

# HELPFUL HINTS FOR SHOWING IN OBEDIENCE

Get a copy of the AKC rule book and read Chapters 1 & 2 and also the Novice rules and regulations.

Plan on arriving at the show approx. 1 ½ hours before judging.

When you arrive leave the dog in the car. Take your crate (YES CRATE); chair, water, dog bag, making sure you have some yummy treats to the Novice ring or designated crating area.. If indoors, set up your crate as close to the Novice ring as possible.

Then go to your car, exercise your dog, making sure he eliminates.

Then bring him in and walk him around the obedience area. Play a few games; heel him around, making sure you have his attention. Then put him/her in a crate to settle down..

When the table steward has arrived and is handing out armbands; go to the table and pick up your number.

## NOVICE

If you are in NOVICE A, the judge will do a briefing; bring you into the ring (without your dog) and go through the exercises and the heeling pattern. Most times you will get an opportunity to walk the heeling pattern. Make sure you take advantage of the offer.

In NOVICE B just before the class is about to start; the Judge will show the first exhibitor the heeling pattern. MAKE SURE YOU WATCH. Also watch the first few exhibitors in the ring. You will see where the Judge wants you to set up for the figure 8 and the Stand for Examination and the recall.

Next take your dog out of the crate and practice the heeling pattern and any other exercises you feel your dog needs. Then take your dog out and potty again (make sure you have poop bags with you). Then bring dog in and crate once again. When the exhibitor before you enters the ring; take your dog out of the crate; warm up with lots of praise and treats. I have a little thing I do; I put the treats on the chair; warm up some without treats; release, go to the chair and give the treats. This way the dog always knows the treats are on your chair for the reward at a show.

When it is your turn to go into the ring; Make sure your dog has a properly fitted collar, not too large nor too small, no tags hanging from the collar; be at ring side with a big smile. Make sure there are no tags on your dogs show collar; you have nothing hanging from your clothing; your fanny pack is off; no keys hanging from your belt; no cell phone attached to your belt. The judge will show you where to start. Walk briskly to the start line talking to your dog as you go. If your dog does not want to sit; do not position him into a sit; do a “U” turn toward the dog and tell him to sit as you halt.

REMEMBER THE MINUTE YOU ENTER THE RING; THERE ARE NO CORRECTIONS. NO COLLAR POPS OR CORRECTIONS. IF YOU DO, THESE

WILL COME OFF AS “MISBEHAVIOR COLUMN” Listen carefully to the judge. I mentally repeat the Judge’s command then perform it; this helps me to concentrate. Make sure you have a little “J” in the leash and not a tight lead. If the dog starts to lag, do not slow down, keep going at your normal pace. Make sure you do a good SLOW and FAST. Let the dog make the mistake; do not compound it with your mistakes.

In Novice you are allowed to guide your dog by the collar between exercises.

You will do the Heel on Leash and Figure 8. Then you will hand the leash to the steward and take your dog by the collar and guide him/her to the Stand for Exam spot. Take your time setting your dog up. You can say a million times STAND, but the minute you say STAY, the exercise has begun.

So, say stand; Stand your dog; make sure he is comfortable – NEXT STAND IN HEEL POSITION – give a stay and go approximately 6 ft away; turn and face your dog. DO NOT BACK UP. The judge will examine your dog – then tell you to return to your dog; you will go around your dog returning to HEEL POSITION.

Then you will guide your dog to the heel free, by gently guiding by the collar to the start spot indicated by the judge. Take your hands off the collar and follow instructions again. When the heel free is over; guide your dog to the recall spot. Make sure you stand up straight when you give a stay and walk briskly to the other end of the ring. Call your dog; DO NOT BOB YOUR HEAD OR BODY; KEEPING YOUR HANDS HANGING NATURALLY AT YOUR SIDES . when the dog has sat front or stood front; then the judge will give the finish command – USE ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

VOICE, KEEPING HANDS AT SIDE Call dog in a pleasant manner, you may use the dog’s name, followed immediately by the come command you use.

HAND SIGNAL – GIVING DOG SIGNAL THEN RETURN HAND AT SIDE. No verbal, you cannot say the dog’s name verbally, then use a hand signal.

WHEN JUDGE HAS SAID EXERCISE FINISHED;

Again you may guide the dog to the place indicated by the Judge for the Sit- Get Your Leash exercise.

The judge will ask “Are You Ready”. Once you say “YES”, the exercise has begun.

The judge will say “Leave Your Dog To Get Your Leash”

You will give your dog a stay, go directly to the spot your leash is placed; pick up your leash, turn and stand on the place indicated on the mat.

The Judge will say “ Back To Your Dog”

You will go directly to your dog, going around your dog to the heel position.

Judge will say “Exercise Finished”.

You will clip your dog’s leash to the collar and leave the ring, making sure your dog is under control as you exit the ring.

PRAISE YOUR DOG AS YOU LEAVE THE RING; GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR CHAIR AND JACKPOT HIM WITH A TREAT. DO NOT STOP AND TALK TO ANYONE UNTIL YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM HIS REWARD

## BEGINNER NOVICE

Rally signs will be used for the heeling portion of the exercises. The signs will be placed to the right of the handler's path, except for those indicating a change in direction. The signs will then be placed directly in front of the team to aid the change.

The signs will include:

Right Turn; Left Turn; About Turn, Slow and Normal signs; Fast and Normal signs and the last sign will be a Halt/Sit.

The judge will set up the course using the above signs. There may be more than one right turn, left turn and about turn but only one slow, normal, fast, normal.

The leash can be held with one hand or both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position.

Once the judge has set up the signs for the heeling and the figure "8", the judge will then indicate where the sit for exam will be placed as well as the sit/stay walk around. The judge usually marks the recall which will be 25ft in length.

When the judge finishes setting up the ring, he will call in the exhibitors and explain each exercise and where he wishes the exercises to start. You will be allowed to walk the course and get comfortable with it.

The walk thru will be a maximum of 10 minutes.

Once everyone leaves the ring, the judge will start the judging procedure with the Heel on Leash Exercise.

The steward will call in the exhibitor and dog. The judge will greet you and will indicate where he wishes you to start.

He will ask "Are You Ready". Once you have answered YES, the exercise has started.

The judge will say "Forward" and not say anything else until you reach the halt/sit. Then he will say "Exercise Finished". You will do the heeling course on your own.

Remember during this exercise you may use a phrase of praise once at a place of your choice. If your dog lags on the about turn, then you can say, good dog or if the dog lags on the fast, you can say super. Use it to your advantage.

After the heel on leash, you will be directed to the figure 8. There will be two cones, 8 feet apart. You will start in the center, always facing the judge, go around each cone once, the judge will call a halt. Then the judge will call forward and you will go around the cones once again and the judge will call a halt.

Once again you can use a phrase of praise during the figure 8.

Once the judge has said "Exercise Finished", you can verbally praise your dog as well as pet your dog. Make it short and do not delay judging.

The next exercise is the Sit for Exam.

The judge will say, Sit your dog and leave when ready. There will be no further instructions from the judge. You are on your own until the judge says "Back to Your Dog"

You can take your time sitting the dog.

Make sure the dog is sitting and you have the leash loose when you leave the dog, so the leash does not pull the dog from its position. You can give your dog a hand and voice

command to STAY, go to the end of the leash, turn and face your dog. Do not allow your leash to hit the floor.

The judge will touch your dog's head and then back away and say to you "Back to your dog". The judge will then say, "Exercise Finished". Once again you can pet and praise your dog.

SIT/STAY – Walk around.

The judge will indicate where you will sit your dog and which direction you should go in after you leave your dog (Left or Right). The judge will ask "Are you ready?". Once you say "YES", you will leave your dog, go straight out toward the baby gate and turn the way the judge has indicated and proceed to walk around the ring, ending up where you made your first turn, face your dog and return to heel position.

The judge will give the command "Exercise Finished"

Minor/Substantial points off for the dog that moves slightly or that barks or whines once or twice.

Substantial points off for an extra command and/or signal to stay after you have given the first command to stay.

RECALL:

The judge will indicate where he wishes you to stand with your dog sitting in heel position. He will also have a marker on the floor where he wishes you to stand, facing the dog for the recall portion of the exercise.

Most of the time the judge will say, you may take your leash off, put it around your neck, hold it in your hand or put it in your pocket.

You will then remove the leash and put it in any one of the above places.

The judge will ask "Are You Ready?". Once you have said yes, the exercise has begun.

Judge will say, "Leave your dog".

You can give a voice and hand signal when you leave your dog and proceed to designated spot, turn and face your dog. Your hands must be at your sides.

The judge may use a verbal "Call Your Dog" or use a hand signal for you to call your dog.

You may then either use a voice command or a signal calling your dog. You cannot combine voice and signal (verbal dog's name, then hand signal to come). When the dog is coming directly to you, you can give a phrase of praise midway (good, super, yes, etc).

The dog must come close enough to its handler so that the handler can touch the dog's head without excess bending or stretching forward, or moving a foot.

There is no finish in this exercise.

The judge will say "Exercise Finished"

You will then take your leash and clip the leash to your dog's collar.

If your dog does not come on the first command, you may give a second command for the dog to come. You will receive a substantial deduction for the second command.

Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

Substantial deduction for a no sit in front (dog stands).

Substantial deduction for the dog that comes in slowly.

Remember when exiting the ring, the dog must be under control, not pulling you out of the ring.

