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4-H DOG PROJECT

Insert for You and
Your Dog Bulletin

INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED LEVELS FOR DOG SHOWS

DEFINITION OF EXERCISES

Heeling

During the exercise the handler and dog at a comfortable pace with the dog's right shoulder even with the handler's left leg. The dog adjusts to the pace of the handler rather than the handler adjusting to the pace of the dog.

Heeling Using A Figure 8

In this exercise which is always done on leash, the handler and dog move in a figure 8 course around two posts (people) who are standing 8 ft. apart. The purpose of the exercise is to test the dog's ability to move past strangers without sniffing or shying away. The exercise is optional because it does take extra time but it is a good exercise and people like to watch it.

Stand for Examination

During this exercise the dog stands without moving while he is being examined for grooming and condition by the judge. The space between the handler and his dog must be sufficient so the judge will have easy access to examine the dog. For the intermediate level, this exercise is done on leash and is done off leash for the advanced level. No points are given at the intermediate and advanced level for grooming and condition. After the first year the 4-H'er is expected to know how to do this and therefore, points are not given for good grooming but may be taken away because of poor grooming.

RECALL

This exercise is done on leash for the intermediate level and off leash for the advanced levels. It begins with the dog in a sitting position to the left of the handler. At the command of the judge "leave your dog" the handler gives the command "stay." The handler then moves to a place designated by the judge, a short distance away. At the command by the judge "call your dog" the handler gives a dog's name and the command "come!" The dog then moves forward and comes to a sitting position squarely in front of his handler. The judge then gives the command "finish." When the judge gives the command, the handler gives the command "heel" and the dog then returns to the sitting position at the handler's left side.

(THE ABOVE EXERCISES ARE ALL DONE INDIVIDUALLY)

Long Sit

This is done as a group exercise with two or more handlers and dogs in the group. The judge asks the handlers and dogs to come into the show ring and line up facing the judge with the dogs sitting to the left of the handlers. The judge then asks the handlers to put their numbered arm bands behind their dogs so the judge will be able to identify the dog in case of a fault. At the judge's command "leave your dog" the handler gives the command "stay!" and goes to a point designated by the judge. At the end of one minute the judge gives the command "return to your dog." The handler then returns to his dog and places himself beside the dog in the heel position. The dog should not move until the judge announces "exercise finished."

(over)

For the intermediate level a leash is used and the handler stands at the end of the 6 ft. leash when he leaves his dog. The advanced level does not use a leash.

Long Down

This also is a group exercise and proceeds in a manner similar to the long sit exercise. After the handlers and dogs are in position and the arm bands behind the dogs, the judge gives the command "down your dog." The handler then gives the command "down" and his dog is to lie down. The judge then commands "leave your dog," the handler gives the command "stay!" and goes to a point designated by the judge. At the end of three minutes the judge gives the command "return to your dog." The handler then returns to his dog and places himself beside the dog in the heel position. The dog should not move until the judge announces "exercise finished."

The intermediate level uses a leash as described in the long sit exercise. The advanced level does not use a leash.

NOTE

Every exercise ends with the judge announcing "exercise finished." This is time for the handler and dog to relax briefly while the judge marks the score sheet.

DEFINITION OF SELECTED FAULTS

Forging--dog moves ahead of the handler.

Lagging--dog lags behind the handler.

Crowding--dog moves so close he touches handler.

Poor Sits--dog doesn't sit squarely on his rump, doesn't sit parallel with handler or sits too far in front of or too far behind his handler.

Poor finish--dog doesn't correctly or completely finish the "come fore" or recall exercises.

Handler error--examples are: dog is on the wrong side of handler, handler gives wrong or incorrect commands, handler gives unnecessary commands, handler disciplines the dog in show ring, gives the dog treats in the show ring, etc.

Unusual behavior--examples are: dog urinating or defecating in the show ring, dog leaves the ring, snapping or barking, etc.

Incorrect equipment--anything other than a 6 ft. leash with a training or choker collar. (leashes made entirely of chain are not advisable.)