

Training Tips

I have been observing that during class students are not waiting for the instructor to give the commands for individual exercises.

Always wait for the instructor's commands. There is a definite reason for this.

Recall, Drop on Recall, Command Discrimination, Signals, all retrieves.

When leaving your dog on any exercise, wait for the instructor's order "Leave Your Dog". This will clue your dog that an exercise is going to begin and that the dog should listen for the handler's direction.

After you have gotten to the other side of the ring, turn and wait for the next command. Again this is a clue to the dog that something is coming. If you turn and call your dog before the instructor gives the command, the dog is not being clued in that a command is coming. In fact you are teaching your dog to anticipate. If you do this in training, what do you think your dog is going to do in the ring.

This also applies to all retrieves – wait for the instructor's command to send your dog.

Finishes: After your dog sits front and you finish your dog before the instructor's command, you are again teaching your dog to anticipate. In the ring, lots of points are lost 3 to 5 points for each infraction.

In the ring the instructor's commands are substituted for the judge's command. You should be teaching your dog to clue in to another person's voice that the exercise is going to start and the dog should be waiting for your voice/command.

Remember: What you teach in training will reflect what your dog will do in the ring. Every student should have a rule book with them at all times. It should be part of your training equipment and in your training bag.

Remember: You can't play the game, if you don't know the rules.

If you are unsure of how an exercise should be performed, ask your instructor. Your instructor will go over it and discuss it with you. This will not only benefit you but your fellow students as well.

The only stupid question is the one that is never asked.

Happy training,

Phyllis