

# Showing in 4-H Dog Obedience

## A Guide to the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show

Presented by the Indiana 4-H Dog Advisory Committee

**EXPERT  
REVIEWED**

**PURDUE  
EXTENSION**

INDIANA 4-H YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT



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## Introduction

The Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show is the highlight of the year for many 4-H dog club members. The dog serves as a tool in the growth of each individual. The dog show provides an opportunity for a member to exhibit what he or she has accomplished. Members, who spend months working their dog perfecting skills in obedience training, can put their proficiency to a test, demonstrating the dog's usefulness as a companion while behaving in a public place in the presence of other dogs.

Friendly competition can provide an excellent opportunity to develop good sportsmanship.

- This document is not a training manual. Various training methods are available in books, videos, on the Internet, or from a local dog trainer.
- Use this guide as a quick reference for Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show obedience classes.
- For policies not covered here and for in-depth detail of exercises and judging exercises, please refer to the corresponding AKC Obedience Regulations: [www.akc.org/rules/index.cfm](http://www.akc.org/rules/index.cfm). For additional rules, see the most recent version of the Indiana State 4-H entry book, available at [www.indianastatefair.com/state-fair/competitionscontests/4-h-competitions](http://www.indianastatefair.com/state-fair/competitionscontests/4-h-competitions).
- Check with your local county for policies and rules governing county shows and matches.

## Mission Statement

The 4-H Dog Project encourages youth to develop good character, discipline, and a feeling of self-worth while learning about canine care, responsibility, and the sport of dog showing. The Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show complements a basic goal of 4-H philosophy: the general development of the boy or girl. Building self-esteem and self-respect are key parts of this goal.

## Preparation for the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show

Plan to arrive at the show site at least an hour before the closing of vet check and/or your scheduled show time.

Each day that you show, bring your dog's Certificate of Vaccination (4-H-671 for the current year), Rabies Vaccination Certificate, and your State Fair Entry confirmation letter.

Special problems or infractions not covered in writing will be acted upon by the State 4-H Dog Advisory Committee and the State 4-H Office Representatives.

The show veterinarian will determine if a dog may safely compete with tape, bandages, or stitches.

Dogs with disabilities may be allowed to show with approval of the show veterinarian and/or show committee.

Be sure to exercise (potty) your dog before going to the show ring. Take a clean-up bag with you; you are responsible for cleaning up after your dog inside and outside the building. Not cleaning up will result in disqualification from the show.

Do not roam the fairgrounds with your dog. Dogs are permitted only in the unloading area, the dog building, and designated exercise areas.

## Vet Check

- Allow plenty of time to proceed through the vet check. The lines may be long and move slowly.
- Be aware of the designated vet check times.
- Each dog will be individually examined, and your dog's Certificate of Vaccination (4-H 671) and Rabies Vaccination Certificate will be evaluated for accuracy and completeness.

These dogs will not be allowed to enter the building:

- Bitches in season (heat).
- Dogs with any sign of illness, internal parasite, or elevated temperature.
- Dogs with fleas or any other external parasite.
- Dogs with incomplete vet forms or outdated vaccinations. Before coming to the show make sure your vet has written in the complete date for every vaccination given, and not used ditto marks.

Dogs that cannot be examined due to aggressiveness.

## Registration Table

After passing through vet check, proceed to the registration table, where you will pick up a packet that contains your armband and a map of the ring set-up.

Armbands must be worn on the left arm by exhibitors. Keep them visible while on the fairgrounds, both inside and outside the building. If you are showing more than one day, save your armband for the following day's competition.

At the information table, you can find additional clean-up bags, exhibitor and leader information, and a first-aid kit.

## Rules (Not Guidelines)

Not every rule is listed here, but those most asked about are:

Only dogs exhibited are allowed at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show. Do not bring extra dogs.

A 4-H member must wear appropriately fitted athletic shoes for obedience, agility, and drill team.

A 4-H member may not move back to a lower class than the one he or she entered in previous years with the same dog.

A handler who enters a class that is not repeatable will do so for exhibition only.

No bait or clickers in the obedience rings or staging areas.

A 4-H member may show one 4-H obedience trained dog and/or one dog trained through the 4-H service dog program. Each dog may only be shown by one child.

Head halters may be used only *outside* the show ring and staging areas.

When showing in the obedience ring, a buckle collar, slip collar, or martingale collar are the *only* acceptable collars to use.

Leashes are to be 6 feet in length and made of leather or fabric.

No tags of any kind are to be on the collar. *Dogs being raised for the service dog programs are exempt from the collar tag rule.*

Flea and tick collars cannot be worn for judging.

Muzzles, prong/pinch collars, or electronic collars of any type are prohibited at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show.

No double handling. Persons outside the ring are prohibited from any intentional actions designed to affect the performance of a handler or dog being judged in the ring. This applies to persons attempting to improve or to impair a performance. This includes verbal or nonverbal actions. Please stand back from the fencing.

Physical or verbal disciplining of a dog is not permitted at any time inside or outside the ring except to a reasonable extent in case of an attack on either a dog or person. Dog aggressiveness is an automatic dismissal from the show.

## Score Sheet Penalties

The list of faults on score sheets is not intended to be complete, but minimum penalties are specified for most of the more common and serious faults. No maximum limit exists for penalties. A dog or handler who makes none of the errors listed may still receive a low score due to less common faults that are not listed.

Ten-point deductions are taken for the following:

1. *Disciplining.* Any harsh verbal or physical discipline.
2. *Fouling the ring.* Each time the dog relieves itself in the ring is a deduction.
3. *Barking.* Excessive barking.
4. *Rules violation.* Any violation of the rules is a deduction, including double handling.
5. *Inappropriate attire:*
  - Exposing cleavage, bare midriff, or buttocks.
  - Torn, tattered, or dirty clothing.
  - Excessively baggy or tight clothing.
  - Overalls.
  - Boots, high heels, loose fitting shoes, floppy sandals, backless slip-ons, or other unsafe footwear.
  - Hats, head covers, and sunglasses
  - Clothing with commercial advertisements or insignia (except 4-H clover) is prohibited, except for 4-H dogs being raised for the handicapped.
6. *Leaving the ring.* Any dog leaving the ring is penalized.

## In General

Dogs should enter and exit the ring on a loose leash. A loose leash is generally indicated when the snap is dangling down.

Heel position applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, laying down, or moving at heel. The dog is 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.

Only a single command or signal may be given except for a "stay," a "long sit," or a "long down" exercise when a verbal command may be given simultaneously with a signal (unless noted otherwise such as in the signal exercise). A signal must be a single gesture with one arm

and hand only, and the arm and hand must immediately be returned to a natural position.

When the dog is heeling on leash, the handler should 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.

After each "halt" it is *permissible* for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again.

A handler delaying in following a judge's order to give a command or signal will be penalized.

Signals are inaudible, and the handler must not touch the dog. Signaling a correction to a dog is forbidden. Any unusual noise or motion may be considered to be a signal. Position of the arms and hands and movement of the head and/or body that aid the dog will be considered an additional signal or command. A handler may briefly bend the body or knees to bring his or her hand level with the dog's eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position.

Any kind of whistling is prohibited.

The dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command. A dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command will be scored as having anticipated the command. 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.

At the end of every exercise the judge will state "Exercise finished." Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises as long as the dog stays under reasonable control. No dog shall be picked up or carried at any time in the obedience ring.

Gently guiding a dog between exercises is permitted in Service Dog and classes 2B and lower, but it is *not* allowed in classes 3A and above. Minor penalties are imposed for a dog that does not respond to a handler's commands or signals before or between exercises.

One of the following options should be followed for hand position in all exercises where the dog is required to heel free:

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.
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 situation, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise in order to maintain balance. There is a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of these two positions. In any exercise that requires the dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. Not doing so will result in a substantial deduction.

When heeling with the leash, the leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be in a natural position.

Warm-ups consist of on-leash heeling, sits, and downs. No jumping should be done. 4-H members are allowed to only warm up their own dog. *Adults* are *not* to perform this task. Warm-ups should be performed away from the obedience rings and must not be disruptive to any dog or person. Handlers are not to use excessive verbal commands or discipline or to practice any exercise in the ring at any time.

## Classes Offered

Before 4-H handlers choose their class, they should read the rules set forth in the most recent version of the Indiana State Fair 4-H entry book, ask their leader's advice, and evaluate the experiences and skills of themselves and their dogs. A handler/dog team may begin at any eligible level and progress from there. Teams are encouraged to move out of repeatable classes when ready. A team may skip up class(es) if they desire, but may not move back to a lower class than the one they entered in previous years. A handler who enters a class that is not repeatable will do so for exhibition only. In any given year, a 4-H dog must be shown at the same obedience level at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show that the dog was entered in as a part of the county 4-H program (excluding exhibition only).

### Class 1A

Not repeatable.

For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experiences with a dog that has received no obedience training prior to October 1. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Sit for Exam on Leash, Recall on Leash-no Finish, Sit Stay on Leash-30 seconds.



### **Class 1B**

Repeatable for exhibition only.

For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience with a new untrained dog; or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dog has had training; or for 4-H'ers and dogs with previous training experience, including showing in 1A; or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dogs have had training that disqualifies them for 1A.

Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam on Leash, Recall on Leash, Down Stay (Walk Around Ring), Sit Stay (Get Your Leash).

### **Class 2A**

Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only.

Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Recall off Leash, Sit Stay (Get Your Leash), 1-Minute Sit Stay on Leash, 1-Minute Down Stay on Leash.

### **Class 2B**

May repeat until ready to move up.

Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Drop on Recall, Sit Stay (Get Your Leash), 1-Minute Sit Stay on Leash, 1-Minute Down Stay on Leash.

### **Class 3A**

Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Dumbbell Recall, Drop on Recall, Stand Stay (Get Your Leash).

### **Class 3B**

May repeat until ready to move up.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Drop on Recall, Stand Stay (Get Your Leash).

### **Class 4A**

Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump, Recall Over Broad Jump, Command Discrimination (Stand-Sit-Down).

### **Class 4B**

May repeat until ready to move up.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Command Discrimination (Stand-Down-Sit).

### **Class 5A**

Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only.

Exercises are: Hand Signals (+ voice), Directed Retrieve (2 gloves), Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam.

### **Class 5B**

May repeat until ready to move up.

Exercises are: Hand Signals, Directed Retrieve, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam.

### **Class 6A**

Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only.

Exercises are: Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination 1 retrieve), Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Exam, Go Out, Directed Jumping (1 jump).

### **Class 6B**

May repeat.

Exercises are: Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Directed Jumping, Moving Stand and Exam.

### **Veterans**

Repeatable.

For 4-H members whose dogs are at least seven (7) years old or are physically challenged. The dog must have completed at least class 2B in previous years. Dogs who are physically challenged must be accompanied by a letter from a veterinarian stating that the dog is unable to perform jumping and/or retrieving exercises. A dog may not be shown in any other obedience class at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show once they have competed in the Veteran's Class.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Recall off Leash, Stand Stay (Get Your Leash)

## ***Class Service Dog A***

For 4-H'ers with no previous service dog training experience; or for 4-H'ers with no experience with their personal service dog.

## ***Class Service Dog B***

For 4-H'ers with previous service dog training experience (4-H or otherwise); or for 4-H'ers with previous training experience with their personal service dog.

## ***Heel on Leash***

### **Classes 1A through 2B**

The handler should enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at an area designated by the judge. Upon hearing the judge's command to "Forward," the handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash at heel position. At each "Halt" the handler will stop. The dog will 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. All about turns are to the right.

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

Orders for this exercise are "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast." Orders may be given in any sequence, and turns and halts may be repeated.

"Fast" means that the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. During a "Slow" the team must slow down noticeably. "Normal" is a brisk walk.

## ***Figure 8 on Leash***

### **Classes 1A through 2B**

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 be standing 8 feet apart. The handler may go around either steward first, heeling in a figure 8 pattern, starting and stopping as the judge orders.

## ***Sit for Exam on Leash***

### **Class 1A**

The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge and, when the judge orders, "Sit your dog," the handler will command and/or signal their dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately will go to the end of the leash, turn, and face their dog. The handler is not to back away from their dog. The leash is not to touch the ground. The judge approaches the dog, touches it on the head, and then gives the order to "Return to your dog." When returning, the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position.

## ***Stand for Exam on Leash***

### **Class 1B**

The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge and, on the judge's order, 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 then gives the command and/or signal to stay walking straight forward to the end of the 6-foot leash (not backing away) and then turns to face the dog. The judge will examine the dog and give the order to "Return to your dog." When returning, the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The leash is not to touch the ground.

## ***Recall on Leash***

### **Class 1A and 1B**

This exercise starts with the dog sitting in heel position. On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. Next the handler walks straight forward to the end of the 6-foot leash (not backing away) then turns to face the dog. When the judge says, "Call your dog," the handler gives the command, and while standing in place rolls up the leash as the dog comes forward and sits in front of the handler. The leash is not to touch the ground.

## **Sit Stay on Leash**

### **Class 1A (30 Seconds)**

When the judge orders, "Sit your dog," the handler will command and/or signal their dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately will go to the end of the leash, turn, and face their dog. The handler is not to back away from their dog. The leash is not to touch the ground. After 30 seconds, the judge will order, "Return to your dog," the handler will walk around the dog's left side and behind the dog stopping at heel position (dog's right side).

## **Down Stay (Walk Around Ring)**

### **Class 1B**

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position (approximately middle of the ring), on the judge's order "Down your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to down and will place the leash on the ground between the dog and handler (the leash remains snapped to the collar). The judge shall then order "Leave your dog." The handler will command and/or signal their dog to stay and immediately walk forward to the perimeter of the ring, turning left and following the perimeter in a counter-clockwise direction. Upon reaching the spot completing one full rotation of the ring, turn left, walk toward the dog, passing the dog on its left side and behind the dog, stopping at heel position.

## **Sit Stay (Get Your Leash)**

### **Classes 1B, 2A, and 2B**

The exercise will start with the team positioned at least 30 ft. from and facing the gate entrance. The leash will be removed by the handler and then given to the steward or judge to be placed inside the ring near the gate entrance on a chair or similar leash holder. The judge will ask "Are you Ready?" On the judge's order, the handler may command and/or signal the dog to sit without touching either the dog or collar. On order "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward to the leash, pick it up and turn to face the dog. The judge will order "Back to your dog." The handler will return by walking toward the dog and passing the dog on its left side and behind the dog, stopping at heel position.

The dog is not to move from position until after the judge says "Exercised finished."

## **Sit Stay on Leash, group exercise**

### **Classes 2A and 2B (1 minute)**

A 6 ft. leash will be held throughout the exercise by the handler. When the judge orders, "Sit your dogs," the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further orders to "Leave your dogs," the handlers will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately go to the end of the leash, turn and face their dogs. Handlers are not to back away from their dogs. The leash is not to touch the ground. If a dog gets up and starts to wander or moves to interfere with another dog, the judge will instruct the handler to remove the dog from the line-up and keep it away from the other dogs. When the judge orders, "Return to your dogs," the handlers will walk around their dog's left side, behind their own dog, and up to the heel position (dog's right side). Dogs are to remain sitting until the judge says "Exercise finished."

## **Down Stay on Leash, group exercise**

### **Classes 2A and 2B (1 minute)**

Same as the Sit Stay on Leash, group exercise, except the judge will order "Down your dogs" instead of "Sit your dogs."

## **Recall off Leash**

### **Classes 2A and Veterans**

Starting with the dog off leash in a heeled sit position the judge will command, "Leave your dog." The handler will give a verbal and/or signal to the dog to stay, and then walk forward to the other end of the ring. The handler will turn and face the dog and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally.

On the judge's order or signal, the handler will give a command or signal for the dog to come. The dog is to come briskly and sit straight centered in front of the handler and must be close enough so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving a foot.

On the judge's next order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish and the dog is to go smartly to heel position and sit straight.

## **Stand for Exam off Leash**

### **Classes 2A through 3B and Veterans**

The same as the Stand for Exam on Leash except no leash is used. On the judge's order, the handler will remove the dog's leash and hand it to a steward. When leaving the dog, the handler should go 6 feet away before turning to face the dog.

## **Heel Free**

### **Classes 2A through 4B and Veterans**

Carried out like the Heel on Leash but without the leash.

## **Figure 8 off Leash**

### **Class 3A through 4B and Veterans**

Carried out like the Figure 8 on Leash, but without the leash.

## **Drop on Recall**

### **Class 2B**

Starting with the dog off leash in a heeled sit position the judge will command, "Leave your dog." The handler will give a verbal and/or signal to the dog to stay, and then walk forward to the other end of the ring. The handler will turn and face the dog and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally.

When the judge indicates, the handler will command or signal the dog to come.

On the judge's signal, the handler shall give a command and/or signal for the dog to drop.

The judge will indicate for the handler to command or signal the dog to come.

The dog completes the exercise as in the Recall off Leash exercise.

### **Classes 3A and 3B**

Rules are the same as the 2B Drop on Recall except that only a command or signal may be given for the drop.

## **Dumbbell Recall**

### **Class 3A**

The exercise is carried out like the Recall off Leash, but with the dog holding the dumbbell.

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. On the judge's order, "Give your dog the

dumbbell," the handler will present the dumbbell with one command. On the next judge's order, the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, and then will walk forward to the other end of the ring and turn to face the dog.

When the judge indicates, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. While the dog is sitting in front of the handler, the judge will order "Take it." The handler will give a command and take the dumbbell. The finish will be done as in the Recall off Leash.

## **Retrieve on Flat**

### **Classes 3B through 4B**

The exercise starts with the dog sitting in heel position. On the judge's order the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and throw the dumbbell at least 20 feet. The judge will say, "Send your dog." The handler will command the dog to retrieve the dumbbell. After the dog returns, the judge will indicate "Take it," at which time the handler will command or signal the dog and take the dumbbell.

The finish is completed as in the Recall off Leash.

## **Stand Stay (Get Your Leash)**

### **Classes 3A, 3B, and Veterans**

The leash will have already been removed from the previous exercise and placed where it can be easily retrieved by the handler just outside the gate. Starting approximately 15 feet from the ring gate with the dog sitting in heel position and facing the gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready," then on the order, "Stand your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or the dog's collar. The dog needs not to be in heel position when standing. The judge will order "Leave your dog to get your leash." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward to the place outside the ring gate, pick up their leash, return to just inside the ring, and stop to wait for the judge's order, "Back to your dog." The handler will return directly, walking around the dog's left side and behind the dog up to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge orders, "Exercise finished."



## **Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump**

### **Class 4A**

This exercise starts with the dog in the sitting heel position at least 8 feet from the jump. On the judge's order, "Give your dog the dumbbell," the handler will present the dumbbell with one command. On the next judge's order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay, and then go at least 8 feet beyond, and face the jump. When the judge indicates, the handler will command or signal the dog to come over the jump and sit in front. The judge will indicate, "Take it," at which time the handler will command or signal the dog and take the dumbbell.

The finish is completed as in the Recall off Leash. For jump heights and distance see the Appendix.

## **Recall Over Broad Jump**

### **Class 4A**

This exercise starts with the dog in the sitting heel position at least 8 feet from the jump. On the judge's order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay, and then go at least 8 feet beyond, and face the jump. When the judge indicates, the handler will command or signal the dog to come over the jump and sit in front.

The finish is completed as in the Recall off Leash.

## **Retrieve Over High Jump**

### **Classes 4B through 5B**

This exercise is executed in the same manner as the Retrieve on Flat, except that the dog will clear the high jump going and coming. The handler will stand at least 8 feet from the jump and will remain in place until the exercise is finished. The dumbbell, when thrown, must go beyond the jump at least 8 feet.

## **Broad Jump**

### **Classes 4B through 5B**

The handler will stand at least 8 feet from the lowest hurdle with the dog in the sitting heel position. On order from the judge, the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay, and then go to a place anywhere between the lowest and highest hurdles about 2 feet away, and face the right side of the jump. When the judge indicates, the handler will command or signal their dog to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler will execute a right-angle turn while remaining in the same spot. After clearing the jump, the dog will sit in front of the handler finishing as in the Recall off Leash.

## **Command Discrimination**

### **(Stand, Sit, Down)**

#### **Class 4A**

Dog starts sitting at heel position. Judge will order "Stand your dog." The handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately walk forward 15 feet, turn and face the dog. Judge will SIGNAL and handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the second position. The judge will then order "Leave your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately turn around and walk forward an additional 15 feet, turn and face the dog. On judge's SIGNAL, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the third position. The judge will then order "Back to your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and then must return directly, walking around the dog's left side and behind the dog up to heel position. (Judge will mark the 15 ft. distances)

## **Command Discrimination**

### **(Stand, Down, Sit)**

#### **Class 4B**

The mechanics are the same as the 4A class, starting from a sit. The judge will order the positions to be Stand, Down, Sit.

## **Hand Signals**

#### **Class 5A**

Carried out like the Hand Signals for 5B through 6B except that leaving the dog will be from 10 to 20 feet and the handler may give the command and/or signal on the judge's order to stand and the judge's signals to stay, down, sit, come, and finish.

#### **Classes 5B through 6B**

Orders are the same as in Heeling on Leash except the "Stand your Dog" will be given while the team is walking at a normal pace, and will be followed by "Leave your dog." Handlers may use signals only during this exercise and must not speak to their dog at any time. When leaving the dog, the handler is to walk forward to the other end of the ring then turn and face the dog. On the judge's signals, the handler will signal their dog to down, sit, come, and finish.

## Directed Retrieve

### Class 5A

Directed Retrieve exercise same as for 5B through 6B Directed Retrieve except without the center glove.

### Classes 5B through 6B

Gloves are designated "one, two, and three" from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The team will face away from the gloves as they are being placed. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command and turn in place (right or left) to face the selected glove halting with the dog sitting at heel. The handler will not touch or reposition the dog. The handler will then give the dog the direction of the chosen glove with their left hand and arm. Either simultaneously with or immediately following the direction, a verbal retrieve command must be given. The dog must complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

## Moving Stand and Exam

### Class 5A

This exercise is performed like the 5B through 6B Moving Stand and Exam except that the handler may pause or hesitate when giving the command and/or signal to stand.

### Classes 5B through 6B

On the judge's order, the handler will command or signal the dog to heel. The judge will then order, "Stand your dog." Without pausing, the handler will command and/or signal to stand/stay, will continue forward 10 to 12 feet, and turn to face the dog. After the judge's exam, the judge will order, "Call your dog to heel," at which time the handler will give a command and/or signal to return to heel position.

## Scent Discrimination

### Class 6A

The handler will present four articles, consisting of two sets only (choose from metal, leather, or wood). Each set will be comprised of two identical objects. The handler may choose the one article which is to be retrieved. The dog and handler will remain facing the articles while the judge or steward places the remaining three articles on the ground 20 feet in front of them and about 6 inches apart from each other. On the judge's first order, "Take the article," the dog is not required to stay in a sit position. The handler rubs the scent from their hands only onto the article. The judge or steward will place the article among the articles on the floor.

The judge will give the order to "Send your dog." The handler 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 then returning to a natural position. The handler will give a command to retrieve and the dog should go directly to the articles taking reasonable time to select the correct article, working continuously. After picking up the article the dog will complete the exercise as in the retrieve on flat.

### Class 6B

This exercise uses two sets of articles. The handler will choose from metal, leather, or wood. Each set of articles will be comprised of 5 identical objects. All 10 articles will be presented to the judge and one of each material is selected by the judge for the retrieves.

The judge or steward will place the remaining articles on the ground 20 feet in front of the dog and handler and about 6 inches apart from each other. The dog and handler will then turn and face away from the articles. The judge will ask "What method will you be using to send your dog?" The handler's response will be "After a sit" or "Send directly."

The handler may use either article first, rubbing the scent from their hands only onto the article. The judge or steward will place the article among the remaining articles on the floor. The judge will give the order to, "Send your dog." The handler 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 then returning to a natural position. The handler will give a command, turn, and execute their chosen method of retrieve.

The dog should go directly to the articles taking reasonable time to select the correct article, working continuously. After picking up the article the dog will complete the exercise as in the retrieve on flat.

This procedure will be repeated for the remaining article.

## Go Out

### Class 6A

The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring between the jumps facing the unobstructed end of the ring. The judge will order, "Send your dog," and 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 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 then order the handler, "Return to your dog," and the handler will return to the heel position.

## Directed Jumping

### Class 6A

This exercise starts with the handler at the end of the ring, centered with the dog sitting in heel position. On the judge's order, the handler may command and/or signal the dog to stay and walk straight forward to the opposite side of the ring, then turn to face the dog. The judge will order, "Bar" or "High." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to return 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 Recall off Leash.

### Class 6B

The handler will stand approximately in the center of the ring 20 feet from the jumps with the dog sitting at heel. 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 20 feet past the jumps. 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, "Bar" or "High," and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return 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 Recall off Leash.

The second half of this exercise will be executed like the preceding one.

## Service Dog

Dogs may be acquired and trained through any recognized service dog organization. One organization willing to partner with 4-H'er's is Leader Dog for the Blind at [www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org) or 888-777-5332. An online training application is available. Once an application is accepted, the 4-H'er will meet with personnel from the Leader Dog offices in Rochester, Michigan. The 4-H'er will be matched with a puppy to train and given a training book and video. They will also be assigned a "Puppy Counselor" from Leader Dog, whom they will meet with during the training process. The 4-H'er may attend and participate with their county 4-H group and if they wish, may enter and show in the Service dog class at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show.

Personal service dogs that are owner-handled may be shown in a Service Dog class in order to satisfy their obedience class requirement.

## Strategy — Training Tips

- Stop naturally, not abruptly, when a halt is called.
- Some trainers find it helpful not to look at their dog during stays. Hold your hands the same way every time.
- Consistently start on your left foot for heels, and leave on your right foot for stays.
- Use your left hand for stays and right for stands.
- Break up your routine to discourage pattern training.
- Dogs associate praise or correction within 3 seconds of a behavior.
- Do not use the dog's name on a stay exercise. Do use the dog's name when you want her to move. (heel, sit, down, stand)
- Do give sufficient praise when appropriate.
- End a training session on a positive note.
- Enter and leave the ring with the dog on a loose leash.
- Leave room for the dog between you and an obstacle or fence.
- If the dog starts to wander while heeling it is sometimes better to take a deduction for giving an extra command to get the dog back on "track" than to let it go and get "hit" for unqualified heeling.
- Give commands in a normal tone of voice.

## Glossary of Terms

**brisk, briskly** — Keenly alive, alert, energetic.

**command** — Verbal order from handler to dog.

**crooked** — A dog that is not straight in line with the direction the handler is facing.

**crowding** — A dog so close to the handler as to interfere with handler's freedom of motion.

**directly** — Immediately, without deviation or hesitation.

**drop completely** — A down position that would be acceptable for a Long Down exercise.

**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.

**lame** — Irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe.

**minor penalty** — 1/2-point to 2-1/2 points.

**mouthng** — When a dog chews or rolls the dumbbell in its mouth unnecessarily.

**natural** — Not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places.

**order** — Direction from judge to handler, either verbal or nonverbal.

**prompt response** — Without hesitation, immediate, quick.

**resentment** — Resistance, unwillingness.

**signal** — Nonverbal direction from the handler to dog.

**smartly** — Quickly, vigorously.

**substantial penalty** — 3 points or more.

**turn in place** — Turning in the circle that was occupied by the handler before they started to turn.

**withers** — Highest point of the dog's shoulder.



## Appendix

### *High Jump*

The high jump will be set at the same height as the 4-H dog measures at the withers rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches. The minimum jump height is 4 inches and the maximum is 36 inches. All dogs less than 7 ½ inches must jump the 4-inch minimum. At the obedience ring check-in, a handler may request a 2-inch reduction in jump height for a dog 7 years or older. The broad jump distance will be twice the high jump height. See below for specific breeds that jump at reduced height and distance.

Note: This rule is effective as of this document's revision date. Always be sure to check the current AKC obedience regulations.

### *Breeds Approved for the 3/4 Jump Height*

The list of breeds approved for the 3/4 jump height are listed in the AKC's Obedience Regulations, Appendix A. The rule book is available at [images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf](https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf).

### *Broad Jump*

Hurdles 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 a jump of 8 inches.