

OBEDIENCE

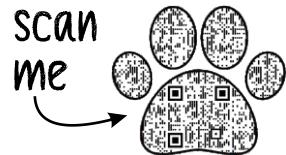
WHAT IS OBEDIENCE?

Obedience is one of the oldest branches of Dogsport around. It has been compared to Dressage in the horse world and is all about precision. Handlers and dogs perform a set of exercises and must demonstrate good teamwork and understanding to do well. Exercises include Heelwork, Recalls, Send aways, Retrieves, Stays and Scent.



Reasons to consider Obedience

- It is incredibly rewarding to feel your dog respond to your movements and feel that sense of harmony.
- It is a challenging Dogsport but gives a huge sense of satisfaction and reward.
- You build a strong relationship with your dog.



How do I *get started?*

You can start training at any stage but generally the sooner the better. Dogs need to be at least 6-months old to compete.

As dogs progress through the classes in Obedience, they will move from Beginners to Novice, Class A, Class B and, ultimately, Class C.

A few shows may offer Elementary Beginners (or Special Beginners) where dogs perform all exercises on lead.

Initially dogs perform exercises such as Heelwork on lead but then off lead as they move up the classes.

Handlers can talk to their dogs in the lower levels (except Stays) but this fades out as the teams move up until perfect harmony and teamwork is displayed.

No previous experience is required but it is recommended that you attend socialising and/or puppy classes. Register your dog, become a member of KUSA, get a Record Card and start competing.



OBEDIENCE

OBEDIENCE COMPONENTS

Heelwork

Dogs perform a series of right, left and about turns. These turns may be done while moving, or at the halt. Pace changes may also be incorporated which see the team perform at fast, slow and normal pace. In Class C, Advanced Heelwork (or on-the-moves) will see the handler cue the dog to stop in the stand, sit and down position while the handler continues forward; the handler will then circle around (or walk past) the dog before asking the dog to resume the heel position.

Recalls and Send aways

In the lower levels, the handler will ask the dog to wait, walk off and call the dog to come and sit in front of the handler. This progresses to the handler calling the dog to heel while walking away from the dog. Eventually, the dog will be sent to a marker about 20m away and then perform either one of the recalls to get the dog back to the handler.



Retrieves

Dogs will fetch an article of the handlers choice in Beginners before moving to a dumbbell in Novice and Class A. In Classes B and C, the Judge will provide the article for the dog to fetch.

Stays

Dogs will be asked to wait in a sit, stand and/or down. Handlers start off in-sight of their dogs but eventually move out of sight while their dog stays in the position and place it was left in.

Scent

From Class A onwards, dogs will be asked to fetch a pre-scented cloth from a line of other cloths. Initially the dog works on the handler's scent with no other scents (decoys) present in the line of cloths but ultimately works up to fetching the Judges scent.

For pedigree & crossbreed dogs