

# NATIONAL KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE TRIALS

**PURPOSE:** To promote the purebred dog and mixed breed dog as a well-behaved companion, at home and in public, through the sport of obedience.

## GENERAL RULES:

1. Any breed or specialty club may register with the NKC and hold a trial.
2. Competition is open to all purebred dogs registered with the NKC. Mixed breed dogs may also compete, provided they are spayed or neutered and register with NKC. Dogs must have current vaccinations.
3. Competitors may pre-register prior to the day of the show or register on the day of the show. Registration will close 1 hour before competition starts.
4. Bitches in season may not be shown.
5. Dogs that are blind may not compete. A deaf dog may compete with the decision of the judge that the handler has control of the dog. A lame dog may compete if the handler can show, with a written document from a veterinarian or rescue organization that the dog is not in pain and can safely compete.
6. Selection of Judges: Anyone may stand as judge so long as she/he has the confidence of the host club and is registered with the NKC as a judge.
7. Judges may show their own dogs at a trial. Another judge must judge his/her entire class. The judge has complete control of the ring. The judge may excuse from the ring any dog he/she feels aggressive, fearful, dangerous or physically unable to compete. He/she may dismiss from the ring any handler or dog that interferes with another handler or dog, is abusive in language, or mistreats his dog.
8. Qualifying scores will be decided on the judge's idea of a perfect example of the exercise. Each competitor will start with 100 points and the judge will deduct, by 1/2 points, any flaws in the team's performance. A qualifying score is 70 or above. A perfect score would be 100.
9. Ring will be enclosed and of a size to safely allow for the jumping exercises. It will be clean and level and indoor rings must be matted. Recommended dimensions are 40 ft. x 50 ft.
10. The team will start all exercises from the heel position. The heel position is the dog on the handler's left side facing the same direction as the handler. The dog will be close but not crowding the handler. The dog will be in the heel position sitting, standing or lying down.
11. Leashes and collars may be leather or nylon or chain. Length of leash must allow a loose loop between dog and handler. Training collars may be worn in Beginner Class and a flexi-lead may be used for the recall.
12. Petting, praise, encouragement is allowed between exercises. The team should be relaxed and having fun.
13. A dog that refuses a command and is disqualified, upon request of the handler, may ask to have the leash back and continue as training exercise.

**CLASS DIVISIONS:** Beginner , Intermediate , Advanced , Working and Working Excellent.

Classes for Veteran (dogs over 7), Team (2 or more handler and dog teams) and Brace (2 dogs competing in unison) may also be offered.

**RIBBONS:** All classes will offer ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place and a ribbon for each qualifying score. Blue for 1<sup>st</sup> place, red for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, yellow for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and white for 4<sup>th</sup> place, and purple for qualifying score. Host club or NKC will decide style and size.

**CERTIFICATES AND TITLES:** The NKC will issue a certificate of achievement for all teams with a qualifying score of 70 or above, at 3 different trials. Owner can use the letters acknowledging each title, CB (companion-beginner), CI (companion-intermediate), CA (companion-advanced), CW (companion-working) and CWX (companion-working excellent) after the dog's name. Each class will be divided into two divisions, A and B, both to be judged equally, with the qualifications listed below:

**COMPANION BEGINNER: Class A Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, handled by the owner or co-owner, or a family member who resides with the dog. Neither dog nor handler may have obtained an NKC obedience title, nor any obedience title in any organization.

**Class B Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, may be handled by anyone. Handler may have titled a dog in NKC or any other organization, but the dog entered may not hold any obedience titles in any organization.

**COMPANION INTERMEDIATE: Class A Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, handled by the owner or co-owner, or a family member who resides with the dog. Dogs may not hold the Companion Advanced Title, or any obedience title with any other organization. Handlers may not have titled a dog above Companion Beginner or in any other organization.

**Class B Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, may be handled by anyone. Dogs may not hold the Companion Advanced Title, or any obedience title with any other organization. Handlers may have titled dogs in other organizations.

**COMPANION ADVANCED: Class A Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, handled by the owner or co-owner, or a family member who resides with the dog. Dogs may not hold the Companion Working Dog title, or hold equivalent titles above a Companion Dog title from other organizations. Handlers may not have titled a dog above the equivalent of Companion Dog from other organizations.

**Class B Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, may be handled by anyone. Dogs may not hold the Companion Working Dog title, or hold equivalent titles from other organizations. Handlers may have titled dogs to any level with any organization.

**COMPANION WORKING: Class A Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, handled by the owner or co-owner, or a family member who resides with the dog. Dog does not hold Companion Working Excellent title. Handler may have titled a dog to any level in any organization.

**Class B Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, may be handled by anyone. Dog may hold up to two legs of the Companion Working Excellent title. Handlers may have titled dogs to any level with any organization.

**COMPANION WORKING EXCELLENT: Class A Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, handled by the owner or co-owner, or a family member who resides with the dog. Handler may have titled a dog to any level in any organization.

**Class B Qualifications:** Dogs who are at least 6 months of age, may be handled by anyone. Handlers may have titled dogs to any level with any organization. Dogs who hold the Companion Working Excellent Title may continue to show in this class.

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

HEELING:	20
FIGURE 8:	10
STAND STAY:	10
COME:	10

RETURN TO HEEL:	10
SIT STAY:	20
DOWN STAY:	20

## **BEGINNER EXERCISES:**

All exercises will be done on leash. A flexi-lead, 16' to 26' depending on the size of dog, may be used on the Recall Exercise. Dog should work willingly, not being pulled through exercises by handler and leash. Order of exercises will be as shown below, 1 through 7. Judge will direct team during each exercise. Teams will enter and leave the ring in an orderly manner. Judge may designate order by armband numbers. See diagram A for pattern.

Exercises:

1. Heel
2. Figure 8
3. Stand Stay
4. Come or Here
5. Return to Heel
6. Long Sit Stay
7. Long Down Stay

**HEELING:** Heeling pattern will be called by the judge and must contain, halts, about turns, right turns, left turns, changes of pace (fast & slow).

**FIGURE 8:** Team will heel around 2 people or 2 objects in a figure 8 pattern. There will be at least 1 halt during exercise.

**STAND STAY:** Handler will stand his/her dog, give command to "Stay", walk away approximately 6 feet and turn and face the dog, wait 30 seconds then return to the heel position. Dog shouldn't move.

**COME OR HERE:** Handler will move to area designated by the judge. Handler will sit the dog, give the command to "Stay" and leave the dog moving to the end of Flexi-lead. Facing the dog, call it to "come or here". The dog should come and sit in front of handler close enough for the handler to be able to reach it's collar.

**RETURN TO HEEL:** As part of the COME OR HERE exercise the handler gives command or signal for the dog to return to the heel position at his/her side. Handler may remove flexi-leash or leave on dog for this part of exercise.

**LONG SIT STAY:** will be 1 minute and done on a 6 ft. lead. Handlers will sit their dogs and tell their dogs "Stay", leave their dog go to end of their lead and turn and wait for the judge to signal them to return to their dog. They will then return to the heel position. QUIETLY release the dog. No score will be given for a dog that breaks the stay. Will be done in a group.

**LONG DOWN STAY:** Will be 2 minutes and done on a 6 ft. lead. From the sit position the handlers will tell their dogs "down" and "stay". The handler will leave the dog in the same manner as the Long Sit. No score will be given for a dog that breaks the stay. Will be done in a group.

## **INTERMEDIATE EXERCISES:**

**HEELING:** Same as beginner, except no training collars are permitted.

**FIGURE 8:** Same as beginner.

**STAND STAY:** Same as beginner.

**COME OR HERE:** Same as beginner, except no flexi-lead may be used.

**RETURN TO HEEL:** Same as beginner.

**LONG SIT STAY:** Same as beginner, except no leashes permitted and handlers will cross to the other side of the ring and wait for the judges signal to return.

**LONG DOWN STAY:** Same as beginner, except no leashes permitted and handlers cross to the other side of the ring and wait for the judges signal to return.

## **ADVANCED EXERCISES:**

Judge does not call any patterns. The handler is responsible for completing the required exercises in a timely manner.

**HEEL:** Team will enter ring and upon signal from judge they will complete a Heeling Pattern (see diagram A). Handler must include in pattern, 2 about turns, a left turn, a right turn, 2 halts, changes of pace (fast & slow). Judge will watch to see all elements are completed and the style and accuracy of each exercise. All exercises are done off leash.

**FIGURE 8:** Same as beginner, except off leash and no signals from judge.

**STAND STAY:** Same as beginner, except off leash and no signals from judge.

**COME OR HERE:** Same as beginner, except off leash and must wait 30 seconds before calling the dog.

**RETURN TO HEEL:** Same as beginner, except off leash and recall is done over a jump of appropriate height.

**LONG SIT STAY:** Sit will be 2 minute. Same as beginner but off leash and handlers will cross to other side of ring and wait for judge's signal to return to their dogs. Will be done in a group.

**LONG DOWN STAY:** Long down will be for 3 min. Handlers will leave and return to their dogs, same as Long sit. Will be done in a group.

**WORKING EXERCISES:** Judge does not call or signal exercises. Handler is responsible to complete exercises in a timely manner.

**HEEL OFF LEASH:** Handler will follow pattern shown in diagram B, but does not do a moving stand replace with a halt.

**FIGURE 8:** Team will heel twice around posts with 2 halts.

**DISTANCE DOWN:** From a sit stay, handler will leave dog a minimum of 10 feet, turn and face dog and say and or signal the dog to down. Wait 30 seconds and say and/or signal the dog to return to sit. Handler will return to heel position.

**FETCH:** From a sit stay, handler will toss a dumbbell (belonging to handler) at least 15 feet. Handler will send dog to fetch and return to him/her with the dumbbell. Handler will take dumbbell, then send dog to heel.

**HIGH JUMP:** Handler will set height of jump. The Judge will decide if jump is of an appropriate height for each dog. No dog will jump more than 24 inches. Handler will sit the dog on one side of the jump (distance from jump decided by handler). Handler will go to other side of jump, approximately 15 to 20 feet, turn and face his/her dog. Handler will say or signal the dog to come. Dog must jump over the jump and sit in front of handler. Handler will then send dog to return to heel position.

**BROAD JUMP:** The broad jump will be made up of 4 boards, of equal length and width. Handlers will set width of jump for dogs. No dog will jump over 48 inches. Handler will sit his/her dog in front of the jump and then leave dog and move to other side of jump same as high jump. Turn and face his/her dog call dog to come and sit in front of handler. Then send dog to heel.

**LONG SIT STAY:** Same as Advanced. Time will be 3 minutes. Handlers will leave the ring BUT not go out of sight of their dogs. Judge may move among dogs as a distraction. Dogs should not move. No score will be given for a dog that breaks stay.

**LONG DOWN STAY:** Same as Advanced. Time will be 4 minutes. Handlers will leave the ring but not go out of sight of their dogs. Judge may move among dogs as a distraction. No score for breaking stay.

**WORKING EXCELLENT EXERCISES:** All exercises will be with non-verbal commands.

**SIGNAL EXERCISE:** Handler will complete a Heeling pattern (see diagram B). The judge will signal for team to start only. Team will complete exercises using non-verbal signals only.

**SCENT DISCRIMINATION:** Handler will supply 8 articles, all the same and numbered. Handler will keep an article selected by judge. A ring assistant will place other 7 articles, 20 feet away from team. The judge will take the handlers article and, not touching the article, place it with the other 7. The judge will signal the handler to send the dog. The dog must find and return to the handler with the article. Sitting in front of handler, the handler

will take the article and signal the dog to return to heel.

**DIRECTED RETRIEVE:** Handler will supply 3 identical items. A ring assistant will place them evenly spaced on one side of ring designated by judge. From a place designated by the judge the handler will send the dog to retrieve one of the items. The dog will return with item to handler. Handler will send dog out again to retrieve another item. Handler will take item each time and on second retrieve dog must sit in front of handler and then upon signal from handler return to heel.

**MOVING STAND:** He/she must tell the dog to stay in stand/stay position and move out ahead leaving dog then while continuing to move call dog. The dog must catch up and resume the heel position. The moving stand will be included in heeling pattern of signal exercise

**DIRECTED JUMPING:** This exercise will use 2 bar jumps (a bar suspended on pegs on 2 up rights). Handler, using guidelines in Working, will set height of jumps. Handler will send dog to other side of ring and signal dog to sit. Handler will signal dog to take jump and return over jump to handler. Handler may send dog over either jump first. Then the handler must repeat exercise with second jump.

**LONG SIT STAY OR DOWN STAY:** Will be done as group. Judge will have teams do a long down OR long sit (3 min.). A ring assistant with another dog on leash will enter ring and heel on the opposite side of ring and halt in front of judge and then heel out of ring. No score will be given for a dog that breaks stay.

#### **SENIOR CLASS-SENIOR EXCELLENT**

Senior class will be for dog 7 years old or more. The team will complete the Heel pattern used in Advanced. Senior Excellent will be for dogs, 7 years old or older. The Senior Excellent team will complete the Heel pattern from Working and the Fetch exercise from Working.

#### **DOUBLES CLASS**

This class will be for a handler working with 2 dogs. They will complete the heel pattern from Advanced. They may ask the judge to call the pattern.

#### **TEAM RELAY CLASS**

This class will be for 2 to 4 teams. They will complete a simplified heel pattern, by leaving out the changes of pace and halts. Then they will move to figure 8 and heel around it one time. They will then heel out of ring. One team will go first and in relay fashion complete exercises and leaves ring. Judge will start timing when first team signals the judge they will start. Judge will stop timing when last team has finished. This class is to be fun and enjoyable for handlers, dogs and spectators. Fastest team wins.

#### **NATIONAL KENNEL CLUB SUPER OBEDIENCE CHAMPION**

Each year the NKC will have a competition for all dogs that earned their titles that year, or in a prior year. There will be a Super Champion-Advanced, a Super Champion-Working and a Super Champion-Working Excellent.

**SUPER-ADVANCED:** Team will complete the Advanced exercises, twice, with a break between. They will be scored separately and the scores will be added together. Highest score receives title. Judge prior to competition will post order of exercises. Qualifying scores of 140 or above with 200 a perfect score.

**SUPER WORKING:** Team will complete Advanced exercises and complete Working exercises. Judges will only use one set of Long Sit and Long Down and one heeling pattern and one figure 8 exercise. Order of exercises will be posted prior to competition. Scores will be added together, highest score receives title. Qualifying scores of 140 or above with 200 being perfect score.

**SUPER WORKING EXCELLENT:** Team will complete Advanced exercises and Working exercises and Working Excellent exercises. Judge prior to competition will supply order of exercise. Judge will use only one heel pattern and one figure 8 pattern. Judge will use only one set of Long Sit and Long Down. Judge will give team a short break between sets of exercises to acknowledge Advanced, Working and Working Excellent.

Team will be scored on each group of exercises and scores will be added together. Highest score receives title. Qualifying score will be 210 and above with 300 being a perfect score.

**TROPHIES, RIBBONS AND PRIZES:** Champion Trophies will be awarded for 1, 2, 3rd, and 4th places.

They will be of a size and design to acknowledge excellence. Purple and white Rosettes will be awarded for all qualifying scores. Prizes, if any, will be announced prior to competition. All Trophies and Ribbons must have NKC on them the date and the title won. A special prize will be given by the NKC to any dog that receives a perfect combined score.

## **AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE RULES**

1. Judge does not call patterns for Advanced, Working, and Working Excellent but each team will complete it in a designated time allowed. Advanced- 5 minutes to complete all exercises. Working 8 to 10 minutes to complete all exercises. Working Excellent: 10 to 12 minutes. The ring assistant will keep time for each team and inform judge when time limit has been met. The judge must deduct major points or disqualify the team depending how much over the team has gone.
2. The people or posts in figure 8 heeling must stand 10 feet apart.
3. In the Working and Working Excellent Exercises the handler must put height his/her dog will jump in high jump and broad jump and the directed jumping on his/her entry form. The judge will decide if it is fair and safe distance based on the breed of dog.
4. The Scent Discrimination Exercise: The articles used must be made of (4) leather and (4) metal. The ring assistant will scent the 6 remaining articles and place them on the ground 5 inches apart, 10 feet away from the team.
5. The Directed Retrieve: The three identical items must all be WHITE.  
These changes replace information contained in original rules and regulations.

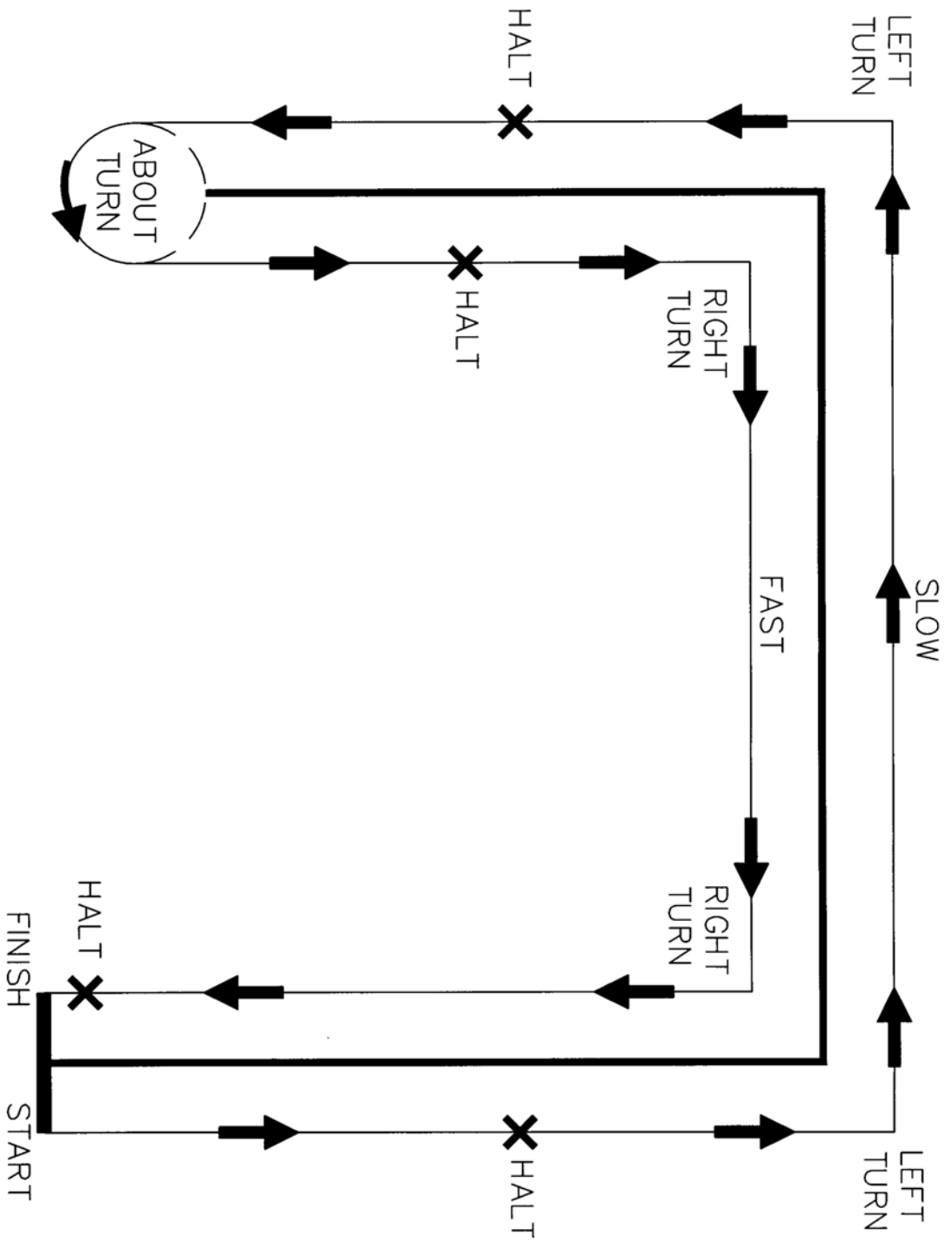


DIAGRAM "A"

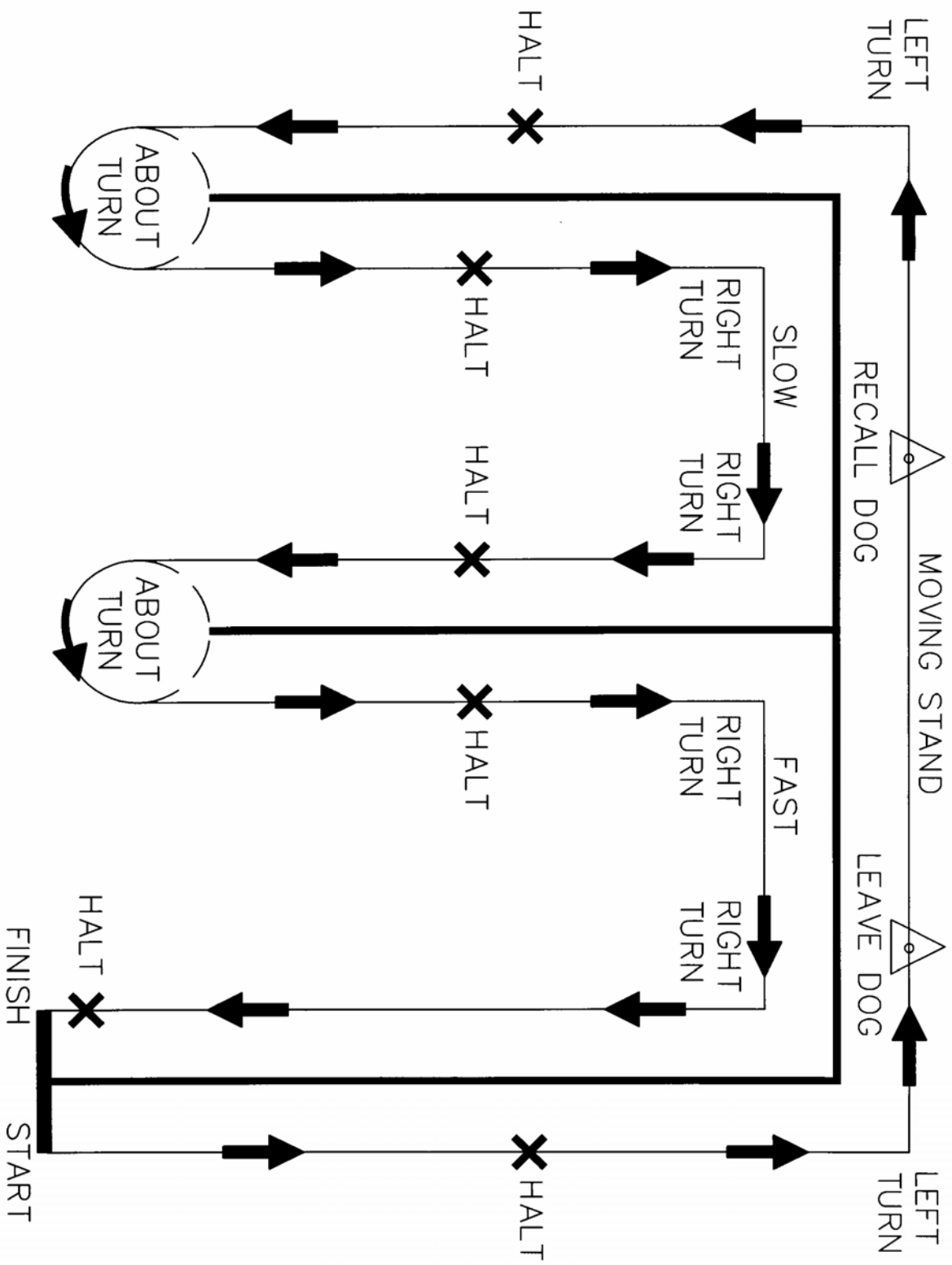


DIAGRAM "B"