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

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#### **Contents**

Novice Training Equipment	1
Novice Class Description	1
Novice Exercise Performance and Scoring	2
Novice Lesson Plans	5
Heeling Exercises	5
Off-Lead Heeling	6
Heel Position Exercises	7
Sit For Examination	7
Stand For Examination	8
Recall Exercises	8
Come Position Exercises	11
Finish Exercises	12
Sit-Stay	13
Down-Stay	14
Novice Class Score Sheet	15

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### **Novice Obedience Training**

Novice is open to all 4-H members who have not advanced to Graduate Novice with the dog each member has been showing. Members should not advance to Novice until they and their dogs are competent in Pre-Novice. Prior to attempting Novice exercises, it's a good idea to review Pre-Novice exercises and training terms.

The exercises for Novice are basically the same as Pre-Novice except that the Recall, Stand for Examination, Long Sit, Long Down, and a portion of the Heeling are done off-lead. First, practice all steps of each exercise on-lead and critically evaluate the dog's performance. When the exercise is mastered, practice the exercise off-lead. If the dog makes a mistake off-lead, attach the lead, praise the dog, and do the exercise or part of the exercise where the mistake occurred several times with an automatic correction. Then remove the lead, praise the dog, and repeat the exercise off-lead. The dog becomes steady and reliable as the trainer patiently alternates between on- and off-lead work.

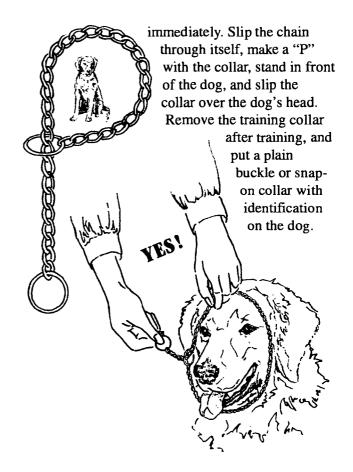
Training should be fun for you and the dog. Praise enthusiastically on all moving exercises, and never hesitate to break an exercise and play with the dog. Evaluate the team performance, and keep a mental picture of the perfect performance and the goals. The dog should be attentive and work with desire, while responding eagerly and immediately to the commands. It's important that you be a fun, fair, patient trainer; critical of performance, yet generous with praise.

Alternate exercises, and use a smooth but unpredictable heeling pattern. Occasionally, break an exercise with "OK," push the dog away, and play, throw a ball, or give food as a reward.

Dogs learn through repetition. Study the lesson plans, know the steps of each exercise, and train regularly!

### Novice Training Equipment

Training collar: Collar corrections, used during training, require quick, complete closure of the training collar and immediate release. A close-link chain collar, no more than 2 or 3 inches larger than the dog's neck, serves well for training. Make sure the collar is on correctly, so it releases



Check-Line: Additional training equipment for Novice Trainers includes a strong, thin, 15-foot, lightweight nylon cord with a small swivel snap on one end and a looped handle tied in the other. Trainers commonly refer to this as a "check-line." The check-line is used to check the dog's performance before beginning off-lead work.

### **Novice Class Description**

Exercises	Points
Heel On-Leash and Figure 8	40
Stand For Examination (off-leash)	30
Heel Free	40
Recall (off-leash)	30
Long Sit (1 minute off-leash)	30
Long Down (3 minutes off-leash)	30
Total Points	200

### Novice Exercise Performance and Scoring

#### **AKC Obedience Regulations**

All exercises are performed and scored as outlined in the AKC Obedience Regulations. The following 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 will always 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.

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.

### Figure 8

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 Novice classes shall be done on leash. 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.

#### Heel on Leash & Figure 8, 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.

#### Recall

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by its handler, and that the dog respond promptly to the handler's command to signal to "Come."

Orders are "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

On order from the Judge, the handler may give command and/or signal to 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 will give command or signal for the dog to Come. The dog must come directly in at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler's feet, close enough that the handler could readily touch its head without moving either foot or having to stretch forward. The dog must not touch the handler or sit between her feet.

On Judge's order, the handler will give command or signal to Finish and the dog must go smartly to the Heel position and Sit. The manner in which the dog finishes shall be optional with the handler provided that it is prompt and that the dog Sit straight at Heel.

#### Recall, Scoring

A dog must receive a score of zero for the following: not Staying without additional command or signal, failure to Come on the first command or signal, moving from the place where left before being called or signaled, not sitting close enough so that the handler could readily touch its head without stretching or moving either foot.

Substantial deductions shall be made for a slow response to the Come, varying with the extent of the slowness; failure of the dog to come at a brisk trot or gallop; for the dog's standing or lying down instead of waiting in the Sit position; for failure to Sit in Front; failure to Finish or Sit at Heel; or for extra command or signal to Sit or Finish.

Minor to substantial deductions shall be made, depending on the specific circumstances in each case, for failure to come directly into the handler.

Minor deductions shall be made for slow or poor Sits or Finishes which are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

#### **Group Exercises**

The principal feature of these exercises is that the dog remain in the Sitting or Down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise.

Orders are "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

All the competing dogs in the class take these exercises together, except that if there are 12 or more dogs they shall, at the Judge's option, be judged in groups of not less than 6 nor more than 12 dogs. When the same Judge does more than one Novice class, the classes may be combined provided there are not more than 12 dogs competing in the combined classes.

The Judge shall divide his or her class into approximately equal sections. The Group exercises shall be judged after each section. The dogs that are in the ring shall be lined up in catalog order along one of the four sides of the ring. Handler's armbands, weighted with leashes or other articles if necessary, shall be placed behind the dogs.

For the Long Sit the handlers shall, on order from the Judge, command and/or signal their dogs to Sit if they are not already sitting. On further order from the Judge to leave their dogs, the handlers shall give a command and/or signal to Stay and immediately leave their dogs. The handlers will go to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and stand facing their respective dogs.

If a dog gets up and starts to roam or follows its handler, or if a dog moves so as to interfere with another dog, the Judge shall promptly instruct the handler or one of the Stewards to take the dog out of the ring or to keep it away from the other dogs.

After 1 minute from the time he or she has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the Judge will give the order to return, whereupon the handlers must promptly go back to their dogs, each walking around and in back of his or her own dog to the Heel position. The dogs must not move from the Sitting position until after the Judge has said, "Exercise finished." The Judge shall not give the order "Exercise finished" until the handlers have returned to the Heel position.

Before starting the Long Down, the Judge shall ask if the handlers are ready. The Long Down is done in the same manner as the Long Sit, except that instead of sitting their dogs the handlers shall, on

order from the Judge, down their dogs to a position facing the opposite side of the ring without touching either the dogs or their collars; and except further that the Judge will order the handlers to return after 3 minutes. The dogs must not move from the Down position until after the Judge has said, "Exercise finished."

The dogs shall not be required to sit at the end of the Down exercise.

### **Group Exercises, Scoring**

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

Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the Judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it Sit or lie Down. These shall be penalized substantially; in extreme cases, the dog may be excused.

A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent competing dog shall be required to reposition his dog and shall be substantially penalized also; in extreme cases, the dog may be excused.

A score of zero is required for the following: the dog's moving at any time, during either exercise, a substantial distance away from the place where it was left; or going over to any other dog; or staying on the spot where it was left but not remaining in whichever position is required by the particular exercise until the handler has returned to the Heel position; or repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction shall be made for a dog that moves even a minor distance away from the place where it was left, or that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes its position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the Judge has given the order "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a substantial or minor deduction shall be made for touching the dog or its collar in getting the dog into the Down position.

The Judge shall not give the order "Exercise finished" until the handlers have returned to the Heel position.

### **Novice Lesson Plans**

Exercise	Page
Heeling Exercises	5
Off-Lead Heeling	6
Heel Position Exercises	7
Sit For Examination	7
Stand For Examination	8
Recall Exercises	8
Come Position Exercises	11
Finish Exercises	
Flip Finish	12
Round Finish	13
Sit-Stay	13
Down-Stay	14

### **Heeling Exercises**

**Before Beginning**: Dog must have a solid foundation from Pre-Novice Lesson Plans.

Heeling Lead Hold: See
Training Terms, Pre-Novice
section. Use proper lead
hold!

Attention: Develop and improve attention by alternating exercises. Be quick yet smooth on all actions. Make the exercises fun; praise enthusiastically to keep dog excited.

Corrections: All corrections are a 4- to 6-inch pop and quick release that teach

the dog to move himself. They always are made in the direction the trainer wants the dog to move and always are accompanied by praise.

Make heeling a game; correct only if needed.

Exercise Ending: Sometimes, after exercise, continue normal heeling; sometimes break into a run, pop forward, praise; sometimes do a quick

stop, dog sits in heel position; sometimes do a series of exercises; sometimes give "OK" release and play with dog.

Off-Lead: When dog is reliable, practice all exercises off-lead. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, and repeat exercise with automatic correction.

Remove lead, praise, and repeat off-lead.

- Starts: Dog sitting in heel position, watching trainer. Simultaneously command "Heel," pop forward, step off with left foot, praise.
- 2. Change of Pace: While heeling, simultaneously change to slow pace, pop back, praise. Change back to normal pace with pop forward and praise. Simultaneously change to fast pace, pop forward, praise. Change back to normal pace with pop back and praise.
- Stationary Right-About-Turn: Dog sitting in heel position, extremely slack lead. Command "Heel," do tight 180-degree Right-About-Face, pop after turn, praise.
- Stationary Left-"U"-Turn: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Heel," do tight 180-degree Left-About-Face, pop behind your body, praise, quickly bring knees up to surprise dog

### Heeling Exercises—continued

(small dog, slide feet), **pop forward** coming out of turn, **praise**.

- 5. Stationary Right Turn: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Heel," "pivot" on heel of right foot turning 90 degrees, pop forward, praise.
- 6. Stationary Left Turn: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Heel," pivot on heel of left foot turning 90 degrees, pop behind your body, praise, quickly bring right knee up to surprise dog (small dog, slide foot), pop forward, praise.
- 7. Moving Right-About-Turn: While heeling, do tight 180-degree Right-About-Face, keeping feet close together, pop after turn, praise. To improve Moving Right-About-Turn, occasionally practice 270-degree turns; occasionally pop during turn.
- 8. Moving Left-"U"-Turn: While heeling, do tight 180-degree Left-About-Face, pop behind your body, praise, quickly bring knees up to surprise dog (small dog, slide feet), pop forward coming out of turn, praise.
- 9. Moving Right Turn: While heeling, do 90-degree right turn, pop forward after turn, praise.
- 10. Moving Left Turn: While heeling, do 90-degree left turn, pop behind your body, praise, pop forward coming out of turn, praise.
- 11. Zig-Zag Heeling: While heeling, zig-zag smoothly right and left. Pop forward or behind your body as needed to keep dog in heel position.
- 12. Spiral Right and Left: While heeling, make large circle to the right or left, gradually decreasing diameter to small, tight circle. If needed, pop forward during spiral right; pop behind your body during spiral left to keep dog in heel position.
- 13. Circle Right and Left: While heeling, make a quick, tight, complete circle to the right or left. If needed, pop forward during circle right; pop behind your body during circle left to keep dog in heel position.
- 14. Sliding-Side-Step: While heeling, take side-step to the right, pop behind your body, praise, pop forward, praise. Sometimes practice after a Moving Right-About-Turn.

### Off-Lead Heeling

Atta boy!

Before Beginning: Practice heeling exercises in different locations and around distractions, using Heeling Test as in Pre-Novice. Dog, with complete attention on trainer, should maintain heel position with no corrections needed. When this goal is met, begin off-lead work.

Off-Lead Heeling: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Watch Me," remove lead. Gather up the lead, hold in right hand with thumb on

snap. Command "Heel," step forward confidently on left foot, talking enthusiastically to dog. Practice heeling exercises; be critical of dog's performance. First mistake, give "OK" release, praise, attach lead, praise; repeat portion of exercise where mistake occurred several times with an automatic correction.

Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead. Don't expect off-lead heeling to be perfected overnight; it is a long process of alternating between on- and off-lead work. Set your standards high; be patient but critical of the dog's off-lead performance. Make sure the instant a mistake occurs, the dog is released, the lead immediately attached, and the portion of the exercise where the mistake occurred repeated several times on-lead with an automatic correction. Problems arise when the dog is allowed to make errors off-lead and the trainer, instead of attaching the lead and making corrections, makes excuses for the dog's performance. Heeling should be fun; strive to motivate the dog. Continue to praise enthusiastically during the heeling exercise; occasionally eliminate praise for short periods.

Classroom Off-Lead Heeling: Dog on-lead, sitting in heel position; attach a strong, extremely lightweight nylon cord to dog's collar. Secure the other end to your left side so the cord hangs loosely from your side to the dog's collar but does not touch the ground. (The check-line can be

adapted easily; put the excess line in your pocket.) With cord attached, remove lead, practice off-lead heeling as directed above. The cord is used for added control and for your dog's protection in a classroom situation or when training in a busy area, but not to make corrections. A surprise correction may be given with the cord, but if the mistake continues, give an "OK" release, praise, attach lead (don't remove cord), praise; repeat portion of exercise where mistake occurred several times with an automatic correction. With cord still attached, remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

Goal: Dog performs all heeling exercises off-lead.

### Heel Position Exercises

**Before Beginning:** Dog **must** heel well and know Stationary Right and Left Turns.

Positioning Exercises: Fun exercises to teach the dog how to maneuver to heel position. Keep dog attentive by quickly changing exercises, praising enthusiastically, and correcting with an easy 4- to 6-inch pop and release in the direction dog should move. When first teaching, use extra commands and praise for any response. Correct only if needed!

Pivots: When first teaching, always pivot 90 degrees. As training progresses, vary degree of pivot; sometimes pivot 180 degrees, sometimes 360 degrees. Reinforce pivots with stationary right and left turns. Alternate turns and pivots.

- Off-Lead: When dog is reliable, practice all exercises off-lead. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, and repeat exercise with automatic correction.

  Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.
- Pivot Right: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Heel," pivot on heel of right foot turning in place, pop forward, praise; take half step forward, pop forward, praise; dog sits in heel position. Gradually eliminate half step forward. Dog should pivot with trainer.
- 2. Pivot Left: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Heel," pivot on heel of left foot turning in place, pop behind your body, praise, quickly bring

- right knee up to surprise dog (small dog, slide foot), take half step forward, pop forward, praise; dog sits in heel position. Gradually eliminate knee and lead corrections. Dog should pivot with trainer.
- 3. Get-It-Up: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Get-It-Up" as you take half step forward on left foot, pop forward, praise for any response. Dog should hop forward in heel position.
- 4. Get-It-Back: Dog sitting in heel position, collar rings behind dog's head, left hand on lead close to collar. Command "Get-It-Back" as you take half step back on left foot, pop back, praise for any response. Dog should hop straight back in heel position.
- 5. Get-It-Over: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Get-It-Over" as you take half step to the right, pop behind your body, praise, take half step forward to straighten dog out, pop forward, praise. Gradually eliminate half step forward. Dog should hop over in heel position.

### Sit For Examination

- 1. Dog Examined by Trainer: Dog sitting in heel position; put right hand on lead close to collar. Left hand examines dog's ears, eyes, mouth, back and paws. Command "No" and pop straight up for any movement or lack of attention. After examination, give "OK" release, move from sit, praise.
- 2. Dog Examined by Others: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Stay," pivot directly in front of dog. Both hands on lead, close together (no slack in lead, but no tension either), command "Watch Me." Person approaches and touches dog's head and back. Be ready to command "No" and pop straight up for any movement or lack of attention. After examination, pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, move from sit, praise.

**Note:** The Sit For Examination is the foundation exercise for the Stand For Examination. Dog must be reliable before progressing.

# Stand For Examination

- 1. 10-Second Stand-Stay—At Side: Dog sitting in heel position; hold lead close to collar with right hand. Put left hand, palm up, in front of dog's right rear leg. Command "Stand" as right hand gently pulls straight forward and left hand lifts straight up under dog's tummy. Dog stands, praise. Command "Stay," remain at dog's side; move left hand over dog's back, sides, and shoulders. If dog starts to sit, command "No—Stand" as you gently restrain dog. Absolutely no lead correction, use voice control only! After 10 seconds, give "OK" release, move from stand, praise.
- 2. 30-Second Stand-Stay—Directly in Front: Stand dog as in Step One, praise, place dog's feet in comfortable position. Command "Stay" using voice and signal, step out on right foot, pivot directly in front of dog. Command "Watch Me" as you lift up under dog's chin. Pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. Gradually increase time in front to 30 seconds. If dog starts to sit or move before released, command "No— Stand" as you gently reposition dog.
- 3. 30-Second Stand—End of Lead: Stand dog as in Stand for Examination—Step One. Command "Stay" using voice and signal, walk straight away to end of lead, turn to the left to face dog. After 30 seconds, return to heel position by circling around dog to your right. While circling, hold slack with left hand, keeping lead on dog's right side. Pause in heel position, give "OK" release, praise. If dog starts to sit or move before released, command "No—Stand" as you gently reposition dog; review Steps One and Two.
- 4. Formal Stand for Examination: Stand dog as in Stand for Examination—Step One. Command "Stay" using voice and signal. Walk straight away to end of lead; turn to the left to face dog. Have someone approach and touch dog's head and back. After examination, return to heel position by circling around dog to your right. While circling, hold slack with left hand, keeping lead on dog's right side. Pause in heel position, give "OK" release, praise. If dog resists examination, immediately return to heel position, give

"OK" release; then, practice Sit for Examination, page 7, with automatic correction. When dog reliably performs Sit for Examination, repeat Stand for Examination. When dog accepts examination on-lead, remove lead, practice off-lead.

**Goal**: Dog maintains position until released, watches trainer, accepts examination.

### **Recall Exercises**

### Step #1—Informal Comefore

Dog Comes While Heeling: While heeling with dog in perfect heel position, say dog's name, simultaneously command "Come," pop towards you,

5-2<u>-</u>

praise, trot

directly backward or turn sideways and run away praising. Dog is to you, throw arms out, give "OK" release, praise. If dogs runs past you, pivot to face dog, pop towards you, praise, move backward praising. After several weeks, when dog pivots towards you on "Come" command, occasionally eliminate correction.

Goal: While heeling, dog responds quickly to "Come" command; runs to catch trainer.

### Step #2—Random Recall

Dog Comes While Distracted: Assume Controlled Walking Lead Hold (see Controlled Walking—Steps One and Two, Pre-Novice section). Random situations, when dog is distracted, turn to face dog; say dog's name, command "Come" as you pop towards you, praise, briskly move away praising. Dog is to you, throw arms out, give "OK" release, praise, repeat. If dog runs past you, pivot to face dog, pop towards you, praise, move backward praising. After several weeks, when dog pivots towards you on "Come" command, occasionally eliminate automatic correction.

**Goal**: Dog ignores distractions, responds quickly to "Come" command, runs to catch trainer.

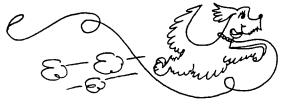
### Step #3—Stationary Comefore

**Teaches Come Position**: Dog sitting in heel position; put both hands on lead, close together, no higher than waist level, no slack in lead. Command "Come" as you step back on right foot, pop towards you, praise; take no more than two or three steps backward. When dog is straight in front, command "Sit," pop straight up, praise. Dog sits in come position, pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. If dog doesn't sit straight and close in front on first command, immediately abort exercise with "OK" and praise. Practice Random Sits, Pre-Novice Lesson Three, until dog always responds promptly to "Sit" command; then, repeat Stationary Comefore. Occasionally, you can use a soft food treat to lure or reward a straight sit in come position.

**Goal**: Dog goes from heel position to come position; sits straight and close in front.

### Step #4—Informal Recall

Dog Comes from Sit-Stay: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Stay" using voice and signal. Walk straight away to end of lead; turn to face dog. Say dog's name, command "Come" as you pop towards you, praise, charge backward praising. Dog is to you, give "OK" release,



praise. If dog runs past you, pivot to face dog, pop towards you, praise, move backward praising. To eliminate anticipation, alternate Informal Recall with Sit-Stay; vary time dog stays before calling. When dog comes quickly, eliminate correction.

Goal: Dog maintains Sit-Stay; then runs quickly to trainer on "Come" command.

### Step #5—Formal Comefore

Dog Comes While Heeling—Sits in Come Position: While heeling with dog in perfect heel position, put both hands close together on lead, below waist level, no slack in lead. Say dog's name, command "Come" as you step back on right foot. Pop towards you, praise, take no more than two to three steps backward. When dog is straight in front, command "Sit," gently pop straight up, praise. Dog sits in come position, pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. If dog doesn't sit straight and close in front on first command, immediately abort exercise with "OK" and praise. Practice Random Sit, Pre-Novice Lesson Three, and Stationary Comefore, Step Three, until dog always responds quickly to "Sit" command; then, repeat Comefore. Alternate Informal Comefore and Comefore.

**Goal**: While heeling, dog responds quickly to "Come" command; sits in **come** position.

### Step #6—Informal Recall on Check-Line

Dog Comes From Sit-Stay: Attach check-line, remove lead; practice Informal Recall, as in Step Four, at 10 feet and then 15 feet. As dog charges towards you, give "OK" release,

charge away praising. Sometimes
throw arms out, tossing check-line
aside; sometimes turn and run
away praising; sometimes
kneel on one knee, throw
arms out, praise. If dog
doesn't run directly to you, pivot
to face dog, pop towards you,

praise, move away praising. When dog is to you, praise, attach lead, praise; repeat exercise on-lead with automatic correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat on check-line.

Goal: Dog maintains Sit-Stay; then runs quickly to trainer on "Come" command.

### Recall Exercises—continued

### Step #7—Formal Recall— On-Leash

Dog Comes from Sit-Stay—Sits in Come Position: Dog on-lead, sitting in heel position; command "Stay" using voice and signal. Walk straight away to end of lead; turn to the left to face dog. Say dog's name, command "Come" as you pop towards you, praise, charge away praising. (Occasionally hold lead in left hand; simultaneously give command, correction, and hand signal by moving right arm directly out from shoulder, make quick motion towards chest, return arm immediately to natural position at side; charge away praising). Dog is running towards you, gather up the slack. When dog is straight in front, command "Sit," pop straight up, praise. Dog sits in come position, pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. When dog performs reliably, occasionally eliminate "Sit" command and corrections. If dog doesn't sit straight and close on first command, abort exercise with "OK." Reinforce "Sit" command and come position with Random Sits and Stationary Comefore. Alternate Informal Recall, Recall, and Sit-Stay.

Goal: Dog maintains Sit-Stay; responds quickly to "Come" command; sits in come position.

Dog Comes from Sit-Stay—Sits in Come Position:

### Step #8—Formal Recall on Check-Line

Dog sitting in heel position, attach check-line, remove lead. Command "Stay" using voice and signal. Walk straight away to end of check-line; turn to the left to face dog. Say dog's name, command "Come" as you pop towards you, praise, charge away praising. As dog is running towards you, sometimes gather up the slack; sometimes toss check-line aside; sometimes turn and run away praising; as dog is almost to you, turn to face dog; when dog is straight in front, command "Sit." Dog sits in come position, give "OK" release, praise; or, pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. When dog performs reliably, eliminate "Sit" command and corrections. If dog doesn't run directly to you, pivot to face dog, pop

towards you, charge away praising. When dog

is to you, give "OK" release, praise, attach lead, praise; repeat exercise on-lead with automatic correction. If dog doesn't sit straight and close on first command, abort exercise with "OK" and praise. Attach lead, praise, reinforce "Sit" command and come position with Random Sit, Stationary Comefore, and Comefore. Alternate Recall, Informal Recall, and Sit-Stay.

Goal: Dog maintains Sit-Stay; responds quickly to "Come" command; sits in come position.

### Step #9—Formal Off-Lead Recall

Off-Lead Recall: Dog must be reliable on-lead before beginning off-lead work. Practice all steps of the Recall exercise on-lead, critically evaluate the dog's performance. When the goal of each step is mastered and dog reliably performs Recall on Check-Line, Step Eight, begin off-lead work. Dog sitting in heel position, remove lead; command "Stay" using voice and signal. Walk straight away 6 feet; turn to the left to face dog. Say dog's name, simultaneously command "Come" (use same arm action as "pop" first few times), praise, charge away praising. Practice Informal Recall as directed in Steps Four and Six, and Recall as directed in Steps Seven and Eight, off-lead. At first mistake off-lead, attach lead, praise; then do step or portion of step where mistake occurred, several times with an automatic correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead. Dog steadies as trainer patiently alternates between on- and off-lead work. Gradually increase distance to 35 feet; eliminate backward motion.

If Dog Doesn't Come on First Command: Do not repeat "Come" command! Go to dog, praise, attach lead, praise; practice Informal Recall, Step Four, several times with an automatic correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

If Dog Comes Before Called: Give "OK" release, charge away praising. When dog is to you, praise, attach lead, praise. To eliminate anticipation, alternate Sit-Stay and Recall Exercises; vary time dog stays before calling. Anticipation is a signal to the trainer that there is not enough variation in training and that

review on all steps of the Sit-Stay is needed. **Do not** correct the dog for coming to you. Abort the exercise, greet the dog, **then** work on the Sit-Stay

If Dog Comes Slowly: Give "OK" release, charge away praising. When dog is to you, praise, attach lead, praise; practice Informal Recall, Step Four, several times with an automatic correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

If Dog Bolts: Calmly go to dog, attach lead, praise, practice Random Recall, Step Two, and Informal Recall, Step Four; also, review Informal Recall on Check-Line, Step Six, and Recall on Check-Line, Step Eight. When dog responds promptly to "Come" command, remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

If Dog Doesn't Sit Straight in Front: Abort exercise with "OK" and praise. Attach lead, praise; reinforce "Sit" command and come position with Random Sit exercise, Stationary Comefore, Step Three, and Comefore, Step Five. When dog responds promptly to "Sit" command, remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

Off-Lead Formal Recall: Dog off-lead, sitting in heel position, command "Stay" using voice and signal. Walk straight away 35 feet; turn to the left to face dog. Stand straight and still with hands at side. Say dog's name, command "Come," dog charges to you and sits in come position. Command "Heel," dog flips to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. Continuous repetition of the Formal Exercise may slow the dog down. To avoid this problem, practice Recall Exercises Off-Lead, following the instruction detailed in Recall on Check-Line, Step Eight; occasionally practice Formal Off-Lead Recall.

Goal: Trainer 35 feet away, facing dog, standing straight and still with hands at side. Dog responds quickly to "Come" command, runs to trainer, sits in come position, flips to heel position on command.

### Come Position Exercises

**Before Beginning**: Dog **must** know Random Sit, Stationary Comefore, Comefore, and Recall Exercise.

Positioning Exercises: Fun exercises to teach dog how to maneuver to come position. When first teaching, use extra commands and body motion, and praise for any response.

Corrections: All corrections are a 4- to 6-inch pop and release that teaches the dog to move himself. They always are made in the direction the trainer wants the dog to move, and are always accompanied by praise. Make maneuvering to come position a game; correct only if needed.

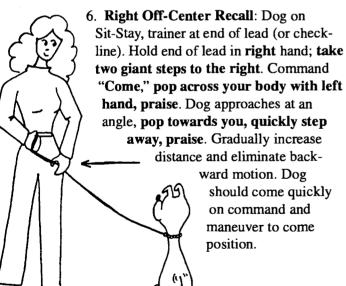
Off-Lead: On all exercises, when dog is reliable, practice off-lead. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, and repeat exercise with automatic correction. Remove lead, praise, repeat off-lead.

- 1. Heel Position to Come Position: Dog on-lead, sitting in heel position. Trainer's right foot remains in position. Command "Come," step forward with left foot, pop forward with left hand, praise. Dog starts forward, return left foot to original position, pop towards you, take one step backward, praise; dog sits in come position. If needed, command "Sit," pop straight up, praise. Gradually eliminate step forward and step backward. Dog should go quickly from heel position to come position on command.
- 2. Hop Forward in Come Position: Dog on-lead, sitting in come position. Both hands on lead, close to collar. Command "Come" as you take small steps backward, pop towards you, praise for any response. Dog should hop forward in come position.
- 3. Side-Step-Right in Come Position: Dog on-lead, sitting in come position. Command "Come," side-step to the right, pop across your body with left hand, praise, step backward, pop toward you, praise; dog sits in come position. Gradually eliminate step backward. Dog should Side-Step-Right with trainer and maneuver to come position.

#### Come Position Exercises—continued

4. Side-Step Left in Come Position: Dog on-lead, sitting in come position. Command "Come," side-step to the left, pop across your body with right hand, praise, step backward, pop towards you, praise; dog sits in come position. Gradually eliminate step backward. Dog should Side-Step-Left with trainer and maneuver to come position.

5. Left Off-Center Recall: Dog on Sit-Stay, trainer at end of lead (or check-line). Hold end of lead in left hand; take two giant steps to the left. Command "Come," pop across vour body with right hand, praise. Dog approaches at an angle, pop towards you, quickly step away, praise. Gradually increase distance and eliminate backward motion. Dog should come quickly on command and maneuver to come position.



### Finish Exercises

These exercises teach the dog to go from come position to heel position on command. To gain a competitive edge, the dog is taught two types of finishes, Flip and Round. Each finish has its own command. Both finishes should be practiced until perfected.

Flip Finish: On command, dog quickly leaves come position by moving past trainer's left side, turning to sit in heel position.

Round Finish: On command, dog quickly leaves come position by moving past trainer's right side, wrapping snugly around trainer to sit in heel position.

### Flip Finish

- 1. Guide and Step Back: Dog on-lead, sitting in come position. Left hand is on lead close to collar. Trainer's right foot remains in position. Simultaneously command "Heel," step back on left foot, guide dog back and slightly left with left hand, praise. Gear step back to size of dog; step should be no longer than dog's body length. As dog's hip passes trainer, turn dog around and in towards left leg. Return left leg to original position as you guide dog to heel position, praise. If needed, command "Sit," pop straight up, and praise.
- 2. Pop Back and Step Back: Same as Step 1, except: instead of guiding, use 4- to 6-inch pop with praise.
- 3. Pop Back and Stand Still: Same as Step 2, except: gradually decrease and eliminate step back with left foot. If dog starts to sit crooked, quickly pivot left before dog sits. Alternate Steps 2 and 3.
- 4. Formal Exercise: Dog on-lead, sitting in come position. Stand still, hands at side. Command "Heel," dog quickly leaves come position by moving past trainer's left side, turning to sit in heel position, praise. When dog is reliable, practice off-lead. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, and practice Steps 2 and 3.

#### Round Finish

- 1. Guide and Step Back: Dog on-lead, sitting in come position. Wrap lead snugly to right, behind your body, and hold in left hand. Right hand on lead close to collar. Simultaneously command "Swing," step a half-step back on right foot, guide dog back with right hand, praise. Gear step back to size of dog: no longer than dog's body length. As dog's hip passes trainer, right hand drops lead and joins left hand as you quickly step forward with right foot, pop forward, praise; continue moving forward at a brisk pace.
- 2. Pop Back and Move Forward Quickly: Dog on-lead sitting in come position. Wrap lead snugly to right, behind your body, and hold in left hand. Right hand on lead, close to collar. Command "Swing," pop back with right hand, praise. Right hand drops lead and joins left hand as you quickly step forward with right foot, pop forward, praise; continue moving forward at a brisk pace.
- 3. Pop Back and Step Forward: Same as Step 2, except: take one to three brisk steps forward, halt; dog sits in heel position. If needed, command "Sit," gently pop straight up, praise.
- 4. Formal Exercise: Dog on-lead, sitting in come position. Stand still, hands at side. Command "Swing," dog wraps around trainer to heel position, praise. When dog is reliable, practice off-lead. At first mistake, attach lead, praise, repeat Steps 2 and 3.

### Sit-Stay

1. 30-Second Sit-Stay—Directly in Front: Dog sitting in heel position, assume heeling lead hold. Take left hand off lead; command "Stay" as you swing left hand, palm towards dog, fingers pointing down, in front of dog's nose for hand signal. Step out on right foot, pivoting directly in front of dog. Both hands are on lead, close together (no slack in lead, but no tension either), ready to give corrections. Watch your dog! Command "No" and pop straight up for any movement or lack of attention. Command "Watch Me" (demanding tone), turn dog's head towards you. After several seconds, pivot back to heel

- position, give "OK" release and extra praise. Absolutely no praise from in front; extra praise at end of exercise. If dog stands before released, you are too late to make a correction; begin again. Gradually increase time directly in front to 30 seconds.
- 2. 1-Minute Sit-Stay—2 Steps in Front: Dog sitting in heel position, assume heeling lead hold. Command "Stay" using voice and signal. Step out on right foot taking two small steps forward; turn to face dog. Command "Watch Me" (demanding tone), turn dog's head towards you. Both hands are on lead, close together (no slack in lead, but no tension either), ready to give corrections. Be ready to command "No" and pop straight up for any movement or lack of attention. After 1 minute, pivot back to heel position, give "OK" release, praise. Absolutely no praise from in front; extra praise at end of exercise! If dog stands before released, you are too late to correct; begin again.
- 3. Jump to the Right: Dog on Sit-Stay, trainer two small steps in front, facing dog. Hold lead in right hand; command "Watch Me" as you quickly jump to the right. If dog moves, command "No" as you step towards dog sliding left hand up lead to pop straight up. Step back in front of dog; repeat entire exercise.

Jump to the Left: Same as Jump to the Right, except reverse lead hold; put left thumb through the lead's looped handle, gather up some slack, and quickly jump to the left.

**Return to Dog**: After jumping, pivot back to heel position, give "**OK**" release, move from sit,

### Sit-Stay—continued

**praise**. Occasionally do a series of jumps before returning.

**Goal**: Dog, intensely watching trainer's motion, maintains sit position.

4. **3-Minute Sit-Stay—2 Steps in Front**: Same as Sit-Stay—Step Two, Lesson Three, except dog must stay for **3 minutes**.

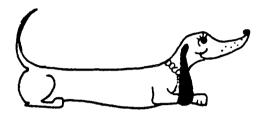
Return to Heel Position—Circle Dog: Dog on Sit-Stay, trainer two small steps in front, facing dog. Return to heel position by circling around dog to your right. While circling, hold slack with left hand, keeping lead on dog's right side. Correct for any movement with "No" as you pop straight up. When back to heel position, give "OK" release and extra praise.

- 5. 4-Minute Sit-Stay—End of Lead: Dog sitting in heel position, command "Stay" using voice and signal. Step out on right foot; walk straight away to end of lead; turn to face dog. After 4 minutes, return to heel position, give "OK" release and extra praise. Practice Sit-Stay, Steps One through Four, around major distractions; demand attention. Quietly praise.
- 6. 5-Minute Stay—End of Check-Line: Attach check-line, remove lead; practice stays at 10 feet and then 15 feet. Gradually increase time in front to 5 minutes.

7. 5-Minute Stay—35 Feet Away: Attach check-line, remove lead; practice stays at 15 feet, then drop check-line and gradually increase distance to 35 feet. Occasionally, do a 5-minute Stay; vary the direction of return. When dog is reliable, remove the check-line.

**Goal**: Dog maintains sit position until released, attention on trainer, no correction needed.

### Down-Stay



- 1. Dog must know Down exercise from Pre-Novice.
- 2. With dog in down position, follow all steps of the Sit-Stay. If dog starts to break position, correct with "No" and a **downward pop**. Remember to praise quietly when dog is holding position and paying attention.

Goal: Dog maintains down position until released, attention on trainer, no correction needed.

## 4-H Dog Obedience Score Sheet Novice Class

Contestant's Num	ber	<del></del>	Grade Division		_ Dat	te		
Name of Show	·		Judge					
EXERCISE & COMMANDS*	NON QUALIF	YING (ZERO)	QUALIFYING SUBSTANTIAL	MINOR		Maximum Pointa		NET SCORE
HEEL ON LEASH Forward, Halt, Right turn, Left turn, About turn, Slow, Normal, Fast Exercised finlahed FIGURE 8 Forward, Halt (2), Exercise finished	Unmanageable  Constant tugging on leash or guiding	Handler continually adapts pace to dog	□ Extra command to Heel     □ No change of pace   □ Slow     □ Lagging   □ Sniffing		Fig. 8 00000 00	40		
STAND FOR EXAMINATION Stand your dog and leave when ready. Return to your dog Exercise finished	Sits before or during examination	Moves away before or during examination	Rough treatment by handler Resistance to handler posing Moving slightly during exam Sits ashandler returns Moving after examination Extra command to Stay			30		
HEEL FREE OFF 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		40		
RECALL (Done off leash) Leave your dog Call your dog Finish Exercise finished	Didn't come on first command or signal	Extra command or signal to stay   Moved from position  Anticipated recall command		Slow sit Poor sit Poor finish ched handler between feet		30		
	MAX SUB-TOTAL			•	140			
LONG SIT Done off Leash) It minute) Sit your dogs Leave your dogs Return to dogs Exercise finished	Did not remain in place	Stood or lay down before handler returned	Rough treatment by handler Resistance of dog to sit Moves minor distance Minor bark or whine Handler error Changes position after			30		
LONG DOWN Done off leash) 3 minutes) Down your dogs Leave your dogs Return to dogs Exercise finished	Did not remain in place	Sat or stood <i>before</i> handler returned  Repeated barking or whining	Rough treatment by handler Resistance of dog to down Moves minor distance Minor bark or whine Handler touches dog into down Handler error Changes position after			30		
*Before each exercise "Are you ready" MAX. POINTS			200					
					Penalty for al Behavior			
				·		NET SCO		<u> </u>
RIBBON AWARDS (D	ogs will be placed in E	liue, Red and White a	ward groupa at the judges discreti	on. No minii	mum:	score is red	quired t	o piace

in any award group.)





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

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