



Sherwood Dog Training Club

AKC License Club

December 2025 Newsletter

The Sherwood Dog Training Club (SDTC) was formed in 2003, with official status as a non-profit corporation established in 2006. We also have Tax Exempt status with the IRS as a 501(c)4. We received our notice that we have become an AKC Licensed Club in August of 2008.

Sherwood Dog Training Club

President: Danielle Silverstein

Vice President: Linda Ruedy

Secretary: Robin Murphy

Treasurer: Jill Faulmann

Board: Darlene Brushwein

Board: Jan Lewis

Board: Helen Hamilton

Newsletter: Darlene Brushwein

Website:

<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/>



Sherwood Dog Training Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 7PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2517890074?pwd=VGdKeGhtM3I0T3FOdnJoVEUxRjZoQT09&omn=83964229325>

Meeting ID: 251 789 0074

Passcode: 0Avc7r

Hear you have a great job with
Sherwood Dog Training Club



YES, most of the time
except for one thing
a lot of members
have to be
continually
reminded about



That is a shame,
What is the
ONE thing?



To Pay Dues on time.

Member dues are to be paid each January.
There is a variety of ways they can be paid,
with by mailing a check, using PayPal or by
using a credit card,, and of course there is
always delivering them personally.
All the information is on the Club's website
on this page.

<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/membership>





Dates to Mark for 2026 at Cash Arena in Sherwood, OR

Trial Date: Obedience only Saturday, April 18, 2026 and Sunday, April 19, 2026

Match Date: Sunday, April 12, 2026

Trial Date: Rally only Saturday, May 30, 2026 and Sunday, May 31, 2026

Match Date: Sunday, May 17, 2026

Trial Date: Obedience only Saturday, October 10, 2026 and Sunday, October 11, 2026

Match Date: Sunday, October 4, 2026

For a complete Look at all AKC upcoming Events

Events: <https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search>



Designed by Anguscolorcraft

Upcoming UKC Shows / www.ukcdogs.com

Oregon

January 30 - February 1, 2026

Canine Action Pack, Cornelius, Obedience & Rally

May 1-3, 2026

Canine Action Pack, Cornelius, Obedience & Rally

California

January 31, 2026

Santa Lucia Open Dog Obedience Group, Atascadero, CA
Nose Work

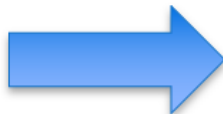
Details at ukcdogs.com

United Kennel Club (UKC) is an international dog registry celebrating bonds, rewarding ability, and preserving the value of a pedigree. <http://www.ukcdogs.com/>



- 3 large Ruffland crates.
 - Color is Whitestone.
 - One door..no damage
 - Price is \$250.00 each.

- 1 Xlarge Ruffland crates.
 - Color is Whitestone.
 - One door..no damage
 - Price is \$300.00 each



Contact CJ Johnson
cjseeker06@gmail.com

The Dumbbell

By [AKC Companion Events Department](#) on November 11, 2025

Obedience Judges please remember to check the dumbbell in all Open classes.

The Regulations state the following:

- Must be approved by the judge.
- Will be made of one or more solid pieces of wood or non-wooden material similar in size, shape, and weight to a wooden dumbbell.
- Metal dumbbells are not permitted.
- Dumbbells will not be hollowed out.
- They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish, or may be any color.
- They may not have attachments (e.g., no sequins or rhinestones).
- They may display the person's name, the dog's call name, and/or the dog's picture (or insignia).
- Titles may not be displayed.
- The size of the dumbbell will be proportionate to the size of the dog.

Thank you!

The Companion Events Team



PLAY TO OBEY

at Corral Creek Dog Sport Center

Rally & Obedience Classes:

Perri Yinger, Instructor
perripets@gmail.com
Call: 503.537.5028
Text: 503.793.4649

"Never forget that you started this journey because you loved a dog."





Sparkle showed in ASCA on Nov. 8th, earning two Open legs.

She won HIT Other Breed in the first show and second place in the second show.

Submitted by Penny Harvey



WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"One minute you're anxious to get rid of the ball, and then you're happy to see it again. I mean, you have to agree, it's confusing."



<https://dogdaysnw.com/>

Dog Days Obedience Run Through Class with Laurie Rubin

A monthly half day Obedience Run Through Class is starting at Dog Days Dog Training in Vancouver, Washington, on the fourth Wednesday morning of the month. Dog and handler teams run through the exercises offered at obedience trials. The time can be used for any level of obedience and/or for problem solving specific exercises. Handler choice whether to ask for feedback or simply have the exercises called as in a trial.

This month Wednesday, December 24th . \$15 via PayPal or Zelle or \$17 via mailed check.

Time slots can be reserved by clicking on the following link to fill out your entry information on a Google Form <https://forms.gle/BTvSQehFriSrr5iT7> **AND** sending \$15/time slot via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/> to Laurie Rubin. After logging in to PayPal and clicking "**Send**," search for Laurie Rubin or earthlaurie@sonic.net. My link has a photo of a red merle Aussie. In the box that asks "What's this For?," please type "Dog Days December 2025 Run Through Class." Zelle \$15 payments accepted, too. Checks made out to Laurie Rubin for \$17/time slot are OK. **Both your payment and Google Form must be received for your entry to count.** Payments are non-refundable unless the class fills before I receive your entry. In that case, I will notify you and refund your payment. The schedule will be e-mailed to those who have reserved a slot by the day before the class.

Next class. Wednesday, January 28th.

Time slots can be reserved by clicking on the following link to fill out your entry information on a Google Form <https://forms.gle/8J6hFYDFCHreRJaJA> **AND** sending \$15/time slot via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/> to Laurie Rubin. After logging in to PayPal and clicking "**Send**," search for Laurie Rubin or earthlaurie@sonic.net. My link has a photo of a red merle Aussie. In the box that asks "What's this For?," please type "Dog Days January 2026 Run Through Class." Zelle \$15 payments accepted, too. Checks made out to Laurie Rubin for \$17/time slot are OK. **Both your payment and Google Form must be received for your entry to count.** Payments are non-refundable unless the class fills before I receive your entry. In that case, I will notify you and refund your payment. The schedule will be e-mailed to those who have reserved a slot by the day before the class.

Future class date: Wednesday, February 26th .

Obedience Run Through Class with Laurie Rubin

A monthly Obedience Run Through Class takes place at **Penny Harvey's training building in Sandy, Oregon**. Dog and handler teams run through the exercises offered at obedience trials. The time can be used for any level of obedience and/or for problem solving specific exercises. Handler choice whether to ask for feedback or simply have the exercises called as in a trial. This class is run by Laurie Rubin.

No Class in December, 2025

Next class Sunday, January 4th

\$15 via PayPal for each slot of up to 15 minutes or \$16 via mailed check.

Time slots can be reserved by clicking on the following link to fill out your entry information on a Google Form <https://forms.gle/SVBRheYBgsSziYb7> **AND** sending \$15/time slot via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/> to Laurie Rubin. After logging in to PayPal and clicking "**Send**," search for Laurie Rubin or earthlaurie@sonic.net. My link has a photo of a red merle Aussie. In the box that asks "What's this For?" please type "January, 2026 Run Through Class." Zelle \$15 payments accepted, too. If you prefer to mail a check for \$16/time slot, be sure to also fill out your entry information on the Google Form linked above. Payments are non-refundable unless the class fills before I receive your entry. In that case, I will notify you and refund your payment.

These classes have been filling. Both your payment and Google Form must be received for your entry to count. The Thursday before the class, the schedule and driving directions will be e-mailed to those who have reserved a slot.

Future class date: Sunday, February 8th .



Canine Colour Context*

Human's view



Dog's view



	HUMAN VIEW	DOG VIEW		HUMAN VIEW	DOG VIEW
RED			GREEN		
ORANGE			BLUE		
NEON GREEN			LIGHT BLUE		
YELLOW			LILAC/PURPLE		
WHITE			PINK		

*on a sunny summer day on green grass



Casey earned his MACH 2 on November 29, 2025.
Submitted by: Marti Park





With consistent training and rewards, your dog will learn to read your hand's sign language and understand what you are asking them to do.

Credit: Jarir | Getty Images

Do you use hand signals to communicate with your dog? You should! When dogs know both hand signals and verbal cues, they are far more likely to respond to the hand signal than a verbal cue. [A study published in *Animal Cognition*](#) shows that "while dogs respond to both gestural and verbal requests, gestures are more salient than words."

Yes, dogs are tuned in with body language, both of each other and of humans, so training hand signals is an important part of training. They can sense the intent of action from body language displayed by us and therefore understand us more clearly. [Deaf dogs, of course, are dependent](#) on those hand cues, and teaching them now can help if your dog loses hearing function as they age.

Dogs Read Body Language First

When I taught group classes, I would explain to my students that if they said one thing to their dogs with their voice and another thing with a hand signal, their dogs would be far more likely to respond to the hand signal than the verbal cue. I have always taught a hand signal for some things before I ever get to the verbal equivalent.

An example of that is teaching a sit or a down cue. My dogs have always learned the hand signal first. I eventually add a verbal cue, simply because I feel like I should but usually months later. What I personally use more frequently are hand signals.

If you've already taught basic cues using verbals like sit, wait, stay, and down, you can still add hand signals. Just start doing it. You will be surprised at how quickly your dog understands what you mean. If your [starting your training](#) from scratch, [this article by noted trainer Kathy Callahan](#) can help you get started, using hand signals first, then adding verbals.

Hand Signals to Teach Your Dog

Dogs learned to read our body language to determine our intent, especially movement and action. While you can use whatever hand signal is comfortable for you, examples of the hand signals that I teach my own dogs include:

- **Sit:** Fist made with thumb on top of closed fingers presented with knuckles facing the dog and fingers on the upside. You can teach it this way with a treat inside of your hand initially and the hand signal still looks the same sans treat inside. When actionable, it resembles a hand pulling a zipper up.
- **Down:** Fist made the same way as above but fingers/thumb facing down and knuckles facing up. Again, treat can be inside initially and easily relinquished with a proper down completed by simply opening the hand after flipping it up. This hand signal also looks the same sans treat.
- **Touch:** The usual way, flat palm, fingers tightly closed, palm up initially started literally right in front of the nose but underneath a bit to not look threatening.
- **Chin Rest:** Flat palm, fingers tightly closed, offered level under/near the chin but sideways positioned to the dog's head, underneath the chin.
- **Wait:** Flat palm, fingers tightly closed, positioned with the fingers pointing to the sky with a brief push forward when initially offered.
- **Paw:** Mirror image hand offered palm up slightly cupped just in front of either front leg.
- **By Me:** Slightly extended arm with hand horizontally aligned, thumb up, with a waving motion in my direction aimed near my chest area. This is for a busier environment when on leash to keep my dog close.
- **Can I Have That? (my name for Drop It):** Palm up, fingers closed, positioned with fingers slightly cupped aimed towards the dog's mouth just in front of such.
- **Here Here (means come inside the house or come closer to me, period):** Standing sideways to the dogs on my porch, using either arm extended while making a welcoming motion with my hand towards the door or myself.
- **Stand:** When the dog is seated, I use a flat palmed aimed down horizontally aligned hand positioned sideways to their nose and move the hand away from their nose to cue a stand.
- **Spin:** Primary finger pointing with thumb extended as well, other fingers closed, while making a circular spinning motion. One dog is a leftie, so his hand signal is reversed in position.
- **All Done:** Jazz hands to indicate we are done training for the moment, no more treats.
- **Left and Right Turns:** Pointing in the direction to go with arm extended. I used to hike, and trail run with multiple dogs on leash, so they were trained to look to me for which way we were heading when reaching a trail split. I am no longer that energetic but maybe you are?

I asked some fellow trainers which hand signals they use with their own dogs and was rewarded with these gems from Denise O'Moore, a trainer in Ireland:

- **Distance Recall:** Closed fist in the air.
- **Go Play:** Open hand.
- **Come and Sit:** Open hand to the side.
- **Fast Distance Recall:** Touching her bag means there is a toy so come at record speeds please.

Hand signals are a sign language for dogs. They are such a clearer communication method than verbal cues. There are so many things that can be more easily conveyed to dogs with hand signals and body language than with verbal cues. Dogs are experts in body language. Subtle differences in how you hold your hand when signaling to your dog what you want from them can make a huge difference. Being precise and consistent with your communication makes for less misunderstandings. Adding dog training hand signals to your repertoire with your dogs can only improve your mutual understanding so try it today.



Located in the Hazel Dell area of Vancouver, WA:

7206 NE 37th Ave., Unit A
Vancouver, WA 98665

Phone: 503-807-1212

Email: info@dogdaysnw.com

Classes

Novice Obedience & Foundations Class – Sunday at 9 am

Start out on the right paw. This class will teach dogs and handlers the foundations, the rules, the exercises and so much more.

Novice Rally Class – Sundays at 10 am

This class will focus on the basic foundations all the way to walking into the ring.

Rally Class Openings

Masters Rally - Thursdays at 9am

Excellent Rally - Thursdays at 10:15 am

For more info call/email

Dee Pigman - Instructor

Dog Days

503.807.1212

deepigman@comcast.net

www.dogdaysnw.com





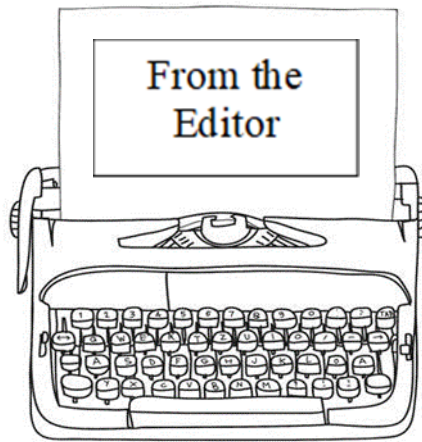
We cheer, we praise, we laugh... I run to the reinforcer with them. I'm building their ego. Wow! Look at you!! That was big girl work! You are amazing!! It's a huge event!

Often my dogs are barking, they are spinning, they are SUPER excited. Yes!! That's what we want. If we always bail them out the SECOND it gets hard...we create learned helplessness. Trust me. I've done it. And that translates to failure in the ring. The ring is HARD. There is no getting around it. That's reality. I don't care how well you train. I don't care how talented your dog is. The ring is hard. They will be challenged. And when they are, what will they do? What we trained them to do. They will push through because we've taught them how. Or they will fail because they are waiting for us to bail them out. Because that's what we do in training. This can be a very hard concept for people. Especially in the positive training space.

Sometimes we thought a behavior was fluent but when we add challenges it falls apart. That's good information. That behavior/chain needs more practice. It's not fluent yet.

WE must also be problem solvers. WHY is my dog repeatedly "failing"? WHAT can I do to help the dog succeed? That's our challenge. If you can't figure it out, table it. That's perfectly acceptable. Sometimes I just need time to process and think it through. Rather than go down a rabbit hole of failure and frustration, I'll put it on the back burner and think about it. If I can't figure it out, I get help.

Excerpted from Petra Ford's 6-week online class: OB405: Open Obedience - Conquering Complexity and Challenges starting December 1st!



SDTC Newsletter Advertising Policy

- **Advertisements for rehoming k9 equipment, etc. are always welcome.**
- **Training programs and classes offered by members will be posted with a link to a website for members only [possibly under a column specifically designated for that purpose].**
- **Advertising of puppies/litters will not be accepted**

We are looking for articles from our membership.

- **Do you have a brag or accomplishment?**
- **Have you written an article that the membership could benefit from?**
- **Know of an upcoming event? Example: Obedience trial, Scent trial, Specialty, Health clinic..... etc.**



darlenebrushwein@msn.com

Please be safe.

There are phishing emails using my name. Darlene Brushwein

Check where emails come from.

Never open links from emails you do not recognize or seem weird.