

MONROE COUNTY 4-H DOG PROJECT RESOURCE GUIDE

2010

A handler's guide to dog obedience,
showmanship, agility, and rally.



DOG OBEDIENCE BASICS

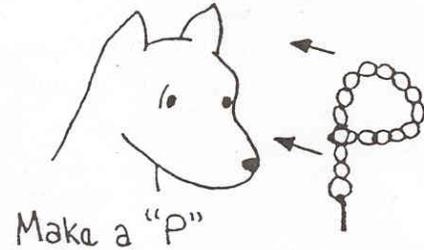
Why Train Your Dog?

Dog obedience makes your dog a better pet. People enjoy being around obedient dogs. These classes are a chance to have a well-behaved dog.

Equipment

These items should be brought to each training session:

- training collar (nylon or metal)
- six-foot leash (leather, cloth, or nylon)
- plastic baggy for "accidents"



Collars

To fit your dog for a training collar, measure around the neck and add two to three inches. It should form a "P" when you face the dog. Attach the leash to the ring that pulls it tighter. Always remove the training collar after each use! Unattended, it can become lodged on an object. In the struggle to free himself, the dog may strangle.

Three P's: Practice, Praise, and Persistence

Practice is ideally every day for 10-15 minutes, but five minutes on a busy day is better than no practice at all. Praise can be a pat on the head, play time, a small piece of food, or a verbal "Good dog!" Persistence is making your dog obey you. Don't give in or give up. Make your dog obey you the first time every time.

Voice Control

The first step is having your dog to listen. A dog won't obey a pleading tone. (Also don't ever yell at or hit a dog!) Say a command once then make your dog obey! Eventually he will put the new word and the action together.

How to Talk to Your Dog from "The American Humane Association Advocate"

If you want your dog to listen to you, what is the best way to get his attention? The tone of your voice is what makes the difference. High, whiny, complaining tones, and too many words are what minor pack members use. Low tones are what pack leaders use. If you want to be the top-ranking individual in your pack you need to use firm and assertive tones. If you speak to your dog in a whine, don't expect him to give you much attention and certainly don't expect him to behave himself. He will either ignore you, or he will treat you as a pack sibling, as his rather annoying little brother or sister. Use a low tone, almost a growl at times, if he's misbehaving and use few words.

The effect of tone was dramatically brought home to me in the puppy kindergarten class of professional dog trainer, April Frost. Five pet owners and their young pups listened as she spoke in a high pitched squeaky voice and verbalized at length, "You bad dog, you shouldn't have done that, didn't I tell you not to do that? What's the matter with you? Why don't you listen to me?" April squeaked ineffectively. Every student dog snoozed through this litany.

Then April said just one word, calmly, in a low voice that sounded almost like a growl, "NO."

Every puppy snapped to attention and calmly awaited April's next communication. The difference in their attitude was dramatic. Each dog owner immediately learned the lesson as well. Try it yourself.

Important Note

As you begin to train your dog, don't skip ahead of the class to other exercises in this manual. This will only confuse your dog. It is difficult to untrain a dog (this includes bad habits: jumping, biting, barking). Teach the correct way from the start.



OBEDIENCE TRAINING TIPS

Be patient! Keep your training sessions short, so the dog doesn't get too tired. Two ten-minute sessions a day are better than one 20-minute session.

Praise the dog every time it correctly follows a command. Praise can be a pat on the head or chest, time out for play, a treat or just "Good Dog!" in a happy voice. Do not use your dog's name when praising.

Keep commands short. Use the same words every time. For commands that require the dog to move ("Come," "Heel") use its name first. For commands that require the dog to stay put ("Stay," "Sit", "Down"), use only the command word.

Speak in a firm, pleasant voice.

NEVER hit or scream at the dog.

Practice, practice, practice those commands! Repeat each exercise many times until the dog does it automatically.

End each training session with something the dog knows such as "sit," so you can end with success.

Make sure your equipment fits. The training collar should fit around the dog's neck with 1 to 1½" chain hanging down when you pull it snug.

If a dog has done something wrong he must be told immediately after the mistake in order to understand why.

A dog can never receive too much praise!

Most dogs are keen to please their owners and once trained can be encouraged to carry out all kinds of tasks and activities.

Lesson One

Heel Position

Place your dog on your left side with his shoulder lined up with your hip. If your dog is small, his shoulder should be lined up with your knee. This is the basic heel position.

The Sit

1. Say "Sparky sit," while you pull straight up on the leash with your right hand.
2. At the same time, push down on his hindquarters with your left hand.
3. Praise

The Down

1. Begin with your dog sitting.
2. Say "Sparky down," while you pull the leash down with your right hand.
3. At the same time, push his shoulders with your left hand.
4. Praise.

OR

1. Begin with your dog sitting.
2. Say "Sparky down," while you scoop his front legs out from under him.
3. At the same time, press his shoulders with your left arm.
4. Praise.

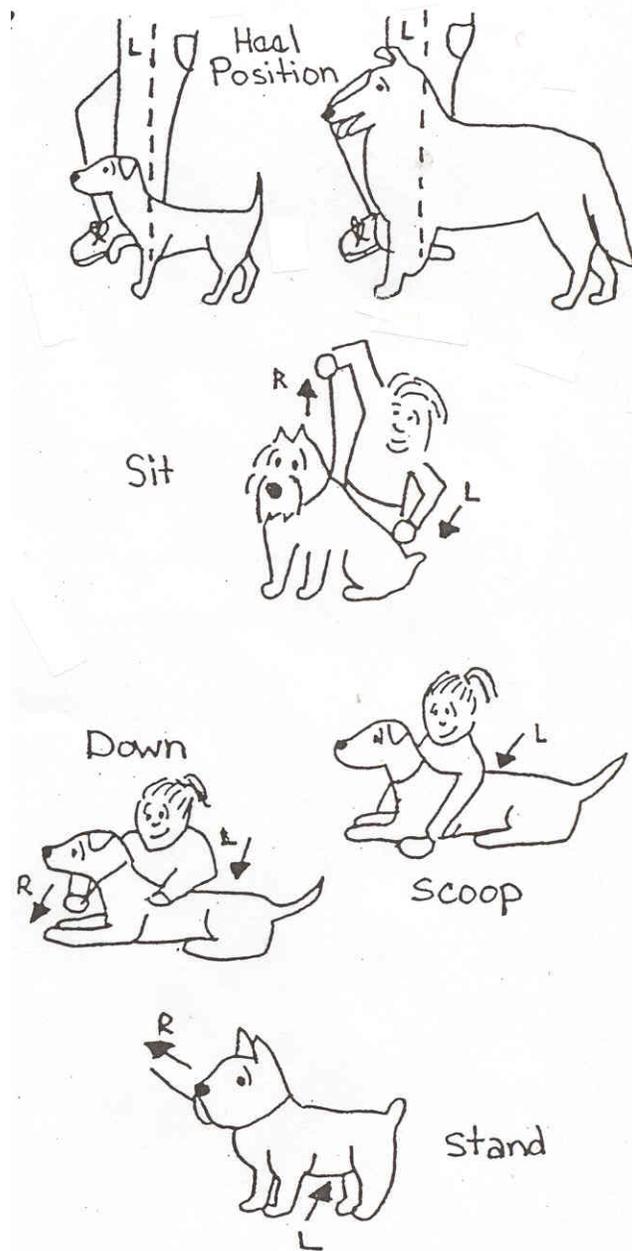
The Stand

1. Begin with your dog sitting
2. Say "Sparky stand," while you pull the leash forward and slightly up with your right hand.
3. Use your left hand to push up on his belly.
4. Praise.

When a dog jumps on you, say "off" not "down."
Don't use a word to mean two different things!

As You Begin....

Remember your dog will learn at its own pace. Just because someone else's dog learned to sit in five minutes, and you're still struggling doesn't mean your dog is dumb. Dog obedience is a measure of how willing a dog is to respond to commands. Take sitting for example: your dog knows how to sit. You've seen him sitting, but your goal is *to make him sit on command*. Through repetition, reinforcement, and praise you will teach him what to do when he hears "sit." Some dogs are more willing to listen to people than others. It doesn't reflect the intelligence of your dog. Train at your own pace until your dog masters the exercise. Just be patient, and don't become frustrated. Also, if a certain way of training isn't working for you, speak up! There are many ways of training. *Don't ever be afraid of asking for help.*



Lesson Two

Heeling

1. Start in Heel position with your right hand on the leash.
2. As you say "Sparky heel," step forward on your left foot, and jerk the leash forward.

Ideally your dog should walk in heel position with a loose leash. To keep him in heel position, you will need to make corrections, a jerk of the leash and a release. Remember to release otherwise corrections won't work.

3. As you halt, make your dog sit. This is an *automatic sit*. Eventually your dog needs to sit with no command from you.

Review part of the last lesson to stay polished everyday.

IN THE SHOW RING

The judge will say:

Forward (means to start heeling). Halt (means to come to a stop).

Lesson Three

The About Turn

1. Begin in heel position.
2. Start heeling in a straight line.
3. U-turn to your right (with the dog on the outside).
4. As you move, bend down to your dog's level, and give a forward jerk. You will now be heeling in the opposite direction.
5. Praise.

Pace changes

Normal is a brisk walk. *Fast* is running or jogging depending on the size of your dog. *Slow* is walking slowly without stopping. A backward jerk will keep your dog in heel position.

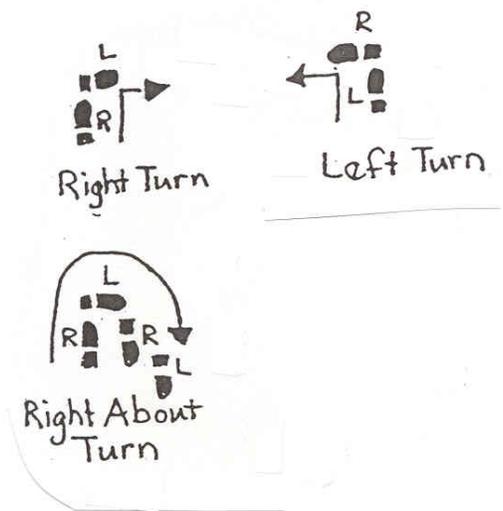
Talk happily to your dog to keep his attention. Turns and pace changes can be added during heeling to keep it interesting.

IN THE SHOW RING

The judge will say:

Turns: Right turn. Left turn, about turn.

Pace changes: slow, fast, normal



Lesson Four

The Long Sit

Part One

1. Begin with your dog sitting in heel position, leash in your left hand.
2. Say "Stay," while bringing your palm in front of his nose.
3. Your dog should sit there for a short period of time.



If he moves, say "NO" and put him back into position *without repeating any commands*.

4. Release by praising after 5-19 seconds.

This part may last from one session to several weeks. Dogs learn at different speeds, so don't rush to the next part until your dog is steady (can stay for at least 30 seconds to one minute).

Part Two

1. After the "Stay" command, pivot on your left foot in front of the dog.
2. After a short while, pivot back into heel position and release by praising.
3. Eventually you will move to the end of your six-foot lead. Take one step back. When your dog will stay at that distance, you can move back further until you are at the end of the leash.



Don't rush! Make sure your dog will stay consistently before you increase your distance. Never hurry this exercise. Trying to teach the next part before your dog is ready will only confuse him and frustrate you.

The Long Down and Stand for Examination

The long down, and the first part of the stand for examination are taught in the same way. Eventually your dog will sit-stay for one minute, down-stay for three minutes, and stand-stay while the judge runs his or her hands over the dog.

REMEMBER: Step off on your *left foot on moving commands* (heeling), and your *right foot on stationary commands* (stays and recalls). This becomes a physical cue for your dog.

IN THE SHOW RING

Long Sit: Sit your dog, leave your dog, return to your dog, exercise finished.

Long Down: Down your dog, leave your dog, return to your dog exercise finished.

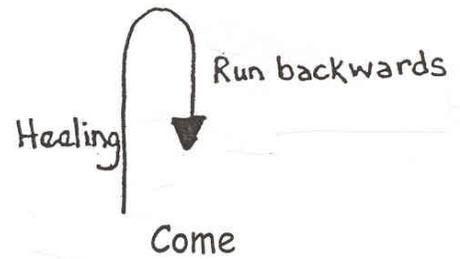
Stand for examination: Stand your dog and leave when ready, return to your dog, exercise finished.

Lesson Five

The Recall

Part One

1. Heel in a straight line.
2. Turn around suddenly, run backwards, and call out
3. Happily "Sparky come!"
4. As the dog reaches you, praise.



Once your dog comes eagerly, you can go on to the next part. Your dog should stay steadily to teach this part

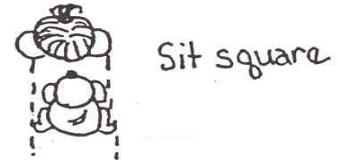
Part Two

1. Begin sitting in heel position.
2. As you say "Sparky wait," or "Sparky stay", bring your right palm in front of his nose.
3. Step off on your right foot to the end of the leash facing your dog.
4. Command "Sparky come" and start running backwards.
5. When he catches up with you praise.

When your dog is coming consistently, move onto the third part. Continue to praise. This can be a fun exercise.

Part Three

1. Repeat the above steps, but when he reaches you make him sit squarely in front, facing you.
2. Praise.

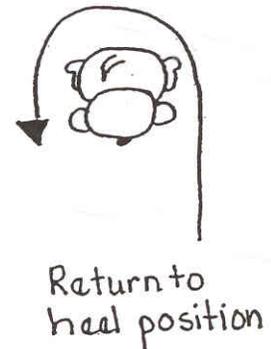


Never call a dog to you and punish him! If you need to correct him, go to him. Otherwise your dog will associate coming to you with punishment, and the recall exercise will be difficult.

Return to Heel Position

This is used to return yourself to heel position on all stay exercise. Your dog is to stay until you release him. Vary the time before release so he won't anticipate it.

1. Return by holding the leash with the left hand, being careful not to wrap the leash around the dog.
2. Walk around the right side, go behind the dog, and back to heel position on the left.
3. Release and praise.

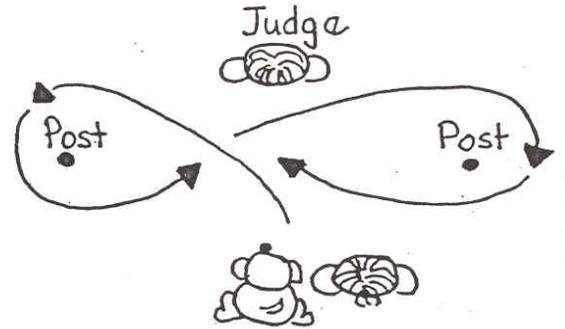


Lesson Six

The Figure Eight

This is a heeling exercise to reduce lagging on turns. There will be two posts (people) six to eight feet apart. You and your dog will have to weave in between them.

1. Begin in heel position one step back from the center and in the middle.
2. On the command "Forward," start heeling to the left (The dog will be on the inside and won't begin lagging).
3. Continue forming a figure eight halting several times.
4. Praise.



IN THE SHOW RING the judge will say:

"You may go either way. Forward, Halt, Exercise Finished."

Lesson Seven

The Finish

This is how your dog returns to heel position after recalls.

1. Begin with your dog sitting squarely in front, facing you, leash in right hand.
2. Say "Sparky heel," step back with your right foot.
3. At the same time, jerk the leash to the right.
4. Guide him behind your back. Switch the leash to your left hand.
5. Make him sit in heel position.
6. Praise.
7. Drop the step back with right foot when your dog knows what to do. Do not step back in the show ring.



The next method is best for smaller dogs. Choose whatever way you feel comfortable with.

1. Begin with your dog sitting squarely in front, facing you, leash in left hand.
2. Say "Sparky swing" or "Sparky heel" step back with your left foot.
3. At the same time, jerk the leash to the left.
4. Guide him to make a U-turn into you.
5. Make him sit in heel position.
6. Praise.



Avoid doing *a finish directly after a recall when practicing!* If you practice them together, dogs will get smart. They cheat and go directly to heel position without sitting and waiting for the finish command. Practice the recall and finish separately.

IN THE SHOW RING the judge will say:

"Sit your dog, leave your dog, call your dog. Finish, Exercise Finished."

Lesson Eight

Showmanship Part One

What is Showmanship?

Showmanship is a class at the fair that judges how well you handle and groom your dog. In an AKC (American Kennel Club) show dogs trot around the breed ring to see which one best fits the standard of perfection for its breed (proper height, straight legs, good coat, etc.) In showmanship *you* are being judged, not your dog.

What Do I Need?

You should wear *comfortable shoes*, because you will be running around an unevenly surfaces ring. How you dress will count for appearance points. Dress in *nice clothing* (vests, skorts, buttoned shirts, nice shorts). The judge isn't expected ties and dresses, but look presentable.

Use a *show lead*, a thin leash, instead of your obedience leash and training collar. Treats can be used to *bait* your dog in the showmanship ring.

Grooming

Your dog needs to be clean. No loose hairs, dirt globs, or mats. You may want to bathe your dog two to three days before the show to allow the natural oils in the coat to build back up. Next, clean the ears, eyes, and nose with a wet washcloth and a cotton ball. Be careful not to push the cotton ball farther into the ear than you can see to avoid damaging the eardrum. The teeth should be free from heavy tartar build-up. Milkbones or brushing with a special doggy toothpaste may help. If you hear a clicking when your dog walks on pavement you may need to clip his claws (don't forget the dewclaws).

Research your dog's breed(s) in a book. A mixed bred should be shown according to the breed it most closely resembles. Go to the library or ask your instructor. This will give you an idea on how to clip, groom, and stack your dog.

Stacking

The basic stacked position is the dog standing with his feet squarely underneath him. Some breeds stretch, like the German Shepard and the Cocker Spaniel, with their hind legs pulled out behind them. Some types, like the Irish Setter and the Beagle, have their tail held straight out by the handler. Look in a book to see how your dog should stack.

Gaiting

Gaiting, in a breed ring, is a way for a judge to observe how the dog moves. Done properly it is a fast trot. You need to practice to find the right speed for you and your dog. With a small dog, like a Boston Terrier, you can walk fast. With a large dog, like a Golden Retriever, you need to run.

Scoring

Point will be awarded according to:

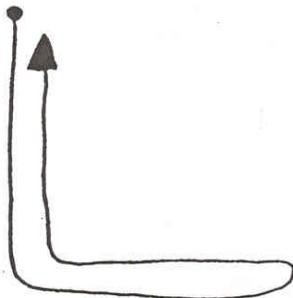
Condition of Dog (weight, health)	10
Temperament (not shy or aggressive).....	10
Cleanliness (ears, eyes, etc.)	10
Clipping and Plucking (appropriate to breed(s))	10
Grooming (toenails, brushing)	10
Showmanship (smile!).....	50
Total Points	100

Showmanship Part Two

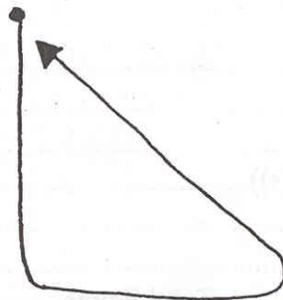
The Show

1. After the ring steward lines the class up, circle around the ring. If there is a slower dog in front of you, you may pass them to the inside of the ring carefully. Remember you want to show your dog off at his best!
2. Everyone lines up and stacks his or her dog. You may need to kneel down to your dog's level. Some people use small bits of food to bait their dogs. Baiting is getting his attention and making his ears perk up.
3. The judge will examine the dog's ears, eyes, and coat. If asked to show the bite, lift up the dog's lips so the teeth are showing. As the judge walks around the dog, remember to *keep the dog between the judge and you!* *The judge wants to see the dog, not your legs!* The judge may ask you questions about your dog's health and breed(s) so be prepared.
4. Then, you will gait a pattern individually. You may want to honor the judge (circle your dog) before you go out. "Forget" all that obedience training while you are in the ring; your dog may have to gait on your right side, and you can switch the leash from hand to hand. The L, Triangle, and T patterns are diagrammed.
5. As you gait your dog, look up and *smile!* Half the points are based on your behavior, so smile and look happy to be in the ring. When you return to the judge, your dog should not sit. Keep him standing—preferably stacked. You will be motioned to the end of the line. Gait your dog back and smile.
6. The judge will go through the entire class like that. *Remember at all times you are being judged!* No rough handling of your dog, and treat the other participants with respect. After everyone is done the judge may signal everyone to gait once around.
7. Remember this is showmanship. Whether you placed first or last, congratulate the other participants. Be a true showman out of the ring as well.

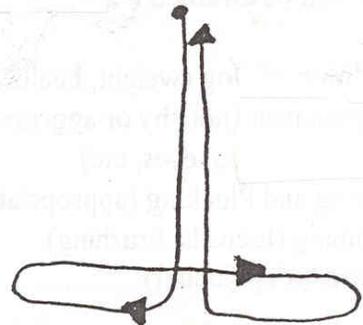
L



Triangle



T



Lesson Nine

Review

There is only one more lesson before the Practice Dog Show and the Fair. Polish up on any weak spots. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask or call an instructor at home!

Practice Dog Show and Graduation

Congratulations! You and your dog have worked hard to become a team! Your dog should be a better-behaved pet. If you have any questions concerning the Fair, ask. The exercises you and your dog are required to do at the Fair at the Pre-Novice level are:

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight
Stand for Examination
Recall
Long Sit (one minute)
Long Down (three minutes)

Check out the score sheet on the following page. It's like the one that will be used at the Fair. A perfect score is a 200. Any mistakes (like lagging, tight leash when heeling, crooked sits, moving during a stay) will be deducted from your score. Look and see what areas you might be able to improve on to earn a higher score.

The Practice Dog Show is to help you to know what to expect at the Fair. When the judge gives you the sheet, look it over to know what to polish up on.

See you at the FAIR!

If you had fun this year in the dog project, join next year and learn how to do more neat stuff like heeling off leash and eventually dumbbell retrieving!



What is Agility?

Patterned after equestrian show jumping, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's agility, briskness, confidence, and a handler's control over an obstacle course designed for dogs. It is a fun sport with great spectator appeal.

Purpose of Agility:

1. Add new members and maintain established members in the dog project.
2. Provide positive motivational training methods and interactions with the dog.
3. Enhance a working relationship between the dog and handler.
4. Provide a better conditioned dog and handler.
5. Promote good sportsmanship and citizenship.
6. Promote a better-rounded handler/dog team.
7. Add confidence to both dog and handler.

Class Descriptions/Requirements:

Beginner

- This is a simple "S" shaped, "M" shaped, or "U" (horseshoe) shaped course.
- The following obstacles are typically used:
 - A-Frame (apex at 4'6")
 - Pause table at 12" (dogs in down position for 5 cumulative seconds)
 - Pipe tunnel
 - Closed Tunnel
 - Six Hurdles
- All dogs will be shown on leash, wearing flat collars.
- A dog with a leg toward any agility title is ineligible.
- Members must show at this level until achieving a round of 5 or fewer faults in competition and then must advance to the next level the following year.

Elementary

- This is a simple "M", "S", or "U" (horseshoe) course.
- The following obstacles are typically used:
 - A-frame (apex 5'0")
 - Pause table at 12" (dogs in down position for 5 cumulative seconds)
 - Pipe tunnel
 - Closed Tunnel
 - Six Hurdles
- All dogs must be shown off leash. The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.
- A dog with a leg toward a USDAA or NADAC, UKC or an AKC-Novice agility title is ineligible, as is a handler having earned a USDAA Junior Handler Program (UJHP) Elementary certificate.
- Members must show at this level until achieving a round of 5 faults or less in competition and then must advance to the next level the following year.

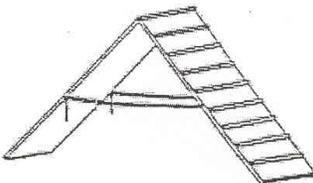
Intermediate

- This course is slightly more challenging than a figure 8.
- The following obstacles are typically used:
 - A-frame (apex 5'6")
 - Pause table at 12" (dogs in down position for 5 consecutive seconds)
 - Pipe tunnel (1-2 depending on availability)
 - Closed Tunnel
 - Dog Walk (at elevation of 3')
 - Tire jump
 - Long jump
 - 5-6 weave poles
 - Four to six hurdles
- All dogs must be shown off leash. The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.
- Dogs with a leg toward a UKC title, a NADAC or USDAA regular title, or a leg toward an AKC-Open agility title are ineligible, as is a handler having earned a UJHP Intermediate Certificate.
- Members must show at this level until achieving a round of 5 faults or less in competition and then must advance to the next level the following year.

Senior

- This course is slightly more challenging than a figure 8
- The following obstacles are typically used:
 - A-frame (apex 6'0")
 - Pause tables are 12" (dogs in down position for 5 consecutive seconds)
 - Pipe tunnel (1-2 depending on availability)
 - Closed Tunnel
 - Dog Walk (at elevation of 3')
 - Tire jump
 - Long jump
 - Five or six weave poles
 - See saw
 - Four to six hurdles
- Dogs must be shown with no collar or leash.
- Dogs that have completed an Open title in AKC or a Starters/Novice title in USDAA or NADAC agility competition are ineligible for this class.
- Members must show at this level until achieving a round of 5 faults or less in competition and then may advance to the next level the following year or have the option to stay at this level for a maximum of three years of 5 faults or less. After the third year of 5 faults or less, members must advance to the next level the following year.

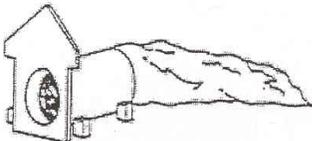
AGILITY OBSTACLES AT A GLANCE



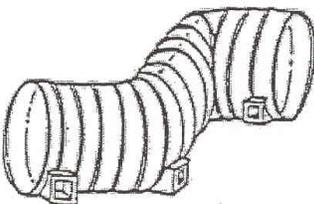
A-Frame



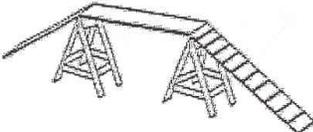
Pause Table



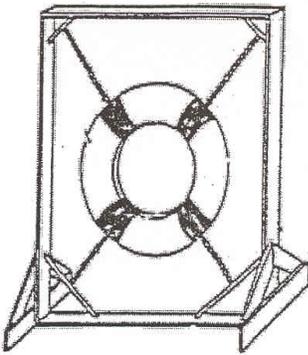
Collapsed Tunnel



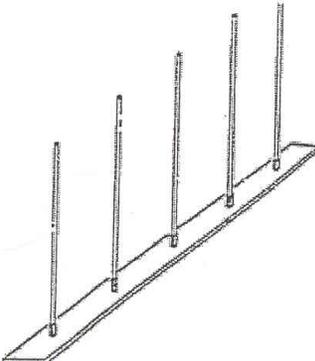
Pipe Tunnel



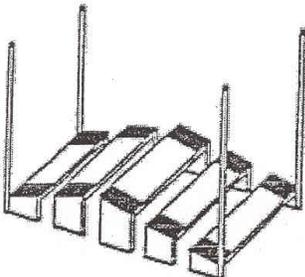
Dog Walk



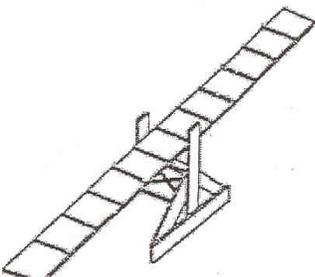
Tire Jump



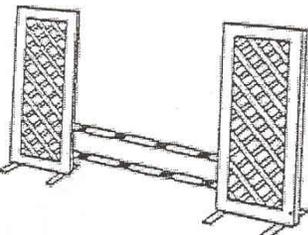
Weave Poles



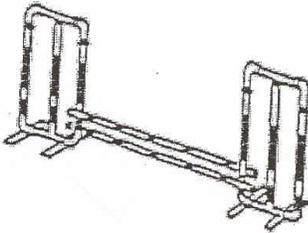
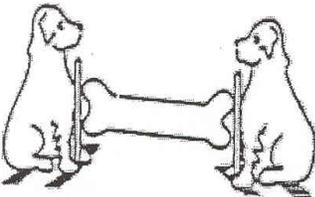
Long Jump



See-Saw

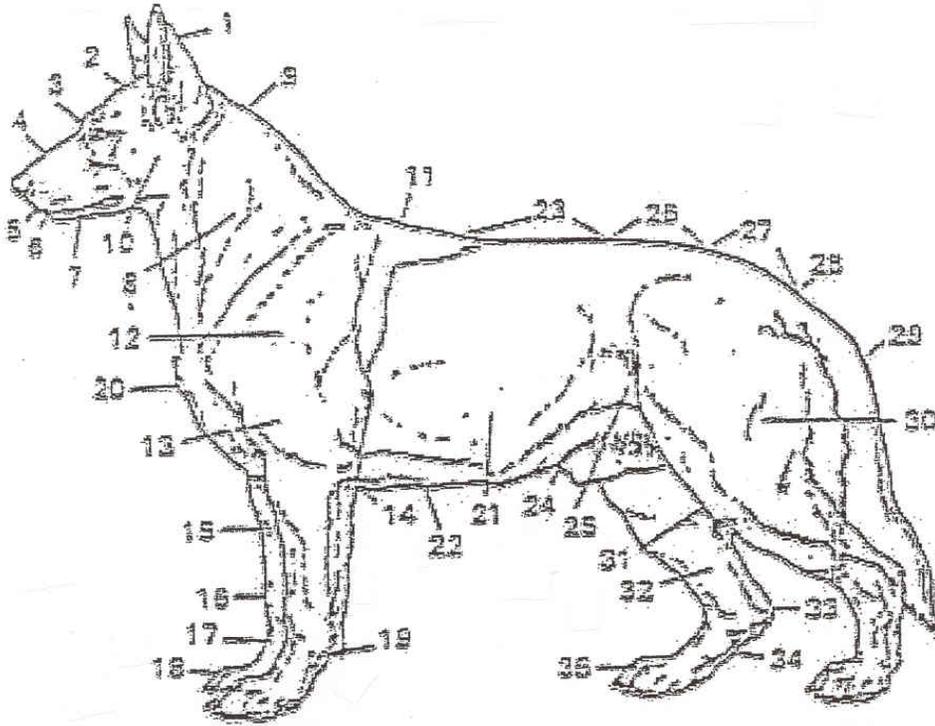


Various Hurdles



CANINE ANATOMY

Descriptive topographical anatomy is best dealt with in illustration. By considering the above drawing together with illustration 1, it is possible to locate, recognize and define the skeletal structures lying beneath the skin.



- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ear | 13. Upper Arm | 25. Flank |
| 2. Skull | 14. Elbow | 26. Loin |
| 3. Stop | 15. Forearm | 27. Croup |
| 4. Foreface | 16. Wrist | 28. Set-on of Tail |
| 5. Muzzle | 17. Pastern | 29. Tail or Brush |
| 6. Top Lip | 18. Forefoot | 30. Upper Thigh |
| 7. Bottom Lip | 19. Stopper Pad | 31. Stifle Joint |
| 8. Neck | 20. Prosternum | 32. Lower Thigh |
| 9. Crest of Neck | 21. Ribcage or chest | 33. Hock |
| 10. Cheek | 22. Sternum | 34. Rear Pastern |
| 11. Withers | 23. Back | 35. Hind Foot |
| 12. Shoulder | 24. Belly | |

MONROE COUNTY DOG PROJECT

Training Dates for 2009-2010

Dec. 7, Monday 6:30 @ the AEC in Sparta

Jan. 17, Sunday 7pm @ AEC in Sparta

Feb. 15, Monday 7pm AEC in Sparta

March 14, Sunday 7pm AEC in Sparta

April 5, Monday 7pm AEC in Sparta

April 18, Sunday 7pm AEC in Sparta

May 3, Monday 7pm Tomah fairgrounds

May 16, Sunday 7pm Tomah fairgrounds

June 7, Monday 7pm Tomah fairgrounds

June 13, Sunday 7pm Tomah fairgrounds

Directions:

AEC in Sparta -

The AEC is the "old" middle school in Sparta. The address is 201 East Franklin Street. Directions from Hwy. 21: Take Hwy. 21 (from Tomah, past Ft. McCoy) into Sparta. At the four way stop (Montgomery Street), take a right. At the next four way stop (Water Street), take a left. At the next four way stop (Franklin Street), turn left. Drive past the school (on your right), take a right on Benton Street, park in the parking lot and enter at the "Conference Room" sign.

Cattle Barn in Tomah -

The cattle barn is on the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

Menn Farm -

From Sparta, take Hwy. 71, go through Norwalk to Hwy. T. Turn right (south) on T just past Valley Pride Pack. Take T 1½ miles to the junction of Hwys. T and F. Fire number 25593. Church across the street. Enter driveway behind house off of Hwy. F.

From Tomah, take Hwy. 131 to 71, through Wilton, to Hwy. T, turn left on T and proceed as above.

4-H DOG PROJECT REGISTRATION

20__

Member's name _____ Grade _____

Address: _____ 4-H Club _____

Monroe Co. Dog License # (required) _____

Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Phone: _____

Date ownership/mgmt of project animal began: _____ # years (including this year) in dog project _____

If management, who owns animal: _____ (Attach copy of management agreement)

Registered Unregistered **(circle one)** Registered Name of Animal: _____

Call Name: _____ Breed/type: _____

Birthdate: _____ Body color: _____

Male Whole Female Whole Male Neutered Female Spayed **(circle one)**

DOG HEALTH RECORD

Shots/Tests	Dates of Vaccinations/Tests
Rabies 1, 2, 3 yr. Vaccine (circle one) (REQUIRED) Rabies tag # _____	
DHLPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvo corona) (REQUIRED)	
Heartworm Test _____ Negative _____ Positive _____ Not Tested _____ _____ Test waived per vet (on preventative year around) _____ Dog is under 6 months old (no mosquito exposure) Dog was on heartworm preventative through last mosquito season _____	
Internal Parasites Negative _____ Positive (indicate parasite) _____ (OPTIONAL)	

Veterinarian Signature: _____ Date: _____
 (or attach current vaccination certificate which includes vet's signature)

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Handler Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Trainer Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing, trainer certifies dog and youth attended training classes.

This form must be submitted for each dog you intend to bring to training or show at the Monroe Co. Fair. Retain a copy for your records. BRING COMPLETED FORM WITH YOU TO FIRST TRAINING OR HAVE ON FILE WITH EXTENSION OFFICE if you are training with another trainer.

Mail form to: Monroe Co. Extension Office, 14345 Cty. Hwy. B, Room 1, Sparta, WI 54656

Approved by: 4-H Dog Committee and UWEX Office