

Rally Workshop

Rally is a different sort of AKC obedience. While obedience is tightly structured and you may only speak to your dog at certain times, Rally allows you relax and talk to and encourage your dog to complete the exercises. A bit like a cross between obedience and agility, each rally course has between 10 and 20 stations, the order and design of which change each time. It's a different challenge as the handler must be paying attention to the course at all times as well as what their dog is doing.

There are the three levels of competition in AKC Rally. This gives everyone the opportunity to start titling their dog, even at the more basic levels of obedience work.

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Novice - this is the first level for those just getting started in competition.

- All exercises are performed with the dog on leash.
- There is a requirement of 10-15 stations to complete with no more than five stationary exercises.
- The exercises performed vary from turning 360 degrees to changing paces during the course.
- Exhibitors at this level may clap their hands and pat their legs through the course.

Advanced - this is the second level, which includes more difficult exercises throughout the course.

- All exercises are performed off-leash.
- There is a requirement of 12-17 stations with no more than seven stationary exercises.
- Exercises include a jump as well as calling your dog to the front of you instead of to a heel position.

Excellent - this third and highest level of AKC Rally is the most challenging.

- Exercises are performed off-leash except for the honor exercise.
- There is a requirement of 15-20 stations, with no more than 7 stationary exercises.
- Handlers are only allowed to encourage their dogs verbally. Physical encouragement is not allowed at this level.
- The Excellent-level exercises include backing up three steps, while the dog stays in the heel position and a moving stand, while the handler walks around the dog.

To get the most out of this workshop, please review the rally regulations and rally station signs at this link:

http://www.akc.org/pdfs/about/board_minutes/Rally_Regulations.pdf

And please review basic obedience commands with your dog. To better enjoy the workshop, your dog should know the basics: sit, down, heel, and stay. Don't worry, your dog's knowledge need not be perfect and your dog will be on leash during the workshop. Remember, in Rally you may give as many extra commands and encouragement as you like! This is fun, not work!

Rally-O is a great way to get started in obedience and earn a few titles along the way, or to spice up your workout for an already accomplished but bored obedience dog.

Join our instructor and Rally Judge, Sandi Atkinson for this fun and informative workshop on July 20 at 1:00 PM at the CTA building in Beltsville, MD. Snacks and sodas will be provided by PVSSC.