

3-27-20

SPECIAL CORONAVIRUS Obedience Show Novice – Week 1

Working on polishing up your dog to enter an Obedience Beginner Novice or Novice Trial in the near or distant future? Here are some skills you can work on once you have a good foundation. The ultimate plan would be to back chain after you're happy with all of their skills.

Treats/Rewards can be food or toy (Ball, tug toy, etc.). When treating with food, at any time, stop to give dog time to chew/swallow. Some dogs are ok without stopping, but many dogs lower their head and their brain stops functioning.

I. Let's begin with a good warmup plan. Do these in order every time. 1-2-3-(4 opt)

1. Away from crate, place a few pieces of food on ground without dropping food. If dog gets it and looks at you- Click & Treat (C/T). If not, don't do step 2. Take a break. Your dog isn't ready to work with you.
2. Offer food in hand – if dog gets it and looks at you- C/T. If not, start with step 1 again. Or take a break.
3. (Do after dog can do 1 & 2) Ask for a simple behavior (sit, down, etc) – if dog looks at you C/T (dog ready for ring)
- 4 (optional) Ask for a more difficult behavior – when dog looks at you, C/T (dog ready for ring.)

II. Prepare for Ring Entry:

A ring can be a regular ring setup, or can just have 2 things to represent a ring entry – jump wings, 2 baby gates, 2 chairs, etc.

Go near ring entry (10'- 15') and try another warm-up exercise before entering the ring. Don't enter the ring if warm-up doesn't work.

III. Ring Entry Protocol (once dog is warmed up)

(Explode means to have a party with your dog - play/scatter food on floor/hand touches, tug toy, etc.)

1. Enter ring – Dog should continue to pay attention to you and not be distracted by ring barriers. If distracted, backup a few steps and then continue to enter ring. You may need to do this several times.
2. Once dog enters ring easily (without a sit) without being distracted or concerns -- **Explode**.
3. Enter ring a 2nd time with same criteria #1 & #2. After you enter the ring, stop. If the dog doesn't sit when you stop, ask dog to sit. Then **Explode!**
4. If there's time, 3rd time in ring: Add a person (judge/steward) inside the ring. From a distance (8-10') Person will say "Are you Ready?" You will then **explode** .
5. If there's a 4th time in the ring: Person will say "Are you Ready?" - You will answer- Person will say "Forward". **Explode!!!**

IV. Heeling. Just do a forward (5-10 steps), left turn (5-10 steps) and halt. C/T as needed. Some of you may do a little more heeling. Please quit before dog wants to quit. That's why short heeling is BETTER!

Choices for rewards during heeling. You should be beyond the stage of food luring (food in left hand that dog can smell).

- There are many ways to do this. At this time, use a method you already use before changing it to a new method.
- No food in left hand. Left hand at waist against belly. Feed food to left hand with right hand as needed, one piece at a time. Dog shouldn't be able to see what right hand is doing.
- No food on you: Put a food dish outside the ring where dog knows where it is (open or closed). You will release the dog (often at first) to go get this reward.
- No food on you: Have a battery-operated food dispenser, that you operate, available for dog to be released to.
- Get out tug toy/ball to play.

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NEXT WEEK: Ring Exit Ritual.