

# Dog Obedience and Showmanship Training Guide

## Part II

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## Graduate Novice

The Graduate Novice class is for those who have completed the Novice class. The class includes the heel on leash, heel free and figure 8, drop on recall, recall over high jump with dumb-bell, the three-minute long sit, and five-minute long down (handler out of sight).

### Heel Free and Figure 8

The heel free and figure 8 are combined into one exercise. Training methods remain the same. Remember to alternate the off-leash and on-leash training. If your dog lags when doing the figure 8, you may encourage him to go faster by taking short, quick steps, especially on the curve where he has the outside path.

### Drop on Recall

Place your dog in the sitting position and step two or three feet away in front of him. While saying "Down," quickly raise your right hand, palm open, slightly higher than your head; pause for only a moment and bring your hand down sharply. If your dog does not obey, use your left hand to jerk downward on the training collar. After he has been down for a short time, give him the command "Sit." You may need to give a jerk upward with the leash. Your dog should go down when your hand goes up. Holding your hand up for a moment the first few days of training may help him learn the

signal, but it should soon be a quick up and down motion.

Vary your method of changing your dog from the down to the sitting position. Sometimes command him to sit when you are directly in front of him; other times go back to the heel position, pause a moment and then command him to sit.

After it appears that he understands the hand signal, occasionally leave off the verbal command. Gradually move to the end of the six-foot leash and give the signal and command, "Down."

Hold your hands together at your waist when doing the recall. Your dog may be tempted to nose them if you let them hang.

When teaching the down, insist on an immediate drop, not a slow sinking to the ground. Do not forget the praise. This is most important.

When your dog seems to understand and obeys your command when you are standing at the end of the leash, you may then remove it and drop him at short distances, gradually moving to 40 feet away. If he does not obey when off leash or at a distance of 40 feet, place him back on leash and repeat the training. For more control at a distance, you may attach a 40-foot light weight cord. If he does not work well off leash, you will usually make faster progress by placing him back on the six-foot leash.

The next procedure is teaching your dog to go down from the standing position. Follow the same steps for teaching him the down from the sitting position: Leave him in the standing position, step two or three feet away in front of him and give the hand signal and command, "Down."

Gradually move back to the end of the 40 foot leash, finally removing the leash and dropping him at this distance. Remember not to say his name before the command "Down."

Teaching the dog to drop in motion is the next step, but first be sure he understands the other steps. While heeling on leash, suddenly stop and quickly step backward saying your dog's name and "Come." When he starts coming toward you, stop suddenly and give the signal and command, "Down." If your training has been complete up to this point, he should drop on your first attempt. If he does not, give him a sharp correction by putting him down with a jerk on the training collar. After he has been down a few moments, give him the command, "Sit." Then step backward quickly and say his name and "Come." Continue backward until he is in full motion; then stop and have him sit directly to your front just as when doing a recall. Be ready to pull up on the leash to put him in the sit as he may have learned too well on the first try and anticipates a down command. After he has sat in front, send him to heel as the finish of the recall.

Alternate the down and coming to you as the recall. Do not allow him to anticipate commands.

The next step is taught off leash. Place your dog in the sit-stay and take a position 10 feet to his front. Say his name and "Come." When halfway to you, give the command and signal to down. Gradually increase the distance to 40 feet. Drop him at various distances. Alternate with straight recalls so that he will not anticipate commands.

If he slows down when coming to you in anticipation of a drop, start running backward and say "Come," encouraging him to speed up. Never drop him unless he is coming at full speed as it will only cause him to come in slower and drop without a command or signal.

Do not forget to vary the exercises to prevent boredom. Do not forget the praise.

In an obedience trial, you may use either the command or signal to down your dog. Using both is considered a double command and will be scored against you. Using the signal is preferred as the dog will be more alert and will give you his undivided attention.



Drop on Recall. Begin by standing only two or three feet away, gradually moving to the end of the leash.



In later training, use a 40-foot cord for control at a distance.



In training, teach your dog to drop from the standing position.



Teaching your dog to drop in motion is a key step.



In time move back to 40 feet.



In competition you will call your dog and then drop him about half way.



Instant response



Comefore (completed recall). At this point of training your dog will probably do this exercise well. Repeat it often enough, especially with a stranger, to keep him performing well.

### Recall Over High Jump With Dumbbell

Basic to retrieve is the carrying the dumbbell from one location to another. To teach the recall over a high jump with a dumbbell, refer to section on "Retrieve on Flat" and in particular the area of taking a dumbbell and "Retrieve over Jump" in Open Class.

### The Long Sit

(Handler out of sight three minutes)

In time your dog understands when he is being trained and when he is released from training. Take him to a familiar training area where there are buildings, trees or bushes you can easily hide behind. Do not try to hide behind a single tree, a car or other object which might enable him to see a part of you.

Go through several exercises he does best to let him know he is training. Heel him where he can see the corner or edge of your hiding place. Order him to stay and then walk briskly and confidently away within a backward glance. The first several times you should not be out of sight more than a few moments. When you return, pause momentarily before praising and repeating the exercises. It is important that your dog have confidence that you will return to him. This can be accomplished by being out of sight for short periods of time at first and gradually extending the time to three minutes. First, disappear from his sight at short distances and gradually extend to the distance of as much as 100 feet.

If your dog breaks from the position to wander off or look for you, you will need a person to signal you so that you can take the dog back to the exact same spot and sternly give him the command to stay again. You may give him a jerk backward with the training collar to further emphasize his staying in that position.



The Long Sit. The handler is out of sight for three minutes.



## The Long Down

(Handler out of sight five minutes)

This exercise may be taught in the same manner as the long sit. Again, return to the training area that has a building, hallway or dense bushes that will hide you completely from his view. Place him in the down, give a firm command and signal to stay and walk briskly out of sight. Return after a short time and gradually extend the time to five minutes and the distance to 100 feet. Use the correction methods of the long sit.



The Long Down. The handler is out of sight for five minutes.

# Open

The Open Class is for those who have completed Graduate Novice. The class includes the heel free and figure 8, drop on recall, retrieve on flat, retrieve over high jump, broad jump, the three-minute long sit, and five-minute long down (handler out of sight).

## Heel Free, Figure 8, and Drop on Recall

These exercises should be practiced each week in order to keep the dog performing smartly. Review the instruction in the Graduate Novice section to be sure you are correct in your commands and signals.

## The Retrieve on Flat

In the retrieve on flat the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge gives the order "Throw it," whereupon the handler gives the command and signal. "Stay," and throws a dumbbell about 30 feet directly in front of the dog. He must not give the signal with the hand in which he holds the dumbbell. The judge will then say "Send your dog" whereupon the handler gives the command, "Take it." The dog should retrieve the dumbbell at a fast trot or gallop. He should sit straight in front within easy reach of the handler and hold the dumbbell in his mouth without chewing or mouthing it. The judge will then order "Take it" and the handler commands his dog "Out" and takes the dumbbell from him. The judge will then order "Finish" and the handler may then give the command or signal to heel as in the recall. The judge may then say "Exercise finished."

The willingness to learn this exercise will vary a great deal among dogs; however, it is generally not difficult and offers more fun for both the dog and handler than perhaps the other exercises. It can also serve practical uses around the home.

## Dumbbell Size

When teaching a dog to retrieve, it is important to use a dumbbell of correct size for the dog. The

length of the bar should be about one inch more than the width between the dog's eyes for unobstructed vision. The bells should keep the bar far enough off the ground for the dog to grasp it behind his canine teeth without touching the ground with his nose. The bar should be large enough not to rock in his mouth and pinch his lips but not so large that he drools. Study the size of your dog's mouth carefully before selecting or making a dumbbell. You may wish to refer to other books on techniques and size. Paint the bells white; your dog may be able to locate the dumbbell more easily and perform better in competition. Do not paint the bar.



Retrieve on Flat. You must first teach your dog to accept and hold the dumbbell. Say "Take it" while pushing it gently but firmly against his teeth. If he resists, force his mouth open by pressing with your thumb and finger just behind his canine teeth.



Praise him as soon as he takes the dumbbell. Stroke his nose and throat to keep it in his mouth. Then say "Give" and remove it.



In time, increase the distance he must reach for the dumbbell. Remember to praise every improvement. Heel on leash as your dog carries the dumbbell and put it back in his mouth if he drops it. Within a short time, your dog should pick it up off the ground.



Teach your dog to reach for the dumbbell. Hold it several inches from his nose and say "Take it." If he does not obey, pull him by the leash toward the dumbbell.



Teach your dog to retrieve the dumbbell. With your dog on leash, throw the dumbbell about 10 feet, run toward it and command him to take it. Praise him if he does. Then step backward, command him to come with the dumbbell in his teeth. After several moments say "Give" and take it. If he refuses to take the dumbbell in the beginning, try pushing his head down while saying "Take it." Eventually increase the distance you throw the dumbbell and decrease the distance you run toward it.

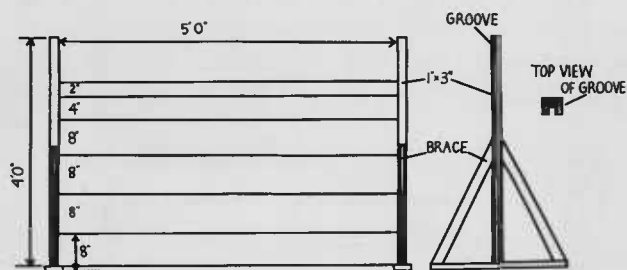


If your dog enjoys retrieving, remove the leash. Gradually increase the distance to 30 feet and start your dog from the sitting position.

### Retrieve Over High Jump

Dogs seem to enjoy jumping and will do it readily after they understand your commands. This exercise must be taught in parts and advance to the second and subsequent ones should not be made until the dog is doing preceding ones well.

The height of the hurdle is one and a half times the height at the dog's withers or three feet, whichever is less. The Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Mastiff, Bull Mastiff, Newfoundland, St. Bernard, and Bloodhound are required to jump only the height of their withers or three feet, whichever is less. See 4-H Dog Obedience and Showmanship Contest Guide for additional information and exceptions. The hurdle can be made by studying the illustration.



Two 1" x 3" pieces and 1" x 2" pieces form the upright, with the 1" x 2" forming the groove into which the boards slide. This jump must be flat white in color.

Train your dog to jump by starting with the eight-inch board. If you have a very small dog, start with the four-inch board. Face the hurdle 15 feet away with your dog in the sitting position



Start your training with an eight-inch board. With your dog, approach the hurdle and step over it.

at your heel. Give the command, "Duke, Heel! Jump!" With your dog on leash and heeling, approach the hurdle and step over it. As the dog goes over it, repeat "Jump!" If he refuses to go over this or the next higher one, do not drag him over but coax him over by running at the hurdle and jumping with him. Praise him quickly upon going over the hurdle.

Continue raising the hurdle by two-inch gradations until you have reached a height that is about even with the height of his withers. At this point, regardless of the size of your dog, he now recognizes it as a jump. When he is clearing this with you readily, you are ready for the next training step.



Approach the hurdle, go around the end while keeping the lead high in your left hand, taking your dog over the top.

As you approach the hurdle, aim for the right upright and go around the end while keeping the lead high in your left hand, taking him over the top. Be aware that he may try to follow and go through between your leg and the upright. If he should, say "No" and quickly go back about 15 feet facing the hurdle and rush at it again. A dog needs a reasonable distance to get up enough speed if he is to jump his shoulder height.



With a 20-foot leash, approach the hurdle, stop in front of it, sending the dog over.

Attach a 20-foot light leash (clothesline) to your dog and place him in the sitting position at your heel. Adjust the hurdle to a height about even with that of the dog's withers. Give the command, "Duke, Heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle but stop in front of it, sending the dog over with a repeat command of "Jump!" After he makes the jump, give the command to "Come!" guiding him back over the hurdle with the leash.



After your dog has retrieved the dumbbell, quickly command him back over the hurdle.

The next step involves a retrieve of the dumbbell. With your dog sitting at your heel as before,

say "Stay" and throw the dumbbell over the hurdle with it, landing about a foot in front of where he will land, so that he may see it easily when you send him over. It should lie where he cannot see it before jumping. If he can see it, he will go directly to it instead of over the hurdle. With your dog on the 20-foot leash repeat "Duke, Heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle, sending him over for the dumbbell. As soon as he has the dumbbell, quickly command, "Come!" and "Jump!" to get him back across the hurdle. Don't forget to praise. It is just as important in advanced training.

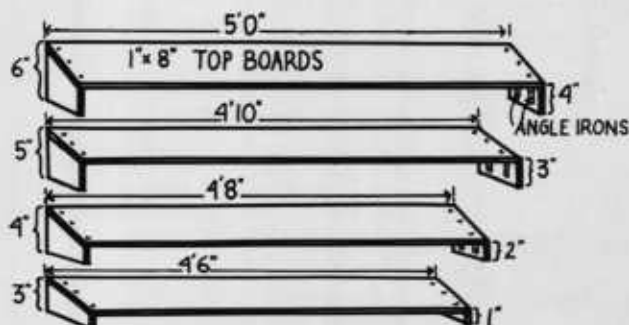


Remove the leash and try off-leash jumping and retrieving.

Remove the 20-foot leash and try off-leash jumping and retrieving. You may now gradually increase the height of the hurdle until you reach his requirement. If he drops the dumbbell at your feet upon returning, do not move or praise, but command "Take it"—let him hold it a moment before taking it. Then give lots of praise. Remember, jumping can be tiring. Use patience, firmness, and praise.

### The Broad Jump

The required length of the broad jump is twice the height of the high jump of each particular dog. The greatest length is therefore six feet for large dogs and only 16 inches for some small dogs. The jumps should be constructed as illustrated.



The broad jump is illustrated above. It must be painted flat white.





Place the two lowest of the jumps in distance equal to one-half the requirement. With the command, run at the jumps and leap over them, carrying the lead in your left hand.

Place the two lowest of the jumps a distance apart equal to one-half his requirement. With your dog on lead in the sitting position at your heel, face the jump about 10 feet away. With the command, "Duke, Heel! Jump" run at the jumps and leap over them carrying the lead in your left hand. As you leap over the jump, repeat the command, "Jump!" The movement of your left arm in a grand sweeping motion will become a signal to jump and it is important that he learn the association early in his training. In competition, you may use a voice command or signal, but not both. Your dog



When your dog is clearing two jumps at one-half the required distance, run alongside the jumps instead of leaping over them.

will probably come flying over with you, especially if he does the high jump reasonably well. But if he should come to a skidding halt, quickly drop the lead to avoid sending him sprawling into the jump, which would be most unpleasant and make a setback at the outset. In this situation, return to him, reassure him that all is well, and remove one of the jumps. Repeat the effort; he will likely clear it this time. As soon as he is clearing two jumps at a length equal to half his required distance, simply run alongside the jumps instead of leaping over with him. Don't forget to use the sweeping motion with your left arm and give a strong command, "Jump!" when you approach them.



Attach a 20-foot lead, place yourself across the jump from him. Give commands as described for completion.

Attach a 20-foot light lead to your dog and place him in the sitting position facing the jumps 10 feet away. Move to a position across the jump from him and command, "Duke, Come! Jump!" giving a snap on the lead. As he nears the jump, repeat "Jump!" When he lands, guide him directly to your front. Be lavish with praise.



Attach the 20-foot leash to your dog, place him in sitting position, stand beside the jumps, and command dog to jump.

You are now ready to teach your dog to jump on command. Attach the 20-foot leash to your dog and place him in the sitting position facing the jumps 10 feet away. You should stand beside the jumps as shown in bottom right photograph, page 9, then command, "Duke! Jump!" giving a light snap on the lead and making a sweeping motion with your left hand. As he nears the jump, repeat "Jump!" When he lands on the opposite side, command "Duke! Come!" and guide him directly to your front. Give plenty of praise.



Repeat the jump off lead using voice and hand signals.

If he is readily performing the above training outline, you are ready to start off lead jumping. The jumps should remain at a length equal to the dog's height. Remove the lead and place your dog facing the jump just as when on lead. Give the command, "Duke! Jump!" and give the hand signal. If he does not perform correctly or if you lose control after the jump, return to the 20-foot lead.

Gradually increase the length of the jumps to the requirement for your dog. Begin using only one command to jump and discontinue calling your dog back as he must do the recall without command. Add jumps to meet his requirement. Use two jumps for up to two feet, three jumps for up to four feet, and all four for up to six feet.

When performing this exercise, you should stand alongside the jumps facing them. After commanding your dog to jump and while he is in mid-air, you must turn 90 degrees to your right so that he may then do the recall, coming to your front.



Increase the length of jump to requirement for your dog. Begin using only one command.



After he makes the jump, call him to your front as when doing the recall, then send him to your heel.

After he makes the jump, call him to your front as when doing the recall; then send him to your heel. (Finish.)

*Long Sit—Three Minutes (handler out of sight)*

Review the training methods as discussed in the Graduate Novice course.

*Long Down—Five Minutes (handler out of sight)*

Review the training methods as discussed in the Graduate Novice course.

# Open Challenge

The open challenge class is for those who have completed the open class. The class includes heel free and figure 8, drop on recall, retrieve over high jump, directed retrieve—three-minute, long sit, and five-minute long down (handler out of sight). The heel free and figure 8 and drop on

recall are done using only hand signals. No leading, hand corrections, guidance, or positioning of dog allowed.

These are combinations of previous exercises. Review the previous instructions.

## Utility

The Utility Class is for those who have completed the Open Challenge class. The class includes scent discrimination, directed retrieve, signal exercise, directed jumping, and group examination.

### Scent Discrimination

The dog that is highly proficient in the retrieve on the flat, has a big head start on this exercise. For the first few lessons the handler should carry the article around daily, but remember it is a training item and should not touch any other article used in primary training of scent identification.



The dog is started with a single scented article.

Start by having the dog sit at heel and toss the scented article about eight feet away. Give the dog the scent by placing the cupped right hand about one-half inch in front of the dog's nose for two or

three seconds just prior to the command "Fetch" or "Take it." Note: Some handlers use "Find it," "Seek," "Bring mine," or "Get it" as a command best suited to the response of their dog. The dog should sniff, retrieve the article and bring it in, sitting in front of the handler as in retrieve exercises. Then add a couple of unscented items, such as cans or small boxes. Handle them with tongs



Add a few additional articles. Praise the dog as it noses the proper article to speed up the retrieve and reinforce the selection of the scented article.

to avoid any possible smell. Then drop the scented article into the group, being careful not to touch any other item. Then send the dog as before. If the primary lesson has been taught well the dog will investigate the other article or articles, but will bring the right one. If the dog picks up a wrong article, say "No," and flick the article out of his mouth, then encourage a pickup of the cor-

rect item and add verbal praise as the article is retrieved.

Work to this level of training with both leather and metal articles, starting out with the primary training with each type of article and progress through the procedure as outlined above. Add items slowly.

*Gradually* replace training items with the other four leather and four metal articles until the dog will be working with the full complement of correct articles. As the dog's proficiency improves, increase the distance to about 15 feet and have an assistant place the articles. Also, begin the training with the handler and dog facing away from the articles. Give the command to the dog and at the same time do a right about face. The dog should come right around with the handler and go out on the command to the articles. Some handlers have found that this is best taught as a separate exercise and use a tossed article to reinforce the command to "Take it." Then it is added into the sequence of the whole exercise.



Here a tie-down mat is used with the beginning step being to place the scented article just at the front edge of mat.

There are many other methods of teaching this exercise and the use of the tie down, clip board, or staked out articles works equally well if replaced by the correct articles in the proper time of training.

After the dog has a good knowledge of the exercise, handlers should make it a point to practice on pavement, grass, wood floor, plain dirt or tanbark, and a canvas or rug covered floor. Don't hesitate to work outside in a light rain! Varied practice conditions tend to reinforce a well-trained



Follow with the scented article placed among the tied-down items. After the dog is reliable, begin loosening articles until all are free.

dog's responses. A system of food reward reinforcement may be necessary in early training when the retrieve is completed for slow plodders to speed them up and to keep their attention and interest.

### Directed Retrieve

Again an exercise that is based on the retrieve on the flat. It is presumed to be a hunting dog retrieving a downed bird. To start, use one glove



Practice with loose articles under all conditions.





Direction of the retrieve is given with the left arm and hand with fingers extended.



Verbal encouragement is given to speed up the retrieve.

and toss it about eight feet straight out and then command the dog to fetch. The dog should go out quickly and pick it up and carry it quickly back. If there is any playing or shaking of the glove go back to the corrective measures used to train carrying the dumbbell. Have the dog carry the glove in heeling, then bring him around in the "comefore" and sit in front of you, take the glove and finish the dog. Throw the glove to the side of the area heel around to it. Command "Take it" or "Fetch" and when it's picked up say "Steady" or "Good boy" and if necessary hold the muzzle quiet if he tries to shake it. Again heel a ways and then a Comefore, take it from the dog on command and finish. Then when the initial response is good, ask an assistant to place the three gloves as in a ring and execute the exercise. For the left or right glove the handler must pivot to face the glove. For the left glove, pivot on the left heel and right toe and bring the right foot up to position when far enough around to directly face the glove. For the right glove pivot on the right heel and the left toe and when far enough around to directly face the glove bring the left foot up to position. At the same time commanding the dog to "heel" so that the alignment of dog and handler is correct.

Then the handler gives the command to "Fetch," and at the same time gives direction with the left arm and hand extended along the right side of the dog. The handler may stoop or bend over, but must not touch the dog to give the direction. As the dog learns the exercise, trainers will find that the body motion in giving the direction can be minimized. Some trainers find the use of string aisles to teach the dog to go straight out and back add quite a bit to the perfection of the work.

### Comefore

The Comefore exercise is designed to aid in teaching "Come" and "Retrieve." It is usually not used in the showring.

To teach the Comefore start out heeling. After taking a few steps heeling, back up along the same line of travel. At the same time give the command to "Come." Take two or three backwards steps and stop.

Your dog will look around to see where you have gone. As he turns, guide him squarely into line with the leash so he is sitting directly in front and facing you.

After the dog learns to come on command, add the hand signal to the voice command. When both voice and hand signals are learned they can be



The glove is returned to the handler as in any retrieve.

used interchangeably during training. This reinforces signal training and lays the foundation for advanced signal work.

When the basic objective of the exercise, "Coming," is learned, corrections in the way he sits may be made. If the dog sits crooked, the handler may back away from the dog with small, scuffling steps until the dog is straight, then stop and praise him. The dog may also be straightened by pushing him into place.

The handler should return to the dog at the completion of each Comefore exercise.

### Signal Exercise

This exercise needs little added training except to put the various parts together. The dog should do near perfect heeling and the main effort in training should be the emphasis on proper timing of signals. In heeling the "forward" signal should never be sloppy or casual but snappy and precise. The forward signal is a single forward movement of the left arm and hand with the palm facing front. The "stand" signal is the palm of the hand level horizontally and in front of the dog's face. For the last two either hand may be used, but the right hand is the one preferred by most handlers. The rest of the exercise is the same as the silent drop on recall. Caution in training should be observed that no signal be so slow, long, or deliberate that it would be penalized as a "held" signal.



The hand signal to "Heel" is a forward motion with the left hand given just as the handler begins to step out.



Stand the dog with the hand extended in front of it with the palm horizontal.



One drop signal is the right arm upraised, palm toward the dog, and brought down sharply.



Here the left hand is used to signal the dog to sit. Use of either hand is permissible.



A sweeping motion with the arm parallel to the ground, palm to the chest, calls the dog in. The signal exercises will be easily accomplished if signals and voice are used in the beginning training.

### Directed Jumping

Teaching the dog to "Go back" is the most difficult part of this exercise. The use of a long light line and a pulley fastened at the back of the ring setup is the most popular method of taking the dog to the right spot in a fairly straight line. An assistant is needed to work the line. A good working dog that is giving all his attention readily learns what is wanted. Again, to get the dog to go straight, use the string aisle. Stake out the whole

exercise and then as the training progresses, lay the string on the ground, then make a line of chalk that wears away.

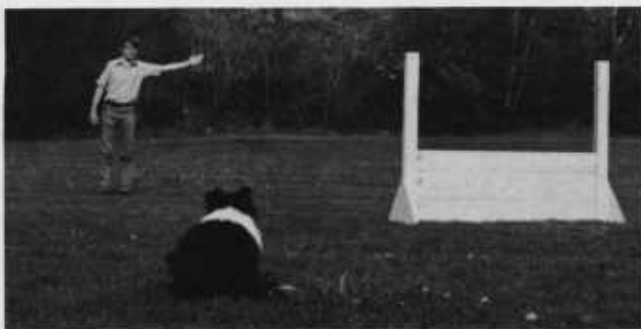
The jumping should be no problem if the handler stands between the jumps and steps toward each as he gives the command and/or appropriate signal. As the dog jumps run back to a position that the dog can come in to and then finish. Gradually work back to the proper position, making no move other than to turn to the proper angle for your dog to finish. This turn is made as the dog is in the air making the jump. Vary training so handlers don't concentrate too long on one segment of the exercise. Care should be taken that the handler does not get into the habit of a held signal in indicating the correct jump to be taken. Also vary the order in which the jumps are taken so the dog remains alert and does not anticipate one jump over another.



The dog may be taught to "Go" by running out with it while giving the command.



Starting the directed jump with the dog and handler aligned with one upright helps the dog know which jump to take.



Gradually work both dog and handler toward the middle of the area between the jumps.



Repeat the process with the other jump.

## Group Examination

An exercise of stability and social acceptability. A dog that will "Stand stay" by hand signal, and can put himself into a proper pose in doing it, is ideal. The manner in which the dog is posed on command is not judged except for the dog that gives the handler resistance. Remember, the regulations and guide do not say, "Show conformation pose!"

Training to condition the dog to being examined is a matter of repetition, of having a number of different people go over him briefly each time he is on a stand stay. Praise him verbally and touch him very lightly with the hand praise. With the Utility dog, avoid touching the collar at any time except in primary training of new exercises or to protect the dog in case of trouble. Keep in mind that in Utility Class judging, handlers are not allowed the privilege of guiding the dog at any time by the collar or of correcting position of the dog by hand.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*This bulletin was prepared by Duane P. Johnson, Extension Specialist, 4-H and Youth, with the assistance of the Oregon 4-H Dog Development Committee. Some photographs and part of text adapted from 4-H Members' Guide "Dog Obedience Training Lessons," by Dennis A. Hartman, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*



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