



Grafton Dog Obedience Club Inc.

TRAINING FOR OBEDIENCE TRIALS

- Train in different locations, under all weather conditions.
- Vary your paces, change direction often and make frequent starts and stops – this improves your dog's concentration and keeps him interested.
- Ask for a high standard of work but keep training sessions short so your dog stays keen – ask for quality not quantity.
- You get no second chances at a trial – so when you give a cue your dog must respond instantly. Work on this. Near enough is not good enough!
- Take care that you are not giving extra “body signals” (bending the knees with a drop/recall cue, nodding head at halt/sit, stamping or scuffling feet, bending or twisting body in conjunction with signals/verbal cues).
- In a trial you are only permitted to praise your dog between exercises so you must gradually “wean” him off constant praise and rewards (you are not permitted to take food/rewards into the ring). Get him used to the idea of being praised/rewarded for special effort and after a set of exercises instead of after every single exercise. Leave your treats/rewards outside the ring as you enter and reward your dog when you have finished your test and left the ring.
- If you have a very excitable dog, use only gentle praise, ear slides and calming signals between exercises to keep him calm. If he is inclined to lack enthusiasm, lavish him with praise or ask him to perform a fun trick or two on your way back to the start peg to keep his enthusiasm up.
- Remember that for the CCD and Novice classes the work is basic but the standard of work required is very high. You must get 75 out of 100 in CCD class, and 170 out of 200 in the other classes to pass (and gain at least 50% of the marks for each exercise), so train your dog to be the best he can be.
- **There are no short cuts or quick fixes**, so don't waste time looking for them. Trialing is all about developing a good relationship with your dog and developing a high level of skill in both of you so that you can work smoothly, precisely and consistently as a team.

... and of course it's fun - enjoy your training and the relationship you develop with your dog!

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