

## Obedience and the Sealyham terrier

The American Kennel Club's definition of Obedience: "Obedience training is the foundation upon which all canine activities are based, whether conformation, agility, tracking, search & rescue, service dogs, fieldwork, etc."

In 1933, when AKC Obedience competition began, the concept behind obedience training was and is to develop a very close working relationship between human beings and dogs, while demonstrating the usefulness and enthusiasm of dogs. This concept remains as important today as it was when the program was developed.

There are several levels of obedience, such as the long-standing classes of Novice (CD), Open (CDX) and Utility (UD). In recent years, additional optional titling classes of Graduate Novice (GN), Graduate Open (GO) and Versatility (VER) have been added. Also higher levels of competition exist, which includes Utility Excellent (UDX), Obedience Master (OM), Grand Master (OGM), Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) and the most celebrated which is the winning dog at the AKC National Obedience Invitational wins becomes the National Obedience Champion (NOC) for the year. This is the only dog that can carry that distinction. AKC Obedience Trials were developed to foster training, as well as, to demonstrate dogs' willingness, capabilities and enjoyment of working with and very closely with humans.

### **Purpose:**

Obedience Trials demonstrate the usefulness of the purebred dog as a human companion and showcase dogs that have been trained and conditioned to properly behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs.

### **History:**

Mrs. Helen Whitehouse Walker is credited as the founder of American obedience. To prove the intelligence of her Standard Poodles, Mrs. Walker created a series of obedience exercises based on tests patterned after those held in England under sponsorship of the Associated Sheep, Police Army Dog Society. The first obedience test for all breeds of dogs was held in October 1933 in Mount Kisco, New York.

## Regular Title

<b>Class</b>	<b>Title Earned</b>	<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Suffix</b>
Novice A or B	Companion Dog	-	CD
Open A or B	Companion Dog Excellent	-	CDX
Utility A or B	Utility Dog	-	UD
Open B or Utility B	Obedience Master	-	OM#
Open B or Utility B	Grand Master	-	OGM
Open B & Utility B	Utility Dog Excellent	-	UDX#
Open B & Utility B	Obedience Trial Champion	OTCH	-
National Obedience Invitational	National Obedience Champion of ___(year)	NOC	-

## Optional Title

<b>Class</b>	<b>Title Earned</b>	<b>Suffix</b>
Graduate Novice	Graduate Novice	GN
Graduate Open	Graduate Open	GO
Versatility	Versatility	VER

## The Obedience Trial:

In 1936, approximately 200 dogs were entered in 18 licensed tests. In 2008, there were 2,477 trials, with 100,381 dogs competing and 6,714 titles were earned by dogs of nearly all breeds.

The three regular classes of obedience training, each with their own prescribed sets of exercises:

**Novice Class** is the beginner level. For the Novice level, the dog must do the following:



- Heel on leash and complete a figure eight.
- Stand for examination.
- Heel free (off the leash).
- Recall: After staying on command while the handler walks away, the dog must come and sit facing the handler, then go to heel position.
- Long Sit: While a dog sits, the handler leaves the dog and walks to the other side of the ring to face the dog. The dog must then stay for one minute, until handler is back in heel position.
- Long Down: While the dog lies down, the handler leaves the dog and goes to the other side of the ring to face the dog. The dog must then stay for three minutes, until handler is back in heel position.



**Open Class** is the intermediate level, where the dog must:

- Heel and complete a figure eight off leash.
- Drop on Recall: From the heel position, the handler commands the dog to stay, then leaves the dog and walks to the other side of the ring to face the dog. The handler calls the dog to come, and then interrupt the dog travel by commanding a down, the dog must drop down on command. Finally, the handler recalls the dog, which comes and sits and faces the handler as in the Novice Recall.
- Retrieve on Flat: On command the dog must retrieve a dumbbell and return to the handler.
- Retrieve Over High Jump: Dog must go over jump, retrieve dumbbell and return with it, again over the jump.
- Broad Jump: Dog must stay where left until signaled to jump over two to four hurdles (depending on the size of the dog), then dog must return to handler as in Novice Recall.
- Long Sit: Similar to the Novice Long sit, except handler walks out of sight and the sit period is three minutes.

- Long Down: Similar to the Novice Long down, except handler walks out of sight and dog must remain down for a five minute time period.



**Utility Class** is the highest level, where the dog must:

- Signal Exercise: Handler gives the dog signals to Heel, Stand, Stay, Drop, Sit and Come. No voice commands are allowed.
- Scent Discrimination: Dog must select handler's article from among other articles by scent alone, then promptly return the right article to the handler. The dog performs this exercise twice. Once retrieving a metal article and again retrieving a leather article.
- Directed Retrieve: The handler instructs the dog to stay until directed to retrieve, then the dog must go to the designated glove, and retrieve it promptly.
- Moving Stand and Examination: Dog must heel, then on command, stand and stay, be examined by the judge before the handler can call the dog to heel position.

- Directed Jumping: Dog must go away in the direction indicated by the handler, stop and sit, jump as directed, and return as in Recall.

The three optional titling classes' as described are:

**Graduate Novice Class** is an interim level (between the Novice level and Open level class); the dog must do the following:

- Heel on leash and complete a figure eight (*off leash*).
- Drop on Recall.
- Dumbbell Recall: The dog will promptly take, hold and deliver the dumbbell when commanded.
- Recall Over High Jump: After staying on command while the handler walks away, the dog must jump and clear the jump on a single command or signal and immediately return to sit facing the handler, then go to heel position.
- Recall Over Broad Jump: same as the Recall over high jump exercise.
- Long Down: While the dog lies down, the handler leaves the dog and goes out of sight of the dog. The dog must then stay for three minutes, until handler is back in heel position.

**Graduate Open Class** is the next interim level (between the Open and Utility level class), where the dog must:

- Signal exercise except leaving the dog is between 10 to 20 feet and the handler gives the command and/or signal with the judge's orders.
- Scent Discrimination: same as the Utility Scent Discrimination exercise except only four articles (2 metal and 2 leather), and the handler and dog will face the articles. Only one article is retrieved.
- Directed Retrieve: exercise the same as the utility retrieve exercise except that no center glove is used.
- Moving Stand: handler may pause or hesitate when giving command and/or signal to stand.
- Go Out: from the center of ring between the jumps. The handler will send the dog 20 feet past the jumps to a point designated by the judge and sit. Then the handler will walk to dog and go to heel position.

- Directed Jumping: The handler will leave the dog and go to the other end of the ring. Turn and face the dog. Then send the dog over the chosen, then dog must return to handler as in Novice Recall.

**Versatility Class** is the next interim level, where the dog performs six exercises, two from each of the regular classes.

The higher level titles, **Utility Dog Excellent, Obedience Master and Obedience Trial Champion** are earned when the dog has earned the Utility Dog title:

**Utility Dog Excellent:** the dog must received qualifying scores in both Open B and Utility B at 10 separate trials. A numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met UDX requirements.

**Obedience Master:** the dog must earn a total of 200 points, based on the points awarded for scores of 190 or better from Open B or Utility B classes as listed in the below point schedule. *(For a title to be earned at less 30 percent must be from the open B class and 30 percent from the utility B class, the remaining 40 percent can come from either class.)* A numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met the OM requirements.

**Obedience Grand Master:** the dog must complete ten levels of the OM title.

Dog's Score	Points Awarded
190	6
190.5	6
191	6
191.5	6
192	9
192.5	9
193	9
193.5	9
194	9



194.5	9
195	12
195.5	12
196	12
196.5	12
197	15
197.5	15
198	15
198.5	15
199	15
199.5	15
200	15

**Obedience Trial Championship:** points will be recorded for the dogs that have earned a first, second, third or fourth placement in either the Open B or Utility B class, according to the schedule of points below. The dog must have won:

- 100 points
- A first place in Utility B with at least three (3) dogs in competition.
- A first place in Open B with at least six (6) dogs in competition.
- An additional first place from either class as stated above.
- All three first places under three different judges.

Only one of the required first places may be won at a specialty show.

### Points Schedule

#### Open B

Number Competing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
6-10	2	0	0	0
11-15	4	1	0	0
16-20	6	2	0	0
21-25	10	3	1	0
26-30	14	4	2	0
31-35	18	5	2	1
36-40	22	7	3	1
41-45	26	9	4	2
46-50	30	11	5	2
51-64	34	13	6	3

#### Utility B

Number Competing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
3-4	2	0	0	0
5-7	4	1	0	0
8-10	6	2	0	0
11-13	10	3	1	0
14-16	14	4	1	0
17-19	17	5	2	0
20-23	20	7	2	1
24-26	24	9	3	1
27-30	27	11	4	1
30-32	30	13	4	2
33-36	33	14	5	2
37-40	37	15	6	3
41-56	40	17	7	3

Utility B Class – Hawaii Only

Number Competing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
3-4	5	1	0	0
5-7	8	2	0	0
8-10	10	3	0	0
11-13	13	3	1	0
14-16	14	4	1	0
17-19	17	5	2	0
20-23	20	7	2	1
24-26	24	9	3	1
27-20	27	11	4	1
30-32	30	13	4	2
33-36	33	14	5	2
37-40	37	15	6	3
41-56	40	17	7	3

Utility B Class – Alaska and Puerto Rico Only

Number Competing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
3-4	3	0	0	0
5-7	5	1	0	0
8-10	8	2	0	0
11-13	10	3	1	0
14-16	14	4	1	0
17-19	17	5	2	0
20-23	20	7	2	1
24-26	24	9	3	1
27-20	27	11	4	1
30-32	30	13	4	2
33-36	33	14	5	2
37-40	37	15	6	3
41-56	40	17	7	3