

# ELEMENTARY TEST GUIDELINE

## General Information:

1. **NO** food permitted in the ring. Food to be left outside the ring.
2. **NO** toys permitted in the ring **unless** the handler wants to train their dog. If the handler brings a toy into the ring, no points will be awarded.
3. Dog must be fitted with a collar and lead. Only one collar to be worn in the ring. For exercises without the lead, a collar must be left on the dog.
4. Plan to arrive half an hour before the start time of the test to give you time to enter, walk your dog, find the ring without being in a rush and relax.
5. On arrival at a show, find the Secretary's table and enter there (your name and dog's name, sometimes the club you train at). You will be given a number to wear. Have a safety pin, or similar, to pin this on you sleeve or chest. The number must be displayed. You will be told where the Elementary ring is.
6. Walking the course – prior to judging commencing, the judge will walk the heel course on the steward's commands.
7. Heel on Lead and the Recall are done individually. A list of numbers will be on the table outside the ring. Make sure you are ready to enter the ring when it is your turn.
8. Stays are done collectively with the dogs being at least 1.5m apart from each other.
9. Exiting the ring – dog must be on a lead and under control before exiting the ring.
10. Run-offs – if two or more dogs gain the same points and are placegetters, the steward will tell competitors which dogs are required to re-run one of the exercises.
11. After the test is complete and prizes have been awarded, the handler may ask the judge for a score sheet. This will detail what points were deducted and the reason why.
12. Remember, you bought the best dog to the show and you are taking the best dog home no matter what happens in between!

## Exercises:

### 1. Heel on Lead

- The dog should be sitting straight at the handler's left side (the left side is regarded as the working side).
- The steward will ask 'are you ready?'. Please say so.
- On being told to 'forward' the handler and dog shall walk at a normal pace as directed.
- The dog is to remain level with the handler's left leg.



- Handler will be instructed when to turn.
- Penalties – points deducted at the judge's discretion shall be incurred for:
  - the dog not consistently remaining at the handler's left side (i.e. wide heeling, lagging, wide turns).
  - Tight lead – make sure you have a loop in your lead and the clip is vertical.



### 2. Recall (8-10 paces). No finish required.

- This exercise is off the lead. The lead to be given to the steward or placed in your pocket (and must be completely out of sight).
- Set the dog up in a sit or down – handler's choice.
- When told to 'leave your dog', handler may tell the dog to wait/stay before leaving the. Handler to walk away from their dog; told to 'halt' and 'about turn'.
- Dog to remain in the position until told to 'call your dog'. The dog is recalled to sit in front of you until the steward advises 'exercise finished'.



3. **Sit stay** – 30 seconds.

- Dogs will be instructed to sit.
- Handlers may leave the lead on the dog and dropped when asked 'are you ready?'
- Lead must be on the ground when steward gives the instruction 'last command'. Handler is not permitted to speak to the dog again until told 'exercise finished'.
- Handler to leave the dog when instructed. The steward will give the instruction to 'halt, about turn' and you will face your dog. If your dog breaks the position, **DO NOT** go back to it – take instructions from the steward or judge.
- When instructed by the steward, return to your dog. Handler to walk around the dog to the heel position.
- Steward will give the instruction 'exercise finished'.



4. **Down Stay** – 60 seconds

- Dogs will be instructed to lie down.
  - Handlers may leave the lead on the dog and dropped when asked 'are you ready?'
  - Lead must be on the ground when steward gives the instruction 'last command'. Handler is not permitted to speak to the dog again until told 'exercise finished'.
  - Handler to leave the dog when instructed. The steward will give the instruction to 'halt, about turn' and you will face your dog. If your dog breaks the position, **DO NOT** go back to it – take instructions from the steward or judge.
  - When instructed by the steward, return to your dog. Handler to walk around the dog to the heel position.
  - Steward will give the instruction 'exercise finished'