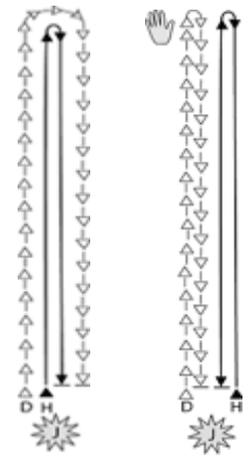


Individual Gaiting

During individual gaiting, the 4-H'er should move the dog at the correct speed for its breed, depending on breed dogs shown at a walk, trot, or run. This means that the dog is walking, trotting, or running, but the dog is always under control. The 4-H'er needs to move at a speed that will match the dog's appropriate gait. Trotting is when one front leg and the opposite rear leg move forward at the same time. Under no circumstances show dog at a pace, pacing is when the legs on the same side of the dog move forward at the same time. Pacing is a major fault.

The 4-H'er will be asked to perform one or more of the following patterns:

1. Down and Back
2. Triangle pattern
3. "L" pattern
4. "T" pattern



Down and Back – The 4-H'er and dog will be asked to gait across the ring either on the diagonal or from end to end. At the opposite end of the ring, the 4-H'er has the option to do (1) an about turn or (2) to switch hands with the lead.

1. If the 4-H'er does an about turn, the dog stays on the same side (left or right) and goes around the outside of the handler.
2. If the 4-H'er switches hands with the lead, the 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. The dog ends up on the opposite side of the 4-H'er from where it originally started (left to right or right to left).

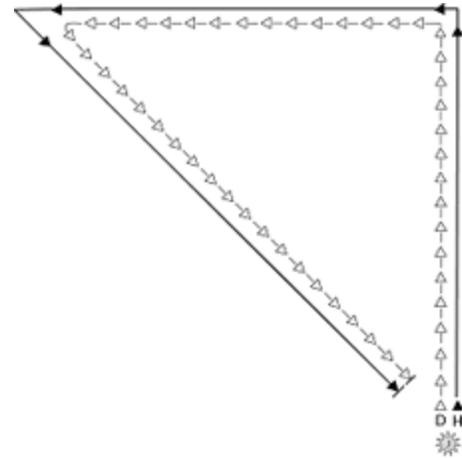
Executing a U-turn (where the 4-H'er goes around the dog) is a major fault.

1. The Down and Back with an about-turn

2. The Down and Back with a hand switch

"Triangle" Pattern – This pattern performed in the shape of a right triangle. The 4-H'er and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner. Then one of three turns may be made before proceeding up the diagonal and back to the judge. Under no circumstances may a judge direct a 4-H'er to do a reverse triangle where the 4-H'er would go down the diagonal first.

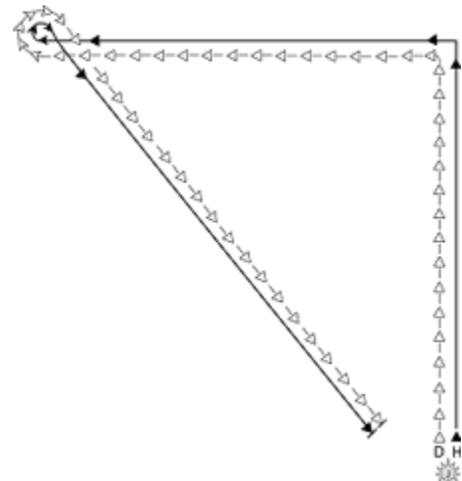
1. The easiest option is to make a left turn onto the diagonal. The 4-H'er does not switch hands with the lead and the dog stays on the 4-H'er's left side.



Triangle with simple turn at the corner

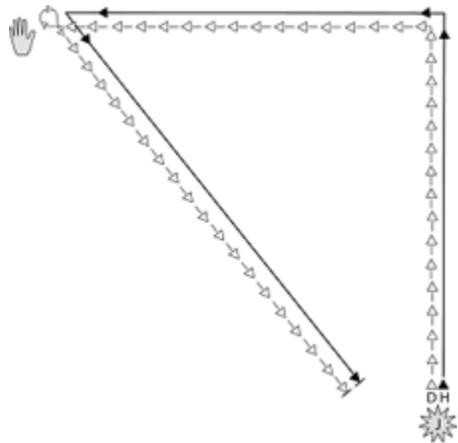
2. The second option is to make a circle in the corner with the dog always remaining on the 4-H'er's left side. The 4-H'er does not switch hands with the lead.

Triangle with a circle at the corner



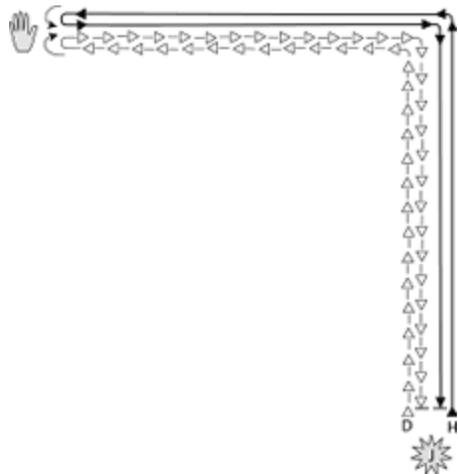
3. The third option is for the 4-H'er to switch hands with the lead and cross the dog over in front of him/her. The dog completes a circle as the 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed up the diagonal with the dog on the 4-H'ers right side.

Triangle where 4-H'er switches hands with the lead



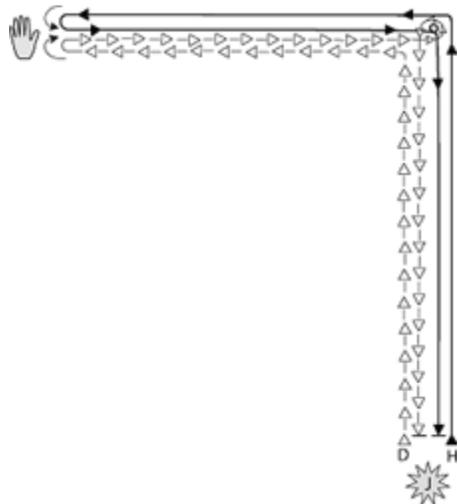
"L" Pattern – This pattern performed in the shape of an uppercase letter "L". The 4-H'er and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner. The 4-H'er then switches hands with the lead. The 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the other end of the ring. At this corner, the 4-H'er has three options: 1. The easiest option is to simply make a right turn and proceed back to the judge. The 4-H'er does not switch hands with the lead and the dog stays on the 4-H'ers right side.

The "L" pattern with a simple right turn

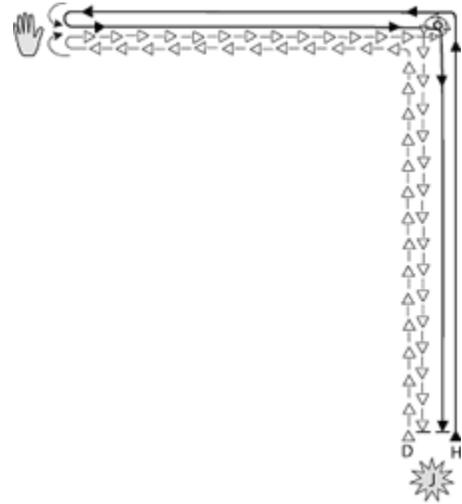


2. The second option is to make a circle in the corner with the dog always remaining on the 4-H'ers right side. The 4-H'er does not switch hands with the lead.

The "L" pattern with a circle

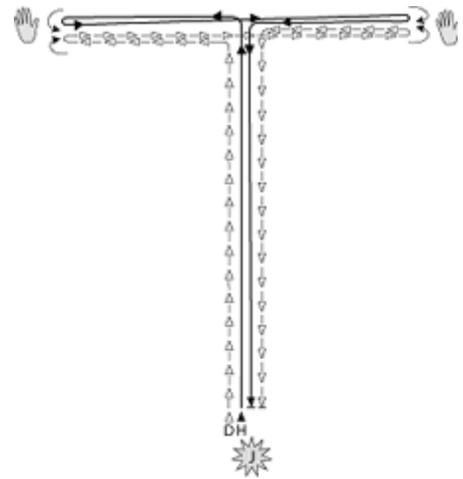


- The third option is for the 4-H'er to switch hands with the lead and cross the dog over in front of him/her. The dog completes a circle as the 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the judge with the dog on the 4-H'er's left side.



The “L” pattern where the 4-H'er switches hands with the lead

“T” Pattern – This pattern performed in the shape of an uppercase letter “T”. The judge will indicate where to start the “T” pattern. The 4-H'er and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. The 4-H'er should turn to whichever side the dog is on and proceed to the corner of the ring. The 4-H'er then switches hands with the lead. The 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. At the other end, the 4-H'er again switches hands with the lead. The 4-H'er and dog again turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the center of the ring. The 4-H'er then turns back toward the judge and proceeds in a straight line back to the judge.



The “T” pattern

Courtesy Turn (used at the start of the individual gaiting pattern)

A courtesy turn is optional in 4-H, but is recommended to get the dog moving from its stacked position. To do a courtesy turn, the 4-H'er will use a right hand turn before beginning the individual pattern designated by the judge. The courtesy turn should be executed quickly and smoothly and there should not be any break in the gaiting pattern. At this point it is acceptable for the 4-H'er to briefly pass between his/her dog and the judge.

A correct courtesy turn

As the courtesy turn is completed the 4-H'er continues directly into the designated pattern (4-H'ers should not stop in between). If the courtesy turn cannot be executed smoothly, it should not be done because it then detracts from the overall teamwork.

Switching Hands

May be necessary in some patterns to switch the lead from one hand to the other to ensure the dog is always between the judge and the 4-H'er. These changes should be done gracefully at the corners of the patterns only as necessary to be sure the judge has an unobstructed view of the dog.

Completion of the Pattern

It is customary for the 4-H'er to stop a few steps back from the judge. Some judges will use a hand signal to designate when to stop, others may not. If a judge does not signal, be sure to stop two to three feet from the judge. Most breeds should stop and stand with all four feet square. The dog should walk into the stack squarely, without the 4-H'er moving the dog's feet by hand. If 4-H'ers use their hands to stack their dog upon the completion of an individual pattern it is considered a major fault.

