Event 3: Gate Boundary

Skilled handlers control the space in front of the gate by keeping dogs out of this space.

Rules

- See the Competition Guidelines for overall event requirements (only positive tools, no treats, no touching, honor code, etc.).
- Dog group size should be 10-15 dogs.
- This event will begin with the dogs and the handler in an area with a door or gate.
- The handler will have the dogs wait at or behind a boundary line about 3 feet away from the door or gate.
- Handler will announce “start” and then position themselves and the gate (gate and handler body position vary by experience level)
  - Novice – Gate remains closed, and handler positions body in the middle of the gate to block
  - Intermediate – Gate is partially opened, and handler’s body partially blocks the gate
  - Advanced – Gate is fully open, and handler stands at the side of the gate (no blocking)
- After gate and body are in position, handler will count off 5 seconds to signify the end of the event.
- A successfully waiting dog will sit or stand calmly at the boundary line the entire time, until the handler finishes their count-off.
- Document the percentage of dogs in the playgroup that remained calmly waiting at the boundary line for the entire count-off.
- Dogs who cross the boundary line at any point do not count as “successes.”
- Also, dogs who are still in the play area, but not waiting at the gate (e.g. those still relaxing) do not count as “successes” or as part of the total group size (therefore, they don’t hurt or help).

To calculate your percentage, use the number of dogs that calmly waited divided by total number of dogs in group. Then multiply by 100 to get the proper percentage.

Example: Samantha is an Intermediate handler and has 11 dogs in her playgroup. Samantha arranges her dogs behind a rope 3 feet from the gate. She motions for the dogs to stay. Samantha announces “start” to signify the beginning of her trial. As Samantha approaches the gate, one dog runs up to her, crossing the boundary line but then returns back behind it. As she opens the gate, two dogs quickly race through the gate to the other side. After positioning the gate partially open, Samantha stands to partially block the gate with her body and counts “1-Mississippi... 2-Mississippi... 3-Mississippi... 4-Mississippi... 5-Mississippi...” Eight of the dogs remained calmly waiting at the boundary line. Samantha’s percentage is 73%. (8/11 = 0.727 * 100 = 72.7%, rounded to 73%)