

## HTM NOVICE CLASS

### Duration

It is suggested that routines at this level should be of approximately 1 minute 30 seconds to 3 minutes in duration.

### Overall expectation

Routines should present a dog and handler combination that demonstrates a strong performance of heelwork movements together with musical interpretation which come together in a nicely balanced routine in which the dog and handler work as a team.

### Routine content (20 points)

*"The routine should be varied with no excessive repetition of moves, befitting the category entered. Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves. Teamwork displays harmony, a strong relationship and enjoyment between dog and handler."*

It is suggested that Novice class routines should include, **as a minimum** –

- (a) At least one change of pace, with a moderate proportion able to be performed at normal pace;
- (b) At least two heelwork positions and movement in at least two directions, selected from positions/moves listed in the extended definition above.
- (c) Good use of the ring<sup>2</sup>.
- (d) Attention and strong teamwork between the dog and handler (evident approximately 75% of the time).

### Technical merit (20 points)

*"The quality of moves and extent of mistakes and/or refusals. The accuracy of heelwork. The dog works in a natural and willing manner."*

At Novice level, heelwork should be at a level at least equivalent to that expected in Companion Dog (CD) obedience. The requirement of the dog's head being "reasonably close to the handler's knee" can be interpreted as being approximately in line with the handler's knee, and the distance of the dog's head from the handler's knee should be reasonably consistent irrespective of the heelwork position being executed. A dog that works very close to the handler would score more highly than one that works in line with the handler but at a greater distance. Again, if the dog is significantly out of the heelwork position which is intended to be being executed (eg lagging, forging), then that portion of the work cannot be counted in the required 60% in heelwork.

Some cues may be evident, but less evident than at Starter level. The dog should be nicely controlled and there should be nice precision of moves and positions (approximately 75% of the time). The dog should respond on the first cue most of the time. Reductions will be incurred for inaccurate work, mistakes and refusals.

### Musical Interpretation (20 marks)

*"Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves. Movements are complementary to the routine's concept. Choreography is apparent and flowing. The routine includes balance, structure, design and makes best use of the available space. Costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine."*

The routine must be more than simply executing heelwork with music playing. Both the handler and the dog should move in time with the music.

Choreography must be evident, and the routine must interpret the music and reflect the rhythm of the music, for instances, through turns, changes of pace, changes of position, inclusion of other (non-

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<sup>2</sup> The "available ring space" is defined as approximately 50 to 75% of the total ring space. The expectation of the amount of space utilised will depend on the size of the dog, with smaller dogs being at the 50% end, and larger dogs at the 75% end of the scale.

## HTM STARTER CLASS

### Duration

It is suggested that routines at this level should be of approximately 1 minute to 1 minute 30 seconds in duration.

### Overall expectation

Routines should present a dog and handler combination that demonstrates a competent performance of heelwork movements together with musical interpretation which come together in a fairly balanced routine in which the dog and handler work as a team.

### Routine content (20 points)

*"The routine should be varied with no excessive repetition of moves, befitting the category entered. Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves.*

*Teamwork displays harmony, a strong relationship and enjoyment between dog and handler."*

It is suggested that Starter class routines should include, **as a minimum** –

- (a) (i) At least one change of pace; or  
(ii) At least two positions or moves/directions of heelwork, selected from positions and moves listed in the extended definition above.
- (b) Good use of the ring<sup>1</sup>.
- (c) Attention and teamwork between the dog and handler (evident approximately 65% of the time).

### Technical merit (20 points)

*"The quality of moves and extent of mistakes and/or refusals.*

*The accuracy of heelwork.*

*The dog works in a natural and willing manner."*

At Starter level, heelwork should be at a level at least equivalent to that expected in Community Companion Dog (CCD) obedience (but performed off-lead). The requirement of the dog's head being "reasonably close to the handler's knee" can be interpreted as being approximately in line with the handler's knee, and the distance of the dog's head from the handler's knee should be reasonably consistent irrespective of the heelwork position being executed. A dog that works very close to the handler would score more highly than one that works in line with the handler but at a greater distance. Again, if the dog is significantly out of the heelwork position which is intended to be being executed (eg lagging, forging), then that portion of the work cannot be counted in the required 60% in heelwork.

Cues may be evident. The dog should be under a fair level of control, and moves and positions should be fairly precise (eg approximately 65% of the time). The dog should respond on the first or second cue. Reductions will be incurred for inaccurate work, mistakes and refusals.

### Musical Interpretation (20 marks)

*"Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves.*

*Movements are complementary to the routine's concept.*

*Choreography is apparent and flowing. The routine includes balance, structure, design and makes best use of the available space.*

*Costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine."*

The routine must be more than simply executing heelwork with music playing. Both the handler and the dog should move in time with the music.

Choreography must be evident, and the routine must interpret the music and reflect the rhythm of the music, for instances, through turns, changes of pace, changes of position, inclusion of other (non-heelwork) moves (eg spins, reversing around handler, leg weaves, circles etc); obedience-type

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<sup>1</sup> The "available ring space" is defined as approximately 50 to 75% of the total ring space. The expectation of the amount of space utilised will depend on the size of the dog, with smaller dogs being at the 50% end, and larger dogs at the 75% end of the scale.

positions (sits, drops, stays, recalls) can be used, but they too must be complementary to the music, its flow and interpretation.

Changes of positions, directions, moves etc should be reasonably smooth, and movements should be fairly synchronised with the tempo and rhythm of the music.

While some music selections lend themselves more to thematic costumes than others, there should be evidence that the handler has attempted to dress in a manner appropriate to the music and the theme of the music and routine. Some matching decorative/co-ordinated neck collar or scarf on the dog adds to the overall presentation.

heelwork) moves (eg spins, reversing around handler, leg weaves, circles and other more advanced freestyle moves); obedience-type positions (sits, drops, stays, recalls) can be used, but they too must be complementary to the music, its flow and interpretation.

Changes of positions, directions, moves etc should be smooth, and movements should be nicely synchronised with the tempo and rhythm of the music.

While some music selections lend themselves more to thematic costumes than others, there should be evidence that the handler has attempted to dress in a manner appropriate to the music and the theme of the music and routine. Some matching decorative/co-ordinated neck collar or scarf on the dog adds to the overall presentation.

## INTERMEDIATE CLASS

### Duration

It is suggested that routines at this level should be of approximately 2 minutes to 3 minutes 30 seconds in duration.

### Overall expectation

Routines should present a dog and handler combination that demonstrates a very strong performance of heelwork movements together with good musical interpretation which come together in a well balanced routine in which the dog and handler work as a team.

### Routine content (20 points)

*"The routine should be varied with no excessive repetition of moves, befitting the category entered. Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves. Teamwork displays harmony, a strong relationship and enjoyment between dog and handler."*

It is suggested that Intermediate class routines should include, **as a minimum** –

- (a) Some demonstration of slow, normal and fast pace;
- (b) At least two and preferably three heelwork positions and movement in at least two and preferably more directions, selected from positions/moves listed in the extended definition above.
- (c) Very good use of the ring<sup>3</sup>.
- (d) Focussed attention and strong teamwork between the dog and handler (evident approximately 90% of the time).

### Technical merit (20 points)

*"The quality of moves and extent of mistakes and/or refusals. The accuracy of heelwork. The dog works in a natural and willing manner."*

At Intermediate level, heelwork should be at a level at least equivalent to that expected in Open Dog (CDX) obedience. The requirement of the dog's head being "reasonably close to the handler's knee" can be interpreted as being approximately in line with the handler's knee, and the distance of the dog's head from the handler's knee should be reasonably consistent irrespective of the heelwork position being executed. A dog that works very close to the handler would score more highly than one that works in line with the handler but at a greater distance. Again, if the dog is significantly out of the heelwork position which is intended to be being executed (eg lagging, forging), then that portion of the work cannot be counted in the required 60% in heelwork.

Cues should rarely be noticeable. The dog should be under a high level of control and moves and positions should be executed precisely (approximately 90% of the time). The dog should respond on the first cue. Reductions will be incurred for inaccurate work, mistakes and refusals.

### Musical Interpretation (20 marks)

*"Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves. Movements are complementary to the routine's concept. Choreography is apparent and flowing. The routine includes balance, structure, design and makes best use of the available space. Costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine."*

Choreography must be evident, and the routine must demonstrate a high level of interpretation of the music and reflect the rhythm of the music, for instances, through turns, changes of pace, changes of position, inclusion of other (non-heelwork) moves (eg spins, reversing around handler, leg weaves, circles and other more advanced freestyle moves); obedience-type positions (sits, drops, stays, recalls) can be used, but they too must be complementary to the music, its flow and interpretation.

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<sup>3</sup> The "available ring space" is defined as approximately 50 to 75% of the total ring space. The expectation of the amount of space utilised will depend on the size of the dog, with smaller dogs being at the 50% end, and larger dogs at the 75% end of the scale.

Changes of positions, directions, moves etc should be very smoothly executed, and movements should be very well synchronised with the tempo and rhythm of the music.

While some music selections lend themselves more to thematic costumes than others, there should be evidence that the handler has attempted to dress in a manner appropriate to the music and the theme of the music and routine. Some matching decorative/co-ordinated neck collar or scarf on the dog adds to the overall presentation.

## HTM ADVANCED CLASS

### Duration

It is suggested that routines at this level should be of approximately 2 minutes 30 seconds to 4 minutes in duration.

### Overall expectation

Routines should present a dog and handler combination that demonstrates excellent performance of heelwork movements together with excellent musical interpretation which come together in a very well balanced routine in which the dog and handler become an excellent team producing an outstanding performance.

### Routine content (20 points)

*"The routine should be varied with no excessive repetition of moves, befitting the category entered. Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves. Teamwork displays harmony, a strong relationship and enjoyment between dog and handler."*

It is suggested that Intermediate class routines should include, **as a minimum** –

- (a) Demonstration of slow, normal and fast paces;
- (b) At least four heelwork positions and movement in at least two and preferably more directions, selected from positions/moves listed in the extended definition above.
- (c) Excellent use of the ring<sup>4</sup>.
- (d) Focussed attention and excellent teamwork between the dog and handler (evident approximately 95% of the time).

### Technical merit (20 points)

*"The quality of moves and extent of mistakes and/or refusals. The accuracy of heelwork. The dog works in a natural and willing manner."*

At Advanced level, heelwork should be at a level at least equivalent to that expected in Open Dog (CDX) obedience. The requirement of the dog's head being "reasonably close to the handler's knee" can be interpreted as being approximately in line with the handler's knee, and the distance of the dog's head from the handler's knee should be reasonably consistent irrespective of the heelwork position being executed. A dog that works very close to the handler would score more highly than one that works in line with the handler but at a greater distance. Again, if the dog is significantly out of the heelwork position which is intended to be being executed (eg lagging, forging), then that portion of the work cannot be counted in the required 60% in heelwork.

Cues should not be noticeable. The dog should be under full control and moves and positions should be executed precisely (approximately 95 % of the time). The dog should respond on the first cue. Reductions will be incurred for inaccurate work, mistakes and refusals.

### Musical Interpretation (20 marks)

*"Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves. Movements are complementary to the routine's concept. Choreography is apparent and flowing. The routine includes balance, structure, design and makes best use of the available space. Costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine."*

Choreography must be evident, and the routine must demonstrate excellent interpretation of the music and reflect the rhythm of the music, for instances, through turns, changes of pace, changes of position, inclusion of other (non-heelwork) moves (eg spins, reversing around handler, leg weaves, circles and other more advanced freestyle moves); obedience-type positions (sits, drops, stays, recalls) can be used, but they too must be complementary to the music, its flow and interpretation.

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<sup>4</sup> The "available ring space" is defined as approximately 50 to 75% of the total ring space. The expectation of the amount of space utilised will depend on the size of the dog, with smaller dogs being at the 50% end, and larger dogs at the 75% end of the scale.









Changes of positions, directions, moves etc should be very smoothly executed, and synchronisation of movements with the tempo and rhythm of the music should be excellent.

While some music selections lend themselves more to thematic costumes than others, there should be evidence that the handler has attempted to dress in a manner appropriate to the music and the theme of the music and routine. Some matching decorative/co-ordinated neck collar or scarf on the dog adds to the overall presentation.

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## Heelwork positions

Moves are classed as heelwork in the following positions:

			
Dog on handler's left, facing forward	Dog on handler's left, facing backward	Dog on handlers right, facing forward	Dog on handler's right, facing backward
			
Dog in front of handler, facing left	Dog in front of handler, facing right	Dog behind handler, facing left	Dog behind handler, facing right