

# Dog Obedience, Showmanship, and Contest Guide



## Purpose

Obedience and showmanship contests provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate how well you've trained your dog and how you and your dog work as a team.

## Eligibility

You may enter 4-H dog obedience and showmanship trials if you're enrolled in the 4-H dog care and training project and have trained a dog for at least 90 days before the trial, or according to the show rules.

More than one member of the family may work with the same dog, providing the family does not have a dog for each child in the project.

If you can't own a dog, you may show a dog owned by another person, providing you have a written agreement stating your responsibilities for care and training.

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All dogs, regardless of age or breed, are eligible, providing they are healthy and suitably trained. In a 4-H obedience or showmanship trial, the breed, color, and conformation of your dog won't be considered. All breeds of dogs compete together.

Where possible and if show regulations allow, members with a female in season (heat) will be allowed to exhibit after all other dogs show in their class. Females in season are to be kept away from the show area until they show.

## Advancement

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You and your dog may stay in the same class the entire contest year, or you may advance to a higher class during the year.

Members who receive a score of 180 or higher in Obedience at county fair for two consecutive years must advance to the next level. A member may also advance to the next level on the approval of their leader. If a leader has a member who has not scored 180 in a 4-H or American Kennel Club (AKC) show but is ready for the new challenge, the leader should advance the member.

If a 4-H member shows competence in a phase, the leader must advance her or him the following year.

A contest year begins with a member's enrollment or re-enrollment in 4-H and ends with the next county or state fair, whichever is the later date.

Scores apply to a particular dog. A 4-H'er is limited to one dog in each of the eight major divisions at any given time.

## Health Requirements

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Your dog must be immunized against rabies, distemper, hepatitis, and parvovirus and must have been free of any infectious illness for at least 30 days before the trial. Consult your veterinarian for additional vaccinations appropriate to your home area or areas of travel.

Some shows may require stricter health rules.

Dogs with permanent physical defects that limit their participation should be entered in the veteran/handicapped class. Get a statement from your veterinarian confirming the disability.

Dogs exhibiting an illness, injury, or lameness may be excused from showing.

## Equipment

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You'll need a fabric or leather leash about 6 feet long, with a bolt or spring snap on one end and a loop on the other end.

Dogs must wear properly fitted collars. Collars with prongs or spikes on the inside or outside, electronic collars, or special training collars (such as a haltie or gentle leader) are not permitted. Nothing shall hang from the collars.

Consult the 4-H State Fair book for additional equipment guidelines. The 4-H State Fair Book can be found on the Oregon 4-H website at: <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/state-fair>.

## Exhibitor

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Your appearance and conduct count. You should be clean, neat, and appropriately dressed. Wear clothing that is comfortable, allows freedom of action, and doesn't attract attention from or interfere with your dog. Shoes must be flat and close-toed. If the shoes have laces, they must be tied. Open-heeled clogs and sandals are not allowed.

Check in before your show time. Be ready when called. Return to the ring promptly for group exercises.

Your conduct in the ring will be scored. Misbehavior on your part—with your dog, the judge, or other exhibitors—will be reason for assessing penalty points. Your errors in performing the exercises also will be counted.

Pay attention to the judge and others in charge so that you'll be ready and won't miss opportunities to show your dog. A quiet, friendly manner is important. Be courteous and pleasant, and demonstrate good posture. You can't expect your dog to present an attractive picture if you don't do your part.

Praise your dog after the judge says, "Exercise finished." Be sure you keep your dog under control.

## Animals

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Dogs that show evidence of viciousness or aggressive behavior will be excused. A vicious or aggressive dog must be removed from the grounds immediately or crated until it can be removed.

## Judging Standards

Each 4-H class is outlined in this contest guide. The judge is to use the 4-H Obedience or Showmanship Score Sheets. In all classes, the judge has the option of assessing penalty points for errors or misbehavior. Dogs will be placed in Blue, Red, and White award groups as follows: Blue, 180–200 points; Red, 150–179 points; White, 149 points and below.

## Commands and Signals

Whenever a signal or command is mentioned in this guide, you may give only a single command or signal. You will be penalized for additional signals or commands.

Whenever this guide specifies “command and/or signal,” you may give both command and signal at the same time.

You may use your dog’s name once immediately before any verbal command when this guide specifies “command and/or signal.” You may not use this name with any signal not given simultaneously with a verbal command.

## Show Preparation

Preparation includes feeding, exercise, conditioning, and training. Your dog should be free of insects and be clean and well groomed, with nails trimmed and teeth clean. Keep your dog cool and quiet.

## Obedience Classes

Obedience trials in 4-H are divided into eight major class divisions: Pre-Novice, Novice, Graduate Novice, Advanced Graduate Novice, Open, Open Challenge, Utility, and Veteran/Handicapped.

Each class division builds upon the previous class. Each of these divisions may be further divided by age of the handler, if the number of entries warrants. All exercises are found in the Oregon 4-H Obedience lesson plans, although it may be necessary to reference multiple lessons, due to updating of the score sheets. You can find score sheets on the 4-H web site at: <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/animal-science-dog>.

## Class Descriptions

### Pre-Novice

Open to 4-H members who have not advanced to Novice with the dog they are showing.

Exercises	Points
Heel on Leash	50
Figure 8 (on leash)	30
Stand for Examination (on leash)	30
Recall (on leash)	30
Long Sit (1 minute on leash)	30
Long Down (3 minutes on leash)	30
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

### Novice

Open to 4-H members who have passed Pre-Novice and have not advanced to Graduate Novice with the dog they are showing.

Exercises	Points
Heel on Leash	30
Figure 8 (on leash)	20
Stand for Examination (off leash)	30
Heel Free	30
Recall (off leash)	30
Long Sit (1 minute off leash)	30
Long Down (3 minutes off leash)	30
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

### Graduate Novice

Open to 4-H members who have passed Novice and have not advanced to Advanced Graduate Novice with the dog they are showing.

Exercises	Points
Heel on Leash	30
Stand for Examination (off leash)	30
Heel Free	30
Figure 8	20
Drop on Recall	30
Long Sit (3 minutes, handler out of sight)	30
Long Down (5 minutes, handler out of sight)	30
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

## Advanced Graduate Novice

Open to 4-H members who have passed Graduate Novice and have not advanced to Open with the dog they are showing.

Exercises	Points
Heel Free	30
Figure 8	20
Moving Stand and Examination	30
Drop on Recall	30
Recall with Dumbbell	30
Recall over Broad Jump	30
Long Down (5 minutes, handler out of sight)	30
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

## Open

Open to 4-H members who have passed Advanced Graduate Novice and have not advanced to Open Challenge with the dog they are showing.

Exercises	Points
Heel Free and Figure 8	40
Drop on Recall	30
Retrieve on Flat	20
Retrieve over High Jump	30
Broad Jump	20
Long Sit (3 minutes, handler out of sight)	30
Long Down (5 minutes, handler out of sight)	30
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

## Open Challenge

Open to 4-H members who have passed Open and have not advanced to Utility with the dog they are showing.

Exercises	Points
Signal Exercise	40
Drop on Recall (signal drop)	30
Retrieve over High Jump	30
Directed Retrieve	40
Long Sit (3 minutes, handler out of sight)	30
Long Down (5 minutes, handler out of sight)	30
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

## Utility

Open to 4-H members who have passed Open Challenge with the dog they are showing.

Exercises	Points
Signal Exercise	40
Scent Discrimination Leather	30
Scent Discrimination Metal	30
Directed Retrieve	30
Moving Stand and Examination	30
Directed Jumping	40
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

## Veteran/Handicapped

Open to aged dogs (7 years and older) or to dogs with disability that are unable to compete at a higher level. Disabled dogs require veterinary certification.

Exercises	Points
Heel Free and Figure 8 with Signals (audible and/or hand)	50
Signals	15
Drop on Recall	30
Retrieve on Flat	30
Group exercises:	
Long Stand (1 minute off leash)	25
Long Sit (1 minute off leash)	25
Long Down (1 minute off leash)	25
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

## Exercise Performance

### Pre-Novice

**Heel on Leash:** You will enter the ring with your dog on a loose leash. You will stand still, with your dog sitting at heel at your left side, until the judge asks whether you're ready and gives the order, "Forward." You may attract your dog's attention by saying its name and give the command or signal to heel. At the same time, start walking briskly with your dog on loose leash.

At the command or signal to heel, your dog will walk close to your left side without crowding, permitting you freedom of motion at all times. At each order to "Halt," you will stop, and your dog will sit smartly at heel without command or signal. Any

tightening or jerking of the leash—or any act, signal, or command which, in the opinion of the judge, gives the dog unnecessary assistance—will be penalized.

The judge will give the orders, “Forward,” “Halt,” “Right turn,” “Left turn,” “About turn,” “Normal,” “Slow,” and “Fast.” These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated. In executing the “About turn,” you will do a “Right about turn” in all cases.

You may hold the leash in either hand or in both hands.

**Figure 8** (on leash): On specific orders from the judge to “Forward,” you will walk around and between two stewards who are about 8 feet apart, or if there is only one steward, walk around and between the judge and the steward.

This exercise will be conducted the same as the Heel on Leash, except there will be no about turn, fast, or slow in the Figure 8. You and your dog will go twice completely around the Figure 8, and the judge will order at least one halt during and another halt at the end of the exercise. You may travel the Figure 8 in either direction.

**Stand for Examination** (on leash): The judge will give the order, “Stand your dog and leave when ready,” and you will stand or pose your dog and, without further order from the judge, give the command and/or signal to “Stay.” You will then walk forward about 6 feet, turn around, and stand facing your dog. The leash will be loose and clear the floor when you are in position. The judge will touch the dog’s head, body, and hindquarters only, and then give the order, “Back to your dog,” whereupon you will walk around and in back of your dog to the heel position. The dog must stand in position until the judge says, “Exercise finished.” The dog must show no shyness or resentment.

**Recall** (on leash): To execute the Recall on leash, you stand still with your dog sitting at heel position. Upon the order from the judge, “Leave your dog,” you give your dog the command and/or signal to “Stay,” walk to the end of the leash, and turn to face your dog. The judge will give the order, “Call your dog,” whereupon you will call or signal your dog to come, at the same time loosely reeling in the leash but putting no pull upon your dog. The dog must come in at a smart pace and sit directly in front of you. Upon order from the judge to “Finish,” you will give the command or signal to heel. Your dog must go smartly to heel position.

**Long Sit** (1 minute on leash): All dogs in a class take this exercise together. If there are more dogs than the area can accommodate with adequate spacing between dogs, the class may be split into groups. You line up as directed by the judge and stand with your dog at heel position. Upon order from the judge, “Sit your dog,” sit your dog in heel position, if he/she isn’t already sitting. Upon the further order of the judge to “Leave your dogs,” you will give your dog the command and/or signal to “Stay,” move to the end of the leash, and turn to stand facing your dog. The leash will clear the floor when you are in position. One minute from the time the judge ordered you to “Leave your dogs,” he/she will order, “Back to your dogs.” You must return promptly to your dog, walking around and in back of your dog to the heel position. Your dog must not move from the sitting position until after the judge says, “Exercise finished.”

**Long Down** (3 minutes on leash): The Long Down exercise is done in the same manner as the Long Sit, except that instead of sitting your dog, you will, on order from the judge to “Down your dog,” command and/or signal your dog to down, without touching the dog or its collar. Your dog must stay in the down position for 3 minutes and until the judge says, “Exercise finished.” If your dog gets up and starts to roam or follow you, the judge will promptly instruct you or one of the stewards to take your dog out of the ring or to keep it away from the other dogs.

**Handler:** The judge will score you on the appropriateness of dress, grooming, courtesy deportment, sportsmanship, and method of disciplining your dog, in or out of the ring. Misbehavior in or out of the ring may be scored. Biting and/or fighting dogs will be excused from 4-H shows.

## Novice

**Heel on Leash and Figure 8** (on leash): These exercises are performed as in the Pre-Novice class.

**Stand for Examination** (off leash): This exercise is performed as in the Pre-Novice class, except that it is done with your dog off leash and with you moving a distance of about 6 feet in front of your dog before turning.

**Heel Free:** This will be executed as Heel on Leash, except that the dog is off leash and no Figure 8 is required.



**Recall** (off leash): Stand with your dog sitting in heel position. Upon the judge's order or signal to "Leave your dog," give your dog the command and/or signal to stay and walk toward the other end of the ring (about 35 feet). Turn to face your dog with your hands hanging naturally at your sides. Upon order or signal from the judge to "Call your dog," call or signal your dog to come. The dog must come straight in at a brisk pace and sit straight, centered immediately in front of your feet and close enough so that you can readily touch its head without moving either foot or having to stretch forward. The dog is not to touch you or sit between your feet. Upon order or signal from the judge to "Finish," you will give the command or signal to heel. The dog must go directly to the heel position and sit.

**Long Sit** (1 minute off leash) and **Long Down** (3 minutes off leash): The Long Sit and Long Down exercises in the Novice class are performed as in the Pre-Novice class, except that they will be off leash. You will go to the opposite side of the ring and line up facing your respective dog until ordered to "Return to your dogs."

## Graduate Novice

**Heel on Leash:** This exercise is performed as in the Novice class.

**Stand for Examination** (off leash): This exercise is performed as in Novice.

**Heel Free** and **Figure 8:** These exercises are performed as in the Novice class, with exercises being off leash.

**Drop on Recall:** The Recall is performed as in the Novice class, with the following difference: As the dog is coming, the judge will give an arm or hand signal for you to drop your dog. Your dog must drop completely to a down position immediately on command or signal from you and must remain in the down position until, on order or signal from the judge, you call or signal your dog to come. Then complete the Recall as in the Novice class.

**Long Sit** (3 minutes, handler out of sight) and **Long Down** (5 minutes, handler out of sight): These exercises are performed as in the Novice class, except that after leaving your dog, you must cross to the opposite side of the ring, leave the ring in single file as directed by the judge, and go to a place designated by the judge, completely out of sight of your dog. You must remain out of sight until called by the judge. The

time limit from the time the judge gives the order to "Leave your dog" is 3 minutes in the long sit and 5 minutes in the long down. On order from the judge, you return to the ring in single file in reverse order, lining up facing your dog at the opposite side of the ring, and return to your dog on order from the judge.

## Advanced Graduate Novice

**Heel Free** and **Figure 8:** These exercises are performed as in the Graduate Novice Class, with the exercises being done off leash.

**Moving Stand** and **Examination:** The principal features of the exercise are that your dog heel, stand, and stay on command as you walk; accept the examination without shyness or resentment; and on command, return to you.

Orders for the exercise are "Forward" and "Stand your dog," given while you are walking, and "Call your dog to heel."

You stand with your dog sitting in the heel position at a point indicated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and order, "Forward." You command or signal your dog to heel and walk briskly at a normal pace. After you have proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order, "Stand your dog." You will, without pausing, command and/or signal your dog to stand, then you will continue forward 10 to 12 feet and turn around, either to the right or left, and stand facing your dog. Your dog must stand and stay in position.

The judge approaches your dog from the front and examines your dog by going over it with his/her hands as in dog show judging, except that under no circumstances will the examination include the dog's mouth or testicles.

The judge will then order, "Call your dog to heel," whereupon you command and/or signal your dog to return to the heel position. Your dog immediately returns in a brisk manner to the proper heel position beside you.

**Drop on Recall:** This exercise is performed as in the Graduate Novice Class.

**Recall with Dumbbell:** Stand with your dog in the sitting heel position. Upon the judge's signal, give your dog the dumbbell. Your dog must take it willingly. The judge will ask you to "Leave your dog." Give your dog the command or signal to stay and walk across the ring about 35 feet. Turn and face your dog with your hands held naturally at your side. The



judge will give the order, “Call your dog,” whereupon you will call or signal your dog to come. The dog must come at a smart pace and sit directly in front of you. The judge will ask you to “Take it.” Your dog should release the dumbbell willingly. Upon order from the judge to “Finish,” you will give the command or signal to heel. Your dog must go smartly to the heel position.

**Recall over Broad Jump:** Stand with your dog sitting at the heel position in front of and at least

8 feet from the jump. On order from the judge to “Leave your dog,” you give your dog the command and/or signal to stay and then go to a position on the far side of the jump, with your toes about 10 feet from the jump facing your dog. On order from the judge, you give the command or signal to jump, and your dog must clear the entire distance of the broad jump without touching the jump. Without further command or signal, your dog returns to a sitting position immediately in front of you, as in the Recall. On order from the judge, you give the command or signal to heel and your dog finishes, as in the Recall.

The broad jump shall consist of four hurdles, designed as outlined in *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Open Training* (4-H1215). When set up, the hurdles should be arranged in order of size and evenly spaced to cover a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump, as set for your dog. The four hurdles shall be used for a jump of 52 to 72 inches, three for a jump of 32 to 48 inches, and two for a jump of 16 to 28 inches.

**Long Down** (5 minutes, handler out of sight): This exercise is performed as in the Graduate Novice Class.

## Open

**Heel Free and Figure 8:** These exercises are performed as in the Graduate Novice class, with all the exercises being done off leash.

**Drop on Recall:** This exercise is done as in the Graduate Novice class.

**Retrieve on Flat:** Stand with your dog sitting at the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will give the order, “Throw it,” whereupon you may give the command and/or signal to stay (which may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell) and throw the dumbbell. The judge will give the order, “Send your dog,” whereupon you give the command or signal to your dog to retrieve. The retrieve must be done at a brisk trot or gallop, the dog going directly to the dumbbell and retrieving it without unnecessary mouthing or playing. The dog must sit straight in front of you to deliver the dumbbell and must be close enough that you can take the dumbbell without moving or stretching forward. On order from the judge to “Take it,” give a command or signal and take the dumbbell from your dog. “Finish” as in the Novice Recall.

**Retrieve over High Jump:** In retrieving the dumbbell over the high jump, the exercise is executed

as the Retrieve on Flat, except that your dog must jump the high jump both going and coming. The high jump shall be jumped clear, and the jump shall be as nearly as possible the height of the dog at the withers, as determined by the judge, with a maximum height of 36 inches. This applies to all breeds except those listed in the AKC Obedience Guide.

You must stand at least 8 feet, or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet, from the jump and must stay in the same spot throughout the exercise.

The design of the jump is in *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Open Training* (4-H1215).

**Broad Jump:** Stand with your dog sitting at the heel position in front of and at least 8 feet from the jump. On order from the judge to “Leave your dog,” you give your dog the command and/or signal to stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump, with your toes about 2 feet from the jump and within the range of the first and last hurdles. On order from the judge, you give the command or signal to jump, and your dog must clear the entire distance of the broad jump without touching the jump. Without further command or signal, your dog returns to a sitting position immediately in front of you, as in the Recall. You change your position by executing a right-angle turn while the dog is in midair, but you remain in the same spot. On order from the judge, you give the command or signal to heel, and your dog finishes as in the Recall.

The broad jump shall consist of four hurdles, designed as outlined in *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Open Training* (4-H1215). When set up, the hurdles should be arranged in order of size and evenly spaced to cover a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump, as set for your dog, with the low side of each hurdle and the lowest hurdle nearest your dog. The four hurdles shall be used for a jump of 52 to 72 inches, three for a jump of 32 to 48 inches, and two for a jump of 16 to 28 inches.

**Long Sit** (3 minutes, handler out of sight) and **Long Down** (5 minutes, handler out of sight): These exercises are performed as in the Graduate Novice Class.

## Open Challenge

**Signal Exercise:** In the Signal Exercise, the heeling is done as in the Heel Free exercise, except that

throughout the entire exercise you use hand signals only and must not speak to your dog at any time. On order from the judge to “Forward,” you signal your dog to walk at heel and then, on specific order from the judge in each case, you and your dog execute a left turn, right turn, about turn, halt, slow, normal, and fast. These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated.

Then, on order from the judge and while the dog is walking at heel, you signal your dog to stand in the heel position; on the order to “Leave your dog,” you signal your dog to stay, then you go to the far end of the ring and turn to face your dog. On separate and specific signals from the judge, you give the signals to drop, to sit, to come, and to finish, as in the Recall.

During the heeling part of this exercise, you may not give any signal except where a command or signal is permitted in the heeling exercises.

**Drop on Recall** (signal drop): This exercise is done as in the Open class, with the following difference: You must drop your dog to the down position using only a hand signal.

**Retrieve over High Jump:** This exercise is to be performed as in the Open class.

**Directed Retrieve:** In this exercise, you stand with your dog sitting in the heel position facing away from the end of the ring where the gloves will be dropped. You provide three short, predominantly white cotton work gloves, which must be open (not balled or bunched up) and approved by the judge. The judge or steward places the three gloves across the end of the ring in back of you and your dog, with one in each corner and one in the center, about 3 feet from the end or side of the ring. There shall be no table or chair at this end of the ring.

The judge will give the order “One,” “Two,” or “Three.” You must then give the command to heel and turn in place with your dog to face the designated glove. The dog should sit in heel position facing the designated glove. You may not touch the dog to get it into position. You then give your dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of your left hand and arm along the right side of the dog, and give the command to retrieve simultaneously with or immediately after giving direction. Your dog is to go directly to the glove at a brisk pace and retrieve it without unnecessary mouthing or playing with it, completing the exercise as in Retrieve on Flat.



The exercise consists of a single retrieve, but the judge designates different glove positions for successive dogs.

**Long Sit** (3 minutes, handler out of sight) and **Long Down** (5 minutes, handler out of sight): These exercises shall be performed as in the Open class.

## Utility

**Signal Exercise:** This exercise is to be performed as in the Open Challenge class.

**Scent Discrimination:** In each of these exercises, the dog must select by scent alone and retrieve an article that you have handled. You provide two sets of articles, each composed of five identical articles not more than 6 inches long. One set shall be made entirely of rigid metal and one of leather, designed so that nothing but leather is visible, except for the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the article together. The articles in each set must be legibly numbered, each with a different number.

You present all of the articles to the judge, and the judge designates one article from each of the sets.

These two articles will be kept on the judge's table until you pick them up, holding only one article in your hand at a time. Your scent may be imparted to the article only from your hands, which must remain in plain sight. You have the option as to which article you pick up first. Before the start of the exercises, the judge or the steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles before placing them at random in the ring about 6 inches apart. You will stand about 15 feet from the articles, with the dog sitting at heel position with its back to the articles. On order from the judge, you immediately place your article on the judge's book or worksheet. The judge, without touching the article with his/her hands, will place it among the other articles.

On order from the judge to "Send your dog," you may give the command to heel and you will turn in place, right or left, to face the articles. You come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. Then give the command or signal to retrieve. You may, at your discretion, on order from the judge to "Send your dog," execute with your dog a right about turn to face the articles, simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this instance, your dog should not assume a sitting position but should go directly to the articles. You have the options as to how your dog

is sent, but the same method must be used for both articles.

You may give your scent to the dog by gently touching the dog's nose with the palm of one open hand, but this may be done only while the dog's back is to the articles. The hand must be returned to your side before you and the dog turn to face the articles.

The dog should go at a brisk pace to the articles. Your dog may take any reasonable time to select the right article, but only provided the dog works continuously and does not pick up any article other than the one with your scent. After picking up the right article, your dog should return at a brisk pace and complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

The same procedure is followed in each of the two Scent Discrimination exercises. Should your dog retrieve a wrong article in the first exercise, it will be placed on the table or chair, and your article also must be taken up from the remaining articles. The second exercise will then be completed with one less article in the ring.

**Directed Retrieve:** This exercise is to be performed as in the Open Challenge class.

**Moving Stand and Examination:** This exercise is performed as in Advanced Graduate Novice.

**Directed Jumping:** The jumps should be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the sides of the ring and 18 to 20 feet apart, with the Bar Jump on one side and the High Jump on the other. From a position on the centerline of the ring and about 20 feet from the line of the jumps, you stand with your dog sitting in the heel position. On order from the judge to "Send your dog," you command and/or signal your dog to go forward at a brisk pace toward the other end of the ring, to an equal distance beyond the jumps and in the approximate center, where you give the command to sit. Your dog must stop and sit with its attention on you but need not sit squarely.

The judge will then designate which jump is to be taken first by the dog, whereupon you command and/or signal your dog to return to you over the designated jump, sit in front of you, and finish as in the Recall. While the dog is in midair, you may turn so as to be facing the dog as it returns. The judge will say, "Exercise finished" after your dog has returned to the heel position.

When your dog is sitting in the heel position for the second part of the exercise, the judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the order to "Send

your dog” for the second jump. The same procedure is to be followed for your dog taking the opposite jump. The judge decides which jump is taken first, but both jumps must be taken to complete the exercise, and the judge must not designate the jump until your dog is at the far end of the ring.

The height of the jumps shall be the same as that required in the Open class.

The High Jump shall be the same as that used in the Open class. 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 adjustable 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. Your dog shall clear the jumps without touching them.

### **Veteran/Handicapped Class**

**Heel Free and Figure 8 with Signals** (audible and/or hand): These exercises are performed as in the Advanced Graduate Novice class, with the exception that commands may be audible or hand signals or both.

**Drop on Recall:** This exercise is performed as in the Graduate Novice class.

**Retrieve on Flat:** This exercise is performed as in the Open class.

**Long Stand** (1 minute off leash): This exercise is performed in a group with the handlers across the ring facing their dog as in the Novice Stand for Examination. Dogs will not be examined by the judge. The judge will give the command to “Return to your dogs” to finish the exercise.

**Long Sit and Long Down** (1 minute off leash): These exercises will be performed as in the Novice class as a group.

## **4-H Dog Showmanship**

The purpose of dog showmanship is to teach 4-H members good personal grooming, courtesy, poise, confidence, and sportsmanship, and how to groom, train, and handle their dogs. All 4-H members who

participate in the dog project must participate in showmanship. The showmanship contest is divided into three groups: junior, intermediate, and senior. Classes should be no larger than 15 contestants to ensure good working conditions for both the judge and the 4-H exhibitor.

1. You should be clean and well groomed and wear appropriate clothes for showing dogs. What is worn should be in good taste with the purpose of showing the dog.
2. No grooming in the ring is allowed, except to touch up disarray on the dog. If your dog lies down in the ring, you should immediately stand your dog to a stand-stay and repair the grooming as quickly as possible. A brush and/or comb is optional but should not be carried in the hand. If equipment is improperly used, the exhibitor will be penalized. Grooming, which includes cleanliness and condition of nails, will be judged. Because of the complexity of the trimming of the many breeds of dogs, trimming will not be judged in 4-H showmanship contests. For complete information on trimming, check local libraries for your own individual breed requirements.
3. When the class is assembled, the judge will ask you to parade with your dog around the ring in a counterclockwise direction. This means the dog is on your left side where the judge can see your dog at all times. If the judge is in some location other than the center of the ring, keep your dog between the judge and you. The order of the placement in line is of no particular importance other than it is favorable for large dogs to be in front of rather than behind a slow dog or plodder. If you pass a dog in the ring, you pass on the left.

After the judge has moved the dogs around the ring at least twice as an entire class, the judge will motion for the lead dog to stop in a particular position in the ring; this indicates that the dog should be brought to a stand-stay in a posed position for examination by the judge. At all times, keep your eye on the dog and glance occasionally to see what the judge is doing.

The judge shall ask the handler to show the dog's bite. The judge shall examine the teeth, eyes, and ears; condition of coat, nails, and feet; and

cleanliness of the dog. At no time will the judge require two members to exchange dogs. At the judge's discretion, you may be placed in any order in the line to more closely evaluate the showmanship qualities of the exhibitors. Each dog in a class shall be moved individually in at least two directions in the ring, so that the proper gait of the dog and your ability to move the dog properly shall be correctly evaluated. You will not be asked to do anything individually that is not required of each contestant in the class. A judge may request slow and fast gaits. However, dogs of certain breeds that do not have a fast gait will not be penalized.

A dog must be trained to move with its head up or, in the case of the German Shepherd dog, with the head in a parallel line with the top line of the dog. When moving, the head of large dogs should be 6 to 8 inches in front of your left leg. For small breeds, the head should be directly beside your left leg.

In training your dog to stand, first teach it to stand-stay without moving and with its attention on you. From here you will practice the placement of the feet, the correction of the alignment of the head, and the proper lay of the tail in accordance with the conformation of the particular breed.

4. Baiting is acceptable. Baiting must not distract other dogs in the ring.
5. Be prepared to answer questions about general information on your dog. These questions should be on basic information and normally should be asked at the time of the Stand for Examination of the dog.
6. Only you are to perform all training and preparation of your dog prior to and during the show. (See "Eligibility," page 1.)
7. You do not have to use the same dog in showmanship and obedience contests.
8. Basic dog showmanship scoring:

**Handler Appearance and Attitude** (cleanliness, neatness, appropriate dress, courteous response, attentive showman, confidence, and the exhibition of sportsmanship) 25 points

**The Animal** (cleanliness; good physical condition; condition of the feet, eyes, ears, gums, teeth, coat; and grooming) 30 points

**Showing the Animal** (ability to show the dog to its best advantage; to move and set the dog as directed by the judge; and knowledge of the dog, questions, and expected performance) 45 points



## Special Classes

### Trick Class

This exercise may be a trick(s), stunt(s), or maneuver(s) that you have taught your dog. It will not be scored.

The ring steward or clerk will announce the exercise you and your dog are attempting. You should indicate to the clerk, in writing, what the exercise will be when you enter the ring or prior to the showing in class.

### Costume Class

This exercise is designed to allow you to show your creativity in design of appropriate dress for you and your dog. You will be evaluated on appropriateness and creativity. You will not be scored.

The ring steward or clerk will announce the performance by you and your dog. You should indicate to the clerk, in writing, what the exercise will be when you enter the ring or prior to the showing in class.

## Brace Class

Two dogs shall perform at the same time, as a unit, doing the Novice class exercises. The brace will be handled by one handler. The handler has the option of showing the dogs unattached or coupled. If a coupling attachment is used, it must be at least 6 inches overall length, and whichever method is selected, it must be continued in all exercises.

In 4-H shows, the dogs need not be of the same breed or owned by the same person. (Other clubs, however, may require the dogs to be of the same breed.)

The brace should work in unison, and judging will be as in the Novice class.

## Team Class

A team shall consist of any four dogs and need not be owner-handled. The team will perform the exercises simultaneously and will be judged as in the Novice class, except that a Drop on Recall will be used in place of the Recall.

Teams will have the option of executing the judge's commands on the team captain's repeat of the command.

Five stewards will be used for the Figure 8. They will stand 8 feet apart in a straight line. Each dog with its handler stands between two stewards; all members of the team face in the same direction. On order from the judge, the team performs the Figure 8, each handler starting around the steward on the left and circling only the two stewards between whom he/she had been standing.

On the Drop on Recall exercise, handlers will leave their dogs simultaneously on order of the judge, but the dogs will be called or signaled in one at a time or on a separate command from the judge to each handler. The handler will, without any additional command from the judge, command or signal

his/her dog to drop midway between the line of dogs and the handlers. Each dog should remain in the down position until all four dogs have been called and dropped. Then the judge will give the command to call the dogs, and the handlers will call or signal the dogs simultaneously. The finish is to be done in unison on order from the judge.

Scoring will be based on the performance of the dogs and handlers individually, in addition to team precision and coordination. Each dog and handler will be scored against the Novice minimum score of 200 points, for a possible total of 800 points for the team. Individual dogs' scores need not be recorded.

In 4-H shows, one or two judges may be used. If two judges are used, one will call commands while the other scores the team's performance.

## For More Information

There are a number of other helpful publications available on various topics related to dog obedience and showmanship. To order these materials go to: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/orderinfo.php>

- *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Pre-Novice Training* (4-H 1212)
- *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Novice Training* (4-H 1213)
- *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Graduate Novice Training* (4-H 1214)
- *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Open Training* (4-H 1215)
- *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Open Challenge Training* (4-H 1216)
- *Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Utility Training* (4-H 1217)
- 4-H Dog Training Videos, available at: <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/animal-science-dog>

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Revised by: Jeremy Green, Candi Bothum, and the 4-H Dog Development Committee. Previous revision by the 2003-2004 4-H Dog Development Committee and Vicki Avery, former educational program assistant, 4-H youth development; originally prepared by Duane P. Johnson, Extension specialist emeritus, with the assistance of the Development Committee for the 4-H Dog Program, Oregon State University.

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