



**C-WAGS** is a dog & handler team sport dedicated to all the great dog and handler teams – that we may all aspire to become such a team with our canine partner. May the journey along the way build a positive relationship, create mutual trust and contain both work and games!

## **OBEDIENCE**

**C-WAGS** offers titles in Obedience & Rally. (Game titles based on both obedience and rally coming soon). Trials may be hosted by a club, organization, or individual. Trials may be held in conjunction with any other dog organization's event. Trials may consist of any combination of classes.

### ELIGIBILITY

- All dogs at least 6 months old at the date of the trial are eligible to compete in C-WAGS classes that have no jump. Dogs must be one year old to compete in any class with a jump.
- At this time, dog and handler teams may complete their C-WAGS registration on the day-of-show prior to competing and trial host will submit with trial results.
- All dogs must be handled by the registered handler or an immediate family member (see FEO for exception.)
- For Exhibition Only - FEO– Trial hosts may choose to accept entries as FEO at regular or reduced entry fee. The scores from this entry are not recorded. Placements can not be earned. The dog may be handled by a non-family member, or may be a non-registered team.
- Female dogs in season may not compete.
- Disabled dogs are allowed and encouraged to compete as long as they do not show signs of pain or discomfort. Reasonable Exercise Modifications may be requested at each trial. The judge will review and has the sole authority to approve or deny all requests for their class. .
- Disabled handlers are allowed and encouraged to compete. Reasonable exercise modifications may be requested at each trial. The judge will review, and has the sole authority to approve or deny, all requests for their class.
- Judges and trial hosts may compete at trials in which they are working.
- Students may show under their instructor.
- Junior Handler Program for handlers under age 17.

## SHOW GROUND EXPECTATIONS

A show / trial is a chance to connect with old friends and an opportunity to make new friends. As such:

- All exhibitors are expected to treat the judges, advocates, trial hosts, their canine partner and all other exhibitors with respect.
- All judges, advocates and trial hosts are expected to show respect to all exhibitors.
- The owner / handler has complete responsibility to maintain control of their dog on the show grounds
- Any judge, advocate or trial host has the authority to excuse / remove any dog or handler from the ring or show grounds due to aggression towards a dog or person. This includes handler-delivered corrections to their dog in or out of the ring. A warning is optional. The decision to remove a dog and / or handler from the trial grounds is final for that trial. A report must be submitted to C-WAGS by the trial host. A review by C-Wags will determine if the dog / handler may show again at future trials.
- All dogs must be on leash and under control at all times on the show grounds unless in the competition or practice ring. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. Dogs may be carried into or out of the ring.
- Collars: The dog must wear a buckle, snap or properly fit martingale collar and/or body harness in the ring. Collars / harnesses with tags may be worn in the ring. Electronic training collars not allowed on the show grounds.
- Trial hosts are encouraged, but not required to allow move-ups between trials.
- Exhibitors are expected to be familiar with the rules for the organization and the classes that they enter.
- Judges are expected to apply judging criteria consistently from team to team.
- Judges may discuss an exhibitor's score after the conclusion of the class. The judge may discontinue the discussion if in the judge's opinion, the discussion becomes offensive.
- Exhibitors may request to be excused during the performance. Judges must honor any such request.
- Exercise Modifications - Handlers requesting an exercise modification for either themselves or their dog must complete the Exercise Modification form and have it approved by the judge prior to the beginning of the class. Judges are not required to approve all modifications. Even with a modification the principal parts of the exercise must still be incorporated into the exercise. Judges may suggest a modification that will meet the criteria. Approved modification forms will be attached to the score sheet for that team.
- Ring Size – Obedience: Levels 1 – 3 must be at least 30' x 40', Levels 4 & 5 at least 40' x 50'. Rally: 2700 sq ft – 4000 sq ft. (exceptions may be granted for Level 1, Zoom 1, Starter and Advanced)
- Subtle markings may be used to mark exercise locations in the ring.
- Judging Order – trial hosts are encouraged to arrange judging order by jump heights where appropriate. Dogs should be judged in scheduled order as

## *C-WAGS Obedience*

much as possible. Possible conflicts should be brought to the attention of the judge or gate steward before the class begins, at which time movement within the class may be made. Judges are not required to wait for any team that is not ready when it is their turn.

- Teams may compete in multiple levels at the same trial while working on the title for those classes or while working towards the Championship title.
- A dog may be registered as a team with more than one handler.
- A dog may not be entered in the same class more than one time unless the SECOND run is FEO.

### **Jr. Handler Program**

- Open to any handler under the age of 17 at the date of the trial
- The Jr. Handler and dog team must be registered with C-WAGS
- The dog may have earned or be actively competing towards titles in obedience or rally with another handler. A dog may not be entered in the same class more than one time unless the SECOND run is FEO.
- Jr. teams may start at the lower level of each program (regardless of titles the dog has earned with other handlers) and progress through the levels as titles are earned.
- All classes have a Jr. Division.
- Will follow the standard judging guidelines in all classes with a few exceptions, which are noted in general judging guidelines.

Placements will be given to at least the top 4 teams. The team does not need to qualify to place. Non-qualifiers will receive recognition for efforts. Trial hosts are encouraged to offer a small prize along with the ribbons.

### **Trial Official's Class/Division (To)**

Trial Hosts may have a special class/division open to the judge and trial host officials/workers/judge's family members who wish to enter.

- The class must be judged by a C-WAGS judge.
- Scores earned in the Official's Class will not be eligible for special awards.
- Trial hosts are not required to offer placements within this class/division.
- Qualifying scores will receive a qualifying ribbon.
- It may be run before, during, at the end of, or after the class or trial.
- Judge's family members must enter this class/division if entered in the class.
- Separate post trial paperwork must be submitted.

### **Obedience Championship Titles-**

ACE - Teams may continue to compete indefinitely in the B division of all classes. Teams that receive 10 additional qualifying scores will be awarded the ACE title at that level: C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 1 (CW-OAL1); C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 2 (CW-OAL2); C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 3 (CW-OAL3); C-WAGS Obedience Ace Level 4 (CW-OAL4); C-WAGS Obedience Champion Ace (Level 5) (CW-OCA). Teams may collect additional Ace titles at each level and will be designated as CW-OAL1x2, CW-OAL1x3, etc.

See Rally Rules for Rally ACE titles.

## **C-WAGS Obedience**

*Thanks to everyone who has provided ideas and feedback so that this program could be developed. Special Thanks to Bonnie Hornfisher, Russ Hornfisher, Ginger Alpine and Pam Sheehan for making this vision happen.*

Teams may begin competing in C-WAGS Obedience in Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 or any combination of these levels.

**General Judging Guidelines and Definitions:** Any exceptions to these guidelines are noted on individual exercises.

**Anticipation by Dog** - will result in a Non-Qualifying Score on any exercise where the dog responds before the handler's cue, EXCEPT for "finish", "exercise finished", and all heeling and figure 8 exercises. Anticipation in these exercises will incur a Minor to Major deduction. Minor feet movement or "scooting" should not be mistaken for anticipation and will receive slight to major deductions based on degree of infraction. Anticipation also includes moving substantial distance from where left or sent to and may be scored up to, and including Non-Qualifying.

**Barking** – more than one or two barks will receive a minor deduction. Continuous barking will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

**Consistency** – Each class should be consistent for all exhibitors. Exercise order, heeling patterns, "judge's option" exercises will be the same for all exhibitors in the class.

**Cues** – Handlers are permitted to talk, to praise, and to encourage the dog throughout the performance.

- Unless specifically stated otherwise, both hand and voice cues may be given simultaneously for all parts of an exercise. Ex: Recall over jump, handler may use a cue for the "come", "jump", "sit", and "return to heel" portion of the exercise.
- Unless specifically stated otherwise, foot movement by the handler as part of a cue will be penalized. A slight to minor deduction will result for foot cues during a minor portion of an exercise. Example: small movement of the handler's feet in cuing the dog to perform a finish. A non-qualifying score will result for foot cues directing a significant portion of the exercise. Examples include, but are not limited to: Directed Jump-handler moves a foot to the side to direct dog over the jump, Drop on Recall –handler moves foot forward to emphasize drop immediately.
- Additional cues to get the behavior to happen, whether verbal, or hand/body will be penalized 3 points.
- "Stay" – as long as the dog is not moving, a repeated "stay" would not be penalized as the dog is already doing the behavior.
- The dog's name may be used with a cue and will not be penalized - unless used as a second cue. Example: "SPOT SIT", no penalty. But used as "SPOT" wait a second or two followed by "SIT" would be a second cue and penalized.
- Loud or intimidating cues or signals will receive a major deduction.

- Hand cues must not be “held in place” and hands should be returned to their original position after giving cues. Prolonged use of hands as targets will be penalized as an additional cue.

**Deductions** – SLIGHT deductions are considered ½ to 1 point. MINOR deductions are 2 to 3 points. MAJOR deductions would be 4 points or higher.

**Divisions A / B / Jr., To** (trial officials) – may be combined for running order in all classes. Separate placements will be given to at least the top 4 teams in each division, excluding TO. (Trials held as a league or tournament will not be required to give placements in individual classes.)

**Entering / Exiting the Ring** - Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. Leashes will be removed inside the ring at a place designated by the judge/steward, and must be attached prior to leaving the ring. Dogs leaving the ring unleashed that are not under owner control will receive a Non-Qualifying score. Dogs that leave the ring under control, but have not yet left the gate area, and return to the ring to have the leash attached will receive a 5 point deduction to their score. Dogs that leave the ring unleashed and do not return to have the leash attached in the ring will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

After the working team has left the ring, the judge will invite the next team into the ring. The Judge may offer the option: of entering the ring and waiting for the judge to be ready; **or**, of waiting to enter the ring until the judge is ready to begin.

Dogs may be carried into or out of the ring. Leash rules still apply.

**Excusal** -Dogs must be excused from the ring if they have bandages, stitches, become ill or eliminate in the ring. The judge may excuse the team from the ring for aggressive behavior.

**Food / Petting Rewards** - After the Exercise Finished order from the judge at the end of each exercise and before moving to the next exercise, the handler may release and reward their dog with petting and/or a food treat. Petting is allowed to continue between exercises. Food must be kept in a pocket until the exercise has ended. Dropping food will result in a major deduction of 4 points. Food out of the pocket prior to the end of the exercise will result in a Non-Qualifying score. After the team enters the ring and the dog is in the starting position, the handler may treat their dog before responding to the judge that they are ready to begin.

**Hand and Leash position** – the leash may be held in either hand , both hands or moved between hands while performing the on-leash exercises. When not holding the leash with both hands, the other hand may be held at the handler’s waist area or hang naturally at the handler’s side. There should be no tension on the dog’s collar.

For off-leash exercises either hand may be held at the handler’s waist area with the other hand hanging naturally at the side, or both hands may hang naturally at the handler’s sides. Arms may be adjusted to maintain balance during the “fast”. In exercises requiring the dog to come to the “front” position, the handler’s arms must be at their sides after giving cue.

**Handler Errors** – Judges may deduct slight to major points for handler errors. Including, but not limited to: Timing of verbal or body cues, such as handler slow to cue the drop on the Drop On Recall exercise; excessive turning on Call To

## *C-WAGS Obedience*

Heel exercises, Pivots on Directed jumping; handler errors on Handler Exam of Dog.

**Heel & Position** –the dog’s body position regardless of activity – such as moving, sitting, or lying down, should be in line with the handler’s left side. The dog’s right shoulder line should be within 12” of the handler’s left hip line. Deductions will be awarded based on the time and distance the dog is “out of heel” position.

- The team should heel at a brisk pace, come to a stop promptly when commanded to halt with the dog sitting in heel position.
- About Turns may be performed by handler and dog turning to the right or to the left and resume heeling in the same lane they were in prior to the turn. About Turns may also be performed as the “Left About Turn” as in rally.
- Circles and 270 degree turns may be pivots in place or loops up to the size of a hula hoop.
- Hand and/or arm cues may be used during the heeling exercise only to cue the sit or forward.

Slight ½ to 1 point deduction or more depending on severity:

- Heeling errors, each incidence, including leash tightening, lagging, forging, wide, dog/handler casual contact. Wide circles, loops or turns. Out of position errors including crooked sits, fronts, and downs.

Minor deductions:

- Failure of the handler and/or dog to maintain pace change.
- Out of position errors for positions more than 90° out from heel position.
- Slow response to a command or failure to move briskly when required.
- Changes in position - i.e. left in a sit, dog stands but stays in place.
- Failure to **SIT** in heel position or to **SIT** in front when required to do so, will result in a 3 point deduction
- Failure of the dog to move to a finish position when required to do so, or a dog who sits on a “finish forward”, will result in a 3 point deduction.
- Handler giving a hand/arm cue while heeling other than for “sit” or “forward” will result in an additional cue deduction of 3 points.

Major deductions

- Failure of the dog to **GO TO** a front position when required to do so, will result in a 5 point deduction.
- Failure of the dog to go to a heel position when performing a “call to heel” exercise will result in a 5 point deduction.
- Pace change by only one half of the team
- Turns performed the incorrect direction will receive a 5 point deduction.

Non-Qualifying:

- Handler constantly changing pace to match dog’s pace.
- No change of pace by dog and handler team
- Consistently tight leash

**Interference or Double Handling** – Any interference or double handling that appears to aid the working team – such as a dog that would have left the ring if not blocked by a person outside the ring - will result in the working team receiving a Non-Qualifying score.

**Judge's Instructions** – Prior to each class the judge will walk the course demonstrating the order and placement of each exercise. A course order and layout may be posted prior to the class. Judge's instructions to the handlers during any exercise may be verbal or non-verbal (signals). If the judge is using any signals in the class to instruct the handler during the exercise they will demonstrate them during the class briefing. The first team will be offered at least 5 minutes after the briefing ends to be ready at the gate. The briefing could be before awards of the preceding class, with the first team beginning after the awards. Before each exercise the judge will introduce the exercise and ask the handler "Are you ready?" Upon a positive reply, judging begins. At the conclusion of the exercise the judge will give the "exercise finished" order at which time judging of that exercise ends.

**Jump** – A bar jump, high jump or agility style jump constructed in a manner that provides stability and safety for all dogs may be used for jump exercises – (other than for the Broad Jump exercise). The uprights must be between 4' – 5' apart with no wings. Jump heights will be 4" 8" 12" 16". The broad jump must also be between 4' – 5' in length. The broad jump distance will be twice that of the upright jump height. Knocking down a jump bar or stepping on or between a broad jump, or not taking the jump when required to do so will result in a Non-Qualifying Score. Handlers may jump their dog at a listed jump height higher than required.

Jump Heights

Shoulder height	Bar/High Jump	Broad Jump	
Under 11"			board
11" to under 15"		5"	boards
15" to under 20"	2"	4"	boards
Over 20"	5"	2"	boards

**Junior's Program** – When judging the Jr. team, judges should recognize that these teams are young and still developing. They should give a slight consideration to the age of the junior when deductions are made for handler errors. Minimum standards still need to be achieved to qualify.

**Non-Qualifying Events - general:**

- Dog completely leaving the ring at any time during the class. The team may finish the class.
- Physical or harsh verbal corrections. The judge may excuse the team from the ring.
- Signs of Aggression, extreme fear or uncontrollable behavior.

**Ties for Placements** - See individual class descriptions.

**Touching of Dog / Collar For Control** – In Level 3 and higher handler may guide dog gently by the collar after the last exercise in the class prior to attaching the leash, during other times touching the dog for control will result in a 3 point deduction. Handlers in Level 2 may gently guide the dog by the collar between exercises; during other times touching the dog for control will result in a 3 point deduction.

## **Level 1**

The Level 1 Class is performed on a 4' – 6' leash. A qualifying score is 70 points or better with at least 50% of the possible points earned from each exercise.

A well balanced dog has four legs and as such after four qualifying scores from at least 2 different judges in the Level 1 Class the team will be awarded the C-Wags Obedience Level 1 title of CW-Ob1.

The Jr. division will be for registered Jr. Teams. The “A” division will be for dogs that have not earned any obedience or rally titles from any organization. The “B” division will be for those dogs that have previously earned an obedience or rally title and for those working on their Level 1 Ace Title. The Trial Officials “TO” division will be for any family members of the judge, or any trial officials who choose to not receive a placement.

1)	40 pts	Heeling
2)	20 pts	Find Front, Forward
3)	10 pts	Sit or Down Walk-Around
4)	10 pts	Sit, Down, Sit
5)	10 pts	Call to Heel
6)	10 pts	Greeting

The judge will decide the order of the exercises and they will remain the same for the entire class. The first 5 exercises may be in any order. At the completion of each exercise the judge will release the team with “Exercise Finished” at which time the handler may release and pet and/or treat their dog.

Ties for placements will be broken by each team performing the Find Front, Forward exercise ending in a halt/sit

1) **Heeling.** Should consist of no more than 100' of heeling before the team is released with “Exercise Finished”. It is recommended but not mandatory that heeling include a minimum of one each, right turn, left turn, about turn, slow, fast, and halt. Commands to slow and fast will be followed by a command to return to normal pace or “Exercise Finished”.

Judge may choose one exercise to lead off a heeling section that will not have an Exercise Finished given until the end of the heeling section. The heeling exercise may be divided into two sections with any number of the remaining exercises between them. A Halt does not have to be used to end the heeling. Hand and/or arm cues may be used during the heeling exercises only when cuing the halt-sit or forward. Each additional hand/arm cue will result in a 3 point deduction.

2) **Find Front - Forward.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. Judge will then instruct the handler to leave their dog for the Find Front - Forward exercise. Handler will go to approximately 4' and turn and face the dog. Judge will instruct handler to call dog. Handler will call dog to a front position. Dog should sit in a "front" position. The judge will then instruct handler "Forward". The handler will cue the dog to finish (left or right), as dog is moving into heel position handler will begin moving forward. The dog does not sit. The judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished" after a distance of approximately 8' if not combined with the heeling exercise.

3) **Walk-around.** Begins after the handler responds to the Judge inquiry "Are you ready?" After an affirmative, the judge will instruct the handler to move to the designated place for the exercise and "sit" or "down" your dog in heel position. Once the team is in position, the judge will instruct handler to "walk around". Handler is to walk around the dog and return to heel position. The judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished".

Minor sideways movement by the dog during the walk-around will receive a Minor deduction. A dog that changes position or turns 90° or more once the handler has begun the walk-around will receive a Non-Qualifying Score for this exercise.

4) **Position Change.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. Judge will signal the handler to down their dog; the judge will then signal the handler to sit their dog. The judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished". Anticipation by the dog will result in Non-Qualifying Score for this exercise.

5) **Call to Heel.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. The judge will instruct the handler to "leave dog". The handler will proceed ahead approximately 4' and halt. The judge will then instruct the handler to "call" their dog. While facing away from the dog the handler will call the dog to heel position. The dog should come briskly and sit in heel position. The judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished".

Handler may turn head and shoulders slightly to the side while calling the dog. Anticipation by the dog will result in a Non-Qualifying score for this exercise.

6) **Greeting.** Will always be the last exercise of the class. It begins after the handler responds to the Judge inquiry "Are you ready?" After an affirmative, the judge will instruct the handler to move to the designated place for the exercise and "sit" or "down" your dog in heel position. Once the team is in position, the judge will approach the Handler from the front as if to shake hands, and speaks a *few positive words* with the handler. It could include a thank you for coming. The judge will then move away and release the team with "Exercise Finished".

Dog must maintain position until the "Exercise Finished". Position change by the dog will result in Non-Qualifying Score for this exercise.

## **Level 2 Class**

The Level 2 class is performed on and off leash. A qualifying score is 70 points or better with at least 50% of possible points earned from each exercise.

A well balanced dog has four legs and as such after four qualifying scores from at least 2 different judges in the Level 2 Class the team will be awarded the C-Wags Obedience Level 2 title of CW-Ob2.

The Jr. division will be for registered Jr. Teams. The "A" division will be for dogs that have not earned any obedience or upper level rally titles from any organization. Dogs with only a C-Wags Level 1 Title it may be entered into the "A" division. The "B" division will be for those dogs that have previously earned an obedience or upper level rally title and for those working on their Level 2 Ace Title. The Trial Officials "TO" division will be for any family members of the judge, or any trial officials who choose to not receive a placement.

### Exercises:

- |    |           |                         |
|----|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1) | 25 pts    | On-leash Heeling        |
| 2) | 15 pts    | Off-leash Figure 8      |
| 3) | 15 pts    | Recall over jump        |
| 4) | 10 pts    | Call to Heel            |
| 5) | 10 pts    | Position change         |
| 6) | 15 pts    | Stand Stay Handler Exam |
| 7) | 10 pts    | Leave dog for leash     |
| 8) | Pass/Fail | Honor On leash.         |

The On-leash heeling exercise will be first. The previous dog in the ring will honor during the On-Leash heeling exercise. The honor dog will be excused before the leash is removed from the exhibiting dog. Exercises 2-6 are off leash and may be used in any order or combination. Leave dog for leash will be the last off leash exercise. The handler will put the leash on and then move to the location directed by the judge or steward for the honor exercise.

Ties for placements will be broken by each team performing the Figure 8 exercises.

1) **Heeling.** Should consist of no more than 200' of heeling before the judge releases the team with "Exercise Finished. It is recommended but not mandatory that heeling include a minimum of one each, right turn, left turn, about turn, slow, fast, halt, and one right circle or left circle. Commands to slow and fast will be followed by a command to return to normal pace or "Exercise Finished". A Halt does not have to be used to end the heeling. Prior to beginning the judge will ask the handler if they are ready. After receiving an affirmative, the judge will instruct the team "forward". The judge will give instructions during the heeling pattern.

Hand and/or arm cues may be used during the heeling exercises only when cuing the halt-sit or forward. Each additional hand/arm cue will result in a 3 point

deduction. At the conclusion of the heeling pattern a ring Steward will excuse the Honor Team.

2) **Figure 8.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position mid-way between two “posts” (at least one of which must be a person, the other post may be a cone, chair, or other similar object) that are approximately 8’ apart. The judge will ask if the team is ready and when given the affirmative, will instruct the team “forward”. The team may proceed in either direction around the stewards in a figure 8 pattern twice. The judge will instruct the team to halt at least once during the pattern; a second halt may be used at the end prior to the “Exercise Finished” order.

3) **Recall Over the Jump.** The team will set up at a spot at least 8’ from the center of the jump, with the dog in heel position. The judge will instruct the handler to “leave your dog”. The handler will proceed to a spot at least 8’ from the opposite side of the jump and turn and face the dog. The judge will order or signal to “call your dog”. The handler will cue the dog to come. The dog must come briskly on the first cue. The dog should sit in the front position. The judge will then give the “finish” order. The handler will cue the dog to return to heel position. The judge will then give the “exercise finished” order. Failure of the dog to come on the first cue will result in a Non-Qualifying score for that exercise.

4) **Call to Heel.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. The judge will instruct the handler to leave dog. The handler will proceed forward approximately 8’ and halt. The judge will instruct the handler to “call your dog”. While facing away from the dog the handler will then call the dog to heel position. The dog should come briskly and sit in heel position. The judge will release the team with “Exercise Finished”. Handler may turn head and shoulders slightly to the side while calling the dog. Anticipation by the dog will result in a Non-Qualifying score for this exercise.

5) **Position Change.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. Judge will instruct handler that this is the “Position Change exercise, Stand your Dog and leave when Ready”. Handler will cue the dog to stand. Handler may not physically stand the dog, but may take a step forward and/or turn inward when cuing the dog to stand. Handler will leave the dog and go forward approximately 4’ and turn to face the dog. Judge will signal handler to “down”, and “sit”, in that order. Upon the judge’s signal, the handler will cue the dog to down and sit. Judge will instruct handler to “return”. Handler returns to heel position by going around behind dog. Once the handler returns to heel position the judge will release the team with “Exercise Finished”.

Position change by dog before being cued will be considered anticipation and will result in a NQ. Minor sideways movement by the dog during the walk-around portion of this exercise will receive Slight to Mild deductions. A dog that turns 90° or more will receive a Non-Qualifying Score for that exercise.

6) **Stand Stay - Owner Exam.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. On order from the judge to “forward” the handler and dog will heel forward

approximately 8' at which point the judge will order "Stand Your Dog and leave when ready". The handler will halt and cue their dog to remain standing. A dog that sits will receive a Major deduction. The handler will then walk forward approximately 8' and turn and face the dog. On the judge's order to "Examine your Dog" the handler will return to the dog and show the judge they can perform the following:

- a) Run both hands down the dog's back from the head, down the neck to the shoulders ending at the rear of the dog.
- b) Pick up a front foot and gently touch the bottom pads
- c) Look at their dog's teeth by lifting the lips enough that the canines on both sides can be seen.

The judge should acknowledge that they have seen each part of the exam with a "thank you" at which point the handler may proceed on with the next part. Once the handler has completed all 3 parts of the exam the judge will release the team with "exercise finished". Handler does not have to return to heel position.

Any handler who because of the size of their dog, or their own physical condition may elect to place the dog on a table after returning from the stand stay to perform the examination, this request should be made to the judge prior to the beginning of the class. The trial giving host should have a sturdy table available. (This may be anything from a grooming table to an agility table.)

The dog should stand and stay and allow the exam by the handler with no apparent resentment or resistance. During the handler's exam, minimal movement by the dog as would be normal for adjusting position because of handling is allowed. The handler may place one or both hands on the dog at any time during the exam, but may not "hold" the dog. More than minor movement will be scored accordingly. A dog that moves away from the handler or changes position during the exam will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

7) ***Leave Dog for Leash.*** Begins after the Judge asks "Are you ready?" At that point the judge will instruct the handler to move to the designated place for the exercise and "sit" or "down" (predetermined by the judge) your dog in heel position. The handler will cue their dog to a sit or a down. The judge will instruct the handler to "leave". The handler will then walk across the ring to the table or gate, pick up their leash and return to the dog walking behind the dog to return to heel position and attach the leash. After attaching the leash the handler must return to a heel position. Judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished".

Handler may cue the dog to a sit from a down position prior to attaching the leash. Dog must not stand. Minor sideways movement by the dog will receive a Slight to Major deduction. A dog that changes position prior to a cue, moves forward or turns 90° or more will receive a Non-Qualifying Score for that exercise.

8) ***Honor.*** Is performed on-leash. After completing all other exercises for this class the handler will put the leash on the dog and proceed to the location designated for the Honor exercise. The dog and handler's positions will be predetermined by the judge for the entire class. Handler's position may seated or standing. Dog's position may be a Sit or a Down, on either side of the handler, or in

## *C-WAGS Obedience*

front of and facing the handler. This exercise will be judged by the Honor Steward. They will instruct the handler to sit or down their dog as the next dog is setting up at the start position. Scoring begins when the judge tells the working team “*Forward*”. Dog and handler must maintain position during the working team’s on-leash heeling exercise. As soon as the working team has completed the on-leash heeling exercise and the judge announces *Exercise Finished*, the Honor Steward repeats Exercise Finished to the honor team, at which point the honor team will leave the ring.

Judging of the Honor team ends when the Judge announces “Exercise Finished”. Handler may talk with their dog throughout the exercise. A dog that changes position or turns 90° or more will receive a Fail for that exercise. The Honor dog for the first team’s performance may be the last dog in class, or group, or may be a dog not entered in the class.

### **Level 3**

The Level 3 class is performed off leash. A qualifying score is 70 points or better with at least 50% of possible points earned from each exercise.

A well balanced dog has four legs and as such after four qualifying scores from at least 2 different judges in the Level 3 Class the team will be awarded the C-Wags Obedience Level 3 title of CW-Ob3.

The Jr. division will be for registered Jr. Teams. The “A” division will be for dogs that have not earned any advanced obedience titles from any organization. The “B” division will be for those dogs that have previously earned an advanced obedience title and for those working on their Level 3 Ace Title. The Trial Officials “TO” division will be for any family members of the judge, or any trial officials who choose to not receive a placement.

- 1) 25 pts Heeling
- 2) 10 pts Drop on Recall
- 3) 15 pts Directed jump,
- 4) 15 pts Go out – Sit.
- 5) 10 pts Find Front
- 6) 15 pts Retrieve over Broad Jump,
- 7) 10 pts Signal exercise

Judge will select the order that the exercises will be performed. In this advanced class, the expectation is that heel and positions on moving and stationary exercises will be more consistent.

Ties for placements will be broken by each team performing the Go Out – Sit exercise. Team closest to the center of the target area will be determined the winner.

1) **Heeling.** The heeling exercise may be divided into two sections with any number of the remaining exercises between them. It should consist of no more than 200' of heeling before the judge releases the team with "Exercise Finished"

A partial or complete Heeling pattern may be combined with one other exercise from this class before "Exercise Finished" is given.

It is recommended but not mandatory that heeling include a minimum of one each, right turn, left turn, about turn, slow, fast, and halt. At least one of the following must be included: left or right circle, left or right 270° turn. Commands to slow and fast will be followed by a command to return to normal pace or "Exercise Finished". A halt does not have to end a heeling section.

Hand and/or arm cues may be used during the heeling exercises only when cuing the halt-sit or forward. Each additional hand/arm cue will result in a 3 point deduction.

2) **Drop on Recall.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. Judge will instruct handler to "Leave your Dog". Handler will walk to the designated spot on the other side of the ring, turn and face the dog. Upon instruction from the judge, handler will call the dog. The judge will signal the "Drop" at which time the handler will cue the dog to down/drop. The judge will instruct "Call". The handler will cue the dog to come front. Judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished".

Dog must come briskly during all sections of the recall. Dog dropping prior to handler's cue, failure of the dog to come or drop on the first cue will result in a Non-Qualifying score. A Minor to Major deduction will be made for a dog that does not drop promptly following the cue. A Major deduction will be made for a dog that does not come directly to handler, comes slowly, or changes position without moving forward before being cued to come

3) **Directed Jump.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position at a spot at least 15' beyond the jump and approximately 6' to the side of the jump. Judge will instruct handler to leave dog. Handler will walk straight forward to a spot designated by the judge at least 15' on the other side of the jump and approximately 6' to the side of the jump and turn and face the dog. Judge will instruct handler "Send". Handler will cue the dog to take the jump. Handler must remain facing straight ahead when cuing and until the dog jumps. When the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as he returns to front position. When the dog is in front position the judge will instruct handler to "finish". The handler will cue the dog to return to heel position. The judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished". A broad jump may not be used for this exercise.

4) **Go Out.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position. The judge will instruct Handler to "Send your Dog". Handler will cue the dog to go approximately 20' straight out and sit. Once the dog sits judge will instruct handler to "Return", handler will return to the dog, and stand in heel position. Handler does not have to walk behind the dog. (If the dog's position against the gating does not allow the

handler to return to heel position, they should return as close to heel position as possible). The judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished".

The target spot should be an area approximately 5' x 5' directly in front of the ring gating or wall. Sitting outside of this area but within 2' of this target area will result in a major deduction. Distances further than that will receive a Non-Qualifying score. A word of encouragement or additional stay command as the handler returns should not be penalized.

5) **Find Front.** Begins after the Judge asks "Are you ready?" At that point the judge will instruct the handler to move to the designated place for the exercise and "sit" or "stand" (predetermined by the judge) your dog in heel position. The handler will cue their dog to a sit or a stand. The judge will instruct the handler to "leave". Handler will proceed to a spot approximately 6' in front of the dog at which point the handler will turn 90° left or right. This will place the dog facing the side of the handler. Judge will instruct handler to "Call". The handler will cue the dog to come. Dog should sit in the front position.

Failure of the dog to move towards the handler on the first cue; dog returning to "heel" position without sitting in "front"; or dog that sits 90 degrees or more from a "front" position will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

6) **Retrieve over Broad Jump.** Begins with the dog sitting in heel position centered at least 8' behind the broad jump. Judge will instruct handler to "Leave your Dog". Handler will walk around the broad jump, and place their retrieve article at least 6' beyond the center of the broad jump. Handler returns to the side (designated by the judge, may be left or right side), of the jump approximately 2' away from, and facing the broad jump. Judge will instruct handler to "Send". Handler will cue the dog to jump and retrieve the placed article. As the dog jumps, the handler pivots 90° to face the dog. Dog should pick up the article and bring it to "front". Judge will instruct handler "Take", handler will take the article. Judge will instruct "Finish", handler will cue the dog to move to heel position.

Retrieve article may be any object the dog can pick up and carry safely. Failure of the dog to bring the article to within reach of the handler will result in a Non-Qualifying score. Slight to minor deductions will be made for dropping of the article or not releasing article on cue.

7) **Signals.** While heeling the judge will instruct "Stand your Dog". Handler will stop and cue the dog to remain standing. Judge will instruct handler to "Leave your Dog". Handler will proceed forward for a distance of approximately 8' and turn and face the dog. Judge will signal handler to "down" – "sit" – "come" in that order. Handler will cue dog for each position following the judge's signal. The dog should come at a steady and quick pace and sit in the "front" position. While the dog is in the front position the judge will release the team with "Exercise Finished".

Handler may use both voice and hand cues for this exercise. Failure of the dog to down, sit or come on the first cue will result in a Non-Qualifying score.

## **Level 4 Class**

The Level 4 class is performed off leash. A qualifying score is 70 points or better with at least 50% of possible points earned from each exercise. A well balanced dog has four legs and as such after four qualifying scores from at least 2 different judges in the Level 4 Class the team will be awarded the C-Wags Obedience Level 4 title of CW-Ob4.

The “A” division will be for dogs that have not earned any advanced obedience titles from any organization. The “B” division will be for those dogs that have previously earned an advanced obedience title from any organization and for those working on their C-WAGS Level 4 Ace Title. The Trial Officials “TO” division will be for any family members of the judge, or any trial officials who choose to not receive a placement.

- |    |        |                                 |
|----|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1) | 10 pts | Seek Dropped Item,              |
| 2) | 15 pts | Moving Stand / Signal Exercise  |
| 3) | 10 pts | Moving Down – Call to Heel      |
| 4) | 15 pts | Moving Stand for Exam           |
| 5) | 15 pts | Double Recall                   |
| 6) | 15 pts | Directed Glove Retrieve         |
| 7) | 20 pts | Go Out – Directed Jump / Tunnel |

Judge will select the order that the exercises will be performed.

Sections of heeling will be used with exercises 1, 2, 3, & 4. The heeling may include about turns, left and right turns and halts. About turns are handler’s choice - they may turn right, left, or Left About as in Rally. Heeling will be scored as part of the exercise.

Ties for placements will be broken by each team performing the Go Out – Sit portion of the Directed Jump exercise. Team closest to the center of the target area will be determined the winner.

1) ***Seek Dropped Item.*** While heeling the judge will instruct the handler to drop a retrievable item. The item is to be carried in the handler’s right hand and dropped subtly to the ground next to the handler’s path when instructed by the judge. Handler continues heeling forward following judges directions. After the team has proceeded at least 25’ from the dropped item the judge will instruct the handler to about turn and halt, facing the end of the ring in which the item was dropped. The judge will instruct the handler to “Seek”. Handler will cue the dog to seek / retrieve. Dog should go directly to the item and return with the item to a front position. Judge will instruct handler “Take”. Handler takes the item. The judge will

release the team with “Exercise Finished” when the dog is sitting in the front position

A slight to minor deduction will be given for a dog that plays with the item, dropping the item, not releasing the item on cue, goes out or returns slowly, or does not return directly. A Non-Qualifying score will be given for: anticipating the retrieve, failure to return the item to within reach of the handler, or refusal to give up the item.

2) **Signal Exercise.** While heeling the judge will instruct the handler to “Stand your Dog” at which point the handler halts and SIGNALS the dog to remain standing. The judge will then instruct the handler to “Leave your Dog”. The handler will signal the dog to stay, go approximately 15’ – 20’, turn and face the dog. The judge will give the signals for each of the positions: “Down”, “Sit”, and “Call” in this order. Following each of the judge’s signals the handler will give their dog the signal to perform that part of the exercise. The dog should come at a steady and quick pace and sit in the “front” position. The judge will release the team with “Exercise Finished” when the dog is sitting in the front position.

Verbal cues and communication may not be used once the judge gives the “Stand your Dog” order. From that point, the handler may use **signal** cues only.

Failure of the dog to down, sit or come on the first cue, or verbal cues by the handler where not permitted will result in a Non-Qualifying score. A minor to a Non-qualifying deduction will be made for a dog that walks forward more than one step on the stand, down, or sit.

3) **Moving Down – Call to Heel.** While heeling the judge will instruct the handler “Down Your Dog”. Handler will continue forward while cueing the dog to down. Handler continues forward approximately 6 steps and halts. Judge will then instruct handler to “Call and Forward”. Handler may turn head and shoulders slightly towards dog while calling dog to heel then immediately begins heeling forward. Dog should move briskly and directly to return to heel position.

A Non-Qualifying score will be given to a dog that does not down on the first cue, or anticipates the call. Additional cue to come up to heel will receive a major deduction of 4 points.

4) **Moving Stand for Exam.** While heeling the judge will instruct the handler to “Stand your dog”. The handler will cue the dog to remain standing and without pausing continue forward approximately 10 feet, turn and face the dog. The judge will then approach the dog from the front and conduct an examination, running both hands down the sides and along the body. When the exam is completed the judge will instruct the handler to “Call your dog to Heel”. The handler will cue the dog to return directly to heel position without sitting in the front position.

Depending on the extent of hesitation, minor to major deduction will be made for the handler that hesitates or pauses while giving the stand / stay cue. A major deduction will be given for a dog that returns to a front position. A Non-Qualifying score will be given if the dog sits or downs, moves away from the judge during the exam, or fails to return to the handler.

5) **Double Recall.** Exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. Judge will instruct handler to “Leave your Dog”. Handler will walk to the designated spot on the other side of the ring, turn and face the dog. Upon instruction from the judge, handler will call the dog. The judge will signal the “Drop” at which time the handler will cue the dog to down/drop. The judge will instruct “Call”. The handler will cue the dog to come front. The judge will instruct the handler to “Finish”. Handler will cue the dog to return to heel position. From that spot the judge will instruct the handler to “Leave Your Dog”. Handler will leave dog and walk across the ring to the designated spot, turn and face the dog. The judge will instruct the handler to “Call”. Judge will release the team with “Exercise Finished” with the dog sitting in the front position the second time.

Dog must come briskly during all sections of the recall. The judge may choose to reverse the order of the Drop and the Straight Recall. It will be the same for all dogs in the class.

Dog dropping prior to handler’s cue, failure of the dog to come or drop on the first cue will result in a Non-Qualifying score. A Minor to Major deduction will be made for a dog that does not drop promptly following the cue. A Major deduction will be made for a dog that does not come directly to handler, comes slowly, or changes position without moving forward before being cued to come.

6) **Directed Glove Retrieve.** This exercise requires 3 predominately white gloves which will be given to the steward or judge as the team enters the ring. This exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position mid-way in the ring. The steward or judge will drop a glove about 3’ in from each corner of the ring while the dog and handler are facing the opposite direction. The 3<sup>rd</sup> glove will be placed mid-way between the two gloves approximately 3’ in from the edge of the ring. The gloves will be designated as One, Two, or Three reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. When the judge indicates which glove number the dog is to retrieve the handler will pivot to face the correct glove. The dog must move with the handler and sit in heel position. The handler will cue the dog to retrieve the glove. The dog must go directly to the glove and return with it to Front position. Once the dog returns to Front, the judge will instruct the handler to “Take It”. Handler will take the glove from the dog. Judge will release the team with “exercise finished”.

The judge will vary the glove numbers between exhibitors so that each number glove will be used approximately the same number of times.

Handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as needed to give the direction to the dog, but must then stand up in a natural position. Slight deduction for dog that drops the glove but picks it up again and brings to front. Minor deduction for: turns that are not pivots, a dog that does not sit after the pivot, or for a dog that does not go directly to the correct glove and back. Non-Qualifying score will be given for failure to bring the correct glove within reach of the handler.

7) **Go Out – Directed Jump / Tunnel Exercise.** A jump and an agility style tunnel ( 6’ – 15’ ) will be used for this exercise. The jump will be placed midway in the ring at a right angle to the side of the ring. The mid-point of the tunnel will be

## *C-WAGS Obedience*

approximately 17 – 25 feet to the side of the jump. The tunnel may be slightly curved but each opening should face towards opposite ends of the ring.

This exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position at the midpoint between, and approximately 20 foot in front of the jump / tunnel\*. Upon the judge's instructions, the handler will cue the dog to move forward, away from the handler, at a brisk pace to a midpoint about 20 feet past the jump / tunnel – passing between the jump and the tunnel. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will cue the dog to Sit. The dog must stop moving, turn and sit. The dog does not have to sit squarely. The judge will indicate to the handler **either**:

**“Jump”** The handler will cue the dog to take the jump. As the dog is coming over the jump, the handler will turn to face the dog as the dog returns. The dog must sit in front of the handler. The judge will then instruct the handler to “finish”. The handler will cue the dog to return to heel position. The judge will release the team with “exercise finished”.

**Or**

**“Tunnel”** The handler will cue the dog to take the tunnel. As the dog is coming through the tunnel, the handler will turn to face the dog as the dog returns. The dog must sit in front of the handler.

Once the team completes the first obstacle, the team will then re-set up facing the center of the ring with the dog sitting in heel position. The pattern will repeat for the second obstacle. The judge will release the team with “exercise finished” after completing the second obstacle.

Slight to minor deductions for dog: that sits more than 4' from the mid-line of the ring, slowness in going out, excessive body movements by the handler in directing the jump/tunnel. Major deduction will be made for a dog that does not sit after going out, takes the jump or tunnel going out. A Slight to Major deduction for a dog that anticipates the “sit” cue. A Non-qualifying score will be given if the correct obstacle is not taken, dog does not go at least 10' beyond the jump/tunnel on the go out portion, anticipates going out or taking an obstacle before cued.

*\*Note: In reference to the distance beyond the jump/tunnel, picture an imaginary "line" from the jump to the middle of the tunnel. The dog will be sent 20 feet past the "line" and must go out at least 10 feet beyond the "line" to qualify on this portion of the exercise.*

## **Level 5**

The Level 5 class is performed off leash. This is a combined Level 3 & Level 4 class. 165 total possible points. A qualifying score is 140 points or better with at least 50% of possible points earned from each exercise. After 4 qualifying scores from at least 2 different judges in the Level 5 Class the team will be awarded the C-WAGS Obedience Champion title of CW-OC. Multiple CW-OC titles can be earned and will be designated at CW-OC2, CW-OC3, etc.

The Jr. division will be for registered Jr. Teams. The “A” division will be for dogs that have not earned the C-WAGS Level 5 obedience title. The “B” division will be for those dogs that have previously earned the C-WAGS Level 5 obedience title.

## *C-WAGS Obedience*

The Trial Officials "TO" division will be for any family members of the judge, or any trial officials who choose to not receive a placement.

### Exercises:

- |     |        |                                 |
|-----|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1)  | 25 pts | Heeling                         |
| 2)  | 10 pts | Find Front                      |
| 3)  | 15 pts | Retrieve over Broad Jump        |
| 4)  | 10 pts | Seek Dropped Item               |
| 5)  | 15 pts | Moving Stand / Signal Exercise  |
| 6)  | 10 pts | Moving Down – Call to Heel      |
| 7)  | 15 pts | Moving Stand for Exam           |
| 8)  | 15 pts | Double Recall                   |
| 9)  | 15 pts | Directed Glove Retrieve         |
| 10) | 20 pts | Go Out – Directed Jump / Tunnel |
| 11) | 15 pts | Scent Articles                  |

Performance and scoring of all exercises will be the same as written in the Level 3 and Level 4 descriptions with the following exceptions:

- 1) **Heeling** - The heeling pattern may be split into two sections. Each section may be combined with one other exercise before "Exercise Finished" is given.
- 2) **Find Front** – handler will stand with their back to the dog approximately 6' in front of the dog.
- 5) **Moving Stand / Signal exercise** – handler distance from the dog will be 20' – 25'.

11) **Scent Articles.** Only one article will be retrieved in this exercise. The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of five identical articles and must be approved by the judge. The articles may be everyday items or they may be dumbbell type scent articles. The size of the articles will be proportionate to the size of the dog. All articles must be numbered. Prior to beginning the exercise, the judge will designate which numbered article will be scented by the handler.

The steward will randomly arrange all the unscented articles on the floor or ground, approximately six inches away from each other. The closest article should be about twenty feet from the handler and dog.

The dog will watch the steward arrange the articles. The handler will keep the article to be scented. Once the articles have been arranged, the dog and handler will turn their back to the pile of articles while the handler scents the article. The judge will ask the handler what method will be used to send the dog to the pile of articles. The handler must reply either: "After a sit" or "Send Directly". The judge will ask the handler if they are ready. Once the handler has given the affirmative reply, they may talk but not touch the dog or alter their hand position. The judge will place the article in the pile. The judge will instruct the handler to "Send Your Dog". The handler may give scent to the dog before pivoting. The handler will do an about turn to either the right or left. If the handler has indicated the dog will be sent by "Turn and Sit", the team must halt and the dog must sit after the about turn. The handler will then instruct the dog to go to the pile of articles. If the handler has

## *C-WAGS Obedience*

indicated the dog will be “Sent Directly”, the dog must not sit after the about turn and halt but must turn with the handler and go directly to the pile of articles. Whatever the method used, once cued, the dog should go directly to the pile of articles. The dog may take any reasonable time to select the correct article but must work continuously. When the dog returns to the handler with the article, the judge will instruct the handler to “Take It”. The judge will release the team with “exercise finished”.

Handler may not talk or give cues once the dog reaches the pile of articles. Giving a second “seek / find it” cue once the dog reaches the pile, or failure of the dog to bring the correct article to within reach of the handler will result in a Non-Qualifying score. Slight to minor deductions will be made for dropping of the article or not releasing article on cue.