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Rockannand Formal Obedience Training – Lesson 3/4

HEELING WITH TURNS

As soon as your dog heels freely on your left side with his muzzle on your left knee, the handler attempts to turn left or right without interference of the dog. This is done by quick left or right turns without looking at the dog, but pushing him firmly out of the way in your left turn, or snapping the leash straight forward, parallel with the floor, on your right or about turns.

Your left hand signal is given when making the first step forward with the left foot. At the same time, give a clear command "HEEL." When turning, no other command or signal is given. Pushing the dog out of the way in your left turn is done with your left knee or, in case of a very small dog, with your right foot. All turns, left, right or about, are done quickly to keep the dog's attention with the handler.

SIT STAY

The dog now sits on the handler's left side. Your left hand gives a signal to stay by moving your hand toward the dog's muzzle with palm toward the dog. The exact opposite is applied to the heeling signal. At the same time, your clear verbal command "STAY" is given, and the handler leaves his dog, stepping forward with his right foot.

The handler's left hand now tightens the leash slightly above the dog's neck to keep him in exactly this position. At the first two sessions, the handler repeats the command "STAY" several times, but then repeats it only with a firm correction as shown by the instructor. (Correction: Immediately sit the dog back down in the exact position from which he faulted.) After circling the dog, the handler always steps back into the heel position, and generously praises the dog. While practicing staying, do not forget the heeling exercises as they distract the dog from the monotony and keep him alert. We increase the training time now gradually and only the owner of the dog knows how long he can keep his dog's attention without increasing the force of his corrections.

Try to conclude every session with one exercise well-performed, and generously praise your dog and spend a few minutes romping with the dog to make him feel more loved when obeying these simple commands. Never interrupt his play time with a command of "HEEL" or "STAY" unless the dog is under control, which means his chain-collar and leash are placed in the dog.

Dedicated to the Preservation and Promotion of The German Shepherd Dog