

by Virginia Blackston

the story of our drill team



*My best wishes —
P. D. D. D.*

(Front Row - Left to Right) Dale Fay and Irish Setter, Mallie; Mallie has an American and Canadian CD and a Dog World Award; she is presently being trained for her CDX. Virginia Blackston with German Shepherd, Silver, aged 3½ and Sheltie, Lassie, Aged 2; both earned Dog World Awards with their CD Titles; Silver has a CDX and is working on Utility; Lassie is working toward the CDX goal. Cathy Nemeth and Golden Retriever, Nugget, aged 4; Cathy also has a Tri-Collie, Dan, aged 6; both have their CDX and some of their Utility Training. Lynn Sellers and Siberian Husky, Tonka, aged 6; Tonka has earned her CD and is presently being trained for her CDX. Joyce Huff and Collie, Boomerang; Joyce also uses a Golden Retriever, Chief, CD; Boomer is trained in Novice work and Chief in Open. (Back Row - Left to Right) Joan Wainfor and Afghan Hound, Rozencrantz, aged 4; Rosie is trained in Novice work. Bonnie Cordes and Collie, Wolf; Wolf has his CD and two legs on his CDX. Bernie Frey and German Shepherd, Shep, aged 7; Shep has his CD; both are members of the Newark Police Department. Rosemary Grube and Doberman, Eva, aged 3; Eva has a CD and will be trained for Open. Bob Wainfor and Old English Sheepdog, Major, aged 5; Major has a CD and is trying for his CDX. Not pictured: Marian Riley and Poodle, Dafi; she often acts as our Drill Mistress. Mitzi Paulus and Doberman, Val.

The Licking River Kennel Club All-Breed Obedience Drill Team was created in the spring of 1970 because of a request for an obedience demonstration at a 4th of July Celebration. Members of our Club interested in obedience originated the drill team idea which promptly took root. We never doubted that we could not accomplish the feat. Several members put their heads together and came up with some basic drills. From there, we, as a group, added, subtracted, and changed the drills until we had about a 15 minute drill which we liked and did well.

Our first drill presentation was at the 4th of July Celebration and from there at that performance the situation snowballed. People who saw us liked us and told others, and we received calls for other performances during the year.

During our first two years, we performed at county fairs, 4th of July Celebrations and parades (Yes, we even have worked up short, moving routines that can be done in a parade). We were twice

at the "Dog House" at the Ohio State Fair where we not only performed our drill, but also participated in obedience demonstrations. We have performed at shows and for 4-H Clubs.

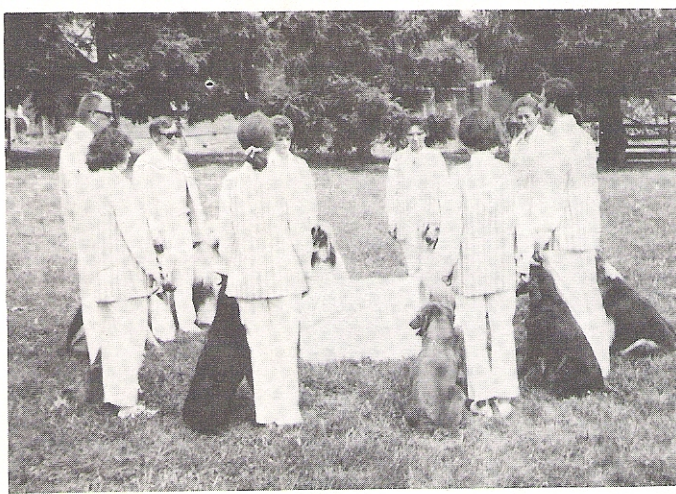
This year we have been asked to perform at the same functions and others which include several festivals and a Specialty Show; and, of course, the Fair again. But, this year we have developed a new concept to our drill. Some of us get together and entertain at school assemblies. This is a lot of fun and the kids are delighted. We follow our drill with our policeman member and his dog who is trained in attack work, crowd control, the seek-out, and drug search. He, of course, does only the basic attack work and the seek-out. A general question and answer and petting period follow the performance.

Each year new drills are added and old ones discarded or changed to fit added abilities. We keep only the drills we like or feel can be worked up to look nice. We have also found that very

simple-looking drills are awe-inspiring to the non-obedience public.

We have our drill called from either inside the ranks or by our drill mistress. We begin by learning the drills without the dogs - our dogs catch on faster than we do. We walk through each routine and figure how we can get from one routine to the next. We try to find drills which will work as well with a few people as well as with many, and with odd numbers as well as even. We presently have twelve members, but we are not all always able to attend each function. After we learn the drill, we often find we are in different positions from those we started in; so each must have a basic, overall knowledge of the drill. This adds to our versatility. We have learned that numbering helps - odd numbers do one thing and even numbers do another. Designating a certain person as leader often helps. That person then begins that portion of the exercise no matter what position she is in. We "dress right" to help keep lines straight.

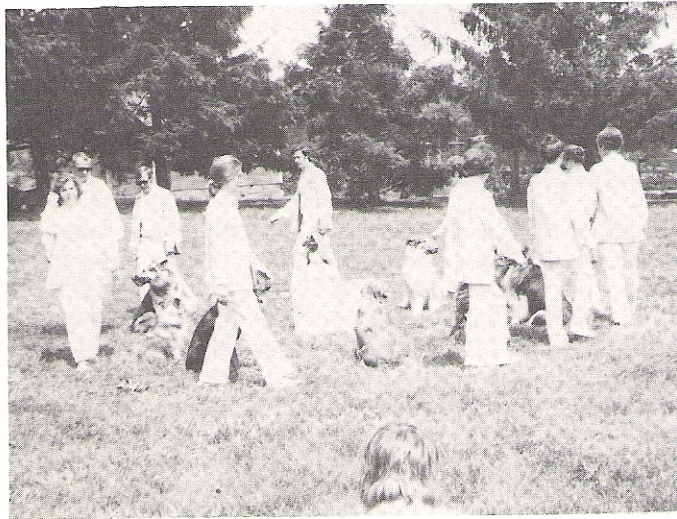
We have now adopted a few basic



A. Form your Circle



B. Leave your dog



C. Circle



D. Call your Dog

Original positions, Halt, Exercise Finished (Not Shown)

circle recall

Happiness is -

Hearing spectators comment, "Isn't it nice to see obedience-trained dogs and handlers DOING Something!"

guidelines regarding the performance of a newly accepted dog and handler before they can perform in public. We are always willing to take a novice dog and help the handler and dog during our practice sessions to become a stable drill dog. We all have our problems with our dogs and understand "goofs". We do specify that any dog and handler interested in joining the Team must join in January as our performances begin as early as March.

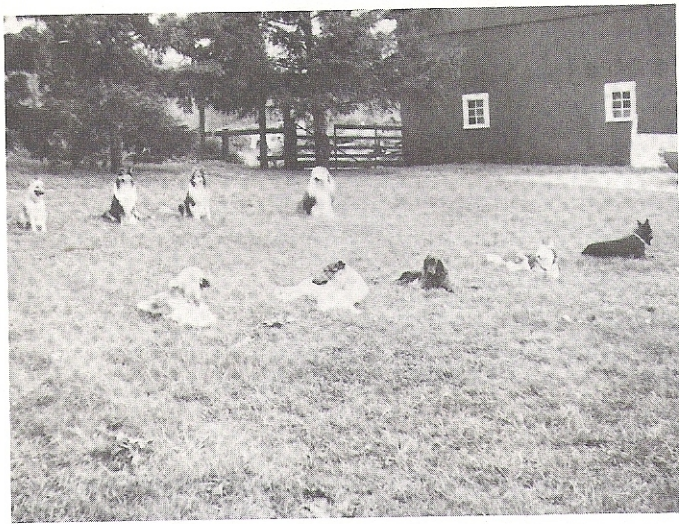
Our biggest problem was found to be getting a place large enough which

would allow us to work our dogs inside during bad weather. It took some real convincing on the part of several of our members to prove our dogs were clean, well-groomed, and that any calling-cards, if there were any, would be properly disposed of.

In conclusion, we members of the Drill Team have the happy experience of being dedicated to showing the public what obedience is and that it is a worthwhile accomplishment useful for purposes other than showing in an obedience ring at a show. We enjoy each

other and our dogs and you'll find twelve teams of trainers and dogs enjoying each other and the drill. We do our drill for love!

Anyone interested in writing to us for what information we can supply is more than welcome to do so. We would also like to hear from other drill teams willing to share drills and performance suggestions. Inquiries may be directed to Mrs. James Nemeth, Rt. 2, Purity Road, Newark, Ohio 43055 or to me at Box 41, Pleasantville, Ohio 43148.



A. Even numbered dogs Stay; Odd numbered dogs go part way and are downed



B. The recall and drop



C. All dogs are down

(Not Shown)

D. Even numbered dogs are called one by one to handlers E. Return to your dogs - Odd numbered handlers return to downed dogs

F. Finish - Even numbered dogs Finish; Odd numbered dogs are called to Sit

G. Odd numbered dogs forward, About Turn, Halt forming a straight line with even numbered dogs and handlers H. Exercise Finished

drop on recall



C. Stand your dogs



D. Leave your dogs



E. Circle



F. Return to dogs directly opposite of your own!

(Not shown)

- A. Form your Cross
- B. Center line, About Turn
- G. Exercise finished

the cross

It should be noted that for the sake of getting the whole exercise in the picture, we are working much closer to our dogs than we do in actual drill.

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team 1976. Left to Right: Bob Wainfor and Golden Retriever, Curly, CD; Carolyn McWhorter and Poodle, Brett; Rosemary Grube and Doberman Eva, CD; Virginia Blackston and GSD Silver, UD; Joan Wainfor and Afghan Rosencrantz, CD and Carole Brennan and Collie Brandy, CD.



REMINISCING

Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team is still receiving requests for information starting and working with a Drill Team. These requests are based on our article featured in OFF-LEAD magazine in September of 1973 and on another article written for DOG WORLD which was published in January, 1974. Because drill teams seem to be a good way to promote obedience training and because they are a good way to educate the general public concerning doggy matters, I think a more up-to-date and comprehensive article is in order.

Our own Licking River Team is now seven years old and we have had quite a few experiences in performing. Some years we do quite a few performances and other years we find it hard to get it all together, but still we continue. I find it very odd to look back at the old picture of the original team and see the changes made in handlers. The ages of the dogs are also remarkable. Many of us started out with tender young dogs almost straight from a sub-novice class and now we have very aged and seasoned drill dogs. In fact, many of us are beginning to train young dogs for the team.

We have lost two dogs from the team as it was pictured in that first article. Bob Wainfor's Old English Sheepdog, Major, suffered from bad hips in his old age and had to be put down. It was a shame because Major was a real spark for our team. The other dog who is no longer active is German Shepherd Dog, Shep, who belongs to Patrolman, Bernie Frey. Shep was forced into retirement from the team and from the Newark Police K-9 Corps because of weakening hips.

Shep is now 11 years of age and was an excellent ambassador for both our team and for the Police Corps. Why? Shep is, of course, trained in attack

work and the team almost always featured him at the end of the drill. The public is always interested in this type of demonstration. What makes Shep special to us is the fact that he knew very well what was expected of him as a drill team dog and as an attack dog. He is lovable and pettable and gentle and the team members could handle him in the drill when we switched dogs. He could be taken off the attack and could go into a crowd and children could pet him. Although a dog with Shep's temperament is hard to find, we hope Bernie soon finds another that he can work with our team. I hope you also see that a dog of this nature would benefit any team in existence or any team now forming.

Where Does a Drill Team Perform?

Our performance schedule is much the same as it was four years ago. We go to a variety of fairs, folk festivals, 4th of July celebrations and parades, schools, hospitals, convalescent homes, and camps—one camp especially is for underprivileged children. Our main attraction, however, is with schools and school assemblies. In the beginning, the team members often had to ask to perform for the schools which our own children attended; but after we became known, we were frequently asked for a return performance in following years. Children, when asked which assemblies they preferred, always listed the dogs as Number One. Another sure-fire attention getter is a parade. Don't ever pass one up as they are great fun and you will be amazed at the types of exercises which can be performed in a parade routine.

The Drill Team As An Education

For those of you who are just beginning a drill team, plan to take advantage of school assemblies. Get your har-

ried housewives away from their household drudgery and use them to form your team. Use others, by all means, but in order to attend school assemblies, you need people with days off or who can take the time during the day to attend. This year one of our biggest problems seems to come because our ranks include more "working girls" than "housewives." It will be difficult to make these assemblies now. However, if you can get six or eight handlers together, it would be an absolute shame to pass up such a good chance to educate the public. Possibilities along this line are limitless since a team and its members can put a lot of information out to children who are probably the most receptive audience.

When we do a school assembly, we first put on our drill and then we have a question and answer period. This period is done either in front of the whole assembly with one or two team members taking a section or group to answer all questions; or, and this is even more satisfactory, have the classes regroup and have members of the team go either individually or in pairs into the classrooms for about 15 or 20 minutes. By doing this, we not only answer questions about the team itself, but we also get the opportunity to instruct the children in some basic dog care, feeding, grooming, etc. We can take this time to show the children how to correctly approach a dog. We can tell them what to do if they are approached by a dog of which they are afraid. We can often get off some "shots" about keeping dogs tied or confined, about the overpopulation and unwanted litters, about what to do if their dog is lost, and what to do with a stray which they may encounter.

Any of our programs can include any or all of the following facets depending on what is required or asked for and the time allowed. We can set up a basic

grooming demonstration which is planned and narrated based on the age level of the group for which we are performing. We can also do a well-narrated and thought-out obedience demonstration—sub-novice through utility—, and/or an explicitly narrated attack demonstration which we now do in connection with the Newark Police Force, K-9 Corps. The attack work is highly popular among our viewers and I recommend it if you can get WELL-TRAINED, WELL-ROUNDED, AND WELL-SOCIALIZED attack dogs. As I said before, ours is done with narration and much explanation. It's the perfect opportunity to help squelch John Q. Public's idea that it is just "the thing" to own an attack-trained dog.

Beginning The Year and Requirements

We plan to begin our practice session the first week in January so we will have the drill learned by the time our obedience classes start at the end of March. When we start, we take each routine or segment and learn it before we proceed to another. By April and May we hope to be available to the schools for our demonstrations.

We require that anyone interested in becoming a team member attend immediately and their capabilities are voted on by team members at the end of 6 weeks. After this, the team votes on whether the dog is ready to perform in public before our first performance. We require that the team members be members of the club and the dog must be stable in novice work. We also require all of those who intend to participate in a performance to be at one of the last two practices before that performance.

Since we have no one who is designated as head of the team, we sometimes run into personality conflicts. Such conflicts are usually settled by someone calling for a vote. Majority rules, of course.

Problem Areas

Our problems run much the same now as they did 4 years ago. One of the biggest problems is trying to find a place large enough in which to work during the winter.

Another of our main problems is putting the routines together. The routines, themselves, are only as limited as the imagination of the handlers and the training of the dogs; and, I might include, the willingness of the handlers. The hard part is putting them together; that is, getting smoothly from one drill formation or routine to another. I do want to

stress at this point that we do our drill in formations. All of the routines are based on sub-novice and novice training. We do not use tricks as a drill basis nor do we give a simple obedience demonstration and call it a drill. Obedience demonstrations by us are in addition to the drill work unless we are specifically asked to do that.

Ideas

We get ideas for our routines by watching bands; television shows which feature precision dancing, swimming and ice skating; and horse drill teams. Many ideas come from novice show routines.

We usually begin the year by going over old drills and deciding whether we want to use them at all, whether we want to use them as we have been using them, or whether they can be used to a better advantage in a revised form. From there, we take individual new ideas and see if they can be worked in to advantage; keeping in mind that our first call is for dogs stable only in novice work. More advanced routines can be used if they can be worked in to involve all of the dogs in the routine as was done in the Drop on Recall exercise pictured in OFF-LEAD, September, 1973.

Putting It Together

Now I would like to list some ideas which you may find helpful in formulating your team or perhaps they will benefit teams already in existence. This list has been sent to some teams who have asked for help; but if you have it, read on as I have made some revisions.

1. Try to keep your routines simple. To the uneducated public, even the most uncomplicated routine looks difficult. Simple, sub-novice work is awe-inspiring to someone who has never trained a dog and who has never worked as a team with a well-trained animal.

2. Try to keep the directions governing the way the routines function uncomplicated. We have had trouble when we've had routines that function entirely differently depending on the number of people trying to perform, or where a certain number does thus and so and the numbers change when not everyone attends practice or a performance. You have probably figured out by now that we number off. A good rule of thumb, we find, is to be able to make a general statement that all odd numbers do this and all even numbers do that. (This is really hard to explain!) The numbers help when it comes to diagraming the routines. By using odd numbers and even numbers in figuring out the rou-

time, it is easier to say odds go that way and evens go this way or that a certain number must be in a certain position so that position can lead off into another drill.

3. Try to use key people when lead into a new routine. These people must be your most dependable, most trainable, and most able-to-attend members. By using the same people to begin the routine each time, the others may fall in as called for. Try to use reference points—such as the audience, the team's right, the back of the work area, etc. The caller will then be able to place these people in key positions best suited for the working of the routine.

4. Try to end each routine facing the audience.

5. We "dress right" to keep lines straight.

6. In any axle formation we "dress" or watch toward the longest end of the line so the whole line will remain straight.

7. With even numbers participating in a circle drill, partners are designated. One must watch his partner to keep spacing even as the circle moves.

8. In the beginning, as we are trying to put a drill together, we do not use our dogs. We first teach the handlers; the dogs pick it up quite easily. Then, after all the members learn the drill, we add the dogs. We do this so we won't confuse the dogs as much. Hopefully, after the drill is learned, the handlers will memorize the sequence of the routines and will then be able to visualize the completed drill. If they can do this, it will give them an insight into the way the drill works and the rules that apply to make each routine function properly.

9. Since our drills sometimes change with the number of people participating in a given performance, some of our members find it particularly helpful to practice each position after the whole drill has been adequately learned. This gives added insight into the peculiarities involved in each particular position.

10. Drills are always diagrammed in booklet form after the drill is certain to be workable. Numbers and X's are used by us to mark the spots. Some people find this booklet helpful in refreshing their memory and others are at a total loss to understand it. We always include rules which must be observed to make the drill function properly—as will be given in a following description of one of the drills.

11. DRILL WORK CAN CAUSE HEELING PROBLEMS, ETC. Lagging (Because the dog is squeezed out by

continued next page. . .

another member due to a lack of working space, usually) and anticipation are two main problems. Lagging can also be caused by boredom. The dog learns the drill so well after doing it for a few months, he begins doing the whole thing by rote and his attention is elsewhere. Misdemeanors are always corrected by the person handling the dog, GENTLY, in a performance and some sort of explanation can be given by the caller at that time or at the end of the drill. Minor infractions and corrections often go unnoticed, but major ones should always be explained.

12. We usually incorporate a drill toward the end of the performance which will switch dogs and handlers. Then, to get audience participation, we ask for a volunteer to match the dogs with the proper handlers so the drill can be completed. Recognition, applause, and sometimes a small gift is the volunteer's reward for paying attention. We do not allow a great length of time to be spent on this facet of the drill.

13. Drills can be called from within the lines. If the caller is a drilling member, the most advantageous position must be discovered and the caller then takes that position. The drills may be called by an uninvolved person from the sidelines. Both have advantages. In case the drills are called by a performing member, that member should have a sharp-working dog that will work off leash, reliably. This is necessary so the caller need only worry about the order of the drill and its spacing and not about fumbling with a leash, correcting a dog, etc.

14. I jot the order of the drill routine down on an index card and carry it in my watch strap. This is helpful at the beginning of a new year when we are learning a new drill; or, in my case, I have been known to have memory blockage caused by STAGE FRIGHT!

15. The caller should have a voice that carries well.

16. Drills can be developed by watching bands, horse drill teams, skating drills, dancing groups (precision), etc.

17. We do not have a specific "boss" or "leader" although many teams do. Sometimes it would be of benefit to have a specific person who has the authority to intercede in personality differences, to decide on what drill routines are to be used, to put the drills together, to accept performance dates, and to answer correspondence. We more or less share and share alike.

18. We do each routine as we would perform an exercise in the obedience

ring. At the completion of each routine, we give an "exercise finished." We let the people know ahead of time that they may applaud at that point. If we are not getting a good response, the caller may insert some inane remark about how much the dogs like applause and then restate that audience approval may be given whenever they hear the words "exercise finished." Put on joking terms, the audience usually relaxes and applauds in all the proper spots.

19. Our drills are broken into routines with each formation ending with an "exercise finished." About 10 or 12 of these routines make an entire drill of about 20 minutes. Other teams give the whole drill performance before allowing the audience to applaud. I, personally, feel our way is much the best because it breaks the drill down into easy-to-follow and easy-to-comprehend segments and it allows the audience to show more approval.

20. Use people who are a little knowledgeable in drill work to help formulate the drills and to put them together so they flow. People who have been in bands or in the military come in handy at this point.

21. My own personal theory—You are club ambassadors. Less than your very best is not acceptable. In the eyes of the public you are your club; stumbling and goofing around makes you and your club look bad. Absolute precision is not necessary since you are probably using different breeds of dogs. Just know what you are doing. Not all handlers are willing to accept this theory as some think it should all be fun and games at the expense of a decent-looking drill.

22. Don't concentrate so hard on the routines that you forget to smile. Be cheerful and appear to enjoy your work in front of your public.

23. We use dogs at all levels of training. Minimum standard of training is novice work. Advanced training can be worked in smoothly so it does not stick out like a "sore thumb" and so it involves all of the dogs in the drill.

24. We admit people to the team once a year only. They must work with us for 6 weeks. At the end of the 6 weeks, we vote whether we will accept the handler—dog team. Before our first performance, we vote again on whether the team is ready to perform in public. Although it has never happened, the handler and dog may continue to work with the team if they are not yet ready until they are able to perform in public.

25. Much as I hate to say it, many of our drills are performed on leash. I per-

sonally think off leash is sharp, but every now and then you will find a dog whose attention span is almost nil after he learns the routines. With the dog on leash, the handler has control of his dog; therefore he does not forget where he is in the routine or what comes next nor is he looking over his shoulder to see where in the heck his dog is.

For off-leash work, we use the command, "Prepare Your Dogs" which is a signal to uniformly remove the leash. It is attached again on the "Exercise Finished." This is the natural sequence. After the leash is attached, much praise is given. The dog is not, however, allowed to jump around. Only on an exit are the dogs allowed to relax and show their enthusiasm for a job well done.

Having the dogs on lead is not a direct reversal of the previous statement "stable in novice work". Many dogs get ring wise if shown enough. You must also realize that not every dog is up to the stress of drill work, applause, and petting although we would all like to think our dogs can become such paragons. There are, unfortunately, some dogs who can do obedience work, tolerate a judge nearby in the ring, but just cannot stand the closeness of all the other handlers, the noise and the confusion involved in drilling. You will have to be your own judge as to whether drilling will improve a questionable dog or merely confuse him and blow his mind.

26. We do use music with our drills. Lively marches keep the drill from dragging, but we do not make any attempt to keep "in step" to the music. We haven't progressed that far but I do think for anyone who can do it, it would add much to the precision of a drill.

27. We frequently follow our drill with the attack work. As I stated several times previously, this is a real crowd pleaser.

28. In any gathering we are there to answer questions either as the team or individually. If we make ourselves unavailable after a performance, how are we to spread the much-needed education which we feel the general public needs?

29. We find our drills look best with a team of 6 or 8 people. If you have more, I might suggest you form several teams or use some as alternates.

30. We do not feature many tricks. If one is decided upon, all dogs must learn to do it.

31. Always be courteous to your public.

32. Since we are representing purebred dogs, we ask each handler to present his dog clean and in show trim.

33. We do have uniforms. Uniforms make each individual recognizable to the public if the individual is away from the rest of the team.

Drills

While it would be an impossibility to include all of the drills we have used, I will try to describe two or three more fully for you.

AXLE AND PIVOT AND BREAKAWAY

A. A straight line is formed. Half of the team faces in one direction and the other half faces the other direction.

B. Forward. The whole line moves in one complete circle, keeping the line straight with very little space between the dogs and handlers.

Rules for the axle: For an even number of handlers, the center handlers must revolve around each other, slowly and very closely. Anything else will throw the line off. For an odd number, the center handler must leave one foot planted and pivot around that foot. If he moves even in a tiny circle, he will vary the line enough to throw it off. All handlers must watch the longest end of the line to keep it straight.

C. Break. Just before the line reaches its original starting position "Break" is called. The command must be given before the original position is reached since it takes a few seconds to respond and the response must come at that original straight line.

What the break does: The line splits in the center with each segment pivoting around the dog-handler team on the outside end. The handler in that position must keep a right foot (if on the right end) or a left foot (if on the left end) planted and pivots around. The dog on the right end of the line will be heeling forward in a very tight circle. The dog on the left, however, will be moving backwards in a very tight circle so he will not get in the way of the handler next to him. My dogs usually handle this by quick little jumps as they would on a regular pivot left. Both segments make two complete circles. After the second circle is completed a "halt" is called and both lines halt in the original line. Half of the team will be facing one way and half the opposite way as in the beginning.

In the axle, the handler on each end gauges the speed of the axle. In the Break, the moving end handlers gauge the speed and must watch each other so they are always directly opposite and so they meet in the center of the line at exactly the same time.

PRECISION CIRCLE

This drill was formulated by a former team member. It is a real crowd pleaser if it is called rapidly. Rules for this drill routine would be: A. To watch your partner while circling so you keep an even space and B. To take two steps after each turn is called so all turn together.

With handlers and dogs moving forward in a clockwise circle:

A. Right turn. This puts the handlers coming toward the center of the circle—nose to nose so to speak. Come as close as you can.

B. Come Fore: We backup two large steps. This puts us facing towards the center with our dogs sitting in front of us.

C. Finish: Dogs finish. We are still facing the center of the circle.

D. Forward: Puts dogs and handlers going towards the center of the circle again.

E. About Turn: Handlers and dogs move away from the center of the circle.

F. Left Turn: Dogs and handlers turn moving forward in a counter-clockwise circle.

G. Fast:

H. Normal; Shows versatility of the

I. Slow: dogs in adjusting to the

J. Normal: handlers' pace.

K. About Turn: Handlers and dogs are moving forward in a clockwise circle again.

L. Right Turn: We are going back into the circle again, nose to nose.

M. Stand Your Dog: Dogs are stood in motion as close as possible. In our case, it is practically nose to nose.

N. Handlers, About Turn: Dogs are given a "Stay", leashes are dropped, handlers about turn and move away from their dogs.

O. Left Turn: Handlers circle.

P. Return to Your Dog: This is called just before the handlers reach their dogs. All should reach this position at the same time if circle spacing is good. All take two steps and pivot coming back to the dog's side.

Q. About Turn: At this point leashes are picked up simultaneously and dogs and handlers about turn and move forward.

R. Left Turn: Puts all of the handlers back in a circle again.

From there we either call a halt or go into the starting position for another drill routine.

As you can see, there can be many variations to this and we are in fact working it outward instead of inward this

year. Much can be added to it or subtracted from it. It can be worked in a fairly small area.

An added bonus for the obedience trainers on the team—try it when you reach a polish point in heeling for your classes. It's hilarious to see what you get until everyone has practiced a little.

CIRCLE TWO BY TWO

The team moves forward in a straight horizontal line.

A. Circle Right: The team divides into pairs of twos with the person on the left circling the person on the right. The person on the right must immediately plant his right foot to keep the line straight as the pairs circle. The two handlers and dogs move in a forward circle around that right foot.

B. Circle Left: The same as in circle right, but the person on the left plants a left foot. Both handlers circle or revolve around this foot. In this case, the dog belonging to the handler on the left must back around in heel position or it will be in the way of the team directly on the right. We then continue in a straight line towards the audience.

Three other drills are pictured in the September, 1973 issue of OFF-LEAD Magazine if you are interested in other formations. I am certain you can find a copy somewhere. If not, write to OFF-LEAD and ask for the back issue. Armed with these, you should be well on your way to forming a drill team of your own.

Conclusion

Since we often perform for our own obedience classes, we sometimes encourage some of the more interested, better handlers to join the club and become members of the drill team. We emphasize using what they have learned.

We are always glad to help any who are interested in starting a team. Remember it does take quite some time to formulate a good answer to a letter. It also helps if specific areas are noted in a request for help. Does the questioner want rules and regulations? Does he want help with actual drills? Does he want diagrams of actual drills with their specific rules for functioning?

Questions may be directed to me, Mrs. Edward Blackston, Route 1, Box 6, Pleasantville, Ohio 43148 or to Mrs. Robert Wainfor, 19 Cynthia Street, Heath, Ohio 43055.

REMEMBER: DON'T LOSE IT, USE IT! And happy drilling.

In future issues we'll be presenting specific patterns and how to execute them. Ed.



Club News

LICKING RIVER K-9 DRILL TEAM — IN MEMORIAM

Seven years ago in June 1971 the K-9 Drill Team, which is presenting the OFF-LEAD series on drillteaming, was formed with twelve original members. Four of these original members are still participating: Virginia Blackston, Bob Wainfor, Rosemary Grube and Bernard Frey (inactive). It is with deep regret that I report several canine counterparts of this group have passed on.

In 1977 Bob Wainfor's "Wainfor's Roving Major-Domo, CD" left us. Everyone who observed the Drill Team during

those six years remembered "Major" and always asked about him. It was not unusual for a small child to run out into a parade route and throw their arms around him. He was always a popular attraction at the Ohio State Fair. "Major" was one of the first Old English Sheepdogs you saw in the Obedience ring several years ago.

In July 1978 Rosemary Grube's "Nancy's Little Eva, CD" contracted a very serious illness and passed on. Shortly thereafter, in July, Bernie Frey's "Shep Van Duke, CD", Police K-9 Corps, also passed away. Eva and Shep taught many a school child that all Dobermans and Shepherds are not "mean".

Eva rests peacefully under a willow tree on the Grube farm and Shep was cremated and will be placed with his master at the proper time.

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Shep was very special to all the Drill Team members. He would do his "attack" demonstration at the Ohio State Fair and then lay in Licking River's fair booth eating a donut from someone's fingers. He would let the female members of the Drill Team work him in Obedience (and

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even correct him).

Anyone who has put Obedience titles on their dog knows the special relationship that is formed. Bernie and Shep's was much closer as Shep was his co-worker and partner — with him almost 24 hours

a day — for nine years with Newark's Police Dept.

Virginia Blackston's original dog, "Silver, UD" is still with her but retired from the Drill Team. I joined the Drill Team in 1972 and am working the only

original dog from that far back, my Afghan, "Padraigmeier's Rozencrantz, CD".

Bob, Rosemary and Bernie are still working dogs with the Drill Team, but there will never be "replacements".

We other members of the Drill Team express our sincere and heartfelt sympathy and deeply feel their loss.

Wainfor's Roving Major-Domo, CD
1-15-68-1977

Nancy's Little Eva, CD
7-9-70-7-10-78

Shep Van Duke, CD, Police K-9 Corps
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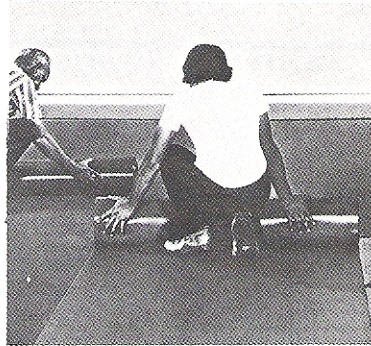
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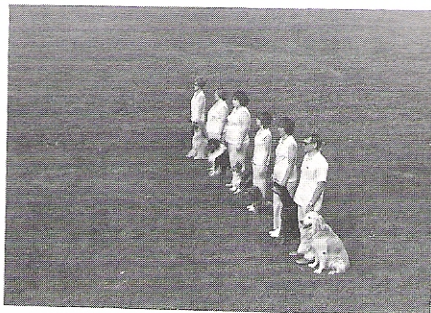
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OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

by Virginia Blackston

Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team



1

From a position directly in front of the audience, "Prepare Your Dogs" Leashes removed.



2

"Forward" The whole line moves forward together but every other dog is left on a stay.

Half way across the work area, the line is halted. The dogs are downed on command, "Down Your Dogs".

"Leave Your Dogs" The stay command is given and all step forward on right foot.



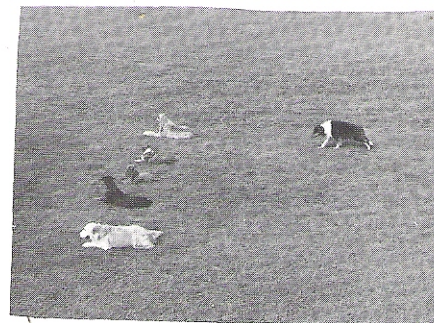
3

"Call Your Dogs"



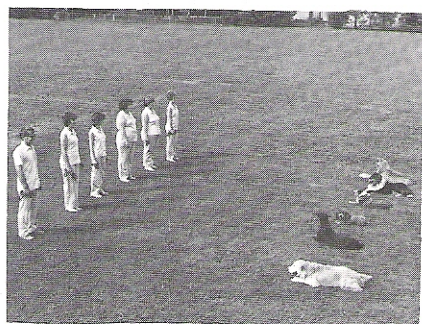
4

First Dog is dropped. Second Dog is called.



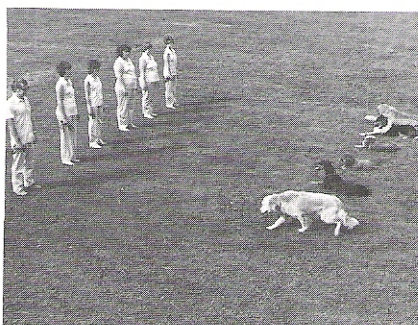
5

Second Dog is dropped. Third Dog is called.



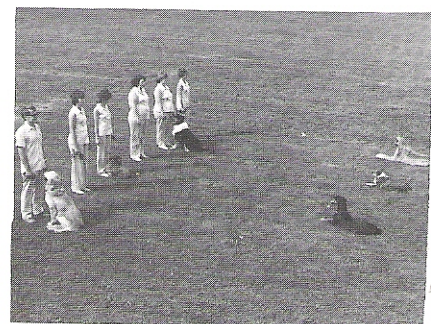
6

All dogs in a line half way across the work area.



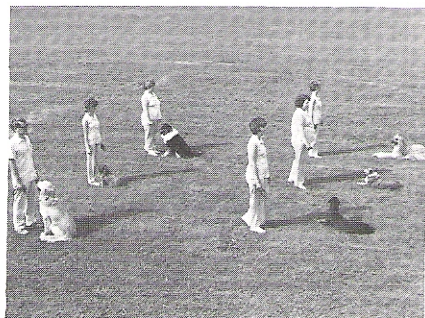
7

"Call Your Dogs"
Dog one called.



8

Dog one sits in front of handler. Dog two is called and then dog three is called.



9

"Back Squad, Return to Your Dogs".



10

"Finish". Dogs are told to heel and the downed dogs are called to sit.

From here — one squad is told to "Forward" and moves to join the other.

The Basketweave Drill

The Basket Weave Drill is a very special one as it is adaptable. It can be used as a separate drill; it can be used as a transition between drills; and it can be used in a parade formation.

THE BASKET WEAVE-DRILL

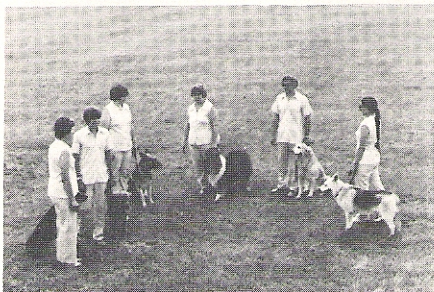
1. Form a large, well-spaced circle with handlers and dogs facing toward the center of the circle.

2. The Command: Basket Weave, Forward.

The Action: The dog/handler team moves forward and begin to weave in and out of the remaining teams.

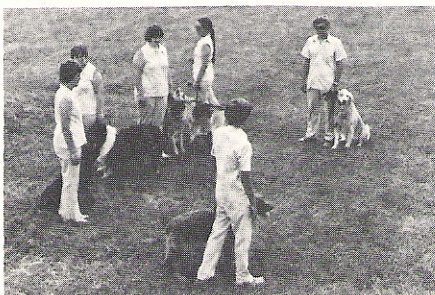
3. The second handler who is the team directly on the first team's right begins to basket weave as the first handler starts around the third team to the right of the second handler. This team reverses and goes to the rear of the third handler and around.

4. The third handler waits until the second handler is starting around the third handler to his right. He starts forward. Others proceed as the first three. Keep it snappy! ▼

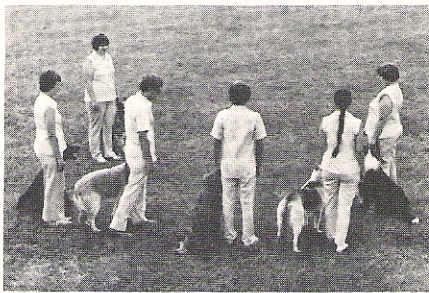


5. The fourth handler proceeds as the first team did.

6. When the first handler reaches his starting position, he pivots into place. All others pivot into position as they reach their original positions. ▼



7. All handlers back in original positions. Caller says, "Exercise Finished". Praise Dogs. It is also a good time to put leads back on dogs or remove them for another exercise. ▼



NOTE: This drill can also be done with all handlers going in front of the stationary handlers first or all going behind first. Try the different ways and see what you like.

THE BASKET WEAVE Parade Formation

As a parade formation, the drill unit has formed a single file moving forward. ▼



1. The Command: Basket Weave, Forward.

The Action: Handler No. 1 about turns and starts to Basket Weave back through the oncoming line. Each handler must maintain exceptional spacing. (One and one-half to two arm's length is about right.) ▼



2. Handler No. 2 must move forward and about turn exactly where No. 1 turned. Handler No. 2 goes the opposite direction of No. 1. ▼



NOTE: We all went to the right instead of going on opposite sides. This, like the original circle basket weave, can be done going opposite directions, all handlers going to right as we are doing in pictures or all going to left.

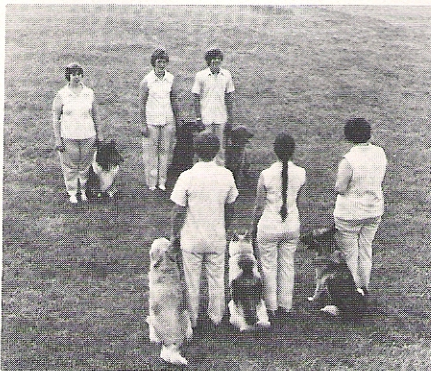
3. Handler No. 3 moves forward and turns exactly where No. 1 turned. His action is the same as was No. 1. Handler No. 4 turns in No. 1 spot and his action is the same as No. 2. All follow this procedure. ▼

THE BASKET WEAVE

Transition—B

If you have completed a drill routine which has divided the team in half and you have half at the rear of the area and half in front of the audience, you can form a straight line by:

1. Command: **Basket Weave Forward.**



NOTE: *Our lines are close together in order to get both parallel lines on camera. There is actually quite a distance between us as can be seen in picture 2.*

2. Action: The leaders of both lines start toward each other. ▼



3. As they meet, the handler heading the line coming towards the audience begins the Basket Weave. ▼



4. If the first handler goes left, the second handler goes to the right. ▼



5. Spacing and timing are of the utmost importance in this drill. There is usually no problem with weaving around the first two or three handlers moving in the straight line, but if these handlers near the end of the straight line, crowd up and don't keep wide spacing; or if these handler teams move too fast, they will make it impossible for the weaving handlers to do so properly. If anything, these handlers may need to slow down minutely. (A good spacing, we find, is about one and one-half arm's length apart.)

6. Another important thing to note on this drill is the spacing and timing of the weaving handlers. The second weaving handler should not be ready to begin weaving until the first weaving handler is behind the second handler of the straight line.

7. Halt. The halt can be called at any place after the weaving team has completed doing so. You have one team section facing the audience and one team section facing the rear. ▼



The leader doing the weaving halts about 2 steps after passing the last person in straight line.



When flea collars hit the market a few years ago, they were celebrated as the instant elimination of fleas at no inconvenience to the pet owner. They made it almost too easy for even the laziest owner to rid his pet of skin pests. Flea collars not only eliminated fleas, but also ticks, and therefore—by extension—bathing, and several other of the more time-consuming chores of pet owning. To listen to the ads on radio and TV, one had only to place a collar around the dog's neck and—flee, flea!

Then, there appeared on the package a warning that flea collars were contraindicated for certain breeds of dogs. These breeds, primarily the coursing hounds, could not use the flea collars for dogs, but rather the flea collars designed for cats. Every pet owner knows that cats are more discriminating than dogs and they wouldn't be caught dead in dog collars.

Some dogs, on the other hand, have been caught dead. According to a recent editorial in the *Journal of The American Veterinary Medical Association*, at least one veterinarian has attributed inexplicable anesthetic deaths to cholinesterase depression resulting from the use of flea collars.¹

Cholinesterase itself is an enzyme, one of several that play a part in the transmission of the nervous impulse in animals and man. It seems that all phosphate insecticides tend to inhibit cholinesterase. The active ingredient in flea collars is dichlorvos or DDVP (for: dimethyldichlorovinyl phosphate). Evidently systemic reactions may be provoked when the effect of dichlorvos from flea collars is added to the previous effects from dichlorvos administered in other medicaments, or vice versa. The difference in the flea collars for dogs and cats is one of quantity rather than quality. Cat (or Whippet, Greyhound, etc.) col-

FELLOW DRILL TEAMERS:

OFF-LEAD has invited us to continue to send in drills which are diagrammed either on paper or in good, clear pictures. Both OFF-LEAD and Licking River feel it would be a privilege to have other teams submit drills they have seen or used. We would like to have them diagrammed or pictures of the exercise as it is broken down. Send information to Mrs. Edward Blackston, Route 1, Box 6, Pleasantville Road, Pleasantville, Ohio 43148.

Next Month—The Axle & Pivot in photos and diagrams.



4. It is extremely important that the handlers as they are moving in the forward direction move into the No. 1 spot before they turn!

5. As handler No. 1 reaches the end of the line, he must pass the last handler and go the 2 arm's length before he pivots and starts forward in the rear of the line. This should maintain the spacing. All do the same. ▼



The leader has come all the way back through the line and is now the leader in forward motion again. Note: Our spacing is slightly off here—

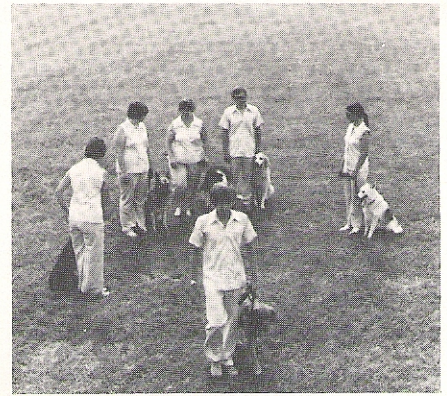
6. The key to this is timing and spacing and handlers with a good eye. The handlers must know when the timing and/or spacing is off and know to compensate by slowing down slightly or speeding up slightly.

All of these drills should work well with any number of handlers.

THE BASKET WEAVE

Transition—A

The Basket Weave can be used as a way to get out of a previous circle drill (Such as our Circle Recall pictured in OFF—LEAD, Sept. 1973). The command is the same and the action is the same until No. 1 reaches what was his original position. Instead of pivoting into place, he keeps moving in a straight line back toward the rear of the working area. The remaining handlers Basket Weave around until they reach the No. 1 position and then fall in behind No. 1 moving toward the back of the room. ▼



continued ▶

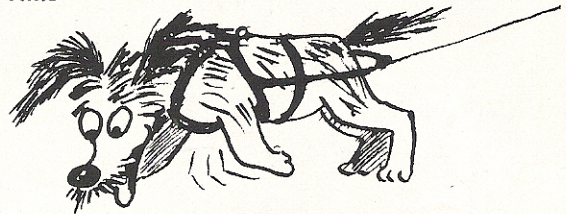
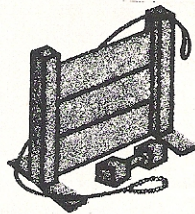
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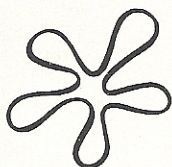
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AXLE and PIVOT and BREAKAWAY

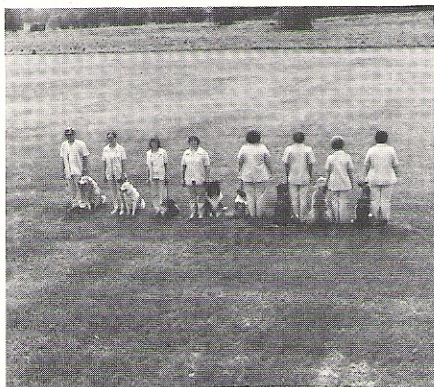
Last month the Licking River Kennel Club Dog Drill Team and OFF-LEAD brought you the Basketweave Drill and Transitions. This month we present part 2 of this continuing series, the Axle and Pivot and Breakaway Drill.

Readers are again invited to send in drills which are diagrammed either on paper or in good, clear pictures. Send this information to Mrs. Edward Blackston, Route 1, Box 6, Pleasantville Rd., Pleasantville, OH 43148

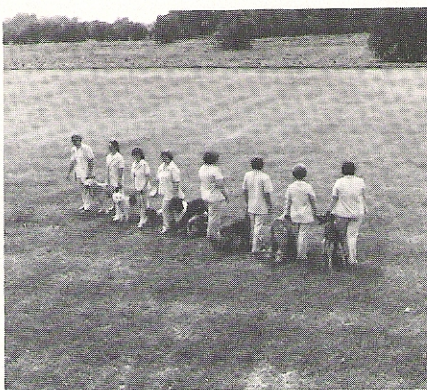


AXLE AND PIVOT AND BREAKAWAY

A. A straight line is formed. Half of the team faces in one direction and the other half faces the other direction.



B. Forward. The whole line moves in one complete circle, keeping the line straight with very little space between the dogs and handlers.




Rules for the axle: For an even number of handlers, the center handlers must revolve around each other, slowly and very closely. Anything else will throw the line off. For an odd number, the center handler must leave one foot planted and pivot around that foot. If he moves even in a tiny circle, he will vary the line enough to throw it off. All handlers must watch the longest end of the line to keep it straight.

C. Break. Just before the line reaches its original starting position "Break" is called. The command must be given before the original position is reached since it takes a few seconds to respond and the response must come at that original straight line.



What the break does: The line splits in the center with each segment pivoting around the dog-handler team on the outside end. The handler in that position must keep a right foot (if on the right end) or a left foot (if on the left end) planted and pivots around. The dog on the right end of the line will be heeling forward in a very tight circle. The dog on the left, however, will be moving backwards in a very tight circle so he will not get in the way of the handler next to him. My dogs usually handle this by quick little jumps as they would on a regular pivot left. Both segments make two complete circles. After the second circle is completed a "halt" is called and both lines halt in the original line. Half of the team will be facing one way and half the opposite way as in the beginning.

In the axle, the handler on each end gauges the speed of the axle. In the Break, the moving end handlers gauge the speed and must watch each other so they are always directly opposite and so they meet in the center of the line at exactly the same time. 

Next Month: The Precision Circle Drill in photographs.

tances, no more than 20 yards.

B. Familiarize with strange objects and noises.

C. Let pup develop—don't push training.

Basic training program for dogs between 6—8 months

A. Proceed slowly, never overtrain. Do not proceed with steps C, D or E unless the dog is interested enough to ignore all but lure.

B. Continue to develop keenness and competitiveness with teasing, increase distance dog runs.

C. Muzzle break. Accustom dog to wearing muzzle for short periods of time.

D. Box train.

1. Accustom dog to opening and closing sounds.

2. Walk dog through open box while teasing at front with a lure.

3. Put dog in box with front down and open immediately while teasing with lure.

4. Place dog in closed box, tease, release.

E. School without box with older slower dog to give experience running with competition. Graduate to box work with learning dog and experienced slow dog.

Basic training program for trained dogs over 8 months

A. Continue to work on problem areas—don't bore dog.

B. Condition your dog, don't spend him/her.

1. Free exercise—to keep dog happy and keep liveness and elasticity.

2. Walking on hard surface.

3. Race full out (varying distance) regularly, but no more than once, possibly twice per week. Too much may shorten racing career.

Untrained adults as well as puppies can be successfully trained by this procedure.

The training program stresses to the Whippet how much fun training can be, without being exhausting or boring. Exhaustion and boredom are things to be avoided. They can set you back in your training, as well as having serious negative effects.

Whippet racing, while an amateur sport, is very competitive. The Midwest and West offer race meets every month almost year long. The East is just becoming active. It is a wonderful experience for Whippet and owner, and something a Whippet was born to do.



The race



Dogs converging on lure



Praising and picking up dogs after race is over.

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

PRECISION CIRCLE

This drill was formulated by a former team member. It is a real crowd pleaser if it is called rapidly. Rules for this drill routine would be: A. To watch your partner while circling so you keep an even space and B. To take two steps after each turn is called so all turn together.

With handlers and dogs moving forward in a clockwise circle:

A. Right turn. This puts the handlers coming toward the center of the circle—nose to nose so to speak. Come as close as you can.

B. Come Fore: We backup two large steps. This puts us facing towards the center with our dogs sitting in front of us.

C. Finish: Dogs finish. We are still facing the center of the circle.

D. Forward: Puts dogs and handlers going towards the center of the circle again.

E. About Turn: Handlers and dogs move away from the center of the circle.

F. Left Turn: Dogs and handlers turn moving forward in a counter-clockwise circle.

G. Fast:

H. Normal: Shows versatility of the

I. Slow: dogs in adjusting to the

J. Normal: handlers' pace.

K. About Turn: Handlers and dogs are moving forward in a clockwise circle again.

L. Right Turn: We are going back into the circle again, nose to nose.

M. Stand Your Dog: Dogs are stood in motion as close as possible. In our case, it is practically nose to nose.

N. Handlers, About Turn: Dogs are given a "Stay", leashes are dropped, handlers about turn and move away from their dogs.

O. Left Turn: Handlers circle.

P. Return to Your Dog: This is called just before the handlers reach their dogs. All should reach this position at the same time if circle spacing is good. All take two steps and pivot coming back to the dog's side.

Q. About Turn: At this point leashes are picked up simultaneously and dogs and handlers about turn and move forward.

R. Left Turn: Puts all of the handlers back in a circle again.

From there we either call a halt or go into the starting position for another drill routine.

As you can see, there can be many variations to this and we are in fact working it outward instead of inward this

year. Much can be added to it or subtracted from it. It can be worked in a fairly small area.

An added bonus for the obedience trainers on the team—try it when you reach a polish point in heeling for your classes. It's hilarious to see what you get until everyone has practiced a little.



It should be noted that when the pictures were taken—our circle was moving *counter* clockwise. This made our first turn a left turn. Either way is fine.



About Turn



Left Turn

which will assure that he will succeed at each level.

Another problem I have found with the down/stay is the dog who is overly submissive or afraid of other dogs. This dog is not comfortable being left alone with other dogs while the master is off at a distance. The submissive dog quite often gets up and comes to you when he sees you standing in front of him with your arms folded across your chest and your eyes glaring at him.

These problems are symptomized by the dog breaking the stay and going to the handler. The key here is that this dog comes in with submissive body language as opposed to visiting the other dogs or bolting away. Remember that the down position is a defenseless one. Don't be too quick to reinforce anxiety with a correction to the dog before you correct the problem.

Dog Attention

Dog attention is another problem. Without it you can't teach much. Dogs who are raised with other dogs for too long and have not accepted human leadership, will take their commands only from other dogs. Look for the silent body language of your dog each time he gets up and sniffs another dog when on the stay, or runs to another dog on the recall, or lunges at the same dog in class this week. [It will help the handler to anticipate loss of attention. Unless there is misdirected aggression, signals are being given off.] These should be identified and cataloged by the handler.

Hyper-reactive and hyper-active dogs will also have a difficult time concentrating. Some dogs make generalizations after one experience (one trial conditioning). These dogs, the dog who is sensorially overly sensitive and experiences things far beyond our comprehension, and the anxious dog who simply can't relax, can all display symptoms of hyper-reactivity. Hyper-reactivity comes from external stimuli although there must already be a certain genetic make-up to cause extreme reactions to these stimuli. Hyperactivity generally comes from within the dog. It makes sense that dogs raised in a peaceful, consistent environment have a greater chance of being calm and balanced, but sometimes the physiological structure of the dog needs altering.

Dr. Samuel Corson, professor at Ohio State University, Department of Psychiatry, has been doing studies on the hyper-kenetic dog. With the truly hyper-

kenetic dog there are not enough neurotransmitters to inhibit the dog. He has found, and I support the fact that, amphetamines in the proper dosage are able to bridge the gap and make it possible for the dog to inhibit himself enough to be taught. Even though the drugs must be eliminated eventually, the dog is able to retain what he has learned during these experiences while his chemical make-up was balanced.

I have done some work with diet therapy for some hyper-active dogs and have had some really amazing results. A high-protein diet in specific proportions, no food additives and vitamins with B complex can sometimes calm dogs down drastically. One case in particular involved an extremely hyper-active and hyper-sensitive poodle male, age 3 years. It had been to other trainers for group and private work. They had even bought a no-bark collar for his excessive barking and hyper-activity. This poor dog was so sensitive he couldn't even wear a nylon choke collar by our standards; by "our standards" means he has to bounce right back after the impact of aversive stimulus. This dog went "bananas" — growling, biting, etc. A lot of modification was done involving: (1) no aversive stimuli (2) a separation program? (3) positive reinforcement and (4) diet therapy. It appeared that, because the dog was a poor eater, the owners fed

him the cheapest, canned dog food, and whatever human breakfast cereal available. The dog was so loaded with carbohydrates it was incredible. This woman swore she wouldn't cook for a dog as she didn't even cook for her family. I explained the program was like a three-legged stool and if you took away one leg it wouldn't stand at all and I insisted that she do it for 2 weeks so that I could get a diagnosis. The change was so phenomenal after 2 weeks that she said she no longer minded cooking for him.

There are so many complications outside the classroom, it's frustrating that not everyone is as patient and zealous about helping their dogs as we would like. All we can do is give them the attitude that each dog is an individual and that raising and working with (training) a dog is complex. Hopefully there will be fewer people dropping out because Obedience classes "don't work" or feeling that they or their dog just can't get it together. Instead, we hope they will begin to realize that Obedience classes can't possibly deal with problems that are environmentally or physiologically rooted, and that with additional problem solving they can accomplish most anything, even Obedience Trial training. 🐾

1. Page 28 William Campbell—Behavior Problems in Dogs.

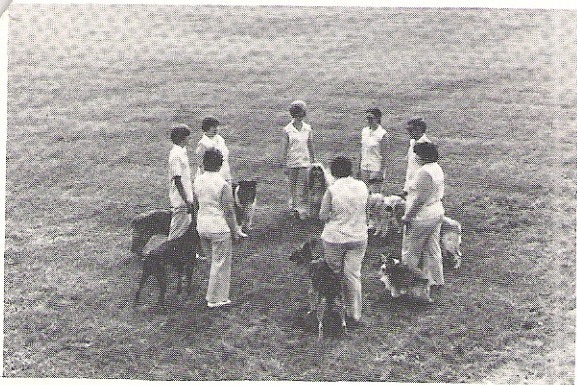


Karen L. Herak is a practicing canine behavior consultant in the northeast Ohio area. In addition, she is the Training Director and Head Instructor of Canine Training Center, which she founded in New Hampshire in 1972 and then moved to Cleveland in 1974. She has group Obedience classes in three locations, private instruction, resident training, as well as consultations for behavior problems and puppy raising. Her

dealings have included such unusual situations as blind dogs, deaf dogs, epileptic dogs, hyperkinetic dogs, quadriplegic owners, blind owners, and other handicapped owners and many others with physiological problems.

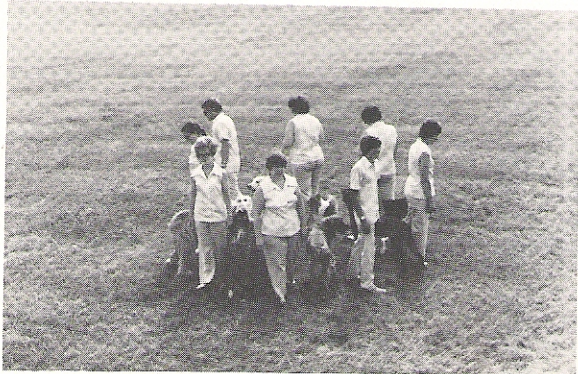
Karen has been training dogs since 1957 and has been instructing since 1965. She graduated with awards for highest academic achievement from Dog Trainers School in 1972 and has attended clinics and classes all over the country.

In the behavior area, Karen attended the University of New Hampshire, taking courses in psychology and behavior. She has also studied psychology and animal behavior through seminars all over the country and is a member of The American Society of Veterinary Ethology.

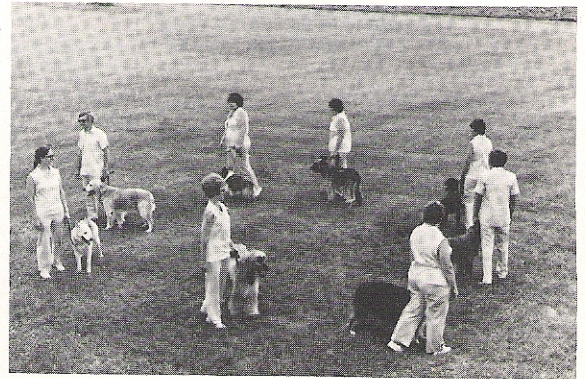


Note—Since our circle was slightly different, we did a left turn instead of the right given in the directions.

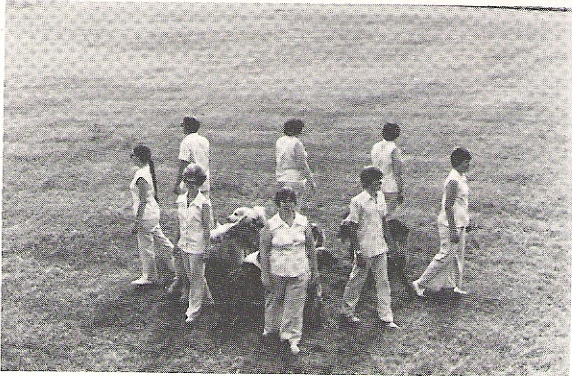
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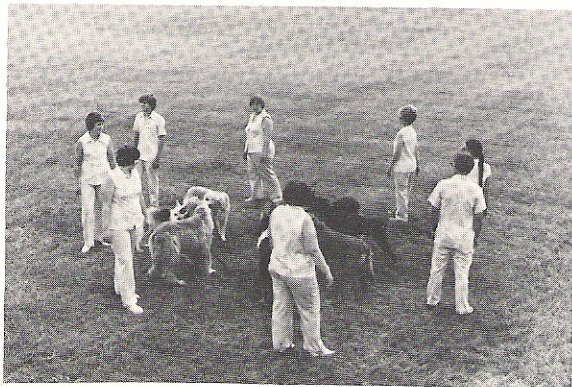
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O



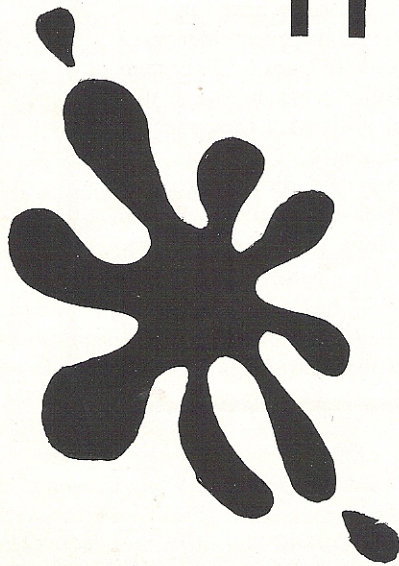
We are always glad to help any who are interested in starting a team. Remember it does take quite some time to formulate a good answer to a letter. It also helps if specific areas are noted in a request for help. Does the questioner want rules and regulations? Does he want help with actual drills? Does he want diagrams of actual drills with their specific rules for functioning?

Questions may be directed to me, Mrs. Edward Blackston, Route 1, Box 6, Pleasantville, Ohio 43148 or to Mrs. Robert Wainfor, 19 Cynthia Street, Heath, Ohio 43055.

REMEMBER: DON'T LOSE IT, USE IT ! And happy drilling.

THE FLEA

And How You Can Control IT



These little parasites can be a real problem for both dog and dog owner alike. These Vampires are always after a good meal of blood for their survival. But, they can be controlled to the point that you and your pet will be living in a comfortable home.

The flea is a dark brown insect that jumps from one spot to another on the dog or cat for food. The adult female will lay about 500 eggs in her lifetime, which is about three weeks. She lays them in crevices and cracks, carpets, furniture, animal's bedding and drapes, as well as on the dog. The eggs are non-sticky, small and white, looking like grains of salt.

The eggs hatch into larvae and make a cocoon in which they stay, living off food debris about them until the right conditions for them to emerge as an adult flea. The flea will stay in its cocoon from ten days and up to a year. They are usually dormant during the cool months and start hatching about April when the weather gets warmer. Fleas can survive for several weeks or months without food. During the summer when you leave and close your home, the warm temperatures help to hatch the cocoons and the fleas emerge ready for you and your pet upon your return for their first good meal.

This control method suggested here should be started in the Spring before the flea invasion. However, it is never too late to start controlling the fleas by yourself without using commercial and expensive methods. There are several steps to the control method. They should all be used together. If one step is skipped the flea problem will not be completely controlled.

First of all let's start with a discussion of products that are available to you. The Flea Bomber or Fogger is a pressurized insecticide that releases a chemical compound that is designed to kill living fleas in your home. They work alright, but are very expensive to use every three weeks or throughout the year. When planning a vacation, use the foggers and spray combination method

starting 2 or 3 weeks in advance. Spray carpet and furniture with Malathion 50 and then leave fogger going, following directions upon your vacation. Remember you will be killing the live fleas. This has proven very effective in killing fleas that hatched prior to you leaving your closed home.

There are many flea powders on the market. Let your veterinarian help you select one. The powders are great for dogs with long thick hair because the powder penetrates to the skin and chokes the flea, but can be quite messy and chances of you inhaling the powder dust is likely.

Flea shampoos are great when you have to shampoo your pet, but if you shampoo too often, you will strip the pet's coat of oil.

Aerosols are more effective on short haired dogs but many dogs become frightened by the hissing sound. The aerosols are dangerous around children and expensive when using it on large dogs.

Flea collars and tags are not completely effective, because they only protect the pet around the head and neck. They can be harmful because, some dogs are allergic to them and others like to chew on them. These collars are poisonous and if used, special attention should be taken when pets are wearing them. They should be removed at night and should NOT be placed or kept on a wet pet.

Flea dips are recommended as most effective. There are quite a few good ones on the market. Your veterinarian can recommend one for your dog. Dips are made to penetrate the dog's coat either by mixing dip with water and sponging the dog or placing the dog in tub with a dip solution. The following dip products are available at most garden centers, drug stores, pet stores, kennel supply stores, and veterinarians. They are: VIP dip, HILO dip, Azema Dip, Holiday dip, Malathion 50, and others.

Make sure you always follow the directions. If the dip is too strong, you might have a poisoned dog to care for. Before dipping, powdering, or spraying, always check for wounds, and avoid these areas during treatment. ALWAYS START AT THE HEAD AND WORK DOWN TO THE TAIL. The fleas will try to get away from the chemical. If the fleas get around the head area, you will not be able to dip the area because the chemical will get in the eyes, nose, ears and mouth.

by Virginia Blackston
Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

You might like to know that this month we are entering a parade as an actual marching unit. By doing this we are eligible for a trophy. Before we've always entered as a miscellaneous group. We'll let you know later how we do.

While we often drill in parades, we try to keep together. It isn't always possible for a group of people and dogs to keep it all together all of the time.

In working on our precision for this parade, do everything to the count of "1, 2." Remember, I told you in earlier drills we take 2 steps before we turn.

At the beginning the command is "Forward" which is given as 2 syllables

1 2

"For Ward" in the tempo the group is to march. The handlers then chant their dog's name in two syllables (most of our dogs' names have two syllables) and give the command to "Heel." Example:

1 2 1 2

C. C., (Hesitate) Heel" We start out on our left foot immediately after we say

1 2

"heel." (Left, Right, etc.)

A variety of turns can be done which make neat little formations in a parade. We do left turn, boxes, right turn boxes, double about turns, etc. They can all be mixed up, too. The caller must call the left and about turns while his left foot is

1 2

on the ground. L. Foot R. Foot. The Left Turn

L R

team, since they are in unison, count as an addition 1, 2 and then turn on the 2 count. (The right turn, while done in the same manner is called on the right foot.) The about turn is done the same way. It is called on the right foot. I realize there are many ways to do this; this is just how we have geared our teams.

In turning corners, the inside handler and dog must almost mark time. This handler moves by minute degrees in order to keep spacing between the handler and dog in front of him. The outside person must speed up considerably to be able to round the corner correctly.

Our general marching formation is two files of 3 or 4 handlers and dogs in each. The caller is usually placed in the middle.

x x
x x
x x
x x



This month's drill is a variation of the RECALL. This is the one we are currently using.

A. Two parallel lines are formed facing each other. Be certain to guide right or left to keep your lines straight!

THE RECALL



B. Form a single line-Forward. Both lines move towards each other. A halt is called by the caller when each line has an additional 2 steps to take to form the straight line. Remember, almost all of our drills are called with a 1, 2 count to follow the command.

continued next page...

Quality backpacks, collars & leashes
Harnesses for racing, freighting
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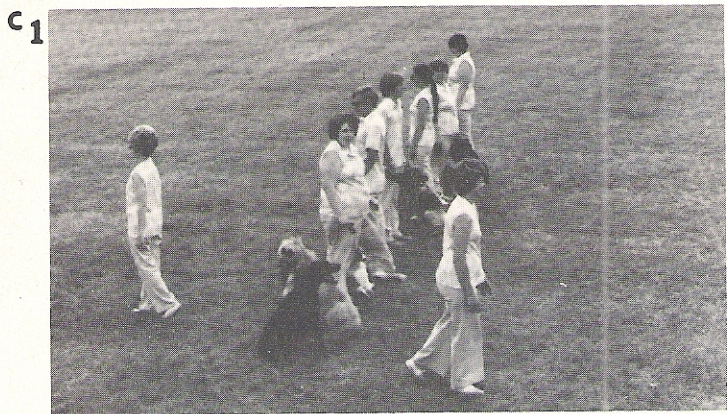
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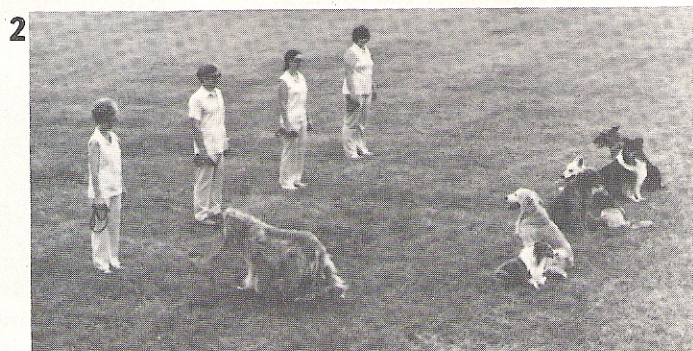
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C. By 2's Leave Your Dogs. The first two handlers give their dogs a "stay" command and leave. When they have taken about 2 steps, the next 2 handlers give their dogs a "stay" and leave. This goes on down the line until all have left their dogs.



D. Handler's Call Your Dogs. Each handler calls his dog individually beginning with the first dog. The second dog is not called until the first dog is in and sitting. We think the "domino" effect is "Neat!"

Finish. All dogs finish together.
REMEMBER, DON'T LOSE IT,
USE IT !

OBEDIENCE

by Virginia Blackston

Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team



AN ENTRANCE

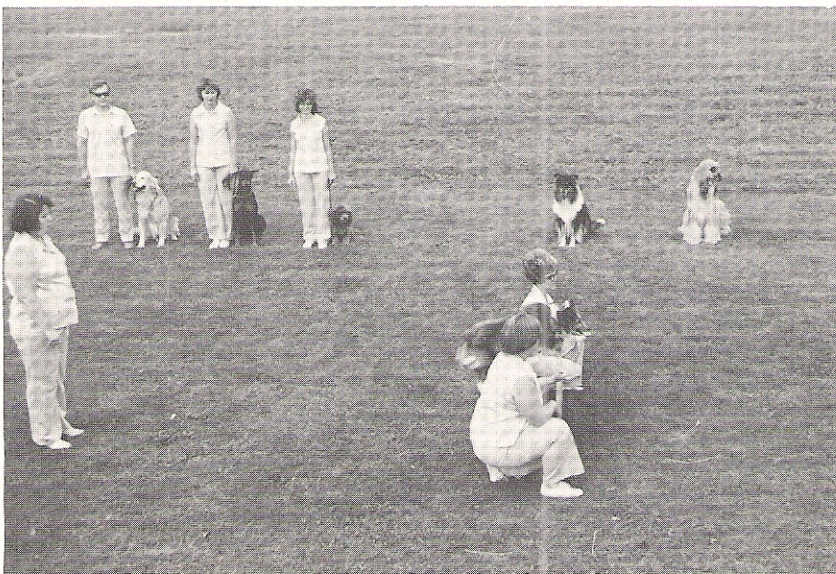
1

1. March in and line up along left side of work area. The first two handlers carry sign.



2

2. "Prepare Your Dogs" Leashes are dropped on the first two dogs and removed on the dog that is to jump. The dog that does the jumping does not have to be the third dog, but can be anywhere in the lineup. "Forward". The first two dogs are given "stay". Dog's name (left)¹ Heel (right)² Step out on left foot. The first two handlers move out a pre-decided number of steps and pivot around to face the audience. The handler with dog, centers behind sign.



3

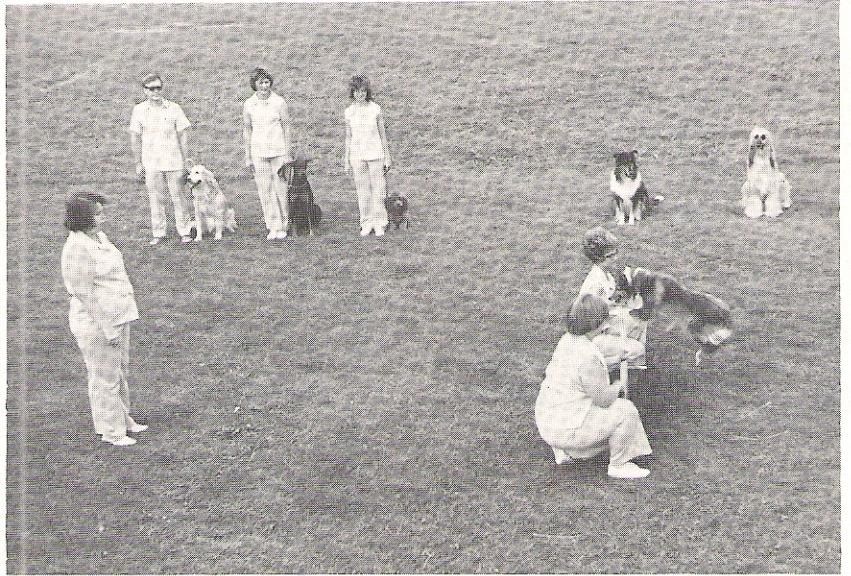
3. At handler's discretion, a dumbbell is thrown over the sign and the dog is sent.

DRILL

TEAMING

4. Dog returns.

4



5. Sits in front "Note knee position of kneeling handlers!"

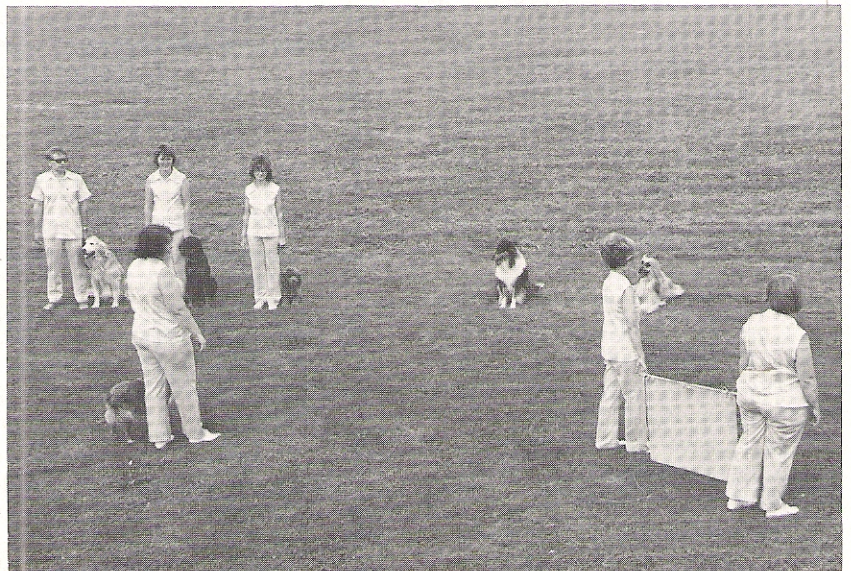
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6. When the dog is commanded to "heel" for the finish, the two handlers holding the sign stand.

When the handler gives another command to heel, all pivot to left. The handler and dog go back through line, about turn and fall into line. The two carrying the sign go past the line and put sign down, pivot on around and fall into line. The timing must be practiced so all know exactly when to move to keep in step.

6



by Virginia Blackston
Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

FIGURE 8



1. When we showed the various "Basket Weaves" we showed one way to arrive in this position.



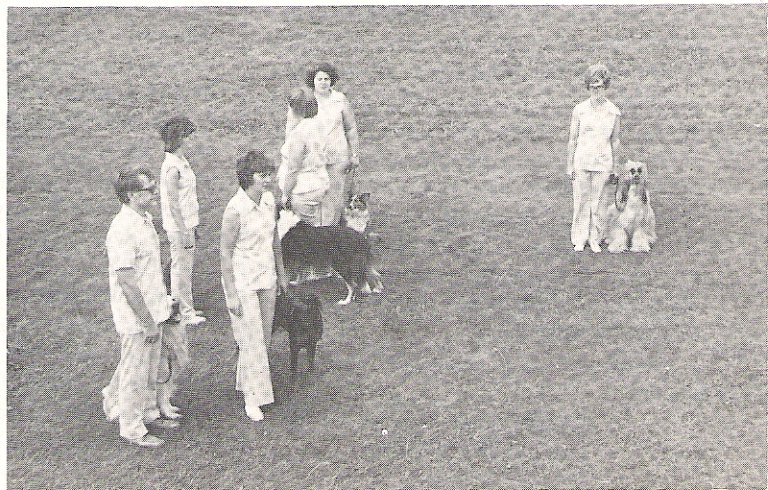
2. "Right and Left Turns:" Both halves turn to face same direction. It can be any direction that suits the drill, but at least half should face audience.



3. "Back Squad, Forward." The back squad moves out a few steps (you decide how many are necessary when you put the drill together) and then the line begins to pivot around.



4. Halts are usually called on the right foot. Then, the left takes a step, the right foot takes a step, and the left foot is brought up to meet the right foot.



by Virginia Blackston
Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

LEFT ABOUT TURN

by a paunchy 62-year-old man will show as much weakness in dog as the stylized, much practiced courage test with the frightening (but familiar) rugged decoy.

Once the dog has learned the rules, overcome his inhibitions and has developed a good technical bite, he is ready to solve problems of the decoy not moving the same way and not feeding him the sleeve perfectly all the time.

If you have to use decoys who can't run much—old men and pregnant women—have them practice "explosion techniques". This is the art of coming apart at the seams directly into the dog's face—without moving from your spot.

In Schutzhund, you are working with basic instincts and patterns of behavior in the dog. You don't need a football field to discover these instincts. Distance and activity add excitement. But a Schutzhund dog is made by close quarter combat.

Any dog with much fighting drive (or hunting instinct) will chase a fleeing opponent. The test is when the opponent is no longer fleeing. Since a close up handler will sometimes give courage to a faltering dog, the confrontation is even a bigger treat at a distance from the handler.

This can be done with a less agile decoy by having the handler be the one who moves increasing distances away from the action.

So if you're sitting in the middle of Nebraska with an empty sleeve and a ninety-pound-weakling who wants to fill it, let him try it. You may both grow with the experience.

Be fair, use all the resources that are available and invent substitutes for the ones that aren't.

Then you, too, can have fun with Schutzhund.

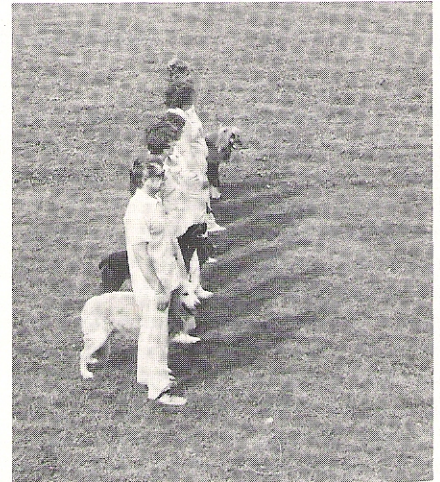


Salle Richards Crooks is a North American Working Dog Association provisional judge. She is the first female Schutzhund judge in the world. She raises German Shepherd Dogs under the kennel name of Stalwart Hills Farm and is a licensed American Kennel Club Tracking Judge.

She has trained Bibari's Ubiquity SchH III, FH, INT, AD, CDX, TD to all her titles and is currently working "Brick's" son Andy who has obtained bis SchH II, CD and TD.

She is also training director for the Finger Lakes Working Dog Association.

1. Marching forward in a straight line.



2. "Left About Turn" "Left called on left foot "About" called on right foot. 1 (left foot), 2 (right foot), turn.

(a) Change leashes to right hand.

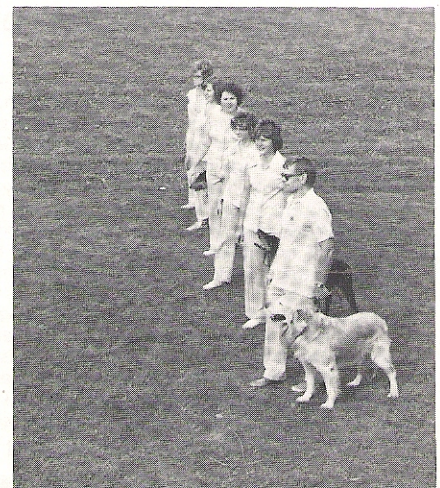
(b) Handlers turn to left.

(c) Dogs come around behind.

Sometimes an additional command is given to a dog that seems confused by this maneuver.



3. As we come on around, leashes are switched back to left hand.



OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING



1. On command "Right & Left Turns" the first person in line goes left. The second person goes right, etc.

The handlers going left must shorten their strides slightly so the handler going right can catch up. This is usually done in the process of turning the corner. We want the two to be partners going towards the rear of the work area.

This problem can also be eliminated if the situation merits the caller giving another command for right & left turns. In this case both



2. On command "Right & Left Turn" which is given once the first two handlers reach the rear of the work area, the first two handlers turn toward each other. When they meet, they turn together and start up the center.

The remaining partners march to the point where the original two turned and on a nod from one of the partners, turn together.



3. This picture is not quite true! The first two handlers have reached the original turning point. The command is "Right & Left Turns." The first two handlers turn left. Here, again, they can turn almost immediately or wait until it is called. Decide and do all turns the same way. The second set of handlers march to the original turning point and then turn right.

The picture is distorted in that the "set up" should have shown the second set of partners much farther into their turn.

Watch partners and plan follow rules given on corners. ▼



4. Since we are only working 6, the last set of handlers split with one going right and one going left.

handlers march straight until command is given. ▼ Partners will still have to be watched as the command will come on the wrong foot for one of the handlers and that person is likely to take one additional step so he can turn comfortably; thereby putting him slightly behind his partner.



5. "Right & Left Turns"

The first four handlers turn toward each other. When they meet they swing together. The last two handlers do an about turn and—



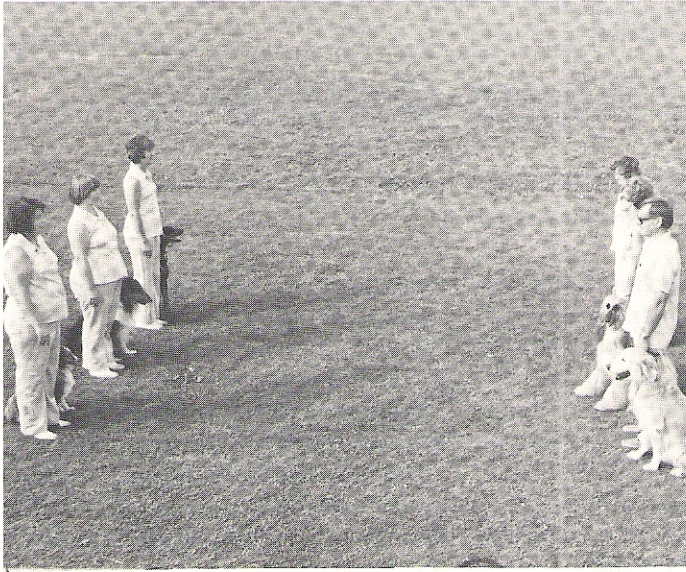
6. Fall in place at the end of the line.

It should be noted that this is one of the drills we also use in parades as well as the Circle Basket Weave previously shown.

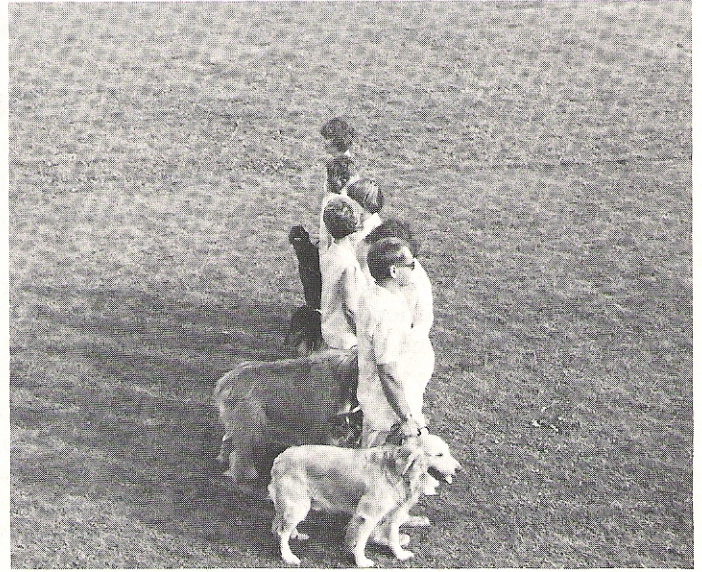
▼ To keep the straight line from drifting, the handler on the inside must either "plant" her left foot (going left) (right foot on team going to right) or march in place just barely moving in a circle. The other handler might need to lengthen stride to come around corner.

by Virginia Blackston
Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team

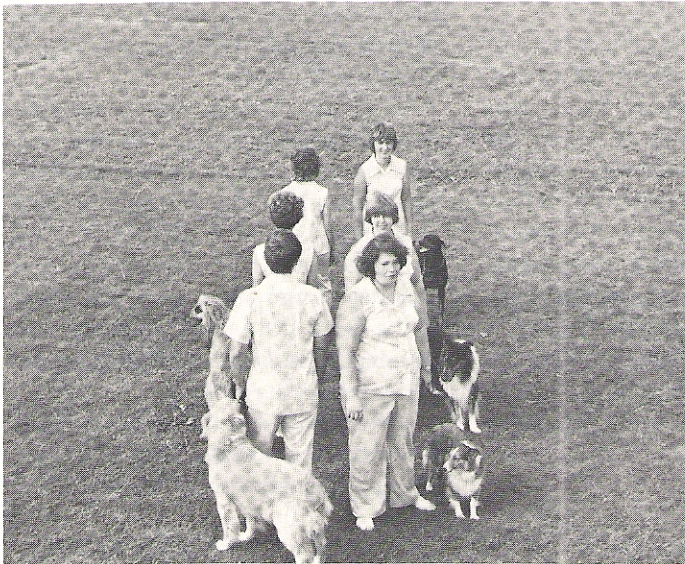
OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING



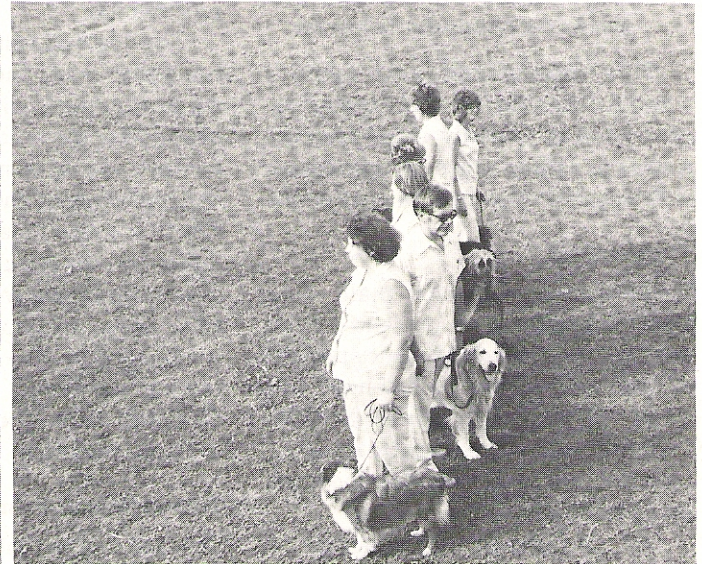
1. This can be done as a single routine with starting positions as seen or it can be done when a routine calls for the team to be split and to march through each other.
The command would be "Do-Si-Do, Forward."



2. Note the position of the handlers! We decided to angle to the left which put us arm and arm with our partners. You could move or angle slightly to the right which would put the dogs next to each other. Decide what you like the best and then do it that way throughout the season.



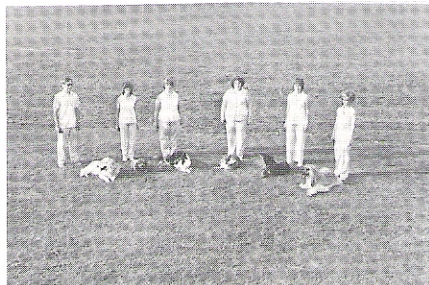
3. Part of the way around.



4. All the way around and ready to move on to the opposite side of the work area.

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

Finish or Finale



Down dogs together. On Caller's command "Leave your dogs," team gives "stay" and takes two steps behind their dogs.

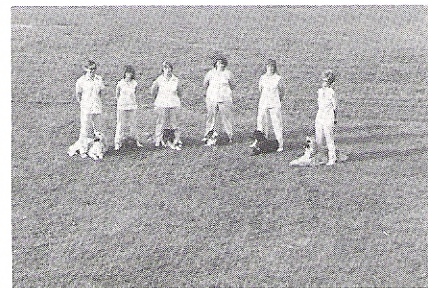
"Back to your dogs." Handlers return to heel position.

"Prepare to exit." Handlers call for dogs to "sit" as a group. "Right" or "(Left)" turn and exit.



This every other dog is rather nice. As with every drill, work out who will do what, which foot moves first, when you give the "down" command, where the leashes are to be carried, how many steps you will take behind the dog before you turn, which way you turn, on which foot to turn, how far away you go, etc., etc., etc.

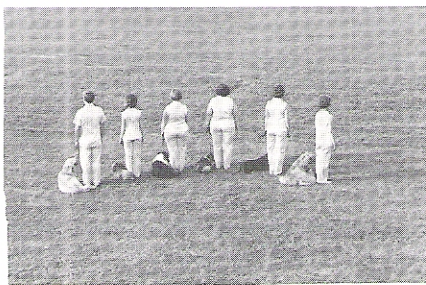
We come out to make the complete circle with the line on the right passing between the dogs and the other line. We go on around and fall into heel position. Make certain the first two handlers fall in at the same time, the next two fall in together, and the last two fall in together.



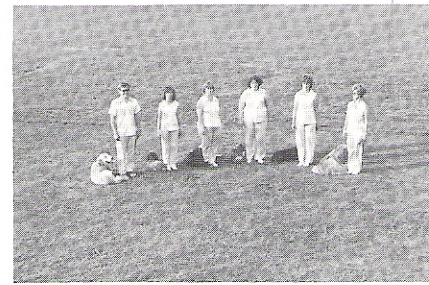
"Prepare Your Dogs" (Leashes off)
"Down Your Dogs"
"Position"
"Prepare to Exit"
"Exit"



- (1) Prepare Your Dogs. Leashes on or off.
- (2) "Right Turn". Decide how to do the pivots and all learn to do them the same. (Not shown)
- (3) "About Turn". (Not shown)



- (2) "Left Turn".
"Down Your Dogs".



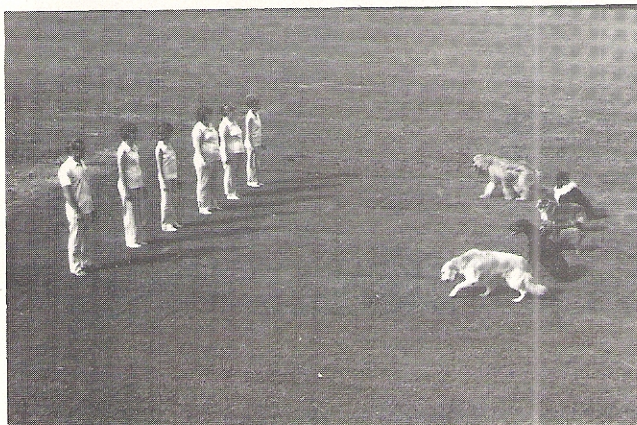
- (3) "Handlers, About Turn".

OBEDIENCE RECALL B

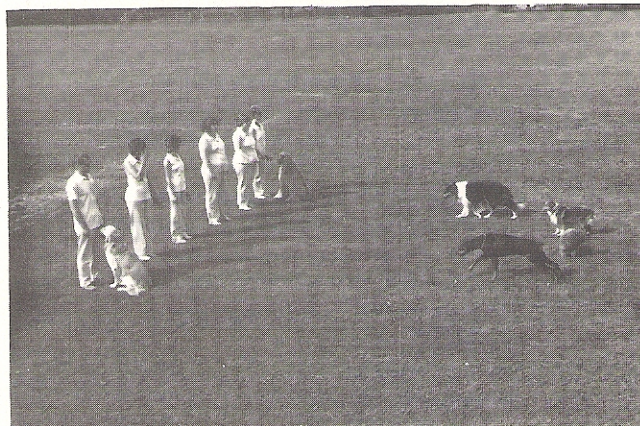
DRILL

TEAMING

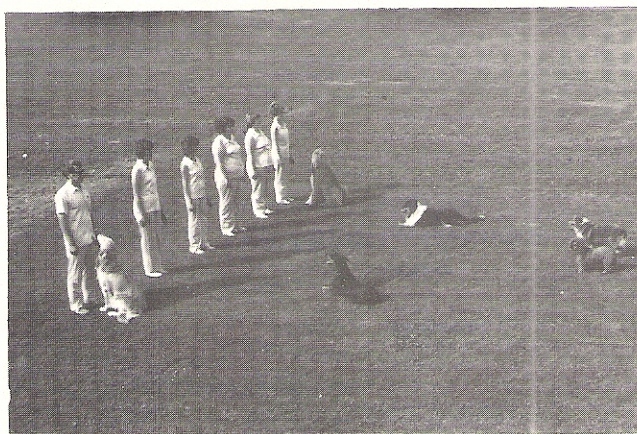
by Virginia Blackston
Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team



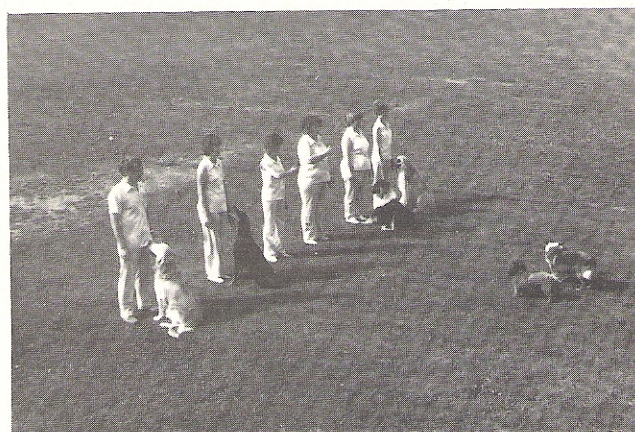
1 The starting position is the same as in Recall A. The difference in this exercise is that it includes the straight recall, the drop, and the Utility signal exercise.



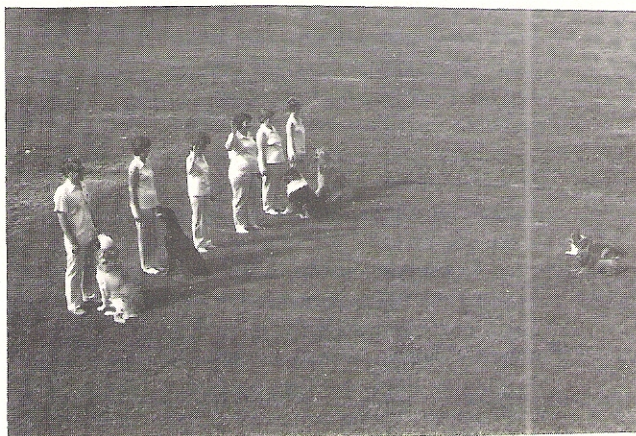
2 The first and last dogs do a straight recall.



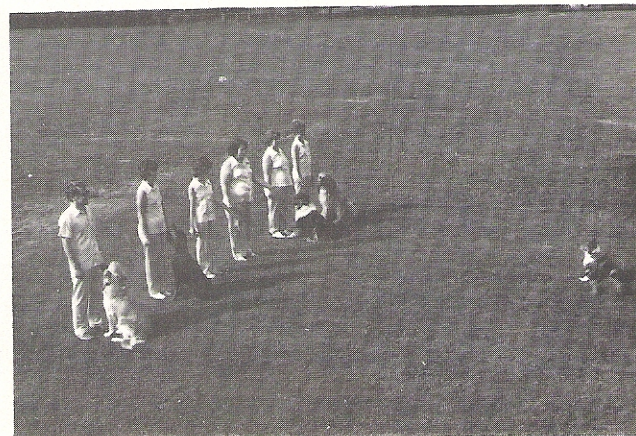
3 The second and fourth dogs do a drop on recall.



4 The middle two dogs do Utility signal exercise.



5



6



1

An 'L' is formed. Note spacing!



2

Note position of dogs in line directly in front of the camera.

The person on the 'L' leads off. As she passes the person in the opposite line, that person starts off.

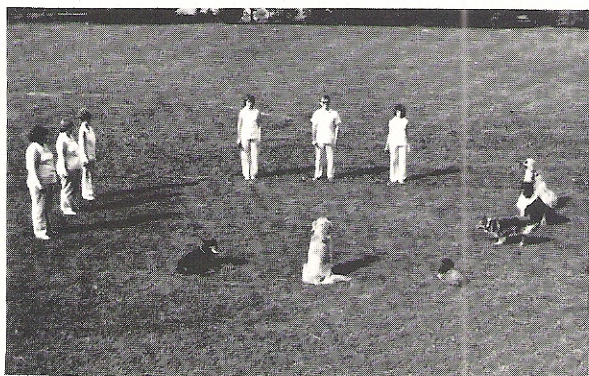
Recall C

This is the way it looks after we've left our dogs.

The dogs directly in front of the camera are doing a sit or down stay.

The first dog called is the one belonging to the first handler who left her dog.

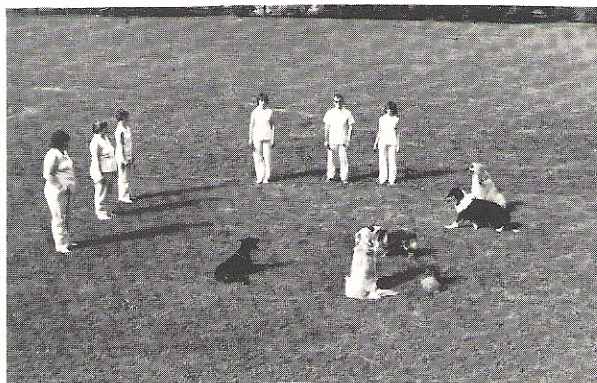
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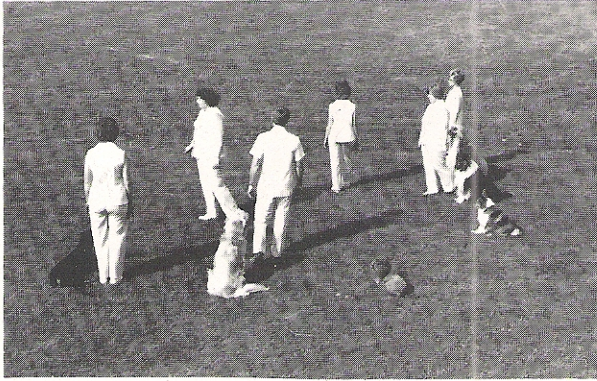


OBEDIENCE

After the first dog has taken a few steps, the second dog is called.

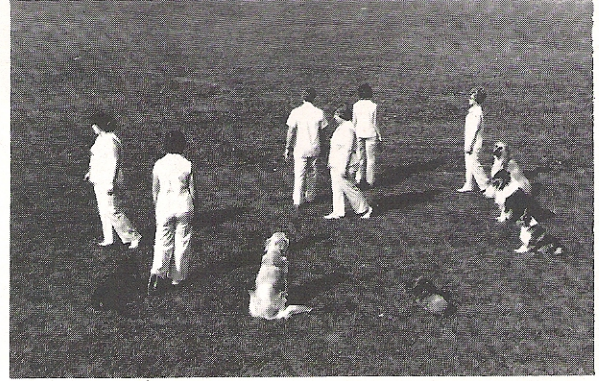
6





3

The person on the lower end of the 'L' moves out as soon as the first handler is past. This handler moves past those handlers positioned on the bottom of the 'L'. As she passes each of these handlers they move forward. This creates a basket weave effect.



4

Continuation of '3'.

DRILL TEAMING

by Virginia Blackston

Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team

Obviously, this one was posed, but it shows the spacing and timing to make the recall look sharp.

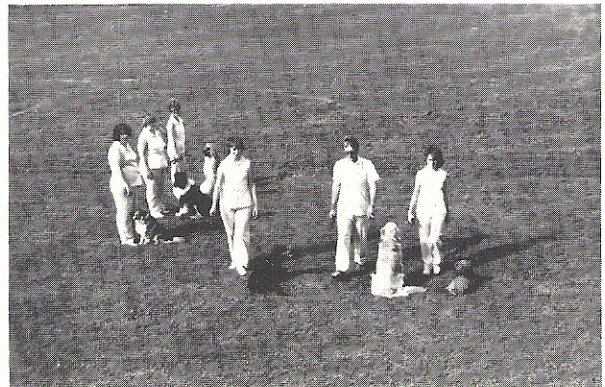
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8

"Return to your Dogs"

After these handlers have returned, the command to "Finish" is given. The dogs go to heel and the downed dogs are told to "sit".



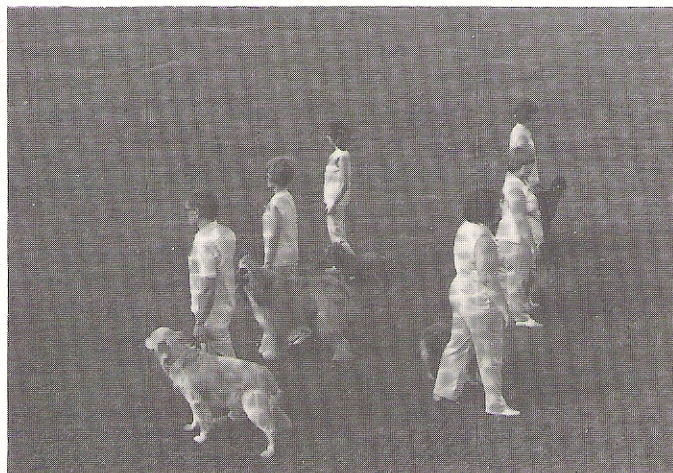
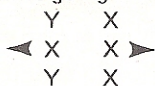
by Virginia Blackston
Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

COUNTER MARCH

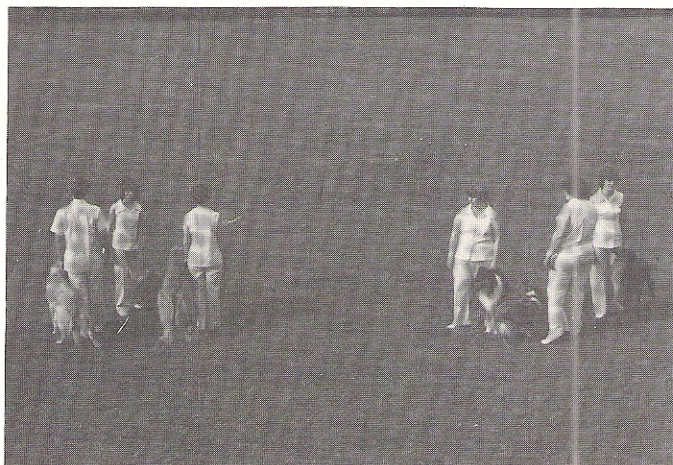
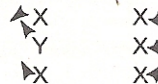


1. Two lines going in the opposite direction.

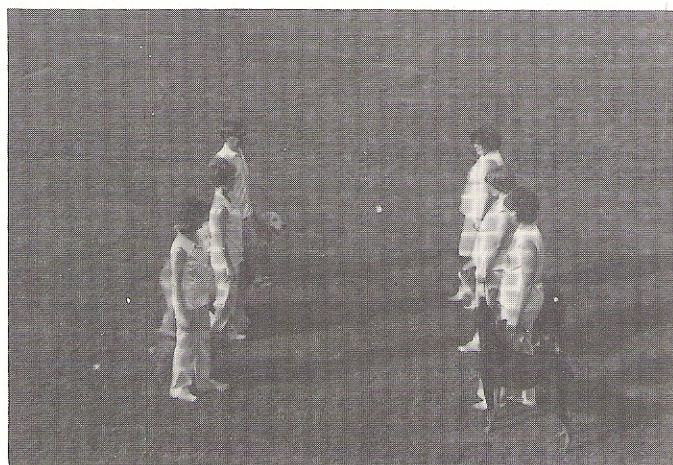
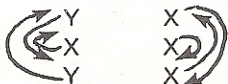


2. "Prepare to Counter March, Counter March".

The handlers on each end lengthen their steps. The handlers in center, shorten theirs.



3. The handlers in the center make an oval turn. The person to the right of the center handler passes between that handler and the handler on the other end.



4. The counter march completed and the two lines coming back towards each other. We usually go back through and do it again.

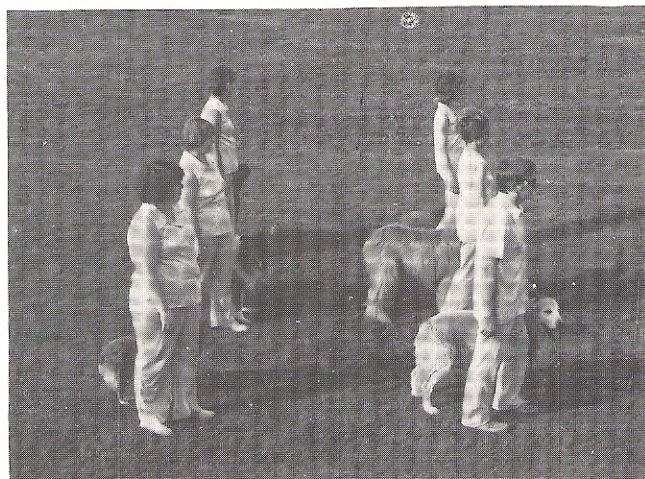
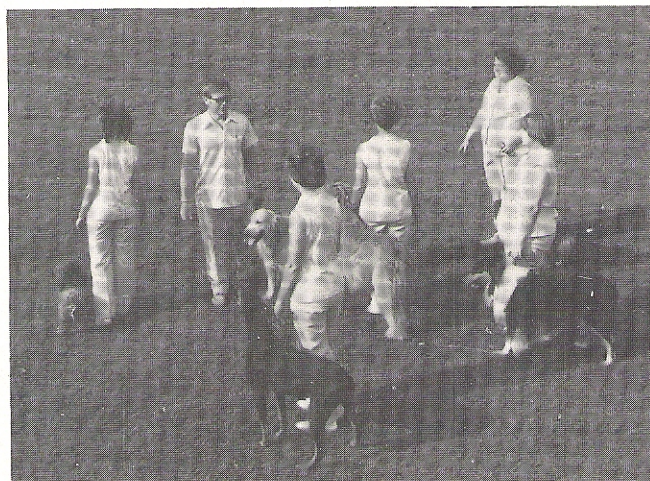
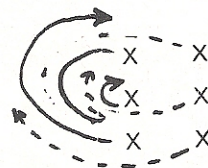
by Virginia Blackston

Licking River Kennel Club Drill Team

OBEDIENCE DRILL TEAMING

COUNTER MARCH 2 Lines

This is done the same way as the single line march. The handler in the second line follows the handler in the first line. The ticklish thing to watch is the spacing so the whole thing doesn't look bunched!



Going back the other direction.

These counter marches can be done with any number. The main thing to remember is that the person in the center goes right. The handler to that person's right comes between the center and the next person. From there on, it is every other person.

Members:

Cathy Nemeth - Golden Retriever
 Lynn Sellars - Siberian Huskey
 Bob Hayes - German Shepherd
 Bonnie Cordes - Collie
 Joyce Huff - Golden Retriever
 Virginia Blackston - German Shepherd
 Robert Wainfor - Old English Sheepdog
 Bernie Frey - German Shepherd
 Marion Riley - Drill Co-ordinator

ORDER OF HANDLERS:

Cathy Nemeth	Lynn Sellars
Bob Hayes	Bonnie Cordes
Joyce Huff	Virginia Blackston
Robert Wainfor	Bernie Frey

(Whenever "original order" is referred to, the above order of handlers is to be had)

DRILL EXERCISES: Enter ring in a double line in the "original order" (see above).

- 1.) Heeling Demonstration - Team is in center of ring in a double line. Caller gives command "forward, right turn" (all turn in same spot following leaders) left turns, halts, about turns, and so forth. Towards the end of exercise, caller heads team up center of ring, gives command to "stand your dog". Handlers stand dogs and unsnap leads automatically. Caller gives command, leave your dogs. Handlers come to front of dogs and walk around dogs going to the left in a single file line following leaders. Handlers walk to rear of dogs and up to original places. Caller gives command "exercise finished", handlers take two steps, praise dogs.
- 2.) Break-Away- Team is still in double line in center of ring from above. Caller gives command "forward, as soon as team is up and moving Caller then gives command "right & left turn" (follow leaders and turn in same spot as they do) breaking to right and left. Caller gives another command "right & left turn", team continues to walk to other end of ring, Caller gives command "right & left turn". When handlers meet in the center of the ring they automatically turn together without waiting for the command from Caller. Handlers have now returned to same center line two abreast. Caller gives command Halt.

 Caller now gives command "forward, and the "right and left turn" command same as above. Handlers break two by two going to right and left. Repeat same as above coming 4 x 4 up the center line. Caller gives command to Halt.

 Caller gives command "forward, and the "right and left turn" command as stated above. Team breaks 4 x 4 going to right and left. Repeat same as above coming together eight abreast in center. Caller gives command to Halt, Exercise finished, praise dogs.
- 3.) Circle Figure 8 Recall and Circle Figure 8 - Team is eight abreast in center from above. Should be in following order:

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
 Nemeth, Sellars, Hayes, Cordes, Huff, Blackston, Wainfor, Frey

Nemeth, Sellars, Hayes & Cordes move out to left to form left side of circle (on callers command). Frey, Wainfor, Blackston move out to right to form right side. Huff holds her position, which will be the 6 o'clock position on the clock. Nemeth takes the 12 position, Wainfor & Hayes take

the 3 and 9 respectfully. The rest position themselves accordingly.

Caller gives command "forward", at which time Nemeth and Huff move across circle and do figure 8 around the dogs, return to back of own dogs calling them into heel, and continue to walk in circle making wide circle around original one.

As soon as they pass second time in middle of circle, Sellars and Blackston move out in same routine. Next move Hayes and Wainfor, and then Cordes and Frey.

Team continues to move in circle until all members are out and moving in circle. Caller then gives command to halt. Exercise finished. Praise.

Circle Figure 8 - Caller gives command "figure 8 forward" - Nemeth moves around circle doing figure 8 around dogs. Handlers follow. Caller gives command "exercise finished."

4.) Pivot Exercise - Team is in circle formation from above. Caller gives command "Prepare for Pivot Exercise". Team then moves into center of ring, eight abreast with group #1 (Nemeth, Sellars, Hayes & Cordes) facing one direction and group #2 (Huff, Blackston, Wainfor, & Frey) facing the other. Team should be in following order:

Cordes, Hayes, Sellars, Nemeth - Huff, Blackston, Wainfor, Frey

Caller gives command "forward, groups do two complete pivots and halt on callers command. (Making certain that line is straight). Caller gives command "forward" groups do 3/4 pivot until facing each other and halt on caller command. Exercise finished, Praise dogs.

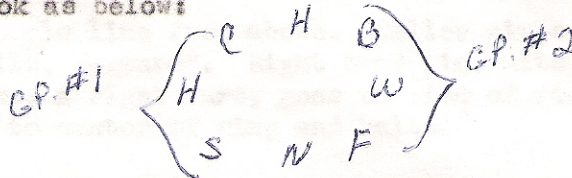
5.) Circle Recall - Team should be in following position, four abreast facing other group:
C-H-S-N
GP.#1

Caller gives command "form circle". Group #1 leader (Nemeth) moves out to her right to form circle - handlers follow. Should be at bottom of circle.

H-B-W-F
GP.#2

GP. #2 leader (Huff) moves out to her right to top of circle with handlers following.

Circle should then look as below:



Caller gives command "leave your dog". Handlers leave, take six steps directly backwards and then move in large circle around dogs. It is important to watch your spacing and the man across from you to see that you are always directly across from him.

Caller gives command to "call your dog", ~~forward/leave/step/six/step~~ when group leaders (Nemeth & Huff) are behind their own dogs. As soon as the dogs are up and moving the next man automatically calls his dog. Order of calling dogs is as follows: Nemeth & Huff, Sellars & Blackston, Hayes & Wainfor, Cordes & Frey.

Continue moving in circle until caller gives command to halt. Exercise finished, Praise dogs.

6.) Heeling Demonstration - Team is still in circle from above. Group #1 leader (Nemeth) does about turn on command of "forward" from the caller. Handlers

follow with group #1 coming first and then group #2. Handlers are to watch order so that they end up in the original order in a double line. Caller gives command to halt when everybody is in order.

Caller gives command "forward", then right turn and all handlers turn at same time (therefore we are eight abreast). Caller gives command "left turn", two together forming double line again. Caller gives command to halt when everybody is in line.

Caller gives command "forward, about turn, halt. Command forward, right turn (all turn together so we are 8 abreast) circle right two by two. Command Halt.

Command forward, about turn, circle left two by two, halt. Exercise finished Praise dogs.

- 7.) Down Exercise - Team is eight abreast in ring. Caller gives command forward, right turn, two by two, forming double line. Halt (after everybody is in line and straight).

Caller gives command "forward, and when everybody is moving "down your dogs". Back four handlers (group #2 down dogs immediately and drop leads). Front four (group #1) take six extra steps and then down dogs. (No extra down command will be given).

Caller then gives command "leave your dogs". Group #1 does about turn and goes to the right of the dogs in a single file line (Cordes, Sellars, Hayes, & Nemeth) stopping at the rear of the line. (Behind Sp. #2)

As soon as group #1 has left, group #2 moves out to the front of the line going to the right of the dogs. Group #2 should maintain their order of Huff, Blackston, Wainfor, Frey.

Caller gives command of forward, handlers walk around dogs criss-crossing at center break and return to dogs. Group #2 returns like in a normal exercise. Group #1 goes directly to dogs.

Exercise finished. Praise dogs.

- 8.) Stays & Recalls - Team is in double line from above. Caller gives command "prepare for stays & recalls, forward". Right hand line with Sellars as leader moves out and makes a right turn, goes to side of ring and makes another right turn, moves to center of ring and halts.

Left hand line with Nemeth as leader moves out and makes a left turn, goes to side of ring and makes another left turn, goes to end of ring and makes another left turn, moves to approximately center of ring and halts.

Caller gives command "swing to center", all handlers and dogs turn towards center. Caller gives command "prepare for sits and downs", Sellars and Blackston down their dogs.

leave
Caller gives command "leave your dogs", all handlers ~~leave~~ dogs and cross to opposite side of ring. Caller will then give command to "call your dog" whereupon Nemeth calls and does drop, Hayes calls straight, Huff calls and does drop, Wainfor calls straight, Nemeth now calls dog in the rest of the way, Huff now calls dog in the rest of the way. Caller gives command to finish, all finish together.

Caller gives command to return to dogs for other handlers. Exercise finished.

9.) Drill is now done. Caller gives command forward, group #1 and #2 come together in center of ring in original order and march out of ring.