

# Dog Project Training Curriculum

## WEEK 1

### Obedience

Exercise: **HEEL & SIT**

#### Skills

1. **Attention:** dog focuses eyes on handler
2. **Sit:** dog sits still at handler's left side and accepts praise
3. **Heeling**
  - a. **Controlled Walking:** dog is attentive, alert to handler's motion, ignores distraction and walks on a loose lead
  - b. **In-Position:** dog walks close to handler, dog's shoulder is even with handler's left leg, tail wagging

### Rally

#### Signs

1. Start
2. Halt - Sit
3. Right Turn
4. Left Turn
5. Finish
6. Halt - Fast Forward Sit (Advanced)
7. Halt - 1, 2, and 3 Steps Forward (Advanced)

#### Undesirable Behaviors

- **Attention:** mouthing or jumping on handler
- **Sit:** slow or crooked
- **Heeling:** tight leash, forging (pulling), lagging, crowding handler, wide heeling or sniffing

#### Homework -- 30 minutes TOTAL per day

- **Play:** get dog excited about spending time with you --
- **Attention:** encourage dog's eyes to follow you and not be distracted by others/things
- **Sit:** get dog to sit automatically without asking when handler stops walking; do not constantly repeat
- **Heeling:** keep talking & offer a lot of praise, practice 3-5 steps with your dog looking at you in heel position, reward and repeat

### Agility

Obstacle: **TABLE**

#### Goals

1. 4 paws on the table for 5 seconds

#### Undesirable Behaviors

- Anxiety, dog afraid of table
- Dog circling table

### Showmanship

#### Goals

1. Breed knowledge
2. Statistics about dog (How old is your dog, breed, diet)
3. Diet with protein details (Advanced)

#### Homework

- Research your dog

## **WEEK 2**

### **Obedience**

*Exercise:* **SIT STAY**

#### *Goals*

1. Student understands the process for appropriately cuing and leaving their dog
2. Student understands the steps on how to advance dog to a 30 second stay in a distracted environment
3. Dog holds dumbbell (Advanced)

### **Rally**

#### *Signs*

1. About Right
2. About "U"
3. Slow Pace
4. Fast Pace
5. Normal Pace
6. Halt - Walk Around Dog
7. Halt - 90 Pivot Right - Halt (Advanced)
8. Halt - 90 Pivot Left - Halt (Advanced)

#### *Undesirable Behaviors*

- Stands, lies down or leaves position
- Moves feet slightly or fidgets
- Whining or barking
- Handler forces dog into position
- Handler gives multiple signals
- Mouths dumbbell (Advanced)

#### *Homework*

- Play with your dog
- Practice Week 1 skills
- Practice sit/stay for up to 10 seconds at the end of your leash

### **Agility**

*Obstacle:* **JUMPS & TUNNEL**

#### *Goals*

1. Clearing jump
2. Jumps on first command
3. Dog carries dumbbell (Advanced)

#### *Undesirable Behaviors*

- Knocking over jump, bar falling off
- Handler jumps with dog
- Dog drops dumbbell (Advanced)

### **Showmanship**

#### *Goals*

1. Dog Parts
2. Equipment: lead types

#### *Homework*

- Brush your dog

## **WEEK 3**

### **Obedience**

#### **Exercise: SIT or STAND FOR EXAMINATION**

##### **Goals**

1. Student understands the purpose of the exercise
2. Student understands how to properly prepare their dog to sit/stand for the exercise
3. Student understands the steps on how to teach the dog to sit/stand for the exercise

### **Rally**

##### **Signs**

1. Halt - Stand - Sit
2. Halt - Walk Around Dog
3. Halt - Stand - Walk Around Dog
4. Moving Stand - Walk Around Dog (Advanced)
5. Moving Sidestep Right (Advanced)

##### **Undesirable Behaviors**

- Sits when expected to stand
- Stands when expected to sit
- Lies down
- Moves feet during or after examination
- Displays shyness
- Handler give multiple signals

##### **Homework -- 30 minutes total per day**

- Play with your dog
- Practice Week 1 homework with a higher number of steps between rewards, attention and heeling
- Practice Week 2 homework with dog staying an average of 15 seconds at the end of the leash
- Practice week 3 homework with dog sitting/standing on cue while different people approach

### **Agility**

#### **Obstacle: DOG WALK (low elevation)**

##### **Goals**

1. Dog approaches obstacle with confidence
2. Dog hits contact points
- 3.

##### **Undesirable Behaviors**

- Dog jumps off obstacle
- Dog won't approach obstacle

### **Showmanship**

##### **Goals**

1. Stacking
2. Gait
3. Round the Ring
4. Changing Hands & Direction
5. Down & Back (Junior)

##### **Homework**

- Practice stacking, repeat frequently
- Practice gait

## **WEEK 4**

### **Obedience**

#### **Skill: DOWN STAY**

##### **Goals**

1. Student understands how to teach the dog to down
2. Student understands how to teach the dog to stay in a down
3. Drop on Recall (Advanced)

### **Rally**

##### **Goals**

1. Halt - Sit - Down
2. Halt - Down - Walk Around Dog
3. Halt - Down - Sit (Advanced)
4. Moving Down (Advanced)
5. Halt - Stand - Down (Advanced)

##### ***Undesirable Behaviors***

- Stands, sits or leaves position
- Whining or barking
- Handler forces dog into position
- Handler gives multiple signals
- Slow drop (Advanced)

##### ***Homework -- 30 minutes total per day***

- Play with your dog
- Practice Week 1 homework with a higher number of steps between rewards, attention and heeling
- Practice Week 2 homework with dog staying an average of 15 seconds at the end of the leash
- Practice week 3 homework with dog sitting/standing on cue while different people approach
- Practice week 4 homework with dog downing an average of 5 seconds at the end of the leash

### **Agility**

#### **Obstacle: TIRE JUMP**

##### **Goals**

1. Dog approaches the obstacle with confidence
2. Dog jumps through the obstacle

##### ***Undesirable Behaviors***

- Dog refuses obstacle
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### **Showmanship**

##### **Goals**

1. General health: vaccinations & parasites
2. Triangle - Pattern (Intermediate)

##### ***Homework***

- Study vaccinations & parasites

## **WEEK 5**

### **Obedience**

#### ***Skill: FIGURE 8 HEELING***

##### ***Goals***

1. Dog will walk in heeling position, complete with turns
2. Student understands purpose of exercise
3. Student understands how to practice exercise at home

### **Rally**

##### ***Signs***

1. Spiral Right - Dog Outside
2. Spiral Left - Dog Inside
3. Straight Figure 8 Weave Twice
4. Serpentine Weave Once

##### ***Undesirable Behaviors***

- Tight leash: forging (pulling) or lagging
- Crowding handler or wide heeling
- Sniffing
- Poor, crooked or no sits
- Handler must give extra commands to heel and sit

##### ***Homework -- 45 minutes total per day (do 3 - 15 minute sessions per day, work on 2 of the items below per session)***

- Play with your dog
- Practice Week 1 homework with a higher number of steps between rewards, attention and heeling, also practice doing turns, about turns, and circles (this helps with the figure 8). Talk to your dog!
- Practice Week 2 homework with dog staying an average of 20 seconds at the end of the leash (only once per training session)
- Practice week 3 homework with dog sitting/standing on cue while different people approach
- Practice week 4 homework with dog downing an average of 10 seconds at the end of the leash

### **Agility**

#### ***Obstacle: A-FRAME***

##### ***Goals***

1. Dog approaches obstacle with confidence
2. Dog hits contact points

##### ***Undesirable Behaviors***

- Dog refuses/jumps off obstacle
- Dog doesn't hit contact points

### **Showmanship**

##### ***Goals***

1. Showing etiquette
2. L - Pattern (Senior)

##### ***Homework***

- Study

## **WEEK 6**

### **Obedience**

*Exercise:* **RECALL**

#### *Goals*

1. Student understands when to reward the dog for the recall
2. Student understands how to elicit a fast recall
3. Student understands a 'finish' will be required
4. Dumbbell Recall (Advanced)
5. Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump

### **Rally**

#### *Signs*

1. Call Front - Finish Right - Forward
2. Call Front - Finish Left - Forward
3. Call Front - 1, 2, 3 Steps Backwards
4. Halt - Call Dog Front - Finish Right (Advanced)
5. Halt - Call Dog Front - Finish Left (Advanced)

#### *Undesirable Behaviors*

- Slow response; comes at a slow or sluggish pace
- Fails to come directly to handler
- Poor, crooked or not sit in front of handler
- Sits too close to handler (between handler's feet)
- Sits too far away from handler (handler should be able to reach dog's nose)
- Hesitates jump or drops dumbbell (Advanced)

*Homework -- 45 minutes total per day (do 3 - 15 minute sessions per day, work on 2 of the items below per session)*

- Play with your dog
- Practice Week 1 homework with a higher number of steps between rewards, attention and heeling, also practice doing turns, about turns, and circles (this helps with the figure 8). Do one complete figure 8. Talk to your dog!
- Practice Week 2 homework with dog staying an average of 25 seconds at the end of the leash (only once per training session)
- Practice week 3 homework with dog sitting/standing on cue while different people approach
- Practice week 4 homework with dog downing an average of 15 seconds at the end of the leash
- Practice week 6 homework with dog recalling quickly while out playing in your back yard. (use lots of cookies)

### **Agility**

*Obstacle:* **TEETER TOTTER**

#### *Goals*

1. Student understands how to safely teach their dog to navigate the teeter
2. Dog can navigate the balance shift and hit contact points

#### *Undesirable Behaviors*

- Dog refuses/jumps off the obstacle
- Dog does not hit contact points

### **Showmanship**

#### *Goals*

1. Knowledge Quiz
2. T Pattern (Advanced)

#### *Homework*

- Study quiz results

## WEEK 7

### **Obedience**

*Exercise:* **RECALL with FINISH**

*Goals*

1. Student understands how to elicit the finish
2. Recall Over Broad Jump (Advanced)

### **Rally**

*Signs*

1. Call Front - Finish Left - Halt
2. Call Front - Finish Right - Halt
3. Halt - Side Step Right - Finish Right

*Undesirable Behaviors*

- Slow to finish
- Fails to return to proper heel position with finish
- Slow, crooked or no sit with finish
- Handler gives multiple commands

*Homework -- 45 minutes total per day (do 3 - 15 minute sessions per day, work on 2 of the items below per session)*

- Play with your dog
- Practice Week 1 homework with a higher number of steps between rewards, attention and heeling, also practice doing turns, about turns, and circles (this helps with the figure 8). Do one complete figure 8. Talk to your dog!
- Practice Week 2 homework with dog staying an average of 15 seconds at the end of the leash with new distractions (do jumping jacks!)
- Practice week 3 homework with dog sitting/standing on cue while different people approach
- Practice week 4 homework with dog downing an average of 20 seconds at the end of the leash
- Practice week 6 homework with dog recalling quickly while out playing in your back yard. (use lots of cookies)
- Practice a FAST recall with a sit on the end! Reward and play.

### **Agility**

*Obstacle:*

*Goals*

- 1.
- 2.

*Undesirable Behaviors*

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### **Showmanship**

*Goals*

1. **Fine tune skills**

*Homework*

- Practice everything

## **WEEKS 8, 9 & 10**

### **Obedience**

*Exercise:* Practice combination of all skills learned weeks 1-7

#### *Goals*

1. Polish handler/dog poise and presentation
- 2.
- 3.

### **Rally**

#### *Signs*

- 1.
- 2.

#### *Undesirable Behaviors*

- Excess leash allowed to dangle
- Continued use of training collars/aides not permitted for show (pinch/prong)
- Handler gives multiple commands
- Handler commands quiet and unclear

*Homework -- 45 minutes total per day (do 3 - 15 minute sessions per day, work on 2 of the items below per session)*

- Play with your dog
- Practice Week 1 homework with a higher number of steps between rewards, attention and heeling, also practice doing turns, about turns, and circles (this helps with the figure 8). Do one or two complete figure 8. Talk to your dog!
- Practice Week 2 homework with dog staying an average of 15-30 seconds at the end of the leash with new distractions (do jumping jacks!)
- Practice week 3 homework with dog sitting/standing on cue while different people approach
- Practice week 4 homework with dog downing an average of 15-30 seconds at the end of the leash with distractions (do sit ups)
- Practice week 6 homework with dog recalling quickly while out playing in your back yard. (use lots of cookies)
- Practice a FAST recall with a sit on the end! Reward and play.
- Play with your dog

### **Agility**

*Obstacle:*

#### *Goals*

- 1.
- 2.

#### *Undesirable Behaviors*

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### **Showmanship**

#### *Goals*

- 1.
- 2.

#### *Homework*

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## WEEK 11: FAIR RUN-THROUGH

### **Obedience**

#### **Rally**

#### **Agility**

#### **Showmanship**

## WEEK 12

### **Obedience**

*Exercise:* Review learnings from Week 11 Fair Run-Through

*Goals...*PRACTICE... PRACTICE... PRACTICE

### **Rally**

*Signs*

### **Agility**

*Obstacle:*

*Goals*

### **Showmanship**

*Goals*

## WEEK 13

### **Obedience**

*Exercise:* Individual run-throughs with question and answer session

*Goals*

### **Rally**

*Signs*

### **Agility**

*Obstacle:*

*Goals*

### **Showmanship**

*Goals*

## WEEK 14: COMBINED PRACTICE

### **Obedience**

*Exercise:* **Good Luck at the Fair!**

*Goals*

### **Rally**

*Signs*

### **Agility**

*Obstacle:*

*Goals*

### **Showmanship**

*Goals*