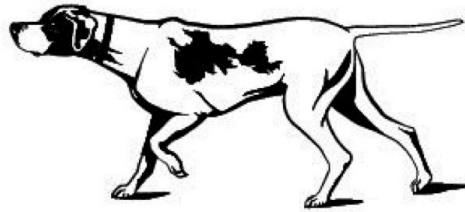




# THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB



## O B E D I E N C E

**Event:** Westminster Masters Obedience Championship ---- Special Attraction Event

**Date:** Monday, February 12, 2018

**Judge:** Mr. John Cox

**Invite:** The following teams will receive an invitation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Westminster Masters Obedience Championship:

- Top 200 dogs based on AKC OTCH points earned from January 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017
- Winners from the previous year's Westminster Masters Obedience Championship, AKC Classic Master Class and AKC National Obedience Championship

**Entry:** Limited to the first 30 entries received

*The rules, regulations and policies in accordance with the American Kennel Club, the Westminster Kennel Club and the City of New York will be followed unless stated otherwise.*

**The Westminster Masters Obedience Championship competition will consist of two rounds. Entered dogs may be eligible to compete in both rounds.**

**First Round** competition will consist of the following regular class open/utility exercises:

- Signal Exercise (Utility exercise 40 pts.)
- Drop on Recall (Open exercise 30 pts.)
- Directed Jumping (Utility exercise 30 pts. The go out portion of this exercise will be performed at a distance of approximately 50 feet. One jump will be used, judge's choice, same jump for all dogs.)
- Retrieve over High Jump (Open exercise 30 pts.)
- Scent Discrimination (Utility exercise 30 pts. One article will be retrieved, handler's choice as to type of article to retrieve i.e. leather, metal, or wood.)
- Group Exercise – Sit Stay Walk Around the Ring (See description below 40 pts.)

The total available points for the First Round are 200. First Round Scoring will be as it is in the Regular Open and Utility Classes, except that a non-qualifying exercise will be assessed the total points off for that exercise rather than given an "NQ."

The order of the exercises will be determined by the judge and posted no later than 45 minutes prior to the start of the event. All dogs will complete the exercises in the order posted. The dogs will be judged in jump height order, low to high. The ring will be 40 x 60 for both rounds of competition. If a dog is excused or released for whatever reason, the dog will be finished competing for the day.

Group Exercise – Sit Stay– Walk Around Ring will be performed at the conclusion of the First-Round judging of all of the dogs.

- If a handler chooses not to return for the group exercise they will also be released from performing in the Second Round.
- Depending on the number of dogs entered, there will be two groups, split respectively in half.
- Handlers and their dogs will line up in the approximate center of the ring; eight dogs facing one direction, seven dogs facing the other way. There will be approximately 6-feet between the two rows, with approximately 4 feet between dogs on either side.
- The Judge will order the handlers “Sit your dogs”, then “Leave your dogs”. The handlers will walk forward to the edge of the ring; proceed in the direction designated by the judge, and walk around the ring twice before stopping in front of their dog. The judge will order, “Back to your dogs.” Once the handlers have returned to heel position the judge will order, “Exercise Finished.”

A break will be taken, at the judge’s discretion, between the First and Second. Following the break, all dogs that complete the performance in the First Round will also perform in the Second Round.

**Second Round competition performance routine should be designed to showcase the broad spectrum of obedience training at its ultimate finest!**

**GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS:**

- Exhibitors must be cognizant that this is a family event. All equipment and performances must be appropriate for family viewing.
- Each handler is allowed a maximum of 6 minutes’ ring time. This includes set up and performance. Once the handler and/or assistants enter the ring the clock will be started.
- The standard high, bar and broad jump will be available. The handler may ask the Ring Stewards to set the jumps prior to entering the ring. If other equipment is to be used, it must be provided and set up by the handler and/or their assistants. Equipment supplied by the handler may not make noise or require clean up. No live animal props will be allowed. No food in the ring.
- The dog, handler and equipment must remain inside the ring throughout the performance.
- Handlers may talk to their dogs throughout the performance.
- The judge will be inside the ring to evaluate the performance.
- When the handler is ready to start the performance, they must indicate to the judge they are ready to begin. The judge’s acknowledgement to begin will follow.
- At the conclusion of the performance, the handler must give a clear indication to the judge that the performance is complete. Timing of the performance will stop. The judge will say “Thank you” and the team will exit the ring.
- The dog and handler will perform a routine designed by the handler. The performance routine must include the required elements listed below and should include a mix of various other skills, behaviors, maneuvers and/or tricks. Each routine should be designed to keep the audience’s interest and attention throughout the entire performance. The time limit stated above is the maximum allotted. Excessive repetition of the same behaviors, for the sake of adding time to the performance, should be avoided. The equipment supplied and used by the handler should complement rather than distract from the performance.

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS:**

- The dog must demonstrate the ability to perform the following minimum required elements:

- **Heel Work:** Minimal heeling requirements: normal, fast, slow, right turn, left turn, about turn, halt. It is the handler's option as to the additional heeling intricacies and skills demonstrated.
  - **Jump:** The dog must demonstrate the ability to jump its required regular class jump height twice, using one or two of the standard obedience jumps. Additional jumping, using obedience jumps or other equipment may be included in the performance.
  - **Retrieve:** The retrieve item used is handler's choice. It may be an obedience item, or toy, newspaper, slippers etc. Squeakers/noise makers must be removed.
  - **Go Out:** This must be performed on the long dimension of the ring, i.e. center, side, or diagonal. The dog must go away from its handler at least half the distance of the length and demonstrate a controlled/stationary stop. The handler may then return to the dog or have the dog perform other required elements or various skills.
  - **Distance Work:** This must be demonstrated on the long dimension of the ring, center, side, or diagonal. This may be combined with the Go Out. The dog must remain at least half the distance of the length away from the handler. Once away from the handler, the dog must perform at least three changes of position, i.e. sit, stand, down.
  - Any of the required elements listed above may be combined.
- **Performances will be judged on the following criteria:**
    - **REQUIRED ELEMENTS:** The minimum requirements are met.
    - **ROUTINE DESIGN & PERFORMANCE:** The routine showcases the usefulness of an obedient dog in an interesting and captivating manner. The overall performance captures the audience's attention.
    - **TECHNICAL EXECUTION:** The overall presentation of the routine is such that the performance flows seamlessly, with a sense of continuity, and smoothness.
    - **TEAMWORK:** Throughout the entire performance, the dog and handler give the appearance of working together as one, be they side by side or working away from each other. There is a clear demonstration of team connection and cooperation.
    - **DOG'S WILLINGNESS & ENJOYMENT:** The dogs' general responsiveness to its handler and obvious joy to be taking part in the performance.

**Total maximum points available – 100**

- Scoring penalties:
  - 10-point penalty will be assessed for failure to perform/complete a required element
  - 10-point penalty will be assessed if the total allotted 6-minute ring time exceeds a 10-second grace period (Additional penalties for excessive overtime may be assessed at the judge's discretion)
  - 5-point penalty for excessive barking (More than 5 barks)
  - 1-10 point penalties, judges' discretion, will be assessed for errors listed under general information/requirements

In the event a run-off for a placement is required, the judge will decide the runoff pattern and exercise(s) to be performed.

Results will be based on cumulative totals from both rounds of competition. Scores, from both rounds, will be posted after the event.