



RANDOM LITTLE TIDBITS (# 3)

Below is the next installment of Random Little Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

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Today's Random Little Tidbit – Leashes, what kind and where and when used?



There have been a few tweaks in leash usage over the years, plus when they are to be clipped to the dog's collar or just slipped through the collar. So let's review the leashes and where, when and how they are to be used:

Regular, Optional and Preferred classes in general:

- 1) The leash is to be made of fabric or leather and only long enough to provide adequate slack during the Heel on Leash exercise, unless otherwise stated in the Regulations.
- 2) All dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the obedience ring, warm-up ring or exercise area and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards and when waiting in the ring before and after the group exercise.
- 3) In regards to heeling with the leash, the leash may be held in either hand or both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. *Natural* is defined as: not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places. The leash must be loose (provide adequate slack) before starting the heeling exercises with the leash clipped to the collar.

Beginner Novice A & B:

- 1) A **6-foot** leash is required for the Sit For Exam.
- 2) For the Recall, the leash may be placed in a pocket, draped around the handler's neck or held in one of their hands at their side.
- 3) Leashes must be clipped to the collar in these classes.

Novice A & B Group exercise:

- 1) A **6-foot** leash is required for the Novice Group Exercise.
- 2) Leashes must be clipped to the collar in these classes.

Open A, B and Graduate Novice Individual Exercises:

- 1) A slip leash may be used in these classes when coming in for the individual exercises.

The leash clipped or slipped through the dog's collar:

- 1) Leashes must be clipped to the collar for:
 - a. Classes requiring an on leash exercise.
 - b. *Group exercise.*
 - c. *Awards.*
- 2) In a class where a leash is not required for *all* the individual exercises, the dog may be brought into and taken out of the ring on a leash that slips through the dog's collar.

The classes with *all* the individual exercises not requiring a leash:

- 1) Graduate Novice
- 2) Open A & B
- 3) Preferred Open
- 4) Graduate Open
- 5) Utility A & B
- 6) Preferred Utility
- 7) Versatility Combinations, **V1, V3, V4, V5, V6, V8, V9, V10** and **V12**. The handler may use a slip leash as *all* the individual exercises are without a leash. Combinations, **V2, V7, and V11** have an individual exercise using the leash so the leash must be attached. The Judge is to post the Versatility combination used for the day 45 minutes before the start of the class. Double check to make sure if there will be an exercise using a leash, if so, the leash must be attached.

- 8) Run-Offs:
- a. Where the Heel Free is used for a tie-breaking exercise the slip leash may be used.
 - b. Beginner Novice ties would require a clipped leash as the tie-breaker is an on leash exercise.

If in question, use a leash which will clip to the dog's collar; you will be good to go for any situation or class!

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