

Canine Hoopers of Canada



CHC Hooper Skills Titling Program

Train. Achieve. Celebrate

Level 1

First Steps Skills Title

Where every great hoopers team begins

The First Steps of this program lay the foundation for all future Hoopers sequencing skills. These early exercises help you and your dog build a strong working partnership — strengthening communication, trust, and the simple joy of learning together.

At this stage, training should feel light, positive, and rewarding for both of you. Keep the focus on clarity, connection, and fun, using modern, force-free methods that encourage learning through kindness. By developing these core skills now, you'll set your team up for success as sequences grow more challenging, ensuring your dog understands the game and stays eager to play it with you.

Eligibility	Any dog aged 4 months and older with a CHC Dog ID#
Equipment Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 ground targets• 1 hoop• 2 traffic cones or barrel-shaped objects

Training & Recording Environment

- It is recommended that you record all exercises in a low-distraction environment to support your dog's success.
- Your dog should show a willingness to work and remain comfortable throughout the session.

Gear

- A flat collar or harness is acceptable.
- Please remove or secure any dangling tags.
- Choke chains, prong collars, and electronic collars are not permitted in CHC testing.

Test Requirements

- All elements outlined in this test must be completed to earn the CHC First Steps Hooper Skills Title.
- Your video must show each exercise separately, clearly, and in full.
- The examiner must be able to see the entire exercise from start to finish.
- If any part of an exercise is incomplete or unclear, it will be marked **NR (Not Quite Ready)**.

Rewards

Rewards — treats, toys, praise — may be used during exercises for the First Steps level to build value and confidence. Each section will indicate if luring is permitted.

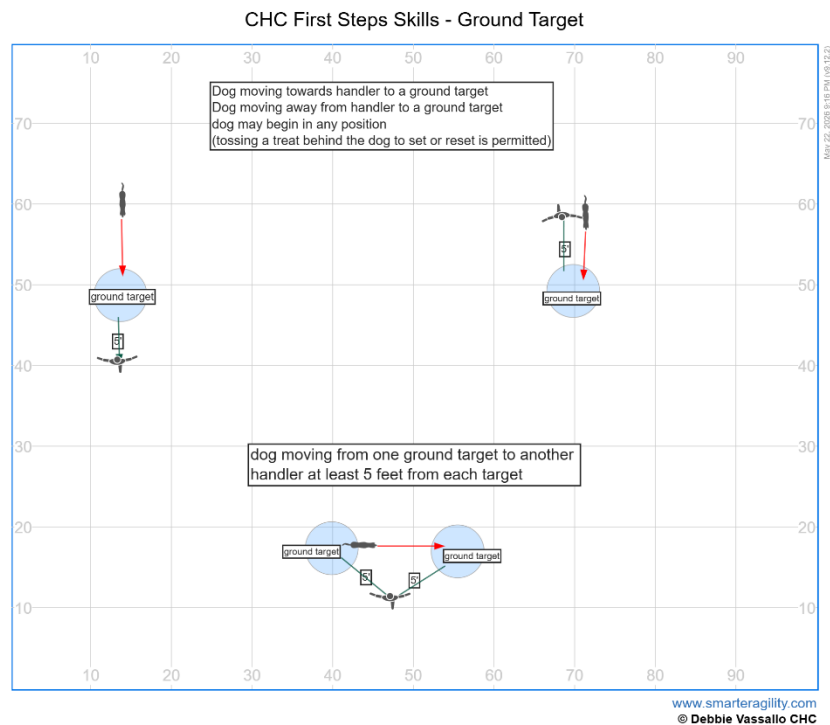


Section 1: Foundation Skills

No luring permitted for this section, but you may reward during the exercise. Handler may take a step/use pressure to help the dog but must remain in place until the dog reaches the target.

1. Ground Target

- a) Show dog moving towards the handler to ground target (handler at least 5 ft from target)
- b) Show dog moving away from handler to ground target (handler at least 5 ft from target)
- c) Show dog moving from one ground target to another ground target (handler at least 5 ft from each target)



2. Position Stay

- a) Dog remaining in any position for 10 seconds (handler at least 5 ft distance, facing dog)
- *The use of a platform is permitted for this exercise.*

3. Forward Commitment

- a) Show your dog driving forward to a reward placed **3–5 ft** in front of them. **No handler motion.** Dog may begin in **any position**

Section 2: Body Awareness

Luring with treats permitted for this section. The use of stable platforms is also permitted

- a) Show dog in a controlled spin to the Right and to the Left (2 times each side)
- b) Show dog transitioning from a sit to a stand (3 reps)
- c) Show dog transitioning from a down to a stand (3 reps)



Section 3: Groundwork for Handling

Luring with treats permitted for this section.

- a) Show dog circling the handler — 1 circle (2 reps)
- b) Show dog turning away from the handler (2 reps)
- c) Show dog performing a lead change using two cones or barrel-shaped objects (1 rep on each side)

Section 4: Obstacle Value

No luring permitted, but you may reward during the exercise. The use of ground targets is also permitted for this section.

1. Hoop

- Show dog passing through a hoop 4 times, while handler stands 5 ft away

2. Barrel

- Show dog running around a barrel, 2 times on each side

[Submit your First Steps Video Here](#)



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OF CANADA**

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