



WAG IT!
GAMES
SHADOW SKILLS
PROFICIENT LEVEL HANDBOOK

Shadow Skills classes and games are offered by licensed Wag It Games Instructors. Training and exercises to enhance connection, build loose leash and off leash skills.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBLE DOGS

- Purebred and mixed breed dogs are all welcomed to participate.

RESTRICTIONS

- Dogs that exhibit signs of pain, stress or discomfort may not participate.
- Dogs in estrus are eligible at the instructor's discretion.
- **Safety First – Aggressive dogs, reactive dogs and dogs under warning or banned in any venue may only be tested in a private setting and at the discretion of the instructor.**

LEVELS

Wag It Games offers three participation levels.

- Novice Level - Entry level
- Skilled Level - Intermediate level
- Proficient Level - Advanced level

TESTS

- Each test consists of one course performance.
- Dogs must be registered with Wag It Games for tests to be used to earn titles. Testers may offer up to a week after the test for dogs to become registered.
- Tests are offered by licensed Wag It Games instructors.
- Test fees are at the discretion of the instructor.
- Ribbons or certificates shall be presented for passed tests to registered dogs.

RETRY POLICY

- Courses may be retried. The number of retries is at the discretion of the tester and may also be limited by time.

JUDGING

- All tests are judged pass/fail.

VIDEO TEST REQUIREMENTS

- The entire course must be complete and without any edits.
- The dog, handler and all equipment required must be visible.
- The handler's voice must be clearly audible.

RESULTS

- Email notifications of test results are sent out automatically. Results will appear in the dogs' record, which may be viewed in the member area of the Wag It Games website.



GENERAL INFORMATION

TITLES

Dogs must be registered with Wag It Games to earn titles. Registration is done on the Wag It Games website and is good for the life of the dog. The tester will submit successful tests to Wag It Games to be recorded towards titles. Once a month titles are automatically updated and will appear in the dog's record. Email notification of titles earned are sent with directions to access your personalized title certificate.

- Wag 1 Shadow Skills requires three different novice course performances.
- Wag 2 Shadow Skills requires three different skilled course performances.
- Wag 3 Shadow Skills requires three different proficient course performances.
- Advanced titles are also available. Advanced title information is available on the Wag It Games website.

DOGS WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS – HEART DOGS

Dogs with physical limitations may have the performance requirements adjusted to accommodate their needs. The handler may select Heart Dog status any time in the dog's online record. Heart Dog is a permanent status. "Heart Dog" is added to the dog's titles.

Heart Dog status must be selected prior to performing a test with modifications. Modifications must be confirmed with the tester prior to any test. Modification Example: Replacing downs with stands to accommodate a dog missing a limb.

HANDLERS WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS - EXTRAORDINAIRE HANDLERS

Handlers with disabilities may have the performance criteria adjusted to accommodate their needs. Handlers may select Extraordinaire status any time in their online records. Extraordinaire is a permanent status. "Extraordinaire" is added to titles.

Extraordinaire status must be selected prior to performing a test with modifications. Modifications must be confirmed with the tester prior to any test. Modification Example: Having an assistant read each sign to accommodate vision impairment.

LEASHES AND COLLARS

The novice level is performed on leash. The skilled and proficient levels are performed off leash.

- Collars may be flat buckle, snap or limited slip style.
- Training/correction type collars and head halters may not be used.
- Harnesses are allowed but may not be of a design to reduce pulling.
- Leashes in the novice level may be 6 - 8 feet long (180-240 cm).
- Retractable leashes are not allowed.

CUES

- The handler may offer unlimited cues, encouragement etc.

REWARDING

Handlers are encouraged to communicate with and praise their dogs during the course.

Food rewards are allowed in the novice and skilled levels only. Handlers may only carry food concealed within their pockets. Treat pouches are not allowed to be worn in the ring.

Luring or acting in a manner that gives the appearance that the handler has food is not allowed.

- Handlers may only offer rewards at the completion of a stationary exercise.
- The handler must come to a complete stop and the dog must remain stationary while rewards are given.
- **If rewards are delivered in any other manner the course will be judged as unsuccessful.**

CORRECTIONS

- No corrections are allowed during the course performance.
-



THE COURSE PERFORMANCE

THE COURSE

- The course will be set with numbers and signs for the handler to follow.
 - The goal is to be successful. Courses may be practiced and repeated.
-

COURSE FAMILIARIZATION

The tester shall brief all handlers and answer questions prior to the test. Handlers (without their dogs) will be offered time to become familiar with the course prior to the test. Testers may offer training and/or practice of the courses prior to tests. A map of the course may be offered.

BEGINNING THE COURSE

SIDE DETERMINATION

- Teams will begin with the dog on the handler's left.
 - The dog will heel on each side of the handler, switching back and forth per the exercise descriptions.
-

MULLIGANS

One mulligan is available per course. The mulligan offers the handler the opportunity to repeat one unsuccessful exercise. The exercise must be repeated completely and immediately after the unsuccessful performance. The handler must verbally announce "mulligan" before retrying an exercise.

DOG ETIQUETTE

The dog is expected to be well mannered. Repeated jumping on the handler, excessive barking etc. are not allowed.

JUDGE ETIQUETTE

The tester may converse during practice runs but may not converse with the participant during a test performance.

PAUSING DURING PERFORMANCE

- The handler may pause for the dog if the dog stops to scratch, cough, sneeze etc.
-



POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

SIT

The dog with his/her rear on the ground, chest off the floor and front legs in an approximate vertical position.

DOWN

The dog lying as if at rest on the ground.

STAND

The dog standing and stationary for the period of time as defined by the exercise description.

STAY

The dog holds both the position and location defined by the exercise description.

- During stands dogs may not move more than two paws.

BRIEF PAUSE

Holding a position for one to three seconds.

- During stands dogs may not move more than two paws.

HEELING

Heel position requires the dog be at the handler's side moving in unison with her/his head close enough to be under the handler's outstretched arm.

CENTER

The dog faces the center of the handler with his/her head close enough to be under the handler's outstretched arm. Sit, down or stand are determined by the exercise description.



SIDE

The dog is beside the handler facing the same direction with his/her head close enough to be under the handler's outstretched arm. Sit, down or stand are determined by the exercise description.



SWING

The dog will move from center towards the handler's side, turn towards the handler and step into the side position. The dog may not cross behind the handler.





PROFICIENT COURSE REQUIREMENTS

LEASH REQUIREMENTS

- The proficient level is performed off leash.
-

REWARDS

- No food rewards are allowed at the proficient level.
-

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 10 -12 Exercises. **Changed from a maximum of 10.**
- 4-5 Proficient exercises.
- 2-3 Skilled exercises.
- 1 Proficient stationary exercise.*
- 1 Proficient stay exercise.*
- 1 Proficient Distraction.
- Minimum 2, maximum 4 side changes. **Changed from a maximum of 3.**
- Minimum of 3 exercises on each side.

*When one exercise is both a stationary and a stay exercise it can be used to satisfy the course requirements for both. Example - Stand & Switch - This exercise is both a stationary and a stay exercise.

Distances between exercises should be enough to allow comfortable performance.

Adjusted in 2024

PROFICIENT DISTRACTIONS

The proficient level distraction items will be items that would ordinarily generate significant interest. **Examples: Toys or items that are making sounds, items with food secured within them, animal scents etc.** At least one point during the exercise the dog will pass next to and within **4 feet (120 cm)** of the distraction.



PROFICIENT EXERCISE LIST

New in 2024. Adjusted in 2024.

STATIONARY EXERCISES	MOVING EXERCISES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Down - 90° Pivot Right - Down 2. Down - 90° Pivot Left - Down 3. Down - 180° Pivot Right - Down 4. Down - 180° Pivot Left - Down 5. Stand - 180 Pivot Right - Stand 6. Stand - 180 Pivot Left - Stand 7. Windshield Wipers - Down 8. Center Down - Swing Down 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flip 270° Right Dog on Right 2. Flip 270° Left Dog on Left 3. Call to Forward Flip - Front Cross 4. Center - Send Dog Back - Swing Forward 5. Center - Push Pull - Swing Forward 6. Center - Spin Spin - Swing Forward 7. Center Lateral (Right or Left) 8. Lateral Towards 9. Lateral Away 10. Reverse 11. Rear Cross 12. Blind Cross 13. Flip Behind and Back 14. Circle The Handler Flip Behind
<p>STAY EXERCISES Exercises with * are also stationary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand and Switch* 2. Sit - Stand - Walk Around* 3. Center Sit - Stand - Walk Around* 4. Center Stand - Handler Turns* 5. Center Stand - Handler Turns Change Sides* 6. Sit - Moving Call to Side 7. Stand - Call To Circle The Handler 8. Down - Call To Circle The Handler 9. Sit - Down - Moving Call to Side 10. Sit - Stand - Moving Call to Side 11. Moving Sit - Walk Around - Forward 12. Moving Down - Walk Around - Forward 13. Moving Stand - Walk Around - Forward 14. Recall From Stand - Swing - Forward 15. Stand - Handler Center - Swing Forward 16. Stand - Handler Center - Swing Forward - Change Sides 17. Down - Handler Center - Swing Forward 18. Down - Handler Center - Swing Forward - Change Sides 	<p>DISTRACTION EXERCISES Adjusted in 2024 Exercise 3 also qualifies as stay exercise.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serpentine 2. Pass Advancing Person 3. Recall From Sit - Swing Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right, Left 180, 270 or 360 Turns



PROFICIENT STATIONARY EXERCISES

P, 1. Down - 90° Pivot Right - Down

- The handler will halt, cue the dog to lie down at side and pause. The handler will pivot 90° to the right and halt. The dog will move with the handler and lie down at side when the handler halts.
 - The handler's feet shall remain close together turning using an area approximately the size of a dinner plate.
 - The dog may not sit before lying down.
-

P, 2. Down - 90° Pivot Left - Down

- The handler will halt, cue the dog to lie down at side and pause. The handler will pivot 90° to the left and halt. The dog will move with the handler and lie down at side when the handler halts.
 - The handler's feet shall remain close together turning using an area approximately the size of a dinner plate.
 - The dog may not sit before lying down.
-

P, 3. Down - 180° Pivot Right - Down

- The handler will halt, cue the dog to lie down at side and pause. The handler will pivot 180° to the right and halt. The dog will move with the handler and lie down at side when the handler halts.
 - The handler's feet shall remain close together turning using an area approximately the size of a dinner plate.
 - The dog may not sit before lying down.
-

P, 4. Down - 180° Pivot Left - Down

- The handler will halt, cue the dog to lie down at side and pause. The handler will pivot 180° to the left and halt. The dog will move with the handler and lie down at side when the handler halts.
 - The handler's feet shall remain close together turning using an area approximately the size of a dinner plate.
 - The dog may not sit before lying down.
-

P, 5. Stand – 180° Pivot Right – Stand

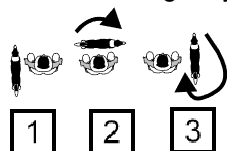
- The handler will halt, cue the dog to stand at side and pause. The handler will pivot 180° to the right and halt. The dog will move with the handler and stand at side and pause when the handler halts.
 - The handler's feet shall remain close together turning using an area approximately the size of a dinner plate.
-

P, 6. Stand - 180° Pivot Left - Stand

- The handler will halt, cue the dog to stand at side and pause. The handler will pivot 180° to the left and halt. The dog will move with the handler and stand at side and pause when the handler halts.
 - The handler's feet shall remain close together turning using an area approximately the size of a dinner plate.
-

P, 7. Windshield Wipers - Down (Change of sides exercise)

- The handler will halt and cue the dog to lie down at side. The dog will then pass in front of the handler, move to the opposite side and lie down again.
- The handler's feet will remain still from the halt until the dog has performed the second down.
- The dog may not sit before lying down.

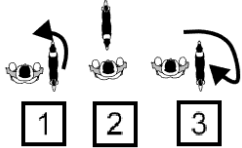




PROFICIENT STATIONARY EXERCISES

P, 8. Center Down - Swing Down (Stay and stationary sign)

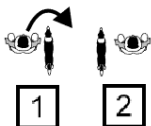
- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to lie down at center. The handler will then cue the dog to swing to the original side and lie down again.
- The dog may not sit before lying down.



PROFICIENT STAY EXERCISES

P, 1. Stand and Switch (Change of sides stay and stationary sign))

- The handler will halt and cue the dog to stand and stay in the side position. The handler will then pass in front of the dog and move to the opposite side position and pause briefly.



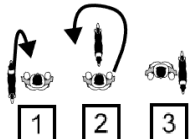
P, 2. Sit - Stand - Walk Around (Stay and stationary sign)

- The handler will halt and cue the dog to sit, then stand and stay in the side position. The handler will then pass in front of the dog, walk completely around the dog, return to their original position and pause briefly.



P, 3. Center Sit - Stand - Walk Around (Stay and stationary sign)

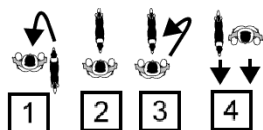
- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to sit then stand and stay at center. The handler will then walk around the dog, returning to their original position and pause briefly.



New for 2024

P, 4. Center Stand - Handler Turns (Stay and stationary sign)

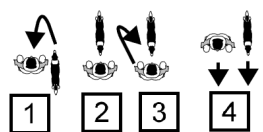
- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to center, stand and stay. The handler will then move to the original side position and pause. The team will then proceed forward together in the new direction.



New for 2024

P, 5. Center Stand - Handler Turns - Change Sides (Change of sides, stay and stationary sign)

- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to center, stand and stay. The handler will then move to the side opposite the original and pause. The team will then proceed forward together in the new direction.



PROFICIENT STAY EXERCISES

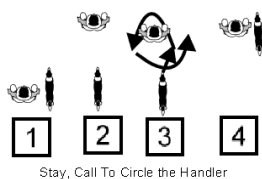
P, 6. Sit - Moving Call to Side

- The handler will halt and cue the dog to sit at side and stay. Without turning the handler will walk forward 3-5 steps. While continuing to walk forward, the handler will cue the dog to come and rejoin the handler in side position and proceed forward.

New for 2024

P, 7, **Stand** - Call Circle The Handler

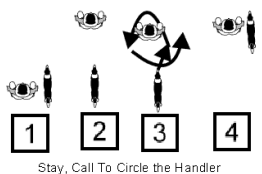
The handler will halt, cue the dog to stand at side and stay. Without turning the handler will walk forward 3-5 steps. The handler will call the dog to come forward, pass in front of and circle the handler back to the original side and proceed forward.



New for 2024

P, 8, **Down** - Call Circle The Handler

The handler will halt, cue the dog to lie down at side and stay. Without turning the handler will walk forward 3-5 steps. The handler will call the dog to come forward, pass in front of and circle the handler back to the original side and proceed forward.



P, 9. Sit - Down - Moving Call to Side

- The handler will halt and cue the dog to sit then down and stay in the side position. The handler will then leave the dog and proceed forward 3-5 steps. While continuing to walk forward, the handler will cue the dog to rejoin the handler in side position. The team will proceed forward in unison.

P, 10. Sit - Stand - Moving Call to Side

- The handler will halt and cue the dog to sit then stand and stay in the side position. The handler will then leave the dog and proceed forward 3-5 steps. While continuing to walk forward, the handler will cue the dog to rejoin the handler in side position. The team will proceed forward in unison.

P, 11. Moving Sit - Walk Around - Forward

- Without pausing the handler will cue the dog to sit and stay, pass in front of and around the dog to the original side position and proceed forward.
- The handler's motion will not stop during the exercise.



PROFICIENT STAY EXERCISES

P, 12. Moving Down - Walk Around - Forward

- Without pausing the handler will cue the dog to lie down and stay, pass in front of and around the dog to the original side position and proceed forward.
 - The handler's motion will not stop during the exercise.
 - The dog may not sit before laying down.
-

P, 13. Moving Stand - Walk Around - Forward

- Without pausing the handler will cue the dog to stand and stay, pass in front of and around the dog to the original side position and proceed forward.
 - The handler's motion will not stop during the exercise.
 - The dog may not sit before the stand.
-

New for 2024

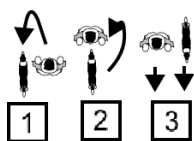
P, 14. Recall From Stand - Swing Forward

- The handler will cue the dog to stand and stay. The handler will leave the dog, walk to a position 6 feet (180 cm) in front of the dog, turn to face the dog and pause. The handler will call the dog to swing to the handler's side and proceed forward.
 - The dog may not sit before the stand.
-

New for 2024

P, 15. Stand - Handler Center - Swing Forward

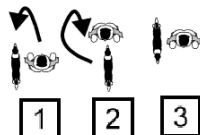
- The handler will cue the dog to stand and stay. The handler will move to the center position then cue the dog to swing to the original side position and proceed forward.
- The dog may not sit.



New for 2024

P, 16. Stand - Handler Center - Swing Forward - Change Sides

- The handler will cue the dog to stand and stay. The handler will move to the center position then cue the dog to swing to the original side position and proceed forward.
- The dog may not sit.



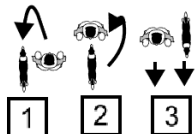


PROFICIENT STAY EXERCISES

New for 2024

P, 17. Down - Handler Center - Swing Forward

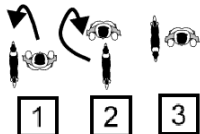
- The handler will cue the dog to lie down and stay. The handler will move to the center position then cue the dog to swing to the original side position and proceed forward.
- The dog may not sit.



New for 2024

P, 18. Down - Handler Center - Swing Forward - Change Sides

- The handler will cue the dog to lie down and stay. The handler will move to the center position then cue the dog to swing to the opposite side position and proceed forward.
- The dog may not sit.



PROFICIENT MOVING EXERCISES

P, 1. Flip 270° Right Dog on Right (Change of sides exercise)

- Both dog and handler will perform a 270° turn to the right. As the turns are completed, the handler will move to the opposite side position and proceed forward.
- This exercise may only be performed with the dog in side position on the handler's right side.
- The dog will be on the handler's left when the exercise is completed.



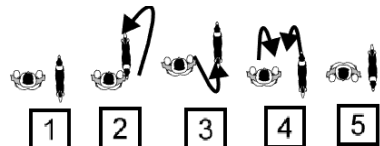
P, 2. Flip 270° Left Dog on Left (Change of sides exercise)

- Both dog and handler will perform a 270° turn to the left. As the turns are completed, the handler will move to the opposite side position and proceed forward.
- This exercise may only be performed with the dog in side position on the handler's right side.
- The dog will be on the handler's right when the exercise is completed.



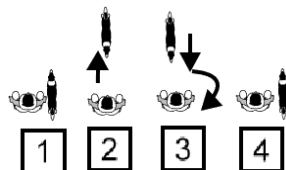
P, 3. Call to Forward Flip - Front Cross (Change of sides exercise)

- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog towards center but slightly to the handler's side (as if the dog were coming to take a treat from a hand hanging at their side). As the dog comes close, the handler will cue the dog to perform a 180° turn away from the handler. The team will proceed forward 1 – 3 steps then both dog and handler will in unison perform a 180° turn towards each other.



P, 4. Center - Send Dog Back - Swing Forward

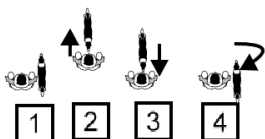
- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to center. The handler will remain in place and cue the dog to back up 3-5 steps then call the dog to swing back to the original side position and the team will proceed forward.



PROFICIENT MOVING EXERCISES

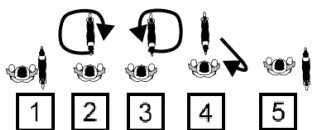
P, 5. Center - Push Pull - Swing Forward

- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to center. The handler will walk forward 3-5 steps with the dog backing up in unison and in front of the handler. The handler will then back up 3-5 steps with the dog moving forward in unison with the handler. The handler will then cue the dog to swing to the original side position.



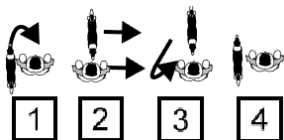
P, 6. Center - Spin - Spin - Swing Forward

- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to center. The handler will then cue the dog to perform a 360° circle to the right or left (handler's choice) while at center. The handler will then cue the dog to circle again in the opposite direction. After completing the second spin the handler will cue the dog to swing to the original side position.



P, 7. Center Lateral (Right or Left)

- The handler will back up 3-5 steps while calling the dog to center. The handler will take 3-5 steps laterally to the right or left with the dog moving laterally and in unison. The handler will then cue the dog to swing to the original side position.
- The dog must not sit.



P, 8. Lateral Towards

- The handler will take 3-5 steps laterally towards the dog, cueing the dog to move in unison. The team will then proceed forward.



P, 9. Lateral Away

- The handler will take 3-5 steps laterally moving away from the dog, cueing the dog to move in unison. The team will then proceed forward.



PROFICIENT MOVING EXERCISES

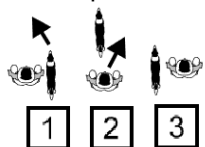
P, 10. Reverse

- The handler will take 3-5 steps backwards. The dog will back up in unison beside the handler then proceed forward.



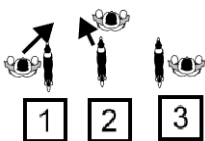
P, 11. Rear Cross (Change of sides exercise)

- While progressing forward the handler will cue the dog to move ahead and across the handler's path and into side position on the opposite side. The team will proceed forward with the dog on the new side.



P, 12. Blind Cross (Change of sides exercise)

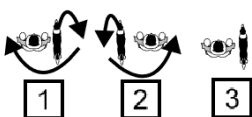
- While progressing forward the handler will cue the dog to pause, the handler will move ahead and across the dog's path and into side position on the opposite side. The team will proceed forward with the handler on the new side.



New for 2024

P, 13. Flip Behind and Back

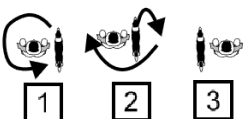
- The handler will cue the dog to turn 180° away and pass behind the handler to the opposite side then cue the dog to flip away and return to the original side.



New for 2024

P, 14. Circle The Handler - Flip Behind (Change of sides exercise)

- The handler will cue the dog to pass in front of and circle around the handler. When the dog returns to the original side the handler will cue the dog to turn 180° away and pass behind the handler to the opposite side.





PROFICIENT DISTRACTION EXERCISES

Adjusted in 2024

The proficient level distraction items will be items that would ordinarily generate significant interest. Examples: Toys or items that are making sounds, items with food secured within them, animal scents etc.

Exercise 3 also qualifies as stay exercise.

Adjusted for 2024

P, 1. Serpentine

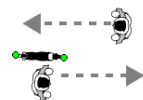
- The team shall move weaving in and out of 3 distraction items. Turn around the third item and weave back.



Adjusted for 2024

P, 2. Pass Advancing Person

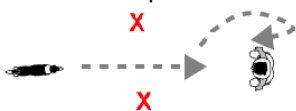
- The team shall walk past a person who is approximately 8 feet (240 cm) away walking towards them.
- The dog will be on the side of the passing person.



Adjusted for 2024

P, 3. Recall from Sit - Swing Forward

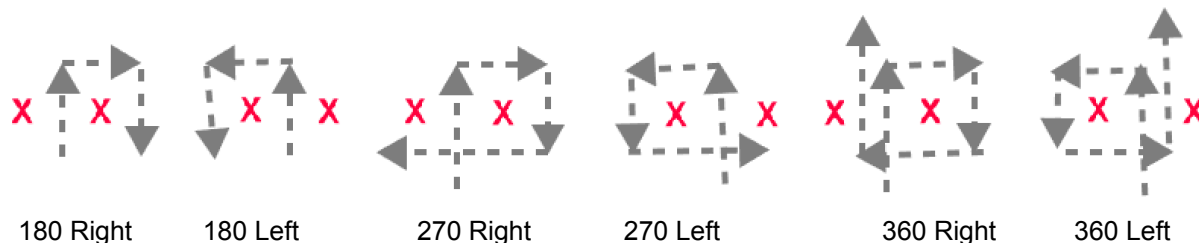
- The handler will cue the dog to sit and stay in the side position. The handler will leave the dog, walk a minimum of 6 feet (180 cm), turn to face the dog and pause. The handler will call the dog to sit at center then swing to the original side position.
- The dog will pass between two distractions placed 10 feet (300 cm) apart, sit at center then swing to the original side position.



Adjusted for 2024

Right and Left 180, 270, 360 turns and Figure 8

- These exercises may be used as distraction exercises by adding two distraction items approximately 8 feet (240 cm) apart.





SAMPLE COURSES