot be preceded by the call name of the dog . Delay in following a Judge's order to give a command or signal must be penalized, unless the Judge directs the delay because of some distraction or interference .

When given, signals must be inaudible, and the handler must not touch the dog . Any unusual noise or motion may be considered to be a signal . Signaling correction to a dog is forbidden and must be penalized . Position of the arms and hands and movements of the body that aid the dog shall be considered additional signals . However, a handler may bend over at the waist when commanding Down or Stay, and a handler may bend the body and knees as far as necessary to bring his hand on a level with the dog's eyes in giving a signal to a dog in the Heel position . In the Directed Retrieve exercise the body and knees may be bent to the extent necessary to give the direction to the dog

Whistling or the use of a whistle is prohibited . The dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command or before a verbal command and signal when these Guidelines permit command and/or signal . The name shall not be used with any signal not given simultaneously with a verbal command . The dog's name, when given immediately before a verbal command, shall not be considered as an additional command, but a dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command shall be scored as having anticipated the command . The dog should never anticipate the handler's directions but must wait for the appropriate commands and/or signals . Moving forward at the heel without any command or signal other than the natural forward movement of the handler's body shall not be considered as anticipation . Anticipation of commands will be given deductions

Excessively loud commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression of 4-H obedience and should be avoided . Shouting is not necessary even in a noisy place if the dog is properly trained to respond to a normal tone of voice . Commands, which in the Judge's opinion are excessively loud, will be penalized . An extra command and/or signal in any non-principal part of an exercise does not, in itself, constitute a failing score

Praise

Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises, but points must be deducted from the total score for a dog that is not under reasonable control while being praised . A handler shall not carry or offer food in the ring . There shall be a penalty for any dog that is picked up or carried at any time in the 4-H obedience ring

Handling between Exercises

In the Novice Classes the dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises and to get it into proper position for an exercise . No other physical guidance, such as placing the dog in position with the hands or straightening the dog with the knees or feet, is permitted and shall be penalized even if occurring before or between the exercises . In the Open and Utility Classes there shall be a penalty for any dog that is physically guided at any time or that is not readily controllable . Posing for examination and holding for measurement are permitted . Imperfections in heeling between exercises will not be judged . In the Open and Utility Classes minor penalties shall be imposed for a dog that does not respond promptly to its handler's commands or signals before or between exercises

Misbehavior

Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog, or any uncontrolled behavior of the dog such as snapping, barking, or running away from its handler, whether it occurs during an exercise, between exercises, or before or after judging, may be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior . The deduction will be at least one ribbon placing . The Judge may excuse the dog from further competition in the class and the team will receive a white ribbon . If such behavior occurs during an exercise, the penalty must first be applied to the score for that exercise . Should the penalty be greater than the value of the exercise during which it is incurred, the additional points shall be deducted from the total score under Misbehavior . If such behavior occurs before or after the judging, or between exercises, the entire penalty shall be deducted from the total score . Any dog that relieves itself at any time while in the ring for judging will be penalized 25 points .

The Judge may disqualify any dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person in the ring . He shall excuse a dog that attacks another dog or that appears dangerous to other dogs or exhibitors in the ring . This team shall receive a white ribbon .Any exhibitor or spectator may be excused from the show for unsportsmanlike conduct . This team shall receive a white ribbon .The Judge should ALWAYS talk to the exhibitor and explain the reason behind the deduction or excuse from the ring

Training and Disciplining in the Ring

The Judge shall not permit any handler to train his dog by excessive verbal commands or by moving toward the dog to correct it in any way, nor to practice any exercise in the ring either before or after he is judged . Any handler who does either will be excused from further competition in the class . A dog whose handler disciplines it in the ring may be excused from further competition in the class and shall receive a white ribbon . The Judge should always explain why a dog and handler are excused .NO food or treats of any kind should be with the handler while showing his dog . A deduction of one ribbon placing will occur, if noted . The Judge must immediately report any abuse of a dog in the ring to the Show Officials

Chapter 3: Basic A & B

Basic A

This class is reserved for teams where both the handler and dog have no prior experience in the obedience show ring . If the 4-H member or dog has shown in another organization, they go to Basic B.

Basic B

Any 4-H member and/or dog with previous show experience can show here if it is determined appropriate by 4-H member, parent, project leader and 4-H Advisor

Section 3. Basic A & B Exercises and Scoring

Basic A	Basic B	Maximum Score
Heel on Leash	Heel on Leash	40 points
Figure Eight (on leash)	Figure Eight (on leash)	40 points
Sit for Exam (on leash)	Sit for Exam (on leash)	40 points
Sit Stay (on leash)	Sit Stay (leash attached, on ground)	40 points
Recall (on leash)	Recall (off leash)	40 points
Maximum Total Score		200 points

Heel on Leash & Figure Eight (same for both A & B classes)

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team . The orders for this exercise will be Forward and Exercise finished . Signs, rather than verbal commands from the Judge, will be used for this exercise . Signs to be used are Right turn, Left turn, About turn, Slow, Normal, Fast and Halt/Sit . Fast means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed . Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed . Both change of pace signs must be followed by a normal sign . Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated . Two of each turn sign must be available for the Judge's use . The Halt/Sit sign will be used once at the end of the exercise . The Judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class . The leash must be six feet in length . It may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position . Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized. The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position . The Judge will ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, Forward . The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash . The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding . The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time . At the Halt/Sit sign, the handler will stop . The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal . The Judge will order, Exercise finished at the completion of this exercise . A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty . (Good, yes, nice, super, great, and atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed .) A verbal command to heel at the beginning of the exercise is the only command allowed during the heeling exercise . Rally signs may be used . The signs may be placed either flat on the ground or on a stand . The course should be laid so that the signs are to the right of the handler

Figure Eight (same for both A & B classes)

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team . The orders for this exercise are: Forward, Halt, and Exercise finished . For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand, and the dog will sit in heel position facing the Judge, midway between the two stewards, who will be standing 8 feet apart . The Figure Eight will be performed on leash; the handler may go around either steward first . After the Judge asks, Are you ready? and gives the order, Forward, the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice . There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the Judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end . After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again . A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty . In scoring this exercise the Judge shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that he can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog . The Judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler.

Section 5. Heel on Leash & Figure Eight Scoring

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmanageable • Unqualified heeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handler continually adapts pace to dog • Constant tugging on leash or guiding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper heel position • Occasional tight leash • Forging or crowding handler • Lagging or sniffing • Extra command to heel or sit • Handler error • Heeling wide including turns and abouts • No change of pace including fast and slow • No sits or poor sits • Lack of naturalness or smoothness

Sit for Examination Scoring

The scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to Stay, except for such things as rough treatment of the dog by its handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit.

Sit for Exam Scoring

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stands, lies down or moves away from place it was left before or during examination • Growls, snaps or displays resentment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra command after given the command to stay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog moves its feet • Dog stands or moves away after examination is complete • Shyness • Tightening of the leash during the exercise • Handler error

Sit for Examination (same for both A & B classes)

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: Sit your dog and Leave when you are ready, Back to your dog and Exercise finished. This exercise is to be performed with the dog on a six-foot leash. On the Judge's order, the handler will command the dog to sit. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about six feet to the end of the leash, turn and face the dog. The Judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the Judge will touch only the dog's head. On the order Back to your dog, the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The handler may gather the leash at any time while returning to the dog. The dog must remain sitting until the Judge has said, Exercise finished

Sit Stay on Leash

Sit Stay on Leash – 45 seconds (Basic A)

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position for 45 seconds. Orders for this exercise are: Sit your dog, Leave your dog, Return to your dog, and Exercise finished. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the Judge will ask if the handler is ready. When the Judge gives the order Sit your dog, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. The Judge will order Leave your dog, and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed to the end of the leash and turn to face the dog. The dog will remain seated for 45 seconds. At the Judge's command of Return to your dog, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the Judge will give the order Exercise finished. The Judge should not deduct points if the leash either touches or does not touch the ground

Sit Stay – Handler Walk around the Ring (Basic B)

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position . Orders for this exercise are: Sit your dog, Leave your dog, and Exercise finished.

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in approximately the center of a marked 20' x 20' perimeter within the ring . Prior to starting the exercise, the Judge will ask if the handler is ready . The leash remains attached to the dog's collar and will be dropped/placed on the ground between the dog and the handler at the Judge's command . When the Judge gives the order Sit your dog, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if not already sitting . The Judge will order Leave your dog, and the handler will give a command and/ or signal to stay and then walk 10 feet straight out from in front of their dog . The handler will then turn either to the right or left as directed by the Judge and walk the perimeter of the 20' x 20' marked area . Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the marked area, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position . Once the handler has returned to heel position, the Judge will give the order Exercise finished

Sit Stay on Leash Scoring

Scoring of the exercise will not start until after the Judge has ordered the handler to sit his dog, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it Sit .Major deductions

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog moves a substantial distance away from place it was left• Gets out of sit position• Repeated barking and whining• Additional command or signal by the handler	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog moves a short distance from where it was left• Barks or whines once or twice• Dog changes position after handler returns to heel position	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor whine or bark• Excessively loud commands• Handler error

Recall on Leash (Basic A)

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly . Orders are: Leave your dog, Call your dog, and Exercise finished . On order from the Judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position . The handler will then walk forward, to the end of the six-foot leash, and turn to face the dog . On the Judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come . The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler . The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement while the dog is coming to the handler will be allowed without penalty . (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed .)

Recall off Leash (Basic B)

This exercise differs from the “Basic A” . The leash is removed for this exercise and kept by the handler . When the handler removes the leash, s/he may hold it in any manner using one or both hands, or draped around the neck .After the Judge’s command to leave the dog, the handler will then walk forward, across the ring approximately 10 feet and turn to face the dog . On the Judge’s order or signal, the handler will command and/ or signal the dog to come . The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler . The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot .After the Judge orders Exercise finished, the leash is reattached to the dog’s collar .A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement while the dog is coming to the handler will be allowed without penalty . (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed . Caution should be taken to not fidget with the leash but to keep the hands calm and steady

Section 11. Recall Scoring

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog does not come on first command or signal • Dog moved from position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra command or signal to stay • Anticipated recall command • Dog sat out of reach • Dog leaves handler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog stood or lay down or touched handler • Slow response or sat between feet • No sit or poor sit • Lack of naturalness or smoothness • Handler error

Chapter 4: Pre-Novice

The Pre-Novice class is for the handler and dog that have received a purple at the State 4-H Dog Show in Basic A and/or B . Teams may move up to Pre-Novice regardless of County or State ribbon placing

Section 2. Pre-Novice Exercises and Scoring

Exercise	Points
Heel on Leash	50
Figure Eight on Leash	25
Stand for Examination (off leash)	40
Recall (off leash)	45
Stay—Down	40
Maximum Total Score	200

Heel on Leash & Figure Eight

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the ability of the handler and dog to work as a team . Orders for this exercise are Forward, Halt, Right Turn, Left Turn, About Turn, Slow, Normal, and Fast . All About Turns will be right about turns . Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at normal speed . The other orders may be given in any sequence and turns, and halts may be repeated.

The leash must be six feet in length . It may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position . Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized .The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position . The Judge will say to the handler, Are you ready? The handler should answer either Yes, or No . When the handler is ready the Judge will give the order, Forward . The handler and dog walk briskly, and in a natural manner, with the dog on a loose leash . The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding . The area from the dog's head to shoulder should be in line with the handler's left hip . The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time . The handler may give a command OR signal to heel, NOT both.

Remaining Orders given by the Judge:

- **Halt:** When the Judge says, Halt, the handler stops . The dog should sit straight and promptly in the heel position . The handler should not give a command OR signal to the dog . The dog should not move until the handler again moves forward on the Judge's command . After each halt, the handler is permitted to give a command OR signal to heel before again moving forward .
 - **Right Turn:** When the Judge says, Right Turn, the handler and dog make a ninety-degree (90°) turn to the right . This turn should be made squarely .
 - **Left Turn:** When the Judge says, Left Turn, the handler and dog make a ninety-degree (90°) turn to the left . This turn should be made squarely .
 - **About Turn:** When the Judge says, About Turn, the handler and dog make a one hundred-eighty degree (180°) turn to the right .
 - **Slow:** When the Judge says, Slow, the handler and dog walk at a noticeably slower pace than normal .
 - **Normal:** The handler and dog begin the heeling pattern at a normal pace . After the Judge gives the order to walk Slow, or Fast, he/she will give the order, Normal . The handler and dog then return to a normal pace .
 - **Fast:** When the Judge says, Fast, the handler and dog must run, moving forward at a noticeably accelerated pace. At the completion of the Heel exercise, the Judge will say, Exercise finished . At this time, it is appropriate for the handler to praise his/her dog.
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Figure Eight

For this exercise, the handler will stand, and the dog will sit in heel position facing the Judge, midway between the two stewards who will be standing eight feet apart . The Judge will ask, Are you ready? The handler will say, Yes or No . After the handler and dog are ready, the Judge will give the order, Forward . The handler may choose to go in either direction . The handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice . The Judge will order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end . There will be no about turn, fast, or slow during this exercise . At the completion of the Figure Eight exercise, the Judge will say, Exercise finished . At this time, it is appropriate for the handler to praise his/her dog .The leash is removed for the remaining exercises and kept by the handler . When the handler removes the leash, s/he may hold it in any manner using one or both hands, or draped around the neck.

Heel on Leash & Figure Eight Scoring

In scoring this exercise the Judge shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that he can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog . The Judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler.

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unmanageable• Unqualified heeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler continually adapts pace to dog• Constant tugging on leash or guiding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improper heel position• Occasional tight leash• Forging or crowding handler• Lagging or sniffing• Extra command to heel or sit• Heeling wide including turns and abouts• No change of pace including fast and slow• No sits or poor sits• Lack of naturalness or smoothness• Handler error

Stand for Examination off Leash

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to stand and stay in position before, during, and after the examination without displaying resentment . The orders given by the Judge are, Stand your dog, and Leave when you are ready, Back to your dog, and Exercise finished .

On the Judge's order, the handler will take his/her dog to the place indicated by the Judge and have the dog sit in heel position . On the Judge's order to Stand your dog and Leave when you are ready the handler will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if he/she chooses to pose the dog as in the show ring . The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position and give the command and/or signal to stay . The handler will then leave from heel position, walk straight forward about six feet, and turn and face the dog .The Judge will approach the dog from the front . Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the Judge will touch the dog's head, body, and hindquarters . On the order Back to your dog, the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position . The dog must remain standing, without moving its feet, until the Judge has said, Exercise finished . At this time it is appropriate for the handler to praise his/her dog . The dog must not show any shyness or resentment during this exercise

Stand for Examination Scoring

The scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to Stay, except for such things as rough treatment of the dog by its handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to make it stand.

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog moves away or sits before examination• Dog growls or snaps• Leaves ring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog moves away or sits during examination• Dog shows shyness or resentment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog resists handler posing• Extra command to stay• Dog moves slightly• Dog sits as handler returns• Lack of naturalness or smoothness• Handler error

Recall off leash

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to stay where left until called by the handler, and for the dog to respond promptly to the handler's command or signal to come . The orders given by the Judge are, Leave your dog, Call your dog, and Finish . The handler will take the dog to the place designated by the Judge and have the dog sit in the heel position . On the Judge's order, Leave your dog, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position . The handler will then walk forward approximately 20 feet turn to face the dog, standing with the hand not holding the leash hanging naturally at the side of the body . On the Judge's order or signal to Call your dog, the handler will either command OR signal the dog to come, NOT both . The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler . The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot . The dog should not touch the handler or sit between the handler's feet .On the Judge's order to Finish, the handler will give a command OR signal to finish, NOT both . The dog must go promptly to heel position and sit straight at heel . The method by which the dog goes to heel position is optional

Down Stay – Handler Walk around the Ring

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the down position . Orders for this exercise are: Down your dog, Leave your dog, and Exercise finished .The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in approximately the center of the ring . Prior to starting the exercise, the Judge will ask if the handler is ready . When the Judge gives the order Down your dog, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to down . The Judge will order Leave your dog, and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and then walk straight forward to the end of the ring . The handler will then turn either to the right or left as directed by the Judge and walk the perimeter of the ring . Upon completing a full perimeter walk, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position . Once the handler has returned to heel position, the Judge will give the order Exercise finished.

Down Stay Scoring

Scoring of the exercise will not start until after the Judge has ordered the handler to leave his dog, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it Lie Down

Section 8. Recall Scoring

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog does not come on first command or signal • Dog moved from position • Leaves ring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra command or signal to stay • Anticipated recall command • Dog sat out of reach • Dog leaves handler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog stood or lay down or touched handler • Slow response or sat between feet • No sit or poor sit • No finish or poor finish • Extra command to finish • Lack of naturalness or smoothness • Handler error

Down Stay Scoring

Major deductions	Substantial deductions	Minor deductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog moves a substantial distance away from place it was left • Gets out of down position before handler's first turn • Repeated barking and whining • Additional command or signal by the handler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog moves a short distance from where it was left • Dog stood or sat after handler's first turn • Barks or whines once or twice • Dog changes position after handler returns to heel position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor whine or bark • Excessively loud commands • Dog stood or sat after handler's last turn • Handler error





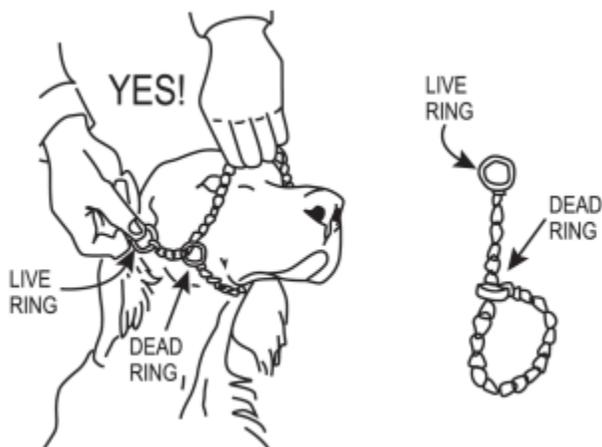
Proper sit / heel position. Note how the hands are holding the leash.



Profile sit/heal position. Note where dog is and hand position.



Stand for Exam



Proper way to put on training choke collar. NEVER leave on dog when not training.



LEFT: Proper heel execution

BELOW: Proper execution of long stay, on leash



Dog and Handler Footwork



LEFT TURN



ABOUT TURN



RIGHT TURN

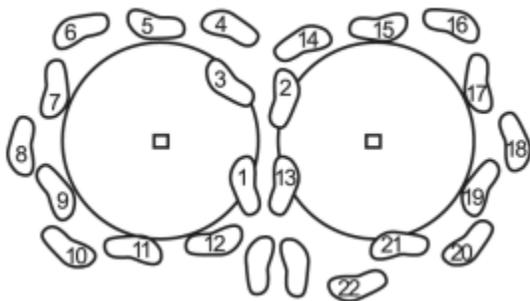


FIGURE 8 Footwork



4 Man Dog Team Executing an Off Leash Pattern



Standard Execution of Long Sit/Stay Off Leash

Beginning Dog Training Lessons

Dog training is not a person working and a dog working –it is a person and a dog working as a team. To become and remain a team, you must concentrate completely on your work and you must get and keep the undivided attention of your dog.

There are several ways to keep your dog's attention. The first is to put his collar on properly, close behind his ears. Talk to him or make a quick turn and jerk his leash when you suspect his attention has wandered. When he is heeling say "Good!" in a pleasant, confident voice. This is especially important in the first two or three classes. You may say your dog's name once just before a verbal command or before a verbal command and signal. You may not say his name and then give only a signal. Do not say his name in "Stay" commands. Release your dog from training only from the sitting position at your heel.

Training should be a happy time for you and your dog. If you find you are losing your temper, stop everything until you are calm. Be patient. You may have to repeat a word or command many times before your dog begins to understand. In competition the judge gives penalties for commands he thinks are too loud. Correction and praise are important. When your dog makes a mistake, correct him immediately while he can still associate the correction with the mistake. Praise every achievement immediately because your dog values your approval and praise is his only proof that he has that approval.



Lesson 1: Teaching the Heel and Sit

When heeling, the dog should walk at your left side, the area from the back of the head to the shoulder in line with your left hip.

When you halt he is to sit squarely at your left, his shoulder still even with your knee.

Teaching to heel

1. Place your dog in the sitting position at your left, his collar on properly, close behind his ears.
2. Fold the leash neatly into your right hand and hold it about waist high.
3. Let your left arm hang at your side and control the leash with your left hand. You will use sharp corrections with this hand when warranted.

Upon your instructor's command, "Forward," you should:

1. Say your dog's name and "Heel" in a commanding voice, neither weak and pleading nor loud and harsh.
2. Step forward with your left foot. Give a jerk with the leash at the same time. Eventually, the jerk will be unnecessary.
3. As soon as your dog starts to move, encourage him with enthusiastic praise, saying "Good boy! Good boy!" Heel at a brisk pace. If he will not move, do not drag him, but apply a sharp correction, saying his name and "Heel." As soon as he starts and LOTS and LOTS of excited praise as he learns to come with you at your side.
4. If he forges ahead, jerk him back and say "Heel." If he lags behind, jerk him forward. The jerk on the leash must come only a split second after you say "Heel." If you jerk forward first and say heel a few seconds later, it will be much more difficult for the dog to learn.

Most handlers make the mistake of keeping the leash tight when teaching the dog to heel. The leash should be loose so the dog can make mistakes of lagging behind, forging ahead or going wide. (See Image 3.) When he makes these mistakes, he learns through a jerk on the leash and when he is heeling close he learns that he receives praise. When the leash is kept tight all the time, he only learns to dislike the whole idea of training.

Teaching the sit

Upon your instructor's command, "Halt," you do not repeat the command but merely stop on your right foot, bringing your left foot alongside your right and give the command, "Sit." Quickly reach across your body with your right hand and grasp the leash about 12 inches from the training collar. Place your left hand on the dog's rump and push down while pulling the leash taut and up with your right hand. Only pull the leash taut; otherwise, the dog will struggle against it. Be sure to pull it straight up or slightly back – not side to side. If you pull across your body, it will make the dog sit at an angle rather than straight. Remember to praise him as soon as he sits.