

OBEDIENCE TIP SHEET

How Do I Report In For Obedience?

- **BH:** On-leash; remove leash at long down and after on-leash heeling
- **IPO1:** On-leash, remove after checking in with judge
- **IPO2:** Off-leash
- **IPO3:** Off-leash

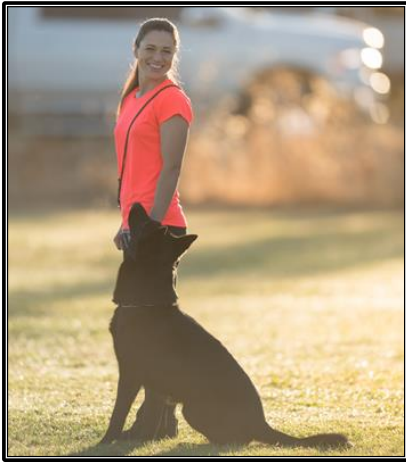


Photo by: Brian Aghajani

When Do I Look At the Judge?

- Before *starting* an exercise (including throwing dumbbells)
- Before *recalling* your dog
- Before *returning* to your dog
- Before *sitting or downing* the dog on the long down

When Do I Observe a 3-Second Pause?

- After *returning* to the dog (sit in motion, IPO2 stand)
- Before *commanding* a finish (heel) from a front sit
- Before *taking* the dumbbell from the dog
- Before *sitting* the dog after the send-out
- Before *praising* the dog in basic after a finish
- After *praising* the dog at the end of an exercise



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When Should I Give Handler Help?

- When your dog *needs* it!
- To *refocus* your dog if he is starting to wander or become unruly
- To *prevent* your dog from engaging the other dog
- To *save* an exercise if the dog fails to respond to the first command

**“Take Two
Points to Save
Ten!”**

What Do I Need for Obedience?

The Dog:

- Loose-fitting, *large-link fursaver* collar

The Handler:

- Waist-leash or other easily-stowed leash (fabric, synthetic, or leather; 3-6 ft long)
- Clothing appropriate for the level of trial

NO training vests

NO flat, pinch, flea, or electric collars

NO tags on the collar

NO toys, balls, or food in pockets or on field

How do I prepare to take the field?

- Ensure your dog is wearing only the *large-link fursaver collar*.
- *Potty* and walk your dog.
- *Warm up* your dog for obedience, using your warm-up used in training.
- Have a *toy-taker* ready to take your ball/toy as you heel onto the field.

I'm Losing my Dog! Now What?

- Give *handler help*: an extra command or your dog's name.
- Remember your safe commands – **Here** and **Fuss/Heel**. Do **not** use *Platz* or *No*.
- *Increase* your pace or energy.

When Can I Praise My Dog?

Praise can be offered at the *end* of an exercise, but only with the dog in *basic position*.

- A *3-second pause* must be observed before starting the next exercise.
- *Sequence*: end exercise → 3-second pause → praise dog → 3-second pause → start new exercise at judge's signal

What's the end of each exercise?

- *Heeling on-leash (BH)*: upon leaving the group
- *Heeling off-leash*: the sit within the group (within 1 meter of a person)
- *Sit in motion*: returning to dog and taking basic position
- *Down in motion*: the finish after the recall
- *Stand in motion, IPO2*: returning to and sitting the dog, showing basic position
- *Stand in motion, IPO3*: the finish after the recall from the stand
- *Each retrieve*: the finish after taking the dumbbell from the dog
- *Send away*: basic position after pickup from the down
- *Long down*: basic position after pickup from the down



Photo by: Brian Aghajani

Trial Etiquette Tips

- *Stand for your critique*, with your dog in a sit or a down.
- *Dress appropriately* and show pride in your team!
- Be *prepared* for the trial! Enter when your dog is ready, not before.
- Show *good sportsmanship*, no matter what happens.
- Don't get hung up on scores! This is a *snapshot in time* of your training.