

San Luis Obispo County 4-H
Dog Care & Training Show Guide

USE OF LEASH: All dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the obedience ring and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards and when waiting in the ring before and after the Group Exercises.

[NOTE: For NOVICE ONLY -- The leash must be made of fabric or leather and need only be long enough to provide adequate slack during the Heel on Leash exercise. – NOTE: For Sub-Novice – Leash is to be 6 feet long.]

COLLARS (Choke Chain or Flat Buckle): All dogs in the obedience ring must wear a properly fitted collar. No special training collars, such as electronic collars or prong collars will be permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar or decorating the collar, such as studs or rhinestones.

HEEL POSITION: The heel position as defined in the *AKC Regulations*, applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down, or moving at heel. The dog should be at the handler's left side straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to, but not crowding, its handler so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times.

SUB-NOVICE CLASS: All exercises will be scored as in the Novice Class, except the dogs will perform all exercises on leash, which should be 6 feet in length.

The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

1. Heel on Leash	45 points
2. Figure Eight	25 points
3. Stand for Examination	30 points
4. Recall	40 points
5. Long Sit	30 points
6. Long Down	30 points
Maximum Total Score:	200 points

NOVICE CLASS: The Novice Class consists of exercises which are performed both on and off leash. You can only enter Novice if you have received 3 qualifying scores in the Sub-Novice class or 2 qualifying scores and a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate.

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NOVICE EXERCISES AND SCORES: The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice Classes:

1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight	40 points
2. Stand for Examination	30 points
3. Heel Free	40 points
4. Recall	30 points
5. Long Sit	30 points
6. Long Down	30 points
Maximum Total Score:	200 points

HEEL ON LEASH & FIGURE EIGHT: The principle feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. Orders for this exercise are: "Forward," "Halt," "Right Turn," "Left turn," "About Turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast."

"Fast" means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. All about turns will be right about turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence, and turns and halts may be repeated.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands, must be held in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will ask if the handler is ready before giving the order "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At each order to halt, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on the judge's order. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again. The judge will say "Exercise finished" after this portion of the exercise.

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For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two stewards, who will be standing 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight in the Novice Classes will be done on leash; the handler may go around either steward first. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end.

HEEL ON LEASH & FIGURE EIGHT, SCORING: If a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dogs' pace, substantial points will be lost.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, will be made for additional commands or signals to heel or for failure of dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.

Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for lagging heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections.

STAND FOR EXAMINATION: The principle feature of this exercise is that the dog stands in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are, "Stand your dog, and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise finished."

On the judge's order, the handler will remove the leash and give it to a steward. The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge and, on the judge's order, will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if they choose to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay walk straight forward about 6 feet, and then turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers, and palm of one hand, the judge will touch the dog's head, body, and hindquarters. On the order, "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

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STAND FOR EXAMINATION, SCORING: The scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to his handler's attempts to have it stand. Either of these will be penalized substantially.

A dog may receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it sits or lies down, moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination or growls, snaps or displays resentment.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time or sits or moves away after the examination has been completed.

HEEL FREE, PERFORMANCE AND SCORING: This exercise will be performed as in the Heel on Leash but without either the leash or the Figure Eight. The scoring and orders will be the same.

RECALL: The principle features of this exercise are that the dog stays where left until called by the handler and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.

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

On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward, to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish. The dog must go smartly to heel position and sit. The manner, in which the dog finishes will be optional, provided it is prompt and that the dog sits straight at heel.

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RECALL, SCORING: A dog may receive a substantial or minor deduction if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if it fails to come on the first command or signal, if it moves from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot

Substantial deductions may be made for a handler's extra command or signal to sit or finish and for a dog that fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front or fails to finish, or sit at heel.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the Nadler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

GROUP EXERCISES: The principle feature of these exercises is that the dog remains in the sitting or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise.

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

All competing dogs in the class perform these exercises together. If, however, there are more dogs competing than can be spaced 4 feet per dog on one side of a ring, some may be judged in another group.

The dogs that are in the ring will be lined up in number order along one of the four sides of the ring. Each handler's armband, weighted with the leash, will be placed behind the dog.

Before starting the Long Sit, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. When the judge gives the order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately will go to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and face their dogs.

If a dog gets up and starts to wander or follow its handler, or if a dog moves to interfere with another dog, the judge will promptly instruct the handler or one of the stewards to remove the dog from the ring and/or keep it away from other dogs.

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After one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order to return. The handlers must go back promptly, walking around and in back of their own dog to the heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position.

Before starting the Long Down, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to Down, without touching either the dogs or their collars, so that the dogs are facing the opposite side of the ring. The rest of this exercise is done in the same manner as the Long Sit, the judge will order the handlers to return after one minutes, and the dogs must not move from the Down position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

The dogs will not be required to sit at the end of this exercise.

GROUP EXERCISES, SCORING: A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following:

The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, going over to any other dog, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining. A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from a Sit to a Down or from a Down to a Sit after the handler has returned to the Heel position and before the judge has given the order, "Exercise finished."

Depending on the circumstance, a minor or substantial deduction will be made for touching the dog or its collar while getting the dog into the Down position

A dog that is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog must be repositioned by its handler and will be substantially penalized. In extreme cases the dog may be excused. A dog that interferes with another dog on the Long Sit should be excused from participating in the Long Down.

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