

akc open obedience exercises

AKC Open Obedience Exercises: A Comprehensive Guide

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Introduction:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) Open Obedience exercises represent a significant milestone in the competitive canine world. This article delves into the historical context of AKC open obedience exercises, examining their evolution, the skills they assess, and their current relevance in both competitive and everyday dog training. We'll explore the specific exercises involved, the judging criteria, and the benefits of participating in this challenging and rewarding aspect of dog sports.

The Historical Context of AKC Open Obedience Exercises

The AKC's obedience program has a rich history, evolving alongside changes in canine training philosophies. Initially, obedience trials focused primarily on basic commands, emphasizing control and reliability. Over time, the AKC introduced more complex exercises, reflecting a shift towards a more nuanced understanding of canine learning and communication. The development of AKC open obedience exercises mirrors this evolution, demanding higher levels of precision, control, and handler-dog teamwork. The introduction of specific exercises, like the scent discrimination or retrieving exercises, reflected a growing interest in incorporating more challenging mental and physical components into the sport.

Understanding the Exercises in AKC Open Obedience

AKC Open obedience comprises several challenging exercises demanding a high degree of precision and teamwork between dog and handler. These exercises build upon the foundational skills learned in the Novice and Utility classes. Key exercises often include:

Figure 8: Navigating a precise figure-eight pattern around designated cones or poles. This exercise tests the dog's ability to maintain focus and control while changing directions.

Retrieve on the Flat: Retrieving an object from the ground, demonstrating accurate fetching and controlled delivery. This tests the dog's understanding of the command and its ability to maintain focus amidst distractions.

Retrieve over High Jump: Retrieving an object after jumping over a hurdle. This exercise combines physical agility with obedience, testing both the dog's physical capabilities and its ability to follow instructions in a challenging environment.

Scent Discrimination: Identifying a specific scent amongst several others. This exercise assesses the dog's olfactory skills and its ability to follow commands related to scent work.

Directed Jumping: Jumping over a series of hurdles at the handler's direction. This tests the dog's understanding of distances, its agility, and its ability to respond to cues accurately.

Broad Jump: Jumping across a wider gap than in standard jumping exercises. This showcases the dog's athletic ability and precise response to commands.

Drop on Recall: Dropping to a down position upon the handler's recall. This tests the dog's ability to control its impulses and execute commands even during high excitement.

These AKC open obedience exercises require consistent training and a strong bond between dog and handler. The precision required goes beyond simple obedience; it demands a deep understanding of canine behavior and the ability to communicate effectively.

Current Relevance of AKC Open Obedience Exercises

While competitive obedience is a significant aspect, the skills honed through AKC open obedience exercises translate directly into improved canine companionship. The exercises promote mental stimulation, physical fitness, and a strong bond between dog and handler. The discipline and precision learned enhance a dog's behavior in everyday life, making them better-behaved and more reliable companions. Moreover, successful completion of these exercises can boost the dog's confidence and self-esteem, contributing to a happier and more well-adjusted pet.

Judging and Scoring AKC Open Obedience Exercises

Judges at AKC obedience trials are experienced and knowledgeable individuals who assess the dog's performance based on established criteria. These criteria focus on accuracy, precision, speed, and the overall quality of the dog's performance. Points are deducted for errors, and the final score determines the dog's placement in the competition.

The Benefits of Participating in AKC Open Obedience

Participation in AKC open obedience exercises offers numerous benefits for both the dog and the handler. For the dog, it provides mental and physical stimulation, strengthening the bond with its owner and enhancing its overall well-being. For the handler, it fosters patience, consistency, and a deeper understanding of canine behavior.

Conclusion:

AKC open obedience exercises represent a pinnacle of canine obedience training. They demand a high level of skill from both dog and handler, testing their teamwork, precision, and understanding. Although challenging, the rewards are numerous, encompassing enhanced dog-owner relationships, improved canine behavior, and the satisfaction of achieving excellence in a demanding sport. The historical development and continuing relevance of these exercises highlight the ongoing evolution of canine training and the enduring appeal of competitive obedience.

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between AKC Open and Utility Obedience? Utility builds upon Open, adding more complex exercises requiring even greater precision and control.
1. What breeds excel in AKC Open Obedience? While any breed can participate, breeds known for their intelligence and trainability often perform well.
1. How long does it take to prepare for AKC Open Obedience? The time required depends on the dog's prior training and the handler's experience. It can range from several months to several years.
1. What equipment is needed for AKC Open Obedience? Standard obedience equipment is required, including a leash, collar, and designated retrieving objects.

1. Are there age restrictions for dogs participating in AKC Open Obedience? Dogs must meet the AKC's age requirements for competition.

1. What are the common mistakes handlers make in AKC Open Obedience? Inconsistent commands, lack of clarity, and poor timing are common errors.

1. How can I find an AKC obedience trial near me? The AKC website provides a comprehensive list of upcoming trials.

1. What are the judging criteria for AKC Open Obedience? The judging focuses on accuracy, precision, speed, and the overall quality of the dog's performance.

1. What are the advantages of seeking professional guidance for AKC Open Obedience training? A professional trainer can provide personalized instruction and address specific challenges.

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The AKC is the leading registry for purebred dogs in the United States, making them the ultimate authority on AKC-related events and regulations, including AKC open obedience exercises.

Editor: Dr. Jane Doe, DVM, DACVB

Dr. Jane Doe is a board-certified veterinary behaviorist with extensive experience in canine behavior and training. Her expertise in canine health and welfare adds further credibility to the article.

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for a great book! Sue Ann Lesser, DVM, ACAC, CVSMT The Healthy Way to Stretch Your Dog is a comprehensive, easy-to-follow guide to improving your dog's physical health through proper stretching techniques. The book provides a wealth of information and photos to get you working with your dog right away, whether it's for strengthening your dog's performance in a variety of dog sports, or helping to properly maintain your senior dog's physical health. Mychelle Blake, editor of The APDT Chronicle of the Dog The Healthy Way to Stretch Your Dog contains a tremendous amount of information. Knowing the science behind successful stretching will be a valuable resource for all dog owners. Understanding dog behavior as it relates to therapeutic interventions and directing the reader to engage in proper body posture will allow users of this book to continue to stretch many dogs for many years to come! Laurie M Edge-Hughes, BScPT, MAnimSt (Animal Physiotherapy), CAFCI, CCRT

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Professionals and Jada Pinkett Smith, this is the only book you'll need to forge a stronger, more rewarding connection with your four-legged companion.

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entirely different species, each shaped by its individual evolutionary heritage. Quite simply, humans are primates and dogs are canids (as are wolves, coyotes, and foxes). Since we each speak a different native tongue, a lot gets lost in the translation. This marvelous guide demonstrates how even the slightest changes in our voices and in the ways we stand can help dogs understand what we want. Inside you will discover:

- How you can get your dog to come when called by acting less like a primate and more like a dog
- Why the advice to “get dominance” over your dog can cause problems
- Why “rough and tumble primate play” can lead to trouble—and how to play with your dog in ways that are fun and keep him out of mischief
- How dogs and humans share personality types—and why most dogs want to live with benevolent leaders rather than “alpha wanna-bes!”

Fascinating, insightful, and compelling, *The Other End of the Leash* is a book that strives to help you connect with your dog in a completely new way—so as to enrich that most rewarding of relationships.

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2010-09-24 How to raise the perfect puppy A revolution for dogs: Very few dog trainers have not been influenced by Dr. Ian Dunbar's dog-friendly philosophy. In the 1970s, Dr. Ian Dunbar sparked a dramatic shift in puppy training — away from leash corrections and drill-sergeant adult dog training classes based on competitive obedience and toward a positive approach using toys, treats, and games as rewards for teaching basic manners, preventing behavior problems, and modifying temperament. Before Dr. Dunbar there were no classes for puppy training, very few family dog classes, and not much fun in dog training. His positive approach revolutionized the dog training field, especially puppy training. Raising a great dog: Now, in Before and After Getting Your Puppy, Dr. Ian Dunbar combines his two popular puppy training manuals into one indexed, value-priced hardcover dog training book. In clear steps, with helpful photos and easy-to-follow puppy training milestones, he presents a structured yet playful and humorous plan for raising a wonderful dog. Dr. Dunbar's guide is based around six developmental milestones: Your doggy education Evaluating puppy's progress Errorless housetraining and chewtoy-training Socialization with People Learning bite inhibition The world at large Fans of The Art of Raising a Puppy, Training the Best Dog Ever, or Zak George's Dog Training Revolution, will love Ian Dunbar's Before and After Getting Your Puppy.

akc open obedience exercises: Kyra's Canine Conditioning Kyra Sundance, 2019-02-05

Kyra's Canine Conditioning is designed to build on important life skills, such as confidence, strength, coordination, mental focus, and following directions. Featuring all new material, world-renowned trainer Kyra Sundance introduces activities that will strengthen each of these skills in your dog. Learn innovative ways to work with props, such as hoops, balls, FitPAWS inflatables, and Klimb pedestals. Through this book, you will: Learn how to evaluate a dog's physiology, and develop and execute a customized conditioning plan. Acquire the skills to improve a dog's fitness through five components: coordination, stamina, balance, strength, and flexibility. Improve a dog's confidence, mental focus, and direction-following skills through targeted games. Physical fitness is just as important for dogs as it is for people. Keeping dogs fit and healthy can increase their lifespan and limit vet visits as they get older. It reduces the risk of sports-related injury, joint problems, and arthritis. Dogs who are conditioned and healthy tend to live happier and more playful lives. A program of games and canine conditioning makes fitness fun for both you and your dog! This program conditions dogs through a series of games that are both a great physical foundation for dogs who want to pursue sports and a great way to easily condition dogs that are your average couch potato. Through these conditioning games, you will see a physical and mental transformation

in your dog. Thanks to the versatility of the games, a dog of any age can improve their health and fitness. Puppies can benefit from the coordination, confidence, and mental focus games while elderly dogs can work on their strength, balance, and direction-following skills. There is something for every owner and every dog. These games challenge your dog to experiment with different ideas to accomplish a goal. Your dog will get the exercise they need while building stamina, balance, hind end coordination, mental focus, and improving their overall athletic skills. Working cooperatively with your dog in a positive way will be a wonderful bonding experience, and your dog will bask in your attention and pride in him. This book will educate you on dog physiology, and ways to stretch and condition a dog, but it is not meant as a replacement for veterinary advice or diagnosis. Understand the boundaries of your role as a coach, and refer dogs to the proper medical and professional specialists when needed. Also by Kyra Sundance, learn to do even more with your dog with: 101 Dog Tricks; The Dog Tricks and Training Workbook; 51 Puppy Tricks; 10-Minute Dog Training Games; 101 Dog Tricks, Kids Edition; Dog Training 101; The Pocket Guide to Dog Tricks; and The Joy of Dog Training.

akc open obedience exercises: Advanced Schutzhund Ivan Balabanov, Karen Duet, 1999-06-29 Ivan's training comes from the heart, for the dog. He has certainly enhanced my view of training and has taught me many valuable, yet simple techniques to achieve the most from my dogs and myself. --Mary A. Allen, World Championship Competitor, USA Apprentice Judge, USA New England Regional Director Ivan Balabanov is among the few top trainers in the country who truly understands dog behavior and drives. He is highly respected by the best Schutzhund competitors, trainers and coaches in the country. --Glenn Stephenson, United Schutzhund Clubs of America Judge, International competitor Training methods for the top competitor. Advanced Schutzhund takes a problem-solving approach to Level III work that will help competitors bring their dogs to the highest level. Tracking, obedience and protection are dealt with individually, analyzing specific problems that crop up in each skill and offering step-by-step solutions. The approach uses operant conditioning techniques that steer clear of compulsion methods and build a dog's confidence, courage and problem-solving ability. You'll also find tips on how to compete at the National and World levels, including traveling with your dog. A Howell Dog Book of Distinction

akc open obedience exercises: Click to Calm Emma Parsons, 2005 Positive Answers for the Aggressive Dog. The dog that bites. The dog that attacks other dogs. The dog who may not survive his own aggressive behavior. What can be done to help these dogs? When Emma Parsons, canine behavior consultant, discovered that her own dog was aggressive, she developed innovative and effective strategies to calm, alter, and re-shape his reactive displays, and those of her clients' dogs.

akc open obedience exercises: Playtraining Your Dog Patricia Gail Burnham, 1980-01-01 At last, an inexpensive paperback edition of a book that has been acclaimed as one of the most useful and reliable guides to training your dog. Obedience training does not have to resemble Marine boot camp, with the dog as the recruit and the trainer as the drill instructor. Nor does it have to be work. Rather, as the title of this comprehensive guide suggests, it can be playful fun for both -- with a few rules thrown in to shape the game into an obedience exercise. Playtraining Your Dog provides an alternative to the violence that conventional training methods inflict on the minds and bodies of dogs. Using widely known, standardized exercises from the American Kennel Club, and written in a clear, informative style, this book contributes to realizing the full potential of both the dog and the dog/owner relationship. Topics covered include: - instructors & training classes - training time - motivation - advice for showing a dog - cues & body language Playtraining Your Dog is an essential addition to every dog-owner's -- and dog-lover's -- library.

akc open obedience exercises: Hunting Together Simone Mueller, 2023-05-05 Predation Substitute Training is a force-free and motivation-based training program to stop predatory chasing in dogs.

akc open obedience exercises: The Staffordshire Bull Terrier in America Steve Eltinge, Perry, Barker, 1986-06-01

akc open obedience exercises: Beyond Basic Dog Training Diane L. Bauman, 1991-11-29

Beyond Basic Dog Training has, since its initial publication, achieved well-deserved recognition as an innovative guide to obedience instruction that is truly unique among books on the subject. Beyond Basic Dog Training makes a vital difference for those who read and use it and for dogs taught by it. This book shows how dogs learn, what they do with what they learn, and how a stimulated canine mind, along with an untrampled canine ego, makes for a dog that is a constant joy to live and work with. The new edition presents the most current knowledge on canine learning patterns, and provides updated American Kennel Club obedience trial regulations, greatly expanded since the first edition appeared. The instruction in Beyond Basic Dog Training is behind Gaines Superdogs, numerous obedience trial champions, and a host of canine successes. This is the book of choice for informed obedience fans. It can do for you and your dog what it has done for them and theirs. A Howell Dog Book of Distinction

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