



Dog Obedience Training Lessons for Novice, Graduate Novice, Open and Utility

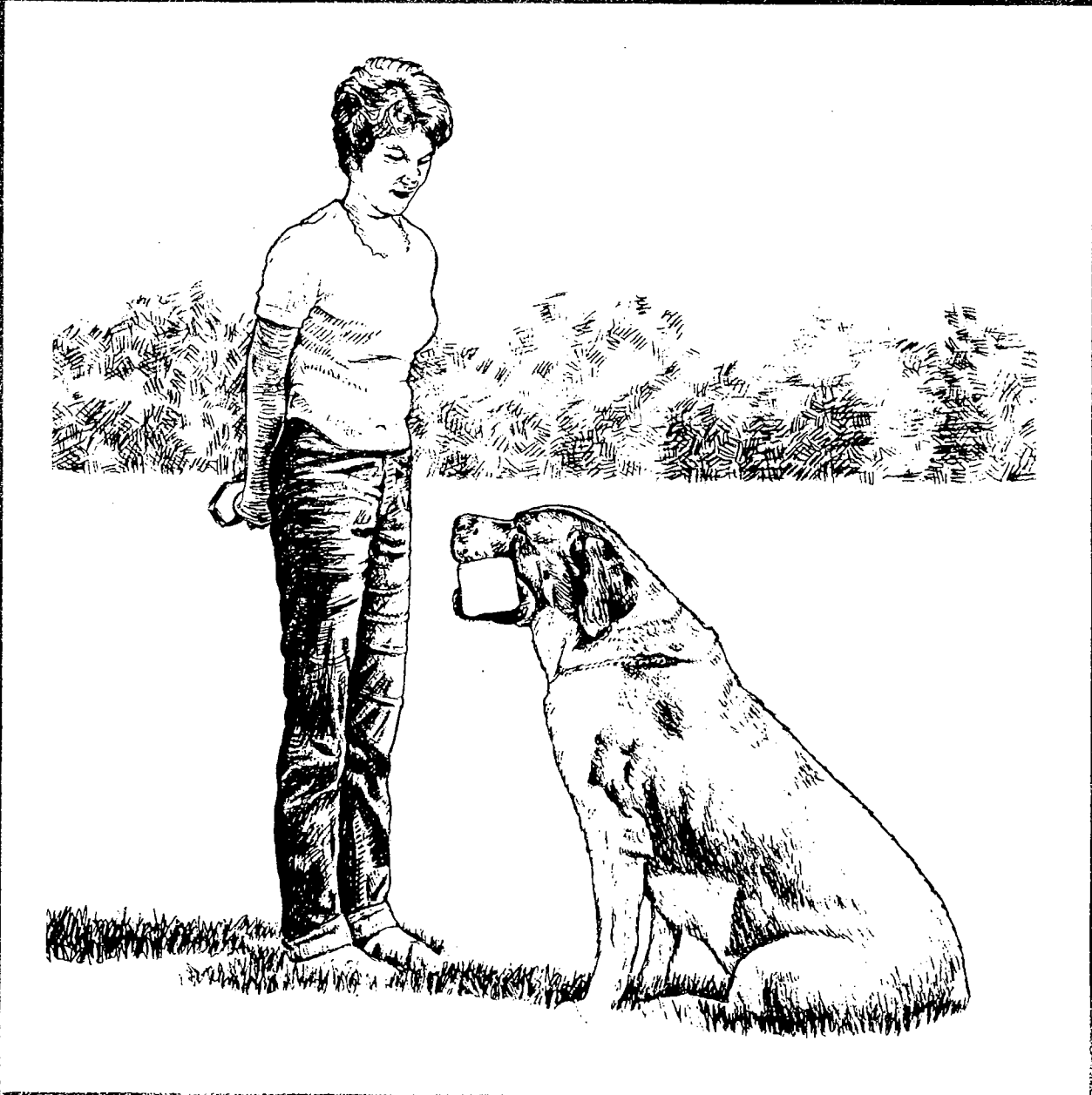


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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This educational material has been prepared for 4-H use by the National 4-H Dog Care & Training Development Committee, composed of representatives of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and State Land Grant Universities in cooperation with the National 4-H Council. Dr. Dennis A. Hartman, Professor of Dairy Science, Virginia Tech, served as principal author.



Special thanks are extended to Purina Dog Foods Group, Ralston Purina Company, for financial and technical assistance.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following 4-H members from New York who so patiently posed their dogs for this publication: Lysa Kibiuk, Sharon Faville, Michael Brinkerhoff and Wendy Ewald.

Material for this publication is based on information provided by the American Kennel Club. There is a United Kennel Club which also has information on training dogs. If you are interested in what they have to offer, contact them at 100 E. Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001.



Printed and distributed by National 4-H Council, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815. National 4-H Council is a not-for-profit educational organization that uses private resources to help expand and strengthen the 4-H program. 4-H is the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension Service of the State Land-Grant Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Boys and girls who have a special talent for training dogs and who have a dog that has trained reasonably well in the Graduate Beginner class will enjoy the challenge of more advanced training. Many dogs seem to enjoy the exercises of advanced training more than in the Beginner class. Some dogs especially enjoy the jumping and retrieving exercises.

The 4-H leader may also find the challenge of advanced training more interesting.

Many boys and girls who train at this level will enjoy competing in AKC trials and will earn Companion Dog (CD) degrees and others as offered through the American Kennel Club. Through competition of this type you will meet other people who have similar interests in dogs. You will find these people warm and friendly and glad to exchange training ideas.

The Heel Off Leash

The Novice class differs from the Graduate Beginner by addition of the heel off leash exercise. Dogs should heel well on leash before starting the off leash heeling. Both the instructor and member may find it useful to review the training methods of the Beginner and Graduate Beginner course in the bulletin, "Dog Obedience Training Lessons for Beginner, Graduate Beginner, Brace and Team".

The Heel Off Leash

The heel off leash starts from the heel position. Unsnap the leash and have your dog sitting squarely at your heel.



Figure 1 - Before heeling your dog off leash, you may want to test him by hanging the leash around your neck.



Figure 2—Show confidence in your dog when he is off leash.

Upon the command, "Forward", from your instructor, step off on your left foot while saying the dog's name and "Heel". If he lags or heels wide, give him encouragement to heel by saying his name and repeating the command. If he bolts away, put him back on the leash immediately. Do not let him think you lack control over him because he is off the leash.

It is important that you show confidence in your dog when training but especially when he is doing exercises off leash. When you step off to heel, give the command in a confident manner and step out briskly. Do not hesitate and look to see if he is keeping up or your dog will almost certainly lag behind and stop. Do the heel off leash for short periods of time; then place him back on leash for more heeling.



Figure 3—Walk faster if your dog lags. Talk to him encouragingly and praise him when he does well.

Most dogs will become bored at some level of training. In the I.H. program, your dog will probably receive the Beginner's training the first year, the Graduate Beginner's training the second year and so on. Spreading out the training will help prevent boredom, but it may still be a problem in Novice and Graduate Novice courses. Training only once or twice a week or stopping entirely for a week or two may help a dog that is obviously bored with training.

The Training Schedule

The class should have nine weekly meetings of one hour duration. The instructor will usually review the exercises at the first meeting and determine the exercises in which each dog needs extra training. At the second meeting, the heel free exercise may be started. The instructor may teach the course so that each dog receives maximum individual attention with problem exercises.

Time should be devoted to teaching the correct manner of conducting each exercise. You should stand and walk arrow straight and look straight ahead while doing the exercises. When doing the recall, do not move your head when calling your dog or give a second command with your shoulders and hips when you finish your dog. Using correct posture will take concentration, especially when in competition. Execute the left and right turns and about turns sharply. Perform all the exercises in a pleasant but businesslike manner.

The Graduate Novice Course

Graduate Novice training differs from Novice by inclusion of the exercise, drop on recall. The long sit is three minutes and the long down is five minutes in duration, with the handler out of sight. Dogs will be scored using the Graduate Novice score card.

Heel on Leash, Heel Free and Figure 8

(This exercise should be practiced each week.) The heel free and figure 8 are combined into one exercise. Training methods remain the same. Remember to alternate the off leash and on leash training. If your dog lags when doing the figure 8, you may encourage him to go faster by taking short, quick steps especially on the curve where he has the outside path.

Stand for Examination off Leash

At this point in training your dog will probably do this exercise well. Repeat it often enough, especially with a stranger, to keep him performing well.

Drop on Recall

First week of training: Place your dog in the sitting position and step two or three feet away in front of him. While saying "Down", quickly raise your right hand, palm open, slightly higher than your head, pause for only a moment and bring your hand down sharply. If your dog



Figure 4—Drop on Recall. In the first week of training begin by standing only two or three feet away, gradually moving to the end of the leash.

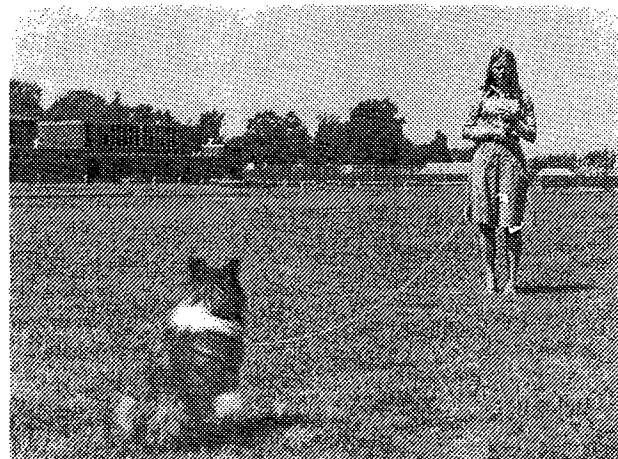


Figure 5—If he does not obey your command signal at 40 feet in the second week of training, use a lightweight cord for control.

does not obey, use your left hand to jerk downward on the training collar. After he has been down for a short time give him the command "Sit". You may need to give a jerk upward with the leash. Your dog should go down when your hand goes up. Holding your hand up for a moment the first few days of training may help him learn the signal, but it should soon be a quick up and down motion.

Vary your method of changing your dog from the down to the sitting position. Sometimes command him to sit when you are directly in front of him; other times go back to the heel position, pause a moment and then command him to sit.

After it appears that he understands the hand signal occasionally leave off the verbal command. Gradually move to the end of the six-foot leash and give the signal as a command, "Down".

Hold your hands together at your waist when doing the recall. Your dog may be tempted to nose them if you let them hang.



Figure 6—In the third week of training, teach your dog to drop from the standing position.



Figure 7—Sixth week of training. In competition you will call your dog and then drop him about half way.



Figure 8—Perfection.

Second week: When teaching the down, insist on an immediate drop, not a slow sinking to the ground. Do not forget the praise. This is most important.

When your dog seems to understand and obeys your command when you are standing at the end of the leash, you may then remove it and drop him at short distances, gradually moving to 40 feet away. If he does not obey when off leash or at a distance of 40 feet, place him back on leash and repeat the training. For more control at a distance, you may attach a 40-foot lightweight cord. If he does not work well off leash, you will usually make faster progress by placing him back on the six-foot leash.

Third week: The next procedure is teaching your dog to go down from the standing position. Follow the same steps for teaching him the down from the sitting position: Leave him in the standing position, step two or three feet away in front of him and give the hand signal and command, "Down".

Fourth week: Gradually move back to the end of the 40-foot leash, finally removing the leash and dropping him at this distance. Remember not to say his name before the command "Down".

Fifth week: Teaching the dog to drop in motion is the next step, but first be sure he understands the other steps. While heeling on leash, suddenly stop and quickly step backward saying your dog's name and "Come". When he starts coming toward you, stop suddenly and give the signal and command, "Down". If your training has been complete up to this point, he should drop on your first attempt. If he does not, give him a sharp correction by putting him down with a jerk on the training collar. After he has been down a few moments, give him the command, "Sit". Then step backward quickly and say his name and "Come". Continue backward until he is in full motion; then stop and have him sit directly to your front just as when doing a recall. Be ready to pull up on the leash to put him in the sit as he may have learned too well on the first try and anticipates a down command. After he has sat in front, send him to heel as the finish of the recall.

Alternate the down and coming to you as the recall. Do not allow him to anticipate commands.

Sixth week: The next step is taught off leash. Place your dog in the sit-stay and take a position 25 feet to his front. Say his name and "Come". When halfway to you, give the command and signal to down. Gradually increase the distance to 40 feet. Drop him at various distances. Alternate with straight recalls so that he will not anticipate commands.

If he slows down when coming to you in anticipation of a drop, start running backward and say "Come", encouraging him to speed up. Never drop him unless he is coming at full speed as it will only cause him to come in slower and drop without a command or signal.

Do not forget to vary the exercises to prevent boredom. Do not forget the praise.

In an obedience trial, you may use either the command or signal to down your dog. Using both is considered a

deities command and it to be acted against you. Using the signals preferred as the dog's, the more detail you give you his undivided attention.

The handler is out of sight for three minutes.

Seventh week. By the seventh week your dog well understands when he is being trained and when he is released from training. Take him to a familiar training area where there are buildings, trees or bushes you can easily hide behind. Do not try to hide behind a single tree, a car or other object which might enable him to see a part of you.

Go through several exercises he does best to let him know he is training. Heel him where he can see the corner or edge of your hiding place. Order him to stay and then walk briskly and confidently away without a backward glance. The first several times you should not be out of sight more than a few moments. When you return, pause momentarily before praising and repeating the exercises. It is important that your dog have confidence that you will return to him. This can be accomplished by being out of sight for short periods of time at first and gradually extending the time to three minutes. First, disappear from his sight at short distances and gradually extend to the distance of as much as 100 feet.

If your dog breaks from the position to wander off or look for you, you will need a person to signal you so that you can take the dog back to the exact same spot and sternly give him the command to stay again. You may give him a jerk backward with the training collar to further emphasize his staying in that position.

The Long Down

The handler is out of sight for five minutes.

Eighth week: This exercise may be taught in the same manner as the long sit. Again, return to the training area that has a building, hallway or dense bushes that will hide you completely from his view. Place him in the down, give a firm command and signal to stay and walk briskly out of sight. Return after a short time and gradually extend the time to five minutes and the distance to 100 feet. Use the correction methods of the long sit.

Training Schedule

The training schedule which follows will not suit the needs of all dogs. Some will learn slower than others. The drop on recall will take considerable time to teach. This exercise has been broken down into weekly portions. Do not advance to the next week's training until he does the preceding part well. Patience is very important in teaching these exercises.

First week. The heel on leash, the heel free and figure 8. These exercises should be practiced at each of the training periods.



Figure 9—This dog has earned his American degree.

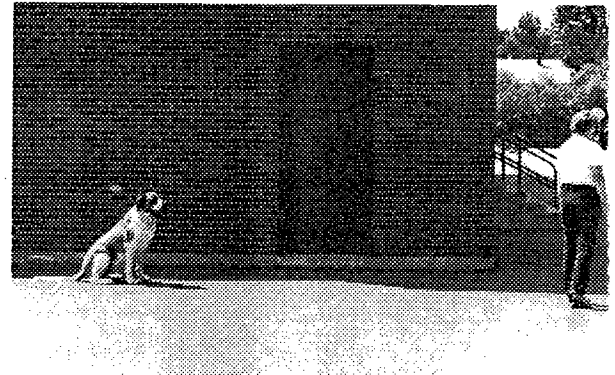


Figure 10—The Long Sit. The handler is out of sight for three minutes.

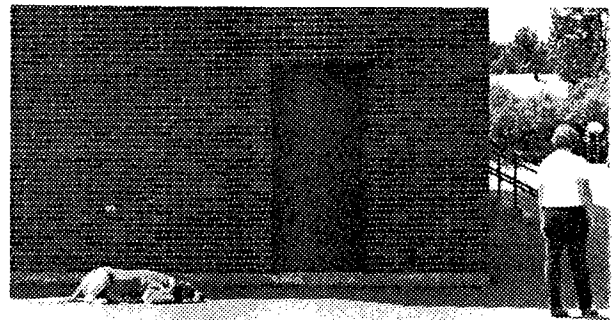


Figure 11—The Long Down. The handler is out of sight for five minutes.



Figure 12—Retrieve on Flat. In the first week of training you must first teach your dog to accept and hold the dumbbell. Say "Take it" while pushing it gently but firmly against his teeth. If he resists, force his mouth open by pressing with your thumb and finger just behind his canine teeth.

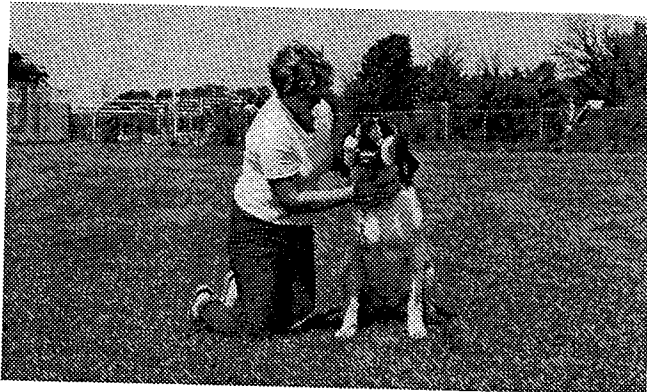


Figure 13—Praise him as soon as he takes the dumbbell. Stroke his nose and throat to keep it in his mouth. Then say "Out" and remove it.



Figure 14—In the second week of training teach your dog to reach for the dumbbell. Hold it several inches from his nose and say "Take it". If he does not obey, either pull him by the leash toward the dumbbell or, if that frightens him, push his head toward it.

Teach the hand signal and command "Down" when standing directly in front of the dog. During the week of practice, the handler may gradually move to the end of the 6-foot leash and alternate leaving off the verbal command.

Second week: Review the previous lesson. Remove the leash and drop him from distances of not more than 15 feet. During the week of practice, the handler may increase the distance to 40 feet.

Third week: Review the previous lesson. Teach the dog to "Down" from the standing position. The handler should be standing in front of the dog on leash at a distance of about 2 or 3 feet. During the week of practice, the handler may move to the end of the leash. Alternate the use of the command and signal.

Fourth week: Review the previous lesson. Remove the leash and drop your dog at a distance not greater than 15 feet. During the week of practice the handler may gradually move back to 40 feet.

Fifth week: Review the previous lesson. Teach the drop in motion on leash. Alternate his dropping in motion and his coming to the sitting position to the handler's front as the recall so that he will not anticipate commands.

Sixth week: Review the previous lesson. Place your dog in the stand-stay off leash and take a position 25 feet to his front. Say his name and "Come". When halfway in, give him the command and signal to drop. During the week of practice, the handler may extend the distance to 40 feet. Be sure to drop him at various distances and alternate the down command with doing a complete recall.

Seventh week: Review the previous lesson. The long sit. (Handler out of sight for three minutes.)

The handler should be out of sight of his dog for a short period of time to build the dog's confidence that he will

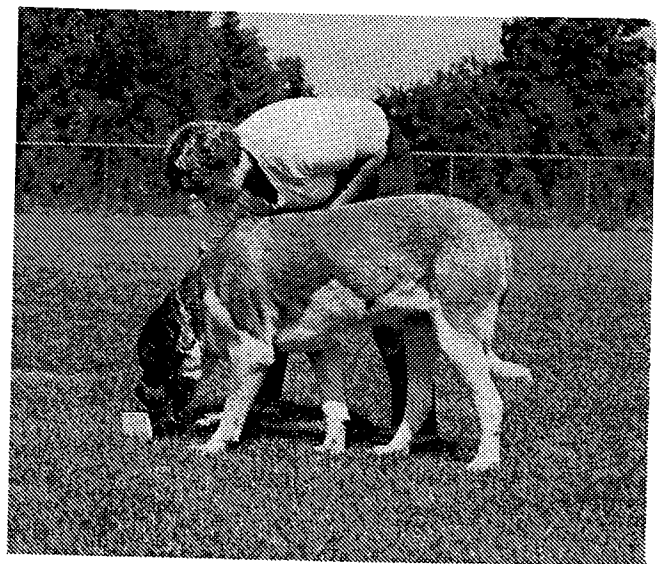


Figure 15—In the third week of training increase the distance he must reach for the dumbbell. Remember to praise every improvement. Heel on leash as your dog carries the dumbbell, and put it back in his mouth if he drops it. In the fourth week your dog should pick it up off the ground.

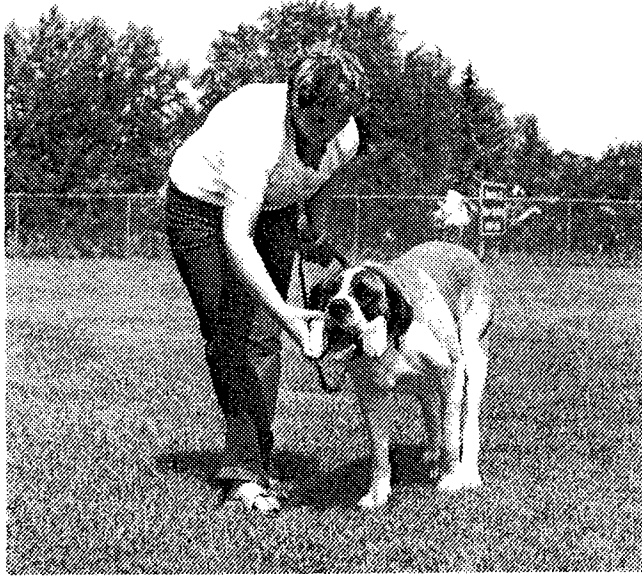


Figure 16—In the fifth week teach your dog to retrieve the dumbbell. With your dog on leash, throw the dumbbell about 10 feet, run toward it and command him to take it. Praise him if he does. Then step backward, command him to come with the dumbbell in his teeth. After several moments say “Out” and take it. If he refuses to take the dumbbell in the beginning, try pushing his head down while saying “Take it”. Eventually increase the distance you throw the dumbbell and decrease the distance you run toward it.

return. During the week of practice the handler may extend the length of time and distance out of sight.

Eighth week: Review the previous lesson. The long down. (Handler is out of sight for five minutes.) This exercise should be taught in the same manner as the long sit. The other exercises should also be reviewed.

Ninth week: Review of exercises.

Tenth week: Graduation.

The Open Class

The Open class escalates from the Graduate Novice by including the retrieve on flat, retrieve over high jump and broad jump. Most dogs will take to the jumping and some will enjoy the retrieving. The retrieving is usually much easier for the sporting and working dogs. The AKC Open Class score card will be used for judging.

The Heel Free, Figure 8 and Drop on Recall

Practice these exercises every week to keep your dog performing smartly.

The Retrieve on Flat

For the retrieve on flat, the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge gives the order, “Throw it”, whereupon the handler gives the command and signal, “Stay”, and throws a dumbbell about 30 feet



Figure 17—If your dog enjoys retrieving, rerun the exercise in the sixth week. Gradually increase the distance to 30 feet and start your dog from sitting position.

directly in front of the dog. He must not give the handler the hand in which he holds the dumbbell. The handler will then say “Send your dog”, whereupon the handler gives the command, “Take it”. The dog should retrieve the dumbbell at a fast trot or gallop. He should sit straight in front within easy reach of the handler and hold the dumbbell in his mouth without chewing or mouthing. The judge will then order “Take it”, and the handler commands his dog “Out” and takes the dumbbell from him. The judge will then order “Finish” and the handler may then give the command or signal to heel as a test of recall. The judge may then say, “Exercise finished”.

The willingness to learn this exercise will vary a great deal among dogs; however, it is generally not difficult to teach and offers more fun for both the dog and handler than most of the other exercises. It can also serve practical uses at home.

Dumbbell Size

When teaching a dog to retrieve, it is important to use a dumbbell of correct size for the dog. The length of the dumbbell should be about one inch more than the width between the dog's eyes for unobstructed vision. The dumbbell should be held the bar far enough off the ground for the dog to grip it behind his canine teeth without touching the ground with his nose. The bar should be large enough not to rock in the dog's mouth and pinch his lips but not so large that he cannot

Study the size of your dog's mouth carefully before selecting or making a dumbbell. Paint the bells white, your dog may be able to locate the dumbbell more easily and perform better in competition. Do not paint the bar.

Retrieve Over High Jump

Dogs seem to enjoy jumping and will do it readily after they understand the commands. Teach the exercise in parts; do not advance to following parts until your dog performs the first parts well.

For most dogs, the height of the hurdle is one and one half times higher than their withers (shoulder) or three feet, whichever is less. The Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Mastiff, Bull Mastiff, Newfoundland, St. Bernard and Bloodhound are required to jump only the height of their withers or three feet, whichever is less. Learn to make the hurdle by studying the illustration.

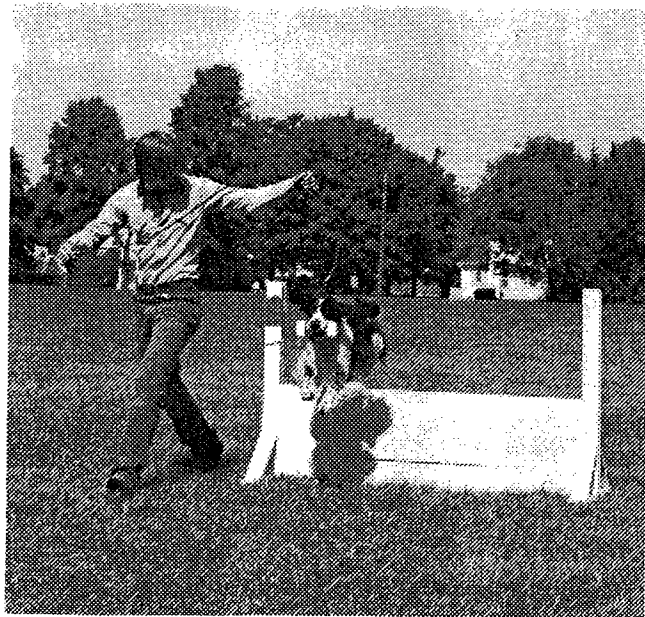
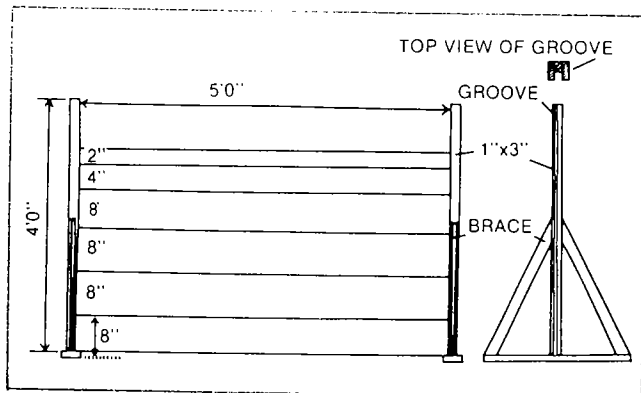


Figure 19—As you approach the hurdle, aim for the right upright and go around the end. Keep the lead high in your left hand and take your dog over the top. Your dog may try to follow your path around the hurdle. If he does, say "No!", quickly go back about 15 feet and rush at the hurdle again. A dog needs at least that much distance to get up enough speed to make the jump.



Figure 18—First week. Start with the 8-inch board or, if your dog is very small, the 4-inch board. Face the hurdle 15 feet away with your dog in the sitting position at your heel. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" With your dog on leash and heeling, approach the hurdle and step over it. As your dog goes over, repeat "Jump!" If he refuses to jump, do not drag him over. Coax him by running at the hurdle and jumping with him. Praise him the moment he makes it. Raise the hurdle 2 inches at a time until it is about even with his withers. Regardless of your dog's size, he now recognizes this as a jump. When he clears it with you readily, go on to the next step.



Figure 20—Second week. Set the hurdle about as high as your dog's withers. Place him in the sitting position at your heel. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle, stop just short of it and send your dog over with a repeat command, "Jump!" After he makes the jump, give the command to come and guide him back over the hurdle with the leash.

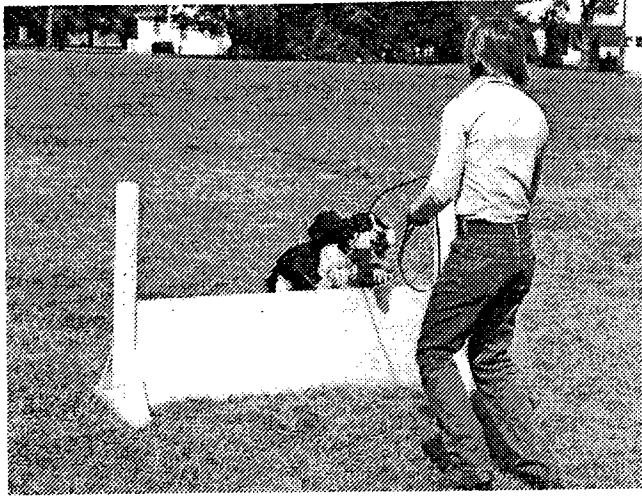


Figure 21—The next step involves retrieving the dumbbell. With your dog sitting at your heel and the leash attached as before, say "Stay" and throw the dumbbell over the hurdle about a foot beyond the spot where he lands. Be sure he cannot see the dumbbell until he jumps the hurdle; otherwise he will simply retrieve it without jumping. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle and send your dog over. As soon as he has the dumbbell, give the commands, "Come!" and "Jump!" to get him back across the hurdle. Don't forget the praise when he succeeds. Praise is just as important in advanced training as it is in early training.

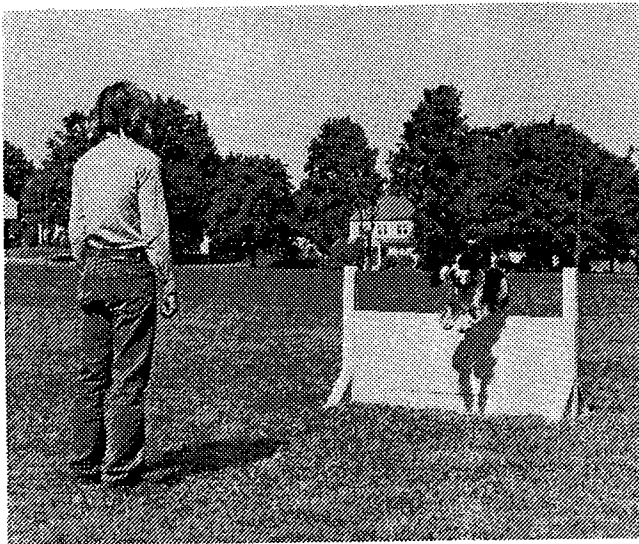


Figure 22—Third week. Try off-leash jumping and retrieving. Gradually increase the height of the hurdle until you reach the required height for your dog. If your dog drops the dumbbell at your feet upon returning, do not move or praise him, but give the command, "Take it", and let him hold it a moment before you take it. Use patience, firmness and lots of praise. Remember that jumping can be tiring.

The Broad Jump

The broad jump is twice as long as the height of the jump. The greatest length is therefore 6 feet for large dogs and 2 feet for small dogs. Build the jump according to the illustration.

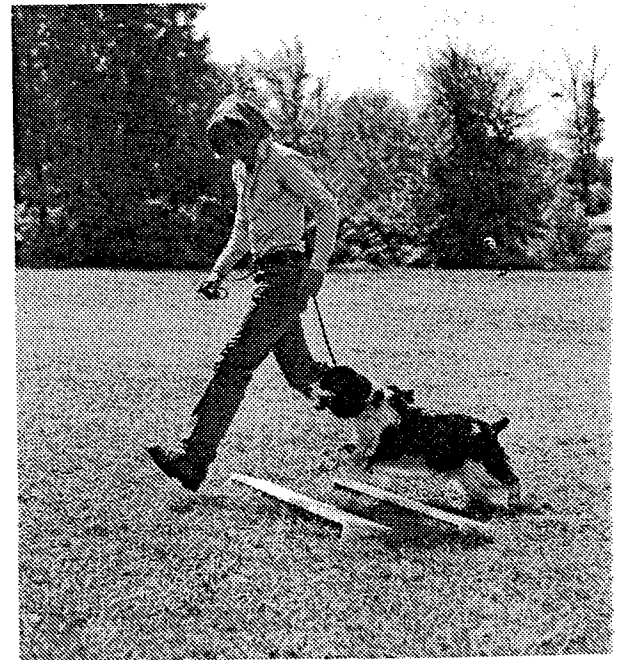
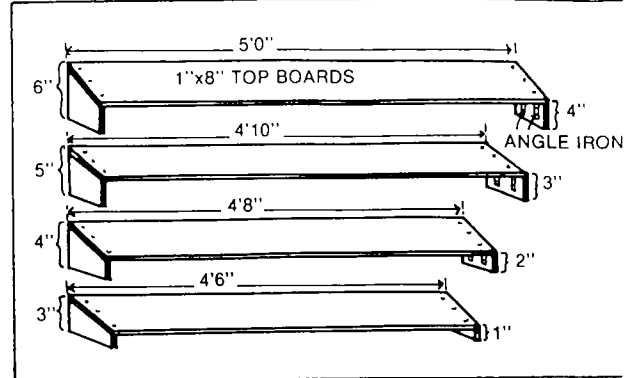


Figure 23—Fourth week. Place the two low jumps apart at a distance equal to half the jump distance required for your dog. If, for example, is a large dog who must jump 6 feet, make distance 3 feet. With your dog on lead in the sit position at your heel and the lead in your hand, face the jumps from about 10 feet away the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!", run and jump over the jumps. As you leap, repeat the command to jump and make a broad, sweeping motion with your left hand. The motion will become a signal for a jump, so it is important for your dog to learn soon. In competition you may use a voice command or a signal, but not both. If at first your dog comes to a skidding halt instead of jumping quickly drop the lead to prevent hurting or frightening him. Reassure him, remove one of the jumps and try again.

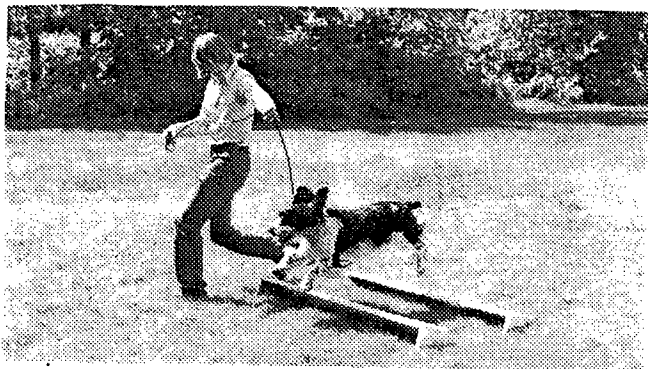


Figure 24—As soon as your dog can make half his required distance over two jumps, stop jumping with him and simply run alongside. Don't forget the sweeping motion of your left arm and the strong voice command to jump.



Figure 25—Fifth week. Place your dog in the sitting position facing the jumps 10 feet away. Move to a position across the jump from him, give the command, "Duke, come! Jump!" and tug the lead. Repeat the command to jump as he nears the jump. When he lands, guide him directly to you. Praise him lavishly.

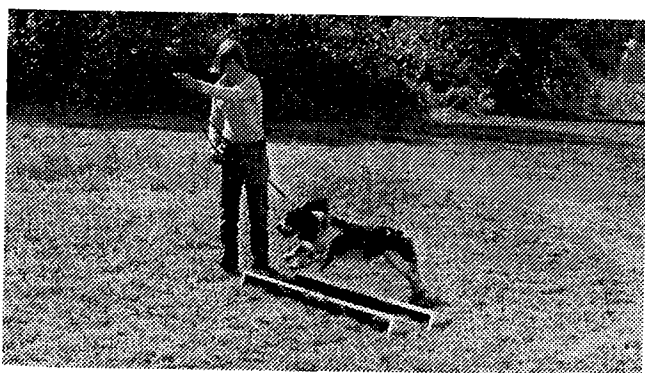


Figure 26—Sixth week. Now you are ready to teach your dog to jump on command. Place him in the sitting position 10 feet away facing the jumps. Stand beside the jumps and give the command, "Duke, jump!" At the same time snap the lead lightly and make a sweeping motion with your left arm. As he nears the jump, repeat the command to jump; when he lands, say "Duke, come", and guide him directly to you. Give plenty of praise.

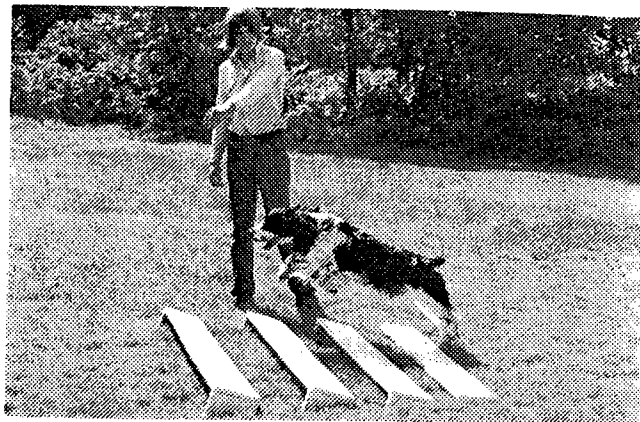


Figure 27—Seventh week. If your dog is readily jumping on lead, he is now ready to start jumping off lead. Perform the exercise off lead as you did in the sixth week on lead. If your dog does not perform correctly or if you lose control of him after the jump, go back to using the lead.

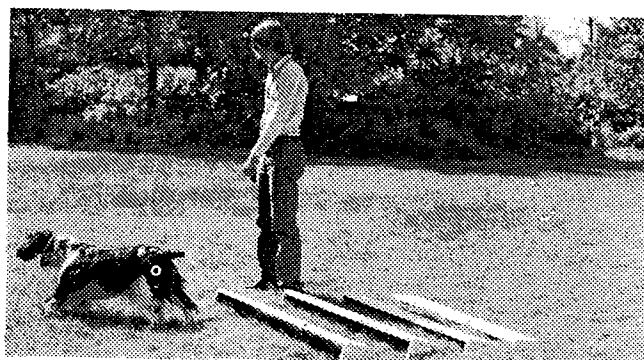


Figure 28—Gradually increase the length of the jump and the number of jump boards until you reach the requirement for your dog. Use two jumps for lengths up to 2 feet, three jumps for up to 4 feet, and four jumps for up to 6 feet. Begin using only one command to jump. Discontinue calling your dog back because in competition he must do the recall without command.

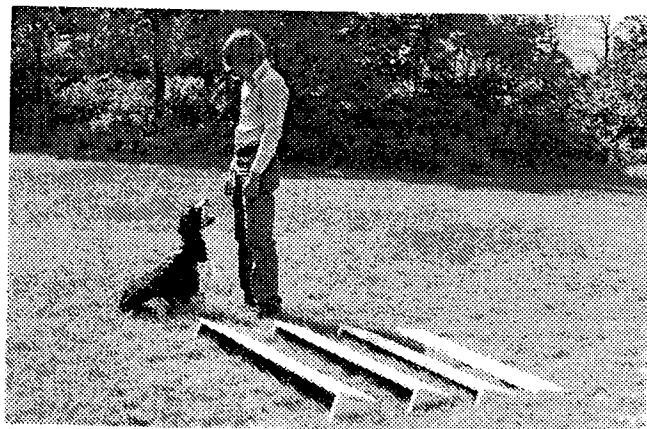


Figure 29—After your dog makes the jump, call him as you do in the recall and then send him to your heel.

The Long Sit

Handler out of sight for three minutes. Review page 6.

The Long Down

Handler out of sight five minutes. Review page 6.

The Training Schedule

The training schedule for the Open class will not necessarily meet the needs of each dog. Some will learn faster than others. Each step should be learned reasonably well before starting on the next step lest dog and handler get bogged down in too many problems.

Always begin the week with heeling on leash, some sits, downs and recalls just to remind your dog that it is training time again. Continue with the heel free and figure 8. Then do the retrieve on flat several times.

The Utility Class

The Utility class differs markedly from the Open by consisting of scent discrimination of a leather and metal article, directed retrieve, signal exercise, directed jumping and group examination. The AKC Utility score card will be used for judging.

The jump shall be one and one half times the height of the dog at the withers with a minimum of 8 inches and a maximum of 36 inches. This applies to all breeds with the exception of those listed in the AKC rule book available from the American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10010.

All exercises in this class are done off leash. When entering the ring tell the steward the height your dog should jump, place your box of five leather and five metal scent discrimination articles and your directed retrieve articles on the judge's table.

Scent Discrimination

The following is a description of the scent discrimination exercise. The judge will select one leather and one metal article from your box and place them on his table. The judge will then tell you where to stand with your dog at the heel position while he places the remaining articles on the ground about 15 feet to your front. The articles will be placed about 6 inches apart.

At this time the article selected will be passed to you (probably on a clipboard). Show both the judge and steward the number and type of article so they can make a note of it. This eliminates any chance of question of whether the dog retrieves the correct article. You should then turn around so that both you and your dog are facing away from the articles on the ground. Rub the article with your hands to place your scent on it. After several seconds the judge will take it from you by asking you to place it on a clipboard. He will then, without touching it with his hands, place it among the articles on the ground. He will then order you to "Send your dog". You should then say, "Duke, heel", and do an about turn in place to your right. As you turn around and face the articles command, "Duke, get it". Your dog should go briskly to the articles and

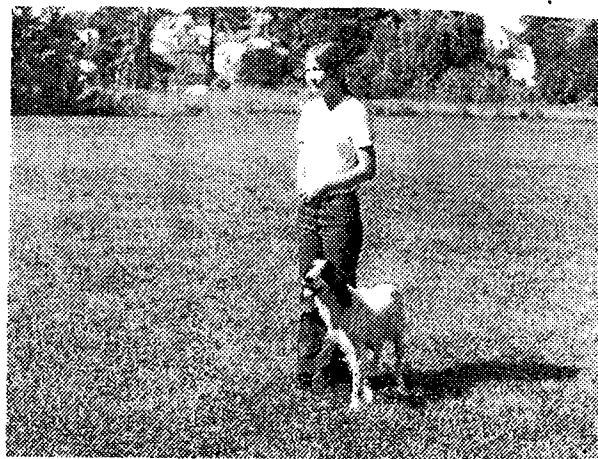


Figure 30—The judge will order, "Send your dog" when you are facing away from the articles. You will say, "Duke, heel", do an about turn and say "Get it".



Figure 31—Your dog should go forward and retrieve at a brisk trot.



Figure 32—Praise your dog when he starts to pick up the article. You may find that your dog will learn more quickly when the articles are placed on a concrete slab as there may be less confusing scents than on the grass.

search out the scented article. He should return quickly without mouthing, and sit straight in front of you, holding it patiently. The judge will then order "Take it". After you have removed the article from his mouth, the judge will order "Finish" and you will command, "Duke, heel". You will then follow the same procedure with the remaining article.

Your dog must be proficient at retrieving before learning the scent discrimination exercise. First carry one of the leather articles in your pocket for a week to allow it to become thoroughly impregnated with your scent. Then take the dog to a quiet place and throw the article ten or fifteen feet and command, "Get it". Don't forget to praise. Always rub the article with your hands just before throwing to add fresh scent to the article. Next place a clean unscented article and throw the scented article nearby. Send your dog. If he starts to pick up the unscented article, say, "No". If he does pick up the article, rush to him and flick it from his mouth. Guide him to pick up the scented article. Lavish praise is important.

Some trainers fasten the unscented article with wire or nails to a sheet of plywood. The dog then learns that the unscented article cannot be picked up. This method has worked well and is suggested. After the dog has learned to distinguish the scented from the unscented, fasten more articles down. He will then learn to smell each article until finding the one with the scent. Follow this procedure with the metal articles. Then use some of each, finally using all of the articles.

When training, it is important to handle the unscented articles in a manner to not confuse the dog. Prepare unscented articles by washing them with hot water and soap. Let them dry in the air. Use a pair of tongs to pick them up.

Use the same methods for teaching the exercises in the Utility class as you used in the Beginner class. They are praise, correction and persistence. Be definite with each. Your timing at using each is most important.

Directed Retrieve (Seek back)

This exercise is conducted as follows: Place your dog in the sitting position facing away from the unobstructed end of the ring as shown in the drawing. The judge will then drop the three predominately white cotton work gloves across the end of the ring. The gloves shall be designated "One", "Two" or "Three" from left to right when the handler turns and faces the gloves. The judge will order a retrieve of one of the three numbers. The handler will then give the command, "Duke, heel" and will turn in place, either to the right or to the left, to face the designated glove. The handler will come to a halt with the dog in the heel position. The handler shall not touch the dog to get it in position. The handler will then give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of his left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. The handler may give the command to retrieve either simultaneously with or immediately following the giving of the direction. The usual command is, "Duke, get it". The dog shall make the

retrieve at a brisk pace, completing the exercise as in the retrieve on the flat. You will be asked to retrieve only one of the three articles.

This exercise will not be difficult for your dog to learn if he is proficient at the retrieve on the flat. When training select an area that slopes upward from you and your dog. This will enable your dog to see the gloves more easily. In training, give your dog the stay command and signal (dog in sitting position), throw the glove, wait a few seconds, then give the arm signal and command of "Get it". After a few days of training, throw two gloves while he is sitting at heel. Give the signal and command to get the last one thrown call him in and finish. Then send him to the other glove. Advance to three gloves as soon as he masters retrieving two gloves. After he masters retrieving three gloves, throw only one glove but send him for the other two already in place. He will soon develop a trust of always finding a glove to retrieve when you send him.

The Signal Exercise

The signal exercise is done entirely from hand signals. No verbal commands may be given.

The exercise begins with heeling off leash. The judge will order a Left Turn, Right Turn, About Turn and Halt, slow normal and fast. Special emphasis will be placed on how you and your dog work as a team. In the process of heeling, the judge will maneuver you to one end of the ring. While heeling, the judge will order, "Stand your dog" and then "Leave your dog". You should then signal your dog to stand and stay and walk to the far end of the ring (about 50 feet). The judge will then *signal* you to "Drop your dog", "Sit your dog", "Call your dog", and "Finish", in that order.

Begin teaching these exercises with the signal to heel. Place your dog in the heel position, give him the heel signal (the left hand held open, passed smartly above and forward beside your dog's head). Step off with your left foot and heel at a brisk pace. If your dog fails to get the idea of the hand signal, place him on leash so you can give a corrective jerk forward with the right hand.



Figure 33—Teach the stand signal when heeling by bringing the right hand down in front of his nose.



Figure 34—Then bring the left hand across his face as a signal to stay. At first you may need to use the voice command a few times to help him recognize the signal.

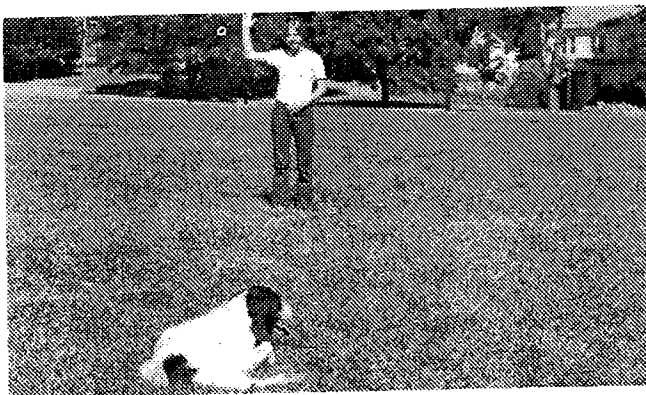


Figure 35—Teach your dog to drop on your signal by leaving him in the standing position at a distance of about 25 feet. The sudden raising of your hand is the signal to drop.

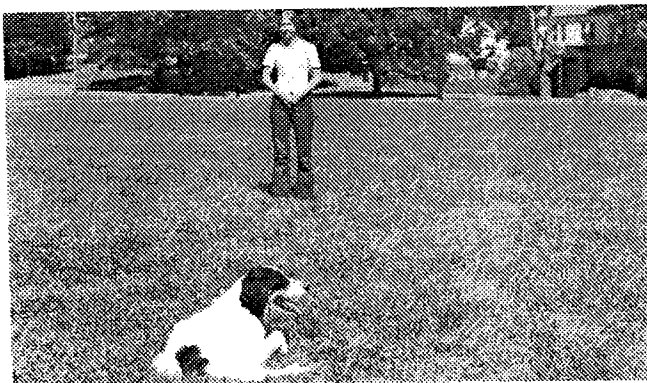


Figure 36—Lower it as soon as your dog starts to go down. You may at first need to give a voice command along with the hand signal. As he learns the hand signal, increase the distance to about 50 feet.

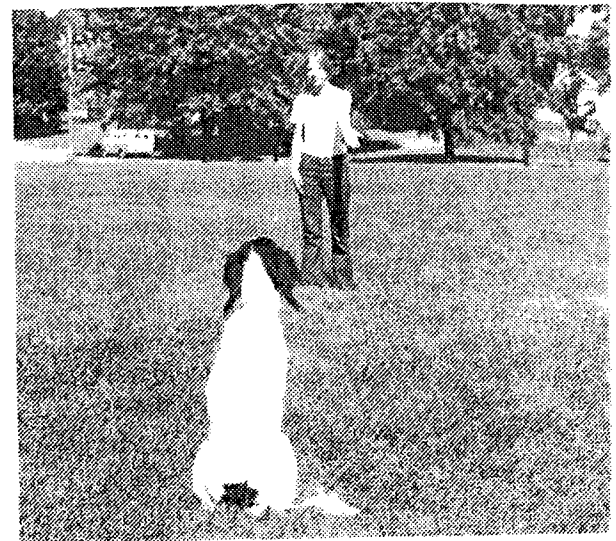


Figure 37—With your dog in the down position, the end of the leash to your front, give the signal to sit (quickly bringing your left hand upward from your waist). Reach toward your dog and say, "Sit", lifting him with the leash in your left hand. Be quick with the praise when he sits; you repeat the exercise the following several days, then discontinue using the voice command and leash to lift him. Remove the leash as soon as possible and increase your distance from him.

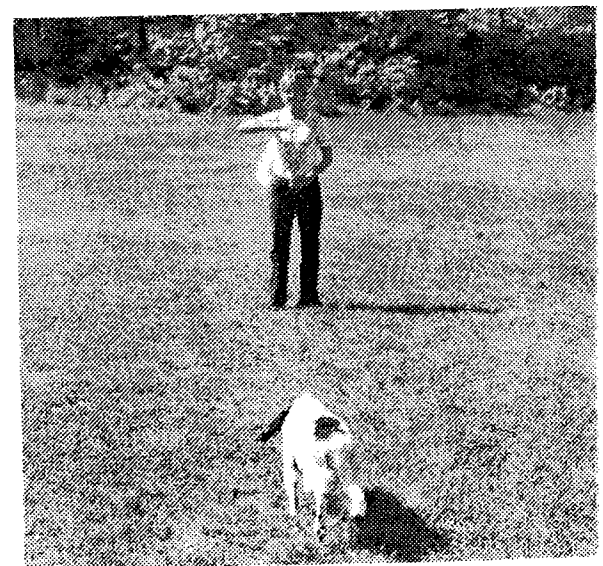


Figure 38—The signal to call your dog is do a sweeping your right hand out sideways and up toward your chest. Your dog should come smartly to you upon signal and sit directly to your front. Use this signal by standing about 25 feet in front of your dog. Use the voice command "Come" if necessary the first several days. A piece of rope may also prove useful to correct you if he should he not come smartly on your signal. Increase your distance from him as soon as you can.



Figure 39—The signal to finish is done by using your left hand as shown. You may speed up his reaction to your hand signal by using your right hand to reach forward and giving a jerk on the training collar. Some dogs, after learning the exercises, will anticipate your signals. You can sometimes break this habit by doing the exercises out of sequence.

Directed Jumping

This exercise is conducted as follows: Take a position, with your dog at your heel, and the bar and high jump about 20 feet to your front. The judge will order you to "Send your dog" and you will command your dog, "Go". The dog should trot out briskly to a point about 20 feet beyond the jump at which time you should command, "Sit". Your dog should turn and face you in the sitting position. At this time the judge will tell you which jump you should send your dog over. You should then give him the command "Hup" and signal him toward the jump. The dog should clear the jump without touching. When the dog is in midair you may turn to face him as he returns. Then, upon order from the judge, finish your dog by sending him to your heel. You may then praise your dog. Repeat this exercise by sending him over the other jump.

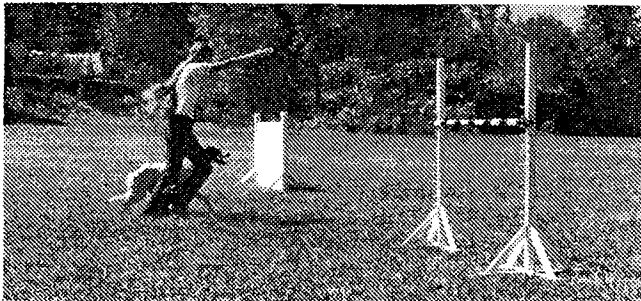


Figure 40—You should first teach your dog to go to the designated point beyond the jumps. Accomplish this by starting with your dog on leash in the heel position. Command your dog "Go" and run, giving the arm signal, to the designated point.

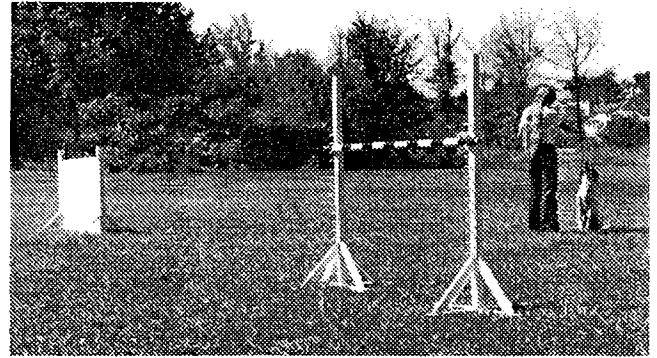


Figure 41—Upon reaching the point, halt, bring him toward you and say, "Sit". Then give praise. You may practice this part of the exercise by going back and forth from one side of the jumps to the other. Remove the leash as soon as he reacts favorably. This is usually rather difficult to teach.

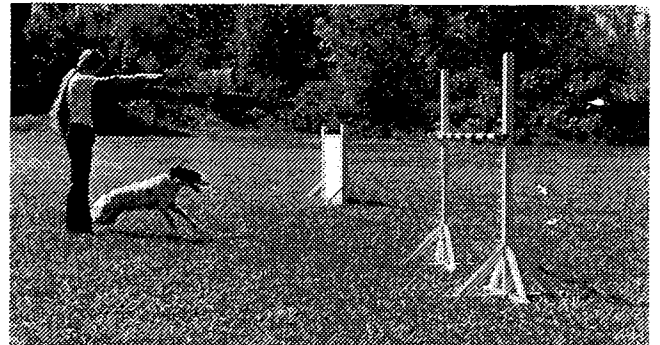


Figure 42—You may need to repeat this training procedure many times to get your dog to react as strongly to the command and signal as this one.

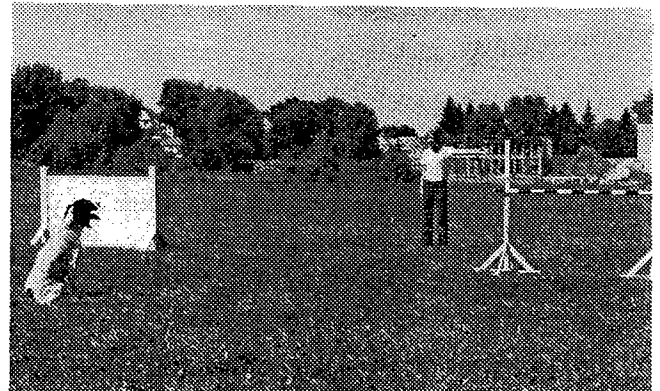


Figure 43—The second part of the exercise is to send your dog over the jumps. After sending your dog to a point about 20 feet beyond the jumps you should then take a position between the jumps, facing your dog. Point to one of the jumps and say "Hup". After the dog makes the jump, call him in to your front, praise a few moments and then send him to heel. As your dog learns to jump upon command and signal, begin moving away from him toward the point from which you sent him. The picture will make this point clear.

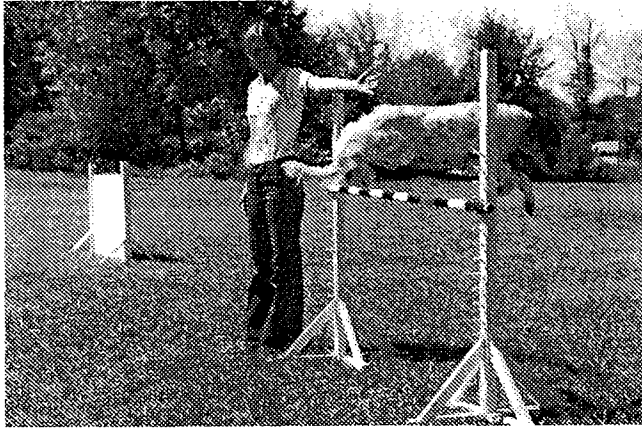


Figure 44—Stand beside the jump when training. Your dog should not touch the bar when jumping. Your dog will likely do this well if he enjoyed the jumping part of the Open class.

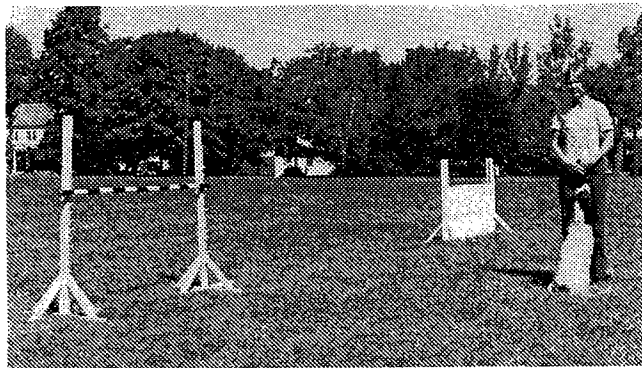


Figure 45—After the dog makes the jump, call him in to your front.

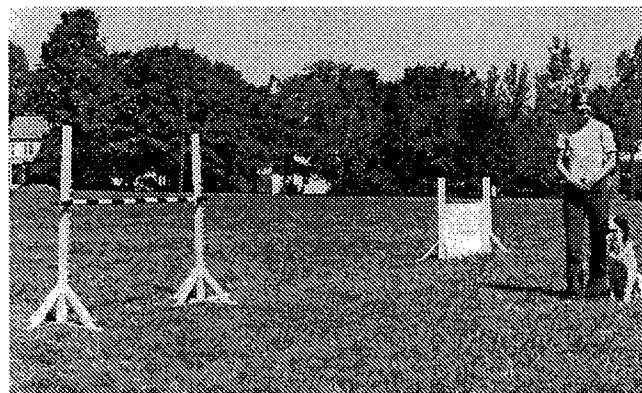


Figure 46—Then send him to heel to complete the exercise.

Group Examination

The dogs and handlers will line up, in the order of judging, with the dogs in the sitting position. No more than 15 dogs should be examined at one time. The judge will give the order "Stand your dog", whereupon you should place your dog in a standing position. Place the feet squarely and do not stretch him too much because he

should not move his feet during the time of examination all dogs (which shall be at least three minutes). After it appears that all handlers have their dogs standing satisfactorily, the judge will order "Leave your dog". You will then command and or signal to "Stay" and leave your dog, standing about 25 feet in front. The judge will then examine each dog by passing his hand over the head, shoulders and back. He will then order "Return to your dog". Return to your dog and stand beside him until the judge says, "Exercise finished"

Ask a friend to examine your dog in practice so that you will not be shy or aggressive toward strangers. You should practice this in the presence of dogs standing on both sides

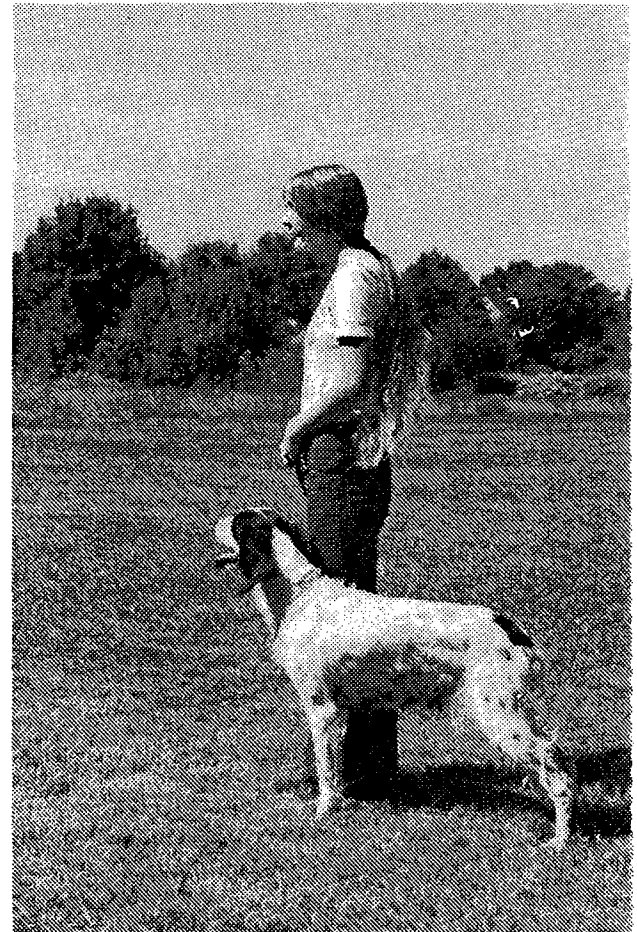


Figure 47—Stand your dog squarely so that he may stand comfortably and not move his feet while the judge is examining the other dogs in the group.

The Training Schedule

A rigid training schedule is not recommended. Some dogs will advance faster than others. It is important that each new exercise be learned reasonably well before starting on the next step so that both the dog and handler do not get bogged down in too many problems.

Always begin the training period with heeling on leash, some sits and downs and recalls, just to remind your dog that it is training time again. Continue with heel off leash and then go into the most recent exercise taught.