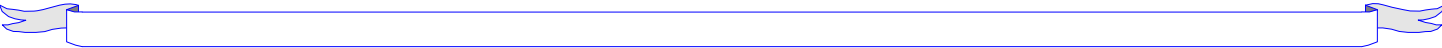




**AKC**  
**Obedience**  
**Novice Classes**

**Judge's Novice A Briefing Sheet**  
**Novice B Briefing Sheet For Exhibitors**  
**Steward's Instructions**  
**Judging Worksheets**  
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**Run-off Sheet**  
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# Novice A Judge's Briefing

On June 1, 2005, the American Kennel Club added a new obedience regulation.

## Chapter 2, Section 1:

*"In the Novice A class, a 15-minute walk-through **prior to the start of the class**, will be allowed for handlers without their dogs. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to brief the handlers and answer any questions they might have."*

**Every time you show in Novice A, you can expect a 15-minute walk-through.**

**Remember to check your Judging Program so you know when the Novice A class starts so you won't miss the walk-through and the opportunity to ask the judge questions about scoring or procedures.**

## Today's Tidbits of Information

- 1) I have my heeling pattern posted outside the ring as a visual reference. You may walk the pattern in the ring during the briefing period. I will also have the steward walk the pattern right before the starting of the class. If you do walk the pattern, please be aware not to disturb the dogs and handlers in the adjacent rings.
- 2) I am assuming you have read the **AKC Obedience Regulations** that pertain to the Novice A class since you signed the entry form saying you have done so.
- 3) If there is a question you have, 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, as it takes 3 qualifying scores for a CD title.
  - 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!
  - 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, you are entering into the wonderful sport of Obedience. Momentarily, you may feel it is like entering the Twilight Zone but that will pass!
- 4) After the class is over and the awards are presented, I encourage you to come back and discuss your performance. IF by chance you lost points from a perfect 200 score, it might benefit your future performances knowing where the points came off today. NEVER assume it is always the dog that lost the points. Obedience is a TEAM sport and you know who the other half of the team is!

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

Judge: John Cox



## *Novice Judge's Briefing Notes*



### *Today's Tidbits of Information:*

- 1) Please check in with the Steward and pick up your armband *before* the class starts. In doing so, I will be better able to determine when we will break for Groups.
- 2) If you have a potential conflict, please let the Steward know now. I will try and work with you if at all possible.
- 3) Before the class starts, I will show the starting location for the different exercises.
- 4) The heeling pattern is posted. I will also walk a Steward through the pattern as a visual, plus you will also be able to see where I will be during the heeling exercise.
- 5) 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!
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  - 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!*

**Judge: John Cox**

John Cox dog-talk@comcast.net

## STEWARD INSTRUCTIONS

### General Information For All Classes

- ARMBANDS**                    **When handing out armbands, make a check mark in the catalog Next to the number.** This will allow us to account for and figure out the number in each Group. **In Open and Utility ask for the jump heights.**
- CONFLICTS**                    A conflict exists only when the dog entered in this class has a conflicting time schedule in another class. In such a case, have the handler check with me. I will try to make arrangements for later or earlier judging. **Make a note of a conflict in the catalog.** Handlers have the responsibility to be at ringside--we cannot wait or look for them.
- OUT OF ORDER**                Call to my attention a dog coming into the ring out of catalog order.
- ABSENTEES**                    **Notify me of absentees**--both those who have not picked up armbands and those who have checked in and are not at ringside to be judged when called.
- COLLAR, ETC.**                Visually check collars and leashes to see that they comply with the Regulations (Chapter 2, Section 17). No tags are allowed **hanging** from the collar. I will also check but if you spot a problem outside the ring it saves us time by correcting it then.
- Also, be sure handlers have no club jackets, badges or coats with kennel names, etc. No belt pouches, belt packs, pagers or cell phones are allowed in the ring **during the exercises or awards.**
- LEASHES**                        **Make sure all dogs enter and leave the ring on leash.**
- TOYS/FOOD**                    **No food or toys** are to be placed on the judge's table by the handler while they are in the ring.
- SCORES**                         **Do not disclose scores, etc., to the handlers or allow anyone to look at the Judge's Book.** I will inform the handler if they qualified after the last exercise. All final scores and placements will be given out after the whole class (or split class) has been judged.
- JUDGE'S BOOK**                After the Group Exercises in Novice and Open, I would like a steward to double-check my addition. If you have a question, inform me. Do not make corrections or write in the Judge's Book.
- SPECTATORS**                 Watch around the ring for any spectators or dogs that could be too close to the ring and cause interference with the dog(s) in the ring.

**Please keep your attention in the ring and be ready when needed.**

**Thank you for stewarding! The handlers and I are counting on you.**

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John Cox dog-talk@comcast.net

## STEWARDS INSTRUCTIONS

### NOVICE A or B

Heel on Leash & **Figure Eight**, Stand For Examination, Heel Free, Recall  
Group Order: **Long Sit, Long Down**

#### **NOVICE OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS - Chapter 3, Sections 1 & 2**

- 'A' In Novice A, the handler must own the dog entered, or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family and may not have previously handled any other dog that has earned an American Kennel Club Novice, Open or Utility title. A person may enter more than one dog in this class but the same person who handled each dog in the first five exercises **MUST** handle each dog in the Group exercises. **HOWEVER**, if a person has handled more than one dog he/she must have an additional handler (need not be household or immediate family member) for each additional dog, when in the **SAME** Group.
- 'B' In Novice B, the same handler showing the dog in the individual exercises **MUST** handle that dog in the Group exercises, **UNLESS** the handler has more than one dog in the **SAME** Group. In this case the handler may have anyone handle the other dog(s).

#### **HEEL ON LEASH And FIGURE 8**

- I will bring the handler into the ring** when I am ready to start.
- Listen for "Exercised Finished" and **be ready to be a Figure 8 post**. Keep arms folded in front and close to your body and be quiet. Avoid eye contact with the dog.
- As you exit the ring, be sure the next handler is at ringside** and knows he or she is next. Once someone has been told they are "next", **don't change their order**.

#### **RECALL**

Bring the leash to the handler **AFTER** the Recall "Exercised Finished"

#### **GROUPS**

- We will attempt to determine Group sizes and number of Groups before judging begins, but it may change as absentees become apparent. Group size will be determined by dividing the Groups into approximately equal sections, keeping in mind having dogs spaced at 4 feet per dog. There should **not be fewer than 6** in a Group.
- The dogs and handlers that come into the ring for the Group exercise are to be in catalog order. Be sure the Group sheet is in catalog order and the handlers and dogs enter the ring in that order on the sheet.
- During the Group exercise, one steward is to stand at the ring gate.

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR ATTENTION IN THE RING AND BE READY WHEN NEEDED.**

**REMEMBER**, most handlers are under a little stress so help ease some tension by being helpful and courteous.

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### Novice A or B

Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Stand For Examination, Heel Free, Recall

Group Exercises: Long Sit, Long Down

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#	Breed					Points Off	Point Total	Net Score
Sections 5 & 6	L	F	S	C	W		40	
Heel on Leash								
Handler: Fast NA BA / Slow ND NB -- PS NS PS NS Hand Arm Briskness Head motion Round/Military Turn								
Figure Eight								
Hand Arm Briskness Head motion PS NS PS NS Adapts pace Wide Shoulder motion								
Sections 7 & 8	Hand on dog with command / signal Heel position leaving L F S C W Handler backs away Not six feet						30	
Stand For Examination	During: Growls Snaps Sits Lies = NQ After: Sits Lies Moves Away Heel position returning L F S C W							
Section 9	L	F	S	C	W		40	
Heel Free								
Handler: Fast NA BA / Slow ND NB -- PS NS PS NS Hand position Briskness Head motion Round/Military Turn								
Sections 10 & 11	EC to stay Stood up Laid down Whine Bark Anticipated		EC Slow response No trot or gallop Not direct Not close enough Hand position				30	
Recall								
Front: NF PS NS Out T Between feet			Finish: NF PS NS Prompt Smart					
Sub Total Score							140	
Less Other Penalties: Excused - Out of control Foul ring Training Adornment Bandaged Lamé Slow / no response to commands Guiding Positioning with: Hands Legs Bark Unfit:								-



### Novice A or B

Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Stand For Examination, Heel Free, Recall

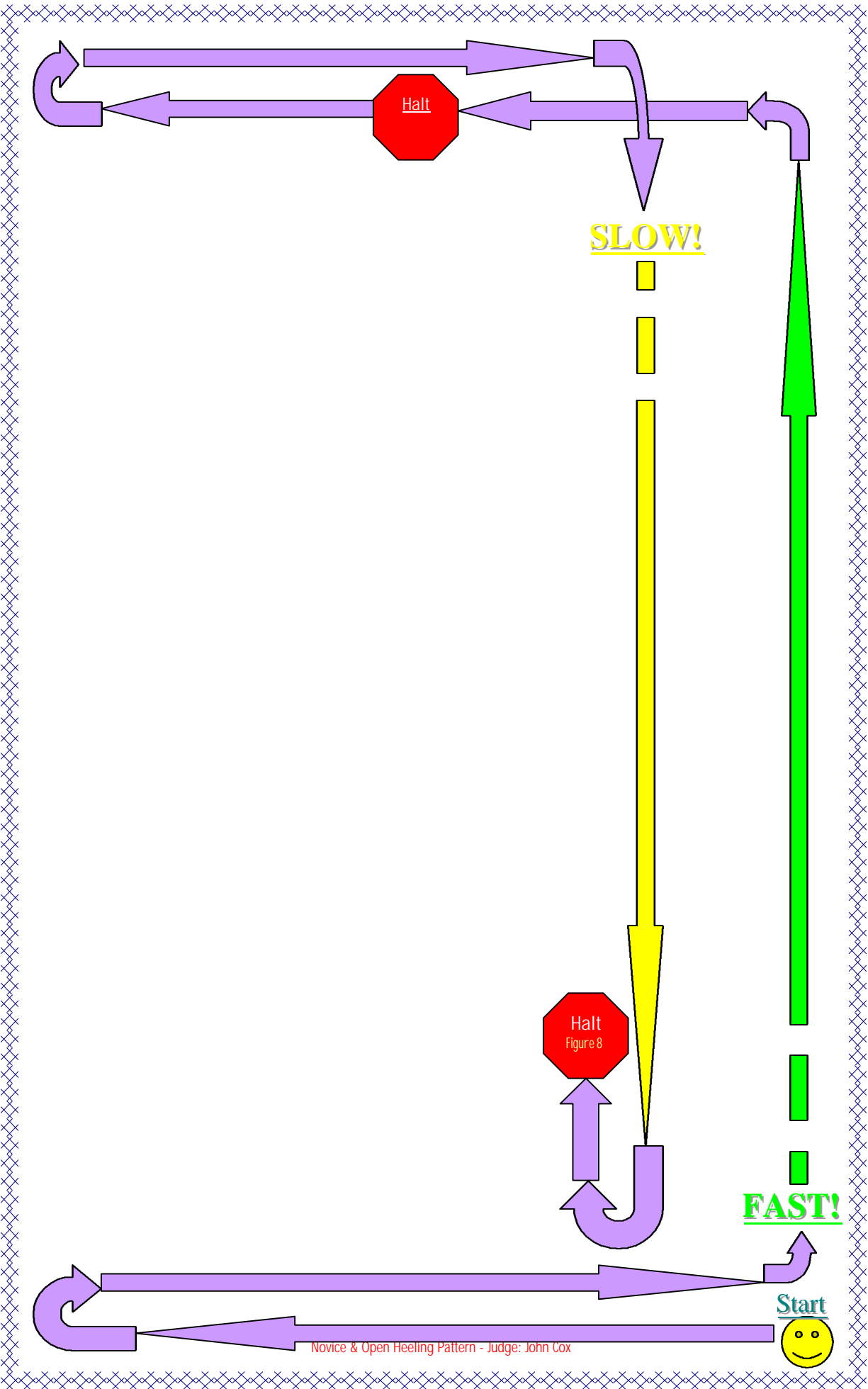
Group Exercises: Long Sit, Long Down

© by John Cox

#	Breed					Points Off	Point Total	Net Score
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Heel on Leash								
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Stand For Examination	During: Growls Snaps Sits Lies = NQ After: Sits Lies Moves Away Heel position returning L F S C W							
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Heel Free								
Handler: Fast NA BA / Slow ND NB -- PS NS PS NS Hand position Briskness Head motion Round/Military Turn								
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Recall								
Front: NF PS NS Out T Between feet			Finish: NF PS NS Prompt Smart					
Sub Total Score							140	
Less Other Penalties: Excused - Out of control Foul ring Training Adornment Bandaged Lamé Slow / no response to commands Guiding Positioning with: Hands Legs Bark Unfit:								-







Halt

**SLOW!**

Halt  
Figure 8

**FAST!**

Start





# Prizes & Awards Run-Off Sheet

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<b>Class:</b>		<b>Catalog #</b>					<b>Points Off</b>
NA	NB	<b>Breed</b>					
OA	OB						
UA	UB						
<b>Non Regular:</b>							
<b>Other Award:</b>							
Ch. 3, Section 9	L	F	S	C	W		
<b>Heel Free</b>							
Handler: Fast NA BA / Slow ND NB -- PS NS PS NS							
Hand position Briskness Head motion Round/Military Turn							
<b>Less Other Penalties:</b> Excused - Out of control Foul ring Training Adornment Bandaged Lamé Slow / no response to commands Guiding Positioning with: Hands Legs Bark Unfit:							-

<b>Class:</b>		<b>Catalog #</b>					<b>Points Off</b>
NA	NB	<b>Breed</b>					
OA	OB						
UA	UB						
<b>Non Regular:</b>							
<b>Other Award:</b>							
Ch. 3, Section 9	L	F	S	C	W		
<b>Heel Free</b>							
Handler: Fast NA BA / Slow ND NB -- PS NS PS NS							
Hand position Briskness Head motion Round/Military Turn							
<b>Less Other Penalties:</b> Excused - Out of control Foul ring Training Adornment Bandaged Lamé Slow / no response to commands Guiding Positioning with: Hands Legs Bark Unfit:							-

<b>Class:</b>		<b>Catalog #</b>					<b>Points Off</b>
NA	NB	<b>Breed</b>					
OA	OB						
UA	UB						
<b>Non Regular:</b>							
<b>Other Award:</b>							
Ch. 3, Section 9	L	F	S	C	W		
<b>Heel Free</b>							
Handler: Fast NA BA / Slow ND NB -- PS NS PS NS							
Hand position Briskness Head motion Round/Military Turn							
<b>Less Other Penalties:</b> Excused - Out of control Foul ring Training Adornment Bandaged Lamé Slow / no response to commands Guiding Positioning with: Hands Legs Bark Unfit:							-

<b>Class:</b>		<b>Catalog #</b>					<b>Points Off</b>
NA	NB	<b>Breed</b>					
OA	OB						
UA	UB						
<b>Non Regular:</b>							
<b>Other Award:</b>							
Ch. 3, Section 9	L	F	S	C	W		
<b>Heel Free</b>							
Handler: Fast NA BA / Slow ND NB -- PS NS PS NS							
Hand position Briskness Head motion Round/Military Turn							
<b>Less Other Penalties:</b> Excused - Out of control Foul ring Training Adornment Bandaged Lamé Slow / no response to commands Guiding Positioning with: Hands Legs Bark Unfit:							-

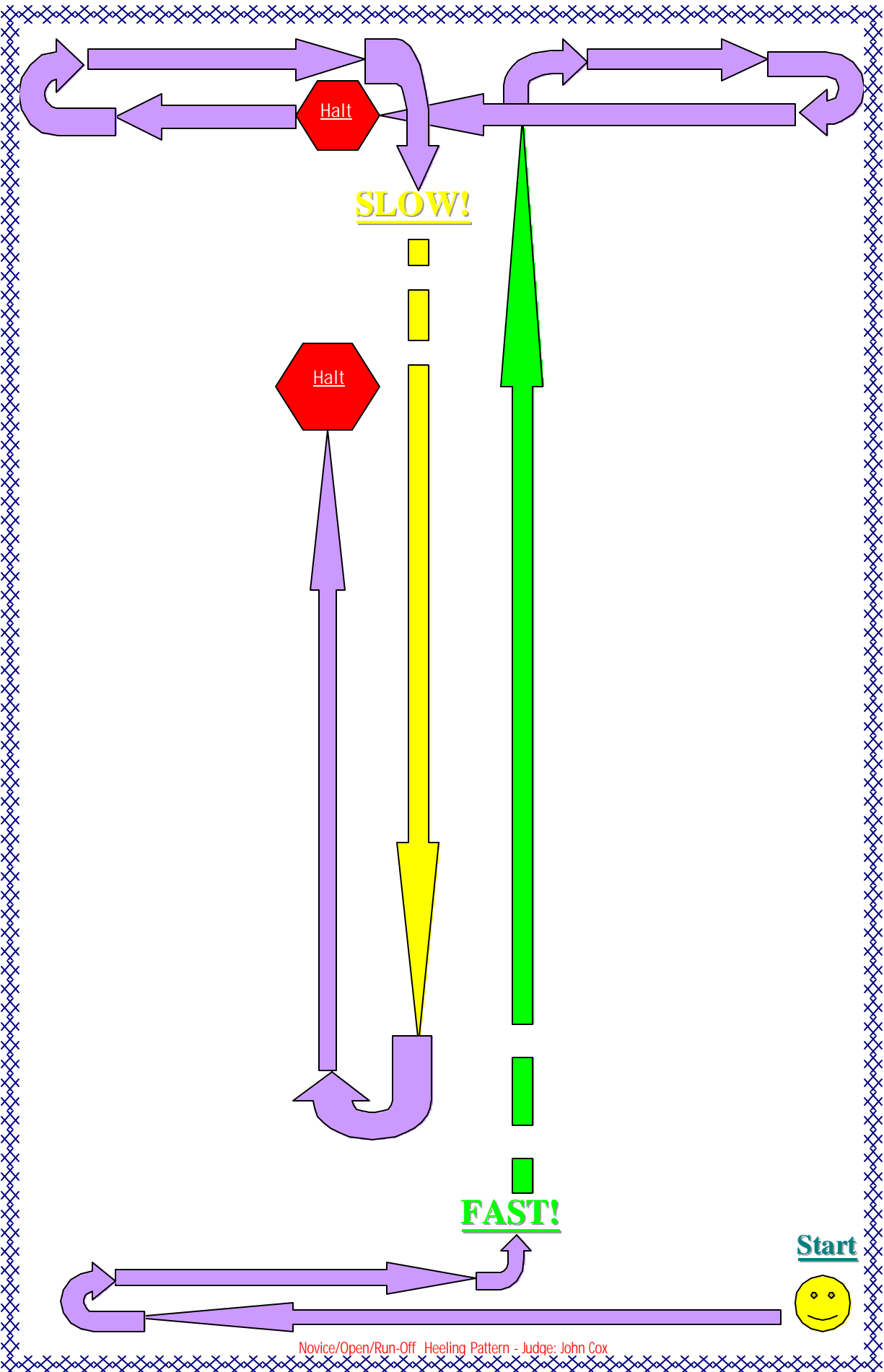
## Class Prize Catalog Numbers:

1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

## Highest Scoring From The Regular Classes Catalog Number:

## High Combined Score Catalog Number:





Novice/Open/Run-Off Heeling Pattern - Judge: John Cox

# Class Placements

Pertaining to circled class below:

Novice A Novice B Open A Open B Utility A Utility B

Beginners Novice Graduate Novice Graduate Open Versatility

Pre-Novice Veterans Brace Team Advanced Team Work

Wild Card N O U

The maximum number of points for a perfect score is 200 Points  
(Team 800 Points)

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Stewards: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dogs in competition \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog # \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog # \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog # \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog# \_\_\_\_\_

All other scores will be posted at the Superintendent's Table

# Class Placements

Pertaining to circled class below:

Novice A Novice B Open A Open B Utility A Utility B

Beginners Novice Graduate Novice Graduate Open Versatility

Pre-Novice Veterans Brace Team Advanced Team Work

Wild Card N O U

The maximum number of points for a perfect score is 200 Points  
(Team 800 Points)

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Stewards: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dogs in competition \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog # \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog # \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog # \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Score \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog# \_\_\_\_\_

All other scores will be posted at the Superintendent's Table

# 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	9
Dog blind - W/O USEFUL vision	X			X	1	16
Dog deaf - W/O USEFUL hearing	X			X	1	16
Dog changed for <u>cosmetic</u> reasons	X			X	1	16
Dog <u>attempts</u> to attack a person in the ring	X			X	1 2	16 25
Dog attacks a person in the ring	X			X	1 2	16 25
Dog <u>attempts</u> to attack a dog in the ring		X		X	1 2	16 25
Dog attacks a dog in the ring		X		X	1 2	16 25
Dog <u>appears</u> dangerous in the ring		X		X	1 2	16 25
Lame - Irregularity of locomotion		X		X	1	16
Dog Taped/bandaged/medical attachments		X		X	1	16
Hair - Permitted: eyes, ears or beard... May be tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes as in breed ring		X	X		1	16
Hair - Not permitted: dyed/chalk/powder/protection/adornment		X	X		1	16
Bitches in season		X		X	1	17
Bitches attractive to males		X		X	1	17
Dog out of control		X		X	1 2	17 25
Handler willfully interferes		X		X	1	17
Handler abuses dog		X		X	1 2 2	17 3 28
Dog unfit to compete		X		X	1	17
Vet excusal in writing		X		X	1	24
Bench/trial committee excusal		X		X	1	24
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	1 2 2	17 3 28
Suspend for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs.		X		X	2	29
NQ score for carrying or offering food in the ring. Judge may 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. Judge's OPTION TO EXCUSE		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	9
Leash					2	16
Collar					2	17
<b>Open Equipment for the Ring</b>						
Identification, leash, collar same as in the Novice classes						
Dumbbell					4	8
<b>Utility Equipment for the Ring</b>						
Identification, leash, collar same as in the Novice classes						
Scent articles					5	7
Gloves					5	9