



SUGEGESTIONS FOR CHANGES TO STAYS

K Allen, R Wakelin, C Patrick, B Luckcock

Discussion:

Following an email discussion, we mostly agreed that the stays in the lower classes were affecting new people coming into the sport and mostly agreed to not include them with the hope that by the time people reached Beginners they would be hooked enough to teach a stay.

We also discussed the difficulty for stay stewards trying to keep check of dogs taking up different positions in the lower classes where the handler was able to choose their own position, this could be overcome by adding a line on the marksheet to jot down the position when numbers are taken.

The biggest issue we found was the position that the handler should take up once they have left the dog and noting that some handlers may still try to stand back on to their dogs, this could be overcome by simply saying they must be able to see their dog/s throughout the test although there was an opinion that handlers should only be allowed to stand side on.

It would also be a good idea to let competitors know in advance of the class starting what stay the judge would be doing, this could just be jotted down near where the stay time is on the main score sheet.

I have also added in a line about length of lead if used in stays and the fact that it should be held and slack at all times, just for clarification.

Although we did have some thoughts on total points for the exercises I have included what I think to be the simplest solution (10 points per minute) but we did not have in-depth discussion over this. We have not started any work on the stay sheet marks or class totals at this point.

Sample Stay marksheet

Ring No.	54	65	12	98	32	12
Breed	BC	Gr	GSD	WS	BC	WS
Position	SIT/DOWN	SIT/DOWN	SIT/DOWN	SIT/DOWN	SIT/DOWN	SIT/DOWN
Outcome						



Class	Stay position	Time	Points out of
Introductory	No Stays		
Pre-beginner	No Stays		
Beginner	Sit or down, handlers choice, ON lead, handler able to observe dog	30 Seconds	5
Novice	Sit or down, handlers choice, OFF lead, handler able to observe dog	1 minute	10
A	Sit or down, Judges choice, OFF lead, handler able to observe dog	1 minute	10
B	Sit or down, Judges choice, off lead, handler able to observe dog	2 minutes	20
C	Sit or down, Judges choice, off lead, handler able to observe dog	3 minutes	30
CH C	Sit or down, Judges choice, off lead, handler able to observe dog	3 minutes	30

Option 1



Class	Stay position	Time	Points out of
Introductory	No Stays		
Pre-beginner	No Stays		
Beginner	Sit or down, Judges choice, ON lead, handler side on to dog	30 Seconds	5
Novice	Sit or down, Judges choice, OFF lead, handler side on to dog	1 minute	10
A	Sit or down, Judges choice, OFF lead, handler side on to dog	2 minutes	10
B	Sit or down, Judges choice, off lead, handler side on to dog	3 minutes	30
C	Sit or down, Judges choice, off lead, handler side on to dog	4 minutes	40
CH C	Sit or down, Judges choice, off lead, handler side on to dog	4 or 5 minutes	40 or 50

Option 2



Proposed amendment to Regulation G(C)4.h.

Regulation G(C)4.h.

TO:

Stays in ALL classes –

In classes where the stay is at judge's choice this must be notified before the start of judging. In classes where the stay is at handler's choice this must be confirmed to the stay steward prior to the start of the exercise (when the number is taken).

The judge or steward will direct handlers to positions in the ring. **Handlers must be able to observe their dog/s for the duration of the exercise.** The command 'last command' will be given and handlers should then instantly give their final command to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs after this 'last command' will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and walk to positions indicated until ordered to return to them. **On lead stays, lead to be between 1 and 2 metres in length and must be held by the handler throughout the test. The lead should be slack at all times.** These are group tests and all dogs must compete together, but where this is impracticable at an indoor show, the class may be equally divided but the judging for the groups must be consecutive.

(1) Sit stay: Dogs should remain in the sit position throughout the test. Barking, whining or minor movement such as sniffing the ground, shuffling or turning, without moving from the place where the dog was originally left, should not be considered to be a broken stay but may only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise. Marks must be graduated in accordance with the Kennel Club's specimen stay chart.

(2) Down stay: Dogs should remain in the down position throughout the test. Barking, whining or minor movement such as sniffing the ground, shuffling, hip rolling or turning, without moving from the place where the dog was originally left, should not be considered to be a broken stay but may only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise. Marks must be graduated in accordance with the Kennel Club's specimen stay chart.

(3) All classes: When a handler has more than one dog present in the same set of stays, the dogs may be placed together on the left hand side of the handler, or on either side of the handler; at the choice of the handler. It should be noted that the dogs must be placed apart with a reasonable space between them. At the conclusion of the stays, the handler should return to the same position they were in at the commencement of the test before the end of the test is indicated.

(4) The timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been instructed to leave their dogs. **(Insertions in bold)**