



Below is the next in a series of Random 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 – Release or Excuse – Understanding the Difference



This may be old news for some, but in case you have not heard, the American Kennel Club has a judge's blog for Obedience and Rally on the web (<https://akcbedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/>)! The blog is a very useful tool for covering specifics in the Regulations, plus helpful for keeping up on current topics. Case in point..

#### **MAY BE RELEASED:**

- For misbehavior.
- Dog that must be repositioned in the group exercise.

#### **MUST BE RELEASED:**

- A dog from the group exercise if it has non-qualified in the individual exercises.
- A dog that does not remain sitting during the first part of the Novice Group exercise must be released from participating in the second part.
- A dog must be released from the group exercise for displaying uncontrolled behavior, if it interferes with another dog or leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise.
- If the dog has been released write "NQ-R" (Non-Qualifying Released) then carry down an "NQ" in the "Total Score" box.
- "NQ-R" does not require the judge to state a reason.

#### **MAY EXCUSE:**

- Dog relieves itself while in the ring for judging.
- Handler carries or offers food in the ring.
- Dog's performance has not met the minimum requirements.
- Training in the ring.

#### **MUST EXCUSE:**

- A dog that is out of control.
- Unable to Examine.
- Any dog unfit to compete – sick.
- Any dog lame, bandaged or stitched.
- Bitch in season (attractive/disturbing).
- A dog that appears dangerous to other dogs (including when lining up {group} outside the ring).
- Handler who abuses their dog or who disciplines their dog in the ring.
- Handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or competitor's dog.

Any dog that appears dangerous or aggressive **MUST BE EXCUSED**

The Judging Procedure for the Judge's Book for Excused dogs has not changed! All "Excused" dogs require the judge to state a reason in the judge's book. DO NOT carry down an "NQ" to the Total Score box.

If a dog is "**out of control**", it is to be **EXCUSED**; *versus* a dog that "**demonstrates uncontrolled behavior**", that dog must be **Released** from returning to the Group Exercises. Likewise, any "**misbehavior**" that is disruptive enough to remove the dog from the ring, as long as that dog is not considered dangerous would be "**released**".

For additional information regarding marking the judge's book please see page 119 of the Obedience Judge's Guidelines.



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