



Rally-O Homework • Week 5

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Rally is an AKC Titling Event

The titles offered at each level are Rally Novice (RN), Rally Advanced (RA), and Rally Excellent (RE). Each one is earned by earning three qualifying scores (legs) by three different judges. A qualifying score is based on how well you and your dog performed together. A perfect score is 100 points and the judge will make deductions for tight leashes (one point) repeating stations (three points) and various other reasons. Although Rally is timed, it is only taken into consideration to determine your team's placement. If two teams tie with the same score, the team with less time gets the blue ribbon. In the novice level you and your dog move continuously through a rally course of 10-20 signs with your dog on your left side. At each numbered sign you perform the indicated exercise then move to the next sign. Unlimited communication is encouraged and scoring is less rigorous than traditional obedience:

- At level one the dog is on-leash through novice style exercises;
- At level two the dog is off-leash through more advanced exercises, including at least one jump set at 4 inches, 8 inches, 12 inches, or 16 inches according to the dog's height at the withers.

Signing Up for an Event

If your dog is registered with AKC and you are interested in signing up for trials, then first visit the AKC website (www.akc.org) to find trials in your area (under event search). This will take you to the club's website that hosts the event where you can download a premium to sign up. Another place to sign up for events is the www.onofrio.com website. Here you can sign up online with a small fee and get confirmed within hours.

Events for All Dogs

If your dog is not AKC registered you still have options to compete. Try visiting the Association of Pet Dog Trainers website (www.apdt.com) to find trials. Another great option is entering a Fun Match. Portland has dog related events happening all the time and a great place to look those up is at www.portlandpooch.com.

Even if showing your dog is not for you, Rally is a great way for you and your dog to learn how to work as a team. This is key to having a good pet or working companion. Also, rally is fun and offers you a good way to spend productive time with your dog.

*****Next week is graduation so don't forget your Lucky Bones for the raffle!*****