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Dog Obedience Lesson Plans for Graduate Novice Training

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Graduate Novice Obedience Training

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

Graduate Novice is a combination of Novice and Open exercises. The Heel On-Lead and Stand for Examination are done as in the Novice class. The Figure 8 is done off-lead, a drop is added to the Recall exercise, and the Stay exercises are done with the trainer out of the dog's sight (out of sight).

As training continues, it's important to review the training terms and exercises in the Pre-Novice and Novice sections. Any time the dog has trouble with an exercise, go back and review previous steps.

Instructions for Heeling On- and Off-Lead and the Stand For Examination are presented in the Novice section. The Graduate Novice section focuses on new exercises only. The first lesson plan is the Moving-Drop, which must be mastered before training for the Drop-On-Recall begins.

Stick Jumping, the final lesson plan in this section, is a fun exercise that teaches jumping form and prepares a dog for advanced jumping exercises. You should start this exercise long before Open training begins; it also can be used as an exercise done in the trick class. Dogs enjoy stick jumping, and this handy training tool can correct many potential jumping problems.

Graduate Novice Class Description

Exercises	Points
Heel On-Leash	30
Stand For Examination	30
Heel Free and Figure 8	40
Drop-On-Recall	40
Long Sit (3 minutes out of sight)	30
Long Down (5 minutes out of sight)	30
Total points	200

Graduate Novice Exercise Performance and Scoring

AKC Obedience Regulations

All exercises are performed and scored as outlined in the AKC Obedience Regulations. The following Graduate Novice 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 On-Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. Orders for the exercise are:

"Forward" "About turn"
"Halt" "Slow"
"Right turn" "Normal"
"Left turn" "Fast"

"Fast" signifies that the handler must run, with handler and dog moving forward at noticeably accelerated speed. In executing the About turn, the handler always will do a Right About turn. Orders for "Halts" and "Turns" will be given only when the handler is moving at a "Normal" speed.

The orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated as necessary, but the Judge shall attempt to standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in any class.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, providing the hands are in a natural position. However, any tightening or jerking of the leash or any act, signal, or command which in the Judge's opinion gives the dog assistance shall be penalized.

The handler shall enter the ring with her dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the Heel position. The Judge shall ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to Heel, and shall walk briskly and in a natural manner with her dog on a loose leash. The dog shall walk close to the left side of the handler without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding.

Heel On-Leash, continued

Whether heeling or sitting, the dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time.

At each order to Halt, the handler will stop and her dog shall sit straight and promptly in the Heel position without command or signal, and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on order from the Judge. It is permissible after each Halt, before moving again, for the handler to give a command or signal to Heel. The Judge shall say "Exercise finished" after this portion of the exercise.

Heel On-Leash, Scoring

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly controls its performance by tugging on the leash or adapts pace to that of the dog, the dog must be scored zero.

Substantial deductions shall be made for additional commands or signals to Heel and for failure of dog or handler to noticeably accelerate speed forward for the Fast and noticeably decelerate speed forward for the Slow.

Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, handler failing to walk at a brisk pace, occasional guidance with leash, and other imperfections in heeling.

In scoring this exercise, the Judge shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that he or she can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The Judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler.

Stand for Examination

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stand in position before and during the examination, and that the dog display neither shyness nor resentment.

Orders are "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise finished." There will be no further command from the Judge to the handler to leave the dog.

On Judge's order, the handler shall remove the leash and give it to a Steward who shall place it on the Judge's table or other designated place.

The handler will take his dog to the place indicated by the Judge, and on Judge's order, the handler will stand and/or pose his dog off-leash by the method of his choice, taking any reasonable time if he chooses to pose the dog as in the show ring.

When he is ready, the handler will stand with the dog in the heel position and give his command and/or signal to the dog to Stay, walk forward about 6 feet in front of the dog, turn around, and stand facing the dog.

The Judge shall approach the dog from the front and shall touch only the dog's head, body, and hindquarters, using the fingers and palm of one hand only. The Judge then shall order, "Back to your dog," whereupon the handler shall walk around behind his dog and return to the Heel position. The dog must remain standing until after the Judge has said "Exercise finished."

Stand for Examination, Scoring

The scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to Stay, except for such things as rough treatment of the dog by its handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to make it stand. Either of these shall be penalized substantially.

A dog shall be scored zero if it displays shyness or resentment, growls or snaps at any time, sits or lies down before or during the examination, or moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstance, shall be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time or sits or moves away after the examination has been completed.

Heel Free, Performance and Scoring

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as Heel On-Leash and Figure 8, except that the dog shall be off-leash and that there shall be no Figure 8. Orders and scoring shall be the same also.

Figure 8 Performance and Scoring

Before starting the Figure 8, the Judge shall ask if the handler is ready. The Figure 8 signifies that on specific orders from the Judge to Forward and Halt, the handler and dog, from a starting position about equidistant from the two Stewards and facing the Judge, shall walk briskly twice completely around and between the two Stewards, who shall stand 8 feet apart. The Figure 8 in the Graduate Novice class shall be done off-lead. The handler may choose to go in either direction. There shall be no About turn or Fast or Slow in the Figure 8, but the Judge must order at least one Halt during and another Halt at the end of this portion of the exercise.

Drop-On-Recall

The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, are the dog's prompt response to the handler's command or signal to Drop, and the dog's remaining in the Down position until again called or signaled to Come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to command or signal and not on its proximity to a designated point.

Orders for the exercise are "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," a signal to Drop the dog, another "Call your dog," and "Finish." The Judge's signal must be clear to the handler but not obvious or distracting to the dog.

On order from the Judge, the handler may give command and/or signal for the dog to Stay in the Sit position while the handler walks forward about 35 feet to the other end of the ring, where she shall turn and stand in a natural manner facing her dog. On Judge's order or signal, the handler shall give command or signal to Come and the dog must start directly in at a brisk trot or gallop. On the Judge's arm or hand signal, the handler shall give command or signal to Drop, and the dog must immediately drop completely to the Down position, where he must remain until, on Judge's order or signal, the handler again gives command or signal to Come. The dog then completes the exercise as in the Novice Recall.

Drop-On-Recall, Scoring

All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply. In addition, a score of zero is required for a dog that does not drop completely to the Down position on a single command or signal, and for a dog that drops but does not remain down until called or signaled.

Substantial deductions varying with the extent, even to the point of zero, shall be made for delayed or slow response to the handler's command or signal to Drop, for delay or slowness to Down, and for slow response to either of the Recalls. All penalties as in the Novice Recall shall apply.

Group Exercises, Performance and Scoring

During the Long Sit and the Long Down exercises, the Judge shall stand in such a position that all of the dogs are in his or her line of vision, and where he or she can see all the handlers in the ring—or handlers leaving and returning to the ring—without having to turn around.

These exercises are performed in the same manner as in the Novice classes, except that after leaving their dogs, the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring and then leave the ring in single file, as directed by the Judge. They then must go to a place designated by the Judge, completely out of sight of their dogs, where they must remain until called by the Judge after the expiration of the time limit of 3 minutes in the Long Sit and 5 minutes in the Long Down, from the time the Judge gave the order to "Leave your dogs." On order from the Judge, the handlers shall return to the ring in single file in reverse order, lining up facing their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, and return to their dogs on order from the Judge.

Orders and scoring are the same as in the Novice Group exercises.

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Moving-Drop

Before Beginning: Dog must heel well and know Down from Pre-Novice and Novice Lesson Plans.

- Moving-Drop: The Moving-Drop, used properly, will produce an instant response to the "Down" command. Mentally practice each step before working with the dog.
- Moving-Drop Lead Hold: Left hand on lead in normal heeling position, ready to slide straight down to the ground for quick, downward collar correction.
- Hand Position: No higher than waist level throughout entire exercise.
- 1. Moving-Drop—With Correction: While heeling with Moving-Drop Lead Hold, without slowing down, simultaneously command "Down," bend down sliding left hand straight down lead, pop down and back, praise. The instant dog drops, give "OK" release, pivot in front of dog, pop towards you, charge backward praising. Dog is to you, praise. Repeat, then try Step 2.
- 2. Moving-Drop Without Correction: Heel with lead in left hand; without slowing down, command "Down" as you pivot in front of dog, bring right hand up for hand signal. Right hand makes lead correction if needed. Dog drops, praise, give "OK" release, pop towards you, charge backward praising. Dog is to you, praise. If dog doesn't drop instantly on first command, repeat Step 1, Moving-Drop—With Correction.

- 3. Moving-Drop—With Stay: Same as Step 2, except dog drops, command "Stay," leave dog. Return to heel position, give "OK" release, praise.
- 4. Random Drop: Dog on-lead, lead in left hand, give "OK" release, get dog excited. Command "Down," step towards dog as right hand comes straight up for hand signal. Give downward collar correction with right hand if needed. Dog drops, praise, give "OK" release, praise. Vary exercise ending: sometimes after drop, command "Stay" and leave dog; sometimes give "OK" release, charge backward praising; sometimes return to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. Drop dog in random situations.
- Off-Lead: When dog is reliable, practice Steps 2 through 4 off-lead. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, and do Step 1, Moving-Drop—With Correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

Drop-On-Recall

Before Beginning: Dog must know Moving-Drop, drop instantly on command, and do fast, straight, off-lead recall at 35 feet.

Drop Refusal or Slow Recall: Any time dog doesn't respond instantly on first command, give "OK" release, review Moving-Drop—With Correction. Be critical; do not accept a slow response to the "Down" command.

Recall Refusal or Slow Recall: Any time dog doesn't respond instantly on first command, give "OK" release, review Random and Informal Recall With Correction. Be critical; do not accept a slow response to the "Come" command.

 Informal Recall: Dog on Sit-Stay, trainer at end of lead, facing dog. Lead in left hand, say dog's name, command "Come," pop towards you, charge backward praising for fast charge to trainer. Dog reaches trainer, give "OK" release, praise.

2. Moving-Drop—With Correction:
Practice Step 1 of Moving-Drop,
Moving-Drop—With Correction, to
reinforce "Down" command. Also,
continue to practice Steps 2 through 4 of Moving-Drop.

3. Informal Drop-On-Recall—Drop Close in Front: Do Informal Recall holding lead in left hand. When dog reaches trainer, simultaneously command "Down," right hand

comes straight up for hand signal, step towards dog. Dog drops, praise, immediately command "Come," pop towards you, charge away praising for quick response to "Come" command. Dog reaches trainer, give "OK" release, praise. Gradually eliminate signal. Occasionally, after drop, go to end of lead before calling.

4. Informal Recall—With Motivational Pop: To eliminate anticipation of drop, do Informal Recall with no drop. After three quick steps backward, gently pop again, praise, continue charge backward praising.

Note: Repeat Informal Recall—With Motivational Pop two to three times after every drop. Use lots of praise!

5. Informal Drop-On-Recall—Drop 6 Feet Away: Dog on-lead, do Informal Drop-On-Recall,

gradually extending distance of drop to 6 feet. Vary exercise ending. Sometimes, after drop, immediately command "Come," pop towards you, charge backward praising, give "OK" release, praise; sometimes delay "Come" command; sometimes return to dog, give "OK" release, praise.

- 6. Random Drop: Dog on- or off-lead, give "OK" release, get dog excited. Command "Down" as right hand comes straight up for hand signal. Dog drops, praise, give "OK" release, praise. Drop in random situations. Vary exercise ending. Occasionally eliminate signal.
- 7. Off-Lead: Practice Steps 3 through 6 on checkline and off-lead. Gradually extend distance of drop. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, make necessary correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.
- 8. Formal Exercise: Dog on Sit-Stay, trainer 35 feet away, facing dog, standing straight, hands at side. Command "Come," dog charges towards trainer, command "Down," dog drops instantly; command "Come," dog charges to trainer, sits in come position, finish, praise. Drop dog at various distances. No more than two formal exercises per training session.

Drop-On-Recall—continued

Note: Never, Never, Never run or throw things at a dog to make correction! If dog doesn't respond to command, abort exercise with "OK," attach lead, praise. Identify the problem area; work on the segment of the exercise where the mistake occurred. If dog didn't respond correctly to Down command, work on the Down. If dog didn't respond correctly to the Recall command, work on the Recall. When the dog is reliable on the "parts" of the exercise, combine the Recall and the Down for the Formal Exercise.

Out-of-Sight Sit-Stay and Down-Stay

Before Beginning: Review Sit-Stay and Down-Stay Exercises, Pre-Novice and Novice Lesson Plans. Dog must maintain position, be under absolute control, and "watch" trainer.

1. **Tension on Lead:** Dog on-lead, **sitting** in heel position. Command "**Stay**" as left hand, palm towards dog, gives **Stay signal** in front of dog's nose. Step out with **right** foot, take two small steps forward, turn to face dog. Both hands on

steps forward, turn to face dog. Both hands on lead, no slack; command "Watch Me." Gradually lean back, putting slight tension on lead. If dog resists slight tension,

quietly praise. If dog starts to move, release tension, simultaneously command "No," step towards dog, gently pop straight up. Step back to original

position; gradually put slight tension on lead. Release tension, return to heel position, give "OK" release,

praise. Dog should resist tension, concentrate on maintaining

position, and watch trainer.

- 2. 1-Minute Out-of-Sight Stay: Dog off-lead, on sit- or down-stay, trainer goes out of sight. Return immediately to heel position, command "Stay," leave again for 15 seconds; return to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. Repeat entire sequence, varying time of first return. Gradually increase time of second return to 1 minute.
- 3-Minute Sit—5-Minute Down—Out-of-Sight Stay: Dog off-lead on sit- or down-stay, trainer goes out of sight for 1 minute. Gradually increase time to 3 minutes on Sit-Stay, 5 minutes on Down-Stay.

Note: Sit- and down-stay problems usually do not occur if the dog has a proper Novice foundation. Review Sit and Accept Praise, Sit-Stay, and Down-Stay exercises and corrections in Pre-Novice and Novice Lesson Plans; give dog a lot of experience on each step. Be critical! Shifting feet or body weight, sniffing, whining, or lack of attention all constitute breaking a stay, and must be corrected.



Stick Jumping



Equipment: One dowel stick, 36 inches long and ¾ inch diameter, painted solid white or white with 3-inch black stripes 3 inches apart, similar to the bar of the Bar Jump.

Stick Jumping: A fun exercise that teaches take-off and jumping form, and prepares the dog for all advanced Jumping exercises. Dog always jumps left to right, just like the Broad Jump Exercise. Use Stick Jumping as a release exercise at the end of every training session.

Jump Height: Stick remains low, below dog's shoulder height, until dog knows exercise.

- Stick on Ground: Lead in left hand, run with dog toward stick. Command "Over" and pop forward just before stick, praise. Trainer and dog jump, praise.
- Stick End Against Barrier—Other End on Ground: Lead in left hand, run with dog toward stick. Just before jumping, command "Over" and pop forward. Trainer and dog jump, praise.
- 3. Hold Stick in Left Hand: Stick in left hand, lead in right hand over stick. Run with dog toward barrier, hold stick low by barrier, command "Over," pop forward, dog jumps, praise.

- 4. Remove Barrier and Teach Jumping Form: Same as Step 3, except without barrier, and teach dog to lift hind feet by gently tapping with Jump Stick as dog jumps.
- 5. Charge-Pop On-Lead: Teach dog to start on command. Leave dog on Sit-Stay, walk straight away 4 feet, turn to face dog. Hold stick in left hand, lead in right hand over stick, no slack. Command "Over," pop, praise (move backward if needed), dog jumps, praise.
- 6. Formal Exercise: Dog on Sit-Stay, walk to end of lead, turn sideways to dog. Stick in left hand, lead in right hand over stick, no slack. Command "Over," pop, praise. While dog is in mid-air, command "Come," dog lands, turn towards dog, pop towards you, move backward praising. Dog sits in come position, praise. Gradually eliminate corrections and motion backward. Sometimes, as dog comes, give "OK" release, praise.
- 7. Off-Lead and Increase Jump Height: Practice Steps 4 through 6 on-lead, gradually increasing jump height. When dog is reliable, remove lead. Gradually increase distance to 8 feet on Steps 5 and 6. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, repeat that step with correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

4-H Dog Obedience Score Sheet Graduate Novice Class

Contestant's Number			Grade Division D				Date			
Name of Show			Judge							
EXERCISE & COMMANDS*	NON QUALIF	YING (ZERO)	QUALIFYING SUBSTANTIAL	MINOR		Maximum Points		NET SCORE		
HEEL ON LEASH Forward, Halt, Right turn, Left turn, About turn, Slow, Normal, Fast Exercised finished	Unmanageable □	Handler continually adapts pace to dog	□ Extra command to Heel □ No change of pace □ Slow □ Lagging □ Sniffing	Abouts		30				
STAND FOR EXAMINATION OFF LEAD Stand your dog and leave when ready Return to your dog Exercise finished	Sits before or during examination	Moves away before or during examination Shows shyness or resentment	Rough treatment by handler Resistance to handler posing Moving slightly during exam Sits as handler returns	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	 	30				
HEEL FREE Forward Halt Left turn Right turn Slow, Fast, Normal Exercise finished Figure 8 Forward, halt (2) Exercise finished	Unmanageable □	Handler continually adapts pace to . dog	Extra command to Heel No change of pace Slow Lagging Sniffing Sniffing Handler lacks brisk pace Heeling wide Turns Abel Forging Crowding handler Handler error		Fig. 8	40				
DROP ON RECALL Leave your dog Call your dog Down your dog Call your dog Finish Exercise finished	Does not come on first command or signal	Extra com. or sig. to stay after handler leaves Moved from place left Anticipated: Recall Drop Come in Sat out of reach		Slow si Poorsi Poorfinist Iched handle between fee		40				
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	MAX SUB-TOTAL			140				
LONG SIT (3 minutes) Handler out of sight Sit your dogs Leave your dogs Return to your dogs Exercise finished	Did not remain in place	Stood or lay down before handler returned to heel position	□ Rough treatment by handler □ Resistance of dog to sit □ Moves minor distance □ Minor bark or whine □ Handler error	return to Hee	O	30				
LONG DOWN (5 minutes) Handler out of sight Down your dogs Leave your dogs Return to your dogs Exercise finished	Did not remain in place	Sat or stood before handler returned to heel position	□ Rough treatment by handler □ Resistance of dog to down □ Moves minor distance □ Minor bark or whine □ Handler touches dog into Dow □ Handler error	***************************************		30				
*Before each exercise	e "Are you ready"			MAX. POIN	TS	200				
	less or enjoyment of wor Shows fear □ Fouling i		ess and naturalness by the handler			Penalty for al Behavior				
						NET SCO				
	logs will be placed in E any award group.)	siue, Red and White a	ward groups at the judges discret	ion. No mini	mum	score is re	quired	to place		

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