

PHILOSOPHY

SPOT is, first and foremost, an evaluation of a dog's ability to handle common, everyday situations, and the owner's ability to control and respond to their dog appropriately in a variety of situations. The mental image that each dog should be compared to when evaluating is that of a polite, relaxed and happy dog, with a relaxed owner who is confident in their ability to control and interact with the dog in a natural everyday way.

SPOT was designed and created for all dog owners, new and experienced alike. The founding principle of this test is to teach and promote responsible dog ownership. It is NOT intended to be an obedience trial. Not all dogs will be perfect, and some owners may be inexperienced; it is essential that whether they do really well or need more training on a certain step in the test, that you as the Evaluator communicate the importance of responsible dog ownership, and that a well behaved dog is not only a happy dog, but one that will be accepted in a community.

The SPOT program is open to all dogs, purebred and mixed breeds. Dogs do not need to be UKC registered or have any UKC listing number in order to participate.

The test consists of 10 stations. There are four possible rankings for each station; you will find the minimum requirements for each ranking following the station description. As a SPOT Evaluator, you must rate all dogs to the same standard, regardless of age, breed, or sex. The rating categories are Outstanding,

Super, Good, and Needs More Practice. Any dog who earns at least one ranking of "Needs More Practice" at any of the stations will not be considered as having passed the test and must re-take it at a later date.

If a dog receives at least a "Good" ranking on every station, the dog will have been considered to have passed the test and the owner can then order an official SPOT certificate from the United Kennel Club.

As an approved SPOT Evaluator, it is your responsibility to ensure to the best of your ability that all participants are having a fun and positive experience with their dogs, and that the test is conducted according to all UKC rules and guidelines for the SPOT program. Owners/handlers of dogs taking the SPOT can talk to their dogs throughout the test and they can praise and touch their dogs at any time. If owners/handlers appear apprehensive or unsure, please take the opportunity to remind them of this and try to encourage them to reassure their dog with praise and petting.

Owners may not correct their dogs at any time during the test. The dog may need multiple commands and extensive persuasion from the owner to complete the desired station, but owners may not scold or give leash corrections during the test. Commands and verbal communication to the dog should never be harsh or intimidating. The owner may touch the dog at any time, but may not physically maneuver or force the dog into any position. Food/treats or toys used as a motivational item may not be used during the test.

EVALUATOR STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT

As a UKC SPOT Evaluator, it is your responsibility to present yourself in a manner consistent with the tenets of the United Kennel Club. The United Kennel Club promotes fun, family-oriented events, open to everyone. As an approved SPOT Evaluator you are a representative of the United Kennel Club and are expected to be courteous and professional throughout the duration of the SPOT evaluation. You may be someone's first impression of UKC or their first introduction to UKC and its programs; it is important to present the organization and its values in a commendable manner by being organized, timely, positive and knowledgeable. You should present a neat appearance and exercise consistency in your assessment of each dog's performance during the test.

SPOT Evaluators may not test their own dogs, dogs that they co-own or that live in the same household. Immediate family members of Evaluators who do not live in the same household are permitted to participate in a SPOT offered by their

family member; however, it is not recommended and should be discouraged by the Evaluator.

Evaluators should avoid situations of impropriety and exercise good judgment in regard to possible conflicts of interest. Ask yourself if your assessment of a particular dog and person would make others think the assessment to be unfair or would seem to give an advantage to one person over another. If the answer is yes, then the situation should be avoided.

All SPOT Evaluators are expected to use the UKC Judges Code of Ethics as a guideline for appropriate behavior. Please keep in mind, when evaluating a performance, you must be objective and evaluate all dog and owner teams against the same standard as provided in this guide.

AGE OF DOGS

Dogs of any age can take the SPOT; however, we do recommend that the dog be at least 6 months of age before attempting to take the test. At this age dogs will have had

the proper vaccinations for them to safely be around multiple dogs, reducing the risk of spreading and/or contracting disease. Training for the SPOT can begin as early as the owner would like to start training their dog.

AGGRESSIVE DOGS

Dogs aggressive toward people or other dogs do not make acceptable members of a community, and if at any time during the test a dog shows signs of aggression toward a person or another dog, they must be excused from the test and must also leave the area where the evaluation is taking place. You should never feel in danger from any dog when conducting a test and if you do, please do not attempt to test the dog further. You must excuse any dog from the test and testing area if it makes you feel uncomfortable in any way. These dogs may try to re-take the test at a later date. Should you ever need to excuse a dog and handler from the test, please be sure the handler understands that they can re-take it at a later time after they have had more practice with their dog. It would be a perfect opportunity to discuss the value of obedience classes with them.

If a dog actually bites you, a volunteer, spectator, another test taker or another dog, stop the test immediately and evaluate if any medical attention is necessary. If the bite occurs in conjunction with a UKC licensed event, notify the host club's event committee immediately. They will determine if a Misconduct Report needs to be filed in conjunction with the incident. If the bite occurs during a test that is being held independently from any UKC event, please include a written account of the incident along with your test summary.

DOGS RELIEVING THEMSELVES

If the test is indoors, any dog that eliminates in the test area while being evaluated may be allowed to continue at the discretion of the Evaluator, but will automatically be assessed a "Needs More Practice" rating for that station. If a dog soils an outdoor test area, every effort should be made to relocate the station of the test where the elimination occurred to reduce the distraction and the chance of further elimination by other dogs inside the test area.

A dog that eliminates during an outdoor test becomes ineligible to receive an Outstanding or Super rating for the step of the test that the elimination occurred, no matter how well the dog and handler completed it.

Every effort should be made to relocate the station of the test where the elimination occurred.

LAME DOGS OR SICK DOGS

If a dog appears to be "lame", as in showing signs of stiffness or pain, it is your decision as the Evaluator to tell the owner/handler that their dog may not be ready to take the

test that day and to possibly discuss the situation with them. If a dog is apparently lame while taking the test, it is the Evaluator's responsibility to excuse that dog from the test. The owner may come back to a different test when the dog is no longer exhibiting a visible lameness and try again.

Dogs that appear to be ill (vomiting, diarrhea, listlessness, etc.) must be excused from the test area immediately. Please inform the owner/handler that the dog must leave the general testing area and will be able to take the test at a later date.

NUMBER OF DOGS

There is no limit to the number of dogs one owner can have evaluated on any given day. An individual dog is only eligible to be tested once per day, however.

FEMALES IN SEASON

Females in season are eligible to be evaluated for the test. Females in season will be tested after all other dogs participating in the test have been tested.

ADVERTISEMENT, ORGANIZATION FOR THE TEST AND ENTRY FEES

If the Evaluator or host club would like the evaluation advertised on UKC's website, a flier or advertisement should be provided to UKC, to include the location, time and cost of the evaluation. All evaluation results will be accepted as long as the Evaluator section on the evaluation form is completed by an approved Evaluator when the UKC receives the evaluation form. All Evaluators will be required to submit a test summary to the United Kennel Club. If the evaluation is held in conjunction with an already licensed UKC event, the SPOT evaluations should not interfere with any of the licensed events being held. A ring or class should not be held up at any time due to a SPOT evaluation.

It takes approximately a minimum of 7 minutes to test one dog using one Evaluator with one distraction team. Using this estimate, about 8-9 dogs can be tested in an hour. This estimation should be used when organizing the test. For example, if you have 16 people sign up you will know that the test will last approximately 2 hours. Dogs may be moved through each station in less time if there are more Evaluators and demonstration teams so multiple dogs can be taking the test at the same time.

SPOT evaluations should have a sign-up and check-in time. The Evaluator will post the sign-up or check-in, start and end time for participants to sign-up at the evaluation location. The evaluations shall start as soon as possible after the first participant has signed up or checked in. The Evaluator may choose to change and adjust this time as they feel necessary on the day of the evaluation to accommodate more participants.

UKC Clubs or approved Evaluators have the option of charging an entry fee to take the test. Clubs or approved Evaluators may also choose to donate their time and resources to conduct a SPOT for the community at their discretion. Fees may also be donated to community charities or other fund raising events. Entry fees should only be used to cover the cost of the materials and the resources used to conduct the test. SPOT is a service that UKC clubs and Evaluators offer to their communities and should be conducted as such. Entry fees should never be so high as to appear that the sole purpose of the test is for the Club or Evaluator to make a profit.

CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED ITEMS PROVIDED BY EVALUATOR FOR THE TEST

- SPOT evaluation forms and test summary
(All SPOT Evaluation forms must be purchased from the United Kennel Club.)
- 1 small – 10' long line
- 1 medium/large – 10' long line
- A collapsible/folding chair
- A minimum of 2 Toys
- Crate or exercise pen that can accommodate all dogs testing
- An entrance such as a gate or door.
- A minimum of 6 orange cones.
- Directional signs - Start, Right Turn, Left Turn, About Turn, and Finish.

Checklist of Recommended Items

- Clipboards and Pens
- 1 or 2 extra buckle collars (to allow participants to use if necessary)
- An extra leash
- Signs labeling each of the ten stations
- Cash box or a secure place to store money
- Water bowls for dogs

COLLARS, LEASHES AND TEST AREA

A dog may be evaluated in a flat/buckle collar, slip collar, martingale, a standard harness, head halter, Gentle Leader®, or a prong collar, (“No-pull” harnesses are prohibited). A 4-6 foot leash is required for the test. The leash must be detachable from the collar or harness, while the collar or harness remains on the dog. Dogs may not be tested on slip leads (a collar and leash all of one piece). All portions of this test are to be done on a leash except for when the leash is to be removed for the loading station. Retractable leashes are not permitted during the test.

The testing area should be no less than 30 feet X 30 feet. The footing for the testing area should be sufficient to provide a solid non-slip surface for both dog and owner. Tests may be held inside or outdoors. The location of the test must be

able accommodate all stations comfortably. If the test is being held outdoors, the testing area should be as level as possible. Remember that the minimum testing area where dogs and handlers will be performing the test is 30 feet X 30 feet. When choosing a test site, please keep in mind that there must also be enough space to accommodate test takers who are waiting to take the test, the sign-up table and, if indoors, possible crating space.

When setting up your test be sure that each station flows easily from one station to the next. Stations should be spaced with enough room to comfortably move from one station to the next, and each station should have its own clear area to perform the necessary tasks, be mindful that stations and the test are not too spread out. Participants should not have to walk a very long distance to the next station. This will help reduce the amount of time each test will take and aid the test taker so they can proceed confidently to the next station a few steps away.

THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND DOGS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT A TEST

There must be at least two people and one demonstration dog to conduct a SPOT. One person is the Evaluator and the other person is part of the demonstration dog/handler team to be used for stations that require another dog to be used. The dog that is used in the test should be well-trained, calm and unreactive. Other test takers can also be used to fill the requirement of the demonstration dog as long as that dog is under the handler’s control. More people and demonstration dogs may be added as necessary to run a successful test.

AGE AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED DOGS AND HANDLERS

SPOT is designed for everyone of any age to be able to participate. Handlers need to be old enough to be able to properly control the dog on their own without assistance from another person.

People with physical disabilities are welcome to participate and may do so with any mechanical assistance they require; i.e., wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc. Blind handlers may have another person guide them through the test as long as they do not provide any assistance to the dog performing the required exercises. If a dog is a service dog and the owner chooses, the dog may take the test wearing its service vest or other attire/equipment necessary for the dog to perform its work.

As a SPOT Evaluator you are encouraged and expected to make any reasonable accommodations necessary for physically challenged owners/handlers to take the test, provided that the accommodations do not alter or modify the dog’s part of the station.

Dogs with physical disabilities may also participate in the test. They may be missing all of part of one or more limbs. If a dog is not able to “Sit” due to having no hind legs, the “Sit” requirement on any station is waived. This is the only time when the “Sit” requirement or any behavior required on the part of the dog to complete a station successfully may be waived. Blind dogs and deaf dogs are eligible to participate in the test.

PHILOSOPHY OF SCORING AND THE RATING SYSTEM

The philosophy of scoring dogs taking the test should be based on the Evaluator’s opinion of what an exemplary dog and owner living in an urban community should be. The Evaluator should understand that the majority of dog owners are not dog trainers, nor are they actively involved in competing in any sort of dog event. Evaluators should keep in their minds, first and foremost, the functionality of the exercises being performed and how they apply to everyday situations. Multiple commands and signals are to be interpreted within the context of an everyday situation and not in the context of a competitive event. Think to yourself when evaluating a dog, “Would I want to live next door to this dog and its owner?”

The rating system is designed to be flexible and fluid. It leaves much room for interpretation from the Evaluator because everyday situations can’t be quantified into a set of described behaviors. Dogs who are Outstanding should be calm, unreactive and show willingness to interact with people and are

not overly stimulated by the presence of other dogs. The SPOT designation will be recorded on any UKC registered or UKC listed dog’s official awards record and pedigree. If participants would like an official SPOT certificate and a free collar tag that proudly designates that their dog is a “SPOT DOG”, they can indicate this on their evaluation paperwork and send it in to the UKC for a small fee to cover processing and mailing. Owners who are interested in getting their dog permanently registered with UKC have the option of doing so for a discounted registration or listing fee and then will receive the SPOT certificate and free collar tag once the dog is registered. All current fees and the mailing address are on the evaluation forms.

A dog that completes the test with an Outstanding rating at each station will be considered a “SPOT Outstanding Neighbor” or “SPOT-ON” dog. Those that pass the test with any combination of the ratings Good, Super, and Outstanding will receive the SPOT designation.

A dog already designated as a SPOT dog may re-test at any time to achieve the SPOT-ON rating except that no dog may be tested more than once per day.

It is not required that the same Evaluator is used for every station provided each station is evaluated by an approved Evaluator. One Evaluator will be designated as the lead Evaluator and will be responsible for completing the Evaluator information on the evaluation worksheet. Stations may be arranged in any order, but it is recommended to set up the stations and complete the test in the order listed.

SPOT STATIONS AND RATING REQUIREMENTS

Walking on a loose leash through a designated pattern

This station demonstrates that a dog has been trained to walk appropriately on a leash. The dog is allowed to sniff or wander slightly so long as it continues working.

The dog may start in any position at the owner’s side, and there should be obvious slack in the leash. Your instructions to the owner will be, “Begin when you are ready.” The dog should remain within a reasonable proximity of the owner’s side, and the leash should have an obvious amount of slack while the dog and handler team are walking.

Dogs are not required to be in exact heel position as long as they are walking with the owner. The owner will follow a set pattern marked with signs. The pattern will be continuous and incorporate a left, right, and about turn. There are no designated stops during this station. The owner can use any amount of verbal cues, hand signals, and praise that they deem necessary. The owner may come to a complete stop or pause to read a sign with no penalty assessed for stopping forward motion. The evaluation of this station will not start until the owner of the dog takes their first forward

step, and will end as soon as the owner and dog pass the finish sign. There is no requirement as to which side of the signs the team must perform the pattern. For this station you will need to provide the following signs: Start, Finish, Left Turn, Right Turn, and About Turn.

Rating requirements for the walking on a loose leash through a designated pattern:

- **Outstanding**
Dog is walking beside owner with a consistently loose leash for the entire designated pattern.
- **Super**
Dog remains within a reasonable proximity from the owner but is inattentive at times, causing some instances of a tight leash.
- **Good**
Dog walks with owner, but is obviously distracted. The owner is having difficulty regaining the dog’s attention. All teams should be given a reasonable amount of opportunities to complete this station.
- **Needs Practice**
Dog pulls owner or lags so much that the leash is tight several times or for a continuous length of time. Any physical correction that is given will result in this rating.

Leave it

This station is used to demonstrate that the dog will respond to the owner's command to continue moving when presented with distracting objects. The dog may begin in any position at the owner's side. There should be at least two, but not more than four items used for distractions. Toys of any type are the recommended items for use during this station. Food may not be used as a distraction. The distractions will be placed in a straight line, with ample room for the dog and handler to maneuver between the distractions. The dog and owner team is to serpentine between each distraction. They are not required to come back through the distractions.

Your instructions to the owner will be, "Begin when you are ready." The owner will begin walking with their dog toward the stationary distractions. The owner and dog team should weave in and out of the stationary distractions. If the dog investigates the distractions, the owner must verbally tell the dog to move on. Any form of communication, including kissing noises, clapping, whistling, or patting a leg are all acceptable for this station.

Rating requirements for Leave it:

- **Outstanding**

Dog is walking beside owner for the exercise with no instance of a tight leash. Dog promptly responds to owners command to leave the distraction when investigating an object. Dog also does not lag or rush past the owner to avoid the distraction causing an instance of a tight leash.

- **Super**

Dog investigates some of the distractions but is under control. Dog is occasionally sniffing around or at the distractions and inattentive to the owner at times, but the owner can get the dog to leave the distraction with little difficulty.

- **Good**

Dog is distracted by the objects. The dog investigates most of the distractions, causing several instances of a tight leash. Dog retrieves or picks up a distraction item. Dog refuses to walk by when passing the distractions causing several instances of a tight leash, but the owner can eventually get the dog to leave the distraction.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog refuses to proceed toward the distractions or completely ignores the owner's commands to leave the objects alone. Dog must be pulled back into position several times. The leash is tight at all times.

Doorway Manners

This station is used to demonstrate the dog's ability to politely enter and exit a room or building. The dog should begin at the owner's side near the designated entranceway.

You will instruct the owner to, "Begin when you are ready." The owner should approach the entranceway. Once the

owner is close enough to the entrance, they will give whatever commands they deem necessary to control the dog while they open the entranceway. The owner can choose to pass through the entranceway and then release the dog to come through, or choose to pass through the entranceway with the dog.

It is not required that the owner pick one option or the other, as long as the dog is under obvious control. If the entranceway will not remain open another person is allowed to hold it open while the team is passing through, but the owner must be the one to open the door/entranceway. If the testing area does not have a gate or doorway available for use, you may improvise as necessary by using a baby gate or accordion style ring gates leaning up against two uprights, such as cones or pillars. These are examples of how to form an entranceway. Please feel free to use whatever you deem necessary for this station as long as the dog demonstrates moving through the gate or entranceway politely and under the owner's control.

Rating Requirements for Walking through an entranceway on a leash:

- **Outstanding**

Dog remains mostly stationary until the owner gives the command to move through the entranceway. Dog moves through entranceway either by the owner's side or after the owner has already passed through and the dog is released by the owner to move through the entranceway. Dog's leash remains loose at all times. The dog does not need to stay in a designated position when the owner opens the entranceway.

- **Super**

Dog is on a short leash to maintain control while passing through the entranceway. Dog is slightly in front of owner while passing through the entranceway, but not pulling. Dog backs away when the owner initially opens the entranceway. Dog does not wait for the handler to release the dog to come through the entranceway, if the owner chooses the option to have to dog stay while they pass through.

- **Good**

Dog hurries through entranceway in front of the owner but the owner can get the dog under control quickly. Dog is hesitant to proceed through the entranceway but can be coaxed through it.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog is so unruly that the owner cannot open or pass safely through the entranceway. Dog tries to run away when the entranceway is opened. Dog refuses to pass through the entranceway.

Loading and Unloading

(A demonstration dog and handler are used for this station.) This station is used to demonstrate that the dog can remain calm while being contained in the presence of other dogs and be safely loaded and unloaded from a holding area.

The dog should begin at the owner's side in close proximity to the holding area. You will tell the owner to, "Begin when you are ready." The owner and dog will approach the designated holding area. The owner will be responsible for opening the entrance to the holding area. Once the holding area is open, the owner should then give the dog a command to enter. Once the dog is securely in the holding area, the owner will close the entrance. The leash may be left on the dog at the owner's discretion. Once the entrance has been latched, a walking team consisting of a handler and dog will walk past the holding area twice.

The walking team must be no closer than 3 feet from the holding area and not further than 6 feet. The first time they pass the holding area, the handler of the walking team will be closest to the holding area.

For the second pass, the dog of the walking team will be closest to the holding area. After the walking team has passed twice, the owner of the dog in the holding area may open the holding area and leash their dog (if the leash was removed). Once the leash is secured, the dog may exit the holding area.

For this station you should use crates of varying sizes or an ex-pen. It is imperative that the dog in the holding area cannot escape during this station. Holding area must be set on the floor/ground.

Rating Requirements for Loading and Unloading:

- **Outstanding**

The dog should load on command with no assistance from the owner. Once loaded into the holding area, the dog remains quiet and under control during the remaining portions of this exercise and does not show interest in the walking team. When the owner opens the door, the dog must remain under control in the holding area while the owner reattaches the leash. The dog should not exit until the leash is completely attached (if removed) and has been given a release or command to exit.

- **Super**

Dog anticipates entering the holding area by pulling toward or jumping into/on the holding area before the command. Owner assists the dog to load by gently guiding with the leash or collar. The dog is interested in the walking team, but remains polite and does not show aggression or overstimulation by the walking team. Dog will stop any unwanted behaviors when commanded by the owner. Dog is active while in the holding area but the owner can attach the leash without too much difficulty (if removed) and the dog waits to be told to exit.

- **Good**

Dog will not load into the holding area without the owner guiding it in. Dog is reactive to walking team by scratching at holding area, whining, or nuisance barking. Dog does not stop the unwanted behaviors when commanded. Owner has to physically restrain dog so it will not exit the holding area when the door opens or to reattach leash. Owner must hold collar while dog exits to maintain control of the dog.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog refuses to enter or exit the holding area. Dog is extremely reactive to the walking team. Dog charges out of the holding area with no noticeable control.

Moving Dog Distraction

(A demonstration dog and handler are used for this station.) This station is used to demonstrate that a dog can remain under control when passing other dogs and people. As the Evaluator, it is your responsibility to ensure that the demonstration/volunteer dog is calm and nonreactive to other dogs.

The dog and owner teams will set up across the testing area from each other. The two teams shall position themselves so the owners are passing each other, and both dogs are on the outside. You will instruct the teams to begin when they are ready.* Both teams will begin moving toward each other at the same time. The owners will pass each other and continue to the place where the other team started. Once the opposite side is reached, both owners will turn around so that the dogs are now on the inside, closest to each other. The two teams will then proceed toward each other for a second time. There must be at least three feet but not more than six feet of space between the dogs.

The exercise is complete once the dog and owner teams reach their original starting point. You will need to place two cones three feet apart from each other in the center of the line that is being walked so the teams are aware of how much space to allow between the dogs when walking. Owners may talk to their dogs during the entire exercise to get the desired behavior from the dog.

**Note to the Evaluator. If you believe at any time that a dog appears to be a serious threat to other dogs, or that the owner of the dog is not able to safely control their dog, do not proceed with this station. You should excuse the dog from the test.*

Rating requirements for the moving dog distraction:

- **Outstanding**

Dog is walking beside owner for the entire exercise politely and on a loose leash. Dog shows little to no interest in the other walking team throughout the exercise.

- **Super**

Dog is slightly inattentive to the owner, but the owner can still control the dog. The dog shows interest in the other dog but remains in control of the handler.

- **Good**

Dog is unresponsive to the owner's attempts to get the dog's attention. The dog pulls toward the opposing walking team at any time during the exercise, but the owner is able to maintain control on a short or tight leash.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog is fearful or tries to run away from the opposing team. The dog is overly excited or aggressive or lunges at the opposing walking team. Owner is not able to safely control the dog while walking toward another dog.

Manners with Distraction

(A demonstration dog and handler are used for this station.) This is a two-part exercise. If an individual is physically unable to, or cannot complete the second part of the station safely, the second part need not be performed and there will be no penalty. Every effort should be made to have all other test takers complete the second part of the station. The first part of the exercise must be passed with a minimum of a Good rating to move on to the second part. Both parts of the exercise will be considered as one for the final rating.

Part 1: The test dog and owner team will be positioned with the owner seated in the chair with the dog at their side. (The dog may be placed in a sit or down at the owner's discretion.) You will ask the owner if they are ready to begin. Once the owner indicates that they are ready to begin, the demonstration dog and handler team will walk past the testing team and stop to greet the owner taking the test. The handler of the demonstration dog should be the closest to the test dog and owner, with the demonstration dog on their other side. After the demonstration team has walked on, the testing owner may stand up and the dog may be released from a sit or down if necessary to set up for Part 2.

Part 2: You will instruct the owner to gather up or fold up their chair while the dog waits patiently. The owner of the dog can give any commands necessary to get the dog to wait. The dog may be in any position. Once the owner gathers up the chair they will proceed to walk 10-15 steps carrying the chair in any direction with the dog walking on a loose leash. As the Evaluator it is your responsibility instruct them on the appropriate direction in which to walk. The area the dog and owner are walking to should be relatively free from any other distractions and not interfere with any other part of the test.

Rating Requirements for Manners with Distraction:

- **Outstanding**

Part 1. Dog should show little or no interest in the approaching team. The dog should remain calm and at the owner's side while the demonstration team is approaching, during the greeting, and while the demonstration team walks away. If the owner has put the dog into sit or down, the dog should maintain the designated position until the owner releases the dog.

Part 2. The dog waits and remains under control while the owner gathers up the chair and walks politely beside the owner on a loose leash.

- **Super**

Part 1. Dog moves position, but remains within a close proximity of owner. Dog attempts to get onto the owner's lap but can be stopped easily and placed back beside the owner's chair. Dog is slightly distracted by the approaching team, but remains under control.

Part 2. The dog is a little excited and animated when the owner stands up but the owner is still in control of the dog. The dog begins to walk away before the owner has gathered up the chair but can be brought back with little to no difficulty. The dog tries to get ahead of the owner or lags behind because of the chair being carried, but is relatively calm and under control.

- **Good**

Part 1. Dog tries to move toward the demonstration team as they approach or pass by. Dog tries repeatedly to get onto the owner's lap but can be placed back at the side of the chair with voice commands and gentle physical guidance. The dog is clearly interested in the demonstration team and the owner must repeat several commands to ensure the dog remains under control.

Part 2. Dog tries to walk away before the owner has gathered up the chair and the owner makes several attempts to get the dog's attention. Dog is distracted by the demonstration team and it takes several attempts to get the dog to walk in the direction with the owner. The dog is clearly interested in the other team but the owner can eventually control the dog enough to safely complete the station.

- **Needs Practice**

Part 1. Dog refuses to be calm or wait while owner is standing or sitting. Dog refuses to remain next to the owner's chair and constantly attempts to get into the lap of the owner, regardless of the owner's attempts to get the proper behavior. Dog lunges at or tries to run away from the demonstration team. Owner cannot safely control the dog from a sitting position.

Part 2. The dog does not wait for the owner to gather up the chair and ignores the owner's attempts to get the dog's attention. The dog pulls toward the demonstration team or in any other direction preventing the owner from gathering up the chair. Owner cannot control the dog while walking with the chair.

Greeting an Approaching Stranger

This exercise is used to demonstrate that the dog is under control and able to greet someone in a friendly, courteous manner. The dog may start on either side of the owner in any position as long as all four feet are on the ground.

You will ask the owner if they are ready to begin the station. Once the owner clearly states they are ready to begin, you will start by approaching the dog and owner from approximately three feet away. You will approach from the front of the dog and owner. When you are within arm's length, you will stop and greet the owner and then ask if you may pet their dog. You will wait for the owner to indicate that they are ready to proceed prior to petting the dog. The owner may ask the dog to change position prior to being petted (e.g. standing to sitting, etc.).

It is also allowable for the owner to gently place their hand in the dog's collar for additional security and support. Once the owner has given the okay, the Evaluator will pet the dog, first under the chin or on the side of the head and then move to the top of the dog's head.* Dogs that are reserved may lower their head or take a step back without penalty.

**Note to the Evaluator. You should not under any circumstances attempt to touch a dog that you feel is threatening in any way. You should excuse the dog from the test if the dog's demeanor gives you any reason to believe that the dog may not be safely touched by a stranger. The same applies to dogs that are fearful.*

Rating Requirements for Greeting an Approaching Stranger:

- **Outstanding**

Dog stays beside owner while being approached as well as when being petted. The dog should not jump toward or move away from the approaching subject. Dog is calm and shows willingness to engage in the stranger petting them.

- **Super**

Dog approaches stranger before or while being petted. Dog does not remain at the owner's side but is still in control. Dog is excited, but the owner can get the dog's attention back with little difficulty. It takes two attempts to touch a reserved dog, but will let you touch it on the second attempt without resentment or fear and the owner is able to reassure the dog to complete the exercise.

- **Good**

Dog jumps or attempts to jump toward or on the stranger to greet them in an overly playful manner. Dog will not stay in any particular position to be petted and does not stay by the owner's side. It takes three attempts to touch a reserved dog, but will let you touch it on the third attempt without resentment or fear and the owner is able to reassure the dog to complete the exercise.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog avoids contact with stranger. Dog is excessively shy or timid. It takes more than three attempts to touch the dog. The owner cannot safely control the dog while being approached or while it is being pet. Dog lunges aggressively at the stranger. Dog growls or attempts to bite the Evaluator.

Grooming Exam

This exercise may be done separately but it is recommended to be done in conjunction with the greeting an approaching stranger station. This station is used to evaluate the dog's ability to tolerate normal grooming practices and examinations.

The dog may begin in any position. You will ask the owner if they are ready to begin. When the owner indicates they are ready to begin, you will examine the dog by lifting the front paw slightly off the ground, and touch the dog's entire foot. The manipulation of the foot should be brief and gentle. This exercise should not simulate a toenail trimming.

Next you will examine the dog's ears and teeth. The ear examination is visual and should include both ears. The examination should only include touching the dog's ear leather in order to look inside the ear canal. If the dog has dropped ears, you should be able to flip the ear leather up to see the ear canal. The examination of the teeth should only include lifting one lip of the dog.

The owner may ask the dog to change position prior to being examined. It is also allowable for the owner to gently place their hand in the dog's collar for additional security and support.

Rating Requirements for Grooming Exam:

- **Outstanding**

Dog remains in the same position as when the examinations began and is calm and under control and remains relatively still throughout the examinations.

- **Super**

Dog stays in original position but the owner must verbally remind the dog to remain still and in position. Dog changes position at any time during the examinations. Dog tries to play with Evaluator while being examined. Dog will let the Evaluator hold the foot but tries to resist any manipulation of the foot. Dog won't let the Evaluator touch its ears because it wants to sniff or play with the Evaluator's hands, but the owner can get the dog to tolerate the ear exam using verbal commands and with little difficulty. Dog is overly excited to let the Evaluator touch the dog's lip initially but the owner can get the dog to tolerate the mouth exam with verbal commands and with little difficulty.

- **Good**

Dog has to be restrained in original position to ensure the dog doesn't jump on or exuberantly greet the Evaluator. Dog continually pulls foot away from Evaluator while they are trying to examine the toes and pads. Dog continually moves head away while the Evaluator tries to examine the bite or ears.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog is constantly trying to move away from the Evaluator while approaching or doing the exam. Dog refuses to stay in any position. Dog refuses to let Evaluator pick up or touch the foot. Dog will not let Evaluator examine bite or ears.

Sit and Down on Command

This station demonstrates that the dog will respond to the owner when commanded to sit and down with the natural added distractions of the testing area. The dog may begin in any position, so long as it is not starting in the same position as it will be in after the owner gives their command. You will instruct the owner to begin when they are ready. The owner will command the dog to sit or down, then the owner will ask the dog to perform the second signal command. The owner can use a verbal as well as a hand signal if desired.

Rating requirements for the Sit or down on command:

- **Outstanding**

Dog responds to the commands promptly with little to no hesitation.

- **Super**

Dog responds to the commands slowly or after a few commands.

- **Good**

Dog requires guidance or luring for either command.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog doesn't respond to either command, or the owner gives the dog a correction for not performing the correct behavior.

Stay in Place and Come on Command

This station is to demonstrate a dog's ability to stay while the owner walks at least 10 feet away, and then come when commanded.

The dog should start beside the owner in any position; the long line should be attached to the collar or harness prior to the leash being removed. The owner should hand the leash to the Evaluator. Your instructions to the owner will be, "Begin when you are ready." The dog should be told to stay in place. The owner will walk a minimum of 10 feet away from the dog. The dog may change position as long as the dog does not come forward until they are given the command to come. The owner can give any amount of commands or signals necessary to encourage the dog to stay.

Once the owner has reached the end of the long line, they should give their command to come, without any further instruction needed. Once the dog has returned to its owner/handler, you should hand the leash back to the owner and it should be attached before the long line is removed.

Rating Requirements for the Stay in Place:

- **Outstanding**

Dog remains in the place and in the position it was left without any additional commands or signals.

- **Super**

Dog remains in place but needs more than one command to remain in place or shifts position.

- **Good**

Dog needs multiple commands and or signals to stay in place. Dog stands up as if to move, but remains in place.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog does not remain in place.

Rating Requirements for the Come on command:

- **Outstanding**

Dog comes on first command.

- **Super**

Dog comes on second command.

- **Good**

Dog comes on third command. Dog does not stay and has to be set up a second time.

- **Needs Practice**

Dog does not come after 3 commands, or is given some type of physical guidance or correction before performing the command. Dog refuses to wait/stay. Moving dog distraction

Suggested Station Layout



Station 5.
Manners with Distraction.



Station 6.
Doorway Manners.

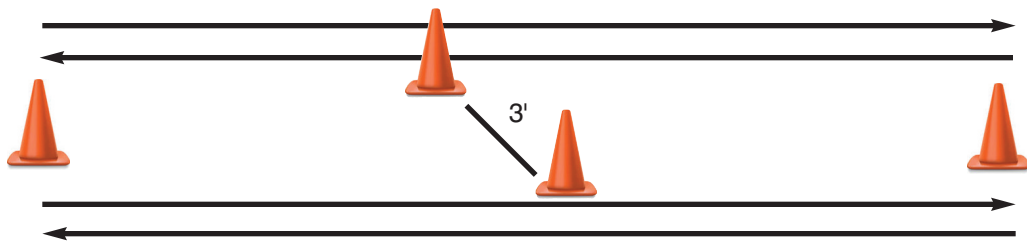


Station 7. Sit and Down.
Station 8. Greeting a Stranger.
Station 9. Grooming Exam.

Station 10.
Stay in Place and Come on Command.



Station 4.
Moving Dog Distraction.

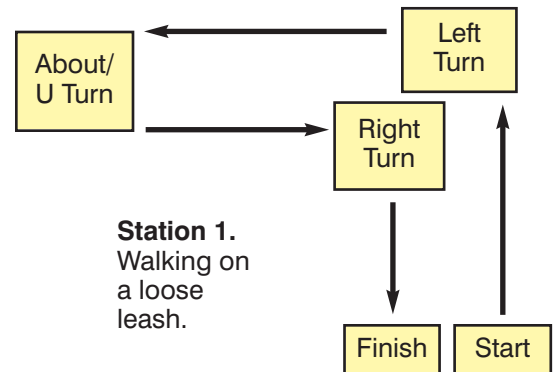
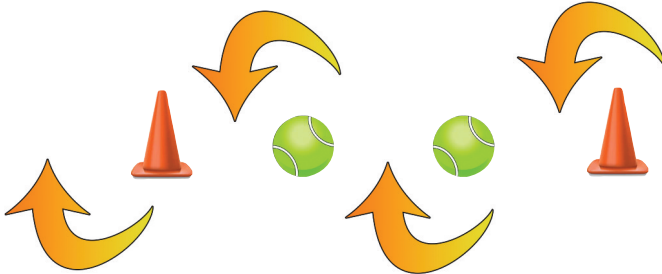


10'

Station 3.
Loading and Unloading.

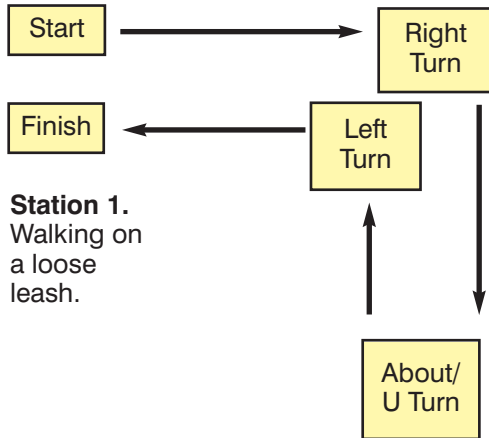


Station 2.
Leave it.



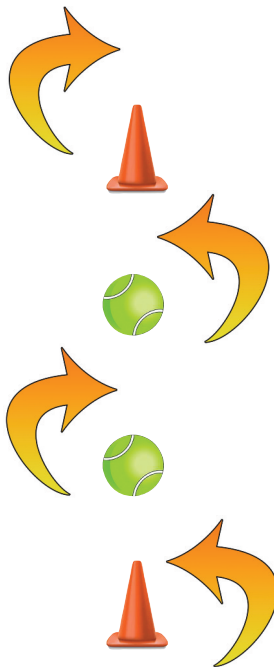
Station 1.
Walking on a loose leash.

Suggested Station Layout

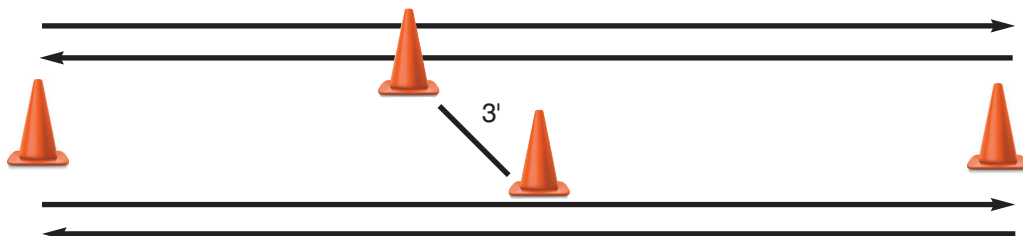


Station 1.
 Walking on a loose leash.

Station 2.
 Leave it.

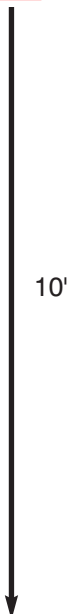


Station 3.
 Moving Dog Distraction.



Station 7. Sit and Down.
Station 8. Greeting a Stranger.
Station 9. Grooming Exam.

Station 10.
 Stay in Place and Come on Command.



Station 6.
 Loading and Unloading.



Station 5.
 Doorway Manners.



Station 4.
 Manners with Distraction.



