

Queanbeyan & District Dog Training Club Inc

TRIALLING CLASS SYLLABUS (COMPANION DOG - NOVICE)

Aim	To progress the standard of obedience exercises up to the ANKC Companion Dog (CD) Novice Class competition level.																
Objectives	<p>Handler to have an enhanced understanding of -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together with their dog without the use of the lead, • Essential elements of ring craft and procedures, and • ANKC rules in regard to officially conducted obedience trials. 																
Principle Feature of Novice Exercises	<p>Heel free – The dog and handler to work as a team without the use of a lead. The heel routine is to consist of halts, drops, stands, turns in all three paces and figure of 8.</p> <p>Stand free for examination – The dog to stand steadily off lead until completion of exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness. Handler stands in front approx 2 metres whilst dog is examined before handler returns around back of dog to finish the exercise.</p> <p>Recall - The dog to sit where left off the lead and promptly obey the handler's command to come. The handler approx 12 metres away; dog comes when called; sits in front without further command; and finishes by dog returning to heel position (<i>Flip or Continental acceptable</i>).</p> <p>Retrieve on the flat (optional exercise) – The dog to retrieve the Dumbbell on command. With the dog beside handler in sit position off lead handler throws dumbbell at least 4 metres; dog retrieves dumbbell on command; returns and sits in front of handler; holds dumbbell until told to give; and to finish, the handler returns around the back of their dog to the heel position.</p> <p>Change of position (optional exercise) – The dog to promptly respond to the handler's command to down given from a distance. Handler takes up position with dog off lead and standing at heel; leaves and stands facing the dog approx 3 metres away; on command the dog drops in position; and to finish, the handler returns to the heel position beside their dog.</p> <p>Sit stay (1 minute) – The dog to stay off the lead in a sit position until the completion of the exercise. This is a group exercise comprising 3 to 10 dogs sitting next to Stay pegs. The handlers leave together and turn approximately 12 metres away facing their dog. To finish, the handlers return around the back of their dog to the heel position.</p> <p>Down stay (3 minutes) - As for the Sit Stay exercise but with dogs in the down position for 3 minutes without any additional commands or signals being given.</p>																
General Points	<p>Class work - All <u>general</u> class work should be done with the dog <u>on lead</u>.</p> <p>New exercises: The dog works free of the lead; Drops from a distance; Retrieves a dumbbell; Changes position; Stands free for exam; and the finish is now included as part of the Recall.</p> <p>Trials – Handlers wanting to enter official Trials need to have a good idea of the official ANKC obedience trialling system used throughout Australia.</p> <p>Heelwork – Try not to introduce heel off lead until the dog is ready. Only introduce it in short sessions. Try not to have more than one or two dogs off lead in the class at any one time. Keep heelwork interesting and introduce various challenges.</p> <p>Stays - During the first few weeks, handlers need to stand relatively close to their dogs and practice stability rather than distance. Once stability in time has been perfected start to gradually increase the distance away to approx 12 metres.</p>																
Assessment Day Exercises	<p>Exercises and points - Dog and handler are to be assessed in accordance with the Rules specified in the ANKC Rule Book to determine if they have attained the requirements of the following exercises in the Novice Class:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Heel Free</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Stand Free for Examination</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Recall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Optional Exercises:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Retrieve on the Flat, or</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Change of Position</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Sit Stay – 1 minute</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Down Stay – 3 minutes</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 points</td> </tr> </table> <p>To obtain a pass at this level the dog must obtain over 50% in each exercise with an overall total score of at least 85% (ie. 170/200).</p>	• Heel Free	40 points	• Stand Free for Examination	30 points	• Recall	40 points	• Optional Exercises:		a. Retrieve on the Flat, or		b. Change of Position	30 points	• Sit Stay – 1 minute	30 points	• Down Stay – 3 minutes	30 points
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Points for Misbehaviour	Penalties for misbehaviour and physical guidance will be imposed and points deducted if the handler corrects or reprimands their dog or, if at any time whilst competing, the handler is guilty of any breach of the ANKC Trial Rules.																

Weekly Progression – Companion Dog (Novice) level

Week 1	Instructor to review all work based on Intermediate class standard, remembering that this class will always have new and old class members. Handlers to be briefed about the exercises they will be taught during this course and to decide which of the optional exercises they would like to concentrate on during this course. For handlers wanting to do the 'Retrieve on Flat' as their optional exercise advise them to obtain a dumbbell based on their dog's physical requirements.
Week 2	Use various different types of heel on lead patterns; emphases on use of a loose leads; and use of both static and mobile turns. Discuss the importance of using confidence when teaching a dog to work free of the lead. Examine the dog in a standing position off lead with handler directly beside the dog. Practice Recall up to 10 metres off lead (<i>or on a long cord</i>) and continue to practice the finish, using both continental and flip methods, as a separate exercise. Increase stability in Stays up to 3 minutes and extend distance to approx 5 metres. Re-explain the proper use of the dumbbell for the retrieve exercise. Progress dogs to dropping from the Stand with the handler approx 1 metre in front (<i>ensure dog does not creep towards handler</i>).
Week 3	Do short periods of off lead heelwork; use signal & voice patterns; perfect all turns & paces. Progress the examination by having handler standing directly in front. Commence incorporating the finish into very short recall exercises. Extend distance in the Recall up to 12 metres (<i>no finish – return to dog</i>) Increase distance in Stays up to 10 metres (<i>only if dog is stable</i>); work on stability (<i>ie. 1 minute for sit & up to 3 minutes for down</i>). Introduce the optional exercises (Retrieve & Change of Position) - Preferably demonstrate by using dogs that already do these exercises.
Week 4	Progress other exercises but place emphasis this week on the following two optional exercises: Retrieve on the flat: Handlers should now be using a dumbbell and not their 'fun' article (<i>ie. the article used since they were in Beginners</i>). Emphasis proper use of commands & signals to fetch and give. Show the various ways to throw a dumbbell and explain, for consistency purposes, that the retrieve is now being introduced as a command and not as a game. Change of position: By now the dog should be dropping on the spot from the sit or stand position, irrespective of where the command & signal are given. Progress to dropping the dog from a stand with the handler 1-2 metres in front. Stress the importance of not moving away too early and dog "creeping". Explain how not to confuse the dog between 'Stand free for exam' and 'Dropping from a distance'.
Week 5	Continue to build exercises towards competition level by concentrating on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heel free; • Distance and intensity of examination off the lead; • Recall distance including the finish; and • Stability, distance and time away in both group stays (Sit & Down).
Week 6	Practice each of the competition exercises this week but concentrate on the optional exercises as well as distances and times in recalls and stays. Explain the procedures necessary for members wanting to enter official ANKC Trials at the Companion Class (Novice) level. (<i>ie. joining & registering their dog with the NSW Canine Control</i>)
Week 7	Continue to refine each of the exercises based on the objectives of the course.
Week 8	Assessment Day.