



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 – **Management of Dogs Attempting to**

Leave the Ring While Being Judged – Obedience and Rally

The Saint Bernard pictured here received a call while heeling and had to leave the ring to join in on a rescue mission.

UPDATE: Random Little Tidbits **#20** covered the subject matter “**Stewarding --- The Little Things Can Make A Difference.**” If you are asked to steward (and I hope you will say YES!) you may want to review that Tidbit, plus this one! Stewards are an integral part of dog shows. They are part of the “gear system” that helps make a show run smoothly, not only for the judge, but the handlers, exhibitors and other stewards.

Always keep in mind: dogs are dogs, and they can react in a variety of ways to what is happening in their environment at any particular time. To help insure the safety of everyone attending the show (and that includes - you) additional measures are now in effect. Stewards need to also be aware of this change (below) and be sure to ask the judge how a loose dog is to be dealt with, if they overlooked mentioning this in their briefing. It is also imperative for the steward to keep their attention on the judge during judging for further instructions if a dog were attempting to leave the ring.

By AKC Companion Events Department on February 27, 2023

“The Board voted to modify the Obedience & Rally Regulations to provide instructions to judges and stewards on how to manage a dog that leaves its handler and attempts to leave the ring while competing. *(Effective March 1, 2023)* **The judge will instruct the stewards** not to reach for or grab a dog to stop it, but if the dog is not responding to its handler's commands, the **judge may advise the stewards** to attempt to block the dog from leaving if it is safe to do so. The dog will then be released from the ring.”

OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS

“**CHAPTER 1, Section 31. Stewards.** Judges are in sole charge of their rings until their assignments are completed. Stewards are provided to assist but may act only on the judge's instructions. They must not give information or instructions to owners and handlers except when the judge asks them to do so. Any request from an exhibitor for special consideration must be directed to the judge.

“**It is the judge's responsibility to review with the stewards** their duties and the way those duties are to be performed. When a dog leaves its handler to leave the ring, the stewards' safety is a priority, and they must be advised not to reach for or grab a dog to stop it. At a show with ring gating, if the stewards are near the open gate area when a dog leaves its handler, and the dog is not responding to its handler's commands, the judge may advise the stewards to block the gate to prevent the dog from leaving the ring if it is safe to do so. The dog will then be released from the ring.

“**CHAPTER 2, Section 25. Misbehavior (New wording added)** A dog who has left its handler to leave the ring, who is not responding to its handler, and/or the stewards have blocked the dog to keep it in the ring, must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score and must be released from the ring.”

RALLY REGULATIONS

The same wording will be added to **Chapter 1, Section 33 and Chapter 2, Section 19.**

I suggest printing out Tidbit #20 & #93 to have on hand for a quick review before stewarding.

The above quotes came out on the AKC Blog. Be sure to sign up so you will not miss out on further posts. Keep in the know!

Bog Address: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/> **Sign up to receive updates.**