Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Open Training

JoAnne Carson and Lois Coryell
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Open Obedience Training

Open obedience is for 4-H members who have not advanced to Open Challenge with the dog each member is showing. Members should not advance to Open until they and their dogs are competent in Graduate Novice.

As in the Novice and Graduate Novice sections, each exercise has an individual lesson plan broken into steps that gradually progress to a final goal. Do not rush through the steps; give the dog a lot of experience on each step before progressing to the next. It's important that exercises from all classes be reviewed.

In addition to the Heel Free, Figure 8, and Drop-On-Recall, which are presented in the Graduate Novice section, the Open class includes Retrieve on the Flat, Retrieve over the High Jump, and the Broad Jump.

Before beginning any of the jumping exercises, the dog should know Stick Jumping, which is presented in the Graduate Novice section. This exercise is the foundation for all advanced jumping and eliminates many potential jumping problems.

The Bar Jump is taught in conjunction with the High Jump. Early training on the Bar Jump prepares the dog for Directed Jumping in Utility.

Remember, a good trainer is enthusiastic, patient, and fair to the dog. Give the dog a lot of repetition on each step. Any time a problem develops, identify the problem area, isolate this from the rest of the exercise, and improve the portion of the exercise that needs work. The three I's to remember are: Identify, Isolate, and Improve.

Open Class Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
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<tr>
<td>Heel Free and Figure 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop-On-Recall</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrieve on the Flat</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrieve Over High Jump</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Jump</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Sit (3 minutes out of sight)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Down (5 minutes out of sight)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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Open Exercise Performance and Scoring

AKC Obedience Regulations

All exercises are performed and scored as outlined in the AKC Obedience Regulations. The following Open Exercise Performance and Scoring is 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.

Heel Free and Figure 8

This exercise is performed as in the Graduate Novice class, with all exercises done off-leash.

Drop-On-Recall

This exercise is done as in the Graduate Novice class.

Retrieve on the Flat

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

Orders are “Throw it,” “Send your dog,” “Take it,” and “Finish.”

The handler shall stand with his dog sitting in the Heel position in a place designated by the Judge. On the order “Throw it,” the handler shall give command and/or signal to Stay, which signal may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell, and throw the dumbbell a distance of at least 20 feet. On order to send his dog, the handler shall give command or signal to retrieve. The retrieve shall be executed at a brisk trot or gallop, the dog going directly to the dumbbell, retrieving it, and returning directly to the handler without unnecessary mouth ing or playing. The dog must sit straight to deliver, centered immediately in front of the handler’s feet, close enough that the handler readily can take the dumbbell without moving either foot or having to stretch forward. The dog must not touch the handler nor sit between his feet. On order from the Judge to “Take it,” the handler shall give command or signal and take the dumbbell.

The Finish shall be executed as in the Novice Recall.
Retrieve on the Flat, continued

The dumbbell, which must be approved by the Judge, shall be made of one or more solid pieces of one of the heavy hardwoods; or of a rigid or semi-rigid, firm, non-toxic, non-wooden material, similar in size, shape, color, and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. The dumbbell shall not be hollowed out. It may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish, or painted white. It shall have no decorations or attachments but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell shall be proportionate to the size of the dog.

The Judge shall require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if, in his or her opinion, it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side, or too close to the ringside.

Retrieve on the Flat, Scoring

A dog that fails to go out on the first command or signal, or goes to retrieve before the command or signal is given, or fails to retrieve, or does not return with the dumbbell sufficiently close that the handler can take the dumbbell easily, as described above, must be scored zero.

Substantial deductions, depending on the extent, shall be made for slowness in going out or returning or in picking up the dumbbell, for not going directly to the dumbbell, for mouthing or playing with or dropping the dumbbell, and for reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell to the handler. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

Retrieve Over High Jump

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog go out over the jump, pick up the dumbbell, and promptly return with it over the jump. Orders are “Throw it,” “Send your dog,” “Take it,” and “Finish.”

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Retrieve on the Flat, except that the dog must clear the High Jump both going and coming. The handler must stand at least 8 feet, or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet, from the jump, but must remain in the same spot throughout the exercise, and must throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. The minimum jump shall be set at the nearest multiple of 2 inches to the height of the dog at the withers for all other dogs, with no dog jumping less than 8 inches nor more than 36 inches. Handlers having their dogs jump more than the minimum required height shall neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration. For dogs that jump three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers, the minimum jumps shall be set in accordance with the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measured height of dog at withers</th>
<th>Height to be jumped</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 12½&quot;</td>
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<td>33½&quot; to less than 36&quot;</td>
<td>26&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36&quot; to less than 39½&quot;</td>
<td>28&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The jumps may be preset by the Stewards based on the handler’s advice as to the dog’s height. The Judge must make certain the jump is at least the minimum required height for each dog, and must also be aware that the jump shall be set at a higher height if requested by the handler. The Judge may, at his or her discretion, verify the height of any dog at the withers.

The side posts of the High Jump shall be 4 feet high and the jump shall be 5 feet wide and shall be constructed so as to provide adjustment for each 2 inches from 8 inches to 36 inches. It is suggested that the jump have a bottom board 8 inches wide including the space from the bottom of the board to the ground or floor, together with three other 8-inch boards, one 4-inch board, and one 2-inch board. A 6-inch board also may be provided. The jump shall be painted a flat white. The width in inches, and nothing else, shall be painted on each side of each board in black 2-inch figures, the figures on the bottom board representing the distance from the ground or floor to the top of the board.
Retrieve Over High Jump, Scoring

Scoring of this exercise shall be as in Retrieve on the Flat. In addition, a dog that fails, either going or returning, to go over the full height of the jump, or that climbs or uses the jump for aid in going over, must be scored zero.

Minor to substantial deductions, depending on the specific circumstances in each case, shall be made for the dog that touches the jump in going over or displays any hesitation or reluctance to jump. All other appropriate penalties for the Retrieve on the Flat apply.

Broad Jump

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where it is left until directed to Jump, and that the dog clear the jump on a single command or signal.

Orders are “Leave your dog,” “Send your dog,” and “Finish.”

The handler will stand with her dog sitting in the Heel position in front of and at least 8 feet from the jump. On order from the Judge to “Leave your dog,” the handler will give her dog the command and/or signal to Stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump, with her toes about 2 feet from the jump, and anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle.

On order from the Judge, the handler shall give the command or signal to Jump, and the dog shall clear the entire distance of the Broad Jump without touching; and then, without further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler as in the Novice Recall. The handler shall change her position by executing a right-angle turn while the dog is in midair, but shall remain in the same spot. The dog must sit and finish as in the Novice Recall.

The Broad Jump shall consist of four hurdles, built to telescope for convenience, made of boards about 8 inches wide, the largest measuring about 5 feet in length and 6 inches high at the highest point, all painted in a flat white. When set up, they shall be arranged in order to size and shall be evenly spaced so as to cover a distance equal to twice the height of the High jump as set for the particular dog, with the low side of each hurdle and the lowest hurdle nearest the dog. The four hurdles shall be used for a jump of 48 to 72 inches, three for 28 to 44 inches, and two for a jump of 16 to 24 inches. When decreasing the number of boards in the jump, the highest hurdle shall be removed first. It is the Judge’s responsibility to see that the distance jumped is that required by these Regulations for the particular dog.

Broad Jump, Scoring

A dog that fails to stay until directed to jump, or refuses the jump on the first command or signal, or that steps on or between the boards, or that uses the jump for aid in going over, or that fails to clear the full distance, must be scored zero. Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances in each case, shall be made for a dog that does not return directly to the handler or displays any hesitation or reluctance to jump, or that touches the jump. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

Long Sit (3 minutes out of sight) and Long Down (5 minutes out of sight)

These exercises are performed as in the Graduate Novice class.

Dumbbells

Correct dumbbell size is important. Improper dumbbell size can result in a poor carry or mouthing. The dowel between the two bells should be just long enough for the dog’s muzzle to fit comfortably between the bells. The bells should keep the dowel far enough off the ground that the dog can grasp it behind the canine teeth without touching the ground with its nose. Paint the bells white so the dog may locate the dumbbell more easily. Do not paint the bar.
**Suggested Jump Construction**

**High Jump**

These boards are removable.

Front view

This upright consists of two pieces 1" x 3" and one piece 1" x 2", nailed together, with the 1" x 2" forming the groove for the boards to slide in.

Side view

This jump must be painted a flat white.

**Bar Jump**

Height adjustable 2" increments from 8" to 36"

Front view

Elevation

**Broad Jump**

1" x 8" material

Side view

This jump must be painted a flat white.
Open Lesson Plans

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Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat

To be successful in advanced obedience competition, your dog must be a reliable retriever. Though many dogs are natural retrievers, they are not necessarily reliableitters. With most dogs that are not taught step-by-step the acceptable way to perform the retrieve exercise, there will come a time when the dumbbell lands by a distraction, and the dog will make no attempt to retrieve the dumbbell. Because you want to avoid this problem, and because there is a definite way this exercise should be performed,

the natural retriever and all other dogs should be trained to retrieve. The dog should run directly to the dumbbell, grab the center intensely, turn sharply, return immediately to the trainer at a brisk pace and sit in Come position. Teaching the retrieve, rather than relying on the dog’s natural instinct to chase and/or retrieve, gives a more intense, reliable retrieve and a means to correct when the dog makes a mistake.

There are a variety of retrieve corrections; several will be outlined in this text. Choose a retrieve correction, then stick with it. Don’t be tempted to switch from one correction to the next until the method you have chosen has a chance for success.

Timing of the retrieve correction is extremely important. When the retrieve command is given, the correction must be given quickly, and it must end the moment the dog has the dumbbell in his mouth; then praise the dog exuberantly. If, after 3 weeks of daily work, the dog is not responding to the correction you have chosen, evaluate your performance of the correction. If you’re performing the correction as outlined, have been training daily for at least 30 days, and the dog has not progressed to Step 3, your technique should be reviewed by your leader and possibly you should use another method.

Before Beginning: Study the entire Retrieve on the Flat instruction. Dog must be under control. Review Sit and Accept Praise, Sit for Examination, and Comefofore exercises, Pre-Novice Lesson Plans.

Make Retrieving Fun: Use lots of praise! Train the retrieve daily. Keep training sessions short: no more than 10 minutes on the retrieve exercises. Do not rush through the training steps. The dog must perform the goal of each step reliably before advancing to the next step. Keep a positive, enthusiastic attitude; use a lot of praise.

Food rewards: Food rewards can be used to reinforce good performance. The use of well-timed food rewards on this exercise is encouraged.

Train each day: When you decide to teach the Retrieve, make a commitment to train the dog...
Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, continued

each day for about 5 to 10 minutes. Training, praise, play, well-timed corrections, and food rewards will result in a dog that understands and enjoys the Retrieve exercise.

Pre-Retrieve Training: Dog sitting in heel position under calm, quiet control. Command “Stay,” open dog’s mouth as in Sit for Examination, Pre-Novice Lesson Plans. Dog must sit still while trainer opens and closes dog’s mouth.

Important: Progress to Step 1 only if the dog will sit still for Pre-Retrieve training!

1. Dog Holds and Carries Dumbbell: Dog on-lead sitting in heel position, introduce dog to dumbbell. Left hand is over dog’s muzzle, with fingers behind dog’s left canine tooth and thumb behind right canine tooth. Right hand holds bell of dumbbell. Command “Take it” as you apply pressure with thumb and fingers, opening dog’s mouth; insert dumbbell behind canine teeth, praise. Command “Hold it,” place right hand under dog’s muzzle keeping dumbbell in position, praise; left hand in collar holding dog’s head. If dog pulls away, command “No—Hold it.” Gently, hold dumbbell in place and quietly praise.

After several seconds, command “Give,” remove dumbbell, praise. Dog must hold dumbbell tightly before progressing. While dog is sitting, holding dumbbell, put slight forward pressure on ends of dumbbell. If dog releases dumbbell before asked, command “No—Hold it” as you reposition dumbbell and praise. Gently tap on the ends of the dumbbell. When dog is holding the dumbbell tightly, command “Give,” praise, repeat.

When dog will sit still and tightly hold dumbbell, repeat above with dog standing. When dog will stand and hold dumbbell, pivot in front of dog, command “Come” as you move backwards praising. Hands should stay close to dog’s muzzle, ready to steady dumbbell as dog is moving. If dog drops dumbbell, begin again. Be patient! Dog must hold and carry dumbbell before moving to Step 2. Again, take your time. Make sure the dog can perform this step before advancing to Step 2!

Retrieve Corrections

Use retrieve corrections only after the goals of Step 1 are achieved. A good trainer is always as gentle as possible with all corrections!

Gentle Collar Correction: Dog wearing a well-fitted training collar, slide collar directly behind dog’s ears. Hold lead in left hand close to collar. Hold dumbbell, by the bell, in right hand, close to dog’s lips. When retrieve command is given, gently pop forward on the lead, moving dog’s head toward dumbbell as right hand pushes bit of dumbbell gently but firmly against dog’s front teeth. Remember, when dog takes dumbbell, immediately release pressure; praise enthusiastically.

Gentle Pressure Behind Both Ears: Place left forefinger behind dog’s left ear, left thumb behind dog’s right ear. When retrieve command is given, apply gentle forward pressure with left hand as right hand, holding dumbbell by bell close to dog’s lips, pushes bit of dumbbell gently but firmly against dog’s front teeth. Remember, when the dog takes the dumbbell, immediately release pressure; praise enthusiastically.

Gentle Ear Pressure: Dog wearing well-fitted training collar, slide collar directly behind dog’s ears. Place left hand, palm up, under dog’s collar, fingers toward dog’s head. Place dog’s right ear between collar and thumb. Dumbbell is close to dog’s lips. When retrieve command is given, quickly apply gentle pressure with thumb as right hand pushes dumbbell gently but firmly against dog’s front teeth. Remember, when dog takes dumbbell, immediately release pressure; praise enthusiastically.

If Dog Resists Retrieve Correction: Abort exercise and practice Sit for Examination, Pre-Novice Lesson Plans, with left hand in Retrieve Correction position. Correct for any resistance, praise, begin again. Also, practice Pre-Retrieve Training and Step 1 (Dog Holds and Carries Dumbbell) of the Retrieve Exercise. When dog is reliable, begin again.
2. Dog Opens on Command—Insert Dumbbell:
Before beginning, dog must be reliable on Step 1, and the trainer should have selected one retrieve correction.

Dog on-lead, sitting in heel position, left hand ready for retrieve correction. Right hand holds dumbbell close to dog's lips. Command "Take it," do retrieve correction, dog opens mouth, you insert dumbbell, command "Hold it," praise enthusiastically. Command "Give," take dumbbell, praise. When dog will open on command without retrieve correction and let you insert dumbbell, move to Step 3.


If Dog Won't Release Dumbbell: Hold one end solid with left hand, command "Give," gently tap other end with right hand, remove dumbbell, praise.

If Dog Takes Dumbbell By Bell: Command "No," take dumbbell, review Step 3, begin again.

If Dog Mouths Dumbbell: Use voice control, command "No—Hold it," "Easy," "Hold it," take dumbbell, praise. Dowel of dumbbell may be improper size, or trainer may have advanced too quickly through the steps. Check dumbbell size and review Steps 1 through 3; begin again.

4. 4-Inch Grab and Carry: Dog on-lead standing in heel position, left hand ready for retrieve correction. Right hand holds dumbbell. Move with dog, praise enthusiastically, flashing dumbbell in short sweeping movements close to dog's nose. Excite dog with voice and actions to want dumbbell. With dumbbell no more than 4 inches from dog's mouth, command "Take it," praise enthusiastically, give retrieve correction if necessary. Dog grabs dumbbell, command "Come," charge backward praising. Dog is to you, command "Give," take dumbbell, praise.

Some dogs will carry dumbbell with no trouble, others will take much time and patience at this step. Build on success! At first, if dog takes two or three steps holding dumbbell, command "Give," take dumbbell, praise. If dog spits dumbbell out before release command is given, pick dumbbell up, command "Take it," give retrieve correction even if dog tries to grab dumbbell. Review Steps 1 through 3, begin again. Dog always must carry dumbbell to you, at least 10 feet without correction, before progressing to Step 5. Don't rush! Give dog a solid foundation on Steps 1 through 4.

Distractions: Practice the following steps around distractions. Insist on a quick grab at dumbbell and a fast return to trainer.

Retrieve Refusal: Any time dog doesn't respond instantly on first command, repeat that step using retrieve correction (even if dog tries to grab). Then practice Step 3 to reinforce retrieve command. Keep your standard of performance high; do not repeat the retrieve command.

5. Eye Level—Side-to-Side: Dog on-lead, run with dog, make it a game. Hold dumbbell out in front or to either side, always at eye level. Command "Take it," dog grabs dumbbell, pop towards you, move backward praising to teach quick return. Command "Give," take dumbbell, praise. When dog will grab dumbbell anywhere at eye level, without correction, move to Step 6.

6. Below Eye Level—Side-to-Side Just Above Ground: Same as Step 5, except: start below eye level, in gradual stages toward ground. Always charge backward praising the instant dog grabs dumbbell. When dog will grab dumbbell anywhere just above ground, without correction, move to Step 7.

7. Ground—Hand on Bell: Same as Step 6, except dog takes dumbbell from ground while hand is on bell. When dog is reliable, move to Step 8.

8. Ground—As Hand Leaves Bell: Same as Step 7, except dog grabs dumbbell as hand leaves it. From this point on, trainer never again picks dumbbell up for dog! When dog is reliable, move to Step 9.
9. **Slide Dumbbell:** Same as Step 8, except extend the game by sliding dumbbell a little. The instant dog grabs dumbbell, pop towards you, charge backward praising. Practice on-lead, on check-line, and off-lead when reliable. Stay at this level at least 1 week, letting dog have fun, then move to Step 10.

10. **Drop Dumbbell—Line and Mark—Heel Away—Heel Back—Line and Mark—Send Dog:**
   - **Line:** Teach dog to run a straight line. Hold left arm, bent at elbow with fingers pointing straight out to indicate direction, by right side of dog's head.
   - **Mark:** An extra training command meaning, "Look where I'm pointing."


11. **Trainer Stands Straight—Hands at Side:** Dog off-lead, sitting in heel position. Command "Stay," toss dumbbell 20 to 40 feet. Trainer stands straight, hands at side, command "Take it," praise as dog retrieves. Command "Give," take dumbbell, praise. Sometimes send dog while dumbbell is in the air; sometimes charge backward praising as dog retrieves, then do Formal Front and Finish. When dog is reliable, move on to Step 12.

12. **Formal Exercise:** Dog off-lead, sitting in heel position. Command "Stay," toss dumbbell 20 to 40 feet. Trainer stands straight, hands at side, command "Take it." As dog is returning with dumbbell, command "Come"; dog sits straight in come position. Command "Give," take dumbbell, finish, praise. Gradually, as dog steadies, eliminate "Come" command.
High Jump and Bar Jump

Before Beginning: Dog should know Stick Jumping!

High Jump and Bar Jump: See AKC Obedience Regulations for suggested construction of jumps. All steps should be practiced on both the High Jump and the Bar Jump.

Jump Height: Jump remains low, below dog’s shoulder height, until dog knows exercise. Progress slowly from shoulder height to maximum on all steps except 1 and 3.

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, practice Step 3 to reinforce jump command.

1. Trainer Jumps with Dog: Lead in left hand, run with dog toward jump center. Command “Over” and pop forward just before jump, praise. Trainer and dog jump, praise, continue straight follow-through.

2. On-Lead Run-By: 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 straight follow-through.


4. Off-Lead Recall Over Jump: Dog on Sit-Stay, 5 feet back from jump center. Trainer on other side of jump, close to center for target. Simultaneously command, “Over,” hand taps top board (first few times), give jump signal, charge backward praising. Dog jumps, praise. Gradually increase jump height to dog’s shoulder height. As jump height is increased, dog is moved straight back in relation to height of jump for adequate take-off. Trainer also moves straight back before commanding “Over.”

5. Off-Lead Run-By: Same as Step 2, except off-lead.

6. Angle Off-Lead Recall Over Jump: Same as Step 4, except: dog is moved to right and left of jump center. Start 2 feet off-center, gradually increasing angle to 15 feet. Remember: Trainer remains directly back from jump center—dog is moved back and over.

7. Increase Jump Height: Gradually raise jump to dog’s shoulder height on all steps. As dog steadies, progress slowly from shoulder height to maximum on all steps except 1 and 3.
Retrieve Over
High Jump

Before Beginning: Dog must be reliable on Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat; High Jump and Bar Jump at maximum height.

Jump Height: Jump remains low until dog knows exercise. Progress slowly to dog’s shoulder height.

Retrieve Refusal: If dog doesn’t respond instantly on first command, abort exercise with “OK,” go to dog, praise, attach lead, praise. Take dog to dumbbell, give retrieve correction (even if dog tries to grab), dog takes dumbbell, charge backward praising. Review Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, Step 3, to reinforce retrieve command.

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, to reinforce jump command.

Slow Return: If dog starts to return slowly, charge backward praising. Review Dumbbell—Retrieve on the Flat, Step 9. Insist on a quick grab at dumbbell and a fast return to trainer.


2. Off-Lead: Same as Step 1, except off-lead, and change to jump command instead of retrieve command. If necessary, command “Take it” as dog approaches dumbbell.

Important: Move to the jump! Do not give dog a chance to go around! Trainer stays close to jump center, giving dog a target to come back to. Charge backward praising as dog returns over jump. If needed, tap top board and give Jump Signal the first few times.


5. Stationary Angle Retrieve: Same as Step 4, except use an angle toss.


7. Increase Jump Height: Gradually raise jump to dog’s shoulder height on all steps. As dog steadies, progress slowly from shoulder height to maximum on all steps. Practice Steps 2 through 6 throughout training.
Broad Jump

Before Beginning: Dog should know Stick Jumping, High Jump and Bar Jump at maximum height, and round finish.

Broad Jump: See AKC Obedience Regulations for suggested construction of jump and jump width.

Jump Width:
Begin with two boards, turning first board up. When dog jumps reliably, turn first board down and gradually add all boards.

Keep jump close together until dog masters Step 4. Progress slowly to maximum jump width on Steps 2 through 7.

Finish: Trainer should use Round Finish on this exercise.

Jump Refusal: If dog doesn’t respond to jump command, attach lead, praise, review Stick Jumping, and practice Broad Jump, Steps 1 through 3, to reinforce jump command.

If Dog Cuts Corner: Place Jump Stick on angle across jump corner; or, as dog is in mid-air, step towards dog, meet for straight follow-through.

If Dog Turns Wide: Place Jump Stick or bar of Bar Jump where dog lands. If stick is positioned properly, dog will turn inside stick. Also, review Stick Jumping, Step 6, Graduate Novice Lesson Plans, and practice Broad Jump, Step 4.


1. Trainer Jumps With Dog: Lead in left hand, run with dog toward jump center. Command “Over” and pop forward just before jump, praise. Trainer and dog jump, praise, continue straight follow-through.

2. On-Lead Run-By: Lead in left hand, run with dog toward jump center. Command “Over” and pop forward just before jump, praise. Trainer’s left foot lands at jump center, dog jumps, trainer’s right foot steps to side of jump, next step with left foot is on other side at jump center, meeting dog for straight follow-through.


4. Quick-Tight-Turn After Jump: Practice Steps 2 and 3; while dog is in mid-air, command “Come,” dog lands, pop towards you, praise, move backward praising, give “OK” release, praise. Occasionally do Front and Round Finish.

5. Increase Jump Width: Gradually increase jump width to maximum on Steps 2 through 4.

6. Off-Lead: Practice Steps 2 through 5 off-lead. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, repeat that step with correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat step off-lead.

7. Formal Exercise: Dog off-lead on Sit-Stay, at least 8 feet back from jump center. Trainer at jump side, between first and last board, facing right side of jump, with toes about 2 feet from jump. Hold Jump Stick above jump center. Trainer stands still, command “Over”; while dog is in mid-air, command “Come,” pivot right, dog turns and sits in composition, do round finish, give “OK” release, praise. Break exercise down; sometimes stick is there, sometimes it’s not. Adjust position of stick as jump width is increased. Gradually eliminate “Come” command and Jump Stick.
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<td>Forward, halt, right turn, left turn, about turn, slow, normal, fast</td>
<td>adapts pace to dog ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>No change of pace ☐</td>
<td>Fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lagging ☐</td>
<td>Sniffing ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poor sit ☐</td>
<td>No sit ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward, halt (2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Handler lacks break pace ☐</td>
<td>Improper heel position ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improper heel position ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DROP ON RECALL</td>
<td>Does not come on ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Slow response to Drop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave your dog</td>
<td>first command ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Slow response to the Come</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call your dog</td>
<td>on or signal ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Extra command to Stay before leaving</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down your dog</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stood or laid down ☐</td>
<td>Slow sit ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call your dog</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extra command to Finish ☐</td>
<td>Poor sit ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No sit in front ☐</td>
<td>Poor finish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECALL</td>
<td>Does not drop on ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave your dog</td>
<td>first command ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Extra command to finish ☐</td>
<td>Sat between feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call your dog</td>
<td>on or signal ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Sat out of reach ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extra command or signal ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT in front D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extra command to finish Sat between feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETRIEVE ON OVER HIGH JUMP</td>
<td>Fails to go out ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Slow ☐</td>
<td>Going ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throw it</td>
<td>on first command ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Returning ☐</td>
<td>Picking up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send your dog</td>
<td>or signal ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Dropping dumbbell ☐</td>
<td>Poor sit ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take it</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Picking up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETRIEVE ON FLAT</td>
<td>Goes before ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Slow ☐</td>
<td>Going ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throw it</td>
<td>command or signal ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Returning ☐</td>
<td>Picking up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send your dog</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dropping dumbbell ☐</td>
<td>Poor sit ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take it</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Picking up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROAD JUMP</td>
<td>Refuses to jump ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Slow ☐</td>
<td>Going ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send your dog</td>
<td>on first command ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Returning ☐</td>
<td>Picking up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish</td>
<td>or signal ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Dropping dumbbell ☐</td>
<td>Poor sit ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No finish ☐</td>
<td>Touched handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Picking up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LONG SIT (3 Minutes)</td>
<td>Did not remain in ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Slow ☐</td>
<td>Rough treatment by handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handler out of sight</td>
<td>place ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Resistance of dog to sit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit your dog</td>
<td>returns ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Resistance of dog to sit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave your dogs</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Resistance of dog to sit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to dogs</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Resistance of dog to sit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise finished</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Resistance of dog to sit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NET SCORE</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAX SUB-TOTAL</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Before each exercise "Are you ready"