



Poised for Success Freestyle Guidebook

Mission and Philosophy

As a Freestyle enthusiast, it is my hope that training and performance in Canine Musical Freestyle is both a source of joy, and a form of art and expression, for each dog and handler team who choose to participate.

I have designed this Titling Program to provide participants with a format to that will assist with the development of technical and artistic skills in the discipline of Canine Musical Freestyle, with a goal of enabling dog and handler teams to create their own unique art together.

It is my hope that the tasks included in the Program will challenge teams creatively and artistically, while providing a format that allows handlers to continually discover their own dog's artistic talents and preferences.

- Kristine C. Hammar
Founder and Owner of
Poised for Success

The Titling Program

The Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Program is a titling program in Canine Musical Freestyle that can be completed via the Internet, regardless of the amount of space available to the dog and handler team.

For those teams who have access to large performance areas, you are encouraged to use those areas.

However, for those teams who have access only to smaller spaces, perhaps in your own home, this program is designed so you, too, can participate to the fullest!

Table of Contents

Who Can Participate?	2
Registration	2
Summary of Titling Program Structure	3
Summary of Titling Requirements	4
Performance Space Requirements, Music	5
Handler Attire, Dog Attire, Leashes	6
Cues, Handler Dancing, Food and Toys	7
Safety, Awards and Ribbons	8
Non Qualifying Entries	9
Video and Submission of Entries	10
Titling Requirements and Options	13
General Guidelines for All Submissions (Divisions #1 - #3)	14
Titling – Division #1 – Overture Division	15
Titling – Division #2 – Melody Division	25
Titling – Division #3 – Harmony Division	39

Under Construction: Dynamics, Master Performer, Championship

Who Can Participate?

All dog and handler teams are welcome to participate in the Poised for Success Freestyle titling program. Puppies, senior dogs, and dogs with special needs or limitations are equally welcome.

Physically challenged dogs and/or handlers are welcome, and modifications to elements of the titling program can be designed upon request, based on the needs of the team.

Although the guidelines always refer to “dogs”, other types of animals, such as cats, may participate if they can safely meet the criteria for each titling option or requirement.

Registration

All dogs need a registration number in order to participate. Please fill out the “Registration Number” form for each dog with whom you plan to participate.

There is a \$5.00 processing fee for each Registration Number.

Summary of the Titling Program Structure

The Poised for Success Titling Program is divided into five levels, which are called “Divisions”, as well as a Championship Division.

<u>Division Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Division #1 – Overture	PFS-O
Division #2 – Melody	PFS-M
Division #3 – Harmony	PFS-H
Division #4 – Dynamic	PFS-D
Division #5 – Master Performer	PFS-MP
Championship Division	PFS-CH

All teams, regardless of prior experience, or titles earned in other Freestyle venues, begin with Division #1 - Overture.

Titles in Divisions #1 - #4 are earned by completing requirements that fall into three categories: Handling, Technical, and Artistry

One leg in Handling, one leg in Technical, and one leg in Artistry are earned at each level to title at each level in Divisions #1 - #4. These three legs are submitted separately, although they can be submitted at the same time.

At the Master Performer and Championship Levels, which can be entered only after Divisions #1 - #4 have been completed, titles are earned through submission of Freestyle routine performances. Details are provided in the “Master Performer Level and Championship” section of this Guidebook. (Coming Soon!)

*Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Program
Summary of Titling Requirements*

Division #1 – Overture

Required: 1 Leg – Handling
 1 Leg – Technical
 1 Leg – Artistry

Title Earned: **PFS-O**

Division #2 – Melody

Required: 1 Leg – Handling
 1 Leg – Technical
 1 Leg – Artistry

Title Earned: **PFS-M**

Division #3 – Harmony

Required: 1 Leg – Handling
 1 Leg – Technical
 1 Leg – Artistry

Title Earned: **PFS-H**

Division #4 – Dynamic

Required: 1 Leg – Handling
 1 Leg – Technical
 1 Leg – Artistry

Title Earned: **PFS-D**

Division #5 – Master Performer

Required: 3 Legs – Distinct Types of Performances

Title Earned: PFS-MP

Championship Division

Required: 5 Legs – Distinct Types of Performances

Title Earned: PFS-CH

Space Requirements

There is no set space requirement for submission entries in the Poised for Success Freestyle program.

It is my hope that in this titling venue, participants will explore the different performance space, and filming, options, that are available to them.

If a team only has a living room to work in, that team can create art in that space. If one's dog works well on a patio, or in a yard, that team can explore those options. Some of handlers might have beautiful outdoors spaces where they can film using the amount of space provided by the lens of the camera.

Some teams may have training buildings and videographers, and I encourage those who have that to use those spaces, as well.

In a case where a space is so small that getting the whole team into the picture in the video clips is difficult, please contact us to discuss options such as setting the camera up high to get an "overhead" view of the team.

Music

In Divisions #1 - #4, use of music is required where specified. Unless it is expressly stated that music must be used for a particular task, it is not required.

However, you may always incorporate music, as long as it is playing so that it is heard by both the dog and handler.

Music may not be set as an overlay in Divisions #1 - #4, unless that particular skill is part of a particular option.

In the Master Performer and Championship Divisions, music may be added to certain performances as an overlay. See those sections for details. (Coming soon!)

Please keep music copyright laws in mind. Your video needs to play on YouTube in the United States with the music that you have chosen. If YouTube blocks the music on your video, it cannot be used for submission. I highly recommend doing a test upload with any music that you plan to play to ensure that it will come through in the upload.

You retain ownership of your submission videos at all times – before, during, and after submission.

Handler Attire

For Divisions 1 and 2, no particular attire is required for titling submission entries.

Casual clothing that one would normally wear for training is acceptable, or you may choose to wear distinctive attire.

In Divisions 3 and 4, tasks are included in the Artistry Leg that will allow participants to explore different attire options.

Performance attire is recommended at the Master Performer level, although attire need not be elaborate. (Coming soon!)

Dog Attire

If you choose, dogs may wear decorative collars, bandanas, or decorated harnesses.

Please ensure that your dog is comfortable in the attire that you choose, and that your dog can move freely and comfortably.

Although such attire is permitted, it is in no way required.

Dogs may perform in flat buckle collars, martingale collars (adjusted so the collar does not tighten on the dog's neck), or without any collar.

No other collars of any type are permitted for titling submissions.

Tags are permitted, as long as they do not interfere with performance in any way.

Dogs may perform in harnesses, as long as the harness does not impede the movement of the dog in any way.

Leashes

Leashes are permitted, but optional, in all categories at all levels. When used, a 4 – 6 foot leash is recommended.

When used, the leash should remain loose, and should not be used to cause the dog to move.

Cues

One of the foundations of the Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Program is respect for all cue styles. Therefore, from Overture Division through Champion, the handler always has the ability to use the cue style of his or her choice.

If you have a passion for verbal cues, you may work through all of the Divisions using verbal cues.

If you prefer to use physical cues, including those that support the movement of the dog, you are very welcome to do so.

Finally, if it is your choice to use both verbal and physical cues, either alternately or concurrently, that is perfectly acceptable.

In the "Cues" section of the Handling Leg in Divisions #1 - #4, options allow for the handler to focus on the types of cues that he or she wishes to develop.

Handler Dancing

Handler dancing is **optional!!**

If you like dance along with your dog, you are very welcome to do so. Just take care not to steal the show!

If you prefer not to do any dancing, but simply handle your dog through the dance, that is perfectly fine as well!

This is your art – do what works for you and your dog in this regard.

Food and Toys

Food and/or toys may be used to reinforce your dog in all Divisions throughout the progression of the Titling Program.

Typically, food/toys must be concealed from the dog until the task is finished, but there are some options, particularly in many of the options and requirements for the Artistry Legs, where food/toys may be visible to the dog, even in the hand.

Pay close attention to directives in the descriptions of the requirements and options for each Leg in each Division. Where no specific directive is made, food/toys should be concealed from the dog.

Safety

Handlers are urged to keep safety in mind at all times.

- ✚ Props should be stable and strong enough to hold the dog's weight if the dog is putting paws on the prop
- ✚ Dogs should appear confident and comfortable when performing jumps
- ✚ Avoid having dogs jump on hard or slippery surfaces
- ✚ If performing or working outdoors, obey leash laws, and use a leash if working near potential hazards, such as traffic
- ✚ Puppies (under a year old) should not demonstrate jumping options

Awards and Ribbons

Ribbons will be mailed after completion of Legs and Titles.

Divisions #1 - #4

- ✚ Q Ribbon for each qualifying Leg
- ✚ Title Ribbon for each Title completed

Master Performer and Championship Divisions

- ✚ Q Ribbon for each qualifying Leg
- ✚ Title – To be announced

Certificates will be emailed to all participants upon completion of each title in each Division. These can be printed, or shared with friends online.

Non Qualifying Entries

In the event that a submission does not qualify, the handler has the option to fix the portion of the submission that was problematic and submit a re-try for \$7.50 (1/2 of a full entry fee).

The following will cause an entry to NQ:

- ✚ Dog moves completely out of the video shot during the completion of a requirement or option. This does not apply when the dog is blocked briefly while working with a prop, or circling behind the handler.
- ✚ Dog eliminates while performing a requirement or option.
- ✚ Use of verbal or physical corrections
- ✚ Specified requirements for completion of a Leg are missing
- ✚ Specified requirements for completion of a requirement or option are not met
- ✚ Luring the dog with food or toys, except where expressly permitted
- ✚ No audio on the video

Video and Submission of Entries

Participants have two options for creating video submissions:

-  Video Compilation
-  YouTube Playlist

Video Compilation

You can create a video compilation on your own video editing software.

If possible, please create a title page for your video that includes:

-  Your name (first name is fine)
-  Your dog's name
-  Division (Overture, Melody, etc.)
-  Name of Leg (Handling, Technical, or Artistry)

Example:

Kristine and Bandit
Overture Division
Handling Leg

In addition, please label each clip with the name that is printed for that option in the "Titling Requirements" for that Division. This can be done as a caption on the video, or as a title page that precedes the clip.

A separate compilation should be created for each Leg within a Division, as each one is a separate submission.

YouTube Playlist

You can create a "Playlist" through YouTube.

If you choose to create a Playlist, please include the following in the Playlist title:

-  Your name (first name is fine)
-  Dog's name
-  Division (Overture, Melody, etc.)
-  Name of Leg (Handling, Technical, or Artistry)

Example:

Kristine and Bandit Overture Handling

Or

Kristine and Bandit Overture Division Handling Leg

In addition, please use the name that is printed for that option in the “Titling Requirements” for that Division as the title of each individual clip in the Playlist.

A separate Playlist should be created for each Leg within a Division, as each one is a separate submission.

Video Guidelines

Camera Setup

When you set up your camera or device, please look at your filming space carefully to ensure that all of you, and your entire dog, are going to show in the video.

This is especially important when filming for “Artistry” legs, and for full performances when you get to the Master Performer Division.

It is fine if a little bit of your feet are cut off, or the tippy top of your head, but the picture shown in your submission clips should be a “full picture”.

If your working space is too small to allow for you to do this, please contact us to discuss modifications, camera setting strategies, or possible exemptions to this rule.

If using a device, such as a Smartphone or iPad, please set the device so it records the video with the longer sides horizontal. Try to avoid the long, thin videos that are taken when the device is set with the longer sides vertical. This is rarely an issue with a regular digital camera.

The Performance Clip

Unless otherwise indicated, you may choose to approach a particular exercise with a stationary start or a moving start.

For instance, if your dog is performing a spin in center position, you may begin with you and your dog standing still, cue the spin, and allow the dog to carry out

the spin, and then praise your dog and reinforce.

Or, you may be moving backward, and your dog moving toward you, cue the spin while in motion, pause while your dog carries it out, and then either remain stationary, or resume your movement as you praise, reinforce your dog.

It is fine if your clip includes delivery of a treat or toy to your dog, but be sure that the exercise is fully completed before reaching into your pocket for the reinforcer.

Performance of Multiple Options

In a case where you and your dog will be completing multiple options within a category, you may choose to film each option as an individual clip, or to film multiple behaviors in a continuous video clip.

For example, if one category requires the dog to perform three Freestyle behaviors, you could film each one individually, and include them in your compilation or Playlist as separate clips.

Or, you could have the dog carry out the three behaviors in one video clip, which may include reinforcers in between each behavior, and submit the video as one continuous video.

To Enter

Complete the "Entry Form" and submit payment for the entry through Paypal.

Email the Entry form and video link, or playlist link, to: pfsfreestyle@gmail.com

Judging

Unless otherwise indicated, all entries will be judged, and you will receive results via email, within three weeks of receipt entry.

Titling Requirements and Options

Please read through the requirements and options for each category very carefully. If you are unsure of what is needed for submission, please ask through email:

pfsfreestyle@gmail.com

Or on our Facebook Group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PoisedForSuccessFreestyle/>

I am happy, at any time, to take a look at an individual clip of a particular requirement or option to let you know if it meets the requirements necessary to qualify in that category for that Division, and what changes need to be made if it does not.

Divisions and Legs:

Divisions #1 - #3, Overture, Melody, and Harmony Divisions

For each of these three Divisions, there are three legs that must be completed in order to earn the Title for that Division:

Handling Leg
Technical Leg
Artistry Leg

Unless permission has been secured to do otherwise, a separate video or playlist for each Leg must be submitted, although two, or even all three, may be submitted at the same time.

Division #4 – Dynamic

In this Division, two thirty second to one minute choreographed performances will be submitted to earn each of the three legs necessary to earn the Dynamic Title. Performances will be created to meet specifications for different types of performances. Examples: Heelwork, Holiday Theme, Demonstration, etc.

Each set of two performances will constitute the following three legs:

Set the Stage
Run Through
Dress Rehearsal

Titling Requirements

General Guidelines for all three Legs

- ✚ Each team needs to create a video or playlist for each Leg category to earn the three legs needed to earn the Division #1 – Overture Title
- ✚ Except where otherwise indicated (most options for the Artistry Leg), treats and toys may be used, but must be concealed in a pocket until after the task is complete for all options for that Leg.
- ✚ Unless otherwise indicated, the handler may have a clicker in hand while performing the options included in the “Training” category. However, the clicker should be held in manner that keeps it as hidden from the dog as possible. In other words, the clicker should not be held close to the dog's face.
- ✚ Except where otherwise indicated (Artistry Leg), no music is needed for options at this level, but music may be playing in the background. However, if you choose to demonstrate “Verbal Cues” (Handling Leg), they must be easily audible. Music may not be added to video clips as an overlay.
- ✚ Video clips may not be edited, except to trim the beginning and end.
- ✚ Dog and handler should be fully visible in all video clips. If you lose a bit of foot or the tippy top of your head, it is OK, but there should be a “full picture” effect at all times. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!
- ✚ Except where specified by the option – for example, “Verbal Cues” or “Physical Cues” under “Cues”, behaviors may be carried out on obvious physical cue, concurrent physical and verbal cue, or verbal cue only. It is always your choice!

Overture Division

The title for the Overture Division:

PFS-O

*must be earned before a team can begin to submit
entries for Division #2 – Melody Division.*

Overture Division - Handling Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Training Category

Choose any **two** options from this category:

OH1 - Pivot Platform – dog performs a 180 degree pivot in each direction with front feet on a platform. This may be demonstrated as one video clip or two separate clips. Handler may move or remain stationary.

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**OH2 - Moving Target** - Dog carries out at least one Freestyle behavior following a target stick or open hand target

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OH3 - Two Paw Platform - Dog backs up at least six inches to place back feet on a board, mat, or low platform. This may be cued, or offered by the dog.

Or

Backing into the Garage – Dog backs up at least six inches into a space created by two props, such as cones, set side by side.

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**OH4 - Ground Target** - Dog sends to a ground target at least two feet away – may nose touch, place one or two paws on the object, or simply stand with the target in front. No duration required at this level – dog simply needs to go to the target.

### Cues Category

Behaviors cannot include interaction with objects, such as props or targets. Behaviors may be basic skills, such as sit or down, or tricks, such as spin.

Choose any **one** option from this category:

**OH5 - Physical Cues** - Dog carries out three behaviors or tricks on obvious physical signal

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OH6 - Verbal Cues - Dog carries out three behaviors or tricks on a verbal cue alone. If you choose a leg weave, set your leg before giving the verbal cue. Dog should move on verbal cue.

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**OH7 - Concurrent Cues** - Dog carries out three behaviors or tricks when a physical and verbal cue are given at the same time

## **Fitness and Props**

Behaviors demonstrated in this category must include the use of objects. Handler arms, legs, etc. cannot serve as props.

Choose any **three** options from this category:

**OH8 - Paws Up** - Two front paws up on any object, such as: training platform, prop, or piece of fitness equipment. Dog should hold the position until released off. No specific duration is required.

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OH9 - Pole – Dog makes at least one single full circle around a prop (may be held or free standing). This should be a full circle – not just a 180 degree loop.

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**OH10 - Jump** - Jump over a prop, no taller than dog's chest. There is no minimum height, but the dog must jump, or hop, over the prop.

**Or**

**Cavaletti** - Dog steps over three cavalettis in a row. Dog may walk or trot. Cavalettis can be ground bars.

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OH11 - Send Around - Send dog around a prop, to return to handler, at least two feet away. This may be a 180 degree turn around the prop, or a wide arc. Handler may step forward to cue, but should remain stationary once the dog is sent.

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**OH12 - Ground Hoop** - Dog performs a behavior or trick (sit, sit-lift paw, spin, etc) inside of a hula hoop on the ground

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OH13 - Paw Prop - Dog places one paw on a "cane" (dowel, stick, etc.) that is lying flat on the ground, or is held up from the ground on one end.

Or

Paw Pod - Dog places one paw on a paw pod, or similar item and holds it there for several seconds

**Overture Division Titling Requirements
Submission Checklist – Overture Technical Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete – **unless otherwise stated**. Treats and toys visible to the dog, even in hand, are permitted in Part 2 of Option B only. ** (Indicates this allowance)
- _____ If clicker used in Foundation Heelwork” option, held in manner that keeps it as hidden from the dog as possible.
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Overture Technical Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Movement and Heelwork – Choose **Option A** or **Option B**

- _____ **Option A – Stationary Positions**
- _____ Center Position to Heel Position
- _____ Center Position to Side Position
- _____ Heel or Side Position to Center Position
- _____ **Option B – Foundation Heelwork Training**
- _____ Foundation Heelwork Exercise
- _____ Sustained Stand Training **

Tricks and Moves – Choose Four

- _____ Spin
- _____ Circle
- _____ Leg Weave
- _____ Swing
- _____ Paw
- _____ Choose Your Own Trick: _____

Overture Division – Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Movement and Heelwork Category

Choose Option A or Option B from this category:

OT1 – Option A – Stationary Positions

Complete each of the following as a separate exercise (may be separate video clips, or one continuous video)

Dog moves from starting position to new position and stands in the new position for at least three seconds. Ideally, the dog should remain standing, but it is acceptable if the dog sits first (uncued) and is then cued to stand.

Dog may move into the new position directly, or may complete a single leg weave or partial circle around handler to get to the new position.

✚ **Center Position to Heel Position**

✚ **Center Position to Side Position**

✚ **Heel or Side to Center Position**

For these exercises, the handler may use an open hand target to help the dog find position, but no food is permitted in the hand.

OT2 – Option B – Foundation Heelwork Training

Both Part 1 and Part 2 must be completed

Part 1 – Foundation Heelwork

Send your dog away from you (a little) by tossing a treat, sending around a cone, or leave your dog in a stay bit behind you.

Call your dog to you and immediately turn away from your dog, so your dog must catch up to move with you.

Pick your dog up in heel or side position and move several steps forward (straight line or curve), with your dog next to you. You may help your dog through use of a hand target or other natural visual cue.

Your dog does not need to move with you in any defined position. Simply move ahead together several steps with your dog on your left or your right.

Part 2 – Sustained Stand Training

In a short video clip (no longer than 40 seconds), demonstrate how you are training your dog to stand in position (you choose – heel, center, or side) and

hold the stand for several seconds.

You may incorporate training aids, such as platforms, disks, target sticks, hand targets, barriers, etc. Food or toys may be visible to the dog for this exercise.

Please demonstrate only methods that are positive and motivational. Use of any verbal or physical corrections is not permitted for this demonstration.

Your dog does not have to carry out the behavior successfully, without help from you, in this clip. You need only show how you are training this skill.

Please Note: If you have already started working on training a sustained stand, please demonstrate work that is at the level of your current training. You need not go back and demonstrate how you initially taught the behavior. For instance, if your dog is already holding a sustained stand in center position, you could demonstrate teaching your dog to move into position while remaining standing.

On the other hand, if your dog is just getting started with the concept of holding a sustained stand, a demonstration of initial training is perfectly appropriate.

Tricks and Moves Category – Choose any four options from this category:

OT3 - Spin – Dog spins 360 degrees clockwise or counter clockwise while in front of handler

OT4 - Circle - Dog circles handler 360 degrees clockwise or counter clockwise, ending in same position where he or she started, or beyond

OT5 - Leg Weave – Dog weaves once under handler's leg. Dog may start in front of handler, or on the right or left.

OT6 - Swing - Dog starts in heel or side and “swings” across the front of the handler to end up in the opposite position

This is similar to a left finish in Rally, but the starts in heel or side position and moves across the front of the handler to get to the opposite position

OT7 - Paw - Paw touch to one hand. Dog may be sitting or standing.

OT8 - Choose your own trick - You and your dog may perform any trick that does not require the use of props. Please name the trick clearly on your video clip or title.

Overture Division Titling Requirements Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete – **unless otherwise stated**. Treats and toys visible to the dog, even in hand, are permitted in some of the exercises for this leg. See Exercise Descriptions (below) for details. ** (Indicates this allowance)
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. **Music is required in all clips for this leg**, although no choreography to the music is needed at this Level. Music must be playing so the dog can hear it – at this Level music can not be added to the clip as an overlay.
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Overture Artistry Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Sequencing and Duration – Complete all three Exercises:

- _____ Sequence
- _____ Entertainment
- _____ Moving Positions **

Music and Choreography – Complete both Exercises

- _____ Play to Music **
- _____ Doodling **

Overture Division – Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Sequencing and Duration Category – Complete all three Exercises

OA1 – Sequence - Choose any three Freestyle tricks and have your dog perform them in succession, one after the other, without stopping to treat in between.

It is permitted for teams to perform more than three Freestyle behaviors, but no treats may be given until the end.

Food and toys may not be held in the hand for this exercise.

OA2 - Entertainment - With music playing in the background, have your dog perform any two of the “Props and Fitness” requirements listed under “Handler”. These need not be performed in succession, but may be if you like.

Additional moves may be performed, in addition to the prop moves.

No food or toys may be held in the hand for this exercise.

OA3 - Moving Positions - With music playing in the background, have your dog move:

- ✚ From heel to center
- ✚ From center to side
- ✚ From side to heel.

The transitions should happen “in flow”, without significant pauses in position. (This may be modified for dogs who need to pause due to age or physical need)

The dog may move directly from one position to the other, or may complete a single leg weave, or may make a partial circle around the handler.

Handler is encouraged to take several steps (forward or backward) in between position changes to maintain the flow of the sequence. This exercise should not be completed with the handler standing in one place throughout.

A high level of precision is not expected go for “flow”!

Treats or toys may be visible to your dog for this exercise.

Music and Choreography Category – Complete both Exercises

OA4 – Play to Music - Create one 20 – 30 second clip of you playing with your dog while music is playing. This can be toy play, tossing treats, personal play, etc. Treats and toys may be visible for this exercise.

There should not be any training in this clip – just play!

OA5 – Doodling - Choose any two trained behaviors that your dog can carry out in center position (sit, down, spin, paw move, etc.)

Play up to 20 seconds of any song or piece of music.

As the music plays, you will have your dog only perform those two behaviors at a point where you believe that the dog's movement matches the music in some way. You should remain in one place, although you may move your arms and legs in a natural way.

The two behaviors do not need to be performed in immediate succession, and each behavior may be repeated one time.

Treats or toys may be visible to your dog for this exercise.

Melody Division

The title for the Melody Division:

PFS-M

*must be earned before a team can begin to submit
entries for Division #3 – Harmony Division.*

**Melody Division Tiffling Requirements
Submission Checklist – Melody Handling Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete
- _____ If clicker used in “Training” category, held in manner that keeps it as hidden from the dog as possible.
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Overture Handling Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Training – Choose Four

- _____ Pivot Platform
- _____ Precision Marking _____ Behavior #1 _____ Behavior #2
- _____ Moving Target _____ Choice #1 _____ Choice #2
- _____ Ground Target
- _____ Two Paw Target OR _____ Backing Up Into the Garage
- _____ Barrier

Cues – Choose Three; At least one must be a starred Exercise (*)

- _____ Distance Cues
- _____ Natural Body Language *
- _____ Trained Physical Cues
- _____ Supporting Cue Chains *
- _____ Verbal Cue Chains *

Fitness and Props – Choose Five

- _____ Prop Jump OR _____ Step
- _____ Jump OR _____ Cavaletti

_____ Send-Weave Combination

_____ Figure 8 Prop

_____ Prop Pivot

_____ Send to Prop OR _____ Two Back Paws

_____ Two Prop Figure 8

_____ Distance Circle

Melody Division - Handling Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Training Category

Choose any **four** options from this category:

MH1 - Pivot Platform - Use the pivot disk to move your dog from center to heel or side position. You may step to the side of the disk when you cue this movement.

MH2 - Precision Marking - Complete **any two** of the following behaviors, and clearly mark (clicker or distinct audible verbal marker) criteria indicated:

- ✚ Sit - Mark when dog's rear end hits the ground
- ✚ Spin – Mark when the dog commits to the spin
- ✚ Leg Weave – Mark when dog commits to the weave
- ✚ Backing away from you – Mark while one of the dog's back paws is in motion

MH3 - Moving Target - Use a target stick to move your dog in **two** of the ways indicated:

- ✚ Dog starts facing you and moves into position facing away from you
- ✚ Dog moves the distance made up by your arm and target stick to one side, performs a spin
- ✚ Dog moves in a large 360 degree arc around you following the target stick (you pivot, or move in a small circle, at least 360 degrees)
- ✚ Dog moves to a low object that is at least two feet from the team's starting spot, places four paws on the object, led by the target stick

MH4 - Ground Target - Dog moves to a floor target that is at least 2 dog lengths away from the dog's starting point and carries out a Freestyle behavior near the target. The dog may touch the target, or sit or down at the target, but does not need to do so.

MH5 - Two Paw Platform or Back Up Into The Garage - Dog backs up to place back paws onto a low board/mat/etc., OR the dog backs up "into the garage". Dog must back up at least two dog-lengths from starting point.

MH6 - Barrier - Demonstrate the use of a barrier for training a Freestyle skill or behavior. This could be a gate for finding position or backing, or round barriers for training circling, etc. Creativity is welcome here!

Cues Category

Choose any **three** options from this category; at least **one** must be from among the starred options

MH7 - Distance Cues - Dog carries out a distance behavior, using the cue style of your choice. Dog should be at a distance of at least two dog-lengths from you.

MH8 - Natural Body Language * - Use natural body language to cue a behavior (footwork, leaning, turning into your dog, moving leg into place for a leg weave) – no verbal cues may be used except to set up/release to begin moving.

MH9 - Trained Physical Cues - Cue one behavior using a physical cue that does not resemble the way that the behavior was trained. This cue should be unrelated to the movement of the dog. Examples: Handler raises a hand in the air, the dog does a down; Handler touches his or her hat and the dog backs away from the handler

MH10 - Supporting Cue Chains * - Cue three behaviors in a row, without giving any reinforcement in between, using physical cues that support the movement of your dog. You may support your physical cues with concurrent verbal cues, but take care not to overshadow your physical cues with the verbal.

MH11 - Verbal Cue Chains * - Cue three behaviors in a row, without using any reinforcement in between, using verbal cues only. You may move, but take care to ensure that your movement does not cue the specific behaviors.

Fitness and Props Category

Choose any five options from this category:

MH12 - Prop Jump - Dog jumps through a hoop

OR

Step - Dog backs at least one full step, moving back paws over the edge of a hoop (or straight piece of PVC) on the ground

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**MH13 - Jump** - Dog jumps over the handler's leg or arm. Handler may sit and place foot on something low. For this division, a barrier that prevents the dog from running around the leg or arm may be used.

**OR**

Cavaletti - Dog trots across a row of 4 cavaletti's, raised to at least ½ the height of the dog's hock

(In cases of physical limitation, both of these options may be modified by handler request)

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MH14 - Send-Weave Combination

Send dog in a loop around prop (dog need not circle it fully) from a distance of at least three feet, and cue a weave as the dog returns and repeat once. The full sequence should be completed without stopping to reinforce, although verbal praise is welcome at any time.

MH15 - Figure 8 Prop - Dog completes a Figure 8 using two ends of a prop, such as a jump or hula hoop or NADAC Hoop.

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**MH16 - Prop Pivot** - Dog places two paws on a prop and pivots 360 degrees while handler remains stationary. No distance is required and you may use your hand or arm to cue, or support, the pivot

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MH17 - Send to Prop - Send your dog to a prop that is at least 5 feet away. Dog should place two or four paws on the prop and hold that position for at least 4 seconds

OR

Two Back Paws - Dog places two front paws on a low piece of fitness equipment (such as a balance disk), or a cushion, and then moves forward to have two back paws on the item and front paws on the floor. Dog holds this position for several seconds.

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**Two Prop Figure 8** - Dog makes a figure 8 around two props, completing at least a total of four loops.

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Distance Circle - From a distance of at least 4 feet, the handler sends the dog to circle a prop – dog should make at least one full circle, not just a 180 degree loop.

**Melody Division Tiffling Requirements
Submission Checklist – Melody Technical Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete.
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Melody Technical Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Movement and Heelwork

Stationary Positions - If you did not complete Option A (Stationary Positions) in the Overture Technical Leg, it must be done as part of your Melody Division Technical Leg.

_____ **Completed in Overture Leg**

_____ **Stationary Positions**

- _____ Center Position to Heel Position
- _____ Center Position to Side Position
- _____ Heel or Side Position to Center Position

Complete all four:

- _____ Moving in Center
- _____ Moving in Heel
- _____ Moving in Side
- _____ Outside Curve

Choose One:

- _____ Synchronized Backing
- _____ Serpentine
- _____ Lateral Movement
- _____ Rock

Tricks and MovesChoose Six:

- _____ Spin
- _____ Leg Weaves
- _____ Circles
- _____ Place Pony
- _____ Paws
- _____ Scallop
- _____ Two Paws
- _____ Twizzles
- _____ Choose your own trick

Melody Division – Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Movement and Heelwork Category

If you completed Option A – Stationary Positions – as part of your Overture Division Technical Leg, then skip down to Exercise MT1

MTA - Stationary Positions

Complete each of the following as a separate exercise - may be separate video clips, or one continuous video

Dog moves from starting position to new position and stands in the new position for at least three seconds. Ideally, the dog should remain standing, but it is acceptable if the dog sits first (uncued) and is then cued to stand.

Dog may move into the new position directly, or may complete a single leg weave or partial circle around handler to get to the new position.

 **Center Position to Heel Position**

 **Center Position to Side Position**

 **Heel or Side to Center Position**

For these exercises, the handler may use an open hand target to help the dog find position, but no food is permitted in the hand.

Complete all four:

MT1 - Moving in Center - Dog moves toward handler in center position as handler backs up, in a straight line, at least 5 steps

MT2 - Moving in Heel - Dog moves forward in heel position as handler moves forward, in a straight line, at least 5 steps

MT3 - Moving in Side - Dog moves forward in side position as handler moves forward in a straight line, at least 5 steps

(If space does not allow at least 5 steps to be taken, adaptation can be made with pre-approval)

MT4 - Outside Curve - Dog heels in a large circle (at least 6 foot diameter) with dog on the outside of the circle. Dog may be in heel or side position, but must be on the outside of the circle.

Dog should walk briskly or trot, displaying a natural gait.

Team should complete the circle at least two times.

Small space option: Dog heels on the outside of a circle that is as large as the space allows, moving as briskly as is possible within that space.

Team should complete the circle at least two times.

Choose one:

MT5 - Synchronized Backing - Dog backs up in center position as handler moves toward dog. Handler should take at least 4 steps. Gates may be used.

Although handler movement can cue, and support the dog's movement, it should not appear that the handler is pushing into the dog's space.

MT6 – Serpentine - Dog moves toward handler as handler moves backward in a large serpentine (make 4 arcs). Dog is in center position.

In a small space, two arcs can be made in each direction

MT7 - Lateral Movement - Dog moves toward handler laterally as handler moves at least 3 steps sideways

MT8 – Rock - Dog carries out "Rock" move 2X in heel or side position. This may be done along a wall.

"Rock" Move:

Dog is in heel or side position. Handler moves the dog-side leg (only) forward one large step and the dog moves forward along with that leg.

Then, the handler moves the dog-side leg one full step back (behind handler) and the dog backs up along with that leg.

Finally, the handler moves the dog-side leg forward to be even with his or her other leg, and the dog moves forward to end up lined up in position.

Tricks and Moves Category

Choose six:

MT9 - Spin - Spin Clockwise or Counterclockwise in heel or side position. This can be done with the handler stationary or in motion

MT10 - Leg Weaves - Dog completes 3 – 5 consecutive leg weaves. Handler can be in motion (any direction) or stationary

MT11 – Circles - Dog circles handler while the handler pivots in the opposite direction

MT12 - Place Pony - Dog moves into "Pony" position and then backs up to land behind the handler

MT13 – Paws - Paw wave – dog lifts a paw to “wave” it at the handler, but does not touch handler. Dog may be sitting or standing. No sustained “hang time” is required on the paw lift, but that is also an option.

MT14 – Scallop - Dog carries out 3 Scallops. Dog may sit or stand as the handler moves.

Scallop:

Dog starts in heel or side position – may be standing or sitting. Dog is cued to “swing” across the front of the handler to end up in the opposite position (Example: Dog moves across handler from heel to side position).

Dog may remain standing, or sit, upon reaching position.

Dog remains stationary (in stand or sit) as handler moves across the front of the dog to return to the original starting position. (Example: Dog is in side position; Handler moves across front of dog, so the dog is now in heel position)

This is one full Scallop.

MT15 - Two Paws - Dog raises up on hind legs to place paws on the handler's arm. Dog hold position for 3 seconds.

MT16 – Twizzles - Dog pivots 360 degrees toward the handler as the handler turns to the left (heel) or to the right (side)

MT17 - Choose Your Own Trick - You may perform another (prop-free) Freestyle behavior, or trick, that is not listed here, and that you did not demonstrate at the Overture Level.

Melody Division Tiffling Requirements Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete – **unless otherwise stated**. Treats and toys visible to the dog, even in hand, are permitted in some of the exercises for this leg. See Exercise Descriptions (below) for details. ** (Indicates this allowance)
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. **Music is required in all clips for this leg**, although no choreography to the music is needed at this Level. Music must be playing so the dog can hear it – at this Level music can not be added to the clip as an overlay.
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Melody Artistry Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Sequencing and Duration – Choose three:

- _____ Sequence
- _____ Transitions
- _____ Circle Sequence
- _____ Moving to Music

Music and Choreography – Complete both:

- _____ Doodling **
- _____ Floor Patterns **

Choose one:

- _____ Play/Train to Music **
- _____ Entertainment **

Melody Division – Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Sequencing and Duration Category – Complete three Exercises

Food/toys **may not be** visible/in hand for these options

MA1 – Sequence - Choose any five Freestyle behaviors (may include movement), and have your dog perform them in succession, one after the other, without stopping to treat in between. Behaviors may be repeated once.

MA2 - Transitions

Have your dog carry out any two of the following transitions in flow. For each transition, your dog should start in one position and end in a different position.

Several steps of movement should be taken before the first transition, and in between the two transitions. This exercise should not be completed with the handler in a stationary position.

- ✚ Switch (Dog and handler turn 180 degrees in the same direction)
- ✚ 180 Turn Toward Each Other
- ✚ Single Leg Weave
- ✚ Pivot (From center position into heel or side)
- ✚ Cut (Dog cuts behind the handler to move from heel to side or side to heel)

MA3 - Circle Sequence - Have your dog heel on the outside of a large circle (as you did in “Heelwork and Movement” above) – or use directives for smaller space option.

As you go around the circle, have your dog carry out one Freestyle behavior, or trick, at about 12:00 on the circle, and another at 6:00 on the circle. You may stop and treat the behavior before continuing forward. However, be sure to end with heeling, not a behavior.

Handler may remain stationary as the dog carries out a Freestyle behavior, but the team, together, should not make any significant pauses during the sequence

MA4 - Moving to Music - Using a target cup, or target stick, guide your dog in a large arc around you, at the distance of the stick/cup. Move the cup/stick in a way that brings forth your dog's natural brisk gait.

Choose music that matches your dog's gait, and have the dog complete at least one full 360 degree “arc” of movement. Handler should pivot or make a small 360 degree circle.

Please contact us for small space modifications for this option, if needed.

Music and Choreography Category

Treats/toys **may be** visible to your dog/in your hand for the following exercises

Complete both of the following:

MA5 - Doodling - Choose any five trained behaviors or movements that your dog can carry out.

Play up to 40 seconds of any song or piece of music.

As the music plays, you will have your dog only perform those behaviors at points where you believe that the dog's movement matches the music in some way.

MA6 - Floor Patterns

Devise two specific patterns that you and your dog can trace on the floor as you move together. These need not be highly complex – it can be as simple as a large circle, but should consist of more than a single straight line.

The patterns should fill the space in which you are working. If you are using a large space, you may section off a smaller "ring" area for this exercise.

Move each of these patterns with your dog two times in a row. The two patterns may be videoed separately or in succession. Your dog may move in heel, side, or center position, but should maintain the same position throughout performance of the entire pattern twice. No behaviors, moves, or transitions should be used in this exercise.

You may have food visible to your dog and may reinforce wherever needed, but try to maintain as much flow as you can through the patterns.

Choose one:

MA7 - Play/Train to Music - Create three 20 – 30 second clips of you and your dog playing and/or training to three different genres of music.

MA8 – Entertainment - Using two props, create an approximately one minute video (may be up to 10 seconds under and/or over time) to show off your dog's Freestyle skills. You may incorporate movement and moves/tricks into your show.

Have your dog use each prop at least once during your "show", incorporating use of the props at least three times (so, you need to use one of them twice) demonstrating three distinct prop behaviors.

No specific choreography is required, even though music should be playing.

Harmony Division

The title for the Harmony Division:

PFS-H

*must be earned before a team can begin to submit
entries for Division #4 – Dynamic Division.*

Harmony Division - Handling Leg

Four tasks will be chosen from "Training", **one** task from "Cues", and **six** tasks from "Fitness and Props".

Training and Cues	Props and Fitness
Training (Choose 4)	(Choose Six)
<p>Follow-Through Training</p> <p><u>Pivot Platform</u></p> <p>Demonstrate a 3 step (minimum) progression, starting with training a behavior on the pivot platform and ending with the behavior fluent without the platform, of one fully trained behavior. A different item may be used for the "fading" step of this process.</p> <p>Separate video clips may be used to demonstrate each step of the process.</p> <p><u>Or</u></p> <p><u>Ground Target</u></p> <p>Demonstrate a three step (minimum) progression starting with training a distance behavior (at least 3 dog lengths away) using a ground target to the dog performing the behavior fluently at a distance without the ground target. The dog may be sent away to perform the behavior, or the handler may move away from the dog as he or she waits.</p> <p>A different target may be used for the "fading" step of this process.</p>	<p>Two Paws</p> <p>Have your dog place two front paws on a cane (dowel, stick) and hold the position for at least 4 seconds.</p> <p>Dog may stand on hind legs, or "sit pretty".</p> <p><u>Or</u></p> <p>Have your dog place two front paws on paw pods, or two similar items, and hold the position for at least 5 seconds</p>
<p>Precision Marking</p> <p>Have your dog perform a behavior at a distance and precisely mark the dog's commitment to the behavior. The dog may return to you for reinforcement, or you can go to your dog to reinforce.</p> <p>No props or targets may be used for this option.</p>	<p>Hold</p> <p>Have your dog pick up a prop in his or her mouth (an imitation flower, a basket, etc.) and hold the prop for at least 4 seconds</p>

<p>Moving Target</p> <p>Demonstrate a 3 step (minimum) progression, starting with training one of the following behaviors with a target stick or target cup, and ending with the behavior fluent without the target stick, of any of the following behaviors. You may incorporate other training props (targets, cones, platforms, etc.), but those must also be faded by the time the behavior is fluent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Dog starts facing you and moves into position facing away from you ✚ Dog moves beyond the distance of your arm to one side, performs a spin ✚ Dog moves in a large 360 degree arc around you beyond the distance of your arm to one side (you pivot at least 360 degrees). ✚ Dog moves to a low object that is at least three feet from the team's starting spot, places four paws on the object and holds the position for at least 5 seconds. Dog may face the handler on the object, but is not required to do so. 	<p>Theme</p> <p>Identify a theme that you might incorporate into a Freestyle performance and select a prop that communicates that theme in some way. Include a caption that identifies the theme, or include it in the video clip title (playlist).</p> <p>Have your dog perform at least two behaviors with that prop in one video clip.</p> <p>This is not intended to be a choreographed performance (see Artistry for that option!). Simply demonstrate the prop behaviors, one after the other.</p> <p>The same prop, and behaviors, may be incorporated into the "Theme Through Setting" option for the Artistry Leg.</p> <p><u>Or</u></p> <p>Create a "gym" of at least three pieces of fitness equipment and have your dog complete an exercise with each one, in a flowing sequence. Dog may hold positions as part of the sequence.</p>
<p>New Location</p> <p>Go to a location where you have not yet filmed any video clips for this titling program. This can be an outdoor or indoor location. If you are working in your home, it can be a room where you have not yet filmed, or your yard or porch.</p> <p>Have your dog perform a 3 – 5 behavior sequence (may include types of movement as a behavior) in the new location.</p>	<p>Plank</p> <p>Set two sturdy props, or pieces of fitness equipment side by side and have your dog put both front paws on one and both back paws on the other. There should be some space in between the two props.</p>

Two Paw Platform/Garage

Once you have achieved the distance that you desire for your dog to back up (at least 4 steps of backing), using the two paw target or backing into the garage, choose a cue (physical or verbal) and demonstrate the behavior, performed on cue, first with the platform or "garage", and then without use of the platform or garage. These may be separate video clips.

Dog should back independently, as you remain still.

Or

Barrier

Once your dog has mastered a behavior with use of a barrier, create a series of three video clips – one showing the behavior carried out with the barrier, one showing the dog performing the behavior with the barrier being faded out, and one showing the dog performing the behavior fluently without the barrier.

Dance on a Pedestal

Have your dog get onto a prop that is sturdy. Have your dog perform two Freestyle behaviors in a row on the prop.

Or

Have your dog put paws on a platform or a piece of fitness equipment and hand you each of his or her front paws, one at a time.

<p>Delayed Reinforcement</p> <p>Have a container of treats, or a toy, out of your dog's reach, but visible to your dog.</p> <p>Standing at least three feet from the reinforcer, have your dog perform any three of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ One single behavior such as sit, down, stand (from a sit or down) ✚ One Freestyle behavior ✚ One behavior using a prop ✚ A large circle with dog in heel or side. Dog may be on inside or outside of circle. Team should circle away from reinforcer and then back to starting point (three feet from reinforcer) ✚ A sequence of three Freestyle behaviors ✚ A stay (sit, down, or stand) while handler moves six feet away and then returns. Dog may also wait with two or four paws on a prop. Handler should move away from the reinforcer. <p>After the exercise is successfully completed, team should go to reinforcer together and the handler should jackpot (treats) or play with the dog interactively with the toy.</p>	<p>Sling Shot</p> <p>Send your dog around a prop that is at least two feet from the dog's starting point. (More is better, if possible)</p> <p>As your dog makes a loop around the prop, turn away and pick your dog up in heel or side position and then make a large 450 degree circle with your dog on the outside of the curve. You and your dog will pass the prop as you loop around.</p> <p><u>Small Space Option</u></p> <p>Send your dog around a prop that is at least two feet from the dog's starting point. (More is better, if possible). Remain facing your dog.</p> <p>As your dog returns to you, cue your dog to circle behind you (either direction). As your dog comes into heel or side position, complete a 450 degree turn (as large as your space allows) with your dog on the outside of the curve, passing the prop as you make the turn.</p>
<p>Cues (Choose One)</p>	
<p>Props as Cues</p> <p>Use a hand held prop to cue three different Freestyle behaviors. This can be one continuous video clip, or three separate clips.</p> <p>Movement of the prop may resemble a way that a behavior might have been trained.</p>	<p>Make your own prop behavior</p> <p>Choose a prop that you have not yet worked with in any of your titling clips. Have your dog carry out a prop behavior that has not yet been a part of the titling program prop behaviors.</p>

<p>Cue Discrimination</p> <p>Choose a prop that your dog can use to carry out three different behaviors, with the prop in the same configuration for all three.</p> <p>Create a video clip of your dog carrying out all three behaviors, with clear understanding of the three distinct cues.</p> <p>You may reinforce with treats or toys in between behaviors.</p> <p>Then, create a second clip with your dog carrying out the same three behaviors on cue in a different order.</p>	<p>Back Around</p> <p>Have your dog make a backward circle around a prop. You may hold the prop (example: cane), or the prop may be free standing.</p>
<p>Find the Cue (A Verbal Cue Option)</p> <p>Choose three behaviors that your dog knows well on verbal cue.</p> <p>Have five pieces of treat in your pocket, or a toy.</p> <p>With arms in a neutral, but natural, configuration, cue <u>one</u> of the five behaviors verbally.</p> <p>When your dog successfully carries out the behavior, reinforce with a single piece of treat or a short burst of play.</p> <p>Cue a second (different) behavior. Again, reinforce, as described above.</p> <p>Go back and cue <u>the first</u> behavior again. Reinforce as above.</p> <p>Cue the third behavior. Reinforce.</p> <p>Go back and cue the first behavior again. Reinforce as above.</p> <p>That's it – just five repetitions. Feel free to jackpot the final repetition.</p>	<p>Can Can</p> <p>Dog sends to a prop at least 4 feet away and performs a set of 4 alternating paw kicks. Dog may sit or stand on the prop.</p>

<p>Polishing Physical Cues</p> <p>Choose any three behaviors that your dog knows well.</p> <p>Using either physical cues, or concurrent cues, cue the three behaviors, in succession, in a way that is clear to your dog but “polished” to an extent that the physical cue does not appear to be a lure.</p> <p>Example: stand straight up and wave a physical cue for a spin above your dog's head instead of leaning forward to hold your hand near your dog's nose level.</p> <p>Physical cues do not need to appear “dancy” or graceful – they should simply look like physical signals rather than lures.</p>	
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Harmony Division – Technical Leg

Five tasks will be chosen from “Movement and Heelwork”, and **six** tasks from “Tricks and Moves”

Movement and Heelwork (Choose 5)	Tricks and Moves (Choose 6)
<p>Backing</p> <p>Start moving forward with your dog in heel, side, or center, at least a few steps.</p> <p>Transition your dog (transition of your choice) from the starting position to the position of your choice (heel, side, or center), and then move with your dog as your dog moves backward for at least four (of your) steps. Your dog may pause slightly after the transition, but the pause should not be significant.</p> <p>Backing does not have to be perfectly straight, but your dog should back up with clear mastery of the skill, and with confidence.</p>	<p>Leg Circles</p> <p>Have your dog circle one of your legs, making at least two consecutive circles</p>

<p>Laterals</p> <p>Start moving forward with your dog in heel, side, or center and move with your dog for at least a few steps.</p> <p>Transition your dog (transition of your choice) from the starting position to the position of your choice (heel, side, or center), and then move with your dog as your dog moves laterally for at least four (of your) steps. If your dog is in heel or side, your dog may move away from you or toward you.</p> <p>Your dog may pause slightly after the transition, but the pause should not be significant.</p> <p>Lateral movement does not have to be perfectly straight (dog's rear end need not line up with his or her head perfectly), but your dog should move sideways with clear mastery of the skill, and with confidence.</p>	<p>Simultaneous Spins in Motion</p> <p>Starting on the move (dog can be in heel, side or center), cue your dog to spin and, as your dog spins, you spin at the same time. If your dog is in heel or side, you should spin in the same direction as your dog. If your dog is in center, you may spin in either direction.</p>
<p>Moving Pivots</p> <p>Start moving forward with your dog in heel, side, or center and move with your dog for at least a few steps.</p> <p>Transition your dog (transition of your choice) from the starting position to the position of your choice (heel, side, or center), and then you and your dog should complete a 360 degree pivot together, in synchronized movement.</p> <p>If possible, try to make the transition to pivot fluid, without a pause as your dog moves into position. However, a slight pause is acceptable, as long as it is not cued deliberately by the handler.</p>	<p>March/Kicks</p> <p>Have your dog perform at least four alternating paw lifts, one after the other.</p> <p>Dog may be standing or sitting, and may be positioned anywhere in proximity to you.</p>

<p>In Step</p> <p>Find music that matches your dog's footfalls when your dog is moving with an open, natural gait. Demonstrate 30 seconds to one minute of movement to this music in a way that features your dog stepping in time to the music.</p> <p>You may incorporate a few moves and tricks into this segment, but those should serve as contrast, not as the "main feature" of the video clip – that should be your dog's movement to the beat of the music.</p>	<p>One Paw Pose</p> <p>Have your dog perform a paw touch to your knee or lower leg, or to the back of your leg and hold that pose for at least three seconds.</p>
<p>Inside Curve</p> <p>Dog heels in a large circle (at least 6 feet in diameter) with the dog on the inside of the circle. The dog may be in heel or side position, but must be on the outside of the circle.</p> <p>Handler should walk briskly, and the dog should not appear crowded.</p> <p>Team should complete the circle at least two times.</p> <p><u>Small space option:</u></p> <p>Dog heels on the inside of a circle that is as large as the space allows, with handler moving as briskly as is possible within that space.</p> <p>Team should complete the circle at least two times.</p>	<p>Leg Weave Sequence</p> <p>Perform a series of 4 – 6 leg weaves in a weave pattern that is not: Figure 8 Weaves (handler stationary) or dog weaving forward while handler weaves forward.</p> <p>Be creative!</p>

<p>Leash Handling</p> <p>Perform a segment of movement and moves with your dog on leash.</p> <p>As you and your dog perform, handle the leash in a way that maintains a clear “J” in the leash at all times.</p> <p>The leash should not be used to move your dog, or restrict his or her movement in any way.</p> <p>This movement segment need not be complicated, but it should include moves and movements that require you to switch the leash from one hand to the other at least three times, and pass it behind your back at least once.</p>	<p>Signature Move</p> <p>Develop a “signature move” with your dog. This should be something creative and interesting that your dog obviously enjoys performing. The signature move may be made up of a combination of two or three moves that form a “whole”, but in that case they should be connected together in some obvious way.</p>
<p>Precision – Handler’s Choice</p> <p>Identify a precision skill that you would like to demonstrate with your dog. This can be precision moving into a particular position (stationary), or precision movement in heel, side, or center, or precision of a particular trick or move, etc. You define the criteria for this option!</p> <p>Create a video clip of you and your dog carrying out this skill with the precision that you describe.</p> <p>Please include your precision criteria in an email along with your entry.</p>	<p>Cross Paws</p> <p>Sitting, standing, or lying down, dog crosses one paw over the other in turn. Dog should perform at least two crosses.</p>

Harmony Division – Artistry Leg

Five tasks will be chosen from “Sequencing and Duration”, and **five** tasks from “Music and Choreography”

Music is needed for all tasks in this category at this level, but it only needs to be playing in the background unless the option requires choreography.

Sequencing and Duration (Choose 5)	Music and Choreography (Choose 5)
<p>Duration of Focus</p> <p>With music playing, move with your dog in your performance area for 20 – 30 seconds, and actively reinforce duration of focus.</p> <p>You may use praise, or you may click, or verbally mark, and treat (on the move!), as much as you need to, but your praise or mark should reinforce focus, not create it.</p> <p>No behaviors should be cued during for this option – not even heeling, although if your dog offers heeling or some other behavior, that is perfectly fine.</p> <p>Strive to make this an enjoyable exercise for both your dog and yourself!</p> <p>No food or toys may be visible to the dog during this exercise, although you may reach into your pocket, or bait bag, for treats as often as you wish.</p>	<p>Beginning Choreography</p> <p>Freestyle choreography is the practice of creating sequences of moves and movements in a way that is connected to a piece of music or song.</p> <p>To begin developing choreography skills, complete the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose up to 30 seconds of a piece of music or song 2. Choose 3 – 4 Freestyle moves or movements, one of which must be forward movement (for the dog) of at least 4 steps (can be straight or curved) 3. Using the same 30 seconds of music, and the same 3 – 4 moves and movements, arrange those moves or movements in three different ways and perform each arrangement to the music. <p>Reinforcers may be visible to the dog for this option.</p>
<p>Delayed Reinforcement</p> <p>For this option, you and your dog will Perform the “Circle Sequence” from the Melody Division.</p> <p>You choose the moves to have your dog perform at 12:00 and 6:00, but I recommend keeping these as simple as possible. Use moves that your dog enjoys and performs with confidence. Remember to start and end the sequence</p>	<p>Theme Through Choreography</p> <p>Choose music that has an obvious theme.</p> <p>Create up to one minute of choreography that expresses that theme in some way.</p> <p>Every move and movement does not have to convey the theme. The choreography segment overall should convey the theme.</p>

<p>with heeling, not with the moves.</p> <p>Set up a reinforcer, as is described in the "Delayed Reinforcement" option under Training and Cues in this Division.</p> <p>Demonstrate the following progression of delayed reinforcement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate the sequence once, with reinforcement on you. For this step, the food or treats may be in your hand and visible to the dog, or in your pocket. <p>After completing the sequence, jackpot your dog, or play interactively with the toy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Place all reinforcers at the location that is out of your dog's reach. <p>Have your dog begin to perform the sequence once, but stop at some point before you are halfway through the sequence to go to the reinforcer and reward your dog.</p> <p>I recommend marking the dog as correct (click a clicker or give a verbal marker) before breaking off so your dog knows that he or she is performing correctly. Then go to the reinforcer together.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Perform the entire sequence. While still moving at the end mark your dog as correct and then go to the reinforcer together and jackpot or play interactively. <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Perform the sequence one last time with reinforcers on you, as you did in Step #1. <p>This option does not have to be filmed as one continuous video clip, but the whole</p>	<p>Props may be used, but presence of the prop alone cannot convey the theme. However, particular use of the prop may do so.</p>
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<p>four step progression should happen in one training session.</p> <p>Practice this before filming so that neither you, nor your dog, become frustrated when you film. If you do encounter frustration, I strongly recommend breaking off the session and going back to training before filming at another time.</p>	
<p>Floor Patterns With Transitions</p> <p>Devise two specific patterns that you and your dog can trace on the floor as you move together, which require at least three changes of side as you and your dog carry out the pattern. These need not be highly complex – it can be as simple as diagonals across the floor in a zig zag, but should consist of more than a single straight line.</p> <p>The patterns should fill at least half of the space in which you are working. If you are using a large space, you may section off a smaller “ring” area for this exercise.</p> <p>Move through each of these patterns with your dog at least one time, performing three different transitions at logical changes of direction or path.</p> <p>The two patterns may be videoed separately or in succession. Your dog may begin in heel, side, or center position. No behaviors or moves, other than the transitions, should be used in this exercise.</p> <p>You may have food visible to your dog and may reinforce wherever needed, but try to maintain as much flow as you can through the patterns.</p>	<p>Theme Through Setting</p> <p>Choose music that has an obvious theme.</p> <p>Choose, or create, a setting that expresses that theme in some way. Setting can include decoration or props. The entire area need not be a “set”, but props or decorations should clearly communicate the theme.</p> <p>Natural settings may also be used.</p> <p>Create and perform up to one minute of choreography in that setting. If props are present that can be used by the dog and handler team, they should be used at least once. Background decorations need not be incorporated into the performance.</p>

Sling Shot	Opening Pose
<p>Without any reinforcers visible to your dog:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="240 338 808 443">1. Send your dog around a prop that is at least two feet away (more distance is better). <p>Remain facing the prop so that your dog is in center position (roughly) upon return to you.</p> <p>As your dog returns, cue any Freestyle move. This move need not happen close to you. The move can be carried out at a distance, or close to you, but the move should happen "in flow". There should not be a significant pause before your dog begins the move.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="240 982 808 1157">2. Again, send your dog around the prop. Cue the same move as you did the first time, and then transition your dog into heel or side position. Again, this should happen "in flow".<li data-bbox="240 1199 808 1373">3. Finally, send your dog around the prop a third time. Cue the same first move, the same transition, and then a move in heel or side position, again "in flow". <p>This can be presented as one single video clip, or three separate video clips. In either case, you may reinforce your dog and/or take a break in between the three steps.</p> <p>In training I recommend practicing each step multiple times to ensure confidence and understanding before raising criteria.</p>	<p>Create and demonstrate an opening pose that demonstrates the connection that you and your dog share as a team.</p> <p>Team should hold the pose for at least 5 seconds.</p>

<p>Transitions</p> <p>Perform for 20 – 30 seconds, having your dog perform at least four different transitions of position. Positions may include: center, heel, side, criss-cross in front of you, behind you, or in heel or side, but flipped “backward”. However, it is sufficient for this exercise to have your dog only in center, heel, or side position.</p> <p>You may have your dog perform any other movements or moves, as well, but only the transition moves count toward your total of four.</p>	<p>Dance</p> <p>Choose a song or piece of music that is strictly a “dance” piece. Although a dance really can be created to any music, for this option, please avoid songs that tell a story.</p> <p>Create up to one minute of choreography with your dog that features your dog’s movement, flow, and musical artistry. Any tricks incorporated should demonstrate these qualities, rather than stand out in their own right.</p>
<p>Duration of Behavior</p> <p>Demonstrate mastery of one of the following examples of “duration of behavior”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Dog backs away from handler (any direction) for more than six feet ✚ Dog makes three consecutive circles around handler, without stopping ✚ Dog makes consecutive circles around a prop (near handler or at a distance) at least three circles ✚ Dog moves in heel or side position, with at least 75% focus for at least 30 seconds (handler can change direction, but no transitions or moves should be included) ✚ <p>Multiple cues can be given, and verbal bridges may be used, but the dog should not pause at any point to wait for an additional cue.</p>	<p>Arms</p> <p>Demonstrate a sequence of at least three moves and/or movements and change your arm position as your dog transitions from one move/movement to another.</p>

<p>Combined Transitions</p> <p>Create a movement sequence that is made up entirely of two or three transitions that can be performed in a small space.</p> <p><u>One</u> of the transitions can consist of handler movement alone (example, the handler movement from a Scallop).</p> <p>The sequence of transitions can be completed with the handler stationary, or the handler can move up to two steps in either direction from the starting point. There is no restriction on dog movement in this exercise.</p> <p>You and your dog may perform any moves or movements prior to the transition sequence (although none or required), and the sequence can be started from a stand-still, or with movement.</p>	<p>Attire</p> <p>Perform with your dog for 20 – 30 seconds. You can do whatever you like. You can use props, or not. You could re-film one of the other options that you have already performed (if long enough). You could improvise movement with your dog, or plan something and perform it. Have fun here – your performance will not be judged!</p> <p>For your performance, wear attire that stands out as distinct for performance.</p> <p>This need not be a “costume” per se. Your attire could express a theme (example: red sweater for a Christmas theme), but it does not have to. For instance, with my almost all-black Border Collie, I used to wear a black skirt and top to match him. (You need not match your dog!)</p> <p>If you want to wear casual clothing, choose music with a casual theme (example: jeans for a country song).</p> <p>The point of this option is to start thinking about using clothing to “pull together” the look of a performance.</p>
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The remainder of the Guidebook is currently under construction!!

Dynamic Division

Requirements and Options Coming Soon!

Master Performer Division Details Coming Soon!

This section is not yet complete, but has been included to give you an idea of the criteria for the Master Performer and Championship Divisions

Once a dog and handler team has completed the Division #4 – **Dynamic** Title, the team may move on to participation in the Master Performer Division.

To complete a leg in the Master Performer Division, create and video a choreographed performance to music with your dog that falls into one of the following categories.

Gait Supreme – Create a routine that features your dog's natural gait. For this category, you should use music that matches your dog's gait.

The whole routine does not need to be in time to the music. Use of slower paces, and stationary moves, can provide contrast.

Props Galore – Create a performance that features your dog's skills with use of props. Up to 4 different props may be used, and at least three of them should be used by the dog, or the dog and handler team, in two different ways.

Dance With Me – Create a routine that is clearly a dance with your dog.

Holiday Greeting – Create a routine that has a clear holiday theme. Props (if used), attire, and decoration should reflect the holiday theme.

International – Create a routine that has an international theme. Music, props (if used), attire, and decoration should reflect the theme in some way.

Dance at the Gym – Create a routine that features your dog's athletic abilities

Heelwork – Create a performance that features heelwork. No moves, or use of props, are restricted, but the routine should be made up of about 75% moves or movement in heel, side, and center position, close to the handler.

Trick It Up – Create a routine that features your dog's best tricks.

Precision Extravaganza – A routine that showcases your dog's enthusiasm or a high degree of precision

Theme Routine – A routine set to a specific theme.

Demonstration – Create a routine that could be used as a public demonstration. You identify the audience that you would present this to.

Video Editing – Create a performance in pieces and edit them together

Choreography Theme – Create a performance that features a particular choreography theme (circles, contrast, leg weaves, etc.)

Tell Your Dog's Story – Choose a song that expresses something about your dog

Brace – If you have two dogs who have both earned their Dynamic Division titles, create a routine that is performed by both dogs together

Musical – Choose a song from a musical play or movie and perform to that. You and your dog need not play characters from that musical.

Artistry – Create a routine that showcases your dog as an artist

Championship Division

Once a team has earned the Master Performer title, five more performances may be submitted, from the Master Performer category list.