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WYOMING 4-H DOG SHOW GUIDELINES





MP-153 Wyoming 4-H Dog Show Guidelines
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INTRODUCTION

The Wyoming 4-H Program provides educational opportunities for youth to learn about a variety of topics. The dog project focuses on learning about the science, health, care, and overall dog fancy as well as the nature of it being a lifelong hobby and even career for some youth. One of the benefits created by educating youth are opportunities for them to compete with each other to share their acquired skills. Dog shows, fairs, and expos provide wonderful opportunities for youth to compete and, in some instances, receive recognition for their accomplishments.

These guidelines are designed to help establish consistent standards for 4-H dog shows throughout Wyoming. This information is for 4-H members, parents, volunteers, and judges on the state and county level. This guide is not a complete list of possibilities offered to youth within the program. It does provide limited direction to help 4-H volunteers, parents, and youth to understand the parameters created for 4-H youth to compete under and serves as a reference for the State 4-H Dog Show.

This book has made every effort to cover all common topics, but in situations where a question arises and the answer is not specifically stated in this 4-H booklet, investigators should default to the American Kennel Club's rules and regulations.



There are a variety of competitive opportunities 4-H'ers can pursue during or after their 4-H careers. The American Kennel Club, Canadian Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, and some breed specific registries, such as the Australian Shepherd Club of America, are all organizations that hold conformation, obedience, rally, and agility trials similar to what youth learn in 4-H, and others such as nosework, barn hunt, flyball, dock diving, hunt tests, and more. Several registries hold showmanship competitions (Junior Showmanship) youth can also participate in during their 4-H career. 4-H youth interested in these opportunities are encouraged to read closely the rules related to any competitive dog event in which they plan to compete. Eligibility, competitive classes, and awards are listed as well as information on entries, fees, facilities, and other rules that may apply.



DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS


RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

Dogs participating in the 4-H program should follow their veterinarian's recommendations for infectious disease vaccinations. At minimum, they should be current on vaccination for rabies, distemper, parvo, and have received a bordatella (kennel cough) vaccination within the last 12 months. Youth should follow their veterinarian's recommendations for deworming, flea, and tick control. Per local veterinary recommendations, they may also need to be vaccinated for leptospirosis, canine influenza, Lyme, or on heartworm medication.

DOG ID SHEET

This needs to be turned in to the 4-H educator or county office by your county's deadline.

OWNERSHIP

The dog may be owned by immediate or extended family of the 4-H youth, or may be loaned to the 4-H youth for purposes of the 4-H project. ~~If the latter, the 4-H'er must be responsible for training and handling of the dog.~~ 

SHOWMANSHIP

PURPOSE

Showmanship is concerned with how well the dog is presented by the handler to the judge. The handler and dog should appear to be a team. They should work well together, move fluidly, and give an overall picture of being one unit. Neither the dog's conformation nor it being purebred is important and will not be used in the judging process. The handler must convey knowledge and understanding of the dog's breed or the breed which the dog most resembles. The handler should present the dog according to the chosen single breed standard.

REQUIREMENTS

Dogs must be 6 months of age as of May 1 to participate in showmanship.

FACILITIES/SPACE

Showmanship competitions need an unobstructed square or rectangular space. The size is dependent on the size of dogs and number of dogs, but 40 x 50 feet is recommended as a minimum. Space should be defined using appropriate perimeter fencing, marking, etc. An Entry/Exit space of no more than 6 feet is needed for handlers to enter and exit the ring.

EQUIPMENT

Examining table for small breeds that traditionally are examined by the judge on a table. Judges will determine that for each class. Handlers are expected to know if their breed is presented on a table and have trained for it. A table will be provided by the show.

Leash and collar as appropriate for the show. Acceptable examples would be martingales, snake or choke chains with show lead, etc. No pinch collars, halties, harnesses, or retractable leashes. No slip leads/kennel leads.

CLASSES

Junior: This class is for 4-H youth ages 8–10 years old on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

Intermediate: This class is for 4-H youth ages 11–13 years old on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

Senior: This class is for 4-H youth ages 14–18 years old on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

SHOW RING PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

When armbands are required for handlers, they should be worn on the left arm with the number visible toward the judge.

The procedure used is entirely at the judge's discretion but should be the same within a class; he/she will call handlers in as a group and may split a class based on number of entries. Judging begins when the handler and dog enter the ring.

Handlers will be asked to demonstrate gaiting the dog with the rest of the class, presenting the dog in a stacked position appropriate for its breed (use an examining table for breeds judged on the table), and gaiting the dog individually following the applicable pattern. Exhibitors are expected to know the patterns that may be used for 4-H.

Please reference online for possible gaiting patterns and diagrams at www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/_files/dogs/showmanship/files/patterns-gaits.pdf.

Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring.

Bait (treats) and/or toys are allowed, and, when used properly, capture and hold the dog's attention. These should be used without distracting other exhibitors, other dogs, or the judge.

Talking to the dog is permissible providing discretion is used.

For breeds normally examined on the table, the handler should follow the judge's instructions about when to table the dog. Unless indicated otherwise, the handler should place the dog on the table while the preceding dog is being gaited.

SCORING AND EVALUATION FOR SHOWMANSHIP

There should be no double handling (help, cues, corrections, or communications) to handlers or dogs from anyone outside the show ring. Double handling should be severely penalized, up to excusing the dog/handler from the ring with no score.

Ribbons in each class are recommended to be given from 1st up to 4th place at minimum, with further placing left up to individual superintendent or county discretion (for example, up to 10th at State Fair may be appropriate).

Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion Showman ribbons or awards (trophies, belt buckles, dog-related prizes, etc.) are appropriate for each category (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) and if desired, also for all categories (Best Overall Showman, etc). This should be left up to superintendent or county discretion.

All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge. Judges are evaluating all aspects of the handler/dog duo including cleanliness, appearance, grooming, fluidity and movements, spacing, ring presence, sportsmanship, direction, knowledge, and attitude.

Please reference the score sheets on the UW Dog 4-H Project page for major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class: www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/animal-science/dogs.html.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

~~Youth should appear neat and well groomed. Shorts which are fingertip in length may be~~

~~worn. Hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.~~



Handlers should make every effort to keep their dog between themselves and the judge.

The individual gaiting pattern, a courtesy, or honor turn, is optional.

The handler should know where the judge is at all times and be certain not to block the judge's view of the dog. Be alert, since the judge may use hand motions instead of a voice request.

Conversation in the ring should be limited to the judge.



CONFORMATION

PURPOSE

Conformation classes provide youth the opportunity to compare their dog's physical characteristics to those of national breed standards.

Recognized breeds have concise and clear definitions of what they expect dogs to look like to be registered or recognized by the breed association. Judges evaluate groups of like dogs based on those national breed standards in placing groups and selecting group champions.

REQUIREMENTS

Dogs must be 6 months of age as of May 1 to participate in conformation.

FACILITIES/SPACE

Conformation competitions need an unobstructed rectangular or square space equivalent to showmanship. The size will depend on the number of exhibitors and the size of the dogs, but a minimum 40 x 50 feet is recommended. Space should be defined using appropriate perimeter fencing, marking, etc. An Entry/Exit space of no more than 6 feet is needed for handlers to enter and exit the ring.

EQUIPMENT

Examining table for small breeds that traditionally are examined by the judge on a table. Judges will determine that for each class. Handlers are expected to know if their breed is presented on a table and have trained for it. A table will be provided for the show.

Leash and collar as appropriate for the show. Acceptable examples would be martingales, snake or choke chains with show lead, etc. No pinch collars, halties, harnesses, or retractable leashes. No slip leads/kennel leads.

CLASSES

Classes are typically created based on the functionality of each breed and in what context they were intended to perform. Groups include: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-sporting, Herding, any other purebred (for example, FSS dogs would fit in this category), any other mixed breed over 14 inches, and any other mixed breed under 14 inches. Mixed breeds are Doodles, Morkies, Borgis, Goldadors, or any other dog that is composed of 2 or more purebred dogs. Wyoming 4-H uses the American Kennel Club's groupings of breeds. Please see www.akc.org for current breed groupings.



SHOW RING PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

When armbands are required for handlers, they should be worn on the left arm with the number visible toward the judge.

Bait (treats) and/or toys are allowed, and, when used properly, capture and hold the dog's attention. These should be used without distracting other exhibitors or the judge.

For breeds normally examined on the table, the handler should follow the judge's instructions about when to table the dog. Unless indicated otherwise, the handler should place the dog on the table while the preceding dog is being gaited.

Patterns will be used as in showmanship competition.

SCORING AND AWARDS FOR CONFORMATION

Ribbons in each class are recommended to be given from 1st up to 4th place at minimum, with further placing left up to individual superintendent or county discretion (for example, up to 10th at State Fair may be appropriate). It is traditional for winners of each conformation group to compete for a Best in Show award.

All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.

The judge will consider national breed standards according to the American Kennel Club, but dogs do not have to be registered. Please refer to the AKC website for breed standards of each breed.

Dogs may be altered or intact.

Dogs may have cosmetic procedures as suggested by breed standards (for example, cropped ears for Dobermans) or may be shown natural. Neither should influence placement in the class.

Dogs may have medically necessary procedures such as a missing eye, but must have 4 legs and be sound. Lamé dogs should be excused from the ring.

Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

~~Youth should appear neat and well-groomed. Shorts which are fingertip in length may be worn. Hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut~~

~~shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.~~



Handlers should make every effort to keep their dog between themselves and the judge.

The individual gaiting pattern, a courtesy, or honor turn, is optional.

The handler should know where the judge is at all times and be certain not to block the judge's view of the dog. Be alert, since the judge may use hand motions instead of a voice request.

Conversation in the ring should be limited to the judge.

It is recommended that conformation and showmanship be judged on the same day, for ease of finding judges and for ease of presenting dogs (bathed, groomed, clipped, etc.).

OBEDIENCE

PURPOSE

Obedience classes provide youth with a chance to demonstrate specific skills they have instilled in their dog. These classes take into consideration the experience of the dogs and place them into similar competitive classes regardless of the age of the youth. Obedience classes take a team effort to be successful.

REQUIREMENTS

Dogs must be 6 months of age as of May 1 to participate in obedience.

FACILITIES/SPACE

Obedience competitions need an unobstructed space of a size of 40 feet x 50 feet as a minimum. Space should be defined using appropriate perimeter fencing, marking, etc. An Entry/Exit space of at least 6 feet is needed for handlers to enter and exit the ring.



EQUIPMENT

Mats are required if ring surface is not grass or dirt.

A member must show their dog with a 6-foot leash when applicable (for example, First Year Beginner Novice, On Leash, Novice classes). The collar must be a choke, flat, or rolled collar. No flexi leads, prong collars, harnesses, head halters, or electric collars are allowed.

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Needed for Graduate Novice and Open

Youth handler must provide a judge-approved dumbbell that is not made of metal or covered in a toxic material, and is sized appropriately for the dog. Plastic and wood dumbbells are typical choices and can be sourced from online obedience stores or local shows, or wood dumbbells can be homemade.

High/Panel jump capable of meeting heights from 4 inches (minimum height) to 16 inches (maximum height) in 4 inch increments. The event is responsible for providing the jump.

Broad Jump capable of meeting distances from 8 inches (minimum distance) to 32 inches (maximum distance) using three boards. The event is responsible for providing the jump.

Needed for Utility classes

Bar jump and High panel jump capable of meeting heights from 4 inches to 16 inches in 4 inch increments. The event is responsible for providing the jump. The High jump can be the same one as used for Open.

Youth handler must provide two sets of five, identical articles not more than 6 inches in length and individually numbered. The articles may be rigid metal, leather, or wood. They may be dumbbell-shaped or they may be household

items such as canning rings; youth must not be penalized for use of cheap, non-traditional items as long as they are clean, identical, and individually identified. Tongs and a bag may be helpful as well.

Youth handler must provide three, predominately white, identical gloves of appropriate size to the dog.

Equipment descriptions and jump heights

The judge may, at his/her discretion, verify the height at withers of any dog.

Jump heights/distances to be used:

Dog's height at withers	Bar/High Jump height	Broad jump (double the height of the bar or high jump)
Less than 10"	4"	1 board*
10" – less than 15"	8"	2 boards*
15" – less than 20"	12"	3 boards*
20" and over	16"	3 boards*

* 1 board = 8" in width

CLASSES

The classes are progressively more challenging. A dog competing in one class for the year most likely would advance to the next class, or higher class, the next year. Youth may choose to move up to a new class, but once they have competed at that level with that dog, they may not move down a level with that dog. (See Scoring and Evaluation section for more on advancement.)

Exercises for each class are listed and are judged within the class in the following order:

Class	Exercises
First Year Beginner Novice	Heel on Leash, Figure 8 (on leash), Sit for Exam, Recall, Sit/Stay
On Leash	Heel on Leash, Figure 8 (on leash), Stand for Examination, Recall, Long Sit, Long Down
Novice	Heel on Leash, Figure 8 (on leash), Stand for Examination, Heel Free, Recall, Long Sit (1 minute), Long Down (1 minute), Sit Go Get Your Leash
Graduate Novice	Heel Free, Figure 8 (off leash), Drop on Recall, Dumbbell Recall, Recall over High Jump, Recall over Broad Jump, Stand Go Get Your Leash
Open	Heel Free, Figure 8 (off leash), Drop on Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve over High Jump, Broad Jump, Command Discrimination, Stand Go Get Your Leash
Utility	Signal Exercise, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Examination, Directed Jumping

A 4-H member with a dog that has previously been shown in obedience by another 4-H member, has a standard obedience title from another organization, or that has received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, must show the dog under these guidelines:

- Junior and Intermediate aged 4-H youth may move back/down one level.
- Senior aged 4-H youth must show the dog at the highest level the dog has achieved.

Once a 4-H members chooses the level at which to compete, the member may not drop back to a lower level with the same dog.

FIRST YEAR BEGINNER NOVICE

The exercises within this class are:

- Heel on Leash
- Figure 8 On Leash
- Sit for Examination
- Recall
- Sit Stay

Heel on Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise will be "Forward" and "Exercise Finished". Rally signs will be used for this exercise.

Rally Signs Needed	# of Signs
#5 Right Turn	2
#6 Left Turn	2
#7 About Turn	1
#17 Slow	1
#19 Normal	2
#18 Fast	1
#3 Halt	1

"Fast" means the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. "Slow" means the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably decreased speed. Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed.

Both change of pace signs must be followed by a normal sign. Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated. Two of each turn sign and two of each "Halt/Sit" signs must be available for the judge's use. The "Halt/Sit" sign will be used during the exercise and once at the end of the exercise. The judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The judge will allow a 5-minute walk-through for 4-H'ers to familiarize themselves with the course.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At the "Halt/Sit" sign, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal. The judge will order, "Exercise finished" at the completion of this exercise.



Figure 8 On Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise are "Forward," "Halt," and "Exercise Finished."

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between two inanimate cones or posts, which will be placed 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight will be performed on Leash; the handler may go around either post first. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two posts twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again.

A onetime single phrase of praise or encouragement by the handler to the dog will be allowed without penalty.

Sit for Examination

The principal feature of this exercise is the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying shyness or resentment. Orders are "Sit Your Dog and Leave When You


Are Ready," "Back to Your Dog," and "Exercise Finished."

This exercise is to be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash.

On the judge's order, the handler will command the dog to sit. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet to the end of the leash, turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch only the dog's head. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The handler may gather the leash at any time while returning to the dog. The dog must remain sitting until the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

Recall

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly. Orders  are "Leave Your dog," "Call Your Dog," and "Exercise Finished." The 6-foot leash is left on for this exercise.

On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward to the end of the leash and turn to face the dog. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. (No finish will be required of the dog by the handler.)

A onetime single phrase of praise or encouragement while the dog is coming to the handler will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)

Sit Stay

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position.

Orders for this exercise are "Sit Your Dog," "Leave Your Dog," and "Exercise Finished."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. The leash remains attached to the dog's collar and will be dropped/placed on the ground between the dog and the handler. When the judge gives the order "Sit your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. The judge will order "Leave your dog," and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed to walk forward, approximately 6 feet, to a location as directed by the judge. The handler will then walk around the dog in a circle keeping 6 feet away, in a direction as indicated by the judge. Upon completing a full circle around the dog, the handler will approach the dog from the front and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order "Exercise finished." The handler will then pick up the leash from the ground.

ON LEASH

The exercises within this class are on leash:

- Heel on Leash
- Figure 8 on Leash
- Stand for Examination
- Recall
- Long Sit (1 minute)
- Long Down (1 minute)

Heel on Leash

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash. The handler will stand still with the dog sitting at heel at the left side until the judge asks whether the handler is ready and gives the order, "Forward." The handler may attract the

dog's attention by saying its name and give the command or signal to heel. At the same time, the handler will start walking briskly with the dog on loose leash.

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

If desired by 4-H'ers in the class, the judge will demonstrate the heeling pattern. The judge will give the orders "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Normal," "Slow," and "Fast." These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated. In executing the "About turn," the handler will do a "Right about turn" in all cases.

Figure 8 On Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise are: "Forward," "Halt," and "Exercise Finished."

For the Figure 8, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between two inanimate cones or posts, which will be placed 8 feet apart. The Figure 8 will be performed on leash; the handler may go around either post first. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two posts twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again.

Stand for Examination

The judge will give the order "Stand the dog and leave when ready," and the handler will stand or pose the dog and, without further order from the judge, give the command and/or signal to "Stay,"

walk forward about 6 feet, turn around and stand facing the dog. The leash will be loose and clear the floor when the handler is in position. The judge will touch the dog's head, body, and hindquarters only, and then give the order, "Back to the dog," whereupon the handler will walk around behind the dog to the heel position. The dog must stand in position until the judge says, "Exercise finished." The dog must show no shyness or resentment.

Recall

To perform the Recall on Leash, the handler will stand still with the dog sitting at heel position.

Upon the order from the judge, "Leave the dog," the handler will give the dog the command and/or signal to "Stay," and walk to the end of the leash and turn to face the dog. The judge will give the order, "Call the dog," whereupon the handler will call or signal the dog to come, at the same time loosely reeling in the leash but putting no pull upon the dog. The dog must come in at a smart pace and sit directly in front of the handler. Upon order from the judge to "Finish," the handler will give the command or signal to heel. The dog must go smartly to heel position.

Long Sit (1 minute)

All dogs in a class take this exercise in one or more groups. If there are more dogs than the area can accommodate with adequate spacing of 6 feet between dogs in a single line, the class may be split into groups. The handler lines up as directed by the judge and stands with the dog at heel position. Upon order from the judge, "Sit the dog," if he/she isn't already sitting, sit the dog in heel position. Upon the further order of the judge to "Leave the dogs," the handler will give the dog the command and/or signal to "Stay," the handler will move to the end of the leash and turn to stand facing the dog. The leash will clear the floor when the handler is in position. The judge will then order, "Back to the dogs." The handler must return promptly to the dog, walking around and in back of the dog to the heel position. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the judge says, "Exercise finished."

Long Down (1 minute)

The long down exercise is done in the same manner as the long sit, except that instead of sitting the dog, the handler will, on order from the judge to "Down the dog," command and/or signal the dog to lie down without touching the dog or its collar. The dog must stay in the down position until the judge says, "Exercise finished." If the dog gets up and starts to roam or follow the handler, the judge will 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.

NOVICE

The exercises within this class are:

- Heel on Leash
- Figure 8 on Leash
- Heel Free
- Stand for Examination
- Recall Off Leash
- Sit Go Get Your Leash
- Long Sit (1 minute)
- Long Down (1 minute)

Heel on Leash

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

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

If desired by 4-H'ers in the class, the judge will demonstrate the heeling pattern. The judge will give the orders "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn,"

"Left turn," "About turn," "Normal," "Slow," and "Fast." These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated. In executing the "About turn," the handler will do a "Right about turn" in all cases.

Figure 8 On Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise are: "Forward," "Halt," and "Exercise Finished."

For the Figure 8, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between two inanimate cones or posts, which will be placed 8 feet apart. The Figure 8 will be performed on leash; the handler may go around either post first. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two posts twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again.

Heel Free

This will be performed as Heel on Leash, except that the dog is off leash.

Stand for Examination

The judge will give the order "Stand the dog and leave when ready," and the handler will stand or pose the dog and, without further order from the judge, give the command and/or signal to "Stay," walk forward about 6 feet, turn around and stand facing the dog. For the Novice class, this exercise is performed off leash. The judge will touch the dog's head, body, and hindquarters only, and then give the order, "Back to the dog," whereupon the handler will walk around behind the dog to the heel position. The dog must stand in position until the judge says, "Exercise finished." The dog must show no shyness or resentment.

Recall Off Leash

The handler will stand still with the dog sitting in heel position. Upon the judge's order or signal to "Leave the dog," the handler will give the dog the command and/or signal to stay and walk toward the other end of the ring (about 35 feet). The handler will turn to face the dog with hands hanging naturally at their sides. Upon order or signal from the judge to "Call the dog," the handler will call or signal the dog to come. The dog must come straight in at a brisk pace and sit straight, centered immediately in front of the feet and close enough so the handler can readily touch its head without moving either foot or having to stretch forward. The dog is not to touch the handler nor sit between the feet.

Upon order or signal from the judge to "Finish," the handler will give the command or signal to heel. The dog must go directly to heel position and sit.

Sit Go Get Your Leash

This is the same exercise as used in AKC Novice. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog sit and stay in position until the handler has returned to heel position. The orders are "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash" and "Back to your dog." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge, approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order to "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward directly to the place inside the ring gate designated by the judge for the leash. The handler will pick up the leash, stop, and wait for the judge's order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain sitting until the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will tell the handler "Attach your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog." The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling, or tugging on the leash.

Judging procedures: Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide where the leash will be placed, inside the ring on a chair or similar leash holder. The leash will be placed inside the ring by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. When positioning the dog and handler for this exercise, the judge should ensure that such positioning will permit the dog to keep the handler in its direct line of vision as the handler leaves and returns, and that the handler is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. Once the exercise is finished, the judge must watch the dog and handler exit the ring together.

Long Sit (1 minute)

This is to be performed on a 6-foot leash, as in the On Leash class.

Long Down (1 minute)

This is to be performed on a 6-foot leash, as in the On Leash class.

GRADUATE NOVICE

The exercises within this class are:

- Heel Free
- Figure 8 Off Leash
- Drop on Recall
- Dumbbell Recall
- Recall over High Jump
- Recall over Broad Jump
- Stand Go Get Your Leash

Heel Free

This will be performed as in Heel on Leash, except that the dog is off leash.

Figure 8 Off Leash

On specific orders from the judge to "Forward," the handler will walk around between two objects that are about 8 feet apart.

This exercise will be conducted the same as Figure 8 for Beginner Novice/On Leash/Novice, except the dog is off leash. The handler and the dog will go twice completely around the Figure 8, and the judge will order at least one halt during and another halt at the end of the exercise. The handler may travel the Figure 8 in either direction.

Drop on Recall

The recall is performed as in the Novice Recall class with the following difference: As the dog is coming, the judge will give an arm or a hand signal for the handler to drop the dog. The dog must drop completely to a down position immediately on command or signal from the handler and must remain in the down position until, on order or signal from the judge, the handler calls or signals the dog to come. The handler completes the recall as in the Novice Recall description.

Dumbbell Recall

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog promptly takes the dumbbell from the handler and delivers it as in the Open Retrieve on Flat. The orders are "Give your dog the dumbbell," "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," "Take it" and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler will present the dumbbell and command or signal the dog to take it. The dog must promptly accept, take and hold the dumbbell. On the judge's order, the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn to face the dog and stand naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop without unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell. On order from the judge to "Take it," the handler will give a command or signal and take the dumbbell. The finish will be performed as in the Novice Recall. All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and Open Retrieve on Flat will apply. The judge must approve the

dumbbell to ensure it meets the requirements stated in the Open Retrieve on Flat exercise.

Recall over Broad Jump

The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, is that the dog clear the jump without touching it or stepping between boards. The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump, (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) facing the lowest hurdle. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, go around the hurdle(s) to at least 8 feet beyond the last hurdle, then turn and face the dog. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. The dog must clear the entire distance of the broad jump and return to the handler as in the Novice Recall.

Recall over High Jump

The principle feature of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Dumbbell Recall, is that the dog return over the jump. The orders are "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish." This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Recall except that the dog must clear the high jump. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay, go around the jump to at least 8 feet beyond the other side of the jump, then turn, face the dog and stand naturally. (These 8-foot distances will be clearly marked.) The height of the jump will be the same as it is for the Open Retrieve over High Jump exercise.

Stand Go Get Your Leash

This is the same exercise as used in AKC Open A (as of May 1, 2018). This exercise replaces the old Out of Sight Stays. The principal feature of this

exercise is that the dog stand and stay in position until the handler has returned to heel position. The orders are "Stand your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash" and "Back to your dog." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge, approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or the dog's collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position. On further order to "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward directly to the place outside the ring gate designated by the judge for the leash. The handler will pick up the leash, re-enter the ring, stop, and wait for the judge's order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will tell the handler "Attach your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog." The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling, or tugging on the leash.

Judging procedures: Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide where the leash will be placed, outside the ring on a chair or similar leash holder. The leash will be placed outside the ring by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. When positioning the dog and handler for this exercise, the judge should ensure that such positioning will permit the dog to keep the handler in its direct line of vision as the handler leaves and returns to the ring, and that the handler, when reentering the ring, is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. During this exercise, the judge must be in position to watch the dog and see the handler leave and return to the ring. Once the exercise is finished, the judge must watch the dog and handler exit the ring together.

OPEN

The exercises within this class are:

- Heel Free
- Figure 8 Off Leash
- Drop on Recall
- Retrieve on Flat
- Retrieve over High Jump
- Broad Jump
- Stand Go Get Your Leash
- Command Discrimination

Heel Free

This will be performed as in Heel On Leash, except that the dog is off leash.

Figure 8 Off Leash

This exercise will be performed as in the Graduate Novice class.

Command Discrimination

This is the same exercise as used in AKC Open A (as of May 1, 2018). This is one of two exercises that replaces the old Out of Sight Stays. The principal features of this exercise are the dog's correct response to the handler's first commands and/or signals and that the dog stays until the handler returns to heel position. The orders are "Leave your dog" and "Back to your dog." The judge must use signals for directing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change position except for the first position and that order is "Stand your dog." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order to "Stand your dog." The handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately walk forward 5 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the second position (down). The judge will then order "Leave your dog." The handler

may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately turn around and walk forward an additional 5 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the third position (sit). The judge will then order "Back to your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay, and then must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must stay in position without additional commands or signals until the handler has returned to heel position. The handler's hands and arms must hang naturally at the handler's side.

Judging procedure: This exercise may be performed in an area of the ring that is at least 40 feet in length. The 5-foot distances must be clearly marked. The judge must be positioned so both the dog and handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. An excellent position for judging this exercise is at an adequate distance to the side and slightly to the rear of the dog.

Drop on Recall

The recall is performed as in the Graduate Novice class.

Retrieve on the Flat

The handler will stand with the dog sitting at the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will give the order, "Throw it," whereupon the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay (which may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell), and throw the dumbbell. The judge will give the order, "Send the dog," whereupon the handler gives the command and/or signal to the dog to retrieve. The retrieve must be done at a brisk trot or gallop, the dog going directly to the dumbbell and retrieving it without unnecessary mouthing or playing. The dog must sit straight in front of the handler to deliver the dumbbell and must be close enough the handler can take the dumbbell without moving or stretching forward. On order from the judge to "Take it," the handler will give a command or signal and take the dumbbell from the dog. The

judge will then command to "Finish," which is done as in the Recall Off Leash.

Retrieve over High Jump

In retrieving the dumbbell over the high jump, the exercise is performed as the Retrieve on the Flat, except the dog must jump the high jump both going and coming. The high jump shall be jumped clear, and the jump heights shall be according to dog size.

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

Broad Jump

The handler will stand with the dog sitting at the heel position in front of and at least 8 feet from the jump. On order from the judge to "Leave the dog," the handler gives the dog the command and/or signal to stay, and the handler goes to a position facing the right side of the jump, with the toes about 2 feet from the jump and within the range of the first and last hurdles. On order from the judge, the handler gives a command or signal to jump, and the dog must clear the entire distance of the Broad Jump without touching the jump.

Without further command or signal, the dog returns to a sitting position immediately in front of the handler, as in the Recall. The handler changes the position by executing a right angle turn while the dog is in midair, but the handler remains in the same spot. On order from the judge, the handler gives the command or signal to finish, and the dog finishes as in the Recall.

Stand Go Get Your Leash

This is the same exercise as used in AKC Open A (as of May 1, 2018). This exercise replaces the old Out of Sight Stays. The exercise will be as described in the Graduate Novice section.

UTILITY

All exercises are performed as in AKC Utility. The exercises within this class are:

- Signal Exercise
- Scent Discrimination
- Directed Retrieve
- Moving Stand and Examination
- Directed Jumping

Signal Exercise

In the signal exercise, the heeling is done as in the Heel Free exercise, except that throughout the entire exercise the handler uses hand signals only and must not speak to the dog at any time. On order from the judge to "Forward," the handler signals the dog to walk at heel and then, on specific order from the judge, the handler and the dog perform a left turn, right turn, about turn, halt, slow, normal, and fast. These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated.

Then, on order from the judge and while the dog is walking at heel, the handler signals the dog to stand in the heel position; on the order to "Leave the dog," the handler signal the dog to stay, then the handler goes to the far end of the ring and turns to face the dog. On separate and specific signals from the judge, the handler gives the signals to drop, to sit, to come and to finish, as in the Recall.

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

Scent Discrimination

This exercise is done as in AKC Utility. In each of these exercises, the dog must select by scent only and retrieve an article the handler has handled. The handler provides two sets of articles, each composed of five identical articles not more than 6 inches long. The sets may be made 1) entirely of rigid metal, 2) of leather designed so that nothing but leather is visible, except of the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the

article together, or 3) of wood. The articles in each set must be legibly numbered, each with a different number.

The handler presents all the articles to the judge, and the judge designates one article from each of the sets.

These two articles will be kept on the judge's table until the handler picks them up, holding only one article in the hand at a time. The scent may be imparted to the article only from the hands, which must remain in plain sight. The handler has the option as to which article the handler picks up first. As the handler is scenting the article, the judge will ask, "What method will you be using to send your dog?" The handler should respond with either "After a sit" or "Send directly." At this time, the handler may inform the judge the procedure will be the same for both articles. If not informed, the judge will ask the question again for the next article.

Before the start of the exercises, the judge or the steward will lightly handle each of the remaining eight articles before placing them at random in the ring about 6 inches apart from each other. The handler will stand about 15 feet from the articles, with the dog sitting at the heel position with its back to the articles. On order from the judge, the handler immediately places the article on the judge's book or worksheet. The judge, without touching the article with his/her hands, will place it among the other articles.

On order from the judge to "Send your dog," the handler has the option as to how the dog is sent. The handler may give the command or signal to heel and will turn in place, either right or left, to face the articles. The handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler will then give the command or signal to retrieve. Or the handler may do a right about turn, simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this case, the dog should not assume a sitting position but must go directly to the articles. Handlers may give their scent by extending the palm of one hand in front of the dog's nose or gently touching the dog's nose, but the arm and

hand must be returned to a natural position before they turn and face the articles. The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk trot or gallop. It may take any reasonable time to select the correct article but must work continuously.

After picking up the correct article, the dog will complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat. This procedure will be followed for both articles. If a dog retrieves the wrong first article, that article and the correct one must be removed. They will be placed on the table or chair, and the next exercise will be done with one less article.

Directed Retrieve

In this exercise, the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position facing away from the end of the ring where the gloves will be dropped. The handler provides three predominately white gloves, which must be open and approved by the judge. The judge or steward places the three gloves across the end of the ring in back of the handler and the dog, one in each corner and one in the center, about 3 feet from sides of the ring. The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three," reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order.

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

The exercise consists of a single retrieve, and the judge will use the same glove position for all dogs in the class for that day.

Moving Stand and Examination

The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel, stand, and stay on command as the handler walks, accept the examination without shyness or resentment, and on command, return to the handler.

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

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

The judge will approach the dog from the front and briefly examine the dog by going over the body of the dog with her/his hands as in dog show judging, except that under no circumstances will the examination include the dog's mouth or testicles.

The judge will then order, "Call the dog to heel," whereupon the handler commands and/or signals the dog to return to the heel position. The dog immediately returns in a brisk manner to the proper heel position beside the handler.



Directed Jumping

The jumps should be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the sides of the ring and 18–20 feet apart, the Bar Jump on one side, the High Jump on the other. From a position on the center line of the ring and about 20 feet from the line of the jumps, the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position. On order, from the judge to “Send the dog,” the handler commands and/or signals the dog to go forward at a brisk pace toward the other end of the ring, to an equal distance beyond the jumps and in the approximate center, where the handler give the command to “Sit.” The dog must stop, turn, and sit facing the handler.

The judge will then designate which jump is to be taken first by the dog, whereupon the handler commands and/or signals the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump, the dog sitting in front of the handler and finishing as in the Recall. While the dog is in midair, the handler may pivot 45 degrees so as to be facing the dog as it returns. The judge will say, “Exercise finished” after the dog has returned to the heel position.

When the dog is sitting in the heel position for the second part of the exercise, the judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the order to “Send the dog.” The same procedure is to be followed

for the dog taking the opposite jump. It is optional with the judge which jump is taken first, but both jumps must be taken to complete the exercise, and the judge must not designate the jump until the dog is at the far end of the ring.

The height of the jumps shall be the same required for other obedience classes.

OBEDIENCE RING PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

When armbands are required for handlers, they should be worn on the left arm with the number visible toward the judge.

A 4-H member may compete in only one obedience class per dog.

Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring.

Handlers may pick either right or left finish whenever a finish is required.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands. Hands may be held in a natural position at their sides, or the left hand may be placed at the handler’s belt or navel area and right hand held at the side in a natural position.



Male and female dogs will be shown in the same class. Youth must inform show management/judge if competing with a female in heat. Females in heat will be shown last in the class and must be kept away from the show ring until their turn to compete.

For class entries, an “A” dog is a youth’s first entered animal, while a “B” dog is a second/ additional/different animal. Youth only have one “A” dog, regardless of whether they stop showing it, or the “A” dog is sold or dies. Their “B” dog can never

become an "A" dog. An exhibitor who competes in the "A" classes with a particular dog stays in the "A" classes with that particular dog for each level to which they advance. The same is true for the "B" classes. Example: Same dog advances from the On Leash A class to the Novice A class.

Youth must inform fair personnel of the dog's jump height at check-in.

A 4-H member with a dog that has previously been shown in obedience by another 4-H member, has a standard obedience title from another organization, or that has received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, must show the dog under these guidelines:

Junior and Intermediate aged 4-H youth may move back/down one level.

Senior aged 4-H youth must show the dog at the highest level the dog has achieved.

Once a 4-H member chooses the level at which to compete, the member may not drop back to a lower level with the same dog.

SCORING AND AWARDS FOR OBEDIENCE EXERCISES

Dogs are evaluated based on their performance related to specific commands, skills, and challenges associated with the class in which they are competing. Each class has its own score sheet, and each is scored with a maximum score of 200 points.

A dog receiving a qualifying score of at least 170 points at the designated annual county 4-H show may advance the following year to the next higher class but **MUST** advance after receiving three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show.

In the interest of brevity, it is strongly recommended those chosen to judge 4-H obedience be familiar with obedience competition, especially for Open and Utility entries. Listing all

the potential deductions would take double the amount of space as used here for describing the exercises. It is recommended the AKC obedience regulations be consulted for what a qualifying versus non-qualifying performance would entail, see <https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>.

Please reference the score sheets for specific exercises, major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class.

When heeling, handlers with tight leads, pulling, dragging, correcting, or otherwise forcing dogs into position should be penalized from minor 1 point deductions up to non-qualifying scores or excusal from the ring.

Failure of the dog to perform automatic sits while heeling should be penalized. Automatic sits are a very basic part of obedience.

Failure of the dog to execute the essential components of the exercise should receive a non-qualifying score (for example, failure to heel off leash, jump, or retrieve).

Aggressive dogs must be excused from the ring and receive no score.

Dogs who are out of control, lame, or otherwise injured must be excused from the ring and receive no score.

Judges should strongly reward teamwork, loose leads, confident dogs, and smooth performances. Imperfect heeling on a loose lead with a happy, attentive dog should always be scored higher than a sulky dog in perfect heel position that is being held there by the handler's tight lead.

Judges should score 4-H youth with the understanding that performances are rarely, if ever, equivalent to qualifying performances in AKC. Judges should penalize youth to a degree appropriate to their age and obedience class.

When calculating High In Trial scores for the best obedience handler at a competition (if desired),

will be determined by the highest score(s) from On Leash through Utility classes.

If there is a tie for the High In Trial award, the winner will be determined by a runoff using a heeling pattern.

Dogs soiling or urinating in the ring during judging will be disqualified and receive no score. The ring must be cleaned before the next exhibitor.

Dogs that leave the ring without their handlers must receive no score.

Handlers are not allowed to use bait (treats) and/or toys. The use of such items will result in a disqualification and excusal from the ring.

There should be no double handling (help, cues, corrections, or communications) to handlers or dogs from anyone outside the show ring. Double handling should be severely penalized, up to and including excusing the dog/handler from the ring with no score.

Dogs that do not do a qualifying performance of 170 by completing the essential components of each exercise should not be allowed to continue to State Fair.

Judges should not feel obligated to give any or all awards if dogs do not meet the minimum requirements for each level.

Ribbons in each class are recommended to be given from 1st to 4th place at minimum, with further placing left up to individual county or superintendent discretion (for example, up to 10th at State Fair may be appropriate).

All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

Youth should appear neat and well groomed. Shorts which are fingertip in length may be worn. Hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.

Conversation in the ring should be limited to the judge.



RALLY

PURPOSE

Rally classes provide youth the opportunity to move through a variety of stations in which the handler performs certain tasks with their dog. Rally is a combination of skills associated in obedience with that of the course nature used in agility. Youth are timed in the event and scored on how well they perform the tasks at each station with their dog.

REQUIREMENTS

Dogs must be 6 months of age as of May 1 to participate in rally.

FACILITIES/SPACE

The required minimum area for a rally course is 40 x 50 feet; however, 50 x 60 feet is highly recommended. If indoors, the floor covering or ground surface must have a firm footing, using rubber or similar no-slip material at least 4 feet wide for the takeoffs and landings of all jumps. If outdoors, the ring should have a clean and level surface with the grass cut short.

EQUIPMENT

Leashes and collars as described for obedience.

The jumps may be high (panel) jumps, or bar jumps as described for obedience. The club should provide one jump for the Advanced course, and two upright jumps for the judge to use on the Excellent course.

Fifty-one signs and 22 sign holders are required. Signs should be a minimum of 8-1/2 x 11 inches and a maximum of 11 x 17 inches.

At least 7 cones at least 12 inches high must be available for figure 8s, serpentines, or spirals if the judge wishes to use those signs on the course.

All signs/sign holders (not including those for Start and Finish) will be clearly and sequentially

numbered on the course, with numbers approximately 3 inches high. Signs with an asterisk (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, and 34) may be used multiple times on a rally course. Two of each of these signs must be available for the judge's use. All other signs may only be used once on any course. Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a "Halt" or no forward motion. Designated wording and symbols must be used. Weather conditions should be considered when securing signs and holders. Colors used are optional.

Rally signs used will be the current (2017) AKC signs to minimize confusion. The descriptions can be found here: <https://cdn.akc.org/Rally/2017-rev-rally-minisignswdescriptions-1-2018.pdf>, and the printable version can be found here: https://cdn.akc.org/Rally/2017_AKC_Rally_Signs_Set_05-16-17_web.pdf.

RALLY JUMP HEIGHTS

Dog's height at withers	Jump height
Less than 10"	4"
10" – less than 15"	8"
15" – less than 20"	12"
20" and over	16"

CLASSES

Classes are based on experience of the dog and age of youth/handler. Dogs are classified as being Novice, Pre-Advanced, Advanced, Excellent, or Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE). Youth age categories follow showmanship divisions. Youth and dogs advance classes by advancing their age or by advancing the experience and skills of their dog.

Dog divisions are as follows:

Class and divisions	Exercises
Novice Dog (on leash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Intermediate Senior 	10–15 stations with three to five being stationary exercises.
Pre-Advanced Dog (on leash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Intermediate Senior 	12–17 stations with three to seven being stationary exercises. Must include three Advanced signs. No jumps.
Advanced (off leash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No age divisions 	12–17 stations with three to seven being stationary exercises. Must include three Advanced signs and only one jump included.
Excellent (off leash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No age divisions 	15–20 stations with three to seven being stationary exercises. Must include 2 Excellent signs, 3 Advanced signs, and two jumps.
RAE (off leash) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No age divisions Handler and dog may show at this level indefinitely. This is the only class where dog and handler will be competing in two courses with the same dog at the same show. 	15–20 with three to seven being stationary exercises. Must include 2 Excellent signs, 3 Advanced signs, and two jumps. At this level, the handler and dog will compete in both Advanced and Excellent at the same show. The handler and dog must earn a qualifying score of 70 in each of the classes (Advanced and Excellent) to qualify and earn ribbons and/or prizes.

SHOW RING PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

Youth follow a course with numbered stations in order and perform the identified exercise posted at each station.

Youth, without their dogs, will be given the opportunity to walk the course prior to competing. A 5–10 minute walk through must be available to participants.

The judge should be available in the ring during this period to answer any questions the youth might have or to demonstrate the course to youth.

Signs are placed to the handler's right side, except for change in directions. The designated exercise should be performed in close proximity to the sign itself, either in front, back of, or beside the sign. Signs will never be used as an obstacle within the course (for example, they are not one of the cones for a serpentine).

Each performance is timed. The time starts when the handler passes the start sign and ends when the handler passes the finish sign.

Youth must report their dog's jump height to the rally ring officials at check-in for their class.

Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring.

When armbands are required for handlers, they should be worn on the left arm with the number visible toward the judge.

A 4-H member with a dog that has previously been shown in rally by another 4-H member, has a standard rally title from another organization, or that has received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, must show the dog under these guidelines:

- Junior and Intermediate aged 4-H youth may move back/down one level.
- Senior aged 4-H youth must show the dog at the highest level the dog has achieved.

- Once a 4-H member chooses the level at which to compete, the member may not drop back to a lower level with the same dog.

SCORING AND EVALUATION

A dog can be entered in only one rally class.

Each dog starts with a perfect score (100) and receives deductions as the faults are made by the dog or handler.

A dog receiving a qualifying score of at least 70 points at the designated annual county 4-H show may advance the following year to the next higher class but **MUST** advance after receiving three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show.

Handler errors can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations. Once a handler has stopped on any halt exercise, the handler cannot move their feet or touch the dog to assist the dog without incurring a handler error.

Handlers are not allowed to use bait (treats) and/or toys. The use of such items will result in a no score.

Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.

Fastest times will be used to break ties on scores at all levels.

Aggressive dogs must be excused from the ring and receive no score.

Dogs that are out of control, lame, or otherwise injured must be excused from the ring and receive no score.

Judges should strongly reward teamwork, loose leads, confident dogs, and smooth performances. Imperfect heeling on a loose lead with a happy, attentive dog should always be scored higher than a sulky dog in perfect heel position that is being held there by the handler's tight lead.

Judges should score 4-H youth with the understanding that performances are rarely, if ever, equivalent to qualifying performances in AKC. Judges should penalize youth to a degree appropriate to their age and rally class.

Ribbons in each class are recommended to be given from 1st up to 4th place at minimum, with further placing left to individual event discretion (for example, up to 10th at State Fair may be appropriate).

Judges should not feel obligated to give any or all awards if dogs do not meet the minimum requirements for each level.

All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.

Please reference the score sheets for major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

Handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands or signals using one or both arms and hands are permitted; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time.

It is recommended judges be utilized who compete in rally or obedience and are familiar with signs, ring procedures, and qualifying performances in order to be fair to the 4-H youth.

Youth should appear neat and well groomed. Shorts which are fingertip in length may be worn. Hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.

AGILITY

PURPOSE

Agility provides youth the opportunity to compete in classes that demonstrate the ability of their dog to accomplish obstacles. Agility courses are established based on the experience and physical size of the dog. Handlers complete the designed course as fast as possible, working with dogs by providing verbal and physical cues to complete each obstacle correctly.

REQUIREMENTS

Dogs must be a minimum of 12 months old as of May 1 to compete in agility. Due to the stress of jumping and turning on growing bones, joints, and tendons, leaders must not make exceptions for this.

It is recommended handlers and dogs have a solid obedience foundation before competing in agility.

FACILITIES/SPACE

Ideal ring size is 100 x 120 feet with a minimum size for Levels 1, 2, and 3 being at least 5,000 square feet. There should be no poles or holes for the handler to contend with during competition.

EQUIPMENT

AKC equipment specification will be used at the Wyoming State 4-H Dog Show, except for the teeter, and is recommended at the county fair level to minimize confusion.



Ken Gee

AGILITY JUMP HEIGHTS

Dog's height at withers	Jump height	Tire jump height	Pause table height	Broad jump (double the upright jump height)
Less than 10"	4"	4"	8"	1 board*
10 to 15"	8"	4"	8"	2 boards*
15 to 20"	12"	8"	16"	3 boards*
Over 20"	16"	12"	16"	3 boards*

*1 board = 8" in width

It is recommended there be a minimum of 15 feet to 18 feet between obstacles, with a minimum of 18 feet to a jump and 21 feet to a spread jump.

CLASSES

Classes are based on height of the dog at the withers and increasing difficulty of course obstacles.

OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE

Dogs must enter the Weave Poles by passing between poles number 1 and number 2 from right to left. They must then pass from left to right through poles number 2 and number 3 and continue this weaving sequence until they pass between the last two poles. If the sequence is broken, the dog must restart the Weave Poles at the first pole, beginning anew between poles number 1 and number 2 from right to left. Dogs are allowed three attempts at the Weave Poles, then must go on.

Dogs must touch the contact zone of the A-frame and Dog Walk on the down side only, with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle.

Dogs are not required to assume a position (sit or down) on the table, but they must stay on the table once they have jumped up on it. The table count begins when the dog gets on the table, not when the dog is in a specific position.

The Tire Jump will be set at 4 inches lower than the class jump height.

A-frame and Dog Walk should not be set up in sequence, or as the first or last obstacle on a course.

Triple Bar Jump and Broad Jump shall not be the first obstacle on the course and if set up in sequence, there shall be a minimum of 21 feet between the two jumps.

Level 1 (on leash) is focused on obstacle familiarization. Contact equipment is at a low level.

Level 2 (off leash) introduces obstacle performance. Contact equipment is at a low level.

Level 3 (off leash) focuses on obstacle performance without weave poles. Contact equipment is at full height.

Level 4 (similar to AKC Novice Class) is focused on obstacle performance but includes weave poles.

Level 5 (similar to AKC Open Class) is focused on enhanced obstacle performance with more handling required.

Level 6 (similar to AKC Excellent Class) is to provide an opportunity for dogs and handlers to demonstrate their advanced skills in agility.

Level 7 (similar to AKC Master class), which is the same course as Level 6, is for those dogs who have received 3 qualifying scores at their 4-H designated county competition in Level 6 (mandatory move-up). Dogs may continue in Level 7 indefinitely.

Mandatory obstacles for each level are as follows:

<p>Level 1 (optional): 9–10 obstacles on leash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog walk (2 feet) ▪ Single bar jumps ▪ Panel jump ▪ Pause table ▪ A-frame (3-foot) ▪ Open tunnel ▪ Broad jump <p>Note: Winged jumps are not allowed.</p>	<p>Level 2: 9–10 obstacles off leash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog walk (2 feet) ▪ Single bar jumps ▪ Panel jump ▪ Pause table ▪ A-frame (3-foot) ▪ Open tunnel ▪ Tire jump ▪ Broad jump <p>Note: Winged jumps are not allowed.</p>
<p>Level 3: 10–13 obstacles off leash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog walk (4 feet) ▪ Single bar jumps ▪ Panel jump ▪ Pause table ▪ A-frame (5-foot) ▪ Open tunnel ▪ Tire jump ▪ Broad jump ▪ Double bar jump <p>Note: Winged jumps are allowed.</p>	<p>Level 4: 14–16 obstacles (similar to AKC Novice) off leash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog walk (4 feet) ▪ Single bar jumps ▪ Panel jump ▪ Pause table ▪ A-frame (5-foot) ▪ Open tunnel ▪ Tire jump ▪ Weave poles (6 consecutive poles) ▪ Choose 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad jump ▪ Double jump ▪ Triple jump <p>Note: Winged jumps are allowed.</p>
<p>Level 5: 14–16 obstacles (similar to AKC Open) off leash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog walk (4 feet) ▪ Single bar jump ▪ Panel jump ▪ Pause table ▪ A-frame (5-foot) ▪ Open tunnel (up to 2) ▪ Tire jump ▪ Weave poles ▪ (12 consecutive poles) ▪ Choose 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad jump ▪ Double jump ▪ Triple jump <p>Note: Winged jumps and dummy (jumps not included in the course the dog is supposed to take) jumps are allowed.</p>	<p>Levels 6/7: 15–18 obstacles (similar to AKC Excellent/Master) off leash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog walk (4 feet) ▪ Single bar jump ▪ Panel jump ▪ Pause table ▪ A-frame (5-foot) ▪ Open tunnel (up to 2) ▪ Tire jump ▪ Weave poles ▪ (12 consecutive poles) ▪ Choose 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad jump ▪ Double jump ▪ Triple jump <p>Note: Winged jumps and dummy (jumps not included in the course the dog is supposed to take) jumps are allowed.</p>

AGILITY RING PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

A dog can be entered in only one agility class.

The maximum time for a run is 2 minutes with the fastest times used to break ties on scores at all levels. Time starts when the dog's nose crosses the first obstacle and stops when its nose crosses the last obstacle. Electric eyes can be used on the course (first/last obstacle) if available.

Handlers in Level 1 must hold and secure the lead at ALL times except when the dog is going through a tunnel. After the tunnel, the leash **MUST** be picked up before going on to the next obstacle.

In Levels 1 and 2, the handler may lightly touch the contact or the dog; however, they may not force

the dog into position. (Example: pushing on the dog to make it sit.)

Prior to each change of course level, courses are explained by the judge, and handlers are allowed to walk through the course without their dogs to familiarize themselves of the course pattern. The judge will allow a certain amount of time for the walk through before runs begin, for example, "Handlers will have eight minutes to familiarize themselves with the course."

Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. For Levels 2 – 7, the handler enters the ring on leash and sets up the dog in a position to begin the run. When the judge signals to begin, the handler removes the leash, places it on the ground, and begins the run. The dog may sit, down, or stand to begin the run. After the dog has



performed the last obstacle, the leash is attached and the handler exits the ring.

In levels 2-7, the handler may take a small toy or treat into the ring. Before the leash is removed at the beginning of the run, the toy or treat must be placed in a pocket so it will not fall out. It may not be removed until the leash is attached at the end of the run.

Any dog whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears, or beard interferes with its performance may have its hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes. Ribbons and bows are not permitted.

A 4-H member with a dog that has previously been shown in agility by another 4-H member, has a standard agility title from another organization, or that has received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, must show the dog under these guidelines:

Junior and Intermediate 4-H youth may move back/down one level.

Senior 4-H youth must show the dog at the highest level the dog has achieved.

Once a 4-H member chooses the level at which to compete, the member may not drop back to a lower level with the same dog.

It is strongly discouraged to run pregnant dogs.

Bitches in season will run at the end of each class.

SCORING AND EVALUATION FOR AGILITY

Each dog starts with a perfect score (100) and receives deductions as the faults are made by the dog or handler. The level at which a youth participates with their dog advances based on the amount and difficulty of the obstacles as well as the degree to which interactions occur between dog and handler. As a dog scores a minimal number of points, it is considered to have a "qualifying score."

A dog receiving a qualifying score of at least 75 points at the designated annual county 4-H show may advance the following year to the next higher class but MUST advance after receiving the following:



- ~~• Levels 1, 2, and 3 two qualifying scores~~
- ~~• Levels 4, 5, 6, and 7 three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show.~~

All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.

If the timer malfunctions and the dog has a qualifying score over 75, the dog shall be allowed to complete a second run only to determine the official time. The score from the first run is the official score.

Dogs who do not do a qualifying performance of 75 by completing the essential components of each obstacle should not be allowed to continue to State Fair.

Judges should not feel obligated to give any or all awards if dogs do not meet the minimum requirements for each level.

Aggressive dogs must be excused from the ring and receive no score.

Dogs who are out of control, lame, or otherwise injured must be excused from the ring and receive no score.

Dogs who leave the ring receive no score.

Dogs soiling or urinating in the ring during judging will receive no score. The ring must be cleaned before the next exhibitor.

Handlers are not allowed to touch (except in level 1 and 2) or perform the obstacles themselves. Such actions will result in a no score.

A dog unable to complete the course for any reason (ceasing to work for a significant period of

time as defined by the judge, being out of control, etc.) will receive no score.

Dogs on lead must be a willing participant. Handlers must not use the lead to make the dog perform the obstacle. A 10 point deduction will be taken per occurrence for using the lead to make the dog perform.

A handler with a dog refusing an obstacle for the third time will be asked by the judge to go on to the next obstacle resulting in a 10 point deduction.

Handlers will have three attempts at the weave poles in Level 4 without penalty. After three unsuccessful attempts, they must move on. In Levels 5, 6, and 7, each attempt at the weave poles will be counted with the appropriate deduction for a refusal. Weave poles must be successfully completed to receive a qualifying score.

Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.

Ribbons in each class are recommended to be given from 1st up to 4th place at minimum, with further placing left to individual county or superintendent discretion (for example, up to 10th at State Fair may be appropriate).

All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.

Please reference the score sheets for specific exercises, major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class. Score sheets are posted online at: www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/animal-science/dogs.html.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

Youth should appear neat and well groomed. Shorts which are fingertip in length may be worn. Hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.

A dog and handler team are strongly encouraged to participate in one year of dog obedience and/or rally training before participating in agility. Concurrently participating in dog obedience and/or rally training is also acceptable.

It is recommended people selected for judging should compete in and be familiar with AKC, UKC, NADAC, ASCA, or USDAA, etc., agility trials so they set up safe courses and judge fairly.





WYOMING 4-H DOG SHOW GUIDELINES
MARCH 2023

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