

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 – A Quick Reference Guide to a Judge's Duties

Follow up article to Tidbit #52

Let's *open* the AKC Obedience Regulations and see what it says in regards to the *Obedience Judge*. If you don't have a copy it is available online to download to your phone or computer. <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>



#### Judges, too, must play by the rules.

We have a set of Regulations so we all know what to expect from a judge, exhibitor and dog when in the ring. When the written Regulations are ignored we then have issues in the game we are playing. **The objective of this Tidbit article** is pulling out and **highlighting** many of the roles and duties of the judge for a *quick reference in one location*; therefore, bringing those duties to the attention of the exhibitor, prospective judges and new judges for a better understanding of the full judging process, and what goes into the makings a good judge. The obedience judge who fully carries out and adheres to the [Regulations](#), [Judge's Procedures](#), [Judge's Guidelines](#) and the [AKC Blog](#) deserves our respect for doing their job and doing it well! If you are considering judging, or are a judge, you might want to print this article for a nighttime review before stepping into the ring the next day.

So let's take a look and examine what the Regulations spell out as to the role and duties of the judge. This is a good review for all.

For exhibitors to keep in mind, first, what is an Obedience Trial? Keep in mind an obedience trial is not a match! It is a place where one competes against the Obedience Regulations as written. At a trial a judge is there to **officiate and observe** the performances **only, not to offer help or assist with training** while in the ring judging. There can/may be devastating consequences for the dog and handler when a judge crosses that line. **This is a follow-up article to Tidbit #52 which details a few consequences of poor judgement.**

Now let's look at a particular sentence in the **Obedience Regulation's "Purpose"** and see how it relates to the judge? "All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored."

#### Chapters 1 & 2 Apply to all classes. Specific wording in the Obedience Regulations relating to the duties of a Judge:

- ✓ **Chapter 1, General Regulations:**
- ✓ **Section 30. Stewards:** Judges are in sole charge of their rings until their assignments are completed.
- ✓ The judge shall review with the stewards their duties and the manner in which they are to be performed. Any request from an exhibitor for special consideration must be directed to the judge.
- ✓ **Section 34. Judge's Report on Ring and Equipment:** The judge must check both the ring and equipment before starting to judge. If there are ring or equipment deficiencies, the judge shall bring them to the attention of the trial secretary or superintendent so that they may be corrected in accordance with the provisions of the Obedience Regulations. If the deficiencies cannot be corrected quickly, the judge will note this fact on the inside front cover of the judge's book and proceed to judge the class under the deficient conditions. After the trial, the judge must report to the AKC any undesirable ring conditions or deficiencies that were not promptly corrected at their request.
- ✓ **Chapter 2. Regulations for Performance and Judging Standards and Procedures:**
- ✓ **Section 1. Standardized Judging:** Standardized judging is of paramount importance. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercise but will see that each handler and dog perform the various exercises exactly as described in these regulations.
- ✓ A handler who is familiar with these regulations should be able to enter the ring under any judge without having to inquire how that particular judge wishes to have an exercise performed and without being confronted with any unexpected requirements.
- ✓ Judges must not move quickly toward a dog as it is moving, stand closely behind a dog, or follow a heeling dog too closely. Judges should always be in a position to see both the dog and handler at the same time without having to turn their heads.

- ✓ **The judge will** inform the first exhibitor in each class what the heeling pattern will be before that exhibitor enters the ring. This may be done verbally, by posting the pattern ringside or by demonstration. This same procedure will be followed in the event of run-offs.
- ✓ Heeling patterns: The heeling patterns **should not** be in the area of the table and/or gate and **should have** only one element of an exercise on a leg. (For example, there **shall not** be a halt and a slow on the same leg of an exercise.) **A fast must always be on a long dimension of the ring**; slow may be either on the short or long dimension of the ring. **The fast and slow should be of significant length, not just several steps.** No pattern will have more than one fast and one slow. If possible, have one leg of the heeling pattern with no element on it. The “L” pattern is a minimal pattern. Other patterns are acceptable, but excessive complexity should be avoided.
- ✓ Measuring. In all classes with jumps, as the dog is brought into the ring, the **judges may**, at their discretion, measure the dog to verify the height at the withers. The measurement is made using an ordinary folding ruler or steel tape that may be calibrated to show the correct jump height. Nothing may be attached to determine level position. No other measuring device is required or acceptable in the ring. The ruler or tape is held by the judge. Measurements made by the judge **are final** and are not subject to verification.
- ✓ **Section 2. Standard of Perfection:** The Obedience Regulations set the standard of perfection by which the performance of each dog is scored **and give the judge little choice in deciding how an exercise is to be performed.**
- ✓ They require that judges fulfill their responsibility by **making competent decisions based on a mental picture of the perfect performance.**
- ✓ A judge **is expected** to penalize a handler if, in the judge’s opinion, the handler’s manner or handling is unnatural.
- ✓ **Lack of willingness and enjoyment** on the part of the dog **must be penalized**, as must **lack of precision** in the dog’s performance.
- ✓ **Section 3. Qualifying Performance:** In deciding whether a faulty performance of an exercise warrants a qualifying score, the judge will consider whether the awarding of an obedience title would be justified if all dogs in the class performed the exercise in a similar manner.
- ✓ The judge **must not give a qualifying score** for the exercise if they decide that it would be contrary to the best interests of the sport if all dogs in the class were to perform in the same way.
- ✓ A qualifying score **must never** be awarded to a dog whose performance has not met the minimum requirements, to a dog that **shows fear or resentment**, or to a **dog that relieves itself** at any time while in the ring for judging.
- ✓ **Section 4. Judge’s Directions:** The judge’s orders and signals **should be given** to the handlers in a clear and understandable manner **but in such a way that the work of the dogs is not disturbed.**
- ✓ **The Blog: (address below, sign up!)** expands on this subject, plus others, “Several judges have been observed using only one word for an order that requires more than one word to be used. Example: “left” for “left turn”, “about” for “about turn” “send” for “send your dog”. This confuses exhibitors who are not familiar with your judging procedures or may be new to the sport. Please use the orders as they are stated in the Obedience Regulations for every exercise.” This is a part of Standardized judging.
- ✓ **Section 5. No Added Requirements:** No judge will require any dog or handler to do anything, nor penalize a dog or handler for failing to do anything, that is not required by these regulations.
- ✓ **Section 6. Judging of Classes and Different Breeds:** The same methods and standards **will be used** for judging and scoring the regular, preferred, optional titling and non-regular classes and in judging **and scoring the work of dogs of different breeds**, including dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners.
- ✓ **Section 7. Interference and Double Handling:** A judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the ring **must act promptly to stop** such double handling or interference and must penalize the dog substantially. If the judge feels the circumstances warrant, the dog will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for the exercise during which the aid was received.
- ✓ **Section 8. Re-judging:** If a dog has failed an exercise, it will not ordinarily be re-judged unless the judge feels the dog’s performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions.
- ✓ **Section 11. Notification and Announcement of Scores:** Before awarding the placements, the judge **will** inform the spectators of the maximum number of points required for a perfect score. After scores of each placement have been announced the judge **will** tell the other qualifying handlers their scores.
- ✓ **Editor’s Note:** The Announcement of scores are to also acknowledge the class placements and qualifiers to the spectators outside the ring. **This is a BIG DEAL!** The Judge should pull out the 1st-4th placements to separate them from the other qualifiers. They should be presented in a row so the spectators can view the placements winners from the other qualifiers. **Do not** let them fade back into the crowd after receiving their placement ribbon.
- ✓ **Section 12. Explanations and Errors:** After a judge completes an assignment and has turned in their judge’s book, it is appropriate for the judge to discuss an individual dog’s performance with the handler if the handler requests this information. Judges are not required to explain their scoring and should never continue a conversation with an angry or aggressive person. Any interested person who thinks that there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards, the judge, the superintendent or to the show or trial secretary so that the matter may be checked.

- ✓ **Section 14. Physically Challenged Handlers:** Judges may modify specific requirements of these regulations so that physically challenged handlers may compete. Dogs handled by such handlers will be required to perform all parts of all exercises as described in these regulations and will be penalized for failure to perform any part of an exercise.
- ✓ **Section 15. Judging Program Order:** Dogs should be judged in the judging program order listed for each day if it is practical to do so without holding up any judging in any ring. Each handler is responsible for being ready at ringside when required and without being called. The judge's first consideration should be the convenience of those exhibitors who are ready when scheduled and who ask no favors.  
If a request is made in advance of the class starting time, a judge may agree to judge a dog earlier or later than the time scheduled by the judging program order. A judge should not mark the absentees in the judge's book until the end of the class.
- ✓ **Section 25. Misbehavior:** Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior whether it occurs during or between an exercise or before or after judging. The judge may release the dog from further competition in the class. A dog must be released for uncontrolled behavior such as excessive barking or running away from its handler.
- ✓ The judge must disqualify any dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person in the ring and complete the Disqualification for Attacking form (AEDSQ1). Any dog that attacks another dog or that appears dangerous to other dogs must be excused and not allowed back in the ring for the group exercises. The judge must complete the Dog on Dog Attack form (AEDSQ3) if there was an attack.
- ✓ **Section 27. Training and Disciplining in the Ring:** The judge will not permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands, to move toward the dog to correct it, or to practice any exercise in the ring at any time. Any exhibitor who does so may be **excused**. A dog whose handler disciplines it in the ring will be excused from further competition in the class and must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

### **NOVICE, Chapter 3:**

- ✓ **Section 5. Heel on Leash & Figure Eight (also all other heeling exercises):**
- ✓ **Judging Procedures,** In scoring this exercise, judges shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that they can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler. The judge should attempt to be in a position during the course of the exercise so that the dog and the handler may be observed from the rear, front, and side.
- ✓ The judge must determine whether the dog should receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for heeling based on the overall performance of the dog and handler during the entire exercise.
- ✓ **Section 7. Stand For Examination:**
- ✓ **Judging Procedures,** the judge must be alert to keep handlers from going more or less than about 6 feet and must penalize, even to the point of non-qualifying, the dog whose handler backs away when leaving. The examination is complete when the judge lifts their fingers and palm from the dog's hindquarters.
- ✓ Judges should not expose themselves needlessly to the danger of being bitten. Should a dog in the ring give warning that it may bite if you proceed with the examination, you should excuse the dog from the ring and mark the judge's book "Excused – Unable to Examine." If a dog attempts to attack or bites any person in the ring, the Judge must disqualify the dog, mark the judge's book "Disqualified – Attack" and fill out the "Disqualification for Attacking" form (AEDSQ1).
- ✓ **Section 10. Recall:**
- ✓ **Judge's Guidelines, Recall Exercises.** To have both dog and handler under constant observation in these exercises, a judge should take a position in line and slightly to the rear of the dog, facing the handler but at an adequate distance to one side.
- ✓ This is a foundation exercise and governs the faults and behavior of a dog in all exercises where the dog is moving toward the handler.
- ✓ The judge should never ask the handler to touch the dog or otherwise assist the judge in making a decision. If, in the judge's opinion, the dog is not close enough to the handler, it must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.
- ✓ **Section 12. Sit Stay – Get Your Leash:**
- ✓ **Judging Procedures:** Prior to the start of judging, the judge will instruct the steward where to place the leash after the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise.
- ✓ The leash will be placed inside the ring near the gate entrance on a chair or similar leash holder. The handler and dog will be positioned at least 30 feet from and facing the direction of the gate entrance. The judge must be in position to watch the dog and handler throughout the exercise including exiting the ring.
- ✓ **Section 14. Group Exercise – Sit and Down Stay:** Prior to beginning the exercise, the judge will instruct the handlers to remove their dog if it starts to move out of position. The judge will tell the exhibitors "Maintain control of your dogs." before exiting the ring.

- ✓ **Judging Procedures:** If a judge observes any signs of aggression or potential problems when the dogs are being assembled outside the ring for the group exercise or once the dogs are brought into the ring, the judge **must** excuse the dog and mark the judge's book "Excused" and state the reason.
- ✓ Any handlers who physically correct their dogs before or after the group exercise or while exiting the ring must be penalized under Miscellaneous Penalties.
- ✓ Judges **must** stand with their full attention on the dogs and handlers during the group exercise and remain alert to any potential problems. To have both dog and handler under constant observation in this exercise, a judge should take a position slightly to the rear of the dogs at one end of the row(s) of dogs.
- ✓ **The Blog: Group Exercise Management – Please be Vigilant!**
- ✓ Be vigilant when you have the stewards lining the dogs up outside the ring. While the dogs are lining up outside the ring, AKC has given you the authority to EXCUSE a dog if you observe any signs of aggression. If you see a problem, stop it and EXCUSE the dog!
- ✓ When the dogs are brought into the ring, it is your responsibility as the judge to line the dogs up correctly. Tell/show each handler where you want them to set up the dog. In order to split your attention on the team you are directing, as well as the other teams in the ring, remain in front of the group. Display a degree of benevolent authority as you direct the teams, "Terv 101 here, walk 6 feet, "Lab 102 here," walk 6 feet, etc. Remain in front of the dog with a voice of friendly authority. Let each dog read you as owner of the ring, and of the flock, by communicating that no one better mess with you or anything else in that ring.
- ✓ Give clear and concise instructions! As the handlers finish setting up, provide verbal guidance similar to: "Can everyone hear me? If your dog gets up and begins to wander, go get your dog immediately without disturbing any other dog, and immediately bring your dog back across the ring." Then, after "Exercise Finished," release that dog.
- ✓ It is important that the judge be in proper position to see the dogs and handlers throughout the Novice Group Exercise.
- ✓ A dog that leaves the place it was left or interferes with another dog during the first group exercise **MUST BE RELEASED** from the remaining group exercise!
- ✓ If you see a dog get interested in another dog, stay alert! This is not the time to be passive. Assertive ring management is key to maintaining a safe ring.
- ✓ In order to prevent a confrontation between dogs, do not hesitate to send a handler back to their dog
- ✓ **NON-Regular Classes.** The non-regular classes are **not** based on qualifying scores. Therefore, the teams in the non-regular classes may return for the group exercise in the relevant Novice associated classes, provided the judge has not otherwise released or excused the dog.

#### **OPEN, Chapter 4:**

- ✓ **Section 6. Heel Free and Figure Eight:** – see **Novice Heel on Leash & Figure Eight**
- ✓ **Section 7. Command Discrimination:**
- ✓ **Judging Procedure:** This exercise may be performed in an area of the ring that is at least 40 feet in length. The 15-foot distances must be clearly marked. The judge must be positioned so that both the dog and handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. An excellent position for judging this exercise is at an adequate distance to the side and slightly to the rear of the dog.
- ✓ **The Blog:** Judges should refrain from using signs and/or written orders on the floor, gates or walls, in place of, or in addition to, orders and or signals; and there should be no additional orders (via the signs etc.) provided to the performing team. For all other exercises, the judge gives the orders/signals. The command discrimination should be conducted using the same procedures.
- ✓ **Section 9. Drop On Recall:** - see **Novice Recall**
- ✓ **Section 11. Retrieve On Flat:**
- ✓ **Descriptor:** The judge will require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side or too close to the ring's edge.
- ✓ **Judging Procedures:** A judge should not place a dumbbell that is improperly thrown but should require the handler to throw the dumbbell again. A judge will not ask the handler's opinion when deciding whether a dumbbell is to be thrown again or not; it is the judge's sole responsibility to make this decision. Once the decision is made, the judge or steward will retrieve the dumbbell. Under no circumstances should the handler be penalized for a bad throw. Requiring the handler to re-throw the dumbbell signifies that the exercise is being restarted; therefore, the handler may pet, praise, and reposition the dog without penalty before the exercise is begun again.
- ✓ **The Blog:** The dumbbell must be approved by the judge. Two possible ways to do this are to have the dumbbell placed on the table prior to bringing the team into the ring and approve it at that time or have a steward hand the dumbbell to the judge prior to the first retrieve exercise, then the judge hands it to the exhibitor.
- ✓ So then, what constitutes a correct dumbbell?



- ✓ Merriam-Webster defines a dumbbell as “two weights connected by a short bar that serves as a handle.” The dumbbell should only have ONE bar connecting the two ends. Two bars (similar to some scent articles) are not acceptable for the dumbbell used in the Open exercises.
- ✓ Other specifications as listed in the Obedience Regulations for the dumbbell include the following:
- ✓ Must be made out of one or more solid pieces of wood or non-wooden material.
- ✓ If the dumbbell is not made from wood it must be similar in size, shape, and weight to a wooden dumbbell
- ✓ The size of the dumbbell must be proportionate to the size of the dog.
- ✓ Cannot be hollowed out.
- ✓ They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish or may be any color.
- ✓ They may not have attachments but may display the person’s name, the dog’s call name, and/or the dog’s picture (or insignia). Titles may not be displayed.
- ✓ **Section 13. Retrieve Over High Jump:** 8-foot distances must be clearly marked.
- ✓ **Judging Procedures:** The judge must make certain that the handler throws the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. In the Retrieve over High Jump exercise the handler, with the dog sitting in heel position, must be at least 8 feet in front of the jump or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet.
- ✓ **Judge’s Guidelines,** It is the judge’s responsibility to see that the handler complies before the exercise begins. During this exercise a judge must stand clear of both the handler and the dog in order to prevent any interference with the dog’s performance. The judge should be positioned so that both the dog and handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise.
- ✓ **Editor’s Note:** Standing in line with the jump the dog and handler can NOT be under continuous observation!
- ✓ **Section 15. Broad Jump:** It is the judge’s responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these regulations.
- ✓ **Judging Procedures:** A handler standing too close or too far from the side of the jump shall be required to move to the proper position.
- ✓ **Judge’s Guidelines,** In setting up the broad jump, the judge should make every effort to avoid having the dog jump toward the open gate or close to the table, and ensure that adequate room is allowed from all sides of the jump for the take-off, jumping and on the far side for landing and turning. The hurdles are to be positioned so the dog will be turning away from the ring barrier after landing.
- ✓ The dog and handler must be at least 8 feet in front of the first edge of the jump. It is the judge’s responsibility to see that the handler complies before the exercise begins.
- ✓ During the exercise, the judge must stand clear of the handler and the dog in order to prevent any interference with the dog’s performance. The judge must be positioned so that both the dog and the handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. This exercise is a Novice Recall, except for the jump and the position of the handler.
- ✓ **Section 17. Stand Stay – Get Your Leash:** When exiting the ring after the exercise, the judge will tell the handler “Attach your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog.”
- ✓ **Judging Procedures:** Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide where the leash will be placed, outside the ring on a chair or similar leash holder.
- ✓ The leash will be placed outside the ring by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. When positioning the dog and handler for this exercise, the judge should ensure that such positioning will permit the dog to keep the handler in its direct line of vision as the handler leaves and returns to the ring, and that the handler, when reentering the ring, is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. During this exercise the judge must be in position to watch the dog and see the handler leave and return to the ring. Once the exercise is finished, the judge must watch the dog and handler exit the ring together.
- ✓ **The Blog:** Leash holder is placed outside the ring. Good procedure would be to place it far enough outside the ring to ensure the handler has to go outside the ring to get it but not so far away that there is interference from others, which would then make the exercise inconsistent from team to team.

### **UTILITY, Chapter 5:**

- ✓ **Section 6. Signal Exercise:** - see **Novice Heel Free & Figure Eight:**
- ✓ **Judge’s Guidelines,** Judges should note that heeling is considered a principal part of this exercise; all penalties listed under the heeling exercises apply. A dog may non-qualify in the heeling portion using the same standards as in the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.
- ✓ In the Utility classes, a judge should bear in mind that only during the stand, stay, drop, sit, and come parts of this exercise is it required to non-qualify (NQ) a dog for receiving a command or audible signal. Although penalized substantially, it is possible for the dog to receive a passing score if given a command or audible signal during other parts of the exercise.
- ✓ The Obedience Regulations Chapter 5, Section 6, requires the judge to have the handler leave the dog at one end of the ring on the stand and then proceed on the judge’s order to the other end of the ring. This should place the handler about 3 to 4 feet from the opposite end of the ring.

- ✓ An excellent position for judging the stand, drop, sit, and come parts of this exercise is at an adequate distance to the side and slightly to the rear of the dog when the dog is in the stand-stay position.
- ✓ This exercise is composed of three principal parts: a heeling portion, the signal portion, and a recall portion.
- ✓ **Section 8. Scent Discrimination**: The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about 6 inches apart. The closest article should be about 20 feet from the handler and dog. The judge must make sure that the articles are visible to both dog and handler and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among articles.
- ✓ **Judge's Guidelines**, The judge should be certain that the handler and dog are in position to observe the placement of the articles should they choose to do so.
- ✓ The judge must take the necessary precautions to ensure the articles to be used by the handler are not fouled by the judge or any other scent.
- ✓ **Section 10. Directed Retrieve**: They must be open and must be approved by the judge.
- ✓ **Judging Procedures**: The judge should be certain the gloves are visible to the smallest and largest dogs.
- ✓ The judge may point to the designated glove at the same time they give the order.
- ✓ **Section 12. Moving Stand And Examination**:
- ✓ **Judging Procedures**: This exercise may be judged from the side while the dog and handler are heeling and until the dog is to be examined.
- ✓ **Judge's Guidelines**, Excuse – Unable to Examine, Disqualification for Attacking, Excuse – Dog on Dog. Excuse any dog that in your opinion exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached or examined in the normal manner. Signs may include moving away, growling, showing its teeth, and rolling its eyes. Any dog that displays such demeanor is a threat to you. When you excuse the dog, mark your judge's book "Excused – Unable to Examine."
- ✓ **The Blog**: Please remember to follow the examination procedure as it is outlined in the December 2015 Obedience Regulations (purple book). Exhibitors are expecting each judge to be consistent with this examination as it is explicitly stated in the regulations.
- ✓ Approach from the front Use both hands in a single motion beginning at the sides of the dog's neck proceed along the body and end at the dog's croup.
- ✓ NO examination of head, teeth, legs, testicles or tail. This includes no fingers or hand to nose for the purpose of sniffing your hand and or fingers.
- ✓ **Section 14. Directed Jumping**: The judge must not designate the jump until the dog has reached the far end of the ring.
- ✓ **Judging Procedures**: The judge should determine the 10-foot distance before beginning the class. The same sequence of jumps should be used for each dog.
- ✓ **Judge's Guidelines**: In the Directed Jumping exercise, the dog is not required to go to the other end of the ring, only to a point about 20 feet beyond the jumps and in the approximate center. If the dog stops on command and remains at this point, it should not be penalized for not having gone out far enough.
- ✓ An excellent position for judging this exercise is on the side of the ring of the designated jump, parallel to and slightly to the rear of the handler and dog.
- ✓ There are several key points that require your attention:
- ✓ • The dog must move at a brisk trot or gallop until commanded to sit.
- ✓ • The dog must go out about 20 feet beyond the jumps.
- ✓ • The handler should give the command to sit when the dog is about 20 feet beyond the jumps.
- ✓ • The dog must stop and sit promptly on command.
- ✓ The judge should not place a mark 20 feet beyond the jumps. The reference to 20 feet beyond the jumps is to require the sit command be given prior to the dog reaching the ring barrier so that the dog may be evaluated on its ability to stop and sit on command.

**Please keep in mind**, this article **highlights** just a few items to keep in mind when observing and learning what good judging is all about, Read and study the Regulations, Judge's Procedures, Judges' Guidelines and The Blog for more complete details.

**Random Little Tidbits #52** (Be careful of your perceptions in regards to the duties of an Obedience Judge!) is on this subject as well; check it out for the particulars. I also have a **Dog-Talk article on Judging**, if interested request a copy (pdf file). [dog-talk@comcast.net](mailto:dog-talk@comcast.net)

With all the above said, if you have concerns about Obedience, a judge's ring procedures or actions in the ring, write to: [obedience@akc.org](mailto:obedience@akc.org)

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