

Class Descriptions: Which Class Should I Take?

You will find below a brief description of each class and its requirements. We hope this will answer any questions you may have and help you make the right decision for your dog. If you still have questions, leave a message for Debbie Salerno at (914) 422-DOGS (3647) or (914) 946-0308. E-Mail: pcotc@mac.com. Your inquiry will be returned promptly.

BASIC OBEDIENCE CLASSES (Minimum class size 5)

PUPPIES OBEDIENCE For puppies under 5 months old at start of class. Subjects include housetraining, socialization, care and handling, and building a sound relationship between you and your puppy. This is an introduction to obedience training. Collars and leashes provided. Limit 10 teams.

BEGINNER'S CLICKER TRAINING An introductory class with people and dogs/puppies new to Clicker training. Capturing, shaping, luring, and targeting for all kinds of behaviors. No prerequisite. Limit 6 teams.

ADVANCED CLICKER TRAINING Continuation of Clicker training methods applied to more advanced behaviors. Prerequisite: Beginner's Clicker Training. Limit 6 teams.

BASIC 1 For dogs 5 months of age or older. Train your dog to sit, lie down, stay, walk on a loose leash, and come when called. Collar, leash, and training workbook provided. Limit 10 teams. NOTE: In this class, both you and your dog must be comfortable spending an hour with a large group (up to 10 teams) of other canines of various sizes and energy levels, going through a series of exercises and challenges. Sound temperament is a must.

BASIC 2 For graduates of Basic 1. This class is designed to produce a well-mannered family pet. Builds on the skills learned in Basic 1 with an emphasis on home manners and using your dog's training to make him a more enjoyable companion. Retrieving and agility work are introduced. A retrieving toy and workbook are provided. Limit 10 teams.

BASIC 3 / PRE-NOVICE For graduates of Basic 2. Builds on the skills learned in BASIC 2, with an emphasis on heeling, stays and recalls (coming when called). Also prepares handlers to go on to Obedience and Rally Titling classes. Limit 10.

GOOD CITIZEN & THERAPY DOG TRAINING Preparation for the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and/or the Therapy Dog International (TDI) certificate, required by most health care facilities for visiting dogs. Open to dogs that have completed Basic 2 or the equivalent. CGC stresses good manners in the presence of other people and dogs. Testing is included in the fees. Note, however, that TDI will not certify dogs under 1 year old. Limit 6 teams.

SHY/FEARFUL DOG This class will teach owners of timid dogs the skills they need to train their dogs and boost their confidence. Class will cover the emotion of fear in dogs, understanding fear-related behavior, education of counter-conditioning techniques and other appropriate training methods for shy dogs. Serious assertive aggressive dogs not appropriate for this class. No dogs in first class of each session. Limit 10 teams.

OBEDIENCE TITLING (COMPETITION) CLASSES (Minimum class size 5)

YOUR OBEDIENT PUPPY This class is for handlers that have previously shown a dog in obedience, rally or agility. We will practice everything a dog will eventually need to know for the novice obedience ring in an accelerated yet non stressful manner. Dogs must be between 3 and 12 months of age. Limit 8 teams.

BEGINNING RALLY Rally is a less formal but equally challenging form of competition, where extra commands, guidance, and encouragement are allowed. Rally is also a great way to re-fresh and maintain basic obedience skills. This course covers exercises, rules and regulations from AKC novice and APDT Level 1 rally. Teams will run Novice and Level 1 Rally courses. Prerequisite: Basic 3/Pre-Novice, Limit 8 teams.

ADVANCED RALLY Introduction and practice of exercises, rules and regulations from AKC Advanced and Excellent, and APDT Level 2 Rally courses. Teams will run rally courses at all levels including AKC Novice and APDT Level 1. Prerequisite: Beginning Rally, Limit 8 teams.

RALLY COURSE WORK Recommended for dog/handler teams who are ready to or are competing in any level of AKC or APDT Rally. Teams can fine tune exercises, build advanced skills and practice on course performance. Prerequisite: Advanced Rally. Limit 8 teams.

BREED HANDLING Preparation for showing your dog in the conformation ring. Open to any dog/puppy. Limit 15 teams

NOVICE, OPEN, UTILITY Taught by successful obedience trial competitors and designed to prepare dogs and handlers to earn Companion Dog (CD), Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) and Utility Dog (UD) titles at Obedience Trials. Limits: 10 Novice, 8 Open, 6 Utility.

CONQUER THE DUMBBELL Retrieving Workshop: This class will run for 4 weeks. It is open to dog and handler teams that want to learn dumbbell retrieving, fine their skills or solve any problems. Retrieve on the flat and over the high jump will be covered. Prerequisite: Pre-Novice or permission of instructor. Limit: 6 teams.

BASIC AGILITY CLASSES (Minimum class size 5)

BEGINNER/FOUNDATIONS AGILITY Open to any dog (but taking Clicker Basics for Agility or Basic 1 first is highly recommended). This class will teach essential foundation skills; basics such as come, sit, lie down and stay will be reviewed. Emphasis will be on flat work, targeting, directionals, lead change handling and jumping basics. Introduction to agility obstacles will also be covered. This class should be repeated as often as necessary per instructor. Limit 8 teams.

ADVANCED BEGINNER Dogs may be any age, but MUST have completed the beginner/foundation agility class. Dogs will build on skills learned in beginner/foundations. More sequencing, more confidence on equipment, intro to basic handler skills, etc. Bars will be on the ground for any dog under 1 year, and contact equipment will be at a low level. Prerequisite: Beginner/Foundations agility. Limit 8 teams.

INTERMEDIATE for graduates of Advanced Beginner. To enter this level, dogs should be confident on ALL equipment, and be able to run a 6 obstacle sequence. Dogs MUST be over 1 year of age. This level will cover more complex handler skills, longer sequences, and faster, more confident teamwork. Limit 8 teams.

ADVANCED for graduates of Intermediate. To enter this level, dogs should be able to run a 12 obstacle sequence, do some complex handler skills (front, rear & blind crosses, etc.), and have decently fast speed on a course. Limit 8 teams.

AGILITY TITLING (COMPETITION) CLASSES (Minimum class size 5)

NOVICE/OPEN for the dog/handler team that is currently competing at the Novice level and interested in practicing more advanced skills to prepare for Open level competition. More challenging sequences will be covered where handler timing will be a focus. Dogs must have independent obstacle skills on all equipment. Limit 8 teams.

OPEN/EXCELLENT For dogs that have ALL the skills necessary to run courses at an advanced level. MUST have upright (together) weave poles, and decent contacts. Emphasis will be on VERY complex handler skills, more speed, and more teamwork. This is a VERY high level class, but will still be breaking down skills needed & fine-tuning them for even better performance. Limit 8 teams.

AGILITY SPECIALTY CLASSES (not offered every session—see the schedule for what's being held this session)

CLICKER BASICS Free shaping for success! / Intro to Agility This class is open to any dog. This class will introduce the principles of clicker training and demonstrate how the clicker is used to teach tricks, stretching, agility obstacles, flat work, sit, down, stand, stay, back up and directionals. Limit 8 teams.

CONTACTS/WEAVES This class focuses will teach independent obstacle performance on all Contact equipment and Weave polls. Obstacles will be lowered to improve speed, accuracy, and then brought back up top full height. This class is open to all levels out of beginner. Limit 8 teams

GAMBLERS This 1.5 hour class will focus on Gamblers - Level - Must be proficient on all obstacles. Learn how to play the Game of USDAA Gamblers. This class will teach dog/handler teams the rules of Gamblers and will focus on short distance/directional gambles. Go outs and directionals will be taught in detail with increasing distances as the session progresses. Limit 8 teams

MASTER HANDLING This 1.5 hour class will focus on Master level standard and jumpers courses. Dogs must be proficient on all equipment and able to handle skills at an advanced level.

SNOOKER For dogs proficient on all obstacles and able to run sequences. This popular USDAA Class is named after the billiards game popular in Great Britain, snooker is a point-basis class wherein a handler develops their strategy for accumulating as many points as possible during the allotted time by performing the obstacles in "Snooker" sequence, which is defined by a red and then a color followed by a closing sequence. This class will start with the starters level and progress through Master level Snooker courses teaching rules, strategies and how to get the elusive Super Q needed in Masters. Requirements for class: Dog/Handler teams must be proficient on all obstacles and be able to sequence.

SKILLS AND DRILLS This class is open to the Adv beginner level through Masters. Focus of this class will be mastering all the basic skills in agility while fine tuning the communication process between dog and handler. Front cross, rear cross, serpentine, flatwork, distance and directionals will be covered in detail with lots of floor time. Limit 8 teams

AGILITY COURSE STRATEGY This class is open to Pre-Novice to Excellent Level. This class will teach you how to read a course, find the changes in direction, and choose a handling plan for maximum accuracy, speed and success. Course analysis will be done using printed course maps and full set up courses. Teams will work full courses and learn how to execute the handling they have selected. Limit 8 Teams

AGILITY GAMES Jumpers-Gamblers-Snooker-Pairs-Fast This class is open to Novice- Excellent Level students. Learn and review the rules needed to successfully master each agility game and understand what skills are needed for each game, make smart handling plans and improve your dogs understanding of your handling cues. Limit 8 Teams.

JUMPERS This class will teach independent jumping skills. The first 4 weeks will be focused on single jump work, spread jumping, directed sending, targeting and right or left lead sequencing skills. The second 4 weeks we will be adding front and rear crosses and some agility equipment to work with the dog learning to adjust their stride. This class is open to any dog/ handler team who have taken and are out of beginner level. Limit 8 teams.

FOR ALL LEVELS AND ALL CLASSES:

- Final eligibility will be determined by your instructor – if the class you are in is not right for you & your dog, your instructor reserves the right to ask you to leave the class, or join one that is.
- Any class should be repeated until the team is ready to proceed to the next level.
- Your dog **MUST** be able to be collected, or recall to you, in a timely manner – ANY dog who holds up the class because he won't come when called will be asked to leave agility & join an appropriate obedience class until he is under control.
- A **DOG** who acts **AGGRESSIVELY** towards any person, or dog may be asked to leave the class.
- A person who acts aggressively towards any person, or dog may be asked to leave the class.
- Class limits will be strictly enforced sorry – we cannot add “just one more”. There simply isn't enough time to work more teams than the allowed limit.
- All Agility students are expected to help with equipment; refusal to do so can result in expulsion from class.
- Dogs must be able to remain quietly in their crates while their owners are otherwise occupied. Excessive barking or whining cannot be tolerated.