



DOG TRAINERS WORKSHOP

864-862-8626

www.dogtrainersworkshop.com

864-862-8688 Fax

Newsletter

September 2010

The Most Common Utility Mistakes

“Novice wasn’t hard. Open was a little more challenging, but Utility seems so difficult!”

Utility is more difficult, but by avoiding the following mistakes, you can conquer it without too much trouble.

Signals: Avoid practicing the entire exercise in order. Practice the pieces separately! .

Signals is actually five skills wrapped up in one exercise; heeling, the stand, the drop, the sit, and the come. First, you must teach each element of the exercise separately. Then you put together all the parts. For example, work a short heeling pattern, leave your dog in a stand, drop him, and then throw him a toy or a treat. Alternately, leave your dog in a down, then walk away and give him the sit and come signals.

If you repeatedly practice the entire routine, your tendency will be to keep score; counting how many times you would have passed if you had been in the ring versus how many times you would have failed. This is not training, it is rehearsing. Our nature simply wants to see the dog do the entire exercise correctly. However, if your dog fails, it will do nothing to improve the exercise and actually undermines your confidence as well as your dog’s. Even the most advanced dogs become bored and disinterested by repeating the entire routine.

(Continued on page 2)



Congratulations New Title Winner



Obedience Trial Champions

Connie Cleveland & Aaron (Labrador)

Utility Dog Excellent

Anita Eisten & Aspen (Labrador)

Donna Duffy & Jack (Golden)

Utility Dog

Melissa Croft & Hershey (Labrador)

Barbara DuCharme & Bamboo (Border Collie)

Demi Osborn & Carbon (Golden)

Dollye Frank & Missy (Irish Setter)

Mindy Costanza & Keto (Norwegian Elkhound)

Elaine Leroy & Favor (GSD)

Other

Mike Williquette & Gypsy (OM2)

Anita Eisthen & Aspen (OM1)

Karen Andrus & Pete (OM1)

Companion Dog Excellent

Anita Eisten & Boomer (Labrador)

Anita Eisten & Bonnie (Labrador)

Pam Ambuhl & Maya (Golden)

Monica Bazan & Ursa (GSD)

Happy Gregson & Brio (Belg. Tervuren)

Companion Dog

Janet Lydie & Brock (All American)

Rafal & Cathy Kamieniecki & Lissie (All Am.)

Rhonda Hulsey & Comet (Border Collie)

Lee Bryson & Duster (Golden)

Mindy Costanza & Sierra (Australian Shep)

Cat Perry & Wyatt (Labrador)

Versatility

Karen Andrus & Pete (Border Collie)

Mike Williquette & Gypsy (PBGV)

Betty Ann Lewandowski & Skeeter (Papillon)

(Continued from page 1)

Scent Articles: Avoid telling your dog to put down a wrong article and continue to search. Instead, go to him and take the incorrect article from him.

Asking a dog to put down a wrong article, “Leave it,” and continue his search can be very confusing for the dog. He may not understand that he has the wrong article, but simply think you want him to look longer. This confusion can cause your dog to pick up and put down the right article before he brings it to you. Picking up and putting down articles is a very difficult problem to fix. Don’t let that get started! Whenever your dog makes a mistake, it is better for you to go to him, take the wrong article from him, and have him start again.

Directed Retrieve: Avoid rushing through the first step of the exercise where the “mark” is taught. A dog that does not intently look at a single glove will never do the entire exercise without trouble.

You may have started teaching the glove exercise by throwing a glove and then giving a signal to that glove, or by dropping a glove on the ground and giving a signal to it. In either case, your dog should have learned to stare intently at the object before you sent him. If you are not honest with yourself, and start sending your dog for gloves that he is not “marking,” you will ultimately be very frustrated as you add additional gloves.

When teaching this exercise, it may be necessary to hold your signal while your dog locates and stares at the correct glove. That is a stage of the learning process and will not be necessary as his confidence and understanding improves.

Moving Stand: Avoid the temptation to tell your dog to “Stand” or to “Heel” while the judge is still giving you the command.

In this exercise, the judge’s commands are “Forward,” “Stand your dog,” and “Call your dog to heel.” If you start responding too quickly to the judge’s order to “Stand your dog,” your dog will start to anticipate the stand as soon as the judge starts to speak rather than waiting for your command to stand and stay. Likewise, when the exam is over, if you call your dog to heel while the judge is saying “Call your dog to heel,” you will also cause your dog to start to anticipate that command.

Instead, while you are practicing, have your training partner tell you to “Stand your dog” more than once, and do not respond right away. Likewise, let your training partner loudly proclaim that you should “Call your dog to heel,” and instead of responding with a heel command, tell your dog to stay and make him wait an extra moment before you call him to heel.

Go-outs: NEVER take your dog to the location of go-out when he has not gone straight.

This is, by far, the most common error, and it simply prevents the dog from ever learning how to find the location of go-out on his own. Every time you tell a dog that he is wrong, and then take him to the correct go-out location, you have solved his problem for him. In order for a dog to perform go-outs in the ring, he must know how to find the location of go-out on his own. It is far better for you to start close and have him figure out where he should go than to show him where to go. Don’t be afraid to use guides. Your dog needs to recognize the path that leads to the location of go-out. The difference between dogs that fail go-outs in the ring, and those that can do them correctly, is generally about fifty Utility rings. Make a commitment to take your equipment to a park, parking lot, or tennis court, and set up a ring in a new location. Keep track of how often he is successful and what size and color guides you used. Start with obvious (white) guides, and gradually change the color and size until you find that he can correctly find the go-out location in any ring that you set up.

Directed Jumping: Avoid calling your dog’s name before you have given the signal to jump.

This is a signal exercise. Your verbal command simply releases the dog. Your dog should see your signal and then hear the command to “Jump.” It is tempting to call out the dog’s name before the signal starts, especially if he is being inattentive. However, this may cause your dog to move on his name before he has had a chance to concentrate on the signal.



Upcoming Classes



Fall Term starts Sept. 14 & 15, 2010

All Classes are 8 weeks

Fee: \$100.00

Please register by
Sept 13, 2010

Heel, Jump, Retrieve (notice late start date)

October 12: Tuesday @ 6:15 pm

For dogs learning the fundamentals of heeling, jumping and retrieving.

Novice/Open

Sept 14: Tuesday @ 7:15 PM

Sept 15: Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

For dogs preparing to show in Novice as well as learning Open & Utility exercises.

Open /Utility

Sept 14: Tuesday @ 8:15 pm

Sept 15: Wednesday @ 6:00 pm

Sept 15: Wednesday @ 8:00 pm

For dogs preparing to compete in Open and Utility.

Day Class

Sept 14: Tuesday @ 1:00 pm

For dogs learning the Open and Utility exercises.

Holiday Half-Term

Classes will meet from November 16-December 14
(with the exclusion of Thanksgiving week)

Please let us know of your intent to participate.

Novice/Open : Tuesdays @ 7:15

Open/Utility: Tuesdays @ 1:00 pm

Tuesdays @ 8:15.

Wednesday night classes will be added if needed.

Don't want a six
week break in
November &
December?

Sign up for the
"Half Term!"

Coming Soon

Dog Trainers Workshop is getting a fresh new look. In a couple weeks, you will find our news at your fingertips.

Take a peek at:

www.dogtrainersworkshop.com

- Connie's articles
- About our facility
- Online Courses
- DTW Store
- Calendar of Events
- Class Schedules
- Photographs
- and much, much more...

Dog Obedience Club of Greenville

The DOCG 2 day Obedience and Rally Trials will be held on October 23 & 24, 2010 at the Simpsonville Activity & Senior Center.

Please support our local obedience club by volunteering.

- Set-up Friday, October 22, for the match and show
- Steward in Obedience or Rally
- Make a trophy donation
- Donate a raffle item
- Create something yummy for the bake sale
- Clean up after the show on Sunday, help reload the equipment trailer.

For more information, please visit: www.docg.info
or contact Darlene Fisher at cd2newfies@bellsouth.net



September 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Puppy Class Starts 7:00 PM Beginner Class Starts 8:00 Orientation	14 Advanced Classes Starts-Week 1	15 Advanced Classes Starts-Week 1	16	17	18 DOCG Training Day at DTW
19	20	21 Week 2	22 Week 2	23 Adv. Beginners Start 7:00 PM	24	25 Augusta GSD KC Appling, GA
26 Augusta GSD KC Appling, GA	27	28 Week 3	29 Week 3	30		

October 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	No Class	No Class DOCG Entries Close	7 Beginner Class Starts 8:00 Orientation	8	9 Asheville KC Asheville, NC
10 Asheville KC Asheville, NC	11 Puppy Class Starts 7:00 PM	12 Week 4	13 Week 4	14	15	16 UKC Trials at DTW Cocker Club of Ga Norcross, GA
17 UKC Trials at DTW Cocker Club of Ga Norcross, GA	18	19 Week 5	20 Week 5	21	22 DOCG Match & Trial Set-Up	23 DOCG Trials Simpsonville, SC
24 DOCG Trials Simpsonville, SC	25	26 Week 6	27 Week 6	28 Griffin GA KC Marietta, GA	29 Griffin GA KC Marietta, GA	30 Kennesaw KC Marietta, GA
31 Kennesaw KC Marietta, GA Happy Halloween						

November 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Beginner Class Starts 8:00 Orientation	2 Week 7	3 Week 7	4 Tenn. Valley KC Knoxville, TN Adv. Beginners Starts 7:00 PM	5 Oak Ridge KC Knoxville, TN	6 Tenn. Valley KC Knoxville, TN Augusta KC N. Augusta, SC Sawnee Mt KC Cummings, GA
7 Oak Ridge KC Knoxville, TN Augusta KC N. Augusta, SC Sawnee Mt KC Cummings, GA	8	9 Week 8	10 Week 8	11	12	13 Ob. Club Asheville Asheville, NC
14 Ob. Club Asheville Asheville, NC	15 Puppy Class Starts 7:00 PM	16 Holiday Half Term Starts-Week 1	17	18 Dobe Club of Char Concord, NC	19 Gr. Monroe KC Concord, NC	20 Gr. Monroe KC Concord, NC Atlanta Obed Club Atlanta, GA
21 Fayetteville KC Concord, NC Atlanta Obed. Club Atlanta, GA	22	23 No Class	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30 Week 2				

December 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Savannah KC Savannah, GA Beginner Class Starts 8:00 Orientation	3 Beaufort KC Savannah, GA	4 Beaufort KC Savannah, GA
5 Savannah KC Savannah, GA	6	7 Week 3	8	9	10	11 Forsyth KC Winston-Salem, NC
12 Forsyth KC Winston-Salem, NC	13	14 Week 4 Holiday Half Terms Ends	15	16	17	18 CESSC Norcross, GA Durham KC Morrisville, NC
19 CESSC Norcross, GA Durham KC Morrisville, NC	20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	