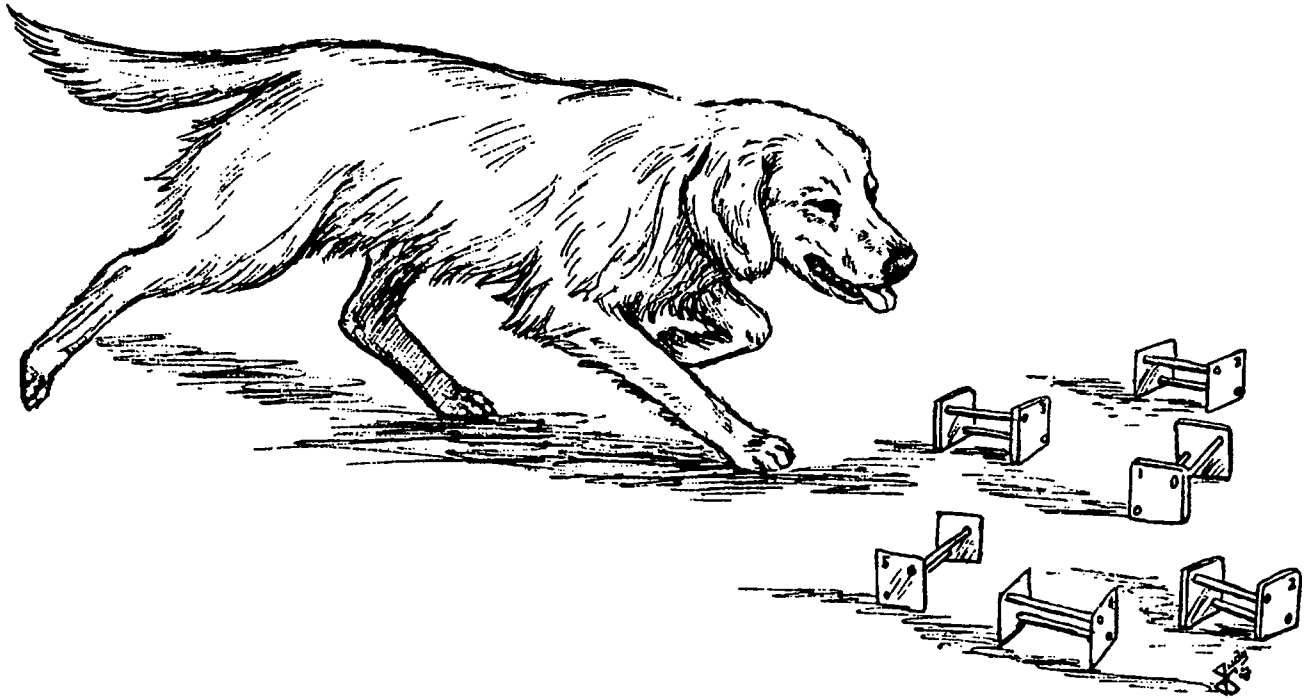


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# ***Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Utility Training***

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# Utility Obedience Training

Utility is open to 4-H members who have completed the Open Challenge class. The 4-H member should not advance to Utility until the member and his or her dog are competent in Open Challenge.

Study the lesson plans for Scent Discrimination and Directed Jumping carefully. Be sure that you thoroughly understand the exercises and all of the steps before beginning to work with the dog. Don't rush through the steps. Make sure the dog performs reliably before advancing to the next step. Continue to review the exercises contained in all of the previous sections.

Work together as a team. Work for an animated, accurate performance. Insist on immediate response to all commands. Keep all of the actions smooth and all of the signals clear.

Be an enthusiastic trainer and keep the training sessions fun for the dog!

## Utility Class Description

Exercises	Points
Signal Exercise	40
Scent Discrimination, Article 1	30
Scent Discrimination, Article 2	30
Directed Retrieve	30
Directed Jumping	40
Group Examination	30
Total points	200

## Utility Class Exercise Performance and Scoring

### AKC Obedience Regulations

All exercises are performed and scored as outlined in the AKC Obedience Regulations. The following exercise performance includes much of the information contained in the AKC Obedience Publication. Since there are occasional AKC rule changes, you'll find it extremely helpful to order a free copy of the AKC Obedience Regulations directly from the American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10010.

### Signal Exercise

This exercise is done as in the Open Challenge class.

### 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. The Judge will ask, "Are you ready?" immediately prior to taking the article from the handler. The taking of the article from the handler will be considered to be the first order, and scoring of the exercise will begin at that time. The remaining orders are "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

In each of these two exercises, the dog must select by scent alone and retrieve an article which has been handled by its handler. The articles shall be provided by the handler and shall consist of two sets, each comprised of five identical objects not more than 6 inches in length, which may be items of everyday use. One set shall be made entirely of rigid metal, and one of leather of such design that nothing but leather is visible except for the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the object together. The articles in each set must be numbered legibly, each with a different number, and must be approved by the Judge.

The handler shall present all 10 articles to the Judge, who shall designate one from each set and make a written note of the numbers of the two articles he or she has selected. These two handler's articles are placed on a table or chair within the ring until picked up by the handler, who shall hold in her hand only one article at a time. The Judge or Steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles as he or she places them on the floor or the ground at random and about 6 inches apart, with the closest article about 20 feet from the handler and the dog. Before the dog is sent, the Judge must make sure that the articles are visible to the dog and the handler, and that the articles are properly separated so that there will be no confusion of scent between the articles.

Handler and dog shall turn around after watching the Judge or Steward separate the articles, and shall remain facing away from those articles until the Judge has taken the handler's scented article and given the order, "Send your dog."

The handler may use either article first, but must relinquish each one immediately when ordered by

### ***Scent Discrimination—continued***

the Judge. The Judge shall make certain that the handler imparts her scent to each article only with her hands and that, between the time the handler picks up each article and the time she gives it to the Judge, the article is held continuously in the handler's hands, which remain in plain sight.

On order from the Judge, the handler immediately will place her article on the Judge's book or worksheet. The Judge, without touching the article with his or her hands, will place it among those on the ground or floor.

On order from the Judge to "Send your dog," the handler may give the command to Heel and will turn in place, right or left, to face the articles. The handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler then shall give the command or signal to retrieve.

Handlers may, at their discretion, on order from the Judge to "Send your dog," execute with their dog a Right-About-Turn to face the articles, simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this instance, the dog shall not assume a sitting position, but shall go directly to the articles. Handlers have the option as to how the dog is sent, but the same method must be used for both articles.

The handler may give her scent to the dog by gently touching the dog's nose with the palm of one open hand, but this is done while the dog and the handler have their backs to the articles, and the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before handler and dog turn to face the articles.

The dog shall go at a brisk trot or gallop directly to the articles. It may take a reasonable time to select the correct article, but only provided it works continuously. After picking up the correct article, the dog shall return at a brisk trot or gallop and complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on the Flat.

These procedures shall be followed for both articles. Should a dog retrieve a wrong article in the first exercise, that article shall be placed on a table or chair. The correct article must be removed, and the second exercise shall be conducted with one less article on the ground floor.

### **Scent Discrimination, Scoring**

Deductions shall be the same as in the Novice Recall and the Retrieve on the Flat. In addition, a dog that fails to go out to the group of articles, or retrieves the wrong article, or fails to bring the correct article to the handler, must be scored zero for the particular exercise.

Substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that picks up a wrong article, even though he puts it down immediately; for any roughness by the handler in imparting her scent to the dog; and for handler not turning in place.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances in each case, shall be made for a dog that is slow or inattentive, that does not go directly to the articles, or that does not work continuously; and for any excessive motions by the handler in turning to face articles. There shall be no penalty for a dog that takes a reasonably long time examining the articles, provided the dog works smartly and continuously.

### **Directed Retrieve**

This exercise is to be performed as in the Open Challenge Class.

### **Directed Retrieve, Scoring**

This exercise is to be scored as in the Open Challenge class.

### **Moving Stand and Examination**

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog heel, stand, and stay on command by the moving handler; accept the examination without shyness or resentment; and, on command, return to the handler.

Orders for the exercise are "Forward," "Stand your dog"—given while the handler is walking, "About turn," "Halt," and "Call your dog to heel."

The handler stands with his dog sitting in the heel position at a point indicated by the Judge. The Judge asks "Are you ready?" and orders "Forward." The handler commands or signals his dog to heel, and walks briskly at a normal pace. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the Judge orders "Stand your dog." The handler, without passing, commands and/or signals the dog to stand, continues forward 10 to 12 feet and, on order of the Judge, turns to face his dog and halts. The dog must stay in position.

The Judge approaches the dog from the front and examines the dog all over with his or her hands as in dog show judging, except that in no circumstances shall the examination include the dog's mouth or testicles.

The Judge then orders "Call your dog to heel," whereupon the handler commands and/or signals the dog to return to the heel position. The dog immediately returns in a brisk manner to the proper heel position beside the handler.

### **Moving Stand and Examination, Scoring**

A score of zero is required for the following: a dog displaying fear or resentment, moving from the place where it was left, sitting or lying down before being called, growling or snapping at any time during the exercise, repeated whining or barking; the dog's failure to heel, stand and stay, accept the Judge's examination, or return to the handler. Substantial to minor deductions, depending on the circumstances, must be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place.

All appropriate penalties of the Novice Heel Free, Stand for Examination, and Recall exercises shall apply. Minor or substantial penalties, depending on the extent, shall be given for the handler that changes the manner of walking, or hesitates or pauses while giving the command and/or signal to stand, or if the dog fails to return briskly or sit properly in the heel position.

### **Directed Jumping**

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog go away from the handler in the direction indicated, stop when commanded, jump as directed, and return as in the Recall.

The orders are "Send your dog," "Bar" or "High," and "Finish."

The jumps shall be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the sides of the ring and 18 to 20 feet apart, the Bar Jump on one side, the High Jump on the other. The Judge must make certain that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog by following the procedure described in Retrieve Over the High Jump.

The handler, from a position on the center line of the ring and about 20 feet from the jumps, shall stand with her dog sitting in the Heel position and, on order from the Judge, shall command and/or signal her dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet beyond the jumps and in the approximate center. When the dog has reached this point, the handler shall 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 designate which jump is to be taken first by the dog and shall order either the "High" or "Bar" when designating either the High or Bar Jump. The handler shall command and/or signal the dog to return to her over the designated jump. While the dog is in mid-air, the handler may turn so as to face the dog as it returns. The dog shall sit in

front of the handler and, on order from the Judge, Finish as in the Novice Recall. The Judge will say "Exercise finished" after the dog has returned to Heel position.

When the dog is again sitting in the Heel position, the Judge shall ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the order to send the dog for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure shall be followed for the second jump.

It is the Judge's option which jump is taken first, but both jumps must be taken to complete the exercise, and the Judge must not designate the jump until the dog is at the far end of the ring. The dog shall clear the jumps without touching them.

The height of the jumps shall be the same required in the Open Classes. The High Jump shall be the same as that used in the Open Classes, and the Bar Jump shall consist of a bar between 2 and 2½ inches square with the four edges rounded sufficiently to remove any sharpness. The bar shall be painted a flat black and white in alternate sections of about 3 inches each. The bar shall be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart. The bar shall be adjusted for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches, and the jump shall be constructed and positioned so that the bar can be knocked off without disturbing the uprights.

### **Directed Jumping, Scoring**

A dog must receive a score of zero for the following: anticipating the handler's command and/or signal to go out, not leaving the handler, not going out between jumps, not stopping on command and remaining at least 10 feet beyond the jumps, anticipating the handler's command and/or signal to Jump, not jumping as directed, knocking the bar off the uprights, and using the top of the High Jump for aid in going over.

Substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet beyond the jumps; for a dog that turns, stops, or sits before the handler's command to Sit; and for a dog that fails to sit.

Substantial or minor deductions, depending on the extent, shall be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any display of hesitation or reluctance to jump. All of the penalties listed under Novice Recall also shall apply.

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## Utility Lesson Plans

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### Pre-Scent Discrimination

**Before Beginning:** Dog **must** be reliable on Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat.

**Equipment:** One metal and one leather article, not more than 6 inches long. Work the following steps with a scented metal and **then** a scented leather article.

**Retrieve Problem:** Any time dog goes out slowly, returns slowly, or doesn't pick up article, practice **Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat**, Open Lesson Plans, **using article**. Insist on a **quick grab** at article and a **fast return** to trainer.

**Scent Article:** Dog works **hot scent**. Scent article before **each** retrieve by rubbing **quickly** between hands.

**Placing Scented Article:** When possible, have someone else (without touching it) place the scented article.

**Praise:** Be enthusiastic! Sometimes **charge backward praising** as dog retrieves; sometimes kneel on one knee, throw arms out, **praise**; sometimes **run away praising**; sometimes **do formal front and finish**.

1. **Informal Scent Article Retrieve:** Practice Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, Open Lesson Plans, using a **scented** metal article, then a **scented** leather article. Use "**Find it**" instead of the normal retrieve command.
2. **Stationary Retrieve—Face Article:** Dog on Sit-Stay, place scented article 20 to 25 feet in front of dog, return to heel position. Send dog with "**Find it**" as left hand shoots out for direction the **first few times**.
3. **Stationary Retrieve—Face Article—Turn Away:** Dog on Sit-Stay, place scented article 20 to 25 feet in front of dog, return to heel position. Command "**Heel**," do Stationary Right-About-Turn. Team's back towards article, **simultaneously** do **stationary Right-About-Turn**, command "**Find it**," sending dog.
4. **Stationary Retrieve—Team's Back to Article:** Dog on Sit-Stay, place scented article 20 to 25 feet **behind** dog, return to heel position. Command "**Heel**," turn in place right or left to face article. Dog sitting in heel position facing article, command "**Find it**," sending dog. Dog **must** retrieve scented metal and scented leather article **before** advancing to Scent Discrimination Exercise.

## Scent Discrimination

**Before Beginning:** Dog must be reliable on Pre-Scent Discrimination.

**Equipment:** A 2-foot by 2-foot piece of peg board or vinyl matting (or three “J” hooks if training outside) to tie down three articles in a **widely spread triangle**. Five identical metal and five identical leather articles, not more than 6 inches long.

**Scent Article:** Dog works **hot scent**. Scent article before **each** retrieve by rubbing quickly between hands.

**Placing Scented Article:** Dog on Sit-Stay, place scented article about 6 inches from other articles, return to heel position. When possible, have someone else place article without touching it.

**Placing Unscented Articles:** Pick up unscented articles lightly between fingers and place about 6 inches apart. When possible, have someone else touch and place the articles.

**Send Dog:** In training, sometimes face dog towards articles, place scented article, send dog; sometimes return to heel position, send dog. Sometimes do formal exercise. There are two formal exercise options:

1. Face dog away from articles, place scented article. Dog sitting in heel position, command “Heel” as you pivot right or left; dog sits in heel position facing articles, command “Find it,” sending dog.

*or*

2. Face dog away from articles, place scented article. Dog sitting in heel position, command “Find it” and simultaneously do a Right-About-Turn, sending dog to retrieve scented article.

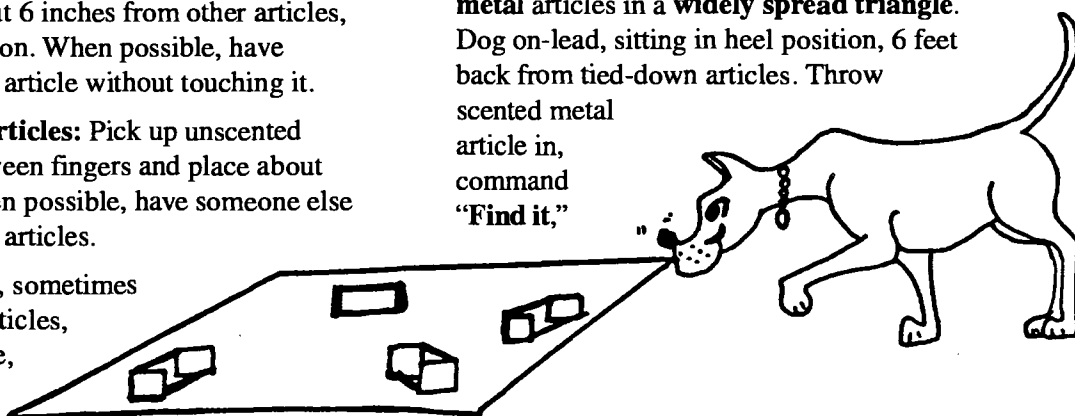
**Praise:** **Vary the place of encouragement!** Sometimes **praise** as dog approaches articles, sometimes when dog’s nose comes over **scented** article, sometimes as dog **grabs** scented article, sometime as dog returns. As dog retrieves, sometimes **charge backward praising**; sometimes kneel on one knee, throw arms out, **praise**;

sometimes turn and **run away praising**; sometimes do **formal front and finish**. Train in various locations!

**Retrieve Problem:** **Never, never, never make a correction in the articles!** Any time dog goes out slowly, returns slowly, or doesn’t pick up article, take dog **away from articles**, practice Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, Open Lesson Plans, **using one article**.

**Scent Problem:** If dog picks up article, drops it, picks up another article, drops it, trainer has advanced too quickly; dog is confused. **Go back several steps; work forward slowly.**

1. **Throw Scented Metal Article:** Tie three metal articles in a **widely spread triangle**. Dog on-lead, sitting in heel position, 6 feet back from tied-down articles. Throw scented metal article in, command “Find it,”



go with dog to articles first few times. Encourage dog, reach down and show correct article if necessary. **The moment dog grabs article, charge backward praising.** Practice off-lead when dog is reliable. Stay at this level until dog **always grabs** the correct article thrown, **by sight**.

2. **Scented Metal Article—Placed in Center:** Dog on Sit-Stay 20 to 30 feet back from tied-down articles. Place scented article in **center** of triangle, return to heel position. Command “Find it,” sending dog. Pattern dog to retrieve center article.
3. **Scented Metal Article—Vary Position:** Same as Step Two, **except:** move scented article around; make dog look for it. Stay at this step until you are sure dog is using its nose.
4. **Add One Unscented Loose Metal Article:** Dog on Sit-Stay 20 to 30 feet back from tied-down articles. Place one scented and one unscented article inside or near triangle, return to heel position, send dog. If dog grabs scented article,

### ***Scent Discrimination—continued***

stay at this level for **1 week**, varying position of articles, then **gradually untie unscented metal articles**. If dog grabs unscented article, **make no correction**. Call dog in, take article, send dog right back for scented article. **Go back to Step 3!**

- 5. Three Tied-Down Metal Articles—One Loose Scented Leather Article:** Follow Steps One through Four with tied-down **metal and loose leather article(s)**. On Step 4, **gradually** add all unscented leather articles. At Step 4, when unscented loose leather article is added, dog may grab unscented article because of leather scent. If this occurs, start over with three tied-down **leather articles**; work Steps 1 through 4 using **leather only**.
- 6. All Leather and Metal Articles:** Gradually add, then untie, **all** articles.

## ***Call-to-Heel Position Exercises***

**Before Beginning:** Dog **must** know how to maneuver to heel position without correction, and come **quickly** to trainer on command.

**Review:** Practice Heel Position Exercises, Flip and Round Finish Exercises, and Recall Exercises, Novice Lesson Plans.

**Command:** Call dog to heel position with **voice and/or signal** using same command as used for Flip or Round Finish. Depending on command given, dog comes **quickly** to trainer and passes to trainer's right or left, going directly to heel position.

**Corrections:** Make maneuvering to heel position a game: correct only if needed. Remember, all corrections are a 4- to 6-inch pop and quick immediate release that teach the dog to move itself. They **always** are **made in the direction the dog should move and always are accompanied by praise**.

**If Dog Comes Slowly:** Abort exercise with "**OK**," charge backward praising. Attach lead; review Recall Exercises, Novice Lesson Plans. **Don't accept a slow response**.

**If Dog Starts to Sit Crooked:** **Don't allow dog to complete a crooked sit!** Watch the dog. If dog starts to sit crooked, **correct and praise**.

- 1. Call-To-Heel Position From Sit-Stay and Stand-Stay:** Using the following information and starting with the dog on-lead on a Sit-Stay, **then on a Stand-Stay**, teach dog to come quickly and go directly to heel position. For the **first few times**, stand two small steps directly in front of dog, then progress **immediately** to the end of the lead. When dog comes quickly from Sit-Stay and goes directly to heel position, practice calling dog from Stand-Stay.

Eliminate anticipation by alternating Call-To-Heel Position Exercises with Sit-Stay and Stand-Stay Exercises. As dog becomes reliable, practice calling dog to heel position from Sit-Stay and Stand-Stay on check-line, then off-lead. **Practice at 12 to 30 feet**. At first mistake off-lead, attach lead, praise, repeat exercise with automatic correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

**If Using Flip-Finish Command:** Hold lead at side in **left** hand. Give Flip Finish command, **pop straight back**, charge backward praising, gather up slack. As dog approaches, trainer stops backward motion. If needed, step back on left foot, pop back again, praise. As dog passes to trainer's left, bring left foot forward to original position, pop forward, **praise**. Dog turns and sits in heel position, give "OK" release, **praise**.

**If Using Round Finish Command:** Hold lead at side in **right** hand. Give Round Finish command, **pop straight back**, charge backward praising, gather up slack. As dog approaches, trainer stops backward motion. If needed, step back on right foot, pop back again, **praise**. As dog passes to trainer's right, bring right foot forward to original position, pop forward, **praise**. Dog wraps around trainer and sits in heel position; give "OK" release, **praise**.



## **Moving Stand and Examination**

**Before Beginning:** Dog must perform reliably Step 3 of Signal Stand, Open Challenge Lesson Plans; accept examination, watch trainer, come quickly, and know Call-to-Heel Position Exercises.

**Review:** Practice Sit For Examination, Stand For Examination, Attention Exercises, and Change of Pace "Slow," Novice Lesson Plans. Also practice Signal Stand, Open Challenge Lesson Plans.

**If Dog Moves As Trainer Continues Forward:** Command "No," pop back, keep slight backward pressure on lead, pivot directly in front. Pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, praise.

**If Dog Moves From Position:** Command "No," return to heel position, reposition dog, command "Stay," leave again. Then practice Step 1 of this Lesson Plan.

**If Dog Resists Examination:** Immediately return to heel position, give "OK" release. Then, practice Sit and Stand For Examination, Novice Lesson Plans.

**If Dog Doesn't Come Briskly To Heel Position:** Immediately give "OK" release, charge backward praising. Then attach lead, practice Call-to-Heel Position Exercises.

**Exercise Ending:** Dog standing, vary exercise ending. Sometimes call dog to heel position, charge backward praising; sometimes return to heel position, give "OK" release, **praise**; sometimes return to heel position, examine dog, leave again, return to heel position or call dog to heel position, praise. Sometimes have someone else examine dog; after examination, **call and/or signal dog** to heel position. Dog sitting in heel position, give "OK" release, **praise**.

## **Directed Jumping— "Jumps"**

**Before Beginning:** Dog must be reliable on High Jump and Bar Jump, Open Lesson Plans.

**Jump Height:** Jumps remain below dog's shoulder height until dog knows exercise. Progress **slowly** to maximum jump height on all steps. See Open section for maximum jump height and jump construction. Most breeds jump shoulder height or 36 inches, whichever is less.

**Jump Placement:** Set High Jump and Bar Jump 18 to 20 feet apart.

**Trainer's Formal Exercise Position:** Trainer stands 20 feet in front of jumps, **centered** between jumps.

**Dog's Formal Exercise Position:** Trainer in **formal exercise position**, dog sitting, facing trainer, 20 feet on other side of jumps, **centered** between jumps.

**Jump Signal:** Signal should indicate direction trainer wants dog to jump. Command "**Over**," **quickly** put one arm directly out from shoulder to indicate direction, then back to natural position at side.

**Jump Refusal:** If dog starts to go around jump, command "**No**," dog stops, go to dog, **praise**, attach lead, **praise**. **Review High Jump and Bar Jump, Step 3**, Open Lesson Plans, to reinforce jump command.

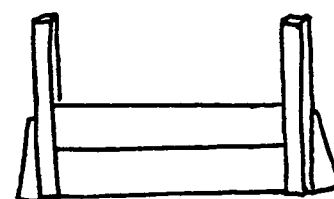
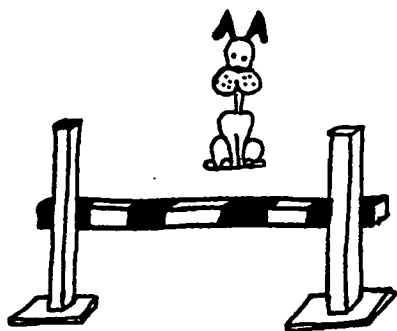
**Praise:** As dog jumps, sometimes **charge backward praising**; sometimes kneel on one knee, throw arms out, **praise**; sometimes **turn and run away praising** to speed dog up; sometimes **do formal exercise ending**.

**Formal Exercise Ending:** As dog jumps, **pivot** to face dog, command "**Come**," dog sits in come position, **finish, praise**. **Gradually** eliminate "**Come**" command.

1. **Angle Run-By:** Trainer in formal exercise position, dog sitting in heel position. Lead in **left** hand, **run** with dog toward jump center. Command "**Over**" and **pop forward just before jump, praise**. Dog jumps, trainer runs around jump meeting dog on other side, **praise**, continue

### **Directed Jumping, "Jumps"—continued**

- straight follow through. Practice Angle Run-By on- and off-lead over each jump.
- 2. Dog Back from Jump Center—Trainer in Formal Exercise Position:** Do off-lead recall over jumps, using jump command and signal. Dog on Sit-Stay, 6 feet straight back from jump center. Trainer on other side of jump, close to center for target. Simultaneously command "Over," trainer taps top board (first few times), gives jump signal, praise. Gradually move dog directly back from jump center 20 feet as trainer gradually moves back and over to trainer's formal exercise position.
  - 3. Trainer Back from Jump Center—Dog in Formal Exercise Position:** Dog on Sit-Stay, 6 feet back from jump center. Trainer on other side of jump, close to center for target. Do off-lead recall over jumps using jump command and signal. Gradually move dog back and over to dog's formal exercise position as trainer gradually moves directly back from jump center. Keep dog angled toward jump until reliable, then practice with dog sitting straight in dog's formal exercise position.
  - 4. Trainer and Dog in Formal Exercise Position:** Dog in formal exercise position, trainer at jump center. Do off-lead recall over jumps using jump command and signal. Trainer gradually moves back and over to trainer's formal exercise position. When team reliably works from formal exercise position, occasionally angle dog towards one jump and send to other jump. Dog must take trainer's direction.



## Food “Go-Back”

**Training Option:** Teach Food “Go-Back” or Dowel “Go-Back.” The Food Go-Back works well for most dogs. The “Go-Back” is a skill needed to perform the formal directed jumping exercise. Spend a lot of time working on this lesson. Don’t rush!

**Equipment:** Can of squeeze cheese, or any soft food that will stick to upright surface.

**Food-Target:** Place small amount of food on an object at dog’s eye level. Use ring standard, baby gate, thin metal rod, wall, piece of wire in center of ring, rope, etc., as food-target. During initial stages of training, dog’s “**food-target**” is always the same object. As training progresses and the dog masters Step 4, the trainer should begin to use a variety of food-targets and train in new locations. Place small amount of food on food-target at dog’s eye level. Dog learns always to run a straight line to find the food.

**“Get Ready”:** Pick an extra cue command, given in a quiet but enthusiastic tone before every Go-Back command, to mean “**Look straight ahead and get ready to go.**” Examples: “**You want a go?**”; “**You ready!**”

**“Go-Back”:** A training command meaning, “**Run a straight line in the indicated direction until you find the food or until a Sit command is given.**”

**Give Direction With Left Hand:** On all steps, send dog with “Go-Back” as left hand always shoots out for direction.

**Sit Problem:** Any time dog doesn’t respond instantly on first command, abort exercise with “OK,” go to dog, **praise**, attach lead, **praise**; practice **random sits with correction**. Insist on an **immediate** response to the “Sit” command.

**“Go-Back” Problem:** If dog does anything but run a straight line, abort the exercise with “OK,” begin again at Step 1 of “Go-Back” Lesson Plan. Trainer may have advanced too quickly. “Go-back” problems usually do not occur if the dog has a proper foundation on Steps 1 through 6 of the “Go-Back” Lesson Plan. Review Steps 1 through 6; give the dog a lot of experience on each step. If the problem continues, and the

trainer is sure that the dog has a solid foundation, a collar correction may be needed.

**“Go-Back” Correction:** Use the following **only** after dog has a solid foundation on Steps 1 through 6, “Go-Back” Lesson Plan. Practice Step 1, except that when the “Go-Back” command is given, give a **gentle forward pop** on the lead (or a series of short, gentle pops), **praise**, continue as in Step 1. Step 1 directs the trainer to be 6 feet back from the food. When using a correction, trainer may need to increase this distance and occasionally eliminate the food. **Don’t over-correct!** After one or two corrections, dog should be tested off-lead on Step 2 and worked through the steps.

- 1. On-lead 3 to 6 Feet:** Dog on-lead sitting in heel position. Command “**Stay**”; place small amount of food at dog’s eye level, on an object 3 to 6 feet from dog; return to heel position. “**Get ready,**” then command “**Go-Back**” (**left hand always shoots out for direction**), as you run with dog to object, show dog the food, enthusiastically encourage dog to touch his nose on the object and eat the food. As dog finishes, command “**Sit,**” give another food reward, **praise**, give “**OK**” release, **praise**. Repeat 10 times a day for at least 7 days.
- 2. Off-lead—Increase Distance to 15 Feet:** Dog off-lead sitting in heel position. Command “**Stay,**” place small amount of food at dog’s eye level 3 to 6 feet from dog, return to heel position. “**Get ready,**” and without moving forward command “**Go-Back**” as left hand always shoots out for direction (step towards food first few times if needed). Dog runs to object, touches object, eats food; trainer quietly follows dog, commands “**Sit,**” dog sits, **praise**. Give an occasional food reward for the sit. Give “**OK**” release, **praise**. Food is **always** in same location. Gradually move dog back, increasing distance to 15 feet. **Trainer always follows dog in to reinforce “Sit” command.** Repeat this step 10 times a day for at least 7 days.
- 3. Increase Distance to 40 Feet:** Same as Step 2, except gradually increase distance to 40 feet. Dog always touches object and eats the food before the “**Sit**” command is given. After sending dog,

## Food “Go-Back”—continued

trainer continues to follow dog to reinforce “Sit” command; give an occasional food reward for the sit. Repeat this step 10 times a day for at least 7 days.

4. **Eliminate Following Dog for “Sit” Command:** Same as Step 3, except gradually discontinue following dog to reinforce “Sit” command. When dog sits, **return to dog**, give “OK” release, **praise**. Trainer **always** returns to dog before “OK” release is given. Throughout training, alternate Steps 3 and 4.
5. **New Locations:** Practice Steps 1 through 4 in same location until dog is reliable, then in a variety of places. At each new location, progress quickly through Steps 1 through 4 off-lead.
6. **Occasionally Omit Food From Target:** Same as Step 4, except occasionally omit food from target. Send dog, just as dog reaches target, command “Sit,” dog sits, return to dog, give an occasional food reward for the sit; give “OK” release, **praise**. Repeat Step 4 several times after every Step 6! Throughout training, the food is eliminated **only occasionally**.

## Dowel “Go-Back”

**Training Options:** Teach Dowel “Go-Back” or Food “Go-Back.”

**Before Beginning:** Dog must be reliable on Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, Open Lesson Plans. If the dog is not a reliable retriever, the Food Go-Back Lesson Plan should be used.

**Equipment:** Four 6-inch wooden dowels. Tennis balls or any other **small** object may be used instead of dowels.

**“Go-Back”:** A training command meaning, “**Run a straight line in the indicated direction until you see a dowel to retrieve or until a Sit command is given.**”

**Praise:** Sometimes **charge backward** praising as dog retrieves; sometimes kneel on one knee, throw arms out, **praise**. Motivate dog, using lots of praise! **No Fronts or Finishes!**

**Retrieve Problem:** Any time dog goes out slowly, returns slowly, or doesn’t pick up dowel, practice Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, Steps 3, 9, and 11, Open Lesson Plans, using dowel. Insist on an **immediate** response.

1. **Informal Dowel Retrieval:** Practice Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, Steps 3 and 9 through 11, Open Lesson Plans, using dowel.
2. **Transfer Command:** Dog sitting in heel position, command “Stay,” toss dowel 15 to 20 feet. As soon as dowel lands, send dog with “Go-Back” as **left hand shoots out for direction**.

**Note:** On all the following steps, send dog with “Go-Back” as **left hand shoots out** for direction. Train in various locations.

3. **Stationary Retrieve—30 Feet:** Dog sitting in heel position, drop dowel in front, heel away. Sit dog 8 feet from dowel, send dog. **Gradually** increase distance to 30 feet.
  4. **Retrieve Three Dowels:** Dog on sit-stay, place three dowels about 3 feet apart, 30 feet **directly in front** of dog, return to heel position. Send dog to retrieve each dowel. **Gradually** move dowels 50 feet from dog. **Repeat entire step three times each day for at least 5 days.**
  5. **Retrieve Three Dowels—One “Go-Back”:** Dog on sit-stay, place three dowels as in Step 4 and **hide one dowel beyond last visible dowel**. Send dog to retrieve three visible dowels, then send again on hidden dowel (follow dog in first few times), command “Sit” **just before dog reaches hidden dowel**. Dog sits facing trainer, **go to dog, praise**, give “OK” release, **praise**, call dog in. **Repeat entire step three times each day until reliable.**
- Note:** If dog stops short, take to hidden dowel, command “Go-Back,” make retrieve correction. **If dog doesn’t sit**, work on Random Sits for quick response.
6. **Retrieve Two Dowels—Two “Go-Backs”:** Dog on Sit-Stay, place two dowels 30 to 50 feet in front of dog, hide one dowel beyond last visible dowel, return to heel position. Send dog to retrieve two visible dowels, then send dog towards

hidden dowel. When dog gets close to hidden dowel, command "Sit." Dog sits facing trainer, go to dog, praise, give "OK" release, praise. Send dog again towards hidden dowel and command "Sit" as dog gets close to hidden dowel. Repeat entire step three times each day until reliable.

7. **Consecutive "Go-Backs"—No Retrieve:** Hide dowels in various locations of training area. Practice "Go-Backs" 30 to 50 feet from hidden dowel. When dog is **reliable**, trainer may eliminate hidden dowel.

## **Combine "Go-Back" with Directed Jumping**

**Before Beginning:** Dog must perform reliably on Dowel "Go-Back" or Food "Go-Back" and Jumps, before combining. Review these Lesson Plans. Know all introductory information and the steps of each exercise. **Do not combine Go-Back with Jumps until dog knows both parts of the exercise!**

**Jump Line:** Imaginary straight line between jumps, connecting High and Bar Jump.

**Jump Refusal:** If dog hesitates or doesn't take direction, immediately give another jump command and signal, run toward indicated jump, encourage dog. Review **Directed Jumping—"Jumps"** Lesson Plan before combining again.

**Dowel "Go-Back"—with Jumps:** Always have hidden dowel in place. If dog doesn't run a straight line, correct to hidden dowel. Trainer may have advanced too quickly, review Dowel Go-Back Lesson Plan before combining again.

**Food "Go-Backs"—with Jumps:** Always have food in place. If dog doesn't run a straight line, take dog to food-target. Trainer may have advanced too quickly; review Food Go-Back Lesson Plan before combining again.

1. **"Go-Back" with Jumps:** Begin at **center of Jump Line**, do Go-Back sending dog at least 20 feet. Dog sitting in Dog's Formal Exercise Position, command "Over" using voice and signal, dog approaches jump, **charge backward praising**. Dog jumps, give "OK" release, **praise**. **Gradually** move back from Jump Line to Trainer's Formal Exercise Position before sending dog. Occasionally practice Formal Exercise Ending.

# 4 H Dog Obedience Score Sheet

## Utility Class

Contestant's Number \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Division \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Show \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Height at withers \_\_\_\_\_ Jumps \_\_\_\_\_

Exercise & Commands/Signals*	NON QUALIFYING (ZERO)	QUALIFYING SUBSTANTIAL          MINOR	Maximum Points	Points Off	NET SCORE				
<b>SIGNAL EXERCISE</b> Forward, Halt, Right turn, Left turn, About turn, Slow, Normal, Fast Stand, Leave, Down, Sit, Come Finish Exercise finished	<input type="checkbox"/> Any audible command or signal to: <input type="checkbox"/> Fails 1st signal to: <input type="checkbox"/> Unmanageable <input type="checkbox"/> Handler continually adapts pace to dog <input type="checkbox"/> Moved from position <input type="checkbox"/> Sat out of reach <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated <input type="checkbox"/> Stand <input type="checkbox"/> Drop <input type="checkbox"/> Sit <input type="checkbox"/> Stay <input type="checkbox"/> Come	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra signal to Heel    Lacks brisk pace ..... <input type="checkbox"/> No change of pace <input type="checkbox"/> Slow <input type="checkbox"/> Fast <input type="checkbox"/> Lagging <input type="checkbox"/> Sniffing ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Improper heel position ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Heeling wide <input type="checkbox"/> Turns <input type="checkbox"/> Abouts ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Forging <input type="checkbox"/> Crowding handler ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Walks forward on: <input type="checkbox"/> Stand <input type="checkbox"/> Drop <input type="checkbox"/> Sit <input type="checkbox"/> Slow Stand <input type="checkbox"/> Drop <input type="checkbox"/> Come <input type="checkbox"/> Sit <input type="checkbox"/> No sit in front <input type="checkbox"/> No sit <input type="checkbox"/> No finish <input type="checkbox"/> Poor finish <input type="checkbox"/> Holding signals ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Delay in following Jds. orders ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Touched Handler <input type="checkbox"/> Sat between feet <input type="checkbox"/> Handler error .....	<b>40</b>						
<b>SCENT DISCRIMINATION</b> (2, leather/metal) Send your dog Take it Finish Exercise finished	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>L</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> No go on 1st com.  <input type="checkbox"/> No retrieve  <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieves wrong article  <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated com.  <input type="checkbox"/> Returns out of reach  <input type="checkbox"/> Extra com. or sig.                             </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>M</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> No go on 1st com.  <input type="checkbox"/> No retrieve  <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieves wrong article  <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated com.  <input type="checkbox"/> Returns out of reach  <input type="checkbox"/> Extra com. or sig.                             </td> </tr> </table>	<b>L</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No go on 1st com. <input type="checkbox"/> No retrieve <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieves wrong article <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated com. <input type="checkbox"/> Returns out of reach <input type="checkbox"/> Extra com. or sig.	<b>M</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No go on 1st com. <input type="checkbox"/> No retrieve <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieves wrong article <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated com. <input type="checkbox"/> Returns out of reach <input type="checkbox"/> Extra com. or sig.	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; 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<b>DIRECTED RETRIEVE</b> Send your dog (1, 2, or 3) Take it Finish Exercise finished	Does Not: Go out on command ..... Go directly to glove ..... Retrieve right article ..... Fails to retrieve .... No prompt return ..... Anticipated ..... Sat out of reach ... Positioning dog after turning .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Handler over-turns <input type="checkbox"/> Touches dog ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive signals <input type="checkbox"/> Motion ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Slow <input type="checkbox"/> Going <input type="checkbox"/> Returning <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up <input type="checkbox"/> Mouthing or playing <input type="checkbox"/> Dropping glove <input type="checkbox"/> Poor release <input type="checkbox"/> Extra command or sig. to Finish <input type="checkbox"/> No sit <input type="checkbox"/> No finish <input type="checkbox"/> Slow sits <input type="checkbox"/> Poor sits ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Poor finish ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Touching handler ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Sat between feet ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Handler error .....	<b>30</b>						
<b>MOVING STAND AND EXAMINATION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat out of reach    Failure to: <input type="checkbox"/> Displays fear or resentment    Heel ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Sitting    Accept examination ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Lying down    Return to handler ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Growling or snapping <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated whining or barking	<input type="checkbox"/> Forging <input type="checkbox"/> Lagging <input type="checkbox"/> Wide <input type="checkbox"/> Moves slightly on stand ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Handler hesitates or pauses ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Fails to return briskly ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Poor sit ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Return to Heel position ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Slow response ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Handler error ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Poor finish .....	<b>30</b>						
<b>DIRECTED JUMP</b> Send your dog High jump Finish Exercise finished Send your dog Bar jump Finish Exercise finished	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>H</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Does not leave on order  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go between jumps  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go 10' beyond jump  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't stop on command  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't jump as directed  <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated command  <input type="checkbox"/> Climbs jump  <input type="checkbox"/> Knocks bar off                             </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>B</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Does not leave on order  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go between jumps  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go 10' beyond jump  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't stop on command  <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't jump as directed  <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated command  <input type="checkbox"/> Climbs jump  <input type="checkbox"/> Knocks bar off                             </td> </tr> </table>	<b>H</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not leave on order <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go between jumps <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go 10' beyond jump <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't stop on command <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't jump as directed <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated command <input type="checkbox"/> Climbs jump <input type="checkbox"/> Knocks bar off	<b>B</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not leave on order <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go between jumps <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't go 10' beyond jump <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't stop on command <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't jump as directed <input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated command <input type="checkbox"/> Climbs jump <input type="checkbox"/> Knocks bar off	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; 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\*Before each exercise "Are you ready" **MAX. POINTS 200**

Dog's lack of willingness or enjoyment of work      Lack of smoothness and naturalness by the handler      Less Penalty for Unusual Behavior

H. Disciplining      Shows fear      Fouling ring      Excused  

**TOTAL NET SCORE**

**RIBBON AWARDS** (Dogs will be placed in Blue, Red, and White award groups at the Judge's discretion. No minimum score is required to place in any award group.)



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Brad Jeffreys, Extension 4-H youth development specialist,  
coordinated the development of this publication.

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