

Novice Obedience Notes 2019 06 06 – Andrew Ansenberger

The Novice Class demonstrates good canine companion skills such as heeling, both with and without a leash, coming when called, standing for a simple physical examination, and staying in both a sit and a down position with a group of dogs. AKC Novice is the entrance level of AKC obedience. Novice precedes level 2, Open, and level 3, Utility.

* Four levels of training environments: home, training class, fun matches, and trials. Each has more stress than the previous.

* **Operant conditioning.** 4 parts: 1) give command; 2) dog executes command; 3) clicker or marker word "yes" tells dog treat is coming; 4) treat is passed from right side of body to left hand and then given to the dog. This is positive training without negative corrections.

* Wean **lure rewarding** and transfer to operant conditioning treating. Luring causes lagging.

* **FOCUS.** Use "ready" command to establish focus between handler and dog. Before each exercise the judge will ask, "Are you ready?" Always say "ready." If your dog is trained to focus on you when he/she hears the command, the exercise has a good chance to start off well.

* Healing 2 to 5 step drill, no leash, along walls, lots of praise.

* 1 to 2 minute training sessions 3 to 4 times a day Keep it happy and productive.

* NEVER give 2nd or multiple commands. 2nd commands will train dog to not respond on 1st command.

* If offering a treat, ALWAYS give it. No exceptions. Pulling back a treat isn't good or fair leadership. Even if you are in error to give the treat, give it anyways.

* 8' between figure eight posts. Must be measured to condition dog the same each training session.

* Brag book access from our www.ltdtc.org website. 4 short Youtubes on focus, healing, example of Novice trial, and example of Beginner Novice trial. Also is a link to other clubs with fun matches.