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Upcoming Events

Remember to come out to our Show and Goes for Agility and Obedience to refine you and your dog's skills.

Agility	Obedience
Sunday, December 16, 2012	Sunday, December 23, 2012

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Our next session of classes start January 21, 2013

If you are looking for more show and goes please see the [events section on the Academy Blog](#).

Local Events

October was busy for the Academy of Dog Training and Agility. The Agility Students were busy participating in Fair Hill International Festival, and for those students competing Lum's Pond Agility Trial.

Every year there are two Trials at Lum's Pond State Park (Spring and Fall). This trial is the closest trial to the Academy, so every year we try to make it a party atmosphere. We set up a mini tent city, and cheer each other on throughout the weekend. We also invite other students to come and spectate, in addition to friends and family.

This year was fun again; Saturday felt like summer (70's), while Sunday had lower temperatures (40's) and rain. Everyone toughed out the conditions and we had a lot of qualifications, and titles.

Special mention goes to Laurel Pearson and her dog Shelby, who participated in their first trial at Lum's qualifying in all three of her events with 1st place ribbons, and to Michael MacLeod and Ace who earned their MACH (the highest AKC Agility title) at Lum's Pond.

The second event of October was Fair Hill International Festival. Every year, the Academy of Dog Training and Agility packs up agility equipment and goes to Fair Hill for 4 days. In those 4 days volunteers from the academy do agility demonstrations for the public, and share what they've learned with the community through mini lessons.

While there people can also watch Frisbee dogs, Sled dog, Miniature Horses and the main horse events including: Cross Country, Dressage, and Stadium Jumping.

This year started out very wet, but with a little bit of hay after the rain stopped, the fun commenced.

I want to take this time to thank everyone who came out to, volunteered at, or participated in both of these events. Through these events we continue to show the public the Academy has great students, members and staff. Please enjoy some candid shots from both of these events:



Training Challenge



Do you want a challenge to increase your dog's mental stimulation? Shaping can do that! This months' shaping challenge is to teach your dog "On".

What do you need?

1. Your Dog
2. Clicker or verbal cue like yes.
3. Treats and / or tug toy
4. Object(s) for your dog to get on.

This exercise is good for core strength, proprioception, and flexibility.

One option to train this behavior is to teach your dog to foot target the object they are to get on. This can be done by a few steps.

1. Once you have placed the object(s) you want your dog to get on, on the ground,

click or mark every interaction your dog makes with the object(s).

2. After you have raised interest, up your criteria, and only click or mark every interaction your dog makes with the object using their feet.
3. After your dog is successful putting one foot on the object, up the criteria again and require more feet.
4. After you have your dog putting all of their feet on the object, determine your duration requirements. If you want duration, mark the behavior
5. Then use a release cue to end the behavior.
6. Build your duration by continuing to mark behavior prior to releasing; upping the

time till the duration you want is reached.

Finally, add your verbal cue to the behavior once you have exactly what you want. To do this you'll say the new Cue (I use Up).

Things to remember:

1. Set your criteria before starting
2. Set your dog up for success
3. If you want to build duration, reward while they have their head down at a high rate, and then incorporate a release cue.
4. Break up your sessions, keep sessions short and give him/her breaks within the session
5. Above all else, have fun with your dog!

Academy Brags

The last couple of months, as always, have been great for students at the Academy of Dog Training and Agility. Our dedicated dogs, handlers, and instructors show that the Academy is a great place to train and they deserve to be recognized:

Agility

- Kody and Kristin Anderson received their Novice Fast Title at WKC agility trial.
- Shelby and Laurel Pearson competed at their First Agility Trial WKC, and earned 3 first place ribbons.
- Anya and Carrie Eicher earned their Excellence A Title in AKC.
- Zada and Michael MacLeod earned 2 first placements at the Talbot Agility Show in Novice Jumps with Weaves.
- Emma and Julie Miller received their first double Q at GSNEC trial towards their Mach, additionally she Q'd in Standard at JAG agility show leaving 8 q's left for both her Master Excellent JWW and STD titles.
- Flash and Jen Slivka earned their Master's relay title in the USDAA venue.
- Peca and Jeanne Gallagher earned their Excellence A title after receiving q's and first place ribbons at WKC and GSNEC trials.
- Misty and Jeanne Gallagher earned a first place ribbon in Novice Fast at WKC agility trial after a long layoff from agility. At JAG agility trial they earned a second place ribbon in Novice Jumps with Weaves.
- Jiggy Blue and Cindy Stewart Double Q'd at JAG agility trial and are going to AKC Nationals!
- Hailey and Gail Muenster earned their second leg for Open Std with a first place ribbon at the PVGRC agility trial.
- Chloe and Cheryl Ulissi earned their 15th Double Q at JAG agility trial and needs 5 more to earn their MACH title.
- Ace and Michael MacLeod earned their MACH at WKC Agility Trial. The Mach not only requires your dog to compete in Excellence B the highest class in agility for two classes – Jumps with Weaves, and Standard, you have to receive qualifications on the same day in both of these classes 20 times to receive the Master Agility Championship Title. This is a very large accomplishment Congratulations Michael and Ace!
- Sammy and Don Eicher earned their MACH 3. The requirement for this title is 60 double qs at the Excellence B level. This is a very large accomplishment Congratulations Don and Sammy!
- Karma and Lauren Blackson received their Agility Dog title and their advanced snooker title in USDAA.
- Sabrina and Jeff Kase received an Open Regular q in CPE.
- Morgan and Jeff Kase participated in their first trial this month; they had some beautiful moments of working together and are looking forward to future trials.
- Rolex and Don Brown earned their Open Fast and Excellence A Jumps with Weaves titles in AKC.
- Dino and Erika Strasser 1 chances Novice, 1 Jumpers Elite and 1 Touch and go Elite Q in NADAC
- Elroy and Erika Strasser participated in their first trial earning a second place in jumpers for NADAC.

Obedience / Show Handling

- Rio and Janine/Dustin Britton received Best of Winners at the Devon show earning 1 point towards his championship. Later that month he took Winners Dog on both days of the show earning an additional 2 points toward his championship.

Join me in Congratulating these dogs, owners, and handlers on their great performances, and wishing them continued success in the future.

Also, join me in congratulating the instructors that have helped each along the way.

If you have brags you would like to include in the next issue of the newsletter, please post them on [the Bags page of our blog](#). put them on the Academy's chalkboard or contact me at Kristin@academyofdogtraining.com.



Hurricane Sandy



As Hurricane Sandy approached, I got ready, I bought food, water, and batteries, like so many up and down the East Coast. Then, the day before the storm, I realized I only had a few days of dog food left and I really needed to prepare for my dog as well.

This started me thinking, what should we know about preparedness for our 4 legged friends?

Luckily, there wasn't major flooding, power outages, or wind damage here, but, that wasn't the case about an hour and a half away.

Here's what I learned:

For emergency weather situations you should have 7 days of food, and water for your dog.

Additionally, you should keep your dogs' shot records, photos of your dogs, medicine,

collars with Identification tags, crates, and rabies certificates ready if you need to evacuate. In an evacuation do not leave your pets behind.

After Hurricane Katrina, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act requires all states looking for FEMA assistance to accommodate pets and service animals in their plans for evacuating residents facing disasters.

For Delaware residents, Delaware SPCA runs the pet side of all evacuation shelters. Prior to large events like Sandy they will publish a list of Pet friendly shelters in Delaware.

If you don't have to evacuate, remember that your dog may be nervous or stressed. They can be sensitive to changes in barometric pressure, thunder, wind, your stress/nervousness, etc. So

be extra vigilant when you are outside with them. Inside, things like soft music, crates with blankets and mats to act as a den, and thunder shirts may help to relieve anxiety.

Also remember your dogs will need entertainment while being cooped up inside. Teach them a new trick, play hide and seek with toys or food, generally get creative. Remember mental stimulation can be just as tiring as physical exercise.

I am glad this area fared so well in the storm, that I took this opportunity to learn more about preparedness, and that there is infrastructure in place to keep our pets safe. My hearts go out to all of the families and pets that face hardship due to the storm.

Recent Blog Articles

[There's a great big world out there](#) – Operant Conditioning and Reinforcement.

[The Space Between: Dog and Handler's Journey to Trialing](#) – How to feel comfortable going from class to trialing.

Feed back

What did you think about this addition of the Academy Times? What would you like to see going forward? We can only improve, if we know what's on your mind. We will strive to cater our information to you.

Please send all feedback to Kristin@Academyofdogtraining.com or use the feedback tool available on the [Academy site](#).

