



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...

### ***Saving Withdrawals from Your 200 Account*** ©

Back in April of 2015 I came up with the idea of a series of articles to supplement the Dog-Talk articles. The Dog-Talk series delved into the intricate scoring details of an exercise at the three levels, Novice, Open and Utility. The Random Little Tidbits articles are designed to focus on a particular subject matter in the AKC Obedience Regulations to maybe provide a better understanding. At the time I had NO idea there would be 75 Tidbits, a milestone for sure.

### Today's Random Little Tidbit – **Versatility – A Very Cool Class Not To Be Overlooked.**



Back in the day, I always enjoyed showing in Versatility with my Saint Bernards. From what I can find in my past Regulations, non-regular classes, including Versatility, first showed up in the January 1975 printing. Non-regular classes are non-titling classes. Today (since 2009), Versatility is an Optional Titling class where a **VER** title may be obtained with three (3) qualifying scores. As an Optional Titling class it is an option for a club to offer the class. If you see it offered and you have a dog with the understandings of the N, O, U exercises, give it a go. No pre-titles are needed! I think you will enjoy the class, the dogs sure do with the mixed levels of exercises.

Versatility seems to be in a “Catch 22” holding pattern at the moment, in my opinion. Not many clubs seem to offer the class as entry numbers can be low. And when it is offered there are those who might not have a full understanding of the class, or are not sure when the next club will be offering the class to finish a title. Hopefully in the future we can break this holding pattern with clubs offering the class more frequently and exhibitors more willing to enter Versatility and go for that **VER** title.

**Chapter 19, Section 1. Versatility Class.** “The Versatility class is an optional titling class for all dogs. This class may be offered by clubs at obedience events. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

“Six exercises will be performed: two each from the Novice, Open and Utility classes. There will be no group exercise (*note, no Command Discrimination or Get Your Leash exercises either*). The exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular classes. For the purpose of this class, scent discrimination articles 1 and 2 will be considered as a single Utility exercise.

“Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the combination and order of exercises to be performed in this class and which glove will be retrieved if the combination includes the Directed Retrieve exercise. This combination, order and glove number will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes or earlier prior to the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the combinations and designated glove so that each will be used approximately the same number of times. *Each handler will provide a dumbbell, scent discrimination articles and directed retrieve gloves.*”

“This class may be judged by anyone approved to judge the Utility class.”

**Section 2. Versatility Exercises and Scoring.** The exercises and maximum scores in the Versatility class:

Novice exercise No. 1 25 points

Novice exercise No. 2 25 points

Open exercise No. 1 35 points

Open exercise No. 2 35 points

Utility exercise No. 1 40 points

Utility exercise No. 2 40 points

**Maximum Total Score 200 points**

The maximum judging rate is six (6) dogs per hour.

### Section 3. Versatility Combinations.

- V1- Stand for Exam, Recall, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Signal Exercise, Directed Retrieve
- V2- Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam, Directed Retrieve
- V3- Stand for Exam, Recall, Drop on Recall, Retrieve Over High Jump, Signal Exercise, Directed Jumping
- V4- Novice Heel Free, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump, Moving Stand and Exam, Directed Jumping
- V5- Stand for Exam, Recall, Heel Free and Figure Eight, Retrieve on Flat, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping
- V6- Stand for Exam, Recall, Figure Eight and Heel Free, Retrieve Over High Jump, Directed Retrieve, Directed Jumping
- V7- Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Retrieve Over High Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve
- V8- Stand for Exam, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Broad Jump, Signal Exercise, Moving Stand and Exam
- V9- Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Moving Stand and Exam
- V10- Stand for Exam, Recall, Figure Eight and Heel Free, Retrieve on Flat, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping
- V11- Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Recall, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve
- V12- Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam, Directed Retrieve

Section 4. Versatility Title. “The letters **VER** may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by two different judges to have received qualifying scores in Versatility classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Versatility certificate from the AKC. Dogs that have obtained the Versatility title (VER) may continue to compete in the Versatility class.”

The Versatility Judge’s Book The Book is to look similar to the Open B and Utility B books where the exercise boxes (to the left) are to be **left blank**, and the judge fills in the exercise options and order of exercises. As stated above, “Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the combination **and order of exercises** to be performed in this class...” This allows the judge to preplan a mixed order of the N, O & U exercises for *designing an efficient flow pattern from exercise to exercise*. There is *no requirement* to judge 2 Novice, 2 Open and then 2 Utility exercises in that order.

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