



## Dog Talk



# AKC Obedience Judging Articles

by John Cox

### **JUDGING ARTICLES:**

Updated to reflect the changes coming December 1, 2015.

TAKE A MOMENT! STEP INTO THE SHOES OF AN OBEDIENCE JUDGE

ONE STANDARD OF JUDGING -OR- DOUBLE STANDARD

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AKC Judge's Books

## Take A Moment, Step Into The Shoes of an Obedience Judge

by John Cox

Take a moment and consider yourself as one applying to judge in the sport of Obedience and look to what it takes to fill the shoes of such a judge. We are all quite opinionated when it comes to the question of what makes an excellent Obedience judge and opinions will vary as to what it takes to fill the shoes of an obedience judge. What kind of judge would YOU make and how would YOU go about judging? As in every field there are variations (some good and some that could use improvement) in how an individual accomplishes a task so consider the options in meeting your ideals of an EXCELLENT judge. Take a close look at some of the aspects and decision-making involved in judging with you stepping into the ring as the judge.

You have decided that you want to judge obedience trials so now what are the steps required to meet this goal? One starts by applying first for Novice - Open and Utility are applied for separately at a later time. Before prematurely applying to judge Novice Obedience Classes at American Kennel Club member or licensed trials, the AKC has certain requirements that must be met. Failure to meet any requirement will result in the application being returned. Exemptions from some requirements may be made for applicants from Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico.

**To qualify as an applicant – you must have:**

1. Personally owned, trained and titled a dog to an AKC Utility Dog (UD) title and at least one other dog to an AKC Companion Dog (CD) title;
2. Been active in the sport a minimum of six (6) consecutive years;
3. Acted as a steward in Novice/Open/Utility class (depending upon class applying for) at AKC member or licensed trials a minimum of ten (10) times;
4. Have judged at AKC sanctioned obedience A or B matches a minimum of five (5) times. Judging a non-regular class at an AKC trial with a minimum of ten (10) dogs competing may substitute on a one to one basis to replace the match requirement. Apprentice assignments beyond the three (3) required may be used on a one to one basis to replace the match requirement. Apprentice judged under three (3) judges with a minimum of ten (10) dogs in each class. **Apprenticing is for prospective judges only and is to be done at the level they are eligible to apply for.**
5. Actively participated as an assistant trainer or as a trainer in a dog training club or similar organization;
6. Attended an AKC obedience seminar within the last three (3) years.

Check out the AKC web page for further details: [http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/judging\\_requirements.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/judging_requirements.cfm)

As a judge you are to:

1. Qualify the dogs that meet the minimum requirements in the Obedience Regulations
2. Non-qualify the dogs that do not meet the minimum requirements
3. Separate and place the top four dogs and handlers in the class

A good knowledge of the Obedience Regulations and Guidelines For Obedience judges is only part of judging - one has to have the fortitude to carry out the correct decisions. All decisions are not going to be clear-cut and scoring faults is not going to be easy. Every infraction from perfection (providing it is worth at least one-half point) should be scored. This may sound like nit-picking but consider the following: If the dog and handler in the ring make a minor or substantial error and it is not scored, is this fair to the next dog and handler when they perform the exercise (or between exercise) perfectly? In theory, you would be giving the same score for different qualities of work.

While studying judges, keep notes on both the good points observed and points you feel might be improved upon. Pay particular attention to the following:

1. Is the judge giving the impression of being the one in charge of the ring and meeting his/her judge's responsibilities?
2. How does the judge set up and run their ring?
3. What instructions are given to the stewards?
4. What kind of heeling pattern is used? Is it a good one and does it appear to have been thought out?
5. What position is the judge in for observing and scoring the performance of the dog and handler in the ring?
6. The scoring of a performance.
7. How are the ribbon prizes presented?

## **1. Is the Judge giving the impression of being the one in charge of the ring and meeting the Judge's responsibilities?**

The Guidelines For Obedience judges addresses the duties of a judge in the areas of judge's responsibilities, appearance, impartiality, knowledge, and responsibilities to exhibitors, spectators and to the sport of purebred dogs.

### ***JUDGE'S RESPONSIBILITIES***

It is vitally important for all judges to understand their responsibilities to the sport. Obedience judges symbolize the entire sport of obedience training. While presiding over a ring they represent The American Kennel Club, an organization devoted to impartial administration of every rule and regulation adopted to promote and protect the interest of purebred dogs, their breeding and their exhibiting in shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, and field trials.

### ***IMPARTIALITY***

Judges should be friendly and courteous, but above all they must be impartial and firm. It is fine to have a sympathetic attitude toward some unexpected failure provided the decision and scoring are not affected. Competent judges are aware that they cannot make concessions to one exhibitor without doing a disfavor to all other exhibitors. First, consideration must be given to those who enter the ring prepared to perform the exercises as required by the Regulations, without any special treatment.

### ***RESPONSIBILITY TO THE EXHIBITORS***

A judge must remember at all times that every exhibitor is an important participant in the sport. Without exhibitors there would be no trials. It must also be remembered that for every experienced exhibitor, there are hundreds of newcomers. The alienation of newcomers may eventually cause them to lose interest, stop training and quit the sport. The sport needs the novice, because the future of the sport is in the hands of the novice.

## **2. How does a Judge set up their ring?**

The way the obedience ring is set up WILL affect the dog's performance. To be sure the ring is going to be the way YOU want it is one reason to be at ringside at least 45-minutes before the scheduled starting time of the class. This will allow time to set up the ring, check the equipment, make changes if necessary and instruct the stewards on how YOU want the ring to run. A good judge will plan the ring set-up so every dog and handler can move between exercises and perform each exercise to the best advantage. While you are observing judges, see how they check the following:

### ***RING SIZE***

The ring should be paced off to make sure it meets the requirements in Chapter 1, Section 32 of the Obedience Regulations. If the ring does not meet the specifications, you are going to need to take action.

### **FLOOR AND GROUND CONDITIONS**

It is your responsibility to see that every handler and dog have a fair shot at a good clean performance; this is first accomplished by having good ring conditions as per the Regulations. If you don't deal with these deficiencies, how are you going to deal with the scoring of a dog/handler when they are affected by such conditions?

If indoors, the floor shall have surface or covering that provides footing for the largest dogs. Rubber or similar non-slip material totaling at least four feet in width must be laid for the takeoff and landing at all jumps unless the surface, in the judge's opinion, is such as to not require it.

If outdoors, "The ground shall be clean and level, and the grass, if any, shall be cut short." Short means SHORT! Keep in mind the small dog trying to retrieve a dumbbell, scent articles or accomplishing a Long Down in long grass. Blades of grass and weeds will be sticking the dog in the face and unfairly affecting its performance as compared to the Saint Bernard whose face is a good thirty inches from the ground. Of course, a Saint Bernard will not look kindly to having long blades of grass going up his nostrils as he bends down in the course of picking up a dumbbell! Level ground means level! The handler and dog, not to mention the judge, should not have to concern themselves with trying to maintain their balance when walking in the ring.

### **EQUIPMENT**

You now have the ring all squared (actually rectangular) away and it is time to check out the equipment. If indoors, and matting is to be used, there are a few things to keep in mind. If your ring is fully matted - you've got it made! You, the handler and dog have ideal conditions. If not fully matted, matting for jumping must be four feet wide and laid for the takeoff and landing at all jumps. If the mats you are supplied with are only three feet wide, two will have to be used to make the required four-foot width for jumping. Length of mat is now also a concern. A dog must be positioned at least eight feet (in Open) in front of the High Jump and Broad Jump. Also, the dumbbell must be thrown at least eight feet beyond the High Jump. This means there should be AT LEAST sixteen feet of matting to be fair to all breeds of dogs for takeoff and landing.

The Jumps are regulated and the required measurements are in Chapter 4, Sections 11 and 13, and Chapter 5, Section 14. These sections also deal with the painting and numbering of the jumps. There are all types of jumps that one will encounter. Beside the wood jumps we now have PVC (plastic) styles. These jumps must have the same properties of the wood jumps. For example, the boards in the High Jump must be rigid and not able to bend and fall out of the upright standards. The Bar must be weighted and have the integrity of a wood bar. It is up to the judge to measure the jumps and have corrections made if needed.

### **DEALING WITH RING AND EQUIPMENT DEFICIENCIES**

The judge should take immediate action to correct the deficiencies in the ring or equipment by bringing them to the attention of the Trial Secretary or Superintendent. If there are undesirable ring conditions they must be reported to the American Kennel Club if the deficiencies have not been promptly corrected at the judge's request per Chapter 1, Section 34. The judge reports to the AKC by writing up the uncorrected problem inside the judge's Book cover. Also, a letter (or email) should be sent to the Obedience Department as a follow-up. Had the judge reported incorrect equipment at the club's prior show, it would have been corrected and you would not be dealing with such problems. Don't hesitate to take action - you owe it to the sport and exhibitors!

### **GIVE ATTENTION TO LIGHTING**

Be aware of lighting if indoors or out. Pay attention to the dog's line of sight for jumping and signals, and consider where the Group Exercises will take place in the ring. For example, the sun would be better on the dogs back than in its face. Lighting might affect where you want the gate and table in relation to the heeling pattern, plus the position of the jumps may need to be thought out.

### **WHERE DO YOU WANT THE GATE?**

Where the ring gate goes in relation to the ring is YOUR choice. If you don't care for the location of the gate when arriving at the ring, change it! It is best to be comfortable with the gate in relation to your heeling pattern and set-up of the ring. The end result will be a better job of judging.

### **WHERE DO YOU WANT THE JUDGE'S TABLE?**

Give some real consideration as to where YOU want the judge's table. At the AKC Obedience Judging Seminars it is suggested that the table be OUTSIDE the ring. Their reasons make good common sense:

The ring is for the use of the dog, handler and judge.

- If stewards are on the outside of the ring their attention is more likely to be focused on the ring activities, and they will be ready when needed.
- If there is food on the table for the judge or stewards, it is now outside the ring.
- The dog and handler have a better opportunity to perform with the elimination of the commotion around the judge's table. It also frees up more space for better use of the ring.

### **MARKING THE RING FOR THE DIFFERENT EXERCISES**

One thing a judge should strive for is to be consistent. Every dog and handler deserves the same opportunity when entering the ring. One way to help achieve consistency is to mark the ring for the DIFFERENT exercises as needed. For example, mark where you want the stewards to stand for the Figure Eight. This makes sure the stewards are always the eight feet apart that is required. If not marked, you will notice the stewards unconsciously standing farther apart for larger dogs and closer for smaller dogs. Also be aware of the other "required" marks for the advanced and Preferred classes.

### **RIBBONS AND PRIZES**

Before starting the class, make sure you have all the ribbons and prizes required for that class. This will help your efficiency in being able to present the ribbons and awards after marking the placements in your judge's Book.

### **3. What instructions will be given to the Stewards?**

In the Obedience ring a steward CAN make a big difference in how efficiently a ring functions. Their actions can also have an affect on the performance of the dog in the ring. The judge is in sole charge of the way they want the ring conducted, but if this is NOT conveyed to the stewards the first several handlers may be entering a "zoo" instead of an Obedience ring. A helpful suggestion: Have typed steward instructions with your judging equipment. Having your detailed instructions at hand ensures you won't overlook anything and have them available for the stewards' reference during the class.

### **4. What type of heeling pattern is used? Is it a good one and appear to have been thought out for your ring?**

When you are invited to judge at a trial, there is an important Chapter and Section to keep in mind. CHAPTER 2, SECTION 6 – JUDGING OF CLASSES AND DIFFERENT BREEDS: "The same methods and standards will be used for judging and scoring the regular, preferred, optional titling and non-regular classes and in judging and scoring the work of dogs of different breeds, including dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners." The time to be aware of this regulation is BEFORE you set up your ring and plot out the heeling pattern and the areas for the different exercises. Large breeds (and super-fast dogs) require a considerable amount of room to maneuver. If this is not factored in beforehand, then the dog's performance could be compromised. All breeds need be given ample space so they have the opportunity to work towards perfection. Also, heeling patterns should be smooth and not choppy. Choppy patterns (explained below) seem to be more of a hindrance to the larger and faster working teams. The next time you go to a trial, notice how the judge has set up their ring. **PAY ATTENTION** to how the space is used for the different exercises. Make note of the heeling pattern. Also observe how far a dog travels before a halt or a turn and how much space is used for the dog and handler to execute the Fast or Slow. There is NO perfect way to set up a ring or a perfect heeling pattern for all breeds, but some judges make better use of the ring space. When judging at an all-breed trial, you have to be ready for whatever breed comes into the ring -- be it a Chihuahua or an Irish Wolfhound. It is imperative that all breeds be given an equal chance to earn a perfect score if you wish to be a fair judge.

## **HEELING PATTERNS**

Heeling is in every AKC obedience class. In choosing a pattern that works for you, also consider the handler and dog. You must give ALL handlers and dogs an EQUAL opportunity to do the principal part of heeling -- the ability of the dog and handler working as a team. Teamwork is best performed when a heeling pattern is smooth. One way to accomplish this objective is to have only one heeling function per leg of the pattern. This provides ALL teams a chance for a smooth performance but when two heeling functions are on one leg of a pattern it becomes choppy and the teamwork starts to suffer. For example, a Fast, Normal, and Halt on one leg would be choppy. Picture an Irish Wolfhound doing this pattern smoothly. Another example...heeling down the center of the ring and making a Right or Left turn and then Slow, using half the ring, before turning again. The choppy pattern will unfairly affect the performance of the larger and/or faster breeds. There is just less room and time to respond if too much is going on during one leg of the heeling pattern. Remember, you are going to be judging these actions. The faults you observe MAY have been caused by YOU by not giving thought to the heeling pattern. The small breeds will start to gain an advantage and you, as a judge, will find your goals of fairness and consistency going down the tubes. A pattern does not have to be long to achieve the smooth objective. The simple "L" pattern (although minimal) lends itself to a smooth performance if you give some thought to where different heeling functions will take place. The "Forward" followed by a few steps and then a "Halt" is another example of unfairness to large breeds, plus it is also choppy. Picture the extremes. A Chihuahua and handler start to heel and the handler walks forward two or three steps and halts on the judge's order. This small breed has had a chance to get up and walk a fair distance before going into a sit. The next dog in the ring is an Irish Wolfhound. The handler starts to heel and walks two or three steps and halts on the judge's order. The Irish Wolfhound starts to move forward in heel position, and maybe just moved one-half or one body length, and now has to go into a sit. Did this breed have the same opportunity to have a smooth performance? The handler of the Irish Wolfhound had no choice but to stop on the judge's order or be penalized for delay in following a judge's order. The judge was consistent and stopped both dogs in the same spot, but lacked good judgment in setting up a heeling pattern that was fair to all breeds. Had the judge halted each dog further away from the Forward, both breeds would have had an equal opportunity for a smooth performance.

## **FIGURE EIGHT**

When planning the area for the Figure Eight think about the ring barriers and, in Open, also consider the jumps. You want to provide ALL dogs the opportunity to go around the outside post and not have to concern them with the possibility of running into an object. Figure Eight posts that are in the corners of a ring or too close to a jump jeopardize the performance of the larger breeds. This type of set up is also too restrictive for the disabled handlers and their dogs. If you are judging indoors and using mats on slick floors, use THREE mats if possible. Large breeds should have mats under them at all times during the Figure Eight if that is the case for the smaller breeds.

## **INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES**

As you set up for the different individual exercises ask yourself, "Is this exercise going to be fair to ALL breeds and handlers when they enter my ring?" Another point to keep in mind is the disabled handlers and their space requirements. Make a mental picture of an Irish Wolfhound being handled by a person in a wheelchair. With this in mind you should have no problem in setting up the ring that is fair to all who enter.

## **5. What position is the Judge in for observing and scoring the performance of the dog and handler in the ring?**

It is absolutely essential to develop skills in observing dogs and handlers and being able to evaluate their performance fairly and consistently. To help accomplish this goal, give considerable thought as to where the best positions are to observe without interfering with the performance of an individual exercise (or between exercises). Where you stand determines what you can see. It also gives the impression to the spectators outside the ring as to whether or not you know what you're doing! Every judge should want to give the appearance of being professional and precise. There is no perfect position but there are positions that will help the judge better fulfill their responsibilities to the sport. A judge should know what position to be in and why. Sometimes when you are observing from one angle you may be "giving up" being in another position to see other errors that may be occurring. The good judge will recognize what they are giving up," knowing that these errors are less common and of lesser significance than errors observed from their chosen position. When you think through the Regulations, most of the exercises have two common denominators - heel position and the recall. The majority of exercises will refer back to these two items. A few examples of judging positions taken from the Guidelines and AKC Obedience Judging Seminar notes -- are as follows:

## **HEEL POSITIONS**

### Heeling Exercises

After planning your heeling pattern, the next step is to plan YOUR positions during the course of the pattern. Judges should attempt to position themselves so the dog and handler will be observed from the rear, front and sides, and the judge's movements during the heeling pattern should be consistent from dog to dog. Knowing where heel position is located is of paramount importance during the course of judging. The five faults of heeling in regards to the dog are forging, lagging, wide, crowding and not being straight in line with the direction of the handler. When starting the heeling pattern, be in position to check for the handler and dog moving out together on the "Forward." This is an area where lagging and forging can occur and you will want to be in a good location to watch and score if needed. Being on the dog's side in line with the handler is preferable. During the Utility Signal Exercise, this position will also be important at the end of heeling; the judge will have a better view of the dog stopping and standing in heel position. It is a scorable fault if the dog is not in heel position at this point. You have to be there to see it!

A good position for judging a Sit is from the front or back of the dog and handler. For example, consider a dog making a SLIGHT error on the Sit; from this location the judge can observe sitting wide, crowding or not straight in line with the handler - three of the more common faults. If judging from the side, two faults could best be observed - forge and lag. This is a good example in choosing a position to see MOST of the errors from one location. A spectator sitting in the bleachers outside the ring can observe a dog sitting a foot in front or behind a handler on a halt. YOU want to be in the BEST position to observe most of the minor errors, if any. This is part of judging fair and consistently.

Planning a heeling pattern that allows you to judge from the dog's side most of the time is preferable to being on the side of the handler. Two key elements in the heeling exercise are the Fast and Slow. The judge needs to watch the transition from Normal to Fast or Slow and back to Normal and evaluate heel position. The "Fast" signifies that the handler must run, handler and dog moving forward at NOTICEABLY ACCELERATED speed. "Slow" signifies the handler and dog must NOTICEABLY DECELERATE from a brisk walk. Judging on the dog's side is a favorable place to see if the dog is maintaining heel position or making any of the five heeling errors. Judging from the handler's side obscures the view of the dog's position. Also, momentarily stepping behind the dog and handler on the Fast or Slow will give an excellent observation point for judging straight in line with the handler.

### Other Areas of Heel Positions:

A dog is in heel position at some point during EVERY exercise. A good judge will study the different exercises in various classes and see when the dog or handler is required to be in heel position. Then studying Chapter 2, Section 18 (Heel Position) and see how it relates to all the different exercises. To observe a fault you first have to recognize that fault. Let's look at two exercises and notice the importance of the judge's location for judging heel position.

### **NOVICE - STAND FOR EXAMINATION (Chapter 3, Sections 7 and 8)**

The handler is to be in heel position before leaving and after returning to the dog. In this exercise the handler is the one to assume heel position. To start the exercise it is suggested that the judge be in front of and to the left of the dog. This allows the judge to observe the handler's movements and watch if the handler assumes heel position before leaving the dog. The key elements to view are the five errors of heel position as listed above. This position is excellent to observe if the dog is straight in line with the handler as the handler leaves. After performing the examination, the judge steps back away but in line with the dog's left shoulder. From here one can view if the handler returns to the heel position. The most common faults are the handler returning to a forged or lag position and it is best observed from this location.

### **NOVICE - GROUP EXERCISES (Chapter 3, Sections 12 & 13) - OPEN - (Chapter 4, Section 15).**

The judge must be in a good location to watch all the handlers return to heel position. If a dog breaks the Long Sit or Long Down as the handler is returning to heel position, the judge will have to determine if the handler was in heel position when the dog broke. Knowing heel position and being able to observe it has a great impact on this exercise - the end result in scoring is a pass or fail depending on the judge's decision!

## **RECALLS**

Anytime the dog is coming into the handler, the Recall exercise is involved. The judge needs to be in a good position to observe the dog and handler fulfilling the key elements of the Recall: The giving of the command or signal, dog's prompt response to handler's command or signal, dog moving directly to the handler, moving at a brisk trot or gallop and returning close enough to the handler. Recalls are referred to in many of the exercises in the Regulations so let's again look at a couple of different exercises and notice the importance of the judge's position as it relates to the Recall.

### **NOVICE - RECALL (Chapter 3, Sections 10 and 11)**

The suggested location for a judge is off to the side of the dog and handler and slightly behind. A narrow angle gives a better view of the team and being on the side of the dog gives a less obstructed view. As the handler leaves the dog, both can be observed. When the dog is called or signaled the judge can move in (at a distance) and follow the dog. If the path of the dog is followed the judge will "give up" a good view of noticing if the dog sat out too far or came in too close. Walking in at the angle will afford a better view of the Front, and then the judge can step behind the dog to judge the Front and Finish.

### **OPEN - RETRIEVE ON THE FLAT (Chapter 4, Sections 9 and 10)**

When the handler sends the dog to retrieve the judge is basically observing two Recalls plus the retrieving parts of the exercise. The dog must go out directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, retrieve promptly, at the end of the ring with the team or at the far end of the ring in front of and off to the side of the team. Both locations give the judge a constant view of the dog and handler at the same time. A judge who stands in the middle of the ring can only watch the dog OR handler - not BOTH at the same time. The same holds true for the Retrieve Over High Jump and Scent Discrimination. If you compromise your viewing of an exercise you also compromise your judging of an exercise!

## **6. The scoring of a performance.**

Judgment is based on knowledge and experience and as a judge scores a performance they will be drawing from these resources. Having a good knowledge of Obedience before you start judging is important, but one's knowledge and understanding will grow with experience. In Chapter 2 of the Obedience Regulations, Sections 1, 5 and 24 need to be reviewed. Before stepping into the ring to judge you will need to be aware of the various faults and have an understanding of what penalties are to be applied to said faults. From reading the Regulations one will obtain an idea of what constitutes a minor or substantial penalty. The Glossary of Terms defines a minor penalty as 2 1/2 points or LESS and a substantial as 3 or MORE points. The Regulations also mention some of the more common faults and state whether to apply a substantial or minor penalty. They also give the latitude of applying a minor or substantial penalty. Sounds simple, but good judging comes from knowing when to apply which penalty and the assessment of points to be taken off.

The heeling exercises are among the most challenging to judge. The scoring is not all clear-cut. For example, what point value will YOU apply to a dog that does NOT sit as the handler comes to a halt? The Regulations list some of the faults associated with heeling and the scoring in Chapter 3, Section 6: "Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit, handler failing to walk at a brisk pace, occasional guidance with leash and other imperfections of heeling." These are imperfections in heeling, as the dog is not performing the exercise to perfection as described in Chapter 3, Section 5. YOU now have to determine if this is a minor or substantial penalty and then what point value to deduct.

Let's say you had three different dogs come into YOUR ring and on the first halt during the heeling exercise each dog failed to sit. As you penalize the no sit do YOU have a preset value of points to assess? For example, do you feel a no sit is a substantial penalty and therefore subject to a three or more point deduction? Or, are you going to consider the different actions that took place as the handler halted before making your decision?



To help make up your mind, consider a few of the variables in regards to the three dogs not sitting:

- A. The handler halts and the dog stands in perfect heel position.
- B. The handler halts and the dog stands on the handler's left side but out at a 45 degree angle to the direction in which the handler is facing.
- C. The handler halts and the dog forges ahead and then comes back and stands in front of and facing the handler.

Each dog made the error of not sitting but the degree of error differed from dog A to C. Are you still going to deduct a set number of points for a no sit or develop a scoring system that might be a little more flexible as to the seriousness of the error? Keep in mind, one of your responsibilities is to separate the top four dogs and handlers in the class. What if dogs A, B and C only had that one error. Will you have a three-way runoff, or will you have separated their work by scoring the differences in their work? These are some of the tough decisions YOU are going to have to make!

In all exercises the first thing to keep in mind is the principle part of the exercise and did the dog and/or handler meet the requirements. If in question, refer to the Regulations for that exercise and if still in doubt read the first sentence of Chapter 2, Section 3, QUALIFYING PERFORMANCE. In the scoring of a performance, another area to consider is the penalizing of SEVERAL serious faults during an exercise. The Regulations may state when a substantial deduction is to be applied but the judge must also keep in mind if the dog and/or handler are fulfilling the minimum requirements of that exercise and if the performance warrants a qualifying score.

For example, the Retrieve On Flat is a twenty-point exercise. In order for a dog and handler to have a qualifying performance in AN exercise, they must earn OVER 50% of the points available in that exercise. In this case they must earn at least ten and one-half points. Now, let's look at a dog's performance on the Retrieve On The Flat.

- A. The dog SAUNTERS out to retrieve the dumbbell on command.
- B. The dumbbell is picked up, then dropped and again picked up.
- C. The dog SAUNTERS back to the handler and performs a perfect Front.
- D. The dog SAUNTERS into a Finish (on command) and has a poor sit.

The errors listed in A, B and C are substantial deductions, depending on the extent, as per Chapter 4, Section 9. Are YOU going to deduct the minimum points (three) for a substantial deduction for EACH occurrence in A, B and C? Then are YOU going to score the lack of being prompt and smart in the performance of the Finish along with the poor sit? Let's say you take JUST a half-point off for the Finish and another half-point off for the poor sit. Look at your total deductions. You may have taken off ten points from a twenty-point exercise. That is NOT MORE THAN 50%. Are YOU going to fail the dog? Or, will it be your philosophy of judging to score harder during the first several major faults and ease off as long as the work is still qualifying in your mind? The dog did perform the exercise by responding promptly to the handler's "Fetch" command and completed the exercise as per the requirements in Chapter 4, Section 8. These are just a FEW examples of things to THINK of when you step into the judge's shoes. Who said judging Obedience was easy!? It is a challenge and very rewarding when you leave the trial knowing you did your best for the sport.

## 7. How are the ribbon prizes presented?

After the last dog in the class has been judged, the scores are recorded and the judge calls the qualifying teams back into the ring for presenting the prizes and awards.

The American Kennel Club wants like the presenting of ribbon prizes to be a bit of a ceremony. Winning the blue through white ribbons is a big deal and the judge should present the winners to the spectators, who are on the outside of the ring. A good judge will first address the onlookers and briefly state what constitutes a perfect score, and may go into detail describing a qualifying score. The judge should keep their comments to a minimum during the awards ceremony and then announce the prize winning dog and handler. It is suggested to mention the score BEFORE the armband number. If armband number is announced first the spectators will clap and cheer and miss hearing the score.

As a judge you will want to "present" the first four prizewinners and separate the four teams away from the rest of the qualifiers in the class. This way the spectators can observe and take note as to who won. Have the winners come forward to receive the ribbon prize and ask them to remain in front of the group. Then do the same for second through fourth. Also, keep in mind to speak up when awarding the four placements so people in the second row outside the ring can hear. After the placements are concluded the judge then goes to each handler and tells them their score. You then conclude the awards and turn in the Judge's Book. If time permits after turning in the Book you may speak with exhibitors about their scores. The judge is encouraged, but not required, to discuss the scoring, but a judge need not enter into any discussion with any contestant who appears to be dissatisfied. This sport is based on good sportsmanship and that is the image to project.

When speaking with exhibitors use the same words that appear in the Regulations. For example, don't tell the handler the dog lost points for bumping during the heeling. "Bumping" is NOT a word used in the Regulations. The judge should have chosen words such as crowding or not allowing the handler freedom of motion at all times, rather than commonly used obedience lingo. Using terms other than those found in the Regulations might be misleading and confusing, creating some doubts as to the knowledge of the judge. Judges bear the responsibility of educating exhibitors -- new and "old."

### Summary

If you are considering applying to judge Obedience in the future, keep a good perspective...judging should be taken seriously but not to the point where the fun and common sense are lost. At the same time don't overlook the dedicated, experienced exhibitors who have invested countless time and work into the sport, or the Novices just starting out. They deserve and demand good, fair, consistent judging and it will be up to YOU to meet these demands. Don't let the title of judge go to your head, or form the opinion that you "know it all" and "have seen it all." NO ONE has a 200 in that department - so keep mentally fit by attending AKC Obedience Judging Seminars, training dogs, and observing other judges. Obtaining approval to judge is JUST the beginning!

This article only provides you with a LITTLE idea of what it takes to step into the shoes of an Obedience judge. If you plan to walk in these shoes always put the sport of dogs first in your thinking. We have a fun sport and it requires responsible people to keep it sound. Judges in Conformation, Tracking, Field, Obedience and other Performance Events have a BIG responsibility in protecting the integrity of the Sport of Purebred Dogs.

# One Standard of Judging

-Or-

# Double Standard?

by John Cox

There are three important sections in **CHAPTER 2** of the Obedience Regulations that help define good judging, and should be kept in mind at all times if you choose to judge.

**SECTION 1. Standardized Judging:** "Standardized judging is of paramount importance. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercises, but must see that each handler and dog executes the various exercises exactly as described in these Regulations. A handler who is familiar with these Regulations should be able to enter the ring under any Judge without having to inquire how the particular Judge wishes to have any exercise performed, and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement."

**SECTION 2. Standard of Perfection:** "The Judge must carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog and handler against this visualized standard which shall combine the utmost in willingness, enjoyment and precision on the part of the dog, and naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness in handling. Speed is not to be considered as the equivalent to willingness and enjoyment. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as must lack of precision in the dog's performance, roughness in handling, military precision or peremptory commands by the handler."

**SECTION 6. Judging of Classes and Different Breeds.** "The same methods and standards will be used for judging and scoring the regular, preferred and optional titling classes and in judging and scoring the work of dogs of different breeds, including dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners."

You can make the choice to judge - but once that choice is made, you must NOT pick and choose which Regulations suit your fancy and by which you will judge. **EVERY Obedience Regulation has a purpose and it is your responsibility to enforce ALL of them.** This is one of the main objectives that goes with the title of Judge. If you wish to be considered fair and consistent in your judging, don't overlook the above sections!

Standardize your judging habits and avoid creating a double standard. Case-in-point: One must strive to judge breed specialties, breed nationals, all-breed trials, obedience specialties or The AKC Obedience Championship Invitational in the **same** professional manner. **Handlers demand good, CONSISTENT judging** and there is no reason to judge differently depending on the type of Trial; or judge A classes different than B classes. Furthermore, ALL breeds MUST be judged with the same standards.

A few important areas in which to avoid double standards in judging are:

1. Making the tough decisions
2. Judging Breed Specialties
3. Judging A and B Classes and different breeds
4. Judging different when an AKC Field Representative is present
5. Judging different between Regular and Non-regular Classes

## **MAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS**

There are going to be times when a **correct decision** may not be pleasing to the handler or spectators. A couple of examples, (1) the cute Saint Bernard may have CLEARLY anticipated a Recall and you will have to enforce a non-qualifying score. You cannot choose to overlook the fact that the dog failed or pretend you did not see the anticipation. (2) There will be other times when one dog heels better than another dog, but the **HANDLER** (of the better heeling dog) made errors and thus places behind the poorer heeling dog. Your decisions will not always be obvious to others. We all see things differently but

YOU are the Judge, and YOU should be able to explain and back up your decision(s) [using the words in the Regulations] if asked so others may learn. **Sometimes it takes just plain guts to enforce a Regulation(s), but that is a responsibility you accepted when you pinned on the Judge's badge!**

### **JUDGING BREED SPECIALTIES**

The same Regulations are used to judge breed specialties and all-breed trials and National Trials. Avoid developing a double standard in scoring. It may appear that breed specialties are a little more laid-back, but guard against letting your judging standards loosen. "Giving out" high scores at specialties to encourage handlers, or trying to gain popularity as a "nice Judge," is a misconception. Such actions will create confusion in the minds of new handlers when they are later scored more realistically under other Judges. **It is not fair or consistent to judge a handler differently depending on what kind of show they chose to enter.**

### **JUDGING THE A AND B CLASSES AND DIFFERENT BREEDS**

You cannot choose to "get tough" on Golden Retrievers and Border Collies with "competition handlers" in the B classes and then loosen up when you judge a "green" junior handler with a cute Saint Bernard in the A classes. **This type of judging serves no purpose but undermines the sport and demeans you as a Judge.** New handlers and those going for titles in the A classes need to be encouraged, but "giving away the store" is not the way to accomplish this goal. Score ALL dogs and handlers with the same standards and after the class is over, encourage the handlers to come and talk about their scores. You can be sympathetic if they had a not-so-good performance and point out the errors that you observed. This will help teach them the areas that need a little more practice for a better day next time. This is how new handlers learn to respect our sport and its Regulations.

### **JUDGING DIFFERENT WHEN AN AKC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE IS PRESENT**

Have you noticed how some Judges change their ring procedure and scoring when an AKC Field Rep. is present? Why? If they had only ONE standard by which they judged there would be no problem or reason for uneasiness. **One should judge the same whether at a breed specialty with only one entry in the wilds of Wyoming or at the most prestigious obedience specialty with a class of 48 in Utility B.**

### **JUDGING DIFFERENT BETWEEN REGULAR AND NONREGULAR CLASSES**

The Non-regular Classes have (in most cases) the same exercises as the Regular Classes. Just because there are no Qualifying Scores or titles earned is NOT a reason to judge different. The same standards of judging are to be applied in both classes. For example, guard against judging a dog correctly for WALKING in on a Recall in Utility, and then giving that same dog (the next day) a PERFECT score for WALKING in on the Recall in the Veterans Class. If you judge like this, then what are you going to do when the ten-year-old Saint Bernard veteran RUNS in on the Recall? Are you going to score the Saint Bernard by giving bonus points?

### **SUMMARY**

Keep a good perspective... judging should be taken seriously but not to the point where the fun and common sense are lost. **At the same time, don't overlook the dedicated, experienced exhibitors who have invested countless time and work into the sport, or the novices just starting out. They deserve and demand good, fair, consistent judging and it will be up to YOU to meet these demands.** Develop a good standard of judging and keep JUST that ONE standard for ALL classes ALL dogs.

## Judging The Giants

by John Cox

If you are considering judging obedience one very important factor is to be fair and consistent to all dogs that enter your ring. This is not only accomplished by having a thorough knowledge of the Obedience Regulations and enforcing every section, but the pre-planning of your ring will have an impact on the performances of the different breeds of dogs you judge. **If you fail to set up your ring without considering all the different sizes of breeds, your judging will lack fairness and consistency.**

When you are invited to judge at a trial or match, there is an important Chapter and Section to keep in mind. **SECTION 6. Judging of Classes and Different Breeds.** "The same methods and standards will be used for judging and scoring the regular, preferred and optional titling classes and in judging and scoring the work of dogs of different breeds, including dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners."

The time to be aware of this regulation is BEFORE you set up your ring and plot out the heeling pattern and the areas for the different exercises.

Large breeds (and super-fast dogs) require a considerable amount of room to maneuver. If this is not factored in beforehand, then the dog's performance could be compromised. All breeds need be given ample space so they have the opportunity to work towards perfection. Also, heeling patterns should be smooth and not choppy. Choppy patterns (explained below) seem to be more of a hindrance to the larger and faster working teams. The next time you go to a match or trial, notice how the Judge has set up his/her ring. Pay attention to how the space is used for the different exercises. Make note of the heeling pattern. Also observe how far a dog travels before a halt or a turn and how much space is used for the dog and handler to execute the Fast or Slow.

There is NO perfect way to set up a ring or a perfect heeling pattern for all breeds, but some Judges make better use of the ring space. When judging at an all-breed trial, you have to be ready for whatever breed comes into the ring -- be it a Chihuahua or an Irish Wolfhound. It is imperative that all breeds be given an equal chance to earn a perfect score if you wish to be a fair Judge.

I have been in many obedience rings with my Saint Bernards (earning 6 U.D.s since 1969) so I have a good idea what a large breed requires in terms of space for a smooth performance. This experience of showing gave me a hands-on opportunity to observe all types of ring situations. Listed below are a few of my thoughts in regards to heeling patterns and ring planning for the individual exercises.

### **HEELING PATTERNS**

Heeling is in every AKC obedience class with the possible exception of Versatility (depending what exercises the handler draws). In choosing a pattern that works for you, also consider the handler and dog. You must give ALL handlers and dogs an EQUAL opportunity to do the principal part of heeling -- the ability of the dog and handler working as a team. Teamwork is best performed when a heeling pattern is smooth. One way to accomplish this objective is to have only one heeling function per leg of the pattern. This provides ALL teams a chance for a smooth performance. As a Judge, your orders are "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast." The orders may be given in any sequence and can be repeated. When two heeling functions are on one leg of a pattern it becomes choppy and the teamwork starts to suffer. For example, a Fast, Normal, and Halt on one leg would be choppy. Picture an Irish Wolfhound doing this pattern smoothly.

Another example, heeling down the center of the ring and making a Right or Left turn and then Slow, using half the ring, before turning again. The choppy pattern will unfairly affect the performance of the larger and faster breeds. There is just less room and time to respond if too much is going on during one leg of the heeling pattern. Remember, you are going to be judging these actions. The faults you observe MAY have been caused by YOU, by not giving thought to the heeling pattern. The small breeds will start to gain an advantage and you, as a Judge, will find your goals of fairness and consistency going down the tubes. A pattern does not have to be long to achieve the smooth objective.

The "Forward" followed by a few steps and then a "Halt" is another example of unfairness to large breeds, plus it is also choppy. Picture the extremes. A Chihuahua and handler starts to heel and the handler walks forward two or three steps and halts on the Judge's order. This small breed has had a chance to get up and walk a fair distance before going into a sit. The next dog in the ring is an Irish Wolfhound. The handler starts to heel and walks two or three steps and halts on the Judge's order. The Irish Wolfhound starts to move forward in heel position, and maybe just moved one-half or one body length, and now has to go into a sit. Did this breed have the same opportunity to have a smooth performance? The handler of the Irish Wolfhound had no choice but to stop on the Judge's order or be penalized for delay in following a Judge's order. The Judge was consistent and stopped both dogs in the same spot, but lacked good judgment in setting up a heeling pattern that was fair to all breeds. Had the Judge halted each dog further away from the Forward, both breeds would have had an equal opportunity for a smooth performance.

### INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES

I will not go into detail on how to set up each exercise for the large breeds. Instead, I will cover two exercises, pointing out items you need to consider when planning your ring. As you set up for the different individual exercises ask yourself, "Is this exercise going to be fair to ALL breeds and handlers when they enter my ring?" Another point to keep in mind is the disabled handlers and their space requirements. Make a mental picture of an Irish Wolfhound being handled by a person in a wheelchair. With this in mind you should have no problem in setting up the ring that is fair to all who enter.

#### 1. Figure Eight

When planning the area for the Figure Eight think about the ring barriers and, in Open, also consider the jumps. You want to provide ALL dogs the opportunity to go around the outside post and not have to concern themselves with the possibility of running into an object. Figure Eight posts that are in the corners of a ring or too close to a jump jeopardize the performance of the larger breeds. This type of set up is also too restrictive for the disabled handlers and their dogs. If you are judging indoors and using mats on slick floors use **three** mats if possible. Large breeds should have mats under them at all times during the Figure Eight if that is the case for the smaller breeds.

#### 2. Scent Discrimination

Give thought to where you are going to place the scent articles. You want to allow the largest breeds ample space to go briskly out to the articles and also be able to circle them. I have observed Judges placing the scent articles in the corner of the ring. This type set up will not allow the larger breeds the freedom of motion, and they will be at a disadvantage. Large breeds are aware of their size and do not like to get into tight spots. Also consider, if the articles are in the corner of the ring and a dog stepped on the correct article, flipping it out of the restrictive ring barriers, then what? You would have no choice but to stop the exercise and start over. Another potential problem area is placing the scent articles too close to the jumps. Allow plenty of room for the dog to work without restrictions. These types of situations can be avoided with a little thought prior to the start of the class.

Judging is more than just observing and scoring Fronts and Finishes. It requires a lot of thought and judgment before the first dog enters the ring and the first order is given. Judging the giants is just one aspect to keep in mind at your next assignment. Besides, the giants can be a welcome relief to your back when it comes to the examinations and measuring!



## Stewarding The Little Things Can Make A Difference

by John Cox

A Steward is an integral part of a dog show's success. Most of these folks volunteer their time to the sport and without them the show would grind to a "Halt."

In the Obedience ring a Steward CAN make a big difference in how efficiently a ring functions. Their actions can also have an effect on the performance of the dog in the ring. Stewards are

mentioned in the Obedience Regulations in CHAPTER 1, SECTION 31. The Section reads: "Judges are in sole charge of their rings until their assignments are completed. Stewards are provided to assist but may act only on the judge's instructions. They must not give information or instructions to owners and handlers except when the judge asks them to do so." The judge shall review with the stewards their duties and the manner in which they are to be performed. Any request from an exhibitor for special consideration must be directed to the judge.

This is all fine and dandy IF the Judge gives instructions. I have stewarded at trials where the Judge just introduces himself and THAT IS IT for the instructions. Or, the instructions are SO FEW one is still left in the dark as to what the Judge is expecting. In such a case, **ASK QUESTIONS** before the class starts. Such a Judge should be put on the spot as to what will be required of the Stewards. The exhibitors are the ones to be kept in mind, as they will benefit from a knowledgeable Steward. Let's not forget that the handler and the dog are the IMPORTANT ones for the day. A few things a Steward will need to know **BEFORE** the class starts are:

### **Novice A & B & Preferred Novice (No group exercises in Preferred Novice)**

1. How does the Judge want to handle conflicts
2. About how many dogs in each Group & if all the group will be done at the end of the class, or not
3. Where are handlers and dogs to be brought into the ring
4. Where is the Figure Eight to be performed and how and where are the Stewards to stand
5. Who takes the leash after the Heel on Leash
6. Does the Judge need the clipboard held during the Stand for Examination
7. Is the Steward to bring the leash to the handler after the last exercise
8. Where are the Stewards to stand during the Groups
9. What do the Stewards do when a dog "breaks" during the Groups
10. What instructions, if any, are to be given by the Stewards to the handlers

### **Graduate Novice, Open A & B & Preferred Open (No group exercises in Preferred Open.)**

1. The above Novice items 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 again apply.
2. What is the Steward to do with the dumbbell before and after the retrieves?
3. Where are the extra boards from the High Jump and extra Broad Jump hurdles to be placed when not being used by some dogs?
4. During the **Graduate Novice** and **Open A & B** group exercises (in particular) the stewards must be used to assist the judge. Judges must provide stewards with slip leads to expedite removal of a dog that interferes with another dog or to leash a dog that attempts to leave the ring. The handler is also to inform the steward *when leaving the ring after the individual exercises* IF they will be returning for the group exercises. There will be times where this requirement may slip the handler's mind; therefore, it might be best to ask the handler as they leave the ring if they will be returning. It will save time in the long run when getting ready for the group exercises and filling out the group judging sheet.

### **Graduate Open, Utility & Preferred Utility**

The above Novice items 1, 3, 7, and 10 again apply (The above Open item 3 applies in regards to the High Jump)

1. How are the scent articles to be handled when the handler brings them to the table
2. Where are the scent articles to be placed in the ring and how does the Judge want them arranged

3. What instructions are given in placing the gloves and picking up the remaining gloves
4. What is the Steward to do during the Moving Stand and Examination

The Judge is in sole charge of the way he/she wants the ring conducted, but if this is NOT conveyed to the Stewards the first several handlers may be entering a "zoo" instead of an Obedience ring. If the Judge does not give instructions or if they are vague -- **ASK QUESTIONS BEFORE the first team enters the ring.**

**A few things in mind and you will be much appreciated by the handlers and Judge:**

1. Be knowledgeable of the class one is asked to steward
2. Arrive **at least one-half hour before** the start of judging to assist in setting up the ring and receiving instructions.
3. **Pay attention to the dog in the ring.** Be ready when the Judge and handler need the Steward's assistance. For example, know the heeling pattern ends. This way one will be ready to immediately respond for the next exercise, if needed. When a dog and handler have to wait for Stewards, it breaks up their pace and can affect their performance. Being ready when needed will save a considerable amount of time during the day, plus the handlers like the opportunity to get in and out of the ring in an efficient manner. Try to give total attention to the dog and handler in the ring, and if other handlers have questions they can be answered in "off" time. **The dog and handler in the ring come first.**
4. After the last individual exercise, if not instructed differently by the Judge, take the leash to the handler. This is not only a courteous action, but it may help prevent the handler in an advanced class from taking hold of the collar and guiding the dog to the table.
5. During the Figure Eight exercise, don't stare at the dog. Some dogs may interpret this wrong and thus affect their performance. However Stewards hold their hands during the Figure Eight, be consistent for all dogs.
6. In a class with a dumbbell, if asked to bring the dumbbell to the handler, carry the dumbbell in a way in which not to excite the dog. Many dogs love to retrieve and if a Steward swings the dumbbell around while walking out to the handler, the dog could lose control and thus be subject to a penalty.
7. In Utility, **MAKE SURE** the dog is watching **BEFORE PLACING** out and arranging the scent articles.
8. When placing the articles, just handle them enough to arrange them per the Judge's instructions. The Regulations call for the Steward or Judge to **HANDLE** each of the remaining articles -- this does NOT imply to "SCENT" the articles. Also, the Steward placing the articles should **beware of a foreign scent on their hands** such as cigarette smoke or food. The scent given when handling the articles should be consistent for all dogs.
9. Concentrate on placing the gloves correctly. Make sure they are on the Judge's mark. If no mark or instructions are given, the center glove is to be centered between dog and handler and about 3 feet from the side of the ring. The corner gloves are to be placed about 3 feet from each side of the ring in the corner. The Directed Retrieve is done in the unobstructed end of the ring, and the **gloves are only to be placed while the dog and handler are facing away.** No table or chair is to be at this end of the ring.
10. Dress appropriately, for weather outside or varying temperatures indoors.

The job of a Steward is not one to take lightly. Know what the Judge requires--think ahead and be ready when needed to save time. The Judge and, most important, the handlers will appreciate the effort.





NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 NOVICE CLASS – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER										
Heel on Leash & Fig. 8 (40 points)										
Stand For Exam (30 points)										
Heel Free (40 points)										
Recall (30 points)										
SUBTOTAL OF POINTS OFF										
Long Sit (30 points)										
Long Down (30 points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 OPEN CLASS A – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER										
Heel Free & Fig. 8 (40 points)										
Drop on Recall (30 points)										
Retrieve on Flat (20 points)										
Retrieve Over High Jump (30 points)										
Broad Jump (20 points)										
SUBTOTAL OF POINTS OFF										
Long Sit (30 points)										
Long Down (30 points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 OPEN CLASS B – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

ORDER OF EXERCISES: I-VI \_\_\_\_\_

DOG NUMBER										
SUBTOTAL OF POINTS OFF										
Long _____ (30 points)										
Long _____ (30 points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

Heel Free=40   Drop On Recall=30   Retrieve On Flat=20   Retrieve Over High Jump=30   Broad Jump=20

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 UTILITY CLASS A – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER										
Signal Exercise (40 points)										
Scent Discrim. Article 1 (30 pts.)										
Scent Discrim. Article 2 (30 pts.)										
Directed Retrieve (30 points)										
Moving Stand & Exam (30 points)										
Directed Jumping (40 points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 UTILITY CLASS B – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

ORDER OF EXERCISES: I–VI \_\_\_\_\_

DOG NUMBER										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

Signal Exercise=40    Scent Discrimination (Article 1)=30    Scent Discrimination (Article 2)=30  
 Directed Retrieve=30    Moving Stand & Examination=30    Directed Jumping=40

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 BEGINNER NOVICE – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER										
Heel on Leash (40 points)										
Figure Eight (40 points)										
Sit for Exam (40 points)										
Sit Stay (40 points)										
Recall (40 Points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 GRADUATE NOVICE CLASS – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER										
Heel Free & Figure 8 (40 points)										
Drop on Recall (40 points)										
Dumbbell Recall (30 points)										
Dumbbell Recall over High Jump (30 points)										
Recall over Broad Jump (30 points)										
SUBTOTAL OF POINTS OFF										
Sit–Stay–Down (30 points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 GRADUATE OPEN CLASS – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER										
Signal Exercise (40 points)										
Scent Discrimination (30 points)										
Go Out (30 points)										
Directed Jumping (40 points)										
Moving Stand & Exam (30 points)										
Directed Retrieve (30 points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**



NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 VERSATILITY CLASS – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

ORDER OF EXERCISES: I–XII \_\_\_\_\_

DOG NUMBER										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										
FINAL QUALIFYING SCORE										

Novice Exercise 1=25    Novice Exercise 2=25    Open Exercise 1=35    Open Exercise 2=35  
    Utility Exercise 1=40    Utility Exercise 2=40

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 PREFERRED NOVICE CLASS – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER										
Heel on Leash & Figure 8 (40 pts.)										
Stand for Exam (40 points)										
Heel Free (40 points)										
Recall (40 points)										
Sit - Stay - Down (40 points)										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL SCORE										

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 PREFERRED OPEN CLASS – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

ORDER OF EXERCISES: I–VI \_\_\_\_\_

DOG NUMBER										
POINTS OFF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS PENALTIES										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL SCORE										

Heel Free=40   Drop On Recall=40   Retrieve On Flat=40   Retrieve Over High Jump=40   Broad Jump=40

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
 PREFERRED UTILITY CLASS – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 200 Points  
 ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

ORDER OF EXERCISES: I-VI \_\_\_\_\_

DOG NUMBER										
Miscellaneous Penalties										
Maximum Score (200)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
POINTS OFF (Subtract)										
TOTAL SCORE										

Signal Exercise=40    Scent Discrimination (Article 1)=30    Scent Discrimination (Article 2)=30  
 Directed Retrieve=30    Moving Stand & Examination=30    Directed Jumping=40

	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Fourth Prize
WINNERS	_____	_____	_____	_____
SCORE	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

NAME OF CLUB – A.K.C. JUDGES BOOK – DATE OF SHOW  
RALLY – MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE – 100 Points  
ENTER POINTS OFF FOR EACH EXERCISE UNDER APPROPRIATE ARMBAND NUMBER

DOG NUMBER	BREED OF DOG	TIME	POINTS LOST	FINAL SCORE

First Prize                  Second Prize                  Third Prize                  Fourth Prize

WINNERS                  \_\_\_\_\_                  \_\_\_\_\_                  \_\_\_\_\_                  \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE                  \_\_\_\_\_                  \_\_\_\_\_                  \_\_\_\_\_                  \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: START \_\_\_\_\_ FINISH \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE USE BALL POINT PEN)**

# AKC OBEDIENCE TRIAL EXCUSAL REFERENCE CHART

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JUDGE'S OBSERVATION	DISQUALIFY	EXCUSE	OPTION TO REJUDGE		CHAPTER	SECTION
			YES	NO		
Identification		X	X		1	10
Dog blind - W/O USEFUL vision	X			X	1	17
Dog deaf - W/O USEFUL hearing	X			X	1	17
Dog changed for <u>cosmetic</u> reasons	X			X	1	17
Dog <u>attempts</u> to attack a person in the ring	X			X	1 2	17 25
Dog attacks a person in the ring	X			X	1 2	17 25
Dog <u>attempts</u> to attack a dog in the ring		X		X	1 2	17 25
Dog attacks a dog in the ring		X		X	1 2	17 25
Dog <u>appears</u> dangerous in the ring		X		X	1 2	17 25
Lame - Irregularity of locomotion		X		X	1	17
Dog Taped/bandaged/medical attachments		X		X	1	17
Hair - Permitted: eyes, ears or beard... May be tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes as in breed ring		X	X		1	17
Hair - Not permitted: dyed/chalk/powder/protection/adornment		X	X		1	17
Bitches in season		X		X	1	18
Bitches attractive to males		X		X	1	18
Dog out of control		X		X	1 2	18 25
Handler willfully interferes		X		X	1	18
Handler abuses dog		X		X	1 2 2	18 3 28
Dog unfit to compete		X		X	1	18
Vet excusal in writing		X		X	1	25
Bench/trial committee excusal		X		X	1	25
Leash - fabric/leather/adequate length		X	X		2 2	16 26
Collars - properly fitted and approved by the judge. No special training collars.		X	X		2 2	17 26
Fear/nervousness - <u>may</u> be excused depending on the extent		X		X	2 2	3 25
Uncontrolled behavior - <u>may</u> be excused depending on the extent		X		X	2	25
Barking/snapping - <u>may</u> be excused depending on the extent		X		X	2	25
Running from handler - <u>may</u> be excused depending on the extent		X		X	2	25
Foul ring - <b>Judge's OPTION TO EXCUSE</b>		X		X	2 2	3 25
Training in ring - <b>Judge's OPTION TO EXCUSE</b>		X		X	2	27
Practicing in the ring - <b>Judge's OPTION TO EXCUSE</b>		X		X	2	27
Excessive verbal commands - <b>Judge's OPTION TO EXCUSE</b>		X		X	2	27

Disciplining in the ring		X		X	2 2	3 27
Abuse - report immediately.		X		X	2 2	3 28
Suspend for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs.		X		X	2	28
NQ score for carrying or offering food in the ring. Judge <b>may</b> excuse if he/she considers food being used as training.		X		X	2 2	3 22
Dog relieves itself while in the ring for judging. <b>Judge's OPTION TO EXCUSE</b>		X		X	2 2	3 25
Performance not meeting minimum requirements				X	2	3
<b>Equipment that Does not meet the requirements of the Obedience Regulations</b>						
		X	X			
<b>Novice Equipment for the Ring</b>						
Identification					1	10
Leash					2	16
Collar					2	17
<b>Open Equipment for the Ring</b>						
Identification, leash, collar same as in the Novice classes						
Dumbbell					4	9
<b>Utility Equipment for the Ring</b>						
Identification, leash, collar same as in the Novice classes						
Scent articles					5	8
Gloves					5	10

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# AKC Obedience Jump Charts

(Chapter 4, Section 11)

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Regular Classes + Approved Breeds for ¾ Jump Height & Preferred Classes --- ½ Jump Height  
Measured height nearest multiple of 2" to the height of the dog's withers.



Height to be Jumped	Broad Jump Hurdles	High Jump Chart Board Combinations
4"	( 8) 1	4" = 4
8"	(16) 2	8" = 8
10"	(20) 2	10" = 8 + 2
12"	(24) 2	12" = 8 + 4
14"	(28) 3	14" = 8 + 4 + 2
16"	(32) 3	16" = 8 + 8
18"	(36) 3	18" = 8 + 8 + 2
20"	(40) 3	20" = 8 + 8 + 4
22"	(44) 3	22" = 8 + 8 + 4 + 2
24"	(48) 4	24" = 8 + 8 + 8
26"	(52) 4	26" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 2
28"	(56) 4	28" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 4
30"	(60) 4	30" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 4 + 2
32"	(64) 4	32" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 8
34"	(68) 4	34" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 2
36"	(72) 4	36" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 4

## Chart for ¾ the Height at the Withers

Measured Height	Height to Jump	Broad Jump
Less than 10"	4"	( 8) 1
10 to less than 12 1/2"	8"	(16) 2
12 1/2 to less than 15"	10"	(20) 2
15 to less than 17 1/2"	12"	(24) 2
17 1/2 to less than 20"	14"	(28) 3
20 to less than 23"	16"	(32) 3
23 to less than 25 1/2"	18"	(36) 3
25 1/2 to less than 28"	20"	(40) 3
28 to less than 31"	22"	(44) 3
31 to less than 33 1/2"	24"	(48) 4
33 1/2 to less than 36"	26"	(52) 4
36 to less than 39"	28"	(56) 4

## Chart for ½ the Height at the Withers (Preferred Open & Preferred Utility)

Measured Height	Height to Jump	Broad Jump
12" or less	4"	( 8) 1
Greater than 12" up to 18"	8"	(16) 2
Greater than 18" up to 22"	10"	(20) 2
Greater than 22" up to 26"	12"	(24) 2
Greater than 26" up to 30"	14"	(28) 3
Greater than 30" up to 34"	16"	(32) 3
Greater than 34"	18"	(36) 3



### Broad Jump: To cover a distance equal to TWICE the height of the High Jump

4 hurdles shall be used for a jump of 48" to 72"  
 3 hurdles shall be used for a jump of 28" to 44"  
 2 hurdles shall be used for a jump of 16" to 24"  
 1 hurdle shall be used for a jump of 8"

When decreasing the number of hurdles in the Jump, the highest hurdle(s) shall be removed first.

### 51 Approved Breeds Jumping ¾ Their Height at the Withers --- Effective August 1, 2012

Akita	Dandie Dinmount Terrier	Newfoundland
Argentine Dogo	Dogue De Bordeaux	Norwich Terrier
Basset Hound	Estrela Mountain Dog	Otterhound
Bergamasco	French Bulldog	Pekingese
Bernese Mountain Dog	Glen of Imaal Terrier	Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Black Russian Terrier	Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen	Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen
Bloodhound	Great Dane	Portuguese Podengo
Bolognese	Great Pyrenees	Pugs
Borzo	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog	Saint Bernard
Bulldog	Irish Wolfhound	Scottish Terriers
Bullmastiff	Kishu Ken	Sealyham Terrier
Cardigan Welsh Corgi	Kooikerhondje	Shih Tzu
Caucasian Mountain Dog	Kuvaszok	Skye Terrier
Chinese Shar-Pei	Lagotto Romagnolo	Sussex Spaniel
Chow Chow	Leonberger	Swedish Vallhunds
Clumber Spaniel	Mastiff	Thai Ridgeback
Dachshund	Neopolitan Mastiff	West Highland White Terrier





## Principal Features of Exercises

### Novice:

#### **HEEL ON LEASH AND FIGURE EIGHT:**

The ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

#### **STAND FOR EXAMINATION:**

The dog stands in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment.

#### **HEEL FREE:**

Refer to Heel On Leash And Figure Eight.

#### **RECALL:**

The dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.

#### **GROUP EXERCISES:**

The dog remain in the sitting or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise.

### Open:

#### **HEEL AND FREE AND FIGURE EIGHT:**

Refer to Novice Heel On Leash And Figure Eight.

#### **DROP ON RECALL:**

The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, are the dog's prompt response to command or signal to drop, and the dog remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come.

#### **RETRIEVE ON FLAT:**

The dog retrieve promptly.

#### **RETRIEVE OVER HIGH JUMP:**

The dog go out over the jump, picks up the dumbbell and promptly returns with it over the jump.

#### **BROAD JUMP:**

The dog stay where left until directed to jump and that the dog clear the jump on a single command or signal and that the dog return to its handler after it has jumped.

#### **GROUP EXERCISES:**

Refer to Novice Group Exercises.

### Utility:

#### **SIGNAL EXERCISES:**

The ability of dog and handler to work as a team while heeling, and the dog's correct responses to the signals to Stand, Stay, Drop, Sit and Come.

#### **SCENT DISCRIMINATION:**

The selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone, and the prompt delivery of the right article to the handler.

#### **DIRECTED RETRIEVE:**

The dog stay until directed to retrieve, that it go directly to the designated glove, and retrieves it promptly.

#### **MOVING STAND AND EXAMINATION:**

The dog heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away, accept the examination without shyness or resentment, and return to the handler on command.

#### **DIRECTED JUMPING:**

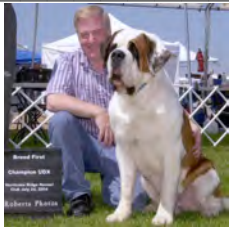
The dog goes away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stops, jumps as directed and returns as in the Novice Recall.

Points Off	Final Score	<b>Judge's Book Conversion Chart For AKC Obedience</b>			
<b>0.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>				
<b>0.5</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>189.5</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>179.5</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>199.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>189.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>179.0</b>
<b>1.5</b>	<b>198.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>188.5</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>178.5</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>198.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>188.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>178.0</b>
<b>2.5</b>	<b>197.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>187.5</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>177.5</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>187.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>177.0</b>
<b>3.5</b>	<b>196.5</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>186.5</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>176.5</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>196.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>186.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>176.0</b>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>195.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>185.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>175.5</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>195.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>185.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>175.0</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>194.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>184.5</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>174.5</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>194.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>184.0</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>174.0</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>193.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>183.5</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>173.5</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>193.0</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>183.0</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>173.0</b>
<b>7.5</b>	<b>192.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>182.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>172.5</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>192.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>172.0</b>
<b>8.5</b>	<b>191.5</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>181.5</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>171.5</b>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>191.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>181.0</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>171.0</b>
<b>9.5</b>	<b>190.5</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>180.5</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>170.5</b>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>190.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>180.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>170.0</b>

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Points Off	Final Score	Judge's Book Conversion Chart For AKC Obedience			
30.5	169.5	40.5	159.5	50.5	149.5
31.0	169.0	41.0	159.0	51.0	149.0
31.5	168.5	41.5	158.5	51.5	148.5
32.0	168.0	42.0	158.0	52.0	148.0
32.5	167.5	42.5	157.5	52.5	147.5
33.0	167.0	43.0	157.0	53.0	147.0
33.5	166.5	43.5	156.5	53.5	146.5
34.0	166.0	44.0	156.0	54.0	146.0
34.5	165.5	44.5	155.5	54.5	145.5
35.0	165.0	45.0	155.0	55.0	145.0
35.5	164.5	45.5	154.5	55.5	144.5
36.0	164.0	46.0	154.0	56.0	144.0
36.5	163.5	46.5	153.5	56.5	143.5
37.0	163.0	47.0	153.0	57.0	143.0
37.5	162.5	47.5	152.5	57.5	142.5
38.0	162.0	48.0	152.0	58.0	142.0
38.5	161.5	48.5	151.5	58.5	141.5
39.0	161.0	49.0	151.0	59.0	141.0
39.5	160.5	49.5	150.5	59.5	140.5
40.0	160.0	50.0	150.0	60.0	140.0


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## Judge's Briefing Notes

*Today's Tidbits of Information for All Jitling Classes:*

- 1) **Please check in with the Steward** and pick up your armband *before* the class starts, if possible.
  - 2) If you have a **potential conflict**, please let the Steward know now. I will work with you if at all possible.
  - 3) **Exhibitors** (according to the Regulations) are not permitted to wear such things as waist packs/pouches, cell phones or any item that, in the judge's opinion, appears to be a training device or aid. No dog may enter the *ring*, either for judging or for awards, with unacceptable equipment. **Please do a quick double-check.**
  - 4) **Also**, (according to the Regulations), **no visible means of identification** (badges, ribbons, club jackets, etc.) may be worn or displayed by anyone exhibiting a dog in the ring. **Please do a quick double-check.**
  - 5) **Before the class starts**, I will show the starting location for the different exercises.
  - 6) **The heeling pattern is posted**. I will also walk a Steward through the pattern as a visual.
  - 7) **Double check the collar** to make sure it conforms to the Regulations and nothing is "hanging" from it.
  - 8) **Postings for Designated Glove, (Jump/GO), (Sit/Down-PN & GN)** are posted and indicated by a 
  - 9) **In a class with a Group Exercise(s), the handler is required to let the Steward know** if they will be returning for the Groups. This is best done as you exit the ring after the last individual exercise.
  - 10) **Utility & Versatility--What to do with the first article? This will be the option used...** Handler hands the first article to the judge (after "Exercise finished.") and the judge puts it on the chair while the handler and dog set up for the second article. Your hands will then be free from the article to praise your dog as you wish.
- If you have a question, or an area you would like clarified, now is the time to ask. I am here to help make this a positive experience for you and your dog. I still show dogs too and, yes, I get anxious when showing in the ring. With that said, there are a few things I would like you to keep foremost in your mind today:
- a. **In the world order of things, this is JUST a dog show** and there are more to come in the weeks ahead. Thank goodness!
  - b. **Learn from today**, and if things need a little tweaking that is okay. Don't overlook the parts that were up to, or exceeded, your expectations. **Remember**, most of the dogs in the world can't even come close to what you are accomplishing with your dog today. Feel good about that, take your dog out to dinner and celebrate! If **you** make a mistake today, your dog will forgive you!
  - c. **Today is a day of memories in the making** so enjoy today's outing with your dog! With those thoughts in mind, plus good sportsmanship, enjoy this ring time with your dog in the wonderful sport of Obedience. Momentarily, you may feel it is like entering the Twilight Zone but that will pass!

*Good Luck at today's show and the ones that will follow!*

# Are You Considering Judging? Don't Overlook Your Judges' Case

By John Cox

A judge's case is comprised of one's tools of the trade. Many of the items needed for judging are supplied by the judge. It is NOT the obligation of a club, Superintendent or Show Secretary to provide anything other than:

1. Obedience Ring(s)
2. Jumps if needed
3. Stewards
4. Judge's Book
5. Ribbons

The club and Superintendent/Show Secretary will work out between themselves who will provide the above. These items are not your concern, *except* to make sure they conform to the Obedience Regulations.

The case the judge brings to the ring has the items he/she needs to carry out the duties of judging. What is in your case will depend on what you feel will be needed to do your job in an effective and efficient manner. Judges may travel "light," or they may be prepared for almost anything that might occur.

If this is your first time to outfit a judge's case, listed below are a few items to consider:

1. **AKC OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES** - Always carry your own CURRENT copy.
2. **AKC MISCONDUCT BOOKLET** - Don't rely on one being at the trial.
3. **GROUP EXERCISE SHEETS** - It is NOT up to the club, etc. to provide these for your use.
4. **CLIP BOARD**
5. **SEVERAL PENS, PENCILS**
6. **STOP WATCH or TIMER** - For the Group Exercises.
7. **TAPE MEASURE (20' works well)** - For measuring jumps and distances.
8. **RULER** - For measuring dogs to be **certain** of correct heights per the Regulations.
9. **WORKSHEETS** - For scoring individual dogs and being able to refer back to and give input to the handler, if asked.
10. **OPEN B, UTILITY B & VERSATILITY EXERCISE ORDER SHEETS** - You may make your own or a set can be downloaded from the AKC web page at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).
11. **MARKERS** - Sticky dots, chalk, etc. to mark distances and/or starting areas for handlers.
12. **STEWARDS INSTRUCTIONS** - A paper that lists your instructions will serve you well. It helps you remember EVERY INSTRUCTION, plus it gives the stewards a hard copy to refer back to. It works well if you have the instructions sealed in plastic for longer wear.
13. **JUDGES BADGE** - Not always provided. You might consider having one made up with your name. Most office supply stores make an assortment of badges.
14. **JUMP CHART** - Extra sheet listing jump heights and jump requirements for different breeds as per Chapter 4, Section 11. Such a chart will assist the stewards and save time looking in the Regulations. Sealing the chart in plastic--as Martha Stewart says--"It's a good thing."
15. **CORRESPONDENCE** - *Take your club correspondence with you!* You may need to refer to it for phone numbers, or contact person during your travel. Also, the correspondence will state the contract terms if there is a question.
16. **EXPENSE SHEET** - Make a copy for the club and your records. You might create a form outlining expenses (and fee, if charged) so they are spelled out for the club treasurer.
17. **CARBON PAPER** - Handy for making a copy of what you might have to write inside the Judge's Book cover. You will then have a copy to refer back to at a later time if questioned.
18. **ANTACID AND ASPIRIN** - For those times when you can't leave the ring.

You will find that a tailored judging case that fits your needs is an important tool in judging. Take the time and effort and be prepared. Your day of judging will be more enjoyable because you planned ahead and are ready to do your BEST job!