



**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!

Effective 9/1/2020

**C-WAGS** offers titles in Obedience, Rally, Games and Scent. 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.

## Obedience

### ELIGIBILITY

- All dogs at least 6 months old at the date of the trial are eligible to compete in C-WAGS Trials.
- 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 registered handler, a non-family member, or may be a non-registered team.
- Female dogs in season may not compete.
- Dogs that are permanently disabled are allowed and encouraged to compete as long as they do not show signs of pain or discomfort. See Modifications on Page 2. Disabled handlers are allowed and encouraged to compete. See Modifications on Page 2. 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.
- Modifications - Reasonable Modifications may be requested at each trial. Handlers requesting a modification for either themselves or their dog must complete the Modification form prior to the class. The judge will review and has the sole authority to approve or deny all requests for their class. Dogs physically unable to complete the required exercises may enter as FEO. 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.
- Minimum Ring Size – Obedience: Level1 600 sq ft; Levels 2 & 3 1200 sq ft; Levels 4 & 5 2000 sq ft; 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 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. Other non-qualifiers should also receive recognition for efforts.

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

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

- Scores earned in the Official's Class will not be eligible for special awards.
- Trial hosts are not required to offer placements within this division.
- Qualifying scores will receive a qualifying ribbon.
- The class judge's family members must enter this division if entered in the class.
- If the judge wishes to enter a class they are judging, another approved judge must be in attendance to judge their run. It may be run before, at the end of the class or trial.

### **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.

**Master Team Award**

This award may be APPLIED FOR once the team has completed ACE titles in three of the four different C-WAGS programs: Obedience, Rally, Games, Scent. The Master Team Award is available in Four Levels, corresponding to the earned ACE titles. Application available on the Exhibitor Info menu of the web site.

Master Team Award Level 1	Master Team Award Level 2	Master Team Award Level 3	Master Team Award Level 4
Obedience Ace Level 1	Obedience Ace Level 2	Obedience Ace Level 3	Obedience Ace Level 4
Starter or Zoom 1 Rally Ace	Advanced or Zoom 1.5 Rally Ace	Pro or Zoom 2 Rally Ace	ARF Ace
Games Level 1 Ace	Games Level 2 Ace	Games Level 3 Ace	
Scent Level 1 Ace	Scent Level 2 Ace	Scent Level 3 Ace	Scent Level 4 Ace

## 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" (includes "creeping" forward) 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.

- A cue is an initial prompt to perform a behavior. If the dog is performing / in the process of performing the action without hesitation then whatever the handler says should be considered encouragement.
- Additional cues to get the behavior to happen, to continue, or to change, whether voice, or visual (hand/body) will be penalized 3 points.
- Unless specifically stated otherwise, both visual (hand/body) 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.
- Dogs are expected to respond promptly to cues. Slow responses will receive a minor to major deduction.

- “Stay” – as long as the dog is not moving, a repeated “stay” would not be penalized as the dog is already doing the behavior. Unless the exercise specifically states otherwise, any exercise where the judge will instruct the handler to leave the dog, the handler is allowed to give a verbal and/or hand cue to stay before leaving. –
- 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 and body cues must not be “held in place”. Hands should be returned to their original position after giving cues. Prolonged use of hands as cues or targets will be penalized as an additional cue. Handler after bending over giving a cue should return to an upright position.

**Divisions A / B / Jr. TO** - The purpose of the “A” and “B” divisions is for placement awards based on their score and grouped with other dogs with similar experience. You are the only one who knows your dog’s history and which division is appropriate. It is an honor system. In general, when you enter a class you want to be competing for placements against dogs with the same level of experience. When you look at the exercises in the class you are entering – are these newer to your dog exercises? Or has your dog gotten titles (from C-WAGS or any other venue) and had a lot of experience with these exercises? The “A” division should be used when your dog has not ever, anywhere titled at this level of exercises. The “B” division would be used when your dog has titled somewhere at this level of difficulty/exercises or above.

All divisions 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 and award at the end of the league.)

**Entering / Exiting the Ring** - Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. The safety of everyone is of utmost importance. 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 the handler may release and reward their dog with petting and/or a food treat. The food reward needs to occur in the area the exercise ended. The handler should not be moving and rewarding with food at the same time, it needs to be completed before moving to the next exercise location. Petting or interacting is allowed to continue between exercises. Food must be kept in a pocket until the exercise has ended. Treat pouches may not be worn. Dropping food will result in a major deduction of 4 points. Food given inappropriately or 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 reward their dog for the set-up behavior with food 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. Dropping the leash during the performance will result in a Slight deduction.

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 off-leash 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: Not waiting for the judge’s instruction; 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 Heel exercises, Pivots on Directed jumping; handler errors on Handler Exam of Dog.

**Heel Position** –the dog’s body position regardless of activity – should be in line with the handler’s left side – includes standing, moving, sitting, or lying down. For exercises that begin with the dog in “heel position” it is the handler’s choice of stand, sit, or down. 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.

- Generally exercise descriptions that contain “must” result in a more severe penalty (NQ) than where it is described as “should” (points).

**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 up to 90°.

**Minor deductions 2 – 3 points:**

- 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 4 points or more**

- 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 general:**

- 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 will result in the working team receiving a Non-Qualifying score. Exhibitors and spectators are not allowed to interfere or assist in any way with a team that is working in the ring.

**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 feet apart with no wings. Jump heights will be 4” 8” 12” 16”. The broad jump must also be between 4 – 5 feet in width. 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 will select the appropriate jump height for their dog as they are most qualified to know what is appropriate for their dog’s age and physical condition.

Fronts that follow a jump have a Finish as a part of the exercise.

**Suggested Jump Heights -**

Shoulder height	Bar/High Jump	Broad Jump	
Under 11”	4”	8”	1 board
11” to under 15”	8”	16”	2 boards
15” to under 20”	12”	24”	2 boards
Over 20”	16”	32”	3 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 or as cue will result in a 3 point deduction.

## Level 1

The Level 1 Class is performed on a 4 – 6 foot 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.

1)	40 pts	Heeling
2)	20 pts	Find Front, Forward
3)	10 pts	Sit or Down Walk-Around
4)	10 pts	Position Change
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.** Begins with the dog in heel position (standing, sitting or down). It should consist of approximately 80 – 120 feet 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”.

The Heeling exercise may be used on its own; the 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; or 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 feet 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 at heel with the finish. The judge will release the team with “Exercise Finished” after a heeling distance of approximately 8 feet if not combined with the heeling exercise.

3) **Walk-Around.** The position in which the dog is left in this exercise will be either a sit or a down, which will be predetermined by the judge and the same for all dogs in the class. Begins with the dog in heel position (standing, sitting or down). On order from the judge to “Forward” the handler and dog will heel forward approximately 8 feet at which point the judge will instruct the handler to “Stop and Sit” (or “Down) Your Dog”. The handler will then stop and may cue the dog for **either** the “Sit” **or** the “Down”. Once the team is in position, the judge will instruct handler to “Walk Around”. Handler is to walk to the left 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 left heel position 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”. Failure to change position or 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 feet 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. The position in which the dog is left in this exercise will be either a sit or a down, which will be predetermined by the judge and the same for all dogs in the class. Begins with the dog in heel position (standing, sitting or down). On order from the judge to “Forward” the handler and dog will heel forward approximately 8 feet at which point the judge will instruct the handler to “Stop and Sit” (or “Down) Your Dog”. The handler will then stop and may cue the dog for **either** the “Sit” **or** the “Down”. Once the team is in position, the judge will approach within 4 – 6 feet of the Handler from a front angle and speak a few positive words with the handler. The judge will move away and then 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.

### Exercises:

1a)	25 pts	On-leash Heeling
1b)	15 pts	On-leash Figure 8
2)	15 pts	Recall over jump
3a)	10 pts	Call to Heel
3b)	10 pts	Position Change
4)	15 pts	Stand Stay Handler Exam
5)	10 pts	Leave Dog for Leash
6)	Pass/Fail	Honor On leash.

The On-leash heeling and Figure 8 exercise will be first. The previous dog in the ring will normally be the honor dog during the On-Leash heeling exercise. The honor dog will be excused before the leash is removed from the exhibiting dog. Exercises 2 - 4 are off-leash and *may* be used in any order. Leave Dog for Leash (#5) will be the last off-leash exercise. After completing the Leave Dog for Leash exercise the handler will 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 exercise.

1a) **Heeling.** Begins with the dog in heel position. It should consist of 100 – 160 feet of heeling plus the Figure 8. The Figure 8 may be at the end of the heeling pattern, or at a location within the heeling pattern. It is recommended but not mandatory that heeling include a minimum of one each, right turn, left turn, about turn, slow, fast, one right circle or left circle, and one halt. Commands to slow and fast will be followed by a command to return to normal pace or “Exercise Finished”. The judge will give instructions during the heeling pattern starting with “Forward”, including “Figure 8” when the team approaches the Figure 8 location.

1b) **Figure 8.** Will consist of two “posts” (the posts may be cones, chairs, jump uprights or other similar object at least 18” tall, and that are approximately 8 feet apart. One post will have a piece of clothing such as a shirt, or jacket –free of treat smells – hung or draped over the “post”. The team may proceed in either direction, around the posts in a Figure 8 pattern twice. The judge will instruct the team to halt at least once during the pattern and may halt the team before the Figure 8. If heeling continues after the Figure 8, the judge may use

“Continue Forward” as their instruction to leave the Figure 8 and continue with 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) **Recall Over the Jump.** The team will set up at a spot at least 8 feet 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 feet 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 or failure to take the jump will result in a Non-Qualifying score for that exercise.

3a) **Call to Heel.** Begins with the dog in heel position. The judge will instruct the handler to leave dog. The handler will proceed forward approximately 8 feet 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. Which is the beginning of:

3b) **Position Change.** Judge will instruct handler, 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 feet 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” at which point handler may treat.

Handler may turn head and shoulders slightly to the side while calling the dog to heel. Anticipation by the dog will result in a Non-Qualifying score for this exercise. Minor sideways movement by the dog during the walk-around portion of this exercise will receive Slight to Major deductions. A dog that turns 90° or more during the handler returning to heel will receive a Non-Qualifying Score for that exercise.

4) **Stand Stay - Owner Exam.** Begins with the dog in heel position. On order from the judge to “forward” the handler and dog will heel forward approximately 8 feet at which point the judge will order “Stand Your Dog and leave when ready”. The handler will stop and cue their dog to remain standing. A dog that sits will receive a Major deduction. The handler will then walk forward approximately 8 feet 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.

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.

5) **Leave Dog for Leash.** The position in which the dog is left in this exercise will be either a sit or a down, which will be predetermined by the judge and the same for all dogs in the class. Begins with the dog in heel position. On order from the judge to "Forward" the handler and dog will heel forward approximately 8 feet at which point the judge will instruct the handler to "Stop and Sit" (or "Down) Your Dog". The handler will stop and may cue the dog for **either** the Sit **or** the Down. The judge will then instruct the handler to "leave". The handler will 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 an up-right 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 should 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.

6) **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 be seated or standing. Dog's position may be a Sit or a Down, on either side of the handler, or in 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 and Figure 8 exercise. As soon as the working team has completed the on-leash Heeling and Figure 8 exercise and the judge announces

*Exercise Finished*, the Honor Steward excuses 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.

- |    |        |                          |
|----|--------|--------------------------|
| 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.** Begins with the dog in heel position. The heeling exercise may be divided into two sections with any number of the remaining exercises between them. One or both sections of heeling may be combined with one other exercise where the “Exercise Finished” would not be given until the end of the combined heeling and exercise. It should consist of no more than 200 feet total heeling.

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: circle (left or right), Figure 8, or 270° turn (left or right). 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 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 in heel position at a spot at least 15 feet beyond the jump and approximately 6 feet 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 feet on the other side of the jump and approximately 6 feet 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 giving the cue 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. Failure to take the jump will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

4) **Go Out.** Begins with the dog in heel position. The judge will instruct Handler to "Send your Dog". Handler will cue the dog to go approximately 20 feet 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 feet 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 with the dog in heel position. On order from the judge to “Forward” the handler and dog will heel forward approximately 8 feet at which point the judge will instruct the handler to “Stop and Sit” (or “Stand) Your Dog”. The handler will stop and may cue the dog for either the Sit or the Stand. The judge will instruct the handler to “leave”. Handler will proceed to a spot approximately 6 feet 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° or more from a “front” position will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

6) **Retrieve over Broad Jump.** Begins with the dog in heel position centered at least 8 feet 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 feet 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 feet 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 or failure to take the jump will receive a Non-Qualifying score. Slight to Minor deductions will be made for dropping of the article or not releasing article on cue.

7) **Signals.** Begins with the dog in heel position. On order from the judge to “Forward” the handler and dog will heel forward following the judge’s instructions. 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 feet 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

A Level 3 title is required to enter this class (other than as FEO). 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.

1)	15 pts	Signal Exercise
2)	10 pts	Moving Down – Call to Heel
3)	15 pts	Moving Stand for Exam
4)	15 pts	Double Recall
5)	15 pts	Directed Glove Retrieve
6)	30 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, and #3. The heeling may include about turns, left and right turns, left or right circles, left or right 270° turns and halts. Heeling will be scored as part of the exercise where it is included.

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) **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 feet, 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.

2) **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. The judge will release the team with “Exercise Finished” when the dog has returned 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.

3) **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 or a dog that continues to move forward by not responding promptly to the “stand” 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.

4) **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”. Upon instruction from the judge, handler will call the dog. 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.

5) **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 feet 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 feet 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.

6) **Go Out – Directed Jump / Tunnel Exercise.** A jump and an agility style tunnel ( 6 – 15 foot) 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 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 feet 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. The judge will release the team with “exercise finished”.

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.

Slight to minor deductions for dog: that sits more than 4 feet 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 feet 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 and handler will start at a point midway between the jump and tunnel, with the jump and tunnel 20 feet in front of the dog and handler.*

## **Level 5 - Obedience Champion**

A Level 4 title is required to enter this class (other than as FEO). The Level 5 class is performed off leash. This is a combined Level 3 & Level 4 class with modifications below. 150 total possible points. A qualifying score is 120 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.

Exercises:

- |     |        |                                 |
|-----|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1)  | 25 pts | Heeling with Figure 8           |
| 2)  | 10 pts | Find Front                      |
| 3)  | 15 pts | Retrieve over Broad Jump        |
| 4)  | 10 pts | Seek Dropped Item               |
| 5)  | 15 pts | Signal Exercise                 |
| 6)  | 10 pts | Moving Down – Call to Heel      |
| 7)  | 15 pts | Moving Stand for Exam           |
| 8)  | 15 pts | Double Recall                   |
| 9)  | 20 pts | Go Out – Directed Jump / Tunnel |
| 10) | 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 multiple sections. Each section may be combined with one other exercise before “Exercise Finished” is given. A figure 8 must be part of a heeling section.

2) **Find Front** – handler will stand with their back to the dog approximately 6 feet in front of the dog.

4) **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 judge’s directions. After the team has proceeded at least 25 feet 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.

5) **Signal Exercise** – handler distance from the dog will be 20 – 25 feet.

10) **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 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.