

Winston Salem Dog Training Club
Competition Focused Class Descriptions

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The WSDTC wants to remind everyone that each dog learns at its own rate, just like their humans, so please don't be concerned if you or your instructor feels that repeating a class is in your best interests.

PLEASE NOTE: Reactive dogs cannot be accepted in group classes, as it is important for class to be a safe space for every dog and handler to explore and develop their skills.

Agility

Agility Foundations I

This class is for dogs one year or older with no previous agility experience.

Pre-requisites: Dogs must be under control and display no aggressive behavior towards other dogs or people. Beginner 1 and 2 classes or instructor approval required.

This class will focus on attention and control, reward versus lure, positional cues related to agility, impulse control, drive, play sends and recalls. Foundation handling skills and non-contact agility equipment will be introduced. Teams will learn to work together with the goal to work as a cohesive team. This class will be held indoors to limit distractions and to provide a contained environment for dogs to learn to focus and work with the handler.

Agility Foundations II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Agility Foundations I or evaluation by instructor. Instructor approval required.

This class introduces basic handling skills and may include short sequences of 3-5 obstacles. Introduction to agility contacts (dog walk, A-Frame) at low height to learn safe obstacle performance progressing to full height depending on teams' abilities. Training on weave entries will be initiated. This class is usually held outdoors in a fenced environment for dogs to continue to learn to focus and work with handler.

Agility Teeter and Weave Poles Focus

Prerequisites: Dogs / handler teams who have completed Agility Foundations II or other beginning agility training. Instructor approval required

Foundation training on the teeter and weave poles. Training focuses on safe and confident performance on the teeter. Teeter training includes tolerating the teeter bang noise, running up the full teeter board, confidently jumping on the lowered end of the teeter board, and training the end position. Weave pole training initiated to focus on correct entry and independent performance. A variety of training equipment will be used. Short handling sequences with non-contact obstacles and start-line stays will be included.

Agility Pre-Novice

Prerequisites: Dog/handler teams that have successfully completed Agility Foundations II and have completed initial teeter and weave pole training.

This class will introduce handling longer sequences, improving distance and drive, building confidence and proofing contact performance on full height contacts. Training will continue to support teeter and weave pole performance.

Agility Course of the week (Novice – Master)

Prerequisite: These classes are for dogs/handler teams based on the level of training completed. At the minimum, agility foundation classes must be completed. Instructor approval required.

The class level (Novice, Advanced, Masters) will be specified.

The focus will be training on courses to get ready to compete or already competing in agility trials. A course will be set up each week for dog/handler teams to run. In advanced classes, handlers may be expected to bring a course to set up with the help of other students. After walking the course, handlers will discuss running options and then run the course. Handlers will provide feedback on each team to help improve performance. Each dog/handler team will have several chances to run the course to work out optional handling techniques or to work on specific sections of the course.

Agility for Fun – Small Dogs

This class is for those who want to do AGILITY FOR FUN with their small dogs (20 lbs or under). This is not for those looking to compete in trials. Some of the equipment will be “teacup” size.

You and your dog will learn how to safely play on some of the agility obstacles----- jumps, tunnels, hoops, cones, walk boards, etc.

This class will help you to build trust with your dog, provide mental stimulation with physical activity, and just enjoy spending time with your pooch!

Canine Freestyle

Definition: Canine freestyle is a choreographed performance with music, presenting the dog to his or her best advantage creatively and artistically. The finished performance illustrates the training and joyful relationship of a dog-and-handler team. **Requirements:** A good Obedience foundation (CD or Rally Advanced) or instructor approval.

PLEASE NOTE: Reactive dogs cannot be accepted in these group classes, as it is important for class to be a safe space for every dog and handler to explore and develop their skills.

Introduction to Concepts

This class is an introduction to the concepts of Canine Freestyle. Prerequisite: Advanced Rally, CD, or instructor approval.

Canine Freestyle is a choreographed performance with music, illustrating the training and joyful relationship of a dog and handler team.

Each class will include:

Technical portion (teaching movement skills)

- Artistic portion
- Creative portion (introduction to choreography)

Freestyle I

Prerequisite: *Rally Advanced (RA) or Novice Obedience (CD) title.*

Introduction to Freestyle involves exploring the movements that come naturally, spontaneously, and joyfully to your dog and then incorporating them into a choreographed performance. Students will be encouraged to brainstorm, putting together simple moves that suit their dogs to form a 'phrase' (a short sequence of movements that flow together). The following will be discussed: concepts of Canine Freestyle, movement within the performance space, shape and design within the space, and reference positions.

Freestyle III

Prerequisite: *Canine Freestyle II*

Preparation for show. Those who have a performance ready will fine-tune their choreography with input from the instructor and other students.

Flyball

Flyball Description: Flyball is a fun, fast-paced, TEAM dog sport that requires a group of like-minded handlers and dogs to work cooperatively and collegially together in order to play. While all dog sports involve striving for individual goals, in flyball it is only through learning, practicing and competing well together as a team that races can be won and individual goals achieved. Being able to function well as part of a team is a requirement for both handlers and dogs.

Please note that due to Flyball Tournaments, unavailability of building or other reasons for cancellations, classes are not held in 6 consecutive weeks. Students pay for 6 classes.

Flyball I

Prerequisites: Participants will have completed at least the Beginner I, Manners & Obedience class or an introductory dog sport class (agility, rally or obedience), or have prior instructor approval. Dog must be both people and dog friendly, must be comfortable being handled by strangers, should enjoy strenuous activity and be in good physical condition. Dog must be a minimum of one-year old on the first night of class. Participants should have good off-leash control of their dogs, and dogs should have a solid recall in a stimulating and distracting environment.

Recommended Equipment:

- Nonrestrictive harness
- Food and/or toy
- Crate

This class is for dogs that are new to Flyball. The goal of this class is to foster handlers' and dogs' interest in the game and equip all participants with the basic skills needed to compete in the sport of flyball. Participants who successfully complete this class may ultimately be considered for First in Flight Flyball team membership. The class will focus on the foundations of flyball:

- Efficient box turns
- Recalls in increasingly distracting situations
- Flyball jumping skills
- Ball retrieves
- Building handler focus and drive in the dog

Flyball I/II

Prerequisite: This class is open to all dogs that have completed Flyball I and new dogs with instructor approval only.

Dogs will be training at their appropriate level.

Flyball II

Prerequisite: Only open to students from Flyball I who have instructor approval to continue. Dogs must also be comfortable being crated or kept in the car (weather permitting) during down time.

The class will continue the work from Flyball I and begin to add advanced flyball skills for dogs and handlers who are interested in joining the First in Flight Flyball Team:

- Putting all the pieces together
- Passing
- Problem solving
- The rules of the game

Obedience

Obedience Heeling I

**Prerequisites: Previous experience with heeling and attention required
Desire to compete in competitive obedience**

This class will work on establishing a foundation for precision heeling with exercises and games to build fun, enthusiasm and team building in heeling.

Exercises:

Attention
Team building games and exercises
Proper heel position and how to maintain it
Turns
Rear end awareness
Beginning Figure 8

Obedience Heeling II

Prerequisite: Heeling I and instructor approval

This class will begin off leash heeling with emphasis on always maintaining proper heel position with attention, team building and connection between the dog and handler.

Exercises:

Attention
Maintaining heel position
Turns and turn footwork
Figure 8
Heeling exercises and games
Rear end awareness exercises

Obedience Novice I

Prerequisite: Graduation from at least a Beginner II class or instructor approval.

This class is for dog handler teams preparing to compete in Novice Obedience.

This class will work on heeling, figure 8, fronts, finishes, stand for exam, recall and stays.

Obedience Novice II

Prerequisites: Dogs should have successfully completed the Novice I class or have instructor approval.

This class is for dogs preparing to compete in novice obedience at trials. The class focuses on building good handling skills, improving the team's execution of the novice exercises, troubleshooting the team's performance, and introducing distractions appropriate to the class.

Obedience Open I

This class is for dogs showing in Novice, have their CD or have instructor approval.

Required Equipment: AKC regulation dumbbell

This class introduces the AKC Rules & Regulations and open exercises:

- Heel Free (off lead)
- Figure Eight off lead
- Drop on Recall - Dog comes when called, lies down when commanded and comes to front and finishes when called.
- Retrieve on the Flat– Handler throws a dumbbell which the dog retrieves.
- Retrieve Over the High Jump - Handler throws a dumbbell over the high jump which the dog jumps both ways in order to retrieve and performs a front & finish.
- Broad Jump – Dog jumps over a low board(s), comes to front and finishes.
- Long Sit – Dog sits and stays in place for three minutes with handler out of sight.
- Long Down - Dog lies down and stays in place for five minutes with handler out of sight

Obedience Open II

Pre-requisite: This class is for dogs that have successfully completed the Open I class or have instructor approval.

This class focuses on building good handling skills

Improving the team's execution of the exercises

Troubleshooting the team's performance

Introducing Distractions appropriate to the class

Obedience Open Run Throughs

Prerequisite: This class is for students showing in Open or are planning on showing in Open who have successfully completed the Obedience Open II class or have instructor approval.

Dogs should be able to perform the exercises and handlers should know the AKC Rules and Regs. The focus is on practice for competition, not for teaching how to do the open exercises.

Obedience UDX Run Throughs

Prerequisite: This class is for dogs who are showing in Utility or are planning to show in Utility and is open to students who have successfully completed Utility II or have instructor approval.

This class focuses on practice for competition, not teaching the exercises. Students will be required to participate in stewarding for each other.

Obedience Utility I Foundations

This class is for students showing in Open or have a CDX

Required Equipment: AKC regulation scent articles & 3 white cotton gloves.

This class introduces the AKC Rules and Regs and the Utility exercises.

Signal Exercise

Moving Stand

Scent Discrimination (choice of two, metal, leather or wood)

Directed Retrieve

Directed Jumping

Novice Ring Ready

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval

Will focus on two of novice competition exercises each week. Over the course of the 8 week class, all novice exercises will be covered (Beginner Novice, Novice Preferred, and regular Novice). Run through each week with students learning judging procedure and calling for each other. Handouts will be provided for each novice competition class rules.

Perfecting Figure Eights & Stays

Prerequisites: Beginner 2, CGC, Able to heel on a loose lead.

This class is designed to improve stays and figure eights for handlers preparing to enter Novice Obedience trials. A variety of training methods will be employed to help handlers train dogs to maintain stays through distractions and stressors. Figure eight work will emphasize proper heel position through a range of speeds.

Rally

Pre-Rally/Ready Set Go

Prerequisite: CGC, or by Instructor Approval

This class is designed for beginning handlers and introduces the relationship between Rally and Obedience and teaches the exercises that are common to both. This class is conducted on lead. Skills include heeling, sit, pace changes, fronts, finishes, and stays.

Rally Novice

Prerequisite: CGC, or Pre-Rally/Ready Set Go, or Instructor Approval

This class is designed to teach the Novice signs in Rally Novice. Class instruction includes teaching the required signs and the rules and regulations for AKC Rally competition. Courses are executed on leash.

Rally Advanced/Intermediate

Prerequisite: Rally Novice Class or Rally Novice Title or by Instructor Approval

This class is designed to teach the Advanced signs in Rally Advanced and Rally Intermediate. Signs for Intermediate Rally are the same as Rally Advanced. In Rally Intermediate courses are executed on lead with no jumps. For Rally Advanced courses are executed off lead with one jump. Teams will work towards off lead work as classes proceed. Teams will be taught the High Jump, Bar Jump, and Broad Jump as well as right and left pivots.

Rally Excellent

Prerequisite: Advanced/Intermediate Rally Class or Rally Advanced Title, or by Instructor Approval.

This class is designed to teach the Excellent Rally signs. Teams should be able to work off lead and be able to execute jumps and pivots.

Rally Master/Choice

Prerequisite: Excellent Rally Class or Rally Excellent Title or by Instructor Approval.

This class is designed to teach the Master Rally signs. Rally Choice has the same course as Rally Master but does not have a jump.

Rally Novice Trial Preparation

Prerequisite: Rally I Novice Class

This class prepares the team for competing in a Novice Rally Trial. Knowledge of the Novice Rally signs is necessary as the signs will not be taught.

Rally Master Trial Preparation I

Prerequisite: Rally Master Class or by Instructor Approval

Rally Master signs will not be taught in this class. This class is an in-depth class on the execution of signs found on Master/Choice courses. Students are required to have an up-to-date AKC Rally Event Rules and Regulations rulebook. A course walkthrough and evaluation of teams will be given weekly.

Rally Master Trial Preparation II

Prerequisite: Master Rally Trial Preparation I or by Instructor Approval

AKC Rally rules and regulations will be emphasized in this class. Class will be run as if it were a trial and an evaluation of the course will be part of the class. Class members will learn how to set up a Master course as part of their continuing education in Master and act as Judge for other members.

Rally Course of the Week

Prerequisite: Rally Class for the corresponding level of Course of the Week or by Instructor Approval

The following classes will not teach signs. They are for the teams that have taken the corresponding Rally class and need practice executing courses.

Rally Novice Course of the Week

Prerequisite: Rally Novice Class or by Instructor Approval

Rally Advanced/Intermediate Course of the Week

Prerequisite: Rally Advanced/Intermediate Class or by Instructor Approval

Rally Excellent Course of the Week

Prerequisite: Rally Excellent Class or by Instructor Approval

Rally Master/Choice Course of the Week

Prerequisite: Rally Master/Choice Class or by Instructor Approval

Scent Work

AKC Scent Work...

Scent Work is basically challenging a handler and dog team to locate scents that are hidden. It is based on the task of working detection dogs to locate a scent and communicate to the handler that the scent has been found. Dogs communicate or indicate this in various ways: lying down, sitting, looking at the handler or touching with their nose, etc. Dog/handler teams spend a lot of time training for Scent Work. The dog must be trained to recognize the scent and the handler must learn to read their dog!

The scents that are used are Birch, Anise, Clove and Cypress. These are in the form of essential oils that are placed on the end of a Q-tip (only a couple of drops are needed) and hidden by the judge. The scents are barely perceptible to humans. The the dog/handler team must correctly find where the Q-tip is hidden.

There are four "Elements" or environments:

- 1- Container: scent is concealed within a container (such as a cardboard box or purse)
- 2- Buried: scent is concealed within a shoebox sized plastic container which contains either sand or water. (A grate is placed on top of the container to prevent the dog from disturbing the hide)
- 3- Interior: scent is concealed on or in an object in an indoor search area (such as underneath a table or chair arm)
- 4- Exterior: scent is concealed on or in an object in an outdoor search area (such as under a pine cone or rock)

Each element has four classes, corresponding to four difficulty levels: Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Masters. Dogs will begin with the Novice level classes and move up as they earn titles. Factors such as the size of the search area, the number of hides, whether the number of hides is known or unknown to the handler, and the maximum height of the hides will change with the difficulty level.

Introduction to Scent Work

Prerequisite: Beginner 2 or Instructor Approval

Effective April 2022 there is a \$20 materials fee added to the cost of this course. The materials fee covers the cost of odors and other materials needed for this course.

This course will focus on building strong foundation skills for the dog and handler that are essential for success in AKC Scent Work. Birch is the scent that will be introduced. Handlers will be learning the importance of reward placement and timing, how to read their dogs and handling basics. The dog will learn independent problem solving while building confidence and enthusiasm for the search.

Novice Scent Work

Prerequisite: Introduction to Scent Work or Instructor approval

Effective April 2022 there is a \$20 materials fee added to the cost of this course. The materials fee covers the cost of odors and other materials needed for this course.

This course is a continuation of the *Introduction to Scent Work* class and is open only to continuing students or with instructor approval. Focus is on encouraging odor obedience and introduction of odor in the different environments or “elements” in order to expand searching experiences. Development of an indication behavior by the dogs will be encouraged. Handlers will continue refining reward placement and learning to read their dog’s indication behavior.

Advanced Scent Work

Prerequisite: Novice Scent Work or Instructor approval

Effective April 2022 there is a \$20 materials fee added to the cost of this course. The materials fee covers the cost of odors and other materials needed for this course.

This course is a continuation of the *Novice Scent Work* class and is open only to continuing students or with instructor approval. Focus is on strengthening the dog’s searching skills and refining handler skills to build a stronger team relationship. The scent of anise will be introduced. With addition of another scent, the concept of multiple hides and more complex searches will be presented. Handlers will be introduced to concepts of environmental influence on odor behavior; such as airflow, temperature and pooling odor. Teams may stay in Advanced for several sessions as they master the skills.

Excellent Scent Work

Prerequisite: Advanced Scent Work. Instructor approval required.

Effective April 2022 there is a \$20 materials fee added to the cost of this course. The materials fee covers the cost of odors and other materials needed for this course.

This course is a continuation of the *Advanced Scent Work* class and is open only to continuing students or with instructor approval. An additional scent, clove, will be introduced. The dog/handler team will encounter more complex search situations and practice typical hide locations such as inaccessible, threshold and corner hides. Skills practiced include time management and distractions. Teams may stay in Excellent for several sessions as they master the skills.

Master Scent Work

Prerequisite: Excellent Scent Work or Instructor approval required.

Effective April 2022 there is a \$20 materials fee added to the cost of this course. The materials fee covers the cost of odors and other materials needed for this course.

This course is a continuation of the *Excellent Scent Work* class and is open only to continuing students or with instructor approval. An additional scent, cypress, will be introduced. The dog/handler team will encounter a higher level of search scenarios that include unknown number of hides and blank interior rooms. Focus will be on building endurance, large search areas, complex hide placements such as inaccessible hides and converging odors, more distractors.

Tracking Tracking I

Prerequisite: None

These classes are taught offsite and tracking field use field use fees may apply.

Recommended equipment:

- Nonrestrictive tracking harness
- 20-40 foot long line or parachute cord. Note: leather gloves are needed if using cord
- Water
- Food rewards (Freeze dried liver or salmon)
- Six articles: (Approximately 6 inches square – leather/cloth glove, wallet or sock.)
- Six surveyor flags will be provided

This class is for dogs that are new to tracking and focuses on the following tracking skills:

- Measuring a Track
- Start Ritual
- Straight tracks with multiple articles
- Identify Dog's Tracking Style
- Article Indication
- Restart Routines
- End of Track Routine
- Lead Skills
- Curved Tracks
- Aging Tracks
- Cover Change
- Open Angle Turns
- Plotting and Mapping Track
- 90 degree Turns
- Combination Straight Legs and Turns

Tracking II

Prerequisite: Tracking I

Recommended Equipment:

- Nonrestrictive tracking harness.
- 20-40 foot long line or parachute cord. Note: leather gloves are needed if using cord
- Water
- Food rewards (Freeze dried liver or salmon)
- Six articles: (Approximately 6 inches square – leather/cloth glove, wallet or sock.
- Six surveyor's flags
- Paper (notebook, loose-leaf paper, index cards, etc.)
- Pencil or pen

This class builds upon the skills learned in Tracking I and adds:

- Laying & Charting a Track
- Problem Solving (Backing Up, Overshooting & Drifting Off)
- Marked Tracks
- Problems: Weather, Fields and Other Conditions
- Solving Dog Problems (Lack of drive, loss of interest)
- Aging the Track
- Reading your Dog