

Beginner's Guide

Obedience



How To Get Started in Obedience

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

A Suitable Dog

All breeds of dogs can be trained the basics of obedience.

Age of Dog

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

Basic Training

Basic training normally consists of the sit, down, come to the call, stay and heelwork.

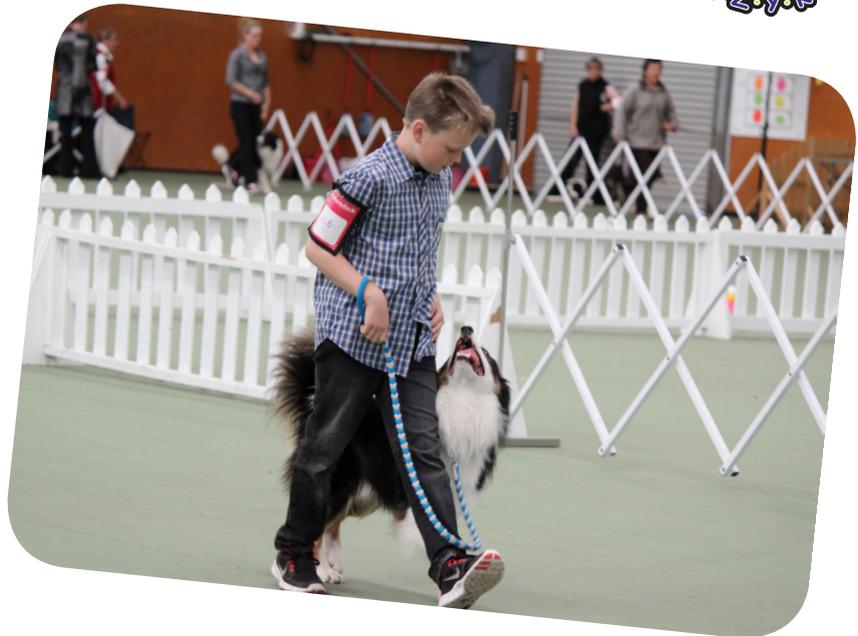
Sit:

To teach the sit, hold a piece of food above the dogs nose, while gently pushing the dogs bottom to the ground, position your fingers on the back of the tail, then gently place pressure.

The food held above his nose will encourage the head up, and the tail down.

Down

Hold the food in front of your dogs nose and then move your hand downward to the floor. It might be necessary to apply a little pressure to his wither to get him to lie down, but as soon as he does, feed him the food and praise him. Do not feed him until he is in the down position.



Recall

Always make sure that you have a tidbit in your pocket. Allow the dog to wander to the end of a long lead, then call back. Immediately the dog returns in front of you, give him the treat. As he gets better at this, ask him to sit in front of you before feeding.

Stay

Begin stays, by asking your dog to lie at your feet when you are sitting in a chair. Tell him stay, and then make sure he does stay. If he moves, immediately put him back into position. Continue practicing this until he will stay in one spot happily. At this stage you can try lying him at your side while you are standing. Move a foot away, reinforcing to him how good he is. If he moves, just return to him without reprimanding, put him back in position and try again.

Heelwork

Position your dog on your left side, hold your lead in the right hand and some food in your left hand. Step out using the dogs name and the word heel, or close. If your dog moves with you praise him and feed him some food. Repeat this only traveling a few steps, before feeding.

If you have a dog that pulls you can try changing direction over and over, this often teaches the dog to stay close. These make life a lot easier when taking your dog for a walk.

These are just a few ideas to get you started, it is strongly advised that you contact your local obedience club and attend training nights. Your instructors will advise you on different methods for the different exercises, they will choose the



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correct techniques for your dog. Remember to always make training fun for your dog, include a lot of play, re-enforcement and praise forward to the training sessions.

Registration

Before entering championship shows it is necessary for both the handler and the dog to be registered with the New Zealand Kennel Club. Your club will advise you on the procedure and will support you in this process.

Types of Show

Championship shows

Ribbon Shows

YKC qualifying events

A Young Kennel club member can qualify for YKC competitions at Nationals and NDTA, by entering either a championship show or a YKC Qualifying event. In both cases the dog and handler must achieve 90% of the total points possible for the chosen grade. Championship shows and Young Kennel club qualifying events are advertised in the NZ Kennel Club Gazette, and require you to enter in advance. Ribbon shows are advertised through the clubs, flyers can be found on club notice boards, and can be entered into on the day.

Competitive Obedience:

There are five classes of competitive obedience, the first two tests are designed for first time competitors.

Further Information

For further information please visit the NZKC website www.nzkc.org.nz or visit the YKC website www.ykc.org.nz

A copy of the Dog Obedience Regulations are also available on the website.

Checklist for your first show

This is dependent on the test you are competing in:

You will need

- ✓ Light lead and collar
- ✓ Treats
- ✓ Toy
- ✓ Dumbbell
- ✓ Scent cloths
- ✓ Water and bowl
- ✓ Armband or safety pin
- ✓ Chair
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ good walking shoes
- ✓ Lunch if you do not want to buy it

Many clubs have been choosing to include an elementary event within their championship shows. Once an elementary has been won, teams must move on to Special Beginners, which is the first official test. Competitors can win two Special beginners before they move to Novice. Once you have won out of Elementary and Special Beginners a handler and dog may never return to them. Novice is the first class that experienced handlers can enter. If a handler has been through the tests with another dog, and they wish to start again with a younger dog, this is the grade they begin in. Teams gradually work their way through Novice, Test A, Test B, and into Test C, which is the highest grade and is also the grade that presents the challenges that make it possible to make the dog up into a champion. The exercises included in each grade gradually get more difficult the higher up the tests you go.

Each test has a set of required exercises. Food and toys are not permitted in the ring.

Classes Are:-

Elementary (enter on the day)

Special beginners

Novice

Test A

Test B

Test C

A full list of exercises for each test are available in the Dog Obedience Regulations.

At the Show:

It is always advisable to arrive at a show with about an hour to spare, you need to be able to take your dog out of the vehicle and walk him around for a little while, just so he can get used to the atmosphere and go to the toilet

If it is a championship show you will need to pick up your entry number, and if it is a ribbon show you must locate where to enter.

It is important to be at the ringside when the judge and steward walk the course, so that you can watch, and also to check your number in.

When the competition begins you are responsible for ensuring that you are ready to enter the ring when it is your turn, so keep a close eye on the numbers and warm your dog up several dogs before your turn.

Display your entry number clearly on your body, most people use armbands, however you can safety pin it onto your sleeve if you prefer. You cannot enter the ring with food or toys anywhere on your body; this would result in automatic disqualification. You would also be disqualified if your dog toilets in the ring. You cannot enter the ring in bare feet.

Wishing you all the best with your doggy experiences just get out there and give it a go!

