



Sherwood Dog Training Club

AKC License Club

March 2024 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/>



We will have Zoom SDTC Meeting March 6th @ 7:00pm

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87544382985?pwd=TJNf43ttenoIBvDN23HkabpLbAeJN.1>

Meeting ID: 875 4438 2985

Passcode: 902804

The agenda will be posted on the Members page of the club website

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



April 2024
Obedience Trials, one ring
Cash Arena, 17720 SW Elsner Road, Sherwood, OR 97140

Friday 19th
Saturday 20th
Sunday 21st

Obedience Trial Events # 2024648806, 02, 03
The Premium List can be found at link below.

<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/files/ugd/4b8b5f2b81035c83284eabaed62016212ff962.pdf>

The Online Form can be found at link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee3aDSyMOYrU8ct046sa2IrLDLTxCvPWbAf_SKEPm-4tnhug/viewform

Calling all Stewards

Ring Stewards are critical to the smooth functioning of our dog trial

It takes a village to put on a dog show.

Trials Dates: April 19, 20, 21

Our Great Judge: Kathy Moore

Send your request to Jan Lewis, Chief Steward, janlewis1217@outlook.com



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



April 19, 20, 21 Obedience Trials, one ring, Cash Arena
May 31, June 1, 2 Rally Trials, one ring, Cash Arena
October 11, 12,13 Obedience Trials, one ring, Cash Arena

SDTC Member matches currently planned

April 7 Obedience Match 2 rings, Cash Arena
May 19 Obedience Match 2 rings, Cash Arena
September 22 Obedience Match 2 rings, Cash Arena

Please think about how you would like to help at these events

For a complete Look at all AKC upcoming Events

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

Cancellations: <https://www.akc.org/sports/event-cancellations/>

**Not going to the Albany trials Sunday April 7?
Come join us for a member only match at the Cash arena**

Sunday April 7, 2024 SDTC Intra-Club Match Entry Form

Match is at the Cash arena, 17720 SW Elsner Rd, Sherwood, OR 97140

All runs \$10 (\$11 if using PayPal on SDTC website) for 10 minutes, maximum of 4 runs per member.

Please plan to help run through other dogs by calling the exercises or stewarding.

We need help at the end of the match packing up and sweeping up please!

Run order and other information will be emailed out to entrants by 4-2-2024

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____ phone(s) _____

First class requested _____ Dog name _____

Dog breed _____ jump height _____

Second class requested _____ Dog name _____

Dog breed _____ jump height _____

Third class requested _____ Dog name _____

Dog breed _____ jump height _____

Fourth class requested _____ Dog name _____

Dog breed _____ jump height _____

Amount enclosed _____ or amount paid PayPal _____

By signing this entry form, the exhibitor agrees to the following. Unsigned forms will be returned along with all fees.

I hereby release the Sherwood Dog Training Club, Inc., the Owners of Cash Arena other animal owners, property owners, instructors, spectators, and/or any other participants from any and all liability for accidents, injuries and/or damages to me, my dog or property caused by participation in any activities including the period of time immediately prior to and/or immediately after the conclusion thereof so long as the animals are located on the premises designated for the activity. I understand that by participation, I am a joint venture participant and assume all liability for injury to my dog, my property or myself occasioned by this participation. This waiver shall be effective from the date of signing.

To the best of my knowledge, I attest that I do not have or have symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of attending this event. I will not have knowingly been in contact with or exposed to any known carrier of COVID-19 within the past 14 days. I agree that I am attending this event entirely at my own risk and take full responsibility for my own health and safety during this event. I will not hold SDTC or any other person affiliated with the event in any way liable for any present or future COVID-19 exposure or illness incurred during or after this event. I agree to follow all SDTC, county, state and CDC rules and requirements to reduce spread and possible exposure to this virus.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

**SEND ENTRY/WAIVER FORM WITH FEES TO: Betty Rose, 2015 SW 204th Ave, Beaverton OR 97003
MAKE CHECK OUT TO SDTC**

Questions? bettyrose97070@yahoo.com or darlenebrushwein@msn.com

Upcoming UKC Shows / www.ukcdogs.com

Washington

March 1-3, 2024

United Nose work Tri-Cities, Richland, WA / Nose work

March 30-31, 2024

Lilac City Dog Training Club Nine Mile Falls, WA / Nose work

May 18 – 19, 2024

Puget Sound K9's, Graham, WA / Nose work

June 7-9, 2024

Lilac City Dog Training Club, Spokane, WA / Obedience & Rally Obedience

August 2-4, 2024

UKC Western Classic, Longview, WA / Obedience & Rally Obedience

Oregon

May 3-5, 2024

Canine Action Pack Cornelius, OR / Obedience & Rally Obedience

California

March 2-3, 2024

High Desert Dog Sports, Hesperia, CA / Obedience & Rally Obedience

April 6-7, 2024

NorCal K9 Events, Red Bluff, CA / Obedience & Rally Obedience

Utah

April 27-28, 2024

Utah Nose Work Club North Salt Lake City, UT / Nose work

Wyoming

May 18-19, 2024

Rocky Mountain Dog Stars, Sheridan, WY / Nose work

Mark your calendar for a **NEW Scent Work Event in the Bend, Oregon area the weekend of April 13-14, 2024**. More details available soon.

Scent Work classes in Salem, Newberg, McMinnville now available. Judi James instructor. If your dog is on odor, you can do these as drop-in sessions. Visit Sign up Genius for dates and places available.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4EAAAC2CA7FA7-44855160-scent>

Judi James

rainspring.mdg@gmail.com

971 239 5518



Wheel Fund Raising Drawings



There will be a variety of items used in these Fund-Raising activities.

The first item offered was a Tracking themed tote bag, there were 30 slots on the Wheel sold at \$5 each. The Wheel was spun on Sunday the 25th during a live Facebook session. SDTC made \$143.84 on this first offering since the item was donated.

The drawings are VERY easy to take part of. If you are a Facebook person, the drawings are listed on the club's FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064801925333>.

If you do not do Facebook, hopefully you visit the club's website often, as updates are done often.

While on the club's website at <https://www.sherwooddtc.org> click on the FUND RAISER DRAWING page button, or you can go directly to that page at <https://www.sherwooddtc.org/fund-raiser-drawings>.

Once you are on that page you can see what is currently being offered for the Fund Raiser, the current "item" is 3 Entries to the April SDTC Trials, **please note**, that the time of the newsletter will be sent the currently item might be something else if the 3 Entries to the April SDTC Trials has sold out.

If there is more than one item being offered, please note what the item is called in **RED**.

Below the item description is where you can buy the Wheel slots, for the 3 Entries to the April SDTC Trials each slot is \$5. Click on how many slots you want to buy, that click will take you to a credit card payment site. PLEASE say what item you are buying slots for; it is the item name in **RED** on the club's Fund-Raising website page at <https://www.sherwooddtc.org/fund-raiser-drawings>. Fill out the credit card information, when the credit card information comes through, Jill Faulmann will put your name, randomly, on the Wheel for as many slots as you have purchased.

It is a pretty simply system, all the hard work and set up has been done, one you participate in a drawing you will see how easy it is.

Thank you for supporting our effects to raise money to off set the expenses of the Tracking Trials.

Dog Days Dog Training

Located in the Hazel Dell area of Vancouver, WA
7206 NE 37th Ave., Unit A, Vancouver, WA 98665

Phone: 360-241-1844 Email: info1@dogdaysnw.com

For availability, please contact the instructors directly.
Info available on the website at dogdaysnw.com

This class will teach the students to compete successfully in an AKC or ASCA Rally Obedience trial. Dog and handler work as a team to earn titles by performing a series of obedience-derived exercises on a course designed by the judge. Each team is judged on accuracy, precision and enjoyment as they perform the exercises individually.

AKC Rally Info **These Classes have openings**

Recommended that you take the FOUNDATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE class prior to this class.

Tuition is \$150 for the 6-week session Please make checks out to "Dog Days"..
These classes are ongoing, please check with the instructor for availability.

Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - Masters/Excellent, instructor Dee Pigman
503-807-1212 or deepigman@comcast.net

Thursdays 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Masters, instructor Dee Pigman
503-807-1212 or deepigman@comcast.net

Thursdays 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. - Excellent, instructor Dee Pigman
503-807-1212 or deepigman@comcast.net

Thursdays 11:15 - 12:45 p.m. - Advanced, instructor Dee Pigman
503-807-1212 or deepigman@comcast.net

Sundays 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Novice/Advanced, instructor Cheree Roberts
913-522-7475 or breaktimepc@gmail.com

Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Novice/Advanced, instructor Cheree Roberts
913-522-7475 or breaktimepc@gmail.com



Sally Wells Classes

Contact Sally at sallyw61@yahoo.com for inquiries.

11:30-1pm Tuesday Ring Prep class at Trainers to the Rescue in Cornelius, Oregon. You taught the dog the skills, this class helps with the in between and the before and after parts of a trial. We may also do some distraction work, but that is not the core of the class. Class has a rolling enrollment (start whenever, need to check with Sally to make sure there is room).

For more information **contact Sally Wells** sallyw61@yahoo.com

Nancy Seaman's Private and Classes

Contact Nancy to reserve your spot at searis10@gmail.com or (503) 307-0373

Auntie Sally's Pet Classes

Contact Sally Wojahn at auntiesallydogs@gmail.com or (503) 816-3614

New round of Auntie Sally's pet classes is starting March 10th

Please contact Auntie Sally directly to register.

Puppy class at 12:30. (Pups 10 to 16 weeks at start).

Beginning class 1:50. (Dogs 17 weeks+)

Each session is 6 weeks. Cost is \$180.

Open Training

Fridays 2-9 pm Current Students \$10 General Public \$20

<https://www.trainerstotherescue.net/>



Joan is taking Forms at this time

**Portland Dog Obedience Club presents:
Sunday, March 17, 2024 Obedience and Rally Fun Match!**

Location: Brigand's HideOut: 9802 NE 156th St, Battle Ground WA 98604

Pre-entry only. Use a separate entry form for each dog. **ENTRIES CLOSE March 10, 2024**

**Mail (USPS) entries with check made out to "PDOC" to:
Joan Armstrong, 14307 NE 257th St, Battle Ground, WA 98604
\$15 for the first run and \$10 for additional runs (obedience or rally) for the same dog.**

Match will start at 10 a.m. and run until we are done.
There will be two obedience rings and one rally ring indoors on dirt.
Run order and other information will be emailed out to entrants on or before September 26.

Your Name:

e-mail:

Best Phone:

Dog's Call Name:

Circle the Obedience class(es) desired: Beginner Novice Novice Open Utility

Obedience Jump Height:

Circle the Rally class(es)desired: Novice Intermediate Advanced Excellent Masters

Rally Jump Height:

\$15 for the first run and \$10 for additional runs (obedience or rally) for the same dog.

By signing this entry form, the exhibitor agrees to the following.

I hereby release the Portland Dog Training Club, the owners of Brigands Hideout, other animal owners, property owners, instructors, spectators, and/or any other participants from any and all liability for accidents, injuries and/or damages to me, my dog or property caused by participation in any activities including the period of time immediately prior to and/or immediately after the conclusion thereof so long as the animals are located on the premises designated for the activity. I understand that by participation, I am a joint venture participant and assume all liability for injury to my dog, my property or myself occasioned by this participation. This waiver shall be effective from the date of signing.

To the best of my knowledge, I attest that I do not have or have symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of attending this event. I will not have knowingly been in contact with or exposed to any known carrier of COVID-19 within the past 14 days. I agree that I am attending this event entirely at my own risk and take full responsibility for my own health and safety during this event. I will not hold PDOC or any other person affiliated with the event in any way liable for any present or future COVID-19 exposure or illness incurred during or after this event. I agree to follow all county, state and CDC rules and requirements to reduce spread and possible exposure to this virus.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A DOGS GUIDE

Humans need exercise. If they don't get it they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.

1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human will probably need breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have short attention spans.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up.
5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.
7. Once back home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.



5 Common Cleaning Chemicals That Are Toxic to Dogs

- By Richard Cross

REMY BIBAUD | 18 FEBRUARY, 2020



Thinking about warmer weather? Spring cleaning is no doubt part of your plans! Take a moment to review five common chemicals that could be toxic to your beloved fur family! PetPerennials.com is pleased to welcome Richard Cross as Guest Blogger this month!

Richard is a dog expert who is currently living in the UK. He's head editor of The Dog Clinic- a website dedicated to promoting positive reinforcement training and a deeper understanding of canine behaviour.

5 Common Cleaning Chemicals That Are Toxic to Dogs

Keeping your dog safe from common dangers is a job in itself, especially when you consider the various risks that everyday household cleaning products present.

Tons of common chemicals can be harmful to your pet. When you're shopping for cleaning products, be sure to check the labels for any of the substances below.

Ammonia

Ammonia is perhaps the most popular cleaning chemical in the world, and you'll find it in lots of everyday cleaning products, including glass cleaner, stainless steel cleaner and oven cleaner.

This chemical can cause damage to the eyes and skin when it's inhaled. If ingested by your pet, it can also cause severe intestinal distress. Because ammonia is so common and pervasive, it's perhaps the most crucial chemical to watch out for if you have pets in your home.

Ammonia is a colorless gas with a strong and pungent odor that's often compared to cat urine. While ammonia occurs naturally in the world, and exposure to low levels of ammonia is quite common, exposure to higher levels of ammonia can be dangerous for you as well as your pet.

When you're shopping, look for the ingredient ammonium hydroxide, which is the most popular kind of ammonia used in household cleaning products. You must check the ingredients list even if the product markets itself as "all-natural" or "green." Since ammonia is an entirely natural chemical, it's still present in many "green" cleaning products.

You'll find ammonia in:

- Glass cleaner
- Appliance cleaner
- Oven cleaner
- Fertilizer
- Green cleaners

Glycol Ethers

Glycol ethers are one of the most pervasive ingredients in the world, and you'll find them in a variety of household cleaning products, such as glass cleaner, carpet cleaner, spot remover, and more. Glycol ethers are also a common ingredient in liquid soaps and cosmetics, so you'll want to pay attention to the ingredients in those products as well.

Glycol ethers have several dangerous implications in humans as well as pets. Exposure to these chemicals can result in nerve, liver, and digestive system damage. Animal studies have also revealed that glycol ethers can lead to reproductive and developmental deficiencies for your beloved pet.

Like ammonia, you'll find glycol ethers in so-called "green" cleaning products, so you'll need to pay close attention to the ingredients label on any cleaner before using it in your home.

You'll find glycol ethers in:

- Green cleaners
- Glass cleaner
- Carpet and upholstery cleaner
- Spot remover
- Liquid soap
- Cosmetics

Formaldehyde

Most people recognize formaldehyde as an embalming agent, but you may be surprised to learn that it's also one of the most common ingredients in household cleaners. Perhaps even more frightening is the fact that formaldehyde is a popular textile and upholstery treatment, and it may be in your carpets, rugs, and furniture.

Thankfully, fewer manufacturers are treating their products with formaldehyde, and those who still are must pass stringent regulations for consumer safety. It's still found in some cleaning products though.

Formaldehyde is commonly found in general-purpose cleaners and liquid soaps, but it can also be found in things like plug-in fragrances, paper towels, and even pet shampoo. The National Cancer Institute recognizes formaldehyde as a carcinogen, and it can also depress a dog's respiratory system and nerve response. Formaldehyde is also a skin and eye irritant.

You'll find formaldehyde in:

- General purpose cleaners
- Furniture and upholstery
- Rugs and carpet

Note: If you're worried about the safety of your pet's shampoo, take a look at [The Dog Clinic's full guide](#). This article lists a range of chemicals that should be avoided, including formaldehyde, parabens, and artificial dyes.

Chlorine

Chlorine is one of the most common household cleaning products on this list, as it's used to make bleach. You'll find chlorine in tons of everyday products, including household cleaners, laundry detergent, and stain removers. Bleach is one of the most effective cleaners in the world, but it's also one of the most toxic.

Chlorine is most dangerous if it's swallowed. Depending on the amount of the chemical your dog has ingested, symptoms can include burning eyes, nose, throat, and mouth, vomiting, diarrhea, and even death. If you suspect your pet has ingested bleach, you should immediately contact the poison control center.

This chemical is especially concerning because its molecules are heavier than air, which means that when it's in the atmosphere, it sinks to the floor where your pets are breathing. Chlorine can irritate the eyes, skin, and lungs, and it can also lead to respiratory complications such as pneumonia.

Chlorine is also a popular pool chemical, and it helps keep the pool water safe for swimming and crystal clear. Pool chlorine isn't necessarily good for humans or animals, but exposure while swimming shouldn't have any implications for your pet's health. It's a good idea to spray your pup down with the hose after they've been in the pool so you can remove any chlorine residue.

You'll find chlorine in:

- Bleach
- All-purpose cleaners
- Laundry detergent
- Stain remover
- Pool chemicals

Phthalates

Phthalates are another dangerous chemical, but they can be difficult to spot on an ingredients list. In many cases, the fragrance in a household or personal product contains phthalates, which may be carcinogenic.

You may find phthalates in laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaners, shampoo, and conditioners. Phthalates can also be found in some dog toys, and exposure over time can be toxic for your dog. There is also mounting evidence that phthalate exposure can lead to cancer for both humans and dogs, so it's best to stick with phthalate-free products.

You'll find phthalates in:

- Artificial fragrances
- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo and conditioner
- All-purpose cleaners
- Vinyl and plastics

Final Word

Keeping your pet safe from harm requires a watchful eye, especially when so many common household cleaners can be toxic for your pets.

Since these chemicals have many everyday uses, it's not always possible to eliminate them from your routine. If you must use them, make sure your dog is in a different room and keep the windows open. You should also ensure all cleaning substances are thoroughly wiped away before allowing your pet back into the room, and bottles are safely locked in a dog-proof cupboard.

Thankfully, there are many pet-friendly options on the market, so you should have no trouble finding effective products that are also gentle for your loved ones.





tip of the month



A solid wait at the start line with an explosive response to a well-taught release command is vital in agility. Once you have taught the initial start-line behavior, strengthen it by incorporating training into everyday life. Make a list of all the places you would like a wait in your dog's life: crate door, back door, a doorway in the house, going up the stairs, coming down the stairs, the gate in the yard, getting out of the vehicle, etc. I bet you don't need to get imaginative to come up with six or seven situations a day where your dog should maintain a start-line position and then release forward. Have food in your pocket, or food in small containers at these locations, to reward not only the stay but the release. You should see a huge improvement in your dog's understanding of the behavior, and you didn't need to make any extra time in your schedule to improve the skill. 🐾

By Laura Derrett, Ultimate Agility



Taming your nerves in dog agility competitions

<https://www.oneminddogs.com/blog/taming-ring-nerves-in-agility/#>:



NOVEMBER 24, 2023

Have you found your heart pounding as you enter the agility competition ring? Nervous energy fluttering in your stomach, your palms slightly sweaty? If you've stepped into an agility ring, chances are that you've experience ring nerves. Guess what, it's not just your dog feeling the pressure in the agility competition environment. Ring stress affects handlers too!

Understanding the dynamics of nerves in agility

Ring nerves stem from various sources—be it witnessing others' performances, setting unrealistic goals, or fixating on outcome-based achievements. While some nerves can be a catalyst for preparation and heightened performance,

disruptive nerves hinder your best efforts. They disrupt timing, attention, and decision-making, often triggered by self-doubt, fatigue, or the relentless pursuit of perfection.

To perform your best in the agility ring, you need to be both physically alert and mentally primed for the challenge. Many competitors vouch for a suitable level of nervousness—a state where sharpness meets relaxation, fostering confidence and readiness. This state, in sports psychology, is termed the “performance-appropriate state of alertness.”

Navigating ring nerves for agility handlers

Self-awareness is the key. Acknowledge how nerves impact your runs. Identify triggers affecting your confidence and concentration. But fear not, there's a way out!

🗣️ Positive Self-Talk: Speak to yourself as you would to your best friend. Encourage and support your abilities.

🐾 Trust Your Training: You've put in the work; trust it. You know your dog best, and you've prepared together.

🏠 Train Like You Trial: Mimic your trial conditions in training. Create an environment that replicates the agility competition ring.

🎯 Control the Controllables: Focus on your plan, your actions, and your performance. Forget what's beyond your control—the judge's decisions or others' results.

👥 Find Your Tribe: Surround yourself with positivity. Be the best teammate for your dog and connect with supportive individuals. It's easier to forget your nerves with your agility buddies surrounding you!

Harnessing your nervous system

Did you know your body's autonomous nervous system influences your agility performance? This internal regulator manages your alertness levels, directly affecting your nerves. Learning to influence this involuntary system is vital for competing handlers.

Some methods directly affect your heart rate and breathing. Others—relaxation techniques, mental imagery, or specific emotions—indirectly impact your state of alertness. It's about recognizing your optimal state, practicing preparation, and turning these routines into your competition ritual.

Embracing appropriate nerves in agility

Believe it or not, a healthy level of tension is an excellent motivator. For example, a bit of stress can fuel meticulous preparation and detailed planning. But finding the balance is crucial—excessive tension impairs performance, distorts decision-making, and can affect your overall well-being.

Conquering anxiety in agility

Controlling performance anxiety requires dedication and effort. It's a journey that demands time, perseverance, and a willingness to confront your inner challenges. But is it worth it? Let's consider the impact disruptive tension has on your performance, training, and overall enjoyment of the sport. If tension significantly impairs your agility performances, impeding your training progress and dampening the joy you feel from competing, then it's worth making a commitment to tackle these challenges head-on.

Exploring control methods for nerves in agility

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to managing performance anxiety. Experiment with various control methods tailored to your symptoms and triggers. Techniques such as relaxation exercises, arousal manipulation, and thought pattern redirection can be transformative.

State of arousal

Learning to manipulate your alertness level through movement, music, or mental imagery is key. Practice these methods to gain better control over your autonomous nervous system.

Thoughts control

Identify negative thought patterns and challenge them with rational, supportive counterarguments. Rethink self-criticism, set achievable goals, and avoid result-centric expectations.

Reinforcing self-confidence

Celebrate successes, no matter how small, and use positive mental imagery of successful performances to combat tension during training and before competitions.

Embracing a relaxed attitude in the agility ring

Remember, agility is FUN! Reevaluate the significance of competition outcomes on your self-worth. Let go of the need for perfection and focus on enjoying the journey.

Handling team and major Competitions

In team competitions, concentrate on your performance and avoid pressure from your own or others' expectations. Maintain a relaxed attitude even in major events, the connection with your dog is the most important factor to focus on.





I have to admit, it's been an amazing couple of months.

Cadie, my 17-month-old Tervuren, earned her TD in December, and her Championship and Rally Novice this weekend, with scores 96,100, and 97, and 1st and 2nd places.

Hoping to be ready for trying her CD in the April SDTC trials.

She is now CH Sienna Cascade's Xanadu TD RN SWA SCE SIE SEE SHDE CGC TKN

Claudia Weiss



"Stubborn"; Let's rephrase that!
Perhaps your dog is:

Struggling

Tired

Unsure

Becoming distracted by something

Being placed under pressure

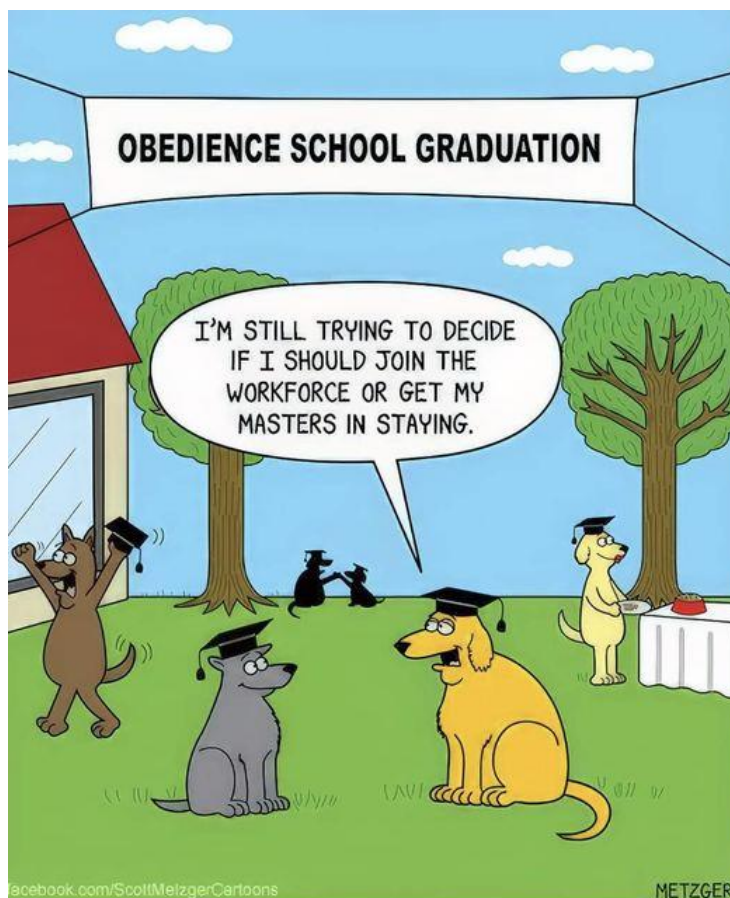
Overwhelmed

Really not feeling very well

Not having his needs met



Trailie Paws For Thought
www.trailiepawsforthought.com



Submitted by Chris Robinette



DENISE FENZI

<https://denisefenzi.com/2018/05/ring-stress/>

Ring stress

by [Denise Fenzi](#) | May 28, 2018

Sue Yanoff, a student at FDSA and a longtime obedience competitor, wrote the following description of her journey to her CDX with her Beagle Ivy. I asked Sue if I could share it here because in my experience, ring stress is the most common problem trainers run into within their competition career. The fact is, training and trialing rarely end up being the same.

There is an amazing amount of wisdom in the following paragraphs. Thank you Sue. I am quite certain that your words here will help other competitors recover from their struggles or, even better, avoid them in the first place.

Ring Stress – My Journey with Ivy

On Oct 18, 2014, I showed my beagle, Ivy, in Novice for the first time. It was at the Beagle National Specialty in Wisconsin. Ivy scored 198, which was High in Trial. It was the worst thing that could have happened in my training journey.

Wait, what did I say? Don't I mean the best thing that happened? At the time, yes. It was great! It was exciting! But in retrospect, it was the worst thing. Because I gave up what I wanted most (OTCH) for what I wanted now (showing at our specialty). Ivy is the first dog that I trained entirely with positive reinforcement. I switched from "balanced" training to positive reinforcement training when I was trying to get a UD on my older beagle. I made a conscious decision that there would never be any "have to" in Ivy's training. Ivy was an outgoing, friendly, confident, fun-loving, and highly food motivated puppy. Nothing bothered her. Teaching her skills was fun for me. Learning the skills was fun for her. As I saw her progress, I was confident that she would not only be good in the obedience ring, she was going to be great. That was my first mistake.

At a Denise Fenzi seminar that I attended when Ivy was young, Denise said, "Expectation is pressure." I understood what she meant, but I did not think it applied to Ivy and me. That would come back to haunt me.

For Ivy's second time in Novice (March 2015), she scored 190.5. Not bad. But where she has lost 1.5 points on heeling in her first trial, she lost 9.5 points at this trial. I was surprised and disappointed in her. I didn't realize it at the time, but Ivy felt that disappointment.

At her third trial (July 2015), Ivy scored 186.5. Still not bad, but come on. She was capable of so much more. She lost 13 points in heeling! Ivy earned her CD, but not in the manner I expected. What was going on?

This video shows Ivy's first time in Novice, and her third time. I show from the end of the stand for exam to the beginning of heel off leash. Looking at it now, I can see all the signs of stress in that third show. But back then, I did not recognize it as stress. Boy, do I know better now!

We continued to train. Her next time in open was May 2016. She qualified with a 188.5. She was distracted on the heeling and lost 9 points. But the other exercises were very good.

The next time in open (Jun 2016), she had a nice run, losing only 2.5 points on heeling. On the long sit, she got up and walked a few steps to follow me as I walked away. I should have called her to me and left the ring. I left her standing there for 3 minutes.

At the next trial, she ran out for the dumbbell for the ROF, picked it up, dropped it, and ran back to me. Hmmm, that was new, but not big deal, because she seemed happy.

At the following trial, she ran out to the dumbbell and stood there. I gave her another command to "take it" and she did, and ran back.

At the next trial, Ivy's heeling was poor (she lost 18 points!), but the other exercises were good. She went down on the long sit with 15 seconds left. That was in Sept 2016. We took several months to "fix" the sit stay.

We continued to work on open and utility skills. Ivy's attitude towards training was not as happy as it used to be, but I didn't think too much of that.

In Jun, 2107, I thought Ivy was read for Open again. I put her in Open B, to see if a different order (heeling not first) would help her to be happier in the ring. She Q'd, but with a score of 173. She did an automatic finish on each exercise.

She walked out to the dumbbell on the ROF, and walked back. On the broad jump exercise, she jumped over the high jump before jumping the broad jump. But we had our second open leg.

At the next 3 trials, Ivy did not pick up the dumbbell on the ROF and/or ROH. Twice, I excused myself from the class, and left the ring frustrated and pissed off. No jackpot for Ivy after those performances!

I should also mention that Ivy's set-ups were bad. I had a hard time getting her to come to heel position. She would walk away, walk around me, sniff. I could "feel" her lack of energy. I continued to think that Ivy's skills just were not good enough. I did not think it was "ring stress" because my dog was not a "stressy" dog.

I continued to work on her skills, at the expense of her attitude. Shortly after Ivy's last open trial, I was looking through videos of trials and matches, trying to figure out what might be going on. At one match, I left Ivy for the drop on recall. As I was walking away, Ivy looked stressed. A lightbulb went off. My dog WAS stressed in the ring. It only took me 2 years to realize it. (Poor Ivy!).

This is the video that was my "aha" moment. This was in Dec 2015. All I saw at that time was a beautiful drop on recall. I did not see what Ivy looked like when I left her until I reviewed the video in light of our ring issues.

Stress is cumulative. Imagine how much stress accumulated over 2 years. I knew that not only did I cause it, but I knew how I caused it.

The main cause of Ivy's stress was too much punishment. Wait, there is no punishment in positive reinforcement training, right? Wrong. There is negative punishment – taking away something that Ivy wanted when she did something "wrong." What I took away from Ivy was reinforcement. If she did not meet my expectations, she did not get a reward. We stared over, or I put her in her crate, or I just ended the session.

I trashed Ivy's positive CER towards training. I think it would have been O.K. if I did this once in a while, but I did it fairly often. And I did it way too soon in her training. This was very hard on Ivy. And the worse part was that I did this when I had access to practice rings! I punished Ivy in the ring!! Many times.

Another cause of Ivy's stress was that in my efforts to get her "ring ready," I put too much pressure on her. I had high expectations. She "knew" these exercises, why wasn't she doing them? She was so good in practice, why couldn't she do it in the ring?

A third cause was that I took a lot of the fun out of training. As I drilled the exercises, I ignored the fact that Ivy wasn't having as much fun as she used to. Sure, she got excited when I got the food out, but that was the only thing that made her excited. When she made mistakes in training, I just whipped out the food and got her excited again.

O.K. So I knew my dog had ring stress. Now what? At first, I just worked on the exercises, trying to make them more fun. I thought if I could bring the fun back, while working on fluency, Ivy's attitude would improve. But I didn't really feel we were progressing. I also believed that I had put good foundations on the exercises, that I had proofed them well, and that fluency was not Ivy's main problem. When I took Sarah Stremming's Hidden Potential class, there was a lot of good information that was applicable to Ivy's situation. Two statements that really helped me focus on what I had to do were: 1. "Think of emotion as part of the fluency of any behavior you are teaching. She must exhibit joy in each piece, or we have not actually taught her the appropriate criteria." This made me lean towards working more on getting Ivy to feel good about training and the ring, rather than the working on the exercises themselves. 2. "If behavior that you previously has decreased, punishment is involved." This clinched my belief that Ivy had been punished for being in the ring. Why else would she stop doing behaviors that she had previously done well?

A very important part of Ivy's rehab was something that Nancy Gagliardi Little stressed to several of her gold students in her latest Handler's Choice class: clear cues. I made sure that my cue word that told Ivy reinforcement was coming was given before any other movement on my part. I think Ivy was confused as to when she might get reinforced, and that stressed her.

I also re-trained Ivy's "jackpot" cue. I took Julie Daniels' Cookie Jar Games class, and sort of trained Ivy that she would get reinforcement outside the ring, but I used a few different words, and they didn't always result in reinforcement. I now use the word "jackpot," which clearly means we will run out of the ring, right to a big food reward. I use that word in training, even when we are not in a ring, to mean the same thing. It is now very clear to Ivy what that word means. I think that clarification has helped her a lot.

I started to concentrate mainly on Ivy's emotional response to the ring. In training, we did a lot of ring entries, as taught in several FDSA classes. I did a lot of set-ups. I would set Ivy up in heel position, release her, move to another part of the training

area (or ring), set up again, and reward. We worked up to several set-ups in a row, followed by “jackpot.”

I also changed how I released Ivy. In the past, I had her do a hand touch. She does these very well in training, with a lot of energy. This behavior has been heavily rewarded. But she never did a hand touch in the ring when I asked. Then I read what Denise wrote (in a class, blog, or FB, I don’t remember): “For those of you who try to get your dog moving with a lot of hand touches to CAUSE the energy in a nervous dog – rethink that. Once the dog is “ears up” and with you – it’s fine because you are joining their energy. But you cannot force energy – it falls apart when you enter the ring.”

I decided to stop trying to do hand touches in the ring. I trained a new “exercise finished” behavior. I hesitate a moment, smiling at Ivy and leaning forward slightly, then say Ivy’s release word (break) and move quickly to the next position. (If any of you know the “exploding tree” exercise, this is how I start it in training.) I verbally praise her as we move, but do not pet her (I don’t think she liked it when I bent over her to pet her).

After I set her up in heel at the next position, I bend my knees next to her (not over her) and briefly pet her while whispering what the next exercise will be. Ivy seems more comfortable with this routine.

At Show ‘n Go’s and in training, I would enter the ring, set up, and then have the “judge” throw a piece of food for Ivy. Several people told me that this would make Ivy pay too much attention to the judge in a real trial. I was willing to take that chance. I wanted her to have a positive CER towards the judge.

When I entered the Jan 2017 trials, I wasn’t sure if Ivy was going to do any better. I had been to several Show ‘n Go’s, and had trained twice in the building where the trial was going to be. I thought she was better. I wanted to finish Ivy’s CDX before the rules changed. I had had trouble with the long sit, and I wanted to prove that I could teach the long sit and down.

Even though I felt pressure, I tried hard not to let Ivy know. I entered the ring knowing it would be O.K. if Ivy did not do well. I knew as soon as I entered the ring and set up that I had a different dog. I could feel it and I could see it. Ivy’s ears were up and she did not look worried. She set up right away for the heel free exercise. During the heeling, I kept expecting Ivy to lag, or walk in front of me on the slow, or hang back on the about turn. She did none of those things. I felt good, and I’m sure Ivy felt that. Her figure 8 was perfect. I felt good as we moved from the figure 8 to the drop on recall spot. Ivy felt good, too.

Her performance, instead of getting worse, actually got better. On the retrieve on the flat, she ran out, grabbed her dumbbell, ran back, and gave me an almost perfect front. Same with the retrieve over the high jump. I was feeling really good as we moved to the broad jump, which was also great. I knelt down to pet Ivy and tell her how great she was.

The judge asked if I would be back for sits and downs. Hell, yes! The steward gave me Ivy's leash. After I put it on, I softly said "jackpot," walked out of the ring, then ran to Ivy's crate, where she got her (large) reward.

Since Ivy was the first dog in the ring that day, I had to wait about two hours for the entire class to be judged before we did sits and downs. I was nervous, but Ivy came through. I was so relieved when I left the ring. When the judge called us back to the ring for ribbons, I knew we had done well, but I was not sure how well. The judge said, "In first place, with a score of 195..." I looked at the two goldens and a lab that had also qualified and thought, "If one of them got a 195, Ivy probably got a 192 or 193." Then the judge called our number!! I was so happy, and so proud of Ivy. She lost only 1.5 points on heeling. The other points came off for crooked fronts and finishes. But she fronted on every exercise!

I wish I had video of this run. I did not bring my video camera because I did not really think Ivy would do well. I regret that decision.

I am under no illusion that all of our problems are solved. Ivy could be well on the road to recovery, or this could have been a fluke. I will continue to stress Ivy's emotional well-being over anything else. I will not punish her. I will not be disappointed in her. I will not drill her. I will make training fun as we work towards getting ready for utility.

This has been a long, frustrating journey, but I have learned so much. I love Ivy, and appreciate her. She still loves me, even though I have given her a lot of reasons not to. Dogs are so forgiving! Ivy has made me a better trainer, and my next dog will benefit from this. Every FDSA instructor stresses that your dog's emotional well-being is more important than anything. I will NEVER forget that.

I want to thank Denise Fenzi, and all the FDSA instructors.

You gave me the knowledge and the tools I needed.



NEW RACH TITLES!

Our three reams made this journey together and had a lot of fun and excitement doing it. Congratulations to Sue Iggulden and Chink (Papillon), Kim Buffum and Spice (Aussie) and my precious little Snaffy (Papillon).

Kim and I finished our RACH on the same day and Sue finished hers a few weeks earlier.

Thank you to our photographer Sandy Loeb for taking the picture of all six of us together. It was no easy task trying to get all of us to look at the camera at the same time. Sandy needs a little more practice before embarking on her second career as an animal photographer.

Submitted by Deanie Morris





RANDOM LITTLE TIDBITS (#102 - Part I of III - Novice)

Below is the next in a series of Random Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

Saving Withdrawals from Your 200 Account ☺



Today's Random Little Tidbit – Honing In On One's Judging Skills In Novice

I think we all can agree on one thing: there is always room for improvement. Improvements may come in the form of a "tweak," overhaul, or a new judge traveling around a new learning curve. Judging AKC Obedience is a prime example in keeping an open mind for learning new ways to hone one's skills. Judging is a skill that requires a great deal of thought and having the mindset there *may always be room for improvement*.

To learn a new skill or sharpen a skill already learned:

1. Having and reviewing one's knowledge of the job requirements:
 - a. Always reviewing the AKC Obedience Regulations & Obedience Judging Guidelines pertaining to your skill level.
 - b. Engaging in conversations with other judges, exhibitors, instructors and spectators.
2. Keying in on how to efficiently run an obedience ring:
 - a. Sit at ringside observing a judge's ring time management. How can time and steps be saved? **See Tidbit #44**
 - b. Watching videos of dogs being judged (**focusing in on the judge**) to learn do's and don'ts. Check out **YouTube**
 - c. **Have yourself videoed in the ring judging**, watching for ways to improve your efficiently. **Just do it and have a look!** ☺
 - d. Observing judging positions. Correct use of judge's orders. Ring layouts with minimum but effective movements.

A sample guide for observing yourself and other judges. Let's review the different Novice exercises in regard to judging procedures, judging positions, exercise requirements and items to be aware of while judging.

Novice Exercise	Judging Procedures	Judging Position	Exercise Requirements	Observations
Heel on Leash & Figure Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *In scoring this exercise, judges shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that they can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler. *The judge must determine whether the dog should receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for heeling based on the overall performance of the dog and handler during the <u>entire exercise</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The judge should attempt to be in a position during the course of the exercise so that the dog and the handler may be observed from the rear, front, and side. *When viewing the dog and handler from the side, <u>try to observe from the dog's side without the handler between you and the dog.</u> *All teams are to be judged from the same relative position. *Move around on the Figure Eight, don't stand in the same spot. *The wider the angles and distance from the handler (within reason), the better for overall viewing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. *Left turn, Right turn, About turn, *Fast, Slow, Halt. *Fast – <u>significant</u> length? *Slow – <u>significant</u> length? *Figure Eight Cones are to be 17" to 37" high and no more than 15" wide at the base. +Measure 8' distance from inside base to inside base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pattern has a nice flow? *Is the pattern choppy? *Is the pattern fair to all breeds, large & small? *Is the pattern away from the entrance and/or table? *Timing of giving judge's orders allowing the team time to react and not being too close to ring enclosures.
Stand For Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The dog <u>need not be sitting</u> at the start of this exercise. *The judge must be alert to keep handlers from going more or less than about 6 feet. *Must penalize, even to the point of non-qualifying, the dog whose handler <u>backs away</u> when leaving. *The examination is complete when the judge <u>lifts their fingers and palm from the dog's hindquarters</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Standing 6 feet out in front and slightly off to the side of the team. *This not only sets in the judge's mind the about 6 feet, but it also works as a guide for the handler to move to being about 6 feet in front of their dog. *After the exam the judge should move to be in a location (off to the side of the dog) to view the handler returning to Heel Position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. *The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the <u>fingers and palm</u> of one hand, the judge will touch the dog's head, body and hindquarters. *Should a dog in the ring give warning that it may bite if you proceed with the examination, you should excuse the dog from the ring and mark the judge's book "Excused – Unable to Examine." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Did the handler leave the dog while in Heel Position? *Did the handler return to Heel Position after the exam? *The judge must be alert to keep handlers at 6 feet out from the dog. *Did the handler walk <u>forward</u> when leaving the dog? *A handler who backs away, (depending on the extent) may be scored as a non-qualifying performance.
Heel Free	Performed as the Heel on Leash	Performed as the Heel on Leash	There is no Figure Eight	Performed as Heel on Leash

<p style="text-align: center;">Recall</p>	<p>*This is a foundation exercise and governs the faults and behavior of a dog in all exercises where the dog is moving toward the handler.</p> <p>*The judge should never ask the handler to touch the dog or otherwise assist the judge in making a decision. If, in the judge's opinion, the dog is not close enough to the handler, it must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.</p> <p>*Finishes are required to be executed promptly, smartly, and straight. This applies to faults in all exercises where the dog returns to heel position. The finish is not a principal part of any exercise.</p>	<p>*To have both dog and handler under constant observation in this exercise, a judge should take a position <u>in line and slightly to the rear of the dog</u>, facing the handler but at an <u>adequate</u> distance to one side.</p> <p>*Fronts and finishes are to be judged from a position in front of the handler.</p>	<p>*The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.</p> <p>*Handler will walk forward to the <u>other end of the ring</u>, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally.</p> <p>*The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler.</p> <p>*The dog must be close to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot.</p>	<p>*Is the team away from the table/entrance for the start or finish of the exercise?</p> <p>*Is the judge slightly to the rear of the dog at the start of the exercise?</p> <p>*Was the front and finish judged from a position in front of the handler?</p> <p>*Finishes are required to be executed promptly, smartly, and straight. This applies to faults in all exercises where the dog returns to heel position. The finish is not a principal part of any exercise.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sit Stay Get Your Leash</p>	<p>*Prior to the start of judging, the judge will instruct the steward where to place the leash after the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise.</p> <p>*The leash will be placed <u>inside</u> the ring near the gate entrance on a chair or similar leash holder.</p> <p>*The handler and dog will be positioned at least 30 feet from and facing the direction of the gate entrance.</p>	<p>*The handler will take the dog to the place indicated by the judge.</p> <p>*A judge is to have both dog and handler under constant view in this exercise.</p> <p>*Be in a location to view the handler returning to judge Heel Position.</p> <p>*The judge must be in position to watch the dog and handler throughout the exercise, including exiting the ring.</p>	<p>*The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position until the handler returns to heel position.</p> <p>*Handler will walk forward immediately to the place designated by the judge for the leash.</p> <p>*Pick up the leash, turn, and face the dog <u>and wait</u>.</p> <p>*The judge will give the order "Back to your dog."</p> <p>*The handler must <u>return directly, walking around</u> and in back of the dog to heel position.</p> <p>*The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished."</p>	<p>*Is the judge in a position to fully watch both the dog and handler at all times?</p> <p>*Is the judge in position to observe heel position when the handler returned?</p> <p>*When the exercise was over, did the judge inform the handler to <u>clip</u> the leash to the collar and maintain control when leaving the ring?</p> <p>*If the team qualified to this point, did the judge ask if they were coming back for the Group?</p> <p>*Did the judge watch the dog exiting the ring?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Group Exercise Sit & Down Stay</p>	<p>*If a judge observes any signs of aggression or potential problems when the dogs are being assembled outside the ring for the group exercise or once the dogs are brought into the ring, the judge must excuse the dog and mark the judge's book "Excused" and state the reason.</p> <p>*If a dog has non-qualified (NQ) in an individual exercise the judge must release the dog from performing the group exercise.</p> <p>*A dog that does not remain sitting during the first part of this exercise must be released from participating in the second part.</p> <p>*Any handlers who physically correct their dogs before or after the group exercise or while exiting the ring must be penalized under Miscellaneous Penalties.</p>	<p>*Judges must stand with their full attention on the dogs and handlers during the group exercise and remain alert to any potential problems.</p> <p>*To have both dog and handler under constant observation in this exercise.</p> <p>*A judge should take a position slightly to the rear of the dogs at one end of the row(s) of dogs.</p>	<p>*The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sitting or down position, whichever is required at the time.</p> <p>*Dogs must be spaced with a minimum of six (6) feet between each dog and a minimum of four (4) feet from the ring barriers.</p> <p>*Judges will position the dogs in the approximate <u>center of the ring</u> in one row or back-to-back in two rows with a minimum of six (6) feet between the rows.</p> <p>*If the back-to-back formation is used, it must be used for all groups in the class.</p> <p>*On a 50' side of the ring the maximum # of dogs allowed in a single row would be six (6) and in back-to-back rows twelve (12) dogs.</p> <p>*It is permissible for a judge to allow additional space on each side of a disabled handler.</p>	<p>*The group exercise will be conducted after the last individual team in the class, or combined classes, is judged.</p> <p>*Did the judge have their attention on the dogs lining up outside the ring for signs of aggression or potential problems?</p> <p>*Was the Group down the center of the ring?</p> <p>*Prior to beginning the exercise, did the judge instruct the handlers to remove their dog if it starts to move out of position?</p> <p>*If a dog non-qualified on the Sit, was it released from the Down?</p> <p>*Did the judge inform the exhibitors, "Maintain control of your dogs" before leaving the ring?</p> <p>*Did the judge inform the teams who qualified?</p>

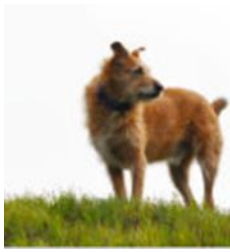
**** 10 Miscellaneous Notes of Interest From the Obedience Guidelines to Always Keep In Mind ****

1. Judges are expected to be friendly and courteous to all who enter the ring. Without exhibitors, there would be no trials.
2. A judge's comments, other than orders to the handler of a dog, shall be limited to a brief greeting, instructions on positioning the dog, and instructions covering the group exercise.
3. The actual judging procedure may vary from judge to judge, but performance requirements must remain the same.
4. All judges shall wear business attire (weather permitting). It is important for a judge to maintain a proper and professional appearance. The judge is in the ring to do a job, not to be the center of attention because of outlandish dress or bizarre behavior.
5. Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the actions of the judge, the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport. Judges should work to maintain spectator appeal in the sport while keeping foremost in mind the welfare and convenience of the exhibitor and the dog.
6. A judge must demonstrate sound judging procedure and ring control. Good procedure is essential. With it, a judge will inspire the confidence of exhibitors and spectators.
7. It is essential that exhibitors have full faith in the impartiality and competence of judges. There is no room for even the suggestion that anything other than the work of the dogs in the ring is involved in your decisions.
8. Positioning is important for two reasons: first, to establish consistency of judging in the minds of exhibitors and spectators and, second, to properly evaluate the dog and handler the entire time they are in the ring. In determining a position for each exercise choose one that allows you to see both dog and handler without having to turn away to see one or the other. Being in the right position to observe a dog's performance is essential. There is no perfect position, but this does not mean that some positions are not better than others.
9. Judges are often singled out for critical observation by exhibitors. Keep in mind that a perfectly innocent action or discussion can be misconstrued. Remember, you don't get in trouble for what you don't say.
10. There will be other "gray areas" that could cause problems. Ask yourself if whatever is happening, however innocent, maintains an outward appearance of propriety. The rule of thumb is to ask yourself, "Would I be getting this treatment if I were not a judge?"

**** Other Observations to Make When Watching Obedience Judging – to Mention a Few ****

1. Did the judge check the ring size for the class being judged?
2. Where is the table placed so not to interfere with the teams when in the ring?
3. Where will each exercise be performed? Were they efficient in saving steps and time?
4. When one exercise ends, is the location of the next exercise nearby?
5. Did the judge check the armband #, collar and leash, give a general review of the dog, no sutures or bandages, 6-foot leash for the Group exercise?
6. Is the judge using the "exact" Judge's Orders in quotes in the Regulations?
7. Does the judge watch the team at ALL TIMES when they enter the ring until they leave the ring?
8. Is the judge efficient at the table between dogs - time wasted while the next team is waiting for a long period of time?
9. Were the four prize winners pulled out (and stayed) so the spectators could clearly see the winners?
10. Did the judge speak up to be heard and address the spectators during the prize ceremony?
11. Did the judge have the *required* marks in the ring?
12. Were the required ring postings visible and easily understood?
13. Was the heeling pattern posted, demonstrated or told to the first handler?
14. Was #13 ^ also done for the class in case of a runoff?
15. Did it appear the stewards had good instructions and were working efficiently?
16. Were there quick movements by the judge that may have interfered with the team working?
17. Were the various exercises performed away from the ring entrance and/or table?
18. Paying attention to the dogs while lining up outside the ring to come in for the Group exercise, watching for signs of aggression, etc.?
19. Watching all the teams in the Group exercise exit the ring, being in control and not pulling on the leash?
20. Turned in the book after the class ended, or having the Obedience Chairman take it to the Show Secretary or Show Superintendent.

For complete details refer to the AKC Obedience Regulations. <https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>



How to Build Confidence in a Fearful Dog

By [Kathy Callahan, CPDT-KA, FDM](#) Published: July 28, 2023

Tips for helping your insecure, fearful, or so-called “submissive” dog gain confidence to improve the quality of her life.



*It's important that your dog views you as his safe refuge – and just as important that you put him in the position to need that refuge as little as possible! If he's displaying body language that shows he's uncomfortable, find a way to give him more distance from whatever's worrying him.
Photo by wdj, Getty Images*

The most critical thing you can do for your fearful dog is to have respect for that fear. When our dogs are scared of something that seems absurd to us – a guy in a hat, the vacuum, a flag blowing in the wind – we humans tend to respond by either laughing it off or getting frustrated, saying, “Oh, come on, that’s not going to hurt you.” We carry on normally (brushing right by the man in the hat) thinking one of these days the “silly” dog will figure out nothing bad is going to happen.

The thing is, from your dog’s perspective, the bad thing *did* happen. She was terrified, and her “trusted” human put her through that heart-pounding feeling again. So now she’s scared of The Thing *and* she learned she can’t rely on you.

That’s not the road to confidence-building. In fact, it’s the opposite. Here are five tips for growing and nurturing your fearful dog’s ability to move through the world feeling happy and secure.

Step 1: Eliminate the Scary Triggers



If you want to help your fearful dog gain confidence, you first have to be her trusted guide. She needs to know you'd never force her into situations where she's uncomfortable. A habit of pulling your dog – rather than slowing down and finding a way to give her the choice to opt in – only gives her more reason to feel scared. Photo by Goldfinch4ever, Getty Images

Nobody can learn when they're scared, and dogs are no different. That's why we have to start this process where – from your dog's point of view – there is nothing to be afraid of. That means making sure there are no events that leave your dog trembling, hiding, pulling away, barking, growling, or drooling in fear.

The more precise you can be in identifying what scares your dog, the better. For example, is she worried about:

- All men, or just the ones in hats?
- All other dogs, or only the ones who bark?
- Guests at all times, or only when they stand up and walk around?

Once you have those answers, you have a job: In this initial phase, keep encounters with those things from happening. That might be easy; maybe you just have to tell your guests to take off their hats before coming inside. Or it might be incredibly difficult; maybe you have to quit your regular city walks entirely for now to avoid other dogs, and rely on indoor mental stimulation instead.

Either way, take heart: This stage doesn't last forever. You will eventually move into re-introducing these triggers at an intensity your dog can handle, ideally turning them into a "Ho-hum, nothing to see here" part of life.



Step 2: Make Everyday Life Predictable

Many dogs who have a few big obvious triggers also have a general level of skittishness even when nothing much (from the human's point of view) is happening. Some dogs live in a perpetual state of vague concern, which makes them more likely to fly off the handle when they do encounter one of their triggers. You can reduce this chronic concern by building more overall predictability into your dog's life. Anxiousness is rooted in not knowing what's going to happen next. To keep the overall, 24/7 arousal level as low as possible, create as much routine as you can. Do the same things, the same way, at the same time, every day.

Give your dog all the distance she needs so she can gather information while staying under threshold. Photo by Johner Images, Getty Images

Note that talking to your dog in a purposeful way can play a dramatic role in building predictability and increasing confidence. Narrate life so your dog can more quickly put various things in a "not to worry about" category. "Oh, yes, I do see that *neighbor*! It's okay, that's just our *neighbor*." A piece of cheese after that conversation never hurts.

Step 3: Build Your Dog's Trust in You

When we get to the stage of re-introducing triggers, you're going to be your dog's guide, helping him feel it's okay to explore just a bit more closely. For this, your dog needs to trust you, absolutely. Before you think "Oh, he loves me, we're already there," just take this little quiz:

- Do you ever "make" your dog do stuff because you're in a hurry? (Like drag him away by his leash from something he won't leave alone, or just pick him up and carry him when he's hesitant to come with you?)
- Do you ever yell at (or even around) your dog when you've had a bad day?
- Do you ever keep hugging your dog when he's turning his head and pulling away?

These kinds of things may seem small to you, but day after day, interaction after interaction, they block the establishment of full trust. If you want to help your dog gain confidence, he must feel **utterly secure** with you. To get there, slow down. Respect your dog's body language, and give him more say in his own life.

Step 4: Do Simple Training at Home

It may seem contradictory that I'm telling you to give your dog more agency *and* telling you to do more training. But that's because the *good* kind of training isn't about top-down commands and blind obedience (talk about a confidence-buster!). Instead, it's about teaching your dog that good things are in her grasp, and the key is choosing to follow your direction: "Phew! I know exactly what's going to happen in this situation! When my person says touch, all I have to do is put my nose to her hand and I get a treat."

Sprinkling a few easy, short training sessions through your day at home is a key step as we move toward getting over individual fears. Is that because I'm going to tell you to command your dog to hold a down-stay as the children she's terrified of run by? Oh, my goodness no. (Goodbye progress, goodbye trust!)

Instead, use some simple "asks" as a barometer of how your dog is feeling. Let's say you've made some progress having her around strange dogs in the park, and at a 30-foot distance she's looking "fine." To check, you ask for a simple touch, and she offers it – but if she grabs that treat roughly and turns immediately back to staring at the other dog, it means that she's not quite as "fine" as she may have appeared you.

Or maybe when you cue a sit she offers a tiny little butt touch and an immediate return to a stand, rather than her usual relaxed sit as she waits for her treat. That's great information! You may want to back up, let her observe for a while, and then try again. This time, does she decide that she feels secure enough, and she'd actually love to do a little training for treats? That's important information about exactly where her threshold is.

Step 5: Set Up Careful Exposures

At this stage, whether it's a few days, weeks, or months into your quest to build confidence, your dog should be feeling better in general. Her daily life is more predictable, she hasn't had a heart-pounding experience in a while, and her people feel like folks she can hang her hat on.

Now it's time to take this stronger foundation into the next phase, which is when we slowly reintroduce her triggers at a level she can handle. We want to give her the chance to learn about things she finds worrisome, but give her the control over the intensity dial.

That allows her to build her database of information, so that she can come to more accurate conclusions about what should feel scary and what she can dismiss as inconsequential. That means you need to think carefully through setting up situations where you have control over all of the important variables and the levels of exposure. For example:

- If your dog is nervous around other dogs, select a big park where other dogs are far away and on lead – not a narrow path where you’ll be forced into a close encounter. (To help your dog feel more comfortable around other dogs.)
- If your dog is scared of humans, get help from friends who will follow your instructions to stay seated, avoid eye contact, and resist the urge to reach out – and don’t go near strangers who insist on petting!

Have Faith!

Helping fearful dogs is one of those things in life where you simply must go slow to go fast. The initial phase – where you eliminate scary moments while also building your dog’s trust in you – can feel like you’re making no progress. But don’t give up, because that’s where the magic lies.

Your vet may be able to suggest anti-anxiety drugs that could speed your dog’s progress, but please don’t rely on drugs without also supporting your dog with the other things outlined here.

The exact process of successful “desensitization” will vary enormously from dog to dog and fear to fear. But if you lean into the first four steps, and then approach Step 5 with care, you are well on your way to a happier, waggier dog who’s able to experience a bigger life.





January 2, 2024:

We are pleased to announce the newest addition to the AKC Family Dog lineup – AKC Fetch.

In AKC Fetch, dogs and their handlers have fun, get exercise, and they can earn four levels of AKC titles by demonstrating retrieving skills.

AKC Fetch is designed for all breeds.

Dogs who are at least six months of age are eligible to take the AKC Fetch test as long as they are registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners number.

AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test. The four levels of titles (Novice [FTN] Intermediate [FTI], Advanced [FTA], and Retriever [FTR]) assess the ability of the dog to retrieve a ball or bumper. Toys may be used in the Novice and Intermediate levels. For each of the four titles, the dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges.

CGC Evaluators or AKC judges of any type may be judges for AKC Fetch if they have completed the Fetch training in Canine College. [To become a Fetch judge, go to Canine College here.](#)

AKC Fetch tests may be hosted by AKC licensed or member clubs or AKC Approved (current) Canine Good Citizen Evaluators who are approved as Fetch judges.

For a club or Fetch judge to hold a test, they must fill out an [Fetch Test Event Application](#).

- There is an event application fee of \$35.
- The application must be submitted one month in advance.
- AKC Fetch tests will be listed on the [AKC Events Calendar](#)

When dog owners are asked about activities they like to do with their dogs, the most common responses are to take their dog for a walk and to play ball (fetch) with the dog. Get on the ball and plan your Fetch tests soon! For information about the new AKC Fetch program, [click here](#).

For questions, please email fetch@akc.org.



Scent training could make pet dogs better behaved – Aberystwyth University study



A dog performing scent training. Copyright: Nick Lynch (Ten77 Dog Photography)

29 January 2024

Scent training could make pet dogs better behaved, a new study by Aberystwyth University academics suggests.

The research suggests that pet dogs trained to detect smells have improved mental ability and capacity to carry out certain tasks.

Training is known to improve dogs' ability to solve cognitive tasks, but previous research has focused on comparing highly trained working dogs, like those trained in search and rescue or assistance dogs, with untrained pets.

The study by researchers from Aberystwyth University, in collaboration with Emma Stoker, owner of Puppy Plus in Newtown, suggests that even pet dog training can alter how our dogs cope with cognitive tasks.

The team tested the animals, who had been trained to varying degrees, with two tasks both requiring impulse control.

One was a test to navigate a transparent barrier to get food, known as the 'detour task'. The other 'A not B task' involved the dogs being able to switch their choice from one pot to another, depending on where food was placed.

The study, published in the journal *Animals*, found that dogs trained in scent work performed better in these tasks than those who were not. The new research demonstrates that scent training can improve dogs' ability to avoid acting impulsively to complete a specific task.

This ability, known as inhibitory control, has been shown to improve canines' problem-solving skills.

Importantly for pet owners, poor impulse control is thought to be the cause of a lot of unwanted behaviours in dogs, such as destructive behaviour and inappropriate toileting. So, the new findings suggests that scent training could be a way for owners to improve their dogs' behaviour.

The project is part of the [Animal Science Master by Research \(MRes\) postgraduate teaching programme](#) at Aberystwyth University.

Dr Sarah Dalesman, who co-supervised the project, said:

"We are a nation of dog and animal lovers, and for good reason. They are very important for our lives and play a variety of roles – from offering vital companionship to working in the emergency services. For those and many other reasons, understanding their behaviour and what influences it is important.

"This research shows that dogs that train primarily in scent work have stronger inhibitory control, suggesting that this training can have a positive effect on their behaviour.

"Scent training is offered by a lot of dog trainers, and easy to practice at home. It might offer a great way for owners to improve their pet's behaviour, and we're aiming to test this theory in future studies."

Dr Sebastian McBride from Aberystwyth University added:

"This research is important in helping us understand how dogs' behaviour is influenced by the extent that they have been trained. Based on our findings, future studies should not simply separate dogs into highly trained versus untrained, but rather take account of this relationship between specific training and behaviour.

"This exciting research would not be possible without all the volunteer dogs, their owners and local training clubs who participate, so we would like to thank them all for their support."



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As well as Drs Dalesman and McBride, MRes student in Animal Science Nerys Mellor conducted much of the research.

THE DOG-DRIVEN SEARCH

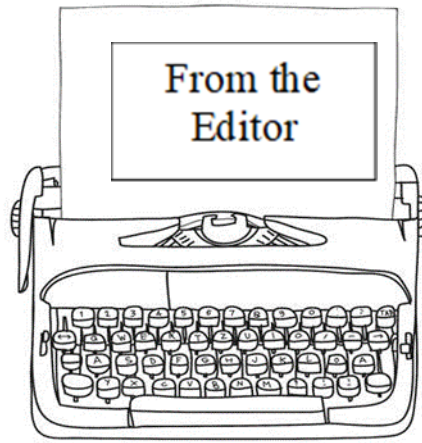
*Handling Our Nose Work Dogs
to Promote Independence, Joy
and Enthusiasm*



Sue Sternberg Dana Zinn

The Dog-Driven Search: Handling Our Nose Work Dogs to Promote Independence, Joy, and Enthusiasm Paperback – December 19, 2023
by [Dana Zinn](#) (Author), [Sue Sternberg](#) (Author)

The Dog-Driven Search is a handler's guide to working with a dog in the wonderful sport of nose work. Authors Zinn and Sternberg provide detailed explanations of human body language and the nonverbal conversations we are always having with our dogs. This book teaches the human half of the team how to fully support and trust the canine half of the team, so together they can experience the wonder of engaging in the dog's olfactory world.



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

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Check where emails come from.**

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