

Introduction

In B, there are 3 ring exercises: Heel (off lead), sendaway and retrieve

Stays: Sit stay in sight and down stay out of sight (but you don't need to do anything for stays, phew!)

Scent: Any pattern, includes blank cloths, a decoy and a cloth (provided by the judge) which the handler will put their own scent on and which the dog then has to find.

The first 10 handlers in the class will have been given a running order (although some of them won't turn up probably) and then people turn up more or less when they want to. The stays are at a pre-ordained time which will be on our scoresheet on the table. Scent should take place at the end of the class, when everyone has done their ringwork.

Everyone should know what they are doing so you won't need to help them except to tell them where the exercises start, etc.

Heelwork

Tell the handler the first/next exercise is heelwork and show them where it starts and which direction they will be starting – you can also mention that it starts in slow pace (although if they have been paying attention they should know)

Wait until handler looks more or less ready, then ask “are you ready, handler?”. They will either say yes or nod (sometimes they give quite a subtle signal and don't look up because as soon as they do the dog will look away – bloody dogs! It's nothing personal, honest)

To start off “at xx pace, forward” (for xx substitute “slow”, “normal” or “fast”)

Turn commands included in my round:

“right turn”

“about turn”

“left turn”

“left about turn”

“diagonal right turn”

“right turn along the ropes”

“halt”

All changes of pace in B are from the halt ie tell the handler to halt (look at me and wait until I nod that I've marked the halt) then “at xx pace, forward”

When the pattern has finished and I have nodded that I have marked the final halt, say “exercise finished”.

Sendaway

Tell the handler the first/next exercise is sendaway and show them where it starts (they will be able to tell, but sometimes they edge a bit too far forward). Tell them “the judge wants the dog at the back marker”

Say “stand up straight when you are ready, send on my command”

The handler will stand up straight when they've finished their setup, then tell them “send your dog”. When the handler has sent the dog (and it's probably dropped short, gone off to

another ring, slunk halfway and then stopped), wait 1 or 2 seconds and say “forward to the box”. Then give heelwork commands in whatever pattern I have decided, and at the appointed place, say “call your dog”. Carry on with any turns and then “halt”. On my nod, tell them “exercise finished”

Retrieve

Tell the handler the first/next exercise is retrieve and show them where it starts and in which direction to throw the article, asking them to give it a reasonable throw.

Wait until they look ready, ask “are you ready?” then when they indicate they are, “Last command”, wait for them to give the command, then “throw the article”. Wait 1 or 2 seconds after it lands and say “send your dog”. When dog has retrieved the article and presented in front of the handler (and I’ve nodded), “take the article”, then “finish your dog”. When I’ve nodded that I’ve marked the finish, say “exercise finished”.

Training Rounds

Some people will come in and say they want to do a training round before they start. If it looks like it’s going to get complicated, then I can take over, if they are just going to follow the round but break off and play periodically or have a toy with them, then I will let you call. A lot of handlers who are in the running order may want to train which is a good thing as it will let you get some practice without the pressure of having to get it right (and the judge too!). Sometimes, a handler will stop partway through the round and say they want to turn it into a training round. Normally, the judge will let the steward get on with it and watch from the ringside, but I will make sure I don’t leave you in the lurch, don’t worry.

Scent

For scent, I tend to make up the pattern on the day depending on how desperate I am for all the dogs to do a successful scent. In my experience in B so far, there are usually so few people who have completed a decent round that I need to make the scent as easy as possible so I don’t lose any good dogs.

Take the handler to where the scent starts (a pre-arranged spot that I will mark), they will face the dog away from the cloths. When they have finished scenting their cloth, take it from them with the tongs, take it out and place in the pre-arranged spot. When you get back to the handler, say “you can turn your dog round, stand up straight when you’re ready, send on my command”. When they stand up straight, say “send your dog”. When the dog has brought back a cloth and presented in front of the handler (and I’ve nodded), “take the cloth”, then “finish your dog”. When I’ve nodded that I’ve marked the finish, say “exercise finished”.