

Dressage - Requirements in detail

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Heel position:

Either on the left side or on the right side.

Dog must not move more than 45° from parallel to handler.

In advanced divisions, dog may be facing the opposite direction from handler.

Transitions:

A transition is any move that

- changes the position of the dog. ie. from left side to right side, from a crawl to a heel
- changes direction of movement. ie. north to south

For the transition, dog may move out of heel position.

Any move may be incorporated (weave, spin, circle, roll) but the move must be used as a transition, not a trick.

Therefore, a single spin or single weave, not multiple.

Steps:

All steps would be considered "normal" handler walking steps. If sideways, approximately shoulder width apart.

NOVICE: Must be on Leash 1.5 - 3.5 minutes

Novice I

- Heel position: Dog is generally (90% of the time) in a heel position and is under handler control while in the ring. *Having dog facing you is not a heel position.*

Novice II

- Back heeling: Dog remains in heel position while handler takes a minimum of four steps backwards *in a straight line*. To count, dog must be in heel position (no more than 45° from parallel) for *four consecutive* steps.

Novice III

- Back heeling: Dog remains in heel position while handler takes a minimum of four steps backwards *in a straight line*. To count, dog must be in heel position (no more than 45° from parallel) for *four consecutive* steps.
- Inward side pass: Dog remains in heel position while handler takes a minimum of four side steps *in a straight line toward the dog*. Dog must be in heel position for *four consecutive* steps.
- Outward side pass: Dog remains in heel position while handler takes a minimum of four side steps *in a straight line away from the dog*. Dog must be in heel position for *four consecutive* steps.

INTERMEDIATE: Off Leash 2 - 3.5 minutes

Intermediate I

- 8 steps right heeling: Dog remains in a *right side heel position* for 8 consecutive steps. Movement may be forward, backwards, in a straight line, or on a curve.
- 360° Pivot Right: From a left-side heel, handler pivots to the right on the spot (no forward movement) a minimum of 360° with dog maintaining heel position.
- 360° Pivot Left: From a left-side heel, handler pivots to the left on the spot (no forward movement) a minimum of 360° with dog maintaining heel position.

Intermediate II

- 360° Pivots in each direction: See above
- Right Side Back: Dog remains in heel position on the right side while handler takes a minimum of four steps

backward *in a straight line*. Dog must be in right heel position for four consecutive steps.

- Forward Figure 8: Dog remains in heel position *on the left right side* while handler completes a figure 8 moving forward.

Intermediate III

- Right Side Back Heel Circle: Dog remains in heel position on the right while handler walks backwards in a circle (approximately 6' in diameter) Dog on the inside.
- Right Side Inward Pass: Dog remains in a right-side heel position while handler takes a minimum of four side steps *in a straight line toward the dog*. Dog must be in heel position for *four consecutive* steps.
- Right Side Outward Pass: Dog remains in a right-side heel position while handler takes a minimum of four side steps *in a straight line away from the dog*. Dog must be in heel position for *four consecutive* steps.

ADVANCED: Off leash 2.5 - 3.5 minutes

Advanced I

- High Step Normal Pace: Dog heels with high step for *eight consecutive steps*.
- Right side 360° Pivots: From a right-side heel, handler pivots to the right on the spot and to the left on the spot (no forward movement) a minimum of 360° in each direction with dog maintaining heel position .
- Creative Pose: Dog holds a pose for *three seconds*. Pose may be free-standing or in gentle contact with handler. ie. handler must not hold dog in pose.

Advanced II

- High Step Slow Pace: Dog heels with high step at slow place for *four consecutive steps*.
- Reverse - position Heeling: Dog heels on the right or left, facing opposite direction from handler for *eight consecutive steps in a straight line*.
- Modified heeling: Dog either crawls, walks on hind legs, or performs flying changes (skips) for *eight consecutive steps in heel position*.

Advanced III

- Dog Finds Heel Position Pattern: Handler leaves the dog a minimum of four steps and the dog moves into heel position, handler and dog then move together in a different direction for four steps. This pattern is repeated three times. Example: Dog stays while handler takes four steps backward; dog takes four steps backward to join handler; both dog and handler do an outward side pass for four steps; this pattern is repeated two more times.
- Backwards Figure 8: Dog remains in heel position (either side) while handler completes a figure 8 moving backwards. (Each circle approximately 6' in diameter)
- Roll-Overs into Heel: While performing a side-pass in either direction, dog rolls into position a minimum of *three consecutive times*. *Dog remains in a constant distance to the handler's leg*.

A word about costumes: although the focus is on the dog, a costume that works with the music fine - as long as it doesn't over-shadow the dog or the movements.

Handler Movement: some musical interpretation is allowed, as long as it does not over-shadow the dog.