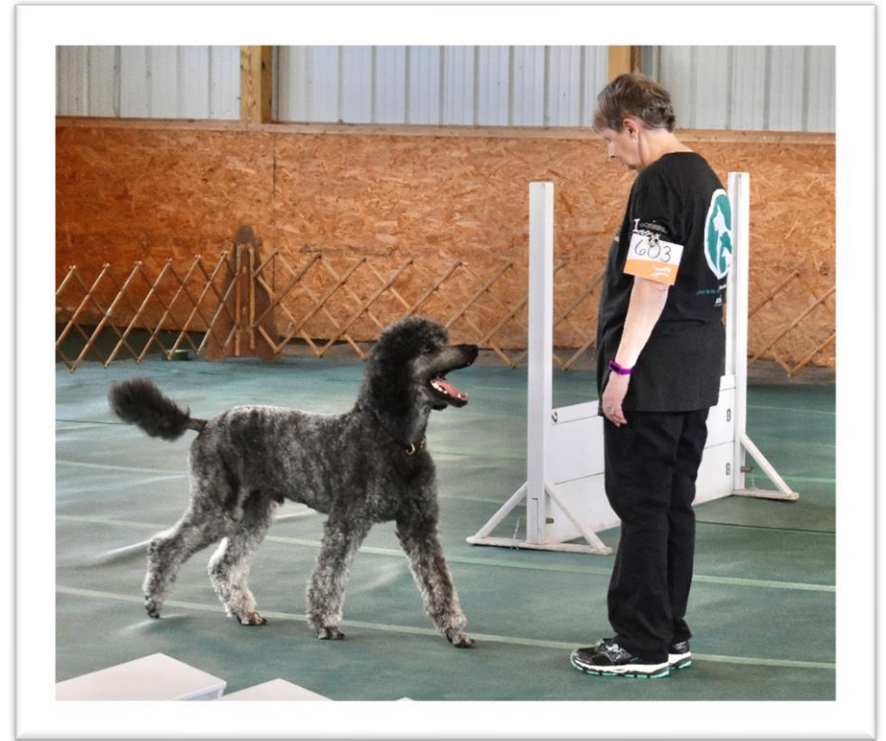


Obedience



By Marguerite Plank

In Obedience trials, dogs perform a series of intricate exercises at the command of their handler. This event is the foundation for all other activities you can do with your dog. Obedience competition levels range from the basic novice skills of sit, stay, and heel, to the most advanced skills of directed retrieves, scent discrimination, and following silent hand signals.

Success in Obedience requires training and dedication to build the special bond needed to work together in this precision-based activity. If you are looking for a challenge and strive for perfection, this is the event for you!

Provided by



Obedience in Competition

An Obedience trial is a competitive evaluation of a dog-and-handler team that executes specified routines which emphasize the usefulness of the dog as a companion and the handler's ability to train a dog that demonstrates willingness and enjoyment to work. All teams competing in an Obedience trial must perform the same set of exercises under the same conditions and whose performances are scored by a judge. The handler must appear natural, and each performance is judged on accuracy and teamwork. Scoring and placements are based on a point system. Errors can result in point deductions from ½ point to a Non-Qualifying error.

Pre-Novice is an optional additional titling class and is a good place for a brand-new team to start. The purpose of this class is to give dogs and handlers the opportunity to gain experience working together as a team in a competitive atmosphere while performing the class exercises on leash.

Beginner Novice is another optional additional titling class for beginner teams. The primary purpose of this class is to give handlers and dogs the opportunity to experience traditional obedience in a more relaxed competition environment while using modified Novice Obedience exercises. Exercises are a combination of on-leash and off-leash, plus a recall over a jump.

Novice is the first "regular" class. A Novice title is a prerequisite to move on to the higher-level regular class of Open. The primary purpose of this class is to demonstrate the usefulness of the dog as a socialized companion that has been trained to a specific skill set that includes a sit stay during a simple greeting, a down stay with distractions, on and off-leash heeling, standing for a simple exam, and coming when called while going over a jump.

Advanced Novice: The primary purpose of this optional class is to provide a bridge between the Novice and Open class and to demonstrate an advanced usefulness of the dog as a socialized companion that has been trained to a

specific skill set that includes a sit stay during a simple greeting, a down stay with distractions, off-leash heeling, a down while walking, recall over a jump carrying a dumbbell, and a recall over a broad jump. There is no prerequisite title to enter this class.

Open: The primary purpose of this class is to demonstrate the usefulness of the dog as a socialized companion that has been trained to a more advanced and specific skill set that includes a sit stay during a greeting, off-leash heeling, drop on recall, retrieving a dumbbell both on the flat and over a jump, jumping long and socialized walking in the presence of another handler-and-dog team.

Advanced Open Class: The primary purpose of this optional class is to provide advanced exercises and demonstrate the usefulness of the dog as a socialized companion that has been trained to more advanced and specific skill sets that include off-leash heeling, down stay with distraction, scent discrimination, sending to a destination, retrieving an article, and directed retrieving. There is no prerequisite title to enter this class.

Utility Class: The primary purpose of this highest regular class is to demonstrate the usefulness of the dog as a socialized companion that has been trained to a high level with specific skill sets that include off-leash heeling using signals only, scent discrimination, a directed marked retrieve, a directed signal retrieve, consecutive recalls, and directed jumping. A completed Open title is required to enter this class.

Source:

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/obedience-forms-rules>