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Rockannand Formal Obedience Training – Lesson 7/8

Stand for Exam

Put the dog in the sitting position. Hold the leash in the right hand. Give the command "STAND" and at the same time move your left hand from the ground up to your hip and gently hint with the leash. Praise him greatly. Turn sideways facing your dog. Put your right hand in front of the dog's muzzle, palm facing the dog and lead him out one or two steps until he is standing square. Signal and command him to "STAY." Walk around him, jiggle the leash, etc. Correct him if he moves. Praise him greatly.

Remember at all times that the dog not only depends on vocal commands but on the signal given with it. If perfection is expected in performing an exercise, never forget the hand motion. Only at the end of this course will the vocal command be omitted, which will then enable the handler to work the dog, close or distant, with hand signals only.

Stand for examination has been done with the leash, with the handler circling his dog at the extent of the same. While circling the dog, hold the leash slack above the dog's neck, ready to correct if the dog moves. Generous praise finishes every exercise.

With the signal, the dog sits and should be taken through other exercises before repeating the "Stand for Examination." "Recall" and "Heeling" are perfect exercises to relieve the dog of the more boring ones of "Staying," which are against the dog's natural love for running, jumping, etc. The goal will be to leave a group of dogs in the standing position for as long as three minutes. The handler will be at the distance of 20 yards.

Down When Facing The Dog

The handler leaves his dog sitting and faces him at the length of the leash. A clear command "DOWN" is given and the right arm is raised straight up. This is followed by a quick step toward the dog, forcing him gently but quickly into the down position. Praise is given when the dog obeys and the handler steps back to the spot where the first command was given.

Now the right hand signals "SIT" followed by a quick upward jerk on the leash. At the same time, touch the dog's toes carefully. After a reward of praise, always return to the previous position. Repeat this exercise in rapid succession before returning to "HEEL" or "RECALL" exercises.

Never follow a certain pattern in performing all these exercises. That is, if the dog tends to heel too close and ahead, do a fast turn to the left, stepping across the dog. If the dog is left sitting for a recall and shows impatience, command a sharp "DOWN:" instead of calling the dog toward the handler.

Remember that the only successful way of training a dog is to attract his attention throughout the training session. Also remember that the dog needs rest and time to romp with his master.

Dedicated to the Preservation and Promotion of The German Shepherd Dog