



University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension



New Hampshire 4-H Dog Program Judging Guidelines

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Revised: 03/2017

New Hampshire 4-H Dog Program Judging Guidelines

The New Hampshire 4-H Dog Program, like other 4-H programs, is open to all youths between the ages of 8 and 18 years (age as of Jan.1st). 4-H programs are designed to provide positive learning experiences and opportunities for diverse youth, encouraging them to reach their potential through year-round involvement in the dog project and community service activities. The 4-H Dog Program provides opportunities for youth to practice life skills, helping them to develop as competent, capable, caring, and contributing citizens. Adult volunteers teach members in the Dog Program general dog care, obedience, and fitting and showmanship (grooming and handling). 4-Hers set both short and long-term goals within their project, and for themselves, and are encouraged and praised when these goals are met or when a valiant attempt is made. These guidelines are designed to answer some common questions and help aid in consistency of judging. Please read through this packet and refer to the New Hampshire Guide to 4-H Dog shows for a complete guideline of the program. We have sectioned out pertinent information regarding showmanship and obedience classes from our guide book to help aid you in successfully judging your assignment. If you have any other questions, please contact the show committee. Enjoy your judging assignment!

General Judging Guidelines

1. Please remember that you are working with young people. Participating in fairs and shows is a learning experience. Remember to point out positives and be constructive when making suggestions for improvement.
2. 4-H is open to all youth, regardless of age, sex, race, or physical or mental handicap. Special exceptions or modifications to classes should be made as needed in order to allow the 4-H member a satisfactory experience. Someone from the show committee will inform the judge if such a condition exists.
3. Ring procedure should be the same for all participants in each class.
4. 4-H Dog Shows are open to all dogs, both purebreds and mixed breeds (All-Americans). No preference should be given when judging classes. **Show clips are not required.** Dogs with disabilities can be shown, provided that they can willingly perform the expected exercises without the activity being a safety threat to the dog. Exhibitor must have submitted a Veterinarian letter noting of limitation to show committee ahead of time. Superintendent is to inform judge.
5. Make the judging experience positive and educational. If allowed, take the time to answer exhibitor's questions. However, a judge is not required to explain their scoring and should not enter into a discussion with an exhibitor who appears to be dissatisfied. If this should occur, please contact the judge's coordinator or member of the show committee immediately.
6. Remember to speak clearly and loud enough for all exhibitors in the ring to hear you.
7. Please write comments on the score sheets. Make sure they are legible. Point out both positives and areas for improvement. Be constructive.
8. Exhibitors will be nervous. They may not remember everything you say, but they will remember your attitude.

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9. Scoresheets for each class can be reviewed at <https://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Animal-and-Ag-Science/4-H-Dog-Page> . Superintendents at each show are to provide scoresheets for you the day of the show for exhibitors.

General Class Guidelines

1. Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed in appearance. Clothing should be comfortable and appropriate for showing dogs. Recommended uniform is a clean white collared dress shirt or blouse and green pants, culottes, skirt, dress shorts or jumper of appropriate length (no shorter than 2" above the knee). No T-shirts, tank tops, or athletic shorts. Long sleeves, sweaters, or fleeces can be worn, but must be white and patch must be placed on outside so it is visible. No hooded sweatshirts. Any shade of green is allowed. White, black, or brown clean shoes are acceptable. Non-skid footwear is recommended for safety reasons. Bare feet, sandals, open-toed shoes, or clogs are not allowed. Jeans and athletic shorts are not allowed while showing. Members must wear a 4-H insignia (patch) on the left side of their shirts or blouses. Points may be deducted if recommended uniform is not worn. Members will be disqualified if they are wearing clothing advertising a kennel or breed.
2. Grooming and condition of the dog:
 - a. The dog is expected to be well groomed. Show clips are not required. Grooming is to be done by exhibitor. If a mentor groomer is needed to help assist the member in learning, the member is to be involved in process of grooming. Dropping off at grooming salon to be groom for the show is not helping the 4-Her learn how to groom their dog and should be not done. A younger member if physically not able to groom certain aspects of dog, they must be present and helping as much as they can. A younger member's grooming skills are going to be judged differently than a senior members skills. A judge must remember a nine-year-old is not usually as skilled at trimming and grooming as a sixteen-year-old, however an okay nine-year-old should not win over an excellent teen. A younger member might need help and assistances in learning where as a senior member should be learning how to groom more independently. Asking specific questions about exhibitors dog's grooming can help evaluate that member is learning grooming skills.
 - b. Ask the age of the dog, especially if the dog's apparent condition warrants questioning.
 - c. Some teeth staining is acceptable for the mature dog.
 - d. If, at the time of judging, a dog is being medicated for a skin condition, ear infection, diet, etc. and the exhibitor makes the judge aware that:
 - (1) a medical problem exists
 - (2) a veterinarian has been consulted; and
 - (3) medical advice/treatment is being followed;The judge should take these factors into consideration when scoring.
3. A judge may use his/her discretion if a dog should be excused from the ring because of unsafe or threatening behavior. If this should occur, immediately contact the judge's coordinator or a member of the show committee and explain the situation.

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4. Any exhibitor abusing or using excessive force should be excused from the ring and the show committee and/or judge's coordinator notified immediately.
5. Only exhibitors, their dog, and show officials are allowed in the ring at any time. Parents with comments, questions, or problems should be referred to the show committee.
6. Judge's decisions are final in all matters affecting the scoring and judging of all classes. The show committee shall decide all other matters.
7. Awards are made based on the Dual-Merit System. Each exhibit is judged based on its own individual merits and against those in its class. Ribbons are awarded based on the number of points an exhibit as earned, and rosettes are awarded on the exhibit's individual score compared to others in its class.
8. The objective of the 4-H Dog Show is for the members to show off what they have learned in the previous year and to make their best even better. 4-Hers should learn by doing, and the dog show helps in this process. As a judge, one should give praise as well as constructive comments to help the member become better in their project. Take an extra minute to write helpful comments on each exhibitor's score sheet. Offer advice or give tips after the class is judged.
9. Remember that most of the 4-H members do not come from "doggy families". Many 4-H members may never show a dog at an AKC or other major dog organization event. Most members are using their family's pet or a dog borrowed from a neighbor or relative. They are doing the best they can with what they have available to them. However, many 4-Hers could successfully compete in AKC events and most of them know more about general dog knowledge than the average AKC Junior Showmanship participant. Also, remember that the 4-H member alone is responsible for preparing their dog for the ring. The 4-Her has done 100% of the training of their dog, and is responsible for at least 80% of the dog's care and grooming. What the judge sees in the ring is a direct result of the effort that the member has put into their dog.

Fitting and Showmanship Classes

What exactly is "Fitting and Showmanship"?

"Fitting and Showmanship" is a term taken from livestock shows. Believe it or not, in 4-H, dogs are considered livestock, so this is part of the reason why this term is used instead of "Junior Showmanship" or "handling classes". In the 4-H program, it's more than just the handling that counts. The way that the member has prepared their dog for the ring is also judged. In livestock shows, the term "fitting" refers to the animal's grooming job and general overall condition and health, and these elements are judged in the dog program in this class.

How is the class judged?

Judges are given score sheets for each entry. The scores are based on 100 points, but broken down into categories. The dog's condition accounts for 30 points. This includes proper weight, coat being free of parasites, mats, and dirt, clean ears, and properly trimmed toenails. The handling ability of the member accounts for 50 points. 25 points are given to stacking and 25 points are given to

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gaiting. The final 20 points are based on the handler's appearance and uniform, handler's poise and attitude in the ring, and the handler's knowledge. The judge awards points in each of these categories. Placements are based on the number of points the exhibitor has earned.

How does it differ from AKC Junior Showmanship?

The first difference an AKC judge may notice is that mixed breeds are allowed to compete in 4-H events. Mixed breeds or "All-Americans" should be presented like the breed they most closely resemble, even if they don't contain any of that breed. The dog's general condition is judged.

Handlers are required to know general dog knowledge, including general health (normal temperature, heart rate, and vaccinations), signs and symptoms of general illnesses, dog terminology, basic first aid, their own breed's history and function, and usually one or two other specific topics that are determined each year. For example, in 2007, members put extra focus on Terrier Breeds, Earthdog Events, and AKC Canine Good Citizen Program (see show committee for the current years focus topics). Judges should ask the handlers questions to test their general knowledge. Many good questions can come from the sections of the AKC Complete Dog Book that follow the breed standards.

Generally, 4-H handling is not as flashy or showy as AKC Junior Showmanship is. There tends to not be as much free-baiting, and many of the dogs will be shown hard stacked, even those breeds which are usually free-baited at conformation events.

4-H shows usually require the member to wear a certain uniform (usually green bottoms and a white top) and safe footwear (sneakers are fine). Dogs may be shown on either a "show" lead or an obedience leash, as long as the handler has good leash control and control of their dog.

Judges may walk between dogs while the dogs are stacked in a line. Judges may ask experienced handlers to switch dogs, as long as there does not appear to be a safety issue.

"Show clips" are not preferred over "pet trims", but the dog must be clean and well groomed. Consideration should be taken into the effort of the grooming job.

How is it similar to AKC Junior Showmanship?

Conformation of the dog is not judged at all.

Handlers can be asked to do any of the same patterns as would be required in AKC Juniors, such as triangle, up and back, L, T, as well as the up and back with 2 dogs and the reverse triangle, L, and T.

Dogs should be presented as if they were in the breed ring, within the abilities of the dog. Handlers should try to minimize faults while showing off their dog's attributes. A good handler in 4-H should be invisible and work as a team with their dog, as you would expect a good handler in AKC Juniors to do.

Ring procedure is the same as it is in AKC Juniors.

Classes are divided based on handler's age and experience. Usually the classes are broken down by age and years that the member has been involved with dogs. The classes vary by show, so judges should be sure to ask the breakdowns for the classes for which they are to judge.

Specific Fitting and Showmanship Guidelines

1. Classes are based on the exhibitor's age. With the exception of the novice class which is exhibitors first year showing in showmanship. Please take this into consideration when writing comments and determining ring procedure and patterns used. The judge's coordinator and/or show committee will clarify class descriptions.
2. In the more advanced classes the judge can ask exhibitors to switch dogs.
3. Exhibitors are expected to know general knowledge. Questions are asked in fitting and showmanship. Questions should come from any of the following sources: The AKC Complete Dog Book, Pet First Aid (distributed by the Red Cross), and AKC Obedience Rules & Regulations. Each year there are focus topics (see show committee to ask the years topics) but general dog health and specifics of each exhibitor's breed (or breeds if the dog is an All-American) are always appropriate topics, too. Questions should be appropriate for the age/level of the class.
4. Exhibitors showing All-Americans are expected to show their dogs according to the breed the dog most closely resembles. If a judge is not sure, s/he should ask the exhibitor.
5. Members should be attentive to the judge at all times and keep the dog between themselves and the judge. The judge must realize that this is not possible, nor desirable, 100% of the time, such as when properly executing a courtesy turn. This type of blocking should not be penalized.
6. Use of bait is at the discretion of the judge.
7. Tables are to be used for those breeds that are examined on tables. Some members may not be able to safely lift their dog onto the table for examination because the dog is too large for them to do so. With safety being a priority, judges should take this matter into consideration when scoring.

Fitting and Showmanship: Classes and Explanations

1. Purpose: To demonstrate the 4-H member's ability to show his/her project dog to the best of their ability, as if they were presenting their dog in the conformation ring at an AKC, CKC, UKC, or other breed association show. The member must be able to show off the dog's best points, while minimizing faults, demonstrate knowledge of proper ring procedure, and the proper way to present a dog for examination by a judge. In no way should the dog's conformation be considered when scoring an exhibitor.
2. Acceptable patterns include: "around the ring" or the "O", the "T" or "up and back", the triangle, the "L", the "T", and the down and back with 2 dogs gaiting side by side. Also acceptable are the reverse patterns of the triangle, "L", and "T" patterns. (Please see gaiting patterns outlined in the next section of this manual for explanations.) In the "up and back" patterns, handlers may choose to either turn towards their dog or away from their dog, as long as the movement is done smoothly and efficiently.
3. Courtesy turns may be done at the start of a gaiting pattern and are encouraged.

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4. Dogs should be stacked or posed as their breed would in AKC conformation events. All-Americans should be presented as closely to the breed that they most resemble.
5. Dogs should be clean, free from parasites, and free from mats and excessive loose hair. Show clips will not be considered, although grooming scores should strive to recognize the efforts in grooming.
6. “Baiting”, offering a dog a treat for desirable behavior is acceptable in Fitting and Show as long as it does not interfere with other dogs in the class. Baiting is allowed at each judge’s discretion.
7. Judge should ask the handler to show the dog’s bite (teeth) for examination.
8. Dogs may be shown on a show lead (such as a one piece martingale, resco-type lead, etc.) or on a slip collar (leather, chain, or fabric) and attached leash. The handler’s ability to control the dog’s show equipment in a non-distracting manner is more important than the actual equipment being used.
9. Judges may ask exhibitors questions in Fitting and Showing classes. Sources for questions are listed under the General Knowledge section of this manual, but in general can cover general dog care, dog first aid, AKC obedience rules and Regulations, and the exhibitor’s dog’s breed history and purpose. Questions regarding the specific show’s rules and 4-H rules may also be used as sources for questions.
10. Classes should be subdivided if there are 12 or more exhibitors in a class. If classes are too large spectator interest may lag and exhibitors are placed under unnecessary strain. More than one class can be judged at one time by dividing the ring.
11. Classes are divided as follows: (age as of January 1 of current year)
 - a. Novice – First Year showing in Fitting & Show, Ages 8-13
 - b. Junior – ages 9-11
 - c. Intermediate – ages 12-13
 - d. Senior – ages 14-18

Fitting and Showing Guidelines: Pattern Explanation

1.) General Gaiting Techniques

Note: “Large dog” usually refers to those dogs that a handler must run or jog with when gaiting. “Small dog” refers to those dogs with which a handler typically walks with when gaiting.

a.) Courtesy Turn

This is usually done at the beginning of a gaiting pattern. The purpose is twofold: 1) start the dog moving at a trot so it is at the proper speed when it leaves from in front of the judge and 2) line the dog up so he is directly in front of the judge when leaving for a gaiting pattern. This is an acceptable time for the handler to come between the dog and the judge.

Proper Execution: Dog’s lead is in handler’s left hand. Handler moves dog in a small circle in front of the judge and slightly to the judge’s right side. The handler usually pivots or turns a

much smaller circle. As the dog/handler completes the turn, the dog is moving in a straight line directly in front of and away from the judge.

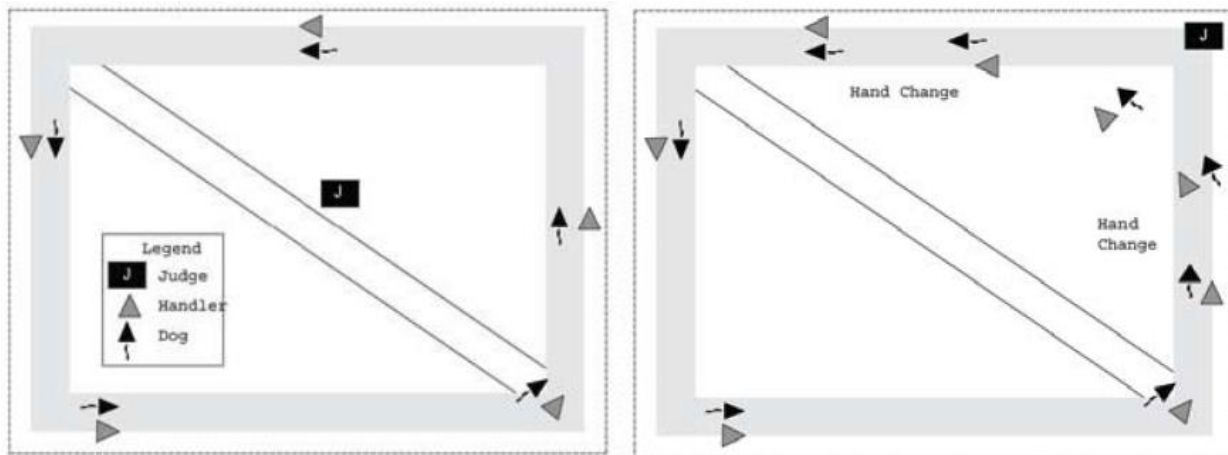
b.) Hand Change

Used in some of the gaiting patterns and involves the handler switching the lead from his/her left hand to the right hand, and the dog moving from the handler's left side to the right side. It is used to keep the dog between the handler and the judge. When executing a left to right hand change, handler and dog pause, handler reaches in front of his/her body and grasps the lead with his/her right hand while turning his/her body to the left. At the same time, the dog pivots to the right, in time with the handler, and both are now facing the direction from which they have just come. When doing a right to left change, the handler moves the dog in front of themselves while grasping the lead in their left hand. The dog pivots to its left while on the handler's left side and the handler turns to the right, which results in handler and dog making a right turn.

2.) Patterns

a.) "Around the ring" or "O" Pattern

This is usually done upon the class first entering the ring and after an individual gaiting pattern. Judge is usually standing in middle of ring. Dog is on handler's left side for entire "O", unless the judge is standing at the corner of the ring, in which case an appropriate hand change is required to keep the dog between handler and judge. Dogs are moved at their own proper speed. A courtesy turn MAY be performed before an "O" after the individual gaiting pattern.



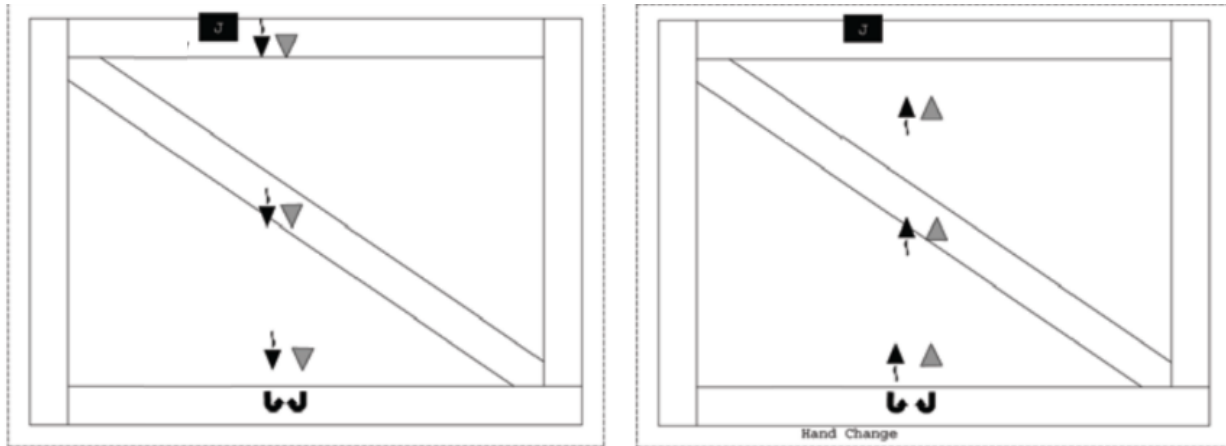
"Around the Ring" or "O" Pattern

b.) "Up and Back" or "I" Pattern

This pattern starts with a courtesy turn and dog in the left hand. Handler moves dog (at its proper pace) straight away from the judge in the designated direction (either straight or on the diagonal of the ring). At specified distance (larger dogs - to end of ring, small dogs - either $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of ring), handler and dog turn and come straight back to judge, stopping about 3 feet away or when judge signals.

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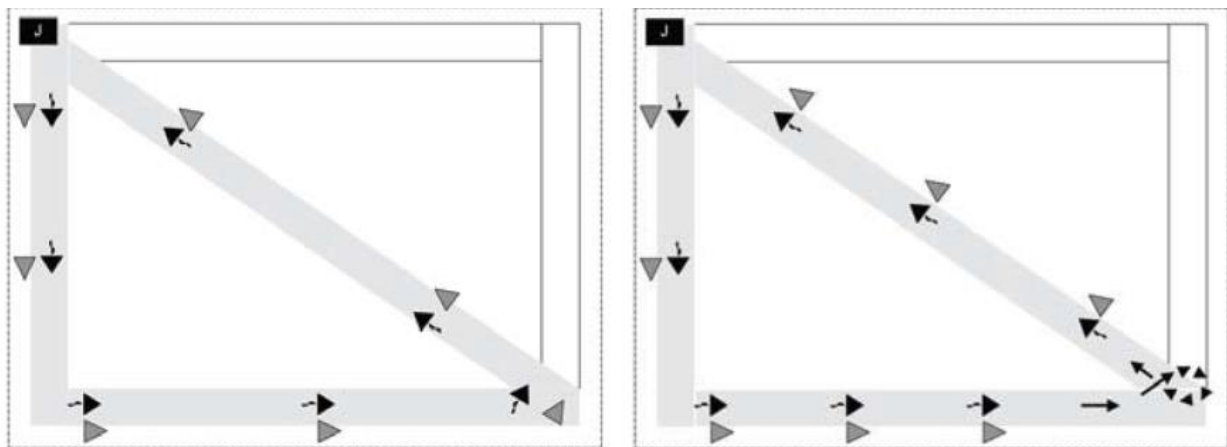
Turn execution: Large dogs - usually turn so dog is on the OUTSIDE of the turn (as in an obedience about turn), towards the right. It is permissible for handler to come between dog and judge at this time. Small Dogs - handler usually turns TOWARD dog, so dog pivots to the left. Handler does not come between dog and judge. Hand change method - at end of ring, handler and dog do a left to right hand change and move straight back to judge. NOTE: Any method may be used, but the key is to execute the turn smoothly with efficiency of movement.



"Up and Back" or "I" Pattern

c.) Triangle Pattern

Dog stays on handler's left side throughout the entire pattern. Handler/dog move away from judge, turn to the right and continue across the ring towards corner. At the end of the ring, handler/dog turn 45 degrees to the left and come across the diagonal of the ring back to the judge. Note: Larger dogs may have trouble making a 45 degree turn at the second corner. These dogs may be moved in a small right circle on the handler's left side, in order to line the dog up for the diagonal.

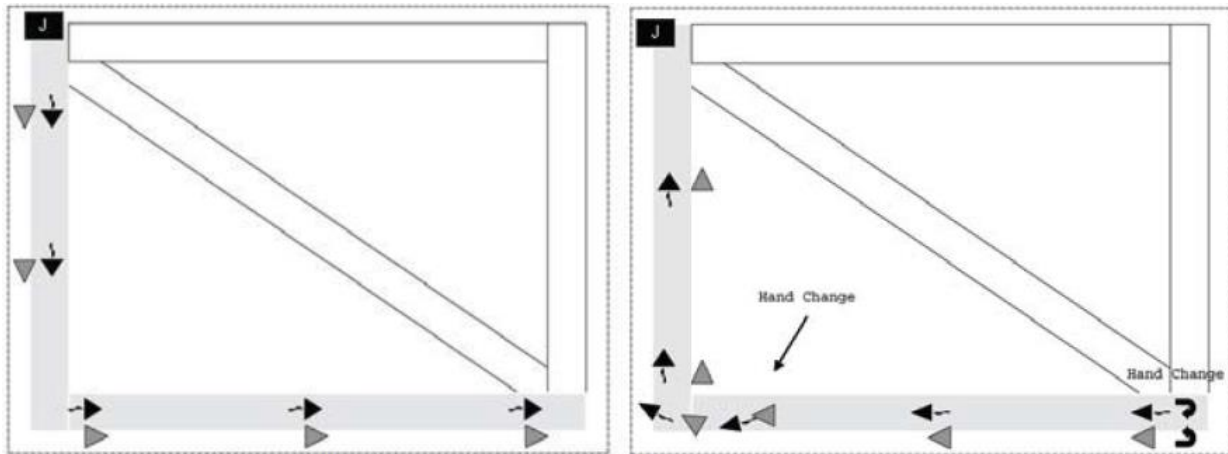


Triangle Pattern (Without and With Courtesy Turn)

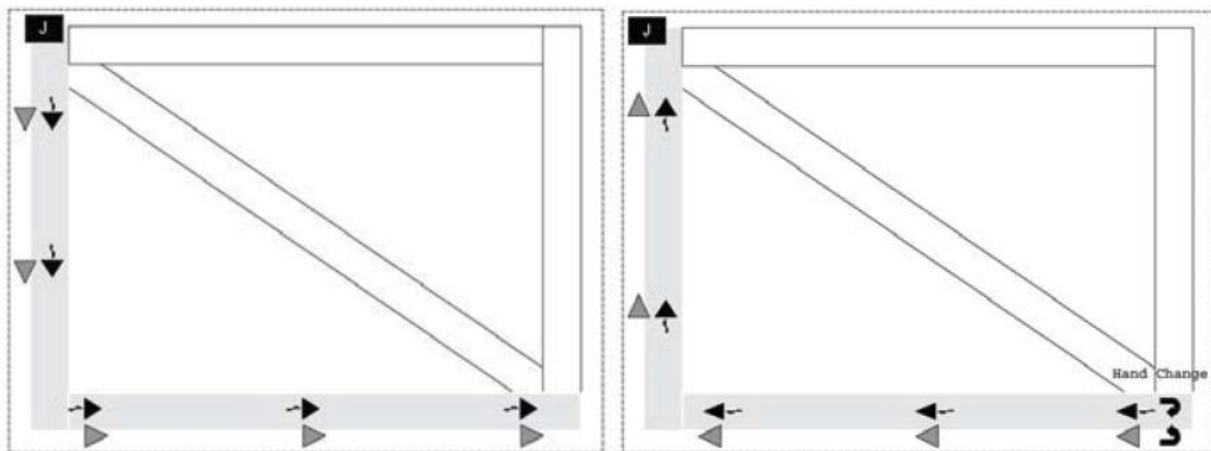
d.) "L" Pattern

There are 2 acceptable ways to perform the "L" pattern. The first involves 2 hand changes and dog gaitting on handler's RIGHT side. Dog starts on handler's LEFT side and moves straight away from judge. At end of ring, handler/dog turn LEFT to corner diagonally opposite judge. Upon reaching that corner, the handler does a LEFT to RIGHT hand change so that the dog is on the

handler's RIGHT side, and the handler/dog continue back across ring in the direction from which they just came. Upon reaching the corner (directly in front of judge) the handler does a RIGHT to LEFT hand change so the dog is back on handler's LEFT side, and they continue back to judge. The second method involves only one hand change. Dog starts on the handler's LEFT side and moves straight away from the judge. At the end of the ring, handler/dog turn 90 degrees to the LEFT and continue to the corner diagonally across from the judge. Upon reaching the corner, handler does a LEFT to RIGHT hand change, and the dog ends up on the handler's right side. Handler/dog continue back across the ring in the direction from which they just came. Upon reaching that corner (directly in front of the judge) handler/dog make a 90-degree turn to the RIGHT and continue to the judge. The handler does not perform a second hand change and the dog remains on the handler's right side while coming back to the judge. If the one hand change method is performed, the handler should be aware as to the judge's position and keep the dog between himself and the judge. A right to left hand change may be required, depending on the judge's instructions.



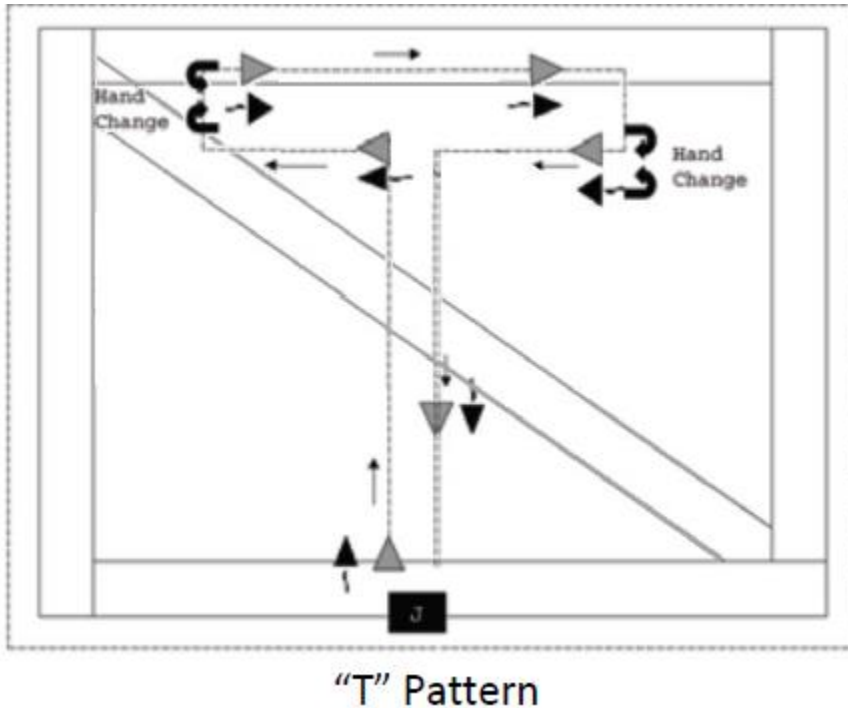
"L" Pattern with Two Hand Changes During Return



"L" Pattern with One Hand Change During Return

e.) "T" Pattern

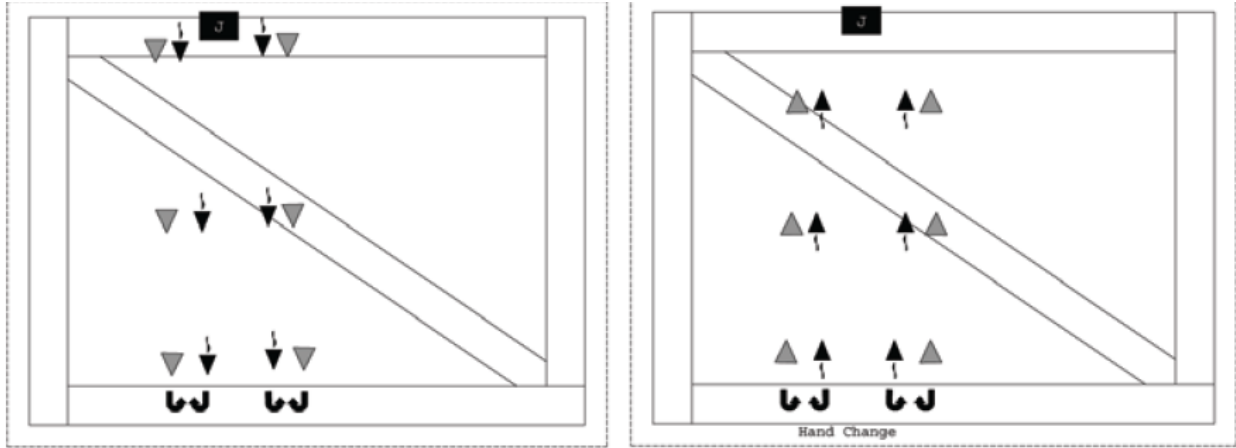
This pattern involves 2 hand changes and starts with the handler/dog and judge on the side of the ring, halfway between the corners. Dog starts on handler's left side, moving straight away from



f.) Double or Pair “Up and Back”

This pattern involves 2 handlers and dogs, moving straight away from the judge together, turning and coming back to the judge together. Usually this is done with dogs of a similar size/gaiting speed. The 2 dogs are to remain BETWEEN the handlers AT ALL TIMES. Both handlers will have to switch hands at the side of the ring opposite the judge in order to keep the dogs between them. Handlers should stay as close as is safely possible while maintaining control of their dog. The two handlers should try to move their dogs together and stop and make turns at the same points.

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Double or Pair "Up and Back"

Explanation of the 4-H dog Fitting and Showing Score Sheet



4-H Dog Fitting and Show Score Sheet

Date _____ Class _____
Breed _____ Armband# _____

	Possible Points	Points Earned
Dog Condition and Appearance		
___ Brushed without matting		
___ Clean ears		
___ Nails trimmed		
___ Dog in good condition, not underweight	10	
Handler's Appearance – Proper dress, neat and clean exhibitor	5	
Handler's Set Up		
___ Knows how to pose breed correctly		
___ Doesn't lean on dog while posing in front and back of dog		
___ Places feet correctly		
___ Correct position of handler	10	
Judge's Examination		
___ Confident and smooth when moving around dog		
___ Doesn't come between judge and dog		
___ Stays out of judge's way		
___ Shows bite correctly	10	
Gaiting Dog Correctly		
___ Doesn't run too fast		
___ Doesn't run too slow		
___ Not a distraction to other dogs		
___ Doesn't come between judge and dog	10	
___ Natural smoothness		
Proper Equipment & Holding Lead Correctly		
___ Leash and collar are in good repair and fit properly, appropriate for the dog		
___ Does not let lead hang in dog's face		
___ Holds lead properly - in the proper hand	5	
Proper Control of Dog	10	
Follow Judge's Instructions	10	
Handler's Attitude		
___ Doesn't watch activity outside of ring		
___ Polite to the judge or other handlers	10	
General Knowledge – no more than three questions will be asked regarding dog care, training, grooming, showing and breeds	10	
Ring Procedure		
___ Doesn't over handle dog		
___ Minimum grooming in the ring		
___ Proper set-up & handling		
___ Doesn't interfere with dog in front of her/him	10	
___ Doesn't interfere with handler in front of her/him		
Total Points	100	
Comments:		

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Mar 2013

A. Appearance of Animal – 10% (all grooming to be done by exhibitor)

1. General condition - Dog should be well conditioned, but not overweight. Should be trimmed, combed, and brushed in a manner suitable for coat and breed type. Crossbreeds should be
2. groomed similar to the breed they most resemble. Recognizing that some breeds require more grooming than others, grooming scores should strive to recognize the efforts in grooming.
3. Toenails should be clipped to reasonable length for particular breed, or filed down.
4. Teeth should be clean and as white as possible.

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5. Eyes should be clear, not running, ears should be clean and free of excess hair.
6. Coat should be clean and free of loose hair. Feathering should be un-matted and clean. No signs of fleas.
7. Show clip will not be considered.

B. Exhibitor's Appearance – 5%

1. Exhibitor should be neat and clean
2. 4-H show uniform should be worn, green, khaki or solid dark colored pants for boys or girls; green culottes, skirts, walking shorts or jumpers are also appropriate for girls, white blouse or white dress shirt with 4-H insignia. No Tee shirts permitted.

C. Handler's Set up - 10%

1. When posing animal, stand or kneel, one knee beside the dog in relation to the position of the judge.
2. Pose animal with front legs placed straight from the shoulder and according to its type.
3. Don't lean on dog while posing front and back legs.

D. Judge's Examination - 10%

1. Handler should not be between their dog and the judge at any time.
2. Movements should be smooth, natural and not distracting to judge or others.
3. Show the dog's bite correctly

E. Gaiting Dog Correctly - 10%

1. Enter leading animal at an alert, correct gait around the ring in a counterclockwise direction. Always have animals on the judge's side holding slip lead in either hand, (side nearest the dog), arm extended with leash taut. Gait freely.
2. When making a turn, the exhibitor should change hands, keeping the dog between himself and the judge.
3. Gait dog at a reasonable speed depending on breed or as the judge directs, with animal's head carried at a height appropriate to the breed of dog.
4. Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you when gaiting in a side-by-side position. Do not crowd dog ahead when gaiting following another dog.
5. Animals should be lead forward when the judge requests that its position in line be changed, and around the end of the line to the position indicated by the judge. Do not lead animal between judge and the animal he is observing.

F. Holding Lead Correctly - Using Proper Equipment - 5%

1. Hold the lead in the proper hand and do not let lead hang in dogs face or on the ground.
2. Equipment should be appropriate to the breed.

G. Proper Control of Dog - 10%

1. Handler should be in complete control over dog at all times.
2. Excessive corrections to dog will not be tolerated.

H. Follows Judge's Instructions - 10%

1. Respond rapidly to requests from judge and officials.
2. Follow directions.

I. Handler's Attitude - 10%

1. Alertness and poise. Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons and things outside the ring.
2. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times. Show animal at all times, not yourself.
3. Do not talk to other exhibitors or people outside the ring.
4. Exhibitors poise should be natural nor forced or exaggerated.

J. General Knowledge - 10%

1. Exhibitor is knowledgeable about dog care, training, grooming, showing and breeds. Judge will ask no more than three questions to determine this.

K. Ring Procedure - 10%

1. Do not crowd exhibitor or dog in front when setting up head to tail (upstaging).
2. When judge is observing other animals, let yours stand, if posed reasonably well, but remember to keep showing and stay alert. Excessive grooming in the ring is objectionable.
3. Be natural, over-showing, undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.



The following activities will result in disqualification from Fitting and Showing contests:

1. Harsh handling or treatment to the dog
2. Receiving instructions from ringside
3. Poor sportsmanship
4. Arguing with or sassing the judge

Family Dog Class

4-H members entering this class may enter no other classes at the show except the General Knowledge Quiz and game classes, if one is offered. The member will show that their dog can sit, stay, come and walk calmly on a leash. The member will demonstrate a general knowledge of dogs and dog care including home care, feeding, and health. Members will not be allowed to continue in the Family Dog class for more than one year. Members who have shown in classes higher than Family Dog may not drop back into Family Dog class. This class is open to members between the ages of 8-11. Members are eligible to show in the Novice Fitting & Show class for one year after they have shown in Family Dog.

Explanation of the Family Dog Score Sheet



4-H Family Dog Score Sheet

This class is designed for 4-H members enrolled in the Family Dog Project. While in the ring the dog will be on display and the member will demonstrate that the dog can sit, stay, come and walk calmly on a leash. The member should be able to discuss the dog's home care including feeding, health, and general dog knowledge. The handler may use treats/bait in this class.

Dogs in this class must be listed on a current 4-H approval form signed by the member, the 4-H County Extension Educator and the club leader by May 1 of the current year.

SHOW _____ EXHIBITOR NUMBER _____
DATE _____ JUDGE _____ BREED _____

	Maximum Points	Points Awarded
1. Dog's Behavior		
Walk on Leash / Sit	15	
Come On Call / Recall	15	
Total for Behavior	30	
2. Cleanliness/Condition		
Cleanliness of Coat, Ears, Teeth	10	
Toe Nails Clipped	10	
Physical Condition	10	
Total for Cleanliness	30	
3. Member's Knowledge		
Health	10	
Nutrition/Feeding	10	
General	10	
Total for Member's Knowledge	30	
4. Member's Appearance		
Neat and Appropriate Clothing	10	
Total Score (100)		

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Dog Behavior

- 1. Walk on Leash / Sit** - The handler must be able to walk around the ring at least twice, with two sits performed. There are no points taken off for lagging, extra commands, poor sits. The handler just has to demonstrate that the dog can walk around calmly and sit when asked.
- 2. Come on Call / Recall** - The handler will sit the dog and go to the end of the leash. The handler will call the dog to him/her. There are no points taken off for poor sits, no finish, or no sit in front of the handler. The handler just has to demonstrate that the dog will return to the handler when called.

Cleanliness / Condition

1. The judge will evaluate the overall cleanliness / condition of the dog, including the cleanliness of the dog's coat, ears, and teeth, that the toenails are clipped, and the physical condition of the dog.

Member's Knowledge

1. The judge will evaluate the knowledge of the handler regarding health, nutrition / feeding, their dog's breed, and general 4-H knowledge. The following questions are recommended questions that the judge may pick from for the Member Knowledge portion of Family Dog.
 - Health
 - What do you do to keep your dog clean?
 - What do you do to play with your dog?
 - Where do you bring your dog for a checkup or when they are sick? (Answer: Veterinarian)
 - What is the normal temperature of a dog? (Answer: 101-102.5 degrees)
 - How many teeth does a dog have? (Answer: 42)
 - What vaccine for dogs is required by NH state law? (Answer: Rabies)
 - Name one external parasite (bug that lives on your dog) (Answer: Fleas, ticks, lice, mites, flies)
 - Name one type of internal parasite your dog could get (lives inside your dog) (Answer: Round, tape, whip, hook, heartworm)
 - Nutrition / Feeding
 - What do you feed your dog?
 - Are ice cream and candy good treats for your dog? (Answer: No)
 - General Knowledge
 - What is your dog's name?
 - What is your dog's breed? If mixed breed, what breeds do you think they may be?
 - What is a group of puppies born all at the same time called? (Answer: Litter)
 - What is a boy dog called? (Answer: Dog)
 - What is a girl dog called? (Answer: Bitch)
 - What is the name of the father of puppies? (Answer: Sire)
 - What is the name of the mother of puppies? (Answer: Dam)
 - What are the 4-H colors? (Answer: White and green)
 - Name the four H's (Answer: Head, heart, hands, health)
 - What is the 4-H motto? (Answer: To make the best better)

- Name one of the AKC breed groups (Answer: Herding, Sporting, Working, Terrier, Toy, Hound, Non-Sporting)

Obedience

Specific Obedience Guidelines

1. Only collars approved for AKC obedience classes are allowed while competing.
2. Classes are divided based on exhibitor and dog's previous training and experience. In general, classes designated as "A" are for exhibitors and dogs competing at that level for the first time. Classes designated as "B" are for exhibitors that have trained previous dogs at that level or a higher level.
3. If in a judge's opinion, a dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the judge may rejudge the dog on the entire exercise. Should it be necessary that the dog be rejudged on a group exercise, the dog should be rejudged immediately following the group or as soon as possible. If only one dog is to be rejudged, exhibitors from the class will be asked to volunteer, but these volunteers are not to be rescored.
4. **In 4-H shows, dogs that foul the ring are allowed to complete the class and be scored, but their score sheet is marked "NP-fouled ring" for "non-placement" and the dog will not receive a placement rosette and will be automatically be awarded a white Danish ribbon (even if score was higher than 149).**
5. In 4-H shows, dogs that run around the ring "uncontrolled" during an off leash exercise will receive a zero (0) for that exercise, but can have the option of completing that exercise with dog on leash, and if needed, can do the Long Sit and Long Down exercises on leash. Dog and handler will receive a NP (non-placement) score.
6. In the New Hampshire 4-H Dog Program, dogs that have received a total of 3 blue ribbons in an obedience class must move up to the next level the following show year. Keep this in mind when judging. Giving a high score that may be unwarranted can actually be putting a 4-Her at a disadvantage as they may not be ready to move up in a class the following year. Moving up to off leash work can be a very big step for a lot of dogs and kids so keep that in mind when tempted to give those forgiving scores.
7. It is an unwritten rule that 4-H obedience is slightly more forgiving than AKC obedience, BUT within reason. Scoring should be fair and appropriate. 4-Hers should be evaluated honestly. The scoresheet is to see what they need to improve upon. The AKC rules should be used as a guideline and judging should be very similar. If they did not appropriately complete the exercise they should be scored correctly. Partial points for a partial long sits and downs is strongly discouraged. Extra commands should be discouraged and noted and scored appropriately. We want this to be a fair and learning experience but the expectations should be high. If a child needs help, advice, guidance please do so but if the member dog team does not complete exercise correctly and a judge marks it with a very forgiving score it does not teach the child what they need to work on. Rewarding a performance that was not done correctly with a higher than deserved score is most likely not helping them long term, they will less likely improve with practice for next fair or year. This is a learning experience so noting on scoresheets and helpful advice at the end of class can be very

useful. It is understood that sometimes it is difficult to give out white ribbons but it is a learning experience and you can make it positive by lots of feedback and encouragement!

8. Remember that extra commands should be noted as deductions, just like AKC rules.
9. In addition to below explanations see attached “explanations of deductions” sheet; the most recent “explanations on deductions” can be found on the UNH Cooperative Extension website. There you will find scoring is minor penalty is ½-2 ½ points deduction and substantial penalty is 3 points or more deduction. A “non qualifying” score would score below 170. A qualifying score is a total score of 170 or better, earning over one half of the possible points in each individual exercise.

JUDGING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES- Below section is AKC Rules and Regulations:

Standardized Judging. *The Obedience Regulations are the basic guide to judging but do not contain explicit directions for every possible situation and only list the more common and serious faults. They clearly define the exercises, their order and the standards by which they are to be judged. If a decision depends on the exact wording of the Obedience Regulations, the judge is expected to look up the specific regulation prior to making the decision.*

Standardized judging is of paramount importance. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercise but will see that each handler and dog perform the various exercises exactly as described in these regulations. A handler who is familiar with these regulations should be able to enter the ring under any judge without having to inquire how that particular judge wishes to have an exercise performed and without being confronted with any unexpected requirements.

Handlers should expect and train for a reasonable amount of movement by the judge while the dog is working. Judges must not move quickly toward a dog as it is moving, stand closely behind a dog, or follow a heeling dog too closely. Judges should always be in a position to see both the dog and handler at the same time without having to turn their heads.

The judge will inform the first exhibitor in each class what the heeling pattern will be before that exhibitor enters the ring. This may be done verbally, by posting the pattern ringside or by demonstration. This same procedure will be followed in the event of run-offs.

Heeling Pattern. *The same pattern should be maintained as far as practicable for each competing dog. This is a foundation exercise, and it determines the standards for all exercises in which the dog is heeling. The minimum heeling requirements for any class are normal heeling, a fast, a slow, a left turn, a right turn, an about-turn, a halt, and a sit. The heeling patterns should not be in the area of the table and/or gate and should have only one element of an exercise on a leg. (For example, there shall not be a halt and a slow on the same leg of an exercise.) A fast must always be on a long dimension of the ring; slow may be either on the short or long dimension of the ring. The fast and slow should be of significant length, not just several steps. No pattern will have more than one fast and one slow. If possible, have one leg of the heeling pattern with no element on it.*

The “L” pattern is a minimal pattern. Other patterns are acceptable, but excessive complexity should be avoided.

Measuring. *In all classes with jumps, as the dog is brought into the ring, the judges may, at their discretion, measure the dog to verify the height at the withers. The measurement is made using an*

New Hampshire 4-H Dog Program Judging Guidelines

ordinary folding ruler or steel tape that may be calibrated to show the correct jump height. Nothing may be attached to determine level position. No other measuring device is required or acceptable in the ring. The ruler or tape is held by the judge. Measurements made by the judge are final and are not subject to verification.

Qualifying Performance. *An obedience title is intended to evoke admiration. To be worthy of this admiration, the title must be based on performances that fully meet the requirements of the Obedience Regulations.*

A qualifying score in the judge's book is certification that the dog has performed all the required exercises according to these regulations and justifies the awarding of the obedience title associated with the particular class. A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog whose performance has not met the minimum requirements, to a dog that shows fear or resentment, or to a dog that relieves itself at any time while in the ring for judging. Handlers who carry or offer food in the ring or discipline or abuse their dogs in the ring must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Handlers are not permitted to wear such things as waist packs/pouches or any item that, in the judge's opinion, appears to be a training device or aid.

Judge's Directions. The judge's orders and signals should be given to the handlers in a clear and understandable manner but in such a way that the work of the dogs is not disturbed.

Before starting each exercise, the judge will ask, "Are you ready?" At the end of each exercise the judge will say, "Exercise finished."

Each dog will be worked and judged separately, except for during the group exercises.

The judging of an exercise will not begin until the judge has given the first order.

A judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the ring must act promptly to stop such double handling or interference and must penalize the dog substantially.

If the judge feels the circumstances warrant, the dog will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for the exercise during which the aid was received.

Use of Leash. All dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the obedience ring, warm-up ring, or exercise area and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Leashes must be attached to the collar when dogs are brought in for classes requiring an on leash exercise, group exercises and awards.

Collars. All dogs in the obedience ring must wear a properly fitted collar approved by the judge. No dog may enter the ring, either for judging or for awards, with unacceptable equipment. No special training collars, such as electronic collars or prong collars, will be permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.

Heel Position. The heel position as defined in these regulations applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down or moving at heel.

The dog should be at the handler's left side straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to but not crowding its handler so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times.

Hands. *The Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise specifically states that the hands must be in a natural position but do not require that they be at the handler's side while heeling on leash. On the other hand, no judge should consider that a handler is unnatural just because they do not perform with the hands and arms in the same position for each exercise.*

In all exercises where the dog is required to heel free, one of these options should be followed: (1) when the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides and must hang naturally at the sides when stopped; or (2) the right hand and arm must move naturally at the side, while the left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried 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 will be a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions stated above.

In any exercise that requires a dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. The handler must receive a substantial deduction for not doing so. Any movement of the handler's hands or arms from the time the dog sits in front and prior to the dog returning to the heel position will be considered an additional signal or command and will be penalized unless such movement is otherwise permitted by these regulations.

Commands and Signals. The dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command or before a verbal command and signal when these regulations permit command and/or signal. The dog's name, when given immediately before a verbal command, will not be considered as an additional command, but a dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command will be scored as having anticipated the command.

Loud commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression of 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 the judge feels are excessively loud will be penalized substantially.

When a signal is permitted, it must be a single gesture with one arm and hand only, and the arm and hand must immediately be returned to a natural position. A handler may bend their body and knees to bring their hand level with the dog's eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position.

Signals must be inaudible, and the handler must not touch the dog. Any unusual noise or motion may be considered to be a signal. Position of the arms and hands and movements of the head and/or body that aid the dog will be considered additional signals. Signaling a correction to a dog is forbidden and will be penalized.

When these regulations mention a command or signal, only a single command or signal may be given. When these regulations specify command and/or signal, the handler may give either one or the other or both command and signal simultaneously. The name will not be used with any signal not given simultaneously with a verbal command. Any extra commands or signals must be penalized. An extra command and/or signal in any non-principal part of an exercise does not constitute a failing score for that exercise.

The dog should never anticipate the handler's directions but will 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 will not be considered anticipation.

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Lack of prompt response by the dog to a command or signal is subject to a penalty. Delay in following a judge's order to give a command or signal must be penalized, unless the judge directs the delay.

Any kind of whistling is prohibited.

Additional Commands or Signals. If a handler gives an additional command or signal not permitted by these regulations the dog shall be scored as though it had failed to perform that particular part of the exercise. This includes giving a signal or command when none is permitted or using the dog's name with a permitted signal but without a permitted command.

Praise. Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises, but points will be deducted from the total score for a dog that is not under reasonable control while being praised. There will be a substantial penalty for any dog that is picked up or carried at any time in the obedience ring while under judgment. **Note:** A dog is under judgment from the time it enters the ring until it leaves the ring.

Handling Between Exercises. In the Beginner Novice, Preferred Novice, and Novice classes, the dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. No other physical guidance is permitted and, if used, must receive minor or substantial penalties, depending on the circumstances.

Minor penalties will be imposed for a dog that does not respond promptly to its handler's commands or signals before or between exercises in these classes.

Judging Procedures: Errors occurring before, between, or after an exercise will be penalized under miscellaneous penalties.

Misbehavior. Dogs must be under control at all times when entering and exiting the ring. Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior such as barking or running away from its handler must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during or between an exercise or before or after judging.

The judge may release the dog from further competition in the class.

If a dog is working smartly and continuously but goes outside a ring boundary while completing an exercise (as opposed to a dog that bolts out of the ring or leaves the ring between exercises), the penalty, if any, is left to the discretion of the judge.

If the misbehavior 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, the additional points will be deducted from the total score under Miscellaneous Penalties. If such behavior occurs before or after the judging or between exercises, the entire penalty will be deducted from the total score.

The judge must disqualify any dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person in the ring. Any dog that attacks another dog or that appears dangerous to other dogs must be excused and not allowed back in the ring for the group exercises. The judge must complete the *Dog to Dog Incident report*.

Training and Disciplining in the Ring. The judge will not permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands, to move toward the dog to correct it, or to practice any exercise in the ring at any time. Any exhibitor who does so may be excused. A dog whose handler disciplines it in the ring will be excused from further competition in the class and must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score."

Obedience Exercises

Sub Novice A or B - Possible Score 200 points

1. **Heel on Leash and Figure 8 on Leash** - In "heeling" and "figure 8" exercises, the handler will work the dog on a loose leash, which should be carried in either hand or both hands, with the dog on the handler's left side. Hands are to be carried in a natural manner. The handler's left hand should not touch the dog. Any jerking or tugging on the leash is penalized. The handler walks, when the order "forward" is given by the judge, in a normal manner and must not adapt his pace to the dog. There must be a definite change of pace when given the orders "fast", "slow", or "normal". Upon judge's command to "halt", the dog must sit in heel position until judge's next command is given. Extra commands, signals or tugs on the collar will be penalized. The judge's command "exercise finished" indicates that the exercise is complete.
2. **Stand for Exam on Leash** - Upon the judge's order, the handler will stand his dog facing the judge and leave when ready. A voice command and hand signal may be used. If both are used, the dog's name should not be part of the spoken command. The handler will then walk to the end of the leash and face dog. The judge will examine dog by touching the back of the dog; the dog must stay in a standing position, as left by handler. Upon judge's command "return to your dog", handler will return to their dog by approaching the dog from the front and walking around behind the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order "exercise finished" to signal the exercise is complete.
3. **Recall on Leash** - The handler will sit the dog, and with the judge's order, command the dog to stay, leave, and walk to the end of the leash. When ordered to "call your dog", a voice or hand signal should be used (but not both). The dog should come and sit directly in front of the handler. When ordered to "finish" the handler will again use either a voice or hand signal. The dog must move to the heel position and sit. Attempts to guide the dog in either the "come" or "finish" will be penalized. The judge will then give the order "exercise finished" to signal the exercise is complete.
4. **Long Sit and Down on Leash** - The "sit" will be for one minute and the "down" will be three minutes. Handlers may use a voice command and a hand signal. If both are used the dog's name should not be part of the spoken command. All handlers will give their commands and leave their dogs at the same time. When the judge instructs the handlers to "leave your dog", the handlers will give the command/signal to stay and immediately proceed to the end of the leash. The leash will always be in handler's hands, never dropped on the ground. Upon judge's command "return to your dog", after the time required is reached, the handlers will return to their dogs by approaching the dog from the front and walking around and behind the dog to heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order "exercise finished" to signal the exercise is complete. If a dog moves from place during the exercise, the handler will either sit or down the dog again directly in front of them. The dogs are not allowed to disturb others performing the exercise.

Beginner Novice - Possible Score 200 Points

Beginner Novice Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores in the Beginner Novice classes:

1. Heel on Leash 40 points
2. Figure Eight 40 points
3. Sit for Exam 40 points
4. Sit Stay 40 points
5. Recall 40 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Heel on Leash. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The orders are: “Forward” and “Exercise Finished.”

Rally signs will be used for this exercise and will be placed to the right of the handler’s path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the team to aid in that change. The “Start” sign, while not required, may be used to signify the starting point for the heel on leash 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. 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. Both the fast and slow signs must be followed by a normal sign. The “Halt/Sit” sign will be used once at the end of the exercise.

The judge will standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class. The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. 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 “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order 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.

Heel on Leash, Scoring. If a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash, constantly talking to the dog or is adapting to the dog’s pace, that dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for this exercise. Minor deductions will be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections. Similar deductions will be made for any tightening or jerking of the leash, for a handler who guides the dog with the leash, or does not walk at a brisk pace. Minor deductions will be made for additional commands or signals to heel, or for failure of dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast, or slow down noticeably for the slow.

New Hampshire 4-H Dog Program Judging Guidelines

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.)

While scoring this exercise, the judge should be near enough to observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog without interfering with either.

Figure Eight. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The orders are: “Forward,” “Halt,” and “Exercise Finished.”

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand with the dog sitting 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. The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, 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.

Figure Eight, Scoring. Scoring is the same as the Heel on Leash exercise.

Sit For Exam. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment.

The 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 6 foot leash. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, the handler will command the dog to sit if they are not already sitting. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position and may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 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 For Exam, 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 by the handler or active resistance by the dog to sit. Either of these will be penalized substantially.

A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it stands, lies down, or moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls, snaps, or displays resentment. Substantial deductions will be made for an extra command to the dog after the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay and left the heel position. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time or stands or moves away after the examination has been completed. Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a

nonqualifying (NQ) score, will be made for shyness. Minor deductions will be made for any tightening of the leash during the exercise.

Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position.

The orders are: “Sit your dog,” “Leave your dog,” and “Exercise finished.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The leash remains attached to the dog’s collar and will be dropped/placed on the ground between the dog and the handler before the exercise begins.

The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order “Sit your dog,” the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. On the judge’s order the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed to walk around the inside perimeter of the ring in a direction as indicated by the judge. Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, 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.” During this exercise the judge will stand so that the dog and handler are clearly visible throughout the entire exercise.

Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining, or any additional command or signal as the handler is walking around the ring.

A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order “Exercise finished.”

Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their 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. These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases, the dog may be released.

Recall. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler’s command or signal to come.

The orders are: “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” and “Exercise finished.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The leash is removed for this exercise and kept by the handler. The handler may hold the leash in either hand, put the leash in a pocket or drape it around their neck.

The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, 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 25 feet, to a location as directed by the judge, turn to face the dog. On the judge’s order or signal, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. Thereafter, the handler’s arms and hands should hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler. While the dog is coming directly to the handler, a onetime single phrase of praise or encouragement will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that

would be allowed.) The dog must come close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. (No finish will be required of the dog by the handler.) After the judge orders “Exercised finished,” the handler will reattach the leash to the dog’s collar.

Recall, Scoring. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if more than two commands or signals are required for the dog to come, if it fails to come, if it moves from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not come close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

Substantial deductions will be made for a handler’s extra command or signal to come or to sit. Minor or substantial deductions will be made if the dog fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, or fails to sit. Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

Preferred(pre) Novice - Possible Score 200 Points

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the Sit/Down position to be performed in this class.

Preferred Novice Exercises and Scores. The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight 40 points
2. Stand for Examination 40 points
3. Heel Free 40 points
4. Recall 40 points
5. Stay – Sit or Down 40 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

Stand for Examination Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Stand for Examination.

Heel Free Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash but without either the leash or the Figure Eight.

Recall Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Recall.

Stay – Sit or Down – Handler Walk Around the Ring. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit or down position as directed by the judge.

All dogs entered in the class will perform the same stay exercise. The dog and handler should be positioned approximately equidistant to each side of the ring as to be perpendicular to and facing one of the sides. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position.

The orders are: “Sit your dog” or “Down your dog,” “Leave your dog,” and “Exercise finished.”

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The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit or down. The judge will order, “Leave your dog,” and the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed straight forward to the edge of the ring. The handler will walk around the inside perimeter of the ring in a direction as indicated by the judge, with all dogs entered in the class being judged the same way. Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, 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.”

Stay – Sit or Down – Handler Walk Around the Ring, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit/down position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order, “Exercise finished.” Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for any additional commands to the dog after the handler has commanded and/or signaled the dog to stay. Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their 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/down. These will be penalized substantially; in extreme cases, the dog may be released. The judge will not give the “Exercise finished” order until the handler has returned to heel position.

Novice A or B - Possible Score 200 points

Novice Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice classes:

1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight 40 points
2. Stand for Examination 30 points
3. Heel Free 40 points
4. Recall 30 points
5. Long Sit 30 points
6. Long Down 30 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The orders are: “Forward,” “Halt,” “Right turn,” “Left turn,” “About turn,” “Slow,” “Normal” and “Fast.”

“Fast” means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. All about turns will be right about turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence,

and turns and halts may be repeated. However, the judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. 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 each order to halt, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on the judge’s order. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again. The judge will say “Exercise finished” after this portion of the exercise.

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 stand 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight in the Novice classes will be done on leash; the handler may go around either steward first.

The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. 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.

Judging Procedures: *In scoring this exercise, judges shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that they 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. The judge should attempt to be in a position during the course of the exercise so that the dog and the handler may be observed from the rear, front, and side. Dogs receiving an extra command or signal during heeling can still qualify, although a deduction must be made for the extra command or signal. Subsequent additional commands or signals could indicate the dog is not under control and is not working with the handler as a team.*

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Scoring. If a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dog’s pace, that dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for the exercise. Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions, will be made for additional commands or signals to heel or for failure of dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.

Minor or substantial deductions shall be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt and other heeling imperfections. Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash, any tightening or jerking of the leash, or does not walk at a brisk pace. While scoring this exercise, the judge should be near enough to observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog without interfering with either.

Stand for Examination. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment.

The orders are: “Stand your dog and leave when you are ready,” “Back to your dog,” and “Exercise finished.”

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Prior to the start of the exercises the handler will remove the leash and give it to a steward, who will place it on the judge's table or other designated place. The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge.

The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if they choose to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position, and may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet, and then 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 until the judge has said "Exercise finished."

Judging Procedures: *The dog need not be sitting at the start of this exercise. The judge must be alert to keep handlers from going more or less than about 6 feet. The examination is complete when the judge lifts their fingers and palm from the dog's hindquarters. Judges should not expose themselves needlessly to the danger of being bitten.*

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 by the handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to have it stand. Either of these will be penalized substantially.

A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it sits or lies down, moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls, snaps or displays resentment. Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for shyness. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time or sits or moves away after the examination has been completed.

Heel Free, Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed as in the Heel on Leash but without either the leash or the Figure Eight. The scoring and orders will be the same.

Recall. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.

The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, 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 other end of the ring, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. 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. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish. The dog must go smartly to heel position and sit. The manner in which the dog finishes will be optional, provided it is prompt and that the dog sits straight at heel.

Recall, Scoring. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if it fails to come on the first command or signal, if it moves from

the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot.

Substantial deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to sit or finish and for a dog that fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front, or fails to finish or sit at heel. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

Group Exercises. The principal feature of these exercises is that the dog remain in the sitting or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise.

The orders are: "Sit your dogs," or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

Dogs must be spaced with a minimum of four (4) feet between each dog and four (4) feet from the ring barrier on one side of the ring. If there are more dogs competing than can be handled in one group exercise, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections.

If a dog has non-qualified (NQ) in an individual exercise and, in the opinion of the judge the dog demonstrated uncontrolled behavior, the judge may release the dog from performing the group exercises for safety.

The dogs that are in the ring will be lined up in judging program order along one of the four sides of the ring.

The leash remains attached to the dog's collar and will be placed on the ground alongside the dog with the armband weighted as necessary before the exercise begins.

The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit if they are not already sitting. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately go to the opposite side of the ring, turn and face their dogs.

In Novice the judge must promptly instruct the handler to remove any dog that interferes with another dog. Any dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be released from the remaining group exercise.

After one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order "Back to your dogs." The handler must go back promptly, walking around and in back of their own dog to the heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position. Before starting the Long Down the judge will ask "Are you ready?" On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to down without touching either the dogs or their collars so that the dogs are facing the opposite side of the ring. The rest of this exercise is done in the same manner as the Long Sit except that the judge will order the handlers to return after three minutes and the dogs must not move from the down position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished; maintain control of your dog." The dogs will not be required to sit at the end of this exercise. The handlers are required to exit the ring with their dogs under control.

Judging Procedures: *Judges must stand with their full attention on the dogs and handlers during group exercises and remain alert to any potential problems. Any handlers who physically correct their dogs before or after any group exercise or while leaving the ring must be penalized under Miscellaneous Penalties.*

Group Exercises, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, going over to any other dog, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from a sit to a down or from a down to a sit after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order "Exercise finished." A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that must be repositioned by its handler if it is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog. In extreme cases the dog may be released. Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for touching the dog or its collar while getting the dog into the down position. A dog that interferes with another dog on the first group exercise must be released from participating in the remaining group exercise for safety. Scoring of the exercises 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 or lie down starts with the first order, sit or down your dogs. These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases the dog may be released. The timing and scoring of the exercise begins on the judge's second order, "Leave your dogs."

Pre Graduate Novice - Possible Score 200 points

1. **Heel on Leash** - Same as Novice. As more advanced dogs, they should give a smoother performance than at the lower level.
2. **Stand for Exam** - Same as novice.
3. **Heel Free and Figure 8** - Same rules as novice, but both heeling and Figure 8 are executed off lead.
4. **Drop on Recall** - Executed similar to recall but the dog must drop to a "down" on command from the handler, and complete the "come" on command. The dog must come quickly, drop instantly, and come straight in to the handler on the first command in each part of the exercise. A second command is a disqualification, slow response to any command results in a loss of points.
5. **Long Sit** - This exercise in the Pre Graduate Novice class requires the dog to remain in a sitting position for 3 minutes, while the handler is out of the ring and out of sight.
6. **Long Down** - The dog must remain lying down while the handler is out of sight for a period of 5 minutes. Dogs must not move or get up until the handler is back in position and the judge commands "exercise finished". Any dog that goes over to another or leaves the position where he was left is scored zero. Major shifting of position while remaining in place, barking or whining, receives less than 50%.

Graduate Novice - Possible Score 200 points

Graduate Novice Exercises and Scoring. The exercises and maximum scores in the Graduate Novice class:

1. Heel Free and Figure Eight 40 points
2. Drop on Recall 40 points
3. Dumbbell Recall 30 points
4. Dumbbell Recall over High Jump 30 points
5. Recall over Broad Jump 30 points
6. Group Exercise - Sit or Down 30 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Heel Free and Figure Eight Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash. The orders and scoring are the same as in Heel on Leash and Figure

Eight.

Drop on Recall. The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, are the dog's prompt response to the handler's command and/or signal to drop and the dog's remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command and/or signal to drop.

The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by "Call your dog" and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, face the dog, and stand naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. On the judge's arm or hand signal, the handler will give the command and/or signal to drop, and the dog must drop immediately to a complete down position. If the handler chooses to give both, a command and signal to drop, they must be given simultaneously. The dog must remain down until the handler gives the command or signal to come when ordered by the judge. The dog completes the exercise as in the Novice Recall.

Drop on Recall, Scoring. A non-qualifying (NQ) score must be given to any dog that does not drop completely to the down position on a single command and/or signal or to a dog that does not remain down until called or signaled.

Minor or substantial deductions, up to a non-qualifying (NQ) score, shall be made for delayed or slow response to the handler's command and/or signal to drop and for slow response to either of the recalls. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

Dumbbell Recall. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog promptly takes the dumbbell from the handler and delivers it as in the Open Retrieve on Flat.

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The orders are: “Give your dog the dumbbell,” “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” “Take it” and “Finish.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, the handler will present the dumbbell and command or signal the dog to take it. The dog must promptly accept, take and hold the dumbbell. On the judge’s order, the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, to face the dog and stand naturally. On the judge’s order or signal, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop without unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell. On order from the judge to “Take it,” the handler will give a command or signal and take the dumbbell. The finish will be performed as in the Novice Recall. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and Open Retrieve on Flat will apply.

The judge must approve the dumbbell to ensure it meets the requirements stated in the Open Retrieve on Flat exercise.

Dumbbell Recall, Scoring. A dog must receive a nonqualifying (NQ) score if it fails to take the dumbbell on the first command or signal or does not return with the dumbbell sufficiently close that the handler can easily take the dumbbell as described above.

Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell, dropping it, and reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell to the handler. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and Open Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Dumbbell Recall over High Jump. The principle feature of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Dumbbell Recall, is that the dog return with the dumbbell over the jump.

The orders are: “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” “Take it” and “Finish.”

This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Dumbbell Recall except that the dog must clear the high jump.

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least eight (8) feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump.

The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay, go around the jump to at least eight (8) feet beyond the other side of the jump, then turn, face the dog and stand naturally. (These 8-foot distances will be clearly marked.) The height of the jump will be the same as it is for the Open Retrieve over High Jump exercise.

Dumbbell Recall over High Jump, Scoring. A dog that fails to jump the full height of the jump, that uses the jump for an aid in going over, or that returns over the jump without the dumbbell must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that touches the jump when going over it or for a dog that displays any hesitation in jumping. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall, Dumbbell Recall and Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Recall over Broad Jump. The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, is that the dog clear the jump.

The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least eight (8) feet from the jump, (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) facing the lowest hurdle.

The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, go around the hurdle(s) to at least eight (8) feet beyond the last hurdle, then turn and face the dog. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. The dog must clear the entire distance of the broad jump and return to the handler as in the Novice Recall.

The jump will be set to cover a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog.

Recall over Broad Jump, Scoring. A dog that fails to clear the jump, or steps on or between the hurdles must receive a nonqualifying (NQ) score.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that touches the jump when going over it, or for a dog that displays any hesitation in jumping. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall will apply.

Graduate Novice Group Exercise, Sit or Down

Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as in the Open Group exercise except there will be only one exercise performed and the judge will order the handlers to return after three minutes.

During this exercise the judge will stand so that all the dogs are clearly visible. Without having to turn around, judges should be able to see all the handlers as they leave and return to the ring

Open - Possible Score 200 points

Open Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum score in the Open class:

1. Heel Free and Figure Eight 40 points
2. Drop on Recall 30 points
3. Retrieve on Flat 20 points
4. Retrieve over High Jump 30 points
5. Broad Jump 20 points
6. Long Sit 30 points
7. Long Down 30 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Heel Free and Figure Eight, Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise except that the dog will be off leash.

Orders and scoring are the same as in Heel on Leash and Figure Eight

Drop on Recall. The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, are the dog's prompt remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command or signal.

The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by "Call your dog" and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, face the dog, and stand naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. On the judge's arm or hand signal, the handler shall give the command or signal to drop, and the dog must drop immediately to a complete down position.

The dog must remain down until the handler gives the command or signal to come when ordered by the judge. The dog completes the exercise as in the Novice Recall.

Drop on Recall, Scoring. A non-qualifying (NQ) score must be given to any dog that does not drop completely to the down position on a single command or signal or to a dog that does not remain down until called or signaled.

Minor or substantial deductions, up to a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for delayed or slow response to the handler's command or signal to drop and for slow response to either of the recalls. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

Retrieve on Flat. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog retrieve promptly.

The orders are: "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order "Throw it," the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay. If the handler does use a signal, that signal may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell.

After the dumbbell is thrown at least 20 feet, the judge will order the handler to "Send your dog." The retrieve should be performed at a brisk trot or gallop. The dog will go directly to the dumbbell and retrieve it, returning directly to the handler as in the Novice Recall without unnecessary mouthing or playing. On the judge's order to "Take it," the handler will give command or signal and take the dumbbell.

The finish will be performed as in the Novice Recall.

The dumbbell, which must be approved by the judge, will be made of one or more solid pieces of wood or non-wooden material similar in size, shape and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells will not be hollowed out. They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish or may be any color. They may not have decorations or attachments but may

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bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell will be proportionate to the size of the dog. The judge will require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side or too close to the ring's edge.

Judging Procedures: *A judge should not place a dumbbell that is improperly thrown but should require the handler to throw the dumbbell again. A judge will not ask the handler's opinion when deciding whether a dumbbell is to be thrown again or not; it is the judge's sole responsibility to make this decision. Once the decision is made, the judge or steward will retrieve the dumbbell. Under no circumstances should the handler be penalized for a bad throw. Requiring the handler to re-throw the dumbbell signifies that the exercise is being restarted; therefore, the handler may pet, praise, and reposition the dog without penalty before the exercise is begun again. The retrieve, including the pickup, must be brisk and without hesitation.*

Once the exercise begins, the handler may not adjust their feet or position.

Retrieve on Flat, Scoring. A dog must receive a nonqualifying (NQ) score if it fails to go out on the first command or signal, goes to retrieve before the command or signal is given, fails to retrieve, or does not return with the dumbbell sufficiently close that the handler can easily take the dumbbell as described above.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog's slowness in going out, returning, or picking up the dumbbell, not going directly to the dumbbell, unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell, and reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell to the handler. Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for dropping the dumbbell. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall will apply.

Retrieve Over High Jump. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog go out over the jump, pick up the dumbbell and promptly return with it over the jump.

The orders are: "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

This exercise will be performed in the same manner as the Retrieve on Flat, except that the dog will clear the high jump both going and coming.

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump and will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise. On the judge's order the handler will throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. (These 8-foot distances must be clearly marked.) Jump heights shall be set in multiples of 2 inches with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches. A jump height is determined by the height of the dog at the withers (see table in Appendix B for standard jump heights). The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with the exception of dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height. Dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height must be less than 7 1/2 inches at the withers. Handlers who choose to have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration.

The minimum jump height for breeds listed in Appendix A shall be set to three-quarters the dog's actual height at the withers. This jump height shall also be rounded to a multiple of 2 inches. The minimum jump heights for approved breeds will be set in accordance with the table listed in Appendix B. Handlers of these breeds may choose to have the dog jump higher than listed in the table.

The stewards, based on the jump height listed, will pre-set the jumps.

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The judge will make certain the jump is at least the minimum required height for each dog and must also be aware that the jump may be set at a higher height if requested by the handler. Judges may, at their discretion, verify the height of any dog at the withers. The high jump will be 5 feet wide and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and adjustable at 2-inch increments from 8 inches to 36 inches. The uprights of the high jump will be 4 feet high. In addition, four 8-inch boards, one 4-inch board and one 2-inch board should be available for use. The jump will be a flat white. The height of each board will be indicated in black 2-inch numbers.

Judging Procedures: *The judge must make certain that the handler throws the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump.*

Retrieve Over High Jump, Scoring. A dog that fails to go over the full height of the jump in either direction, that uses the jump for any aid in going over, or that returns over the jump without the dumbbell must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that touches the jump when going over it or for a dog that displays any hesitation or reluctance in jumping. All other penalties listed under the Retrieve on Flat apply.

Broad Jump. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until directed to jump, that the dog clear the jump on a single command or signal, and that the dog return to its handler after it has jumped.

The orders are: “Leave your dog,” “Send your dog,” and “Finish.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump facing the lowest side of the lowest hurdle. (This 8-foot distance must be clearly marked.)

The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump. Handlers may stand anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their toes about two (2) feet from the jump.

On the judge’s order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler will make a 90-degree pivot, but will remain in the same spot. The dog will clear the entire distance of the hurdles without touching them and, without further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler, finishing as in the Novice Recall.

The broad jump will consist of four white telescoping hurdles, all about 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 5 feet long and about 6 inches at the highest point. In the ring, they will be arranged in order of size, evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog. Four hurdles will be used for a jump of 48 to 72 inches, three for 28 to 44 inches, two for a jump of 16 to 24 inches, and one for 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first. It is the judge’s responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these regulations.

Judging Procedures: *A handler standing too close or too far from the side of the jump shall be required to move to the proper position.*

Broad Jump, Scoring. A dog that fails to stay until directed to jump, refuses the jump on the first command or signal, or steps on or between the hurdles must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

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Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not return directly to the handler, that displays any hesitation or reluctance in jumping, or that touches the jump. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

Open Group Exercises, Performance and Scoring. These exercises are performed and scored in the same manner as in the Novice classes, except the leash will be removed and placed behind the dog with the armband weighted as necessary; and the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring then leave in a single file and go completely out of the dogs' sight.

The orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," "Back to your dogs," and "Exercise finished. Put your leash on your dog and maintain control of your dog."

Counting from the judge's order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers must remain in the place designated by the judge until three minutes have passed for the Long Sit and five minutes for the Long Down. On the judge's orders, the handlers will return to the ring in reverse order, line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, and return to their dogs.

During these exercises the judge will stand so that all the dogs are clearly visible and without having to turn around, judges should be able to see all the handlers as they leave and return to the ring.

If a dog leaves the place where it was left during the group exercise, the judge has the option of either asking that the handler be recalled to remove the dog or promptly instructing a steward to remove the dog, depending on the nature of the occurrence. The judge's decision will be guided by consideration for the safety of all involved. Any dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be released from the remaining group exercise.

Judging Procedures: *When positioning dogs in the ring for the group exercises that require the handlers to go out of sight, judges should ensure that such positioning will permit the competing dogs to keep the handlers in their direct line of vision as the handlers leave and return to the ring. When signaling the steward to bring the handlers back to the ring, do not use a signal (like waving of an arm) that might cause the dogs in the ring to react.*

Utility Possible Score 200 points

Prior to the start of judging the judge will decide which glove will be retrieved. This information will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring.

The judge will designate the same glove for each handler

Utility Exercises and Scores. The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in the Utility class:

1. Signal Exercise 40 points
2. Scent Discrimination Article # 1 30 points
3. Scent Discrimination Article # 2 30 points
4. Directed Retrieve 30 points
5. Moving Stand and Examination 30 points
6. Directed Jumping 40 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

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Signal Exercise. The principal features of this exercise are the ability of dog and handler to work as a team while heeling and the dog's correct response to the signals to stand, stay, down, sit and come.

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

Orders are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash, except for the judge's order to "Stand your dog." This order will only be given when the dog and handler are walking at a normal pace and will be followed by the order to "Leave your dog." The judge must use signals for directing the handler to signal the dog to down, sit, come (in that sequence) and to finish.

Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free, except that handlers may use signals only and must not speak to their dogs at any time during this exercise. While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler to "Stand your dog." On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler will signal the dog to stay, go to the other end of the ring, then turn and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give the signals to down, sit, come and finish as in the Novice Recall.

Signal Exercise, Scoring. A dog that fails to obey the handler's first signal to stand, stay, down, sit or come, or that receives a verbal command from the handler to do any of these parts of the exercise, must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

A substantial deduction will be made for any audible command during the heeling or finish portions of the exercise.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that walks forward on the stand, down or sit portions of the exercise. The deduction could be up to an NQ. All applicable penalties listed under the Heel on Leash and the Novice Recall (after the dog has been signaled to come) exercises will apply.

Scent Discrimination. The principal features of these exercises are the selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone and the prompt delivery of the correct article to the handler. In each of these two exercises, the dog must select and retrieve an article that has been handled by its handler. The dog must make this selection based on scent alone.

The orders are: "Take an article," "The taking of the article from the handler," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of two (2) sets only. The handler will choose which two (2) sets are to be used, metal, leather or wood. Each set of articles will be comprised of five identical objects, which may be items of everyday use. The size of the articles will be proportionate to the size of the dog. The metal set must be made entirely of rigid metal. The leather set must be made of leather. The wood set must be made of one or more solid pieces of wood. The articles may be unfinished, stained or dyed and must be designed so that only a minimum amount of fastening material is visible. The articles in each set will be legibly numbered with a different number and must be approved by the judge.

The handler will present all ten articles to the judge, who will make a written note of the numbers of the two articles they have selected. These articles will be placed on a table or chair within the ring until the handler picks each up separately when ordered by the judge. The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about 6 inches apart. The closest article should be about 20 feet from the handler and dog.

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The judge must make sure that the articles are visible to both dog and handler and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among articles. Handlers may choose to watch the articles being placed or face away. After the articles have been placed the handler will face away from the articles with the dog sitting in heel position.

The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, “Take an article”; the scoring of the exercise will begin. The handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position, then take an article and return to heel position.

The handler may use either article first, but must hand it to the judge immediately when ordered. The judge will make certain handlers scent each article with their hands only.

Once the handler has returned to heel position with the article, the handler may talk to but not pet their dog. As the handler is scenting the article the judge will ask, “What method will you be using to send your dog?” The handler should respond with either “After a sit” or “Send directly.” At this time, the handler may inform the judge the procedure will be the same for both articles. If not informed, the judge will ask the question again for the next article.

The judge’s taking of the article will be considered to be the second order. On the judge’s order, the handler will place the article on the judge’s book or worksheet. Without touching that article, the judge or steward will place it among the others. Once the judge takes the article from the handler, the handler is not permitted to talk to the dog.

On order from the judge to “Send your dog,” the handler has the option as to how the dog is sent. The handler may give the command or signal to heel and will turn in place; either right or left, to face the articles. The handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler will then give the command or signal to retrieve. Or the handler may do a right about-turn, simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this case, the dog should not assume a sitting position but must go directly to the articles. Handlers may give their scent by extending the palm of one hand in front of the dog’s nose or gently touching the dog’s nose, but the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before they turn and face the articles. The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk trot or gallop. It may take any reasonable time to select the correct article but must work continuously.

After picking up the correct article, the dog will complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat. This procedure will be followed for both articles. If a dog retrieves the wrong first article, that article and the correct one must be removed. They will be placed on the table or chair, and the next exercise will be done with one less article.

Scent Discrimination, Scoring. A dog that retrieves a wrong article or that does not complete the retrieve of the right article must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. If the “After a sit” method is used, anticipating the command or signal to retrieve must receive a nonqualifying (NQ) score. If the “Send directly” method is used, any additional command or signal to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, once the handler leaves the dog to take an article, that changes position while the handler is taking or scenting the article, or moves from the place where it was left. Similar deductions will be made for a handler petting the dog while scenting the article, for any roughness in giving their scent to the dog, not returning their arm and hand to a natural position after giving the scent and before turning, excessive motions when turning

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toward the articles, or for not turning in place or for talking to the dog after the judge has taken the article.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that is slow, that does not go directly to the articles, that does not work continuously, or that picks up the wrong article, even if it is immediately put down again. There should be no penalty for a dog that takes a reasonably long time examining the articles, provided it is working continuously. All applicable penalties listed under the Heel Free, Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Directed Retrieve. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay until directed to retrieve and that it complete the retrieve of the designated glove.

The orders are: “One,” “Two,” or “Three,” “Take it,” and “Finish.”

In this exercise the handler will provide three gloves that are predominately white. They must be open and must be approved by the judge. Handlers will stand with their backs to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and in line with the jumps. The dog will be sitting in heel position. The judge or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction. One glove is dropped about three (3) feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about three (3) feet from the end of the ring.

The gloves will be designated “One,” “Two,” or “Three,” reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order.

When the judge designates the glove by number, the handler will turn in place to face the glove, halting with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may not touch the dog or reposition it. The handler will give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. Either simultaneously with or immediately following giving the direction, the handler must give a verbal retrieve command. The dog must then go directly to the glove, completing the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

Handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as necessary to give the direction to the dogs but must then stand up in a natural position with their arms and hands hanging naturally at their sides.

Judging Procedures: *The judge should be certain the gloves are visible to the smallest and largest dogs.*

The judge may point to the designated glove at the same time they give the order.

The direction the handler turns is at the option of the handler, no matter which glove is designated, but the dog should maintain heel position throughout the turn and sit at heel when the turn is completed.

Giving the direction to the dog must be done with a single motion. When the motion stops, the direction is completed.

Directed Retrieve, Scoring. A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for any commands or signals to position the dog after the handler turns to face the glove, for a handler failing to give a verbal command to retrieve, for a dog that retrieves a wrong glove or that does not complete the retrieve of the designated glove.

Depending on the extent, a substantial deduction up to and including a non-qualifying (NQ) score will be made for a handler who does not turn in place, does not face the designated glove, does not give the verbal command to retrieve simultaneously or immediately after giving the direction to

retrieve, or for a dog that does not go directly to the designated glove. All applicable penalties listed under the Heel Free, Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

Moving Stand and Examination. The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away; accept the examination without shyness or resentment; and return to the handler on command.

The orders are: “Forward,” “Stand your dog,” and “Call your dog to heel.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order the handler may command or signal the dog to heel. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order “Stand your dog.” Without pausing, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand and continue forward about 10 to 12 feet. The handler will then turn either to the right or left to face the dog, which must stand and stay in position.

The judge will approach the dog from the front to examine it. The exam will consist of the judge gently using both hands in a single smooth motion beginning at the sides of the dog’s neck, proceeding along the body and ending at the dog’s croup. The exam will not include the head, teeth, legs, testicles, or tail.

On the judge’s order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the heel position. The dog should return to heel position in a brisk manner.

Judging Procedures: *This exercise may be judged from the side while the dog and handler are heeling and until the dog is to be examined.*

Moving Stand and Examination, Scoring. A nonqualifying (NQ) score is required for a dog that does any of the following: displays fear or resentment; moves from the place where it was left; sits or lies down before it is called; growls or snaps; repeatedly whines or barks; fails to heel, stand, stay, or accept the judge’s examination; or fails to return to the handler.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place or for a dog that returns to the handler as defined in the Novice Recall but not to heel position.

Depending on the extent of hesitation, minor or substantial deductions will be made for the handler who hesitates or pauses while giving the stand command and/or signal. All appropriate penalties of the Novice Heel Free, Stand for Examination and Recall exercises will apply.

Section 14. Directed Jumping. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stop, jump as directed, and return as in the Novice Recall.

The orders are: “Send your dog,” “Bar,” “High” and “Finish.”

The jumps will be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the longest sides of the ring 18 to 20 feet apart. The judge must see that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog, as described in the Retrieve over High Jump.

The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring with the dog sitting in heel position, about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them. The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order the handler will command and/or signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate

center of the unobstructed end of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely.

The judge will order either “Bar” or “High” for the first jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. After the dog has returned to heel position, the judge will say, “Exercise finished.”

When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the order for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump.

It is optional which jump the judge first indicates, but both jumps must be included. The judge must not designate the jump until the dog has reached the far end of the ring. The height of the jumps and construction of the high jump will be the same as required in the Open classes. The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2 1/2 inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be flat black and white in alternate sections each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and must be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches. The jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked off without affecting the uprights.

Judging Procedures: *The judge should determine the 10-foot distance before beginning the class. The same sequence of jumps should be used for each dog.*

Directed Jumping, Scoring. A dog will receive a nonqualifying (NQ) score if it: anticipates the handler’s command and/or signal to go out; fails to leave the handler; does not go out between the jumps; does not stop and remain at least 10 feet past the jumps without an additional command; anticipates the handler’s command and/or signal to jump; returns over the wrong jump; knocks the bar off the uprights; or uses the top of any jump for aid in going over.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command, that does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, that does not sit, that receives an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or that anticipates the handler’s command to sit.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the extent, will be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping.

All applicable penalties of the Novice Recall exercises will apply.

Resources

The **Guide to New Hampshire Dog shows** is where you can find all the rules and guidelines for the state. As a judge you should make yourself familiar with this guide. Each show committee should have one on the grounds at each 4-H dog event to reference but we recommend if you judge often to have your own copy for reference. Some county offices will provide you with a copy or you can print or view on the New Hampshire 4-H dog page <https://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Animal-and-Ag-Science/4-H-Dog-Page>

You can also find copies of the 4-H scoresheets for all classes at this website.
<https://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Animal-and-Ag-Science/4-H-Dog-Page>

For a complete Rule book of AKC obedience please go to:

http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf?_ga=1.83520402.568775539.1378399209

This guide was adapted from the New England 4-H dog program's judge's guidelines.

New Hampshire 4-H Dog Program Judging Guidelines

Appendix A – Explanation of Deductions



NEW HAMPSHIRE 4-H DOG OBEDIENCE PROGRAM



Page 2 - all score sheets

EXPLANATION OF DEDUCTIONS

The purpose of this scoresheet is for the Judge to use it as a tool for scoring the exhibit against a standard of performance, and also for the exhibitor to see how they performed and learn what areas need improvement.

Some explanations of deductions are listed below for your learning convenience, however members, parents and leaders are encouraged to get current copies of the AKC obedience regulations or read them online at www.AKC.org

Judges may judge and mark any occurrences that happen in the ring, whether they are listed or spelled out in the regulations or not, as needed. There are many gray areas that judges may make decisions on.

Although the AKC rule book is used as a guide, Judges should keep in mind when judging 4-H members the appropriate development stage and expectations from the 4-H member's age group.

Scoring - Minor penalty - 1/2 point to 2-1/2 points Substantial penalty - 3 points or more

Some of the faults listed on the scoresheet are self explanatory. If any of the following is marked on the front of the score sheet, this is what might have happened:

Heeling exercises- Heel Position. The heel position applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down, or moving at heel. The dog should be at the handler's left side straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to, but not crowding, it's handler so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times.

Brisk, briskly - keenly alive, alert, energetic. Handler needs to walk briskly.

Constant tugging on leash or Guiding - Tugging or keeping the leash up tight without clip hanging down and sufficient length of leash hanging down.

Continually adapts pace to dog - If dog changes pace on it's own, handler slows or speeds up to dog's pace.

Crooked or Poor Sit - a dog that is not straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. May be at side or in front.

Crowding - a dog so close to handler as to interfere with handler's freedom of motion.

Gently - with kindness, without harshness or roughness.

Guiding gently by the collar - control of the dog by holding any part of the collar with minimal pressure on the dog's neck.

Forging - Dog moving ahead of heel position.

Hands on leash - The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position.

Hands off leash - (1) When the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides

(2) The left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body.

The hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise.

Substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried as stated above.

Hands - Recall or position any time a dog returns to the front of handler - In any exercise that the dog returns to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front.

Heeling wide - Dog moving out far from side of handler.

Lagging - Dog moving behind heel position.

Natural - not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places

No change of pace - Handler and dog do not noticeably accelerate on the fast or decelerate on the slow.

No Sits - on the score sheet may refer to in front of or at the side of handler

Unmanageable - Dog is not under control and/or not responding to handler.

Unqualified Heeling - Dog may not be continually working, or heels on the wrong side of the handler for a substantial part of the exercise.

Stand for Exam

Resentment - resistance, unwillingness

Moves away - Dog moved all four feet away from the place where the dog was left.

Recall

Directly - immediately, without deviation or hesitation, in a straight line

Drop completely - a down position that would be acceptable for a Long Down exercise

Prompt response - without hesitation, immediate, quick

Long sit or down

Forcing - Physically putting the dog into position, by touching dog or by collar.

Did not remain in place - Dog lifts rear end off ground on sit, as opposed to shifting weight in place.

On Down, dog moves a complete body's length forward, or sideways, from where it was left.

Dog placed so it interferes with adjacent dog - Dog placed at angle making it closer to and faces another dog.

Misbehavior: Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior such as snapping, barking, or running away from its handler.

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(Revised 11/2013)