

# AKC Optional Titling Classes

The AKC offers four optional titling classes in obedience: **Beginner Novice** (BN), **Graduate Novice** (GN), **Graduate Open** (GO) and **Versatility** (VER).

Some have become very popular at the trials lately and are drawing large numbers of entries. There are **not** pre-requisites for entering these classes as there are with the Regular Obedience Classes of CD (Novice), CDX (Open) and Utility (UD).

## **Beginner Novice (BN):**

1. **A or B Heel On Leash:** A very basic heel pattern similar to novice - you're on your own with the rally type signs
2. **Regular Figure 8:** (on leash) called by the judge; around people.
3. **Sit for exam:** ideally the judge is just touching the back of your dog's head and pausing for mini second before stepping back.
4. **Sit stay:** while the owner walks the perimeter of the ring around the dog.
5. **Recall:** just a straight front, shorter distance than it would be in regular novice and **no finish**. You know when you leave the ring whether you have qualified or not.

## **Graduate Novice (GN):**

1. **Heel on leash:** regular novice heeling pattern called by judge
2. **Figure 8:** off leash
3. **Drop on recall:** the handler may give the command and/or signal to drop the dog.
4. **Dumbbell recall:** the dog is put in a wait WITH the dumbbell in his mouth and called to a front; finish
5. **Recall over high jump:** leave dog in sit, go to opposite side of jump, call dog, front, finish.
6. **Recall over broad jump:** the dog is called over the jump to front, not sent; finish
7. **Long down:** 3 minutes, out of sight. Handler leaves the ring.

## **Graduate Open (GO):**

1. **Signal Exercise:** Handler walks 10-20' away from the dog & may give command and/or signal during the signals portions.
2. **Scent Discrimination:** there will only be four articles (two leather and two metal), the handler and dog will remain facing the articles, and only one article will be retrieved
3. **Directed Retrieve:** The exercise and scoring will be performed as the Utility Directed Retrieve exercise, except that no center glove is used.
4. **Moving Stand & Examination:** the handler may pause or hesitate when giving the command and/or signal to stand.
5. **Go Out:** handler stands between the jumps in center of ring, sends dog out 20' and gives sit command. Returns to dog in heel position.
6. **Directed Jumping:** Handler leaves the dog at the unobstructed end and walks to the far end of the ring and turns to face the dog. The dog will be sent over ONLY one jump, and the same jump will be used for all dogs as designated by the judge at the start.

## **Versatility (VER):**

**Six exercises will be performed: two each from the Novice, Open and Utility classes.**

There will be no group exercises. The exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular classes. For the purpose of this class, scent discrimination articles 1 and 2 will be considered as a single Utility exercise. Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the combination and order of exercises to be performed and post it prior to the start of the class.

\*\*Optional titling classes are similar to the Regular classes in that you need **three legs** under two different judges to obtain the title. \*\*