

Project OnLine

What to expect in the obedience ring judging day.

Arrive in plenty of time to allow for travel, and getting setup at the show site. Be sure to bring necessary papers signed by your dog project leader, county Extension educator and your veterinarian. Walk around without the dog and find out where your ring is. Pick up your armband. A typical ring is 50 ft x 50 ft and has low ring gates marking the perimeter of the area. An inside ring has rubber matting and an outside ring is in mowed grass. Watch some of the other exhibitors so you get familiar with the sequence of the obedience routine. When it is your turn, the ring steward will call your number. Walk up to the entrance but DO NOT enter the ring until the judge invites you to come in. When the judge invites you to come into the ring, walk in and go to the place the judge indicates. The judge will ask if you have any questions. Now is the time to ask if you do not understand something. Don't be afraid—the judge wants you to succeed and will answer your questions. After answering your questions, the judge will ask again "Are you ready?" answer "Yes Ma'am/Sir". After your answer, the judge will begin judging.

Heel on Leash and Figure 8

Judge orders "Forward" which means to heel forward in a straight line.

Handler cues "(dog name), heel."

Judge orders "Halt" which means to stop and the dog automatically sits without the handler saying anything.

Judge orders "Right turn" which means to turn to your right

Judge orders "Left turn" which means turn to your left.

Judge orders "About turn" which means to turn to the right away from the dog.

Judge orders "Slow, Normal or Fast." Fast means the handler must run and move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed.

Judge orders "Exercise finished". This means you can talk, pet and lead your dog to the next exercise.

Figure 8

For the figure eight, the handler and dog will stand facing the judge, midway between the two posts, who are standing 8 feet apart. Judge orders, "This is the Figure 8 exercise. You may go in either direction. Are you ready?" Answer "Yes Ma'am/Sir." Judge orders "Forward and halt." After you have been around twice, the judge will say "Halt, exercise finished".

Stand for Exam

Bring your dog over to the place the judge indicates. Judge orders, "This is the stand for exam. Are you ready?" Answer "Yes Ma'am/Sir." Judge orders "stand your dog and leave when ready." Press down on the dog's shoulders and rear to be sure the dog is square and ready before giving the cue to stay. Give the dog the stand cue and walk out to the end of your six-foot leash. It is very important to use the leash to gauge the distance because a judge can count points off if you are too far or too close to the dog. The judge will put down the clipboard and walk up to your dog from the front. The judge will touch the head, run his/her hands down the back and touch the dog's rear end down to the tail. The dog must remain motionless until you return. Judge orders "Return to your dog" so walk around behind the dog and return to heel position. Judge orders "Exercise finished."

Recall

Lead your dog to the spot the judge indicates.

Judge orders "This is the recall exercise. Are you ready?" Answer "Yes Ma'am/Sir."

Judge orders "Leave your dog." Have your dog sit at heel, then give the cue to stay and go out to the end of the leash. Wait. The judge will wait to see if the dog will anticipate the recall. Judge orders, "Call your dog." You say " (dog name), come." The dog comes at a brisk trot or gallop and sits straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough so the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. Judge orders "Finish." You give the cue to finish and the dog goes promptly around behind or goes around promptly to the left or swings. The dog should end up squarely at heel position. Judge orders "Exercise finished."

Group Exercises—Long Sit and Long Down

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sitting or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise. Judge orders "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs" and "Back to your dogs".

All competing dogs perform this exercise together. The steward will line up the teams in the order the judge specifies. Each handler's armband, weighted as necessary, will be placed behind the dog and the leash also if performing off lead. The dog spacing can be as close as four feet apart.

The Heel and Sit

When heeling, the dog should walk at your left side, his 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

Place your dog in the sitting position at your left, his collar on properly, close behind his ears. Fold the leash neatly into your right hand and hold it about waist high. Let your left arm hang at your side and control the leash with your left hand. Jerk the leash sharply to keep control. Upon your instructor's command "Forward", you should do three things:

1. Say your dog's name and "Heel" in a commanding voice, neither weak nor loud and harsh.
2. Step forward with your left foot.
3. Give a slight jerk with the leash, if necessary (first week only). 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 jerk the leash repeatedly, saying his name and "Heel." As soon as he starts to move, praise him and keep him moving. If he forges ahead, jerk him back and say "Heel". If he lags behind, encourage him by patting your leg and calling his name.

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. When he makes these mistakes, he learns through your corrections 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 of "Halt", don't repeat the command but just stop on your right foot, bringing your left foot alongside your right and give the command "Sit". Hold a treat over your dog's nose. Slowly move it backwards. The dog's eyes will follow

the treat; say "Sit." As his head goes back, the rump will automatically go down and the dog will be sitting. As soon as he sits, give him the treat and lots of praise.

Some trainers avoid using bait when training in obedience since bait is not allowed in the obedience ring. Another way to get the dog to sit is to pull up and back with the leash in your right hand while pushing down on the rump with your left hand as you clearly say, "Sit."

In an "about turn" command you should pivot on your right foot, encouraging your dog to walk around you as you turn. Remember to turn slowly at first so your dog can keep up. Accompany this exercise with lots of praise.

The Long Sit

The dog is to remain sitting for one minute. To teach the long sit, hold the leash in your left hand, swing your right hand, palm open, in front of his nose and say "Stay". Be strict. Demand total obedience.

Step off smartly on your right foot and turn to face your dog. If he moves, return him instantly to his original position. Repeat the command to stay and step off. Begin by moving directly in front of your dog and moving backwards gradually. This is especially important to an insecure or shy dog.

Return to the heel position by walking around the dog from his left side to his right. Keep the leash from dragging across his face.

The Long Down

The dog is to remain in the down position for three minutes. A medium to large dog may be placed in the down position using the following method: With your dog sitting in the heel position at your left, kneel beside him. Reach your left arm over his shoulders and grasp his left front leg in your left hand and his right front leg with your right hand. Lift his legs while hooking your left elbow in his flank, causing his body to roll toward you and his legs to go out away from you. Then place your open-palmed right hand slightly above the dog's head and eyes and say, "Down".

Use this method to get a medium to large dog from the sitting position to the down position: Kneel at his right side, lift his right front leg in your right hand and then press down on his shoulders with your left hand.

Get a small dog into the down position either by folding his legs or pulling down on his training collar while pressing him down. Place your hand inside the training collar so that it does choke him. Say "Down," your voice falling at the end of the word. When he is down, stroke him over the head and neck, helping him relax.

After he is down and seems relaxed, slowly get up giving the "Stay" hand signal as for the sit-stay and, stepping off with your right foot, move in front of him. If he has stayed down, step back to the end of the leash for a few moments and then return by walking around him to the right. The leash should pass to his left and not drag across his face. Do not allow him to sit when you return.

Although the exercise is finished you should say his name and "Heel". Take two steps forward and halt, order him to sit and then give him plenty of praise. This will make it clear to him that he should not sit when you return.

After he seems to have learned the down position, step back to the end of the leash and keep him in the down position for a minute or more. Within a week he should stay in the down position for three minutes.

If he moves, scold and quickly put him back in the down position. The distractions of other dogs are important in obedience training as after several weeks most dogs calm down considerably and may even ignore them. Dogs choose many different down positions, all of which are acceptable. They may change their position while in the down position, but must not creep or crawl.

The dog is learning that the word "Down" means to lie down. Do not use this word for anything else. If the dog jumps on the furniture or puts his muddy paws upon you, say, "No" or "Off." Never use the word "Down" unless you want him to lie down.

Slow, Normal and Fast Heeling

In an obedience trial, you will be required to heel your dog at slow, normal and fast pace. Upon the order "Slow" from the judge, heeling should quickly change to a definite slow pace that may be easily distinguished from the normal pace. When the order "Fast" is given, the handler and dog must break into a run. The dog should remain in the heel position. The order for a slow, normal or fast pace may be given in any sequence.

The Stand for Examination

At an obedience trial, the judge will require your dog to stand for examination. Upon the order, "Stand your dog," you should put your dog in the "stand" position. Take the time you need to get your dog standing squarely. When you think he will remain standing and stay for the examination, say "Stay," giving the hand signal and stepping in front of your dog. Stand facing your dog, holding his leash loose and clear of the floor. The exercise does not start until you say "Stay" and move away from your dog. If you say "Stay" a second time, you will be marked for a double command and lose points. The judge will approach your dog from the front; he/she will let the dog smell his/her hand and then touch the dog's head, back and hindquarters. He/she may also move his/her hand slowly down the dog's back and apply a slight pressure to make sure the dog is standing firm. Your dog should not move his feet. After the judge has finished the examination, he/she will step back and say, "Back to your dog." After you have returned to your dog, he/she will say, "Exercise finished." You should then say "(dog name), heel," take two steps forward and order him into the sitting position. Then give him praise.

Handling by a stranger may be difficult for your dog and will require some practice, so put your dog in a standing position and ask a friend to examine him.

The Recall (Part 1)

The first part of the recall is to teach your dog to come when called. Put your dog in the sitting position at your heel. Swing your left hand in front of his nose and say "Stay." Step away from the dog on your right foot, going to the end of the leash and facing him. Say "(dog name), come." Make it a happy call that will make him want to obey. As soon as he starts to move, run backward several steps gathering up the leash and guide him directly to your front within fingertip reach. He must not touch you nor sit between your feet.

Give him the command to sit. If necessary, jerk up on the leash. It should not be necessary for you to reach over him and push down on his rump. When he is sitting squarely in front of you, praise him but do not pat him on the head or praise him so much

that he jumps about. After he has sat properly and you have praised him, give the command and signal (right hand fingers pointed down) to "Stay." Go to your right, walking around the dog to the heel position. Then give plenty of praise. Never scold or do anything unkind that he might associate with coming to you. He should want to come to you.

The Recall (Part II)

The second part of the recall is to move your dog from directly in front of you back to the heel position. There are two acceptable ways of teaching this.

Do not always use the same routine, otherwise he will anticipate your command and will get into the habit of walking up to you and going directly to the heel position. Sometimes when you are heeling, halt, have him sit as usual, command him to stay, step directly in front of him and return to his side instead of having him go to heel. This will also make it less boring for him.

To send a large dog to your right: It may be awkward for him to make a small circle to your left. Hold the leash about 12" from the neck for more control, say "(dog name), heel." Take a full step back on your right foot and guide your dog around your back to your right. As your dog goes behind, step forward and change the leash from right to left hand behind your back. Guide him to your left heel and command him to sit. Don't forget the praise.

Another method to finish small and medium dogs is to send them to your left. Hold the leash in your left hand 12" from the neck, say "(dog name), heel." Take a short step back on your left and guide him through a counterclockwise circle. Do not accept crooked sitting--insist on straight sitting from the start.

The Figure 8

The purpose of the Figure 8 is to teach your dog to walk close to people, animals or objects without touching or sniffing. A dog substituting as an object receives training as valuable as that received by the dog making the Figure 8. The Figure 8 is a variation of heeling. Walk your dog around two objects or people about eight feet apart, making a Figure 8 by crossing between them.

Start about two feet in front of the objects, one toward your left, and the other toward your right. Say "(dog name), heel" and guide him around one of the objects and then around the other, making a cross in the center. Heel close to the objects and at a faster than normal rate to prevent lagging.

In an obedience trial, the handler and dog go around the Figure 8 twice with at least one halt during and another halt at the end of the exercise.

When training, walk faster when your dog is circling next to the obstacle. Slow down when you are next to the obstacle. Keep your pace consistent when in the show ring.

After completing this training, your dog should have a basic knowledge of the commands and signals used in obedience training. Do not be discouraged if your dog makes mistakes. Dogs that perform to near perfection have usually been trained for several years. Have patience and vary the exercises so neither you nor your dog will tire of them.

Training Is Terrific, Part 2

Project Online

Dingo Lingo—for Web

Patience the act of waiting for the dog to offer the behavior you want.

Behavior is getting the dog to act in a particular way. It can be simple or complex.

Back chaining teaching the dog the last behavior first, then adding the next to the last behavior and so on until the last behavior added is the first one.

Attention the act of the dog looking at you and knowing what you are doing/wanting.

Cue is a word or signal used to tell the dog what behavior you want. Cues can be unintentional or intentional.

Reward something given after the dog performs a cue.

Lure having the dog follow your hand/stick where ever it goes.

Bribe a training aid not faded correctly. This results in the dog not performing unless the training aid is present.

Fade means to gradually reduce a training aid, food, or a cue until it is gone and not needed.

Duration refers to how long a dog will perform a behavior

Distance refers to how far away from the handler will the dog perform a behavior.

Distraction refers to how well the dog can focus on performing a behavior while something else more interesting is happening close by.

Forge means the dog is walking/running ahead of you.

Lag means the dog is walking/running behind you.

Two-fers Now repeat the whole exercise but only give your dog a treat every other time.

Three-fers Now repeat the whole exercise but only give the dog a treat every third time.

Jackpot means to give the dog many treats one at a time one right after the other.

Advanced Obedience Training Exercises

The Novice Course

The Heel Off Leash. The heel off leash starts from the heel position. Unsnap the leash and have your dog sitting squarely at your heel.

Upon the command, "Forward", from your instructor, step off on your left foot while saying the dog's name and "Heel". If he lags or heels wide, give him encouragement to heel by saying his name and repeating the command. If he bolts away, put him back on the leash immediately. Do not let him think you lack control over him because he is off the leash.

It is important that you show confidence in your dog when training but especially when he is doing exercises off leash. When you step off to heel, give the command in a confident manner and step out briskly. Do not hesitate to see if he is keeping up or your dog will almost certainly lag behind and stop. Do the heel off leash for short periods of time; then place him back on leash for more heeling.

Before heeling your dog off leash, you may want to test him by hanging the leash around your neck. You may also want to use fishing line attached to the dog's leash and your belt to build confidence before going off-lead entirely. Walk faster if your dog lags. Talk to him encouragingly and praise him when he does well.

Heel on Leash, Heel Free and Figure 8

The Graduate Novice Course

The heel free and Figure 8 are combined into one exercise. Training methods remain the same. Remember to alternate the off leash and on leash training. If your dog lags when doing the Figure 8, you may encourage him to go faster by taking short, quick steps especially on the curve where he has the outside path. It may also help to hold a treat in your left hand while training to discourage lagging.

Stand for Examination Off Leash

At this point in training your dog will probably do this exercise well. Repeat it often enough, especially with a stranger, to keep him performing well.

Drop on Recall

Place your dog in the sitting position and step two or three feet away in front of him. While saying "Down", quickly raise your right hand, palm open, slightly higher than your head; pause for only a moment and bring your hand down sharply. If your dog does not obey, use your left hand to jerk downward on the training collar. After he has been down for a short time, give him the command "Sit". You may need to give a jerk upward with the leash. Your dog should go down when your hand goes up. Holding your hand up for a moment the first few days of training may help him learn the signal, but it should soon be a quick up and down motion.

Vary your method of changing your dog from the down to the sitting position. Sometimes command him to sit when you are directly in front of him; other times go back to the heel position, pause a moment and then command him to sit.

After it appears that he understands the hand signal, occasionally leave off the verbal command. Gradually move to the end of the six-foot leash and give the signal and command, "Down." When teaching the down, insist on an immediate drop, not a slow sinking to the ground. Do not forget the praise. This is most important.

When your dog seems to understand and obeys your command when you are standing at the end of the leash, you may then remove it and drop him at short distances, gradually moving to 20 feet away. If he does not obey when off leash or at a distance of 20 feet, place him back on leash and repeat the training. For more control at a distance, you may attach a 20-foot lightweight cord. If he does not work well off leash, you will usually make faster progress by placing him back on the six-foot leash.

The next procedure is teaching your dog to go down from the standing position. Follow the same steps for teaching him the down from the sitting position: Leave him in the standing position, step two or three feet away in front of him and give the hand signal and command, "Down." Gradually move back to the end of the 20-foot leash, finally removing the leash and dropping him at this distance. Remember not to say his name before the command "Down."

Teaching the dog to drop in motion is the next step, but first be sure he understands the other steps. While heeling on leash, suddenly stop and quickly step backward saying your dog's name and "Come." When he starts coming toward you, stop suddenly and give the signal and command, "Down." If your training has been complete up to this point, he should drop on your first attempt. If he does not, give him a sharp correction by

putting him down with a jerk on the training collar. After he has been down a few moments, give him the command, "Sit." Then step backward quickly and say his name and "Come." Continue backward until he is in full motion; then stop and have him sit directly to your front just as when doing a recall. Be ready to pull up on the leash to put him in the sit as he may have learned too well on the first try and anticipates a down command. After he has sat in front, send him to heel as the finish of the recall. Alternate the down and coming to you as the recall. Do not allow him to anticipate commands.

The next step is taught off leash. Place your dog in the sit-stay and take a position 10 feet to his front. Say his name and "Come." When halfway to you, give the command and signal to down. Gradually increase the distance to 20 feet. Drop him at various distances. Alternate with straight recalls so that he will not anticipate commands.

If he slows down when coming to you in anticipation of a drop, start running backward and say "Come," encouraging him to speed up. Never drop him unless he is coming at full speed as it will only cause him to come in slower and drop without a command or signal.

- Do not forget to vary the exercises to prevent boredom.
- Do not forget the praise.

In an obedience trial, you may use either the command or signal to down your dog. Using both is considered a double command and will be scored against you. Using the signal is preferred as the dog will be more alert and will give you his undivided attention.

The Long Sit

The handler is out of sight for three minutes. Take him to a familiar training area where there are buildings, trees or bushes you can easily hide behind. Do not try to hide behind a single tree, a car or other object which might enable him to see a part of you.

Go through several exercises he does best to let him know he is training. Heel him where he can see the corner or edge of your hiding place. Order him to stay and then walk briskly and confidently away without a backward glance. The first several times you should not be out of sight more than a few moments. When you return, pause momentarily before praising and repeating the exercises. It is important that your dog have confidence that you will return to him. This can be accomplished by being out of sight for short periods of time at first and gradually extending the time to three minutes. First, disappear from his sight at short distances and gradually extend to the distance of as much as 100 feet.

If your dog breaks from the position to wander off or look for you, you will need a person to signal you so that you can take the dog back to the exact same spot and sternly give him the command to stay again. You may give him a jerk backward with the training collar to further emphasize his staying in that position. The quicker this is done the better your dog will understand.

The Long Down: The handler is out of sight for five minutes.

This exercise may be taught in the same manner as the long sit. Again, return to the training area that has a building, hallway or dense bushes that will hide you completely from his view. Place him in the down, give a firm command and signal to stay and walk briskly out of sight. Return after a short time and gradually extend the time to five minutes and the distance to 100 feet. Use the correction methods of the long sit.

Open Class

The Retrieve on Flat

With your dog on leash, throw the dumbbell about 10 feet, run toward it and command him to take it. Praise him if he does. Then step backward, command him to come with the dumbbell in his teeth. After several moments say "Out" and take it. If he refuses to take the dumbbell in the beginning, try pushing his head down while saying "Take it." Eventually increase the distance you throw the dumbbell and decrease the distance you run toward it. If your dog enjoys retrieving, remove the leash. Gradually increase the distance to 30 feet and start your dog from the sitting position.

For the retrieve on flat, the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge gives the order, "Throw it," whereupon the handler gives the command and signal, "Stay," and throws a dumbbell about 30 feet directly in front of the dog. He must not give the signal with the hand in which he holds the dumbbell. The judge will then say "Send your dog," whereupon the handler gives the command, "Take it." The dog should retrieve the dumbbell at a fast trot or gallop. He should sit straight in front within easy reach of the handler and hold the dumbbell in his mouth without chewing or mouthing it. The judge will then order "Take it," and the handler commands his dog "Out" and takes the dumbbell from him. The judge will then order "Finish" and the handler may then give the command or signal to heel as in the recall. The judge may then say, "Exercise finished."

The willingness to learn this exercise will vary a great deal among dogs, however, it is generally not difficult and offers more fun for both the dog and handler than perhaps the other exercises. It can also serve practical uses around the home.

Dumbbell Size.

When teaching a dog to retrieve, it is important to use a dumbbell of correct size for the dog. The length of the bar should be about one inch more than the width between the dog's eyes for unobstructed vision. The bells should keep the bar far enough off the ground for the dog to grasp it behind his canine teeth without touching the ground with his nose. The bar should be large enough not to rock in his mouth and pinch his lips but not so large that he drools.

Study the size of your dog's mouth carefully before selecting or making a dumbbell. Paint the bells white; your dog may be able to locate the dumbbell more easily and perform better in competition.

Retrieve Over High Jump

Dogs seem to enjoy jumping and will do it readily after they understand the commands. Teach the exercise in parts; do not advance to following parts until your dog performs the first parts well.

For most dogs, the height of the hurdle is one and one half times higher than their withers. Large dogs are required to jump only the height of their withers or three feet, whichever is less. Learn to make the hurdle by studying the illustration.

Start with the eight-inch board or, if your dog is very small, the four-inch board. Face the hurdle 15 feet away with your dog in the sitting position at your heel. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" With your dog on leash and heeling, approach the hurdle and step over it. As your dog goes over, repeat "Jump!"

If he refuses to jump, do not drag him over. Coax him by running at the hurdle and jumping with him. Praise him the moment he makes it. Raise the hurdle two inches at a time until it is about even with his withers. Regardless of your dog's size, he now recognizes this as a jump. When he clears it with you readily, go on the next step.

As you approach the hurdle, aim for the right upright and go around the end. Keep the lead high in your left hand and take your dog over the top. Your dog may try to follow your path around the hurdle. If he does, say "No!", quickly go back about 15 feet and rush at the hurdle again. A dog needs at least that much distance to get up enough speed to make the jump.

Set the hurdle about as high as your dog's withers. Place him in the sitting position at your heel. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle, stop just short of it and send your dog over with a repeat command, "Jump!" After he makes the jump, give the command to come and guide him back over the hurdle with the leash.

The next step involves retrieving the dumbbell. With your dog sitting at your heel and the leash attached as before, say "Stay" and throw the dumbbell over the hurdle about a foot beyond the spot where he lands. Be sure he cannot see the dumbbell until he jumps the hurdle; otherwise he will simply retrieve it without jumping. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle and send your dog over. As soon as he has the dumbbell, give the commands, "Come!" and "Jump!" to get him back across the hurdle. Don't forget the praise when he succeeds. Praise is just as important in advanced training as it is in early training.

Try off-leash jumping and retrieving. Gradually increase the height of the hurdle until you reach the required height for your dog. If your dog drops the dumbbell at your feet upon returning, do not move or praise him, but give the command, "Take it," and let him hold it a moment before you take it. Use patience, firmness and lots of praise. Remember that jumping can be tiring.

The Broad Jump

The broad jump is twice as long as the height of the high jump. The greatest length is therefore six feet for large dogs and two feet for small dogs. Build the jump according to the illustration.

Place the two lowest jumps apart at a distance equal to half the jumping distance required for your dog. If, for example, he is a large dog who must jump six feet, make the distance three feet. With your dog on lead in the sitting position at your heel and the lead in your left hand, face the jumps from about 10 feet away.

At the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!", run and leap over the jumps. As you leap, repeat the command to jump and make a broad, sweeping motion with your left hand. The motion will become a signal to jump, so it is important for your dog to learn it soon. In competition you may use a voice command or a signal, but not both. If at first your dog comes to a skidding halt instead of jumping, quickly drop the lead to prevent hurting or frightening him. Reassure him, remove one of the jumps and try again.

As soon as your dog can make half his required distance over two jumps, stop jumping with him and simply run alongside. Don't forget the sweeping motion of your left arm and the strong voice command to jump.

Place your dog in the sitting position facing the jumps 10 feet away. Move to a position across the jump from him, give the command, "Duke, Come! Jump!" and tug the lead. Repeat the command to jump as he nears the jump. When he lands, guide him directly to you. Praise him lavishly.

Now you are ready to teach your dog to jump on command. Place him in the sitting position 10 feet away facing the jumps. Stand beside the jumps and give the command, "Duke, jump!" At the same time snap the lead lightly and make a sweeping motion with your left arm. As he nears the jump, repeat the command to jump; when he lands, say "Duke, come," and guide him directly to you. Give plenty of praise.

If your dog is readily jumping on lead, he is now ready to start jumping off lead. Perform the exercise off lead as you did on lead. If your dog does not perform correctly or if you lose control of him after the jump, go back to using the lead.

Gradually increase the length of the jump and the number of jump boards until you reach the requirement for your dog. Use two jumps for lengths up to two feet, three jumps for up to four feet and four jumps for up to six feet. Begin using only one command to jump. Discontinue calling your dog back because in competition he must do the recall without command. After your dog makes the jump, call him as you do in the recall and then send him to your heel.

The Utility Class

Scent Discrimination

The following is a description of the scent discrimination exercise. The judge will select one leather one metal article from your box and place them on his table. The judge will then tell you where to stand with your dog at the heel position while he places the remaining articles on the ground about 15 feet to your front. The articles will be placed about six inches apart.

At this time the article selected will be passed to you (probably on a clipboard). Show both the judge and steward the number and type of article so they can make a note of it. This eliminates any chance of question of whether the dog retrieves the correct article. You should then turn around so that both you and your dog are facing away from the articles on the ground. Rub the article with your hands to place your scent on it. After several seconds the judge will take it from you by asking you to place it on a clipboard. He will then, without touching it with his hands, place it among the articles on the ground. He will then order you to "Send your dog." You should then say, "Bo, heel," and do an about turn in place to your right. As you turn around and face the articles command, "Bo get it." Your dog should go briskly to the articles and search out the scented article. He should return quickly without mouthing, and sit straight in front of you, holding it patiently. The judge will then order "Take it." After you have removed the article from his mouth, the judge will order "Finish" and you will command, "Bo, heel." You will then follow the same procedure with the remaining article.

Your dog must be proficient at retrieving before learning the scent discrimination exercise. First carry one of the leather articles in your pocket for a week to allow it to become thoroughly impregnated with your scent. Then take the dog to a quiet place and throw the article 10 or 15 feet and command, "Get it." Don't forget to praise. Always rub the article with your hands just before throwing to add fresh scent to the article. Next place a clean unscented article and throw the scented article nearby. Send your dog. If

he starts to pick up the unscented article, rush to him and flick it from his mouth. Guide him to pick up the scented article. Lavish praise is important.

Some trainers fasten the unscented article with wire or nails to a sheet of plywood. The dog then learns that the unscented article cannot be picked up. This method has worked well and is suggested. After the dog has learned to distinguish the scented from the unscented, fasten more articles down. He will then learn to smell each article until finding the one with the scent. Follow this procedure with the metal articles. Then use some of each, finally using all of the articles.

When training, it is important to handle the unscented articles in a manner to not confuse the dog. Prepare unscented articles by washing them with hot water and soap. Let them dry in the air. Use a pair of tongs to pick them up.

Use the same methods for teaching the exercises in the Utility class as you used in the Beginner class. They are praise, correction and persistence. Be definite with each. Your timing at using each is most important.

The judge will then drop the three predominately white cotton work gloves across the end of the ring. The gloves shall be designated "One," "Two" or "Three" from left to right when the handler turns and faces the gloves. The judge will order a retrieve of one of the three numbers. The handler will then give the command, "Chance, heel" and will turn in place, either to the right or to the left, to face the designated glove. The handler will come to a halt with the dog in the heel position. The handler shall not touch the dog to get it in position. The handler will then give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of his left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. The handler may give the command to retrieve either simultaneously with or immediately following the giving of the direction. The usual command is "Chance, get it." The dog shall make the retrieve at a brisk pace, completing the exercise as in the retrieve on the flat. You will be asked to retrieve only one of the three articles.

This exercise will not be difficult for your dog to learn if he is proficient at the retrieve on the flat. When training, select an area that slopes upward from you and your dog. This will enable your dog to see the gloves more easily. In training, give your dog the stay command and signal (dog in sitting position), throw the glove, wait a few seconds, then give the arm signal and command of "Get it." After a few days of training, throw two gloves while he is sitting at heel. Give the signal and command to get the last one thrown, call him in and finish. Then send him to the other glove. Advance to three gloves as soon as he masters retrieving two gloves. After he masters retrieving three gloves, throw only one glove but send him for the other two already in place. He will soon develop a trust of always finding a glove to retrieve when you send him.

Directed Retrieve

Place your dog in the sitting position facing away from the unobstructed end of the ring as shown in the drawing.

The Signal Exercise

The signal exercise is done entirely from hand signals. No verbal commands may be given.

The exercise begins with heeling off leash. The judge will order a Left Turn, Right Turn, About Turn and Halt, slow, normal and fast. Special emphasis will be placed on how you

and your dog work as a team. In the process of heeling, the judge will maneuver you to one end of the ring. While heeling, the judge will order, "Stand your dog" and then "Leave your dog." You should then signal your dog to stand and stay and walk to the far end of the ring (about 50 feet). The judge will then signal you to "Drop you dog", "Sit your dog", "Call your dog" and "Finish", in that order.

Begin teaching these exercises with the signal to heel. Place your dog in the heel position, give him the heel signal (the left hand held open, passed smartly above and forward beside your dog's head). Step off with your left foot and heel at a brisk pace. If your dog fails to get the idea of the hand signal, place him on leash so you can give a corrective jerk forward with the right hand.

Teach the stand signal when heeling by bringing the right hand down in front of his nose. Then bring the left hand across his face as a signal to stay. At first you may need to use the voice command a few times to help him recognize the signal.

Teach your dog to drop on your signal by leaving him in the standing position at a distance of about 25 feet. The sudden raising of your hand is the signal to drop. Lower it as soon as your dog starts to go down. You may at first need to give a voice command along with the hand signal. As he learns the hand signal, increase the distance to about 50 feet.

With your dog in the down position at the end of the leash to your front, give the hand signal to sit (quickly bringing your left hand upward from your waist). Reach toward your dog and say, "Sit," lifting him with the leash in your left hand. Be quick with the praise when he sits. As you repeat the exercise the following several days, discontinue using the voice command and leash to lift him. Remove the leash as soon as possible and increase your distance from him.

The signal to call your dog is done by sweeping your right hand out sideways and then to your chest. Your dog should come smartly to you upon signal and sit directly to your front. Teach this signal by standing about 25 feet in front of your dog. Use the voice command "Come" if necessary the first several days. A piece of light rope may also prove useful to correct your dog should he not come smartly on your signal. Increase your distance from him as soon as you can.

The signal to finish is done by using your left hand as shown. You may speed up his reaction to your hand signal by using your right hand to reach forward and giving a jerk on the training collar. Some dogs, after learning the exercises, will anticipate your signals. You can sometimes break this habit by doing the exercises out of sequence.

The Brace

The brace is for youth who have two dogs of their own or for those who want to team up in training a pair of dogs. Dogs of the same breed, size and color are preferred, but not necessary. The class is judged according to the Graduate Beginner's score card and includes the heel on leash and Figure 8, stand for examination, recall, long sit and down off lead.

In the off lead exercises, the dogs are attached together but off lead. Dogs should have completed the Graduate Beginner's course and more training is helpful.

When training the dogs to heel on leash and do the Figure 8, place the quickest and most responsive dog on the outside because he will have to hurry on the turns. Stewards stand farther apart for the Figure 8 to allow more space for the dogs to turn. Heeling is done at slow, fast and normal speeds. The stand for examination is made by the judge touching each dog on the head, back and rump. Remove the leash, hold the dogs by the tandem lead and take several steps forward, walking them into the stand or standing them separately.

The long sit for one minute and long down for three minutes is done by lining up the braces side by side on one side of the ring. Upon the judge's command, "Leave your dog," the handlers will move to a position about 30 feet in front of their dogs. The brace that works in unison and with the most precision receives the highest score.

When commanding two dogs simultaneously to heel or come, you may wish to use a single term such as "boys" or "girls" instead of two separate names. When heeling your dogs on leash, you may correct a dog that is lagging or forging by jerking the individual dog attached with the tandem chain. When correcting your dogs, carry the leash in your right hand and make the correction with your left. You may at first wish to attach a lead to each dog, holding a lead in each hand so that positive individual corrections can be made.

The Team

The ideal team would consist of four individuals with well-trained dogs of the same breed, size and coloring. This may be difficult to attain so selection should be made according to the training ability of the dogs. This class is judged according to the Graduate Beginner's score card. Dogs should have completed the Graduate Beginner's course and more advanced training will be useful. The success of a team depends equally upon the handlers as they must work together in harmony, each knowing equally well the entire routine. Nothing new is required of the dogs, except that they must follow commands while working close to other dogs in a group.

The first practice session should be without the dogs. The handlers should line up side by side facing the same direction. The person on the extreme left is Number One, next is Number Two and so forth. Each person to the right of Number One should raise his left arm so that the fingertips just touch the shoulder of the person on his left. The three members should look to their left forming a straight line with Number one. Upon the command, "Forward," from the instructor (or judge in competition), step off with your left foot. Upon the command, "Halt," stop on your right foot and bring the left alongside it. Make sharp left and right turns and about turns. You will probably soon discover that it will take some training to march straight, make sharp turns and deep in line. Don't give up; with a little practice you will soon be marching with precision. Several alternates should be trained to fill in for regular members in emergencies.

After the team has learned to march and make turns with some precision, include the dogs. They will likely at this point make fewer errors than the handlers. After you are heeling your dogs well as a team, try the slow and fast gaits. In competition, the team will perform the heel on leash and Figure 8 the same as would be required of a single competitor.

Next comes the Figure 8 which involves eight stewards. In practice, you may wish to use stakes. Upon the judge's command, "Prepare for the Figure 8; take your places," the

team should line up, each handler facing a pair of stewards. After a brief pause, the judge will command, "Forward," and simultaneously each handler will step off on the left foot turning to the left as he begins the Figure 8. The judge will command you to halt twice while performing the Figure 8. After the second command to halt, the judge will say, "Exercise finished." The team will then re-group side by side with their dogs in the sitting position.

On command from the judge, "Prepare for the recall," the handlers will remove the leashes and prepare to leave their dogs in a sitting position and on the command, "Leave your dogs," each handler will march forward about 30 feet and turn and face his dog. The judge will then command, "Call your dog," and the handlers will simultaneously obey.

Adapted by Debbie Hackman with permission from National 4-H Council "Dog Obedience Training Lessons for Novice, Graduate Novice, Open and Utility".