

Obedience

How To Get Started in Obedience

To get started in Obedience it is advisable to go to your local Kennel Club Registered Dog Training Club, if you are not sure where the nearest one is to you, contact the Kennel Club for a list of all the Registered and Listed clubs nationwide.

Once you find a suitable one you will be taught the basics of training.

A Suitable Dog

All breeds of dogs can be trained for basics, although for more serious competition work the working lines are preferable.

Age of Dog

The best age to train a dog is from a puppy, although basic training can be taught to a dog of any age.

Basic Training

For basic training you need to teach your dog first to "sit" on command, this can be taught when offering either food or a titbit using the dogs name then the command to sit.

Recall

A very important exercise when out walking your dog. First walk to the end of the lead and call your dog, giving plenty of praise when the dog comes to you. Repeat this exercise until you have gained enough confidence in your dog to come back to you off the lead (for exercising your dog you can always attach the lead to a rope).

Stays

Again taught on lead by the dogs side, commanding the dog with the flat of your hand to stay, in this exercise you do not use the dogs name, but the command "Stay" only.



Heelwork

The dog always works on your left side. To start Heelwork, first name your dog to get its attention, then step forward giving the command "Heel". In training titbits can be used or a favourite toy to keep your dogs attention.

Retrieve

This exercise is again taught on lead, first getting your dog to play with a soft article, then throw the article a short distance, as your dog picks up the article, encourage it back to you and take it from him/her.

These are just a few basic hints on how to begin training, always keep your dog happy with plenty of praise and play in between exercises.

When teaching any exercise always keep your dog on a lead until it is confident, always end your training session on a good note.

Registration

A dog must be registered with the Kennel Club before entering any shows. There are a number of registrations available. For Obedience

it is only necessary to register you dog on the Activity Register (unless your dog is eligible for Breed Register) which allows any dog of any ancestry to be registered with the Kennel Club and will be eligible for competitions in Obedience classes, Working Trials and Flyball competitions.

Types of Show Companion Shows

At which registered and unregistered dogs are eligible to compete.

Open Shows

Which are open to all competitors. (Some Open Obedience Shows offer YKC Obedience Classes) ▶



Beginner's Guide



Checklist for your first show

Equipment Required:

- Ring Clip
- Lead
- Collar
- Dog Bowl
- Water
- Dumbbell
- Toy
- Treats

Championship Shows

Which are open to all competitors, except where a qualification for entry has been approved by the General Committee of the Kennel Club, and at which Kennel Club Obedience Certificates are offered (some Championship Obedience Shows offer YKC Obedience Classes).

Show Information

Schedules for shows are available from the society hosting the event. When entering a show you must fill in an entry form giving details of your dog.

There will be a closing date for entries, which can be found on the front of the schedule with details of the entry fee.

Always remember to take with you all the 'Equipment Required' (refer to the Checklist above).

YKC Classes

If it is your first YKC Class and the dog has not gained higher Awards, and you are 18 years and under then the class you would enter will be Starters, you may also enter Elementary. If you are 19 years and over the classes you would be eligible for would be Intermediate, and Advanced.

Open/Championship Obedience Shows

If it is your first Open/Championship Obedience Show the first class you would be eligible for would be Pre-beginner. There is no age limit in Open/Championship Obedience Shows. If you are working a dog that has gained higher Awards you would need to refer to G Regulations.

Companion Dog Shows

If it is your first Companion Dog Show refer to class definitions.

At the Show

On arrival at the show you must report to the show secretary to collect your ring number, in some cases this may have already been posted to you beforehand. You may also receive a running order prior to the show.

At the ring you must book in within one hour of commencement of judging. Always make a note of the time of Stays which normally take part in a separate ring, this will be clearly signposted on the showground.

Stays take precedence over all ring work and you must be there at least ten minutes prior to the last Command.

In the ring you must wear your ring number in a prominent position for the judge to see, your dog must wear a collar or slip chain (not both together). Toys or treats are forbidden in the ring but may be used in training.

Further information

For further information please contact the YKC office at ykc@the-kennel-club.org.uk or visit the Kennel Club website www.the-kennel-club.org.uk

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