



GOOD HOOPERS AWARDS - BRONZE

AIM: To promote good dog behaviour and responsible dog ownership. To have a good knowledge of the aspects of Hoopers as a low impact, fun sport for dogs. To encourage consistency throughout the training in a friendly and respectful manner. All training must be done using modern force-free techniques.

Eligibility: Any dog or bitch over the age of 12 months.

Criteria: Exercises should be carried out in surroundings with as little distraction as possible and off lead. Handler must be able to demonstrate their ability to deliver clear vocal and physical signals to their dog. Dogs showing aggression will not be successful, handlers need to show that they have control of their dogs and can prevent excessive sniffing or running away in order to pass the assessment. Reactive dogs who require extra space will be catered for.

When presenting dogs for this examination, dogs should be wearing suitable equipment. Flat collars, head collars, harnesses, lead are all perfectly acceptable. No choke chains, slip leads, prong collars, electric shock collars, electronic collar devices or any other aversive tool may be used.

Rewards/treats may be given on the completion of each exercise, no squeaky toys are allowed but others can be used to gain attention before or reward afterwards but NOT during the exercise.

In order to pass the Bronze Good Hoopers Award all sections of the assessment must be completed to the satisfaction of the examiner, if some sections are not completed the assessment will be rated as NT – **nearly there** and the handler will be informed of which sections they need to work on.

Exercise 1- Hoopers.

- 1) The dog must be placed in a wait 1 metre in front of a hoop. The handler must recall the dog through the hoop.
- 2) The dog must be able to perform 1 hoop from a wait of 1 metre away, whilst the handler moves to stand alongside the hoop.
- 3) The dog must be able to perform 1 hoop from a wait of 1 metre away, whilst the handler stays by the dog's side, and sends the dog from the start line.
- 4) A 30 second wait on a start line faced with a line of 3 hoops. The dog must not move from position or enter hoops. Handler is able to reset dog twice if necessary.
- 5) Dogs should demonstrate that they have value for the hoop and when presented with a hoop that they freely choose to pass through it 3 times.

Exercise 2- Tunnel

- 1) Dog must freely run through the tunnel without hesitation when asked to by handler.
- 2) Dog must wait front of tunnel whilst handler moves to other end of tunnel and then recalls dog through tunnel.
- 3) Dog must wait in front of tunnel until asked to run through whilst handler stays at start
- 4) Dog must wait in front of tunnel whilst handler moves at least 1 metre forward and to the side and then releases dog the dog forwards to take the tunnel. This it to be performed from both right and left sides.

Exercise 3 - Barrels

- 1) Dog must perform a circle around the barrel from both directions. Dogs should pass within 2 metres of the barrel when doing this exercise so as not to encourage very wide turns.
- 2) Handler and dog move 1 metre from the barrel and handler cues dog to go around barrel. Both directions should be demonstrated individually.
- 3) Dog waits in front of barrel whilst handler moves to the side approx 1 metre and cues dog to go around the barrel, this exercise should be performed from both sides.

Exercise 4 – Dog is left in a wait whilst handler moves at least 2 metres away and recalls dog, this is not an obedience recall, but the dog needs to go to the handler and be put back on the lead without any problems.

Exercise 5 – Handler and dog should be able to move calmly around to demonstrate good behaviour with other dogs and handlers present. Dogs should not enter other dogs or peoples personal space. This exercise is simply to encourage the dog to want to remain with the handler and should be done on the lead. This is NOT a heelwork exercise and should last 60 seconds.