

Queanbeyan & District Dog Training Club Inc

INTERMEDIATE SYLLABUS

Aim	To continue to advance the dogs training skills and enhance the handlers' knowledge about the many various teaching methods used to train a dog.										
Objectives	<p>By completion of this 8 week course, the <u>Handler</u> should have a good understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working together as a team with their dog, and • what is meant by responsible dog ownership in our local community; and <p>In addition, the <u>Dog</u> should now be quite familiar with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the five primary cue words to 'Heel', 'Stand', 'Drop', 'Stay' and 'Come' as well as the supplementary cue words to 'Fetch' and 'Give'; • the proper position to walk beside their handler; and • automatically <u>sitting</u> when their handler stops walking, without being given extra assistance. 										
Exercises taught	<p>Heelwork (On lead) – With the dog on a loose lead, the dog walks freely on the handler's left-hand side and responds to the cues to 'Stand & Down' given on the move. At this level, the dog should be automatically sitting whenever they stop walking. The heelwork routine now includes 'right', 'left', 'right-about' and 'left-about' turns in slow, normal and fast paces.</p> <p>Examination (On lead) – With the dog in a sitting position and the handler standing directly in front holding the lead, the dog should be given a cursory touch of head, back and body (<i>Mouth & tail are <u>not</u> touched</i>). Dog is required to respond to the cues 'Sit & Stay'. Handler returning to the dog is not <u>tested</u> but may be attempted.</p> <p>Recall (On lead) - Dog remains in sit position with handler 2 metres in front holding lead; dog comes when called; and sits in front either automatically or when told. Handler has option to move backwards or stay in a static position. Dog responds to the cue words to 'Stay & Come'. Returning to the dog or doing the 'Finish' is <u>not</u> tested but <u>may</u> be attempted.</p> <p>Group Stays for 1 minute (On lead) – Group exercises from both 'Sit and Down' positions with handlers standing approx 2 metres in front holding lead. Handlers return together around the back of their dogs to the heel position. Dog responds to cue words 'Sit, Down & Stay'.</p> <p>Retrieve (Not tested) – Dog fetches article (<i>ie. Ball, Frisbee, Rag doll, dumbbell etc</i>) and returns with it to their handler. Dog must remain on lead whilst doing this exercise in class. Dog taught to respond to cue words 'Stay, Fetch & Give'.</p> <p>Distance Control (Not tested) – Dog left in sit; handler stands in front holding lead; dog responds to cue word to 'Drop'; and handler returns to dog. Dog is taught to respond to the cue words 'Stay and Drop'.</p>										
General notes	<p>New exercises taught - Stand on the move, drop from sit with handler in front, left-about turn and down stay. Handler taught to return behind dog to finish both stay exercises.</p> <p>Heelwork - Keep heelwork interesting, do weaving through cones, keep up handler enthusiasm and encourage the use of both about-turns (<i>Pivot and U-turn methods</i>).</p> <p>Sit for Examination - cursory examine the head and body (<i>Mouth & tail are not touched</i>).</p> <p>Recall – Dog on lead - can be done as a moving or a static exercise.</p> <p>Stays – During initial training of the group stay exercises the handlers should stand directly in front of their dogs until time away without movement is achieved. Then distance away can be practiced. Stress use of different cue words to 'Stay' (<i>ie. Emphasis proper use of 'Stay' & 'Wait'</i>)</p> <p>Retrieve & Distance Control – Both these exercises are not tested at this level. Handlers should still be using a fun article for their dog to fetch as it is dropped from hand to ground.</p>										
Assessment Day Exercises	<p>Exercises and points - Dog and handler need to be assessed to ascertain whether they have attained the aims and objectives of the exercises taught in Intermediate class. The following exercises taught in this class are all done with the dog <u>on lead</u> –</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• Heelwork (<i>All 3 paces and turns with sits, stands and drops on the move</i>)</td> <td>30 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Examination (<i>Touch head, back & body of dog in sit position and handler standing directly in front</i>)</td> <td>10 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Recall (<i>Dog remains in sit; handler stands 2m in front holding lead; calls dog to come; dog sits in front; NO finish</i>)</td> <td>20 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sit Stay (<i>Group exercise for 30 seconds; handlers 2m in front holding leads and return around back of dog</i>)</td> <td>20 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Down Stay (<i>Group exercise for 1 minute; handlers 2m in front holding leads and return around back of dog</i>)</td> <td>20 points</td> </tr> </table>	• Heelwork (<i>All 3 paces and turns with sits, stands and drops on the move</i>)	30 points	• Examination (<i>Touch head, back & body of dog in sit position and handler standing directly in front</i>)	10 points	• Recall (<i>Dog remains in sit; handler stands 2m in front holding lead; calls dog to come; dog sits in front; NO finish</i>)	20 points	• Sit Stay (<i>Group exercise for 30 seconds; handlers 2m in front holding leads and return around back of dog</i>)	20 points	• Down Stay (<i>Group exercise for 1 minute; handlers 2m in front holding leads and return around back of dog</i>)	20 points
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Weekly Progression - Intermediate

Week 1	<p>Review all work taught at Beginners level – Heelwork; Drops; Stands; Examination; Recall and Sit Stay. Advise class about the exercises they will be learning during this class. Socialise dogs in class at beginning and end of the training session.</p> <p>Introduce & practice (all done with dog on lead):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left-about turn using the pivot method, • Returning behind the dog, • Down Stay with handlers standing beside their dogs for up to 30 seconds, and • Static work to sharpen up heelwork. <p><i>Note: Ask handlers to bring their retrieving article along next week and remember to give homework.</i></p>
Week 2	<p>Assess standard of heelwork and static turns. Progress heelwork, recall and stays. Review the retrieve from hand and progress to getting the dogs to move forward to retrieve an article from the ground (<i>handler moves forward with article held in front, drops it and tells the dog to fetch</i>).</p> <p>Practice and Introduce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand cue given with the dog on the move whilst heeling. • Examination – Handlers stand in front of their dogs while given a cursory examination. • Down Stay – Work on stability (<i>no movements</i>). Progress handlers to standing in front of their dogs (<i>Remember, perfect the time away before concentrating on the distance away</i>). • Recall – Practice getting the dog to sit in front when it comes to the handler. • Distance Control – Dog is taught to drop from a sit position with handler standing directly in front rather than by its side.
Week 3	<p>Continue refining heelwork, static work and correct use of turns & pace variations on the move. Progress standard of automatic sits and stands & drops on the move, distance for recall & both stays and also practice the retrieve exercise by introducing the cue word to ‘Fetch’. Work on distance away for very short periods of time for the stay exercises. Introduce the left-about turn using the U-turn method and explain the reasons why two methods are taught.</p>
Week 4	<p>Progress the standard of on-lead heelwork, examinations, recall, stays, retrieves & distance control exercises. Remember to work on socialisation and to allocate homework for next week.</p> <p>During this weeks training concentrate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the dog to stay where left for the Recall exercise; to come when called; and to sit in front without too much additional physical or verbal assistance by the handler. • Proper use of all verbal cue words & hand signals (<i>ie. heel, down & stand</i>) and any excessive body movements used by handlers when heeling, • Automatic sits when handler stops, and • Stability and duration in the stay positions (<i>Concentrate on stability rather than duration</i>)
Week 5	<p>Continue to progress the standard of achievement in all exercises. Remember, all exercises in the Intermediate class are to be done with the dog on-lead. Allocate homework for the next week.</p> <p>Concentrate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharpening up heelwork, proper stands, automatic sits and quick drops; • Getting dog to automatically sit in front when called to come, • Ensure dogs stay in Sits and Downs for up to 1 minute before increasing the distance, • Getting dogs to respond to the cue word to ‘Drop’ given from a distance, and • Stress the importance of using proper cue words to ‘Fetch & Give’ (<i>Note: The use of ‘hold’ should be getting phased out by this stage of training</i>).
Week 6	<p>Assess the level of each dog in the class against the objectives & exercises of Intermediate syllabus and make individual recommendations on how to rectify specific problems.</p> <p>Practice (Stability and reliability):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heelwork – Also do some static work to sharpen up turns, sits, stands & downs. • Examination – Work on stability with handler standing in front. • Recall – Again work on stability and getting dog to sit in front. • Stays – Stability and duration.
Week 7	Assess progress of each dog & talk about Assessment Day advancements and repetitions.
Week 8	Assessment Day.