



Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

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PURPOSE: This badge demonstrates the handlers understanding of the proven method of social learning and his/her ability to teach the dog new things using the 'Do It' protocol where the dog learns new things by copying human behaviors. This method helps the handler to develop new ways of living in synchrony with the dog. The 'Do It' method opens a new learning frontier that stresses the human/dog bond, helping the dog and the handler to work in partnership

DOG REQUIREMENTS: Prior to working on the 'Do It' protocol the dog must demonstrate an understanding of at least 3 behaviors using a verbal cue only. Behaviors to be considered should be things like, touching a specific object, jumping over an object, going to a target area, lying down, picking up and then dropping an object, spinning, etc. The dog demonstrates his understanding of the 'Do It' protocol by performing a total of 5 behaviors using this method. Three of the required behaviors may be previously known by the dog. The last 2 behaviors must be brand new to the dog.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS: Handler is able to get the dog to perform behaviors using social learning and the 'Do It' protocol. Handler avoids any subtle cues to the dog including audible sounds, head bobs, eye flicks, pinkie wiggles, etc.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Any equipment needed to demonstrate behavior must be supplied by the handler. Any props/equipment needed to demonstrate new behaviors must be found already in the testing area.

PROCESS: The behaviors used for this badge should be things that the handler can easily duplicate with his/her own body. The handler works with the dog so that he is able to perform 3 known behaviors using a verbal cue only. This is not as easy as it sounds. When we communicate with our dogs, we usually are giving multiple signals. We may be using our hands or eyes to direct our dog or very subtly changing our body posture. So, it's important to practice only giving a verbal cue and then "clicking" and rewarding the dog. These behaviors should be practiced with the dog in random order until the handler is positively sure that the dog will accurately do each behavior on verbal cue only.

The handler chooses a cue that lets the dog know he/she will be using social learning. This might be something like the handler pointing to his/her own eyes and saying, "Watch, wait". Then the handler performs one of the selected behaviors. Upon completing the behavior, the handler returns to standing in front of the dog and gives a cue like "Do it" or "Copy" followed by the verbal cue for the behavior.

The sequence looks something like this:

1. Handler says "Watch"
2. Handler does the behavior (spin, for example)
3. Handler says, "Do It" (new cue)
4. Handler says "Spin"(old cue)
5. Dog "spins"
6. Handler gives reward

After doing this sequence a number of times, the dog may start to anticipate the verbal cue and perform the behavior when the handler says, "Do it!" A brief pause after saying, 'Do it!' helps to facilitate this



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process. The order in which the behaviors are asked for must be varied and the same behavior shouldn't be done twice in a row.

Next the verbal cue for the behavior is dropped and the dog progresses to the following sequence:

1. Handler says "Watch"
2. Handler does the behavior (spin, for example)
3. Handler says, "Do It" (new cue)
4. Dog "spins"
5. Handler gives reward

The final step is to introduce a behavior that is completely new (NEVER BEFORE SEEN) to the dog. The new behavior might involve using some skills the dog already knows in a new way, or it might be a skill that is completely new to the dog. For badge check off the behaviors used must be completely new and introduced to the dog for the first time in front of the evaluator.

There are many videos online that effectively demonstrate the 'Do It' protocol and there are many books readily available as well. For more information please consider the following resources.

Fugazza, Claudia, *Do As I Do: Using Social Learning to Train Dogs*, Dogwise, 2014.

Fugazza, Claudia, *Do As I Do: A New Training Method Based on Social Learning DVD*, Dogwise, 2013

Fugazza, C., Miklosa, A., *Social Learning in Dog training: The Effectiveness of the Do As I Do Method Compared to Shaping/Clicker Training*, Applied Animal Behaviour Science, 171, 146-151. doi:10.2016/j.appanim.2015.08.033

ALLOWED:

- Treats used as reinforcers
- Known behaviors used in a new way

NOT ALLOWED:

- Treats used as lures
- Harsh corrections or training methods
- Known behaviors in place of those NEVER BEFORE SEEN