

What are the Trial Exercises ?

Community Companion Dog (C.C.D.)

This is the basic level of competition. The exercises are:

- Heel on Lead
- Stand for examination on lead
- Recall
- 1 min Sit Stay
- 2 min Down Stay

To gain a CCD title: Three passes of a minimum 85/100 points under at least 2 different judges.

Novice (C.D.)

Obedience trialling at the Novice level consists of performing a number of exercises. These are completed off-lead:

- Heel Free
- Stand Free for Examination
- Recall
- Retrieve on the Flat or Change of Position
- 1 minute Sit Stay
- 3 minute Down Stay

To gain a Novice title: Three passes of a minimum of 170/200 under at least 2 different judges You do not have to have achieved your CCD title in order to compete in Novice classes

Open (C.D.X.)

The Open level is of a higher standard and introduces jumping and stays in which the handler is out of sight. The exercises, again off-lead are:

- Heel Free
- Stand Free for Examination
- Drop on Recall
- Retrieve Dumbbell on Flat
- Retrieve Dumbbell Over Solid Jump or Directed Retrieve
- Broad Jump or Distance Control
- 3 minute Sit Stay - Handler Out of Sight
- 5 minute Down Stay - Handler Out of Sight

To gain an Open title: Three passes of a minimum of 170/200 under at least 2 different judges

Utility (U.D.)

The Utility level is the highest standard in Obedience trialling. It introduces scent work and demands a high level of training and understanding between dog and handler. The exercises are:

- Seek Back Lost Article
- Directed Jumping
- Scent Discrimination
- Signal Exercise

- Choice of one of (a) Speak on Command (b) Food Refusal or (c) Directed Retrieve
- Group Examination
- 5 minute Down Stay - Handler Out of Sight

To gain a Utility title: Three passes of a minimum of 170/200 under at least 2 different judges

Utility Dog Excellent (U.D.X.)

The exercises at this level extend on those in the Utility section.

They are:

- Seek Back with Decoy
- Positions in Motion
- Scent Discrimination – Judges Scent
- Directed Send away and Recall
- Distance Control
- Multiple Retrieve
- Group Examination

Rally-O

A team of a dog and a handler move around a course with the dog in a 'heel' position. The course is laid out using numbered signs which instruct the team to go fast or slow, to halt (dog must sit at heel), to make turns and circles, to reverse direction, to do a sit-stay-recall, to go over a jump, and to follow other basic obedience exercises.

There are four levels in competition:

- Novice • Advanced • Excellent • Masters

Novice is conducted on-lead. Advanced and Excellent are conducted off-lead and include jumps and more challenging exercises such as circling around a toy or a tempting bowl of food.

There should be evidence of teamwork between the dog and handler, but perfect heel position is not required. The judge deducts points for mistakes such as a tight leash, crooked sits, or performing an exercise incorrectly and expects to see the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment. Unlimited communication between handler and dog is encouraged. Handlers may give multiple commands and signals but may not physically guide or correct the dog. Food or toys are not permitted in competition.

Courses are different in every trial. Handlers receive a course map from the judge and can walk the course without their dogs prior to the start of the competition.

**So practice, train & ask for help.
Happy Trialling!**

German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc

I want to TRIAL my dog what do I do now??

Congratulations on being ready to take the next step with your dog !

This document gives a brief overview of all the things you need to do and consider when first trialling. If you need any further help or clarification, contact obedience@gsdvc.org.au or your Chief Instructor

The German Shepherd Dog is a working breed, so where better than the trial area to see the ability and extended level of obedience these dogs and handlers can aspire to and achieve !

What are the basic exercises in Obedience trials?

In CCD and Novice, the basics are Heeling, Stand for Examination, Recall and Sit and Down Stays. In Novice there's also a change of position or a retrieve of the dumbbell.

What are the trial classes available?

Obedience Trial Classes begin at **Community Companion Dog** (CCD) level which is on-lead and then progress through to the advanced **Utility Dog Excellent** (UDX) title.

Rally-O

Rally-Obedience is a new form of obedience based on traditional Obedience but carried out in a more informal and relaxed style. The obedience exercises are in a course situation with signs for activities. Unlike in traditional obedience trials, handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs during the course, so you may use verbal praise and petting.

What are the GSDCV Obedience Trials Available?

Championship Show Restricted to Breed Trial – March
State Breed Exhibition Restricted to Breed Trial – May
Open Rally Trial - July
Championship Show Restricted to Group 5 Trial – November
Open Medallion 'back to back' Trial – October

Joining Dogs Victoria

In order to compete in a trial, you must first become a member of Dogs Victoria. When joining Dogs Victoria you must also register (if not already done so) your dog(s) that you wish to compete with. You can download an application form from the Dogs Vic website: www.dogsvictoria.org.au

Dogs without pedigrees can be registered as 'associates'. There are many obedience, tracking and endurance trials you are eligible to enter with associate dogs, but they cannot be shown.

Once you have joined, you will receive a monthly Dogs Vic Gazette. The Gazette contains trial schedules for up and coming trial events (and shows) plus lots more. All schedules will contain the name of the host club, time & date, judges, details of entry, payment and the entry closing date.

What trials can you enter? If you have a pedigreed GSD, you can enter all trials that are listed as Open, Restricted to Breed or for Group 5 dogs. If you have a GSD that is registered as an associate (no pedigree) then you can enter Open Obedience trials for obedience, tracking or endurance.

Does my dog have the right papers???

What is the difference between the Main Register and Limited Register pedigrees?

Pedigree registrations are issued by the ANKC through the State associations (e.g. Dogs Victoria) after application by the Breeder (who must be a member of Dogs Vic).

The Main Register pedigrees are blue in colour, whilst the Limited Register pedigrees are orange in colour, both A4 size. Dogs registered on the Limited Register may not be exhibited in conformation shows, nor can they be bred with, but can still be entered in Obedience Trials. Dogs registered on the Main Register are eligible to participate in all of the above areas.

If your dog does not have papers, you can register them with Dogs Victoria as an associate, and you can enter 'Open' trials, rather than breed or group trials

Entering your first trial – How? Where's the Schedule?

After you have joined Dogs Victoria and registered your dog, you can now enter trials. What do you do....?

Trial schedules will be listed in the Dogs Victoria Gazette (you receive this with your membership) and GSDCV trials are also listed in both the Shepherd News and on the GSDCV website. Decide on the trial you wish to enter, note the closing date for entries and send off your entry form to the secretary with your payment cheque. You can also enter online for GSDCV trials.

Where do I get an entry form?

Entry forms can be downloaded from Dogs Victoria for all trials www.dogsvictoria.org.au
OR you can enter online (and pay by credit card) for GSDCV trials via www.gsdcv.org.au/entries

If sending a hard copy entry, ensure your entry form is cut to size (~1/2 A4) and include a SSAE to get confirmation your entry is received. Nothing worse than driving a long distance only to find that your name is not in the catalogue because the secretary didn't get your entry in time. Get in the habit of including an email address and phone number so if there is a problem with the entry the Trial secretary can contact you if needed.

Which class do I enter first?

When you begin trialling, you can enter either CCD or Novice. You cannot enter Open until you have your Novice title (& lodged the paperwork with the VCA to apply for the title). The same applies for Open to UD and UD to UDX, however you can continue to compete in Open once obtained and UD once obtained.

Preparation, preparation, preparation..... What Next?

Go along to a trial before your own 1st entry. Then nothing will be a surprise. Perhaps tag along with someone you know from your branch who is trialling and can show you the ropes. Speak to your chief instructor, who will be able to help you with training, and hopefully some ring practice at your branch, as well as answer any questions.

The day of the trial

- Know where you are going – don't get lost!. Arrive early
- Bring a lead, water (and perhaps some treats) for your dog
- A chair is handy, as are poo bags
- A drink and any food you might need yourself
- The trial can last several hours, so be prepared !
- Check in at the desk, and get your number and catalogue
- If you have a female dog, arrive in time for vetting – to check that she is not in season. Have your exhibit number card stamped. Bitches in season are not eligible to participate in trials. If you're unsure, this will be identified when vetted and you'll have to wait until the next trial.
- Find your ring, and keep an eye on when you will be called (in numerical order). If you don't present, you're marked absent, no 2nd chance !
- Stays are usually done as a group at the end of your class
- Presentations are done when all rings are finished, so hang around and support – or collect your ribbon and pass card !!

Rules

Detailed rules and regulations for all obedience classes can be viewed on the ANKC website www.ankc.org.au
The rules also detail 'what the judge is looking for' so have a thorough read

What is a pass mark?

CCD – 85/100 and Novice, Open, UD and UDX – 170/100

Equipment

Lead – must be a minimum of 750mm long with a clip.
Armband – for your entry number must be worn on the left hand side of your body. The clear plastic ones are good, or you can just use a safety pin on your chest, but don't let the number flap around and be a distraction.

How do I achieve a title?

A title is completed when the dog has three passes at that level. The entry class of CCD requires 85 points out of 100 on offer. After CCD, a pass of 170 points or more out of 200 is needed and the dog must pass every exercise within the test.

When you achieve a title, the letters of that title can be placed at the end of your dog's name. These obedience titles are shown after the dog's name and becomes part of the registered name. Only the highest title will be used.

From Novice onwards, you MUST apply to Dogs Victoria for your title before participating in the next level Trial. You must submit 3 pass certificates with the application.

GSDCV Trial Awards

The GSDCV has special perpetual awards for triallers. High Achieving Handler and Dog Obedience Trophies

The GSDCV recognises high achievements in each of the CCD, Novice, Open, Utility and UD Excellent classes

High Achieving Handler and Dog Tracking Trophies

The GSDCV recognises high achievements in each of Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog Excellent, Tracking Search Dog or Tracking Search Dog Excellent tests

Details here www.gsdcv.org.au/Show_Trial_Awards

It's the handler's responsibility to nominate for each award, so watch for the award nomination form in the Shepherd News !

Other Types of Trials

GSDCV Endurance Trial (June) – a 20km test for handler & dog, done in 3 parts (8km, 6km, 6km). Ride or run yourself.

Tracking Trials

Open Tracking Trial – June and Track & Search Trial - October