

VOL. 78 NO. 53

JACKSON OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB NEWS

 **September**
2026 

2026 JOTC OFFICERS

President: June Atwood
Vice President: Donna Webb
Secretary: Hannah Freeman
Treasurer: Frances Shaw
Board of Directors: Jamie Dowd,
Therese Hanna & Kaelin Saul
Newsletter: Jamie Dowd & Donna Webb
Training Directors: Jamie Dowd & Donna Webb

JOTC Newsletter is electronically published monthly by JOTC via member emails. Content of articles submitted by individuals and published in the JOTC Newsletter may not reflect the views of all members of the Jackson Obedience Training Club.

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Please send all newsletter information to the following email keithandjamiedowd@gmail.com or text 601-899-2044



JOTC Monthly Meeting - Mon., September 14, 6:30 PM via Zoom

IN THIS EDITION:

Board, Announcements
Meeting Minutes
Fast CAT Flyer (PLEASE SHARE)
JOTC Fall Class Flyer (PLEASE SHARE)
Fall Farm Fun Testing- (PLEASE SHARE)
Conquering Ring Nerves
Scent Games: Unlocking Your Dog's Olfactory Superpowers
Fall Cleaning for our Furry Friends
Sweet Potato Jerky
Brags
AKC Rally Classes
Calendar of Events
The 1-2-3 Game!
Club Members



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- **FASTCAT - Setup Thursday, September 16 with Trial Days 17, 18, & 19.**
- **Fall Classes - Tuesday, September 29 & Thursday, October 1 - We need a few extra hands each of those nights for: HOLDING DOGS, FITTING COLLARS, & DIRECTING FOLKS TO CLASS AREAS. Watch for a signup email to help out these 2 nights.**
- **Fall Farm Fun Testing - Saturday, October 24**

Please screenshot and share this & the following page!

Our upcoming Fast CAT Trial
and
Fall Obedience Training Classes (Next Page)

Please, consider the following:

- Helping with collar fitting 9/29 or 10/1
- Holding dogs during registration 9/29 or 10/1
- Shadowing an instructor for 6 weeks of classes T or TH (to learn to teach)
- Assisting an instructor for 6 weeks of class T or TH (just to help)



Fast & Furriest
100 Yard Dog Dash or FastCAT

 Sponsored by *JOTC & BARK* 
TO BE HELD AT
*Richland MS Community Center
Parks and Recreation*
on September 18, 19, & 20, 2026
for information go to jotc.org.

*Every dog can leave paw
prints at the finish line!*



JACKSON OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB

Good Dogs Start Here!



Building better behaviors one paw at a time!

Classes Offered for 6 weeks each Spring/Fall

- AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy (3-6 months) - T
- Basic Obedience (6 months & up, plus by dog size if able) T/TH
- Advanced/CGC Obedience (requires Basic Obedience first) TH
- Rally (requires Basic Obedience first) T
- Each class is only \$125. There is a discount rate for rescue dog.



Classes Begin
Sept. 29 & Oct. 1,
2026

Class Locations & Times:

- Tuesday - Puppy & Basic Classes are offered at Old Trace Park. Instructors will specify the exact area at the park for class.
- Thursday - Basic & Advanced Classes are offered at Lakeshore Church; 6880 S. Siwell Rd.; Byram, MS 39272.

More Information



Register —>



Unleash your dog's potential!

What to bring:

- 6ft. leash
- poo bags
- water & bowl
- soft dog treats
- wear tennis shoes

Come even if your dog cannot!





Join JOTC for a
FUN-FILLED day

Of AKC Events:

- Farm Dog
- Fetch
- Temperament
- CGC/CGCA
- Trick Dog

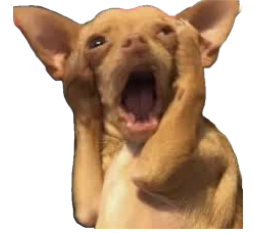
WHEN:
Saturday,
Oct. 24, 2026

WHERE:
Versatility Ranch
137 Gaddis Myers Rd.
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Premium at JOTC.org

Conquering Ring Nerves

Canine Competitive Obedience Toolbox / Catherine L. Zinsky
<http://www.gettoready.net/trainigHandling/trainingHandling.html>



Isn't it remarkable how the top handlers look so in control and self-assured when performing in obedience? Granted, much of their poise is a result of lots of experience. But the bulk of this observable ease comes from inner strengths invisible to the casual onlooker. On top of this they each have an honest and deep understanding of their dog's weaknesses and strengths—and they know how to control each for the ultimate in teamwork. These handlers enter a ring with enormous confidence, determination, and years of training that allow for absolute understanding of their dog and the relationship that they have developed. But even these seasoned competitors feel anxious, understand pressure, experience tremors of excitement, even have stabs of trepidation. They simply know how to rewire these energies for positive results. Nervous electricity is redirected and made to work for the handler's advantage. It becomes a strength rather than an impediment. Ring jitters actually become beneficial.

But how?

It begins in Novice A. This is where the seed is fertilized. This is where the spark, the desire to continue and learn and grow is discovered. This is where the handler recognizes that obedience is the sport they want to succeed in. It is often in Novice A that handlers are bitten by the obedience bug--and they find there is no turning back.

Yet having a love of the sport doesn't in and by itself mollify ring nerves, to be sure. Nevertheless it is a start. For those bitten, for those smitten, here are ten ways you can begin to redirect your fears into excitement, your insecurities into confidence, and your inexperience into determination:

TRUST YOUR CANINE COMPANION. If you are not convinced that your canine buddy can fulfill the exercises to your satisfaction, then don't enter a show until you are satisfied. It's imperative that you believe in him. Once you believe, you as the team leader will be able to perform to the best of your capabilities. You will be freed from worry. You will also be free to focus on the moment: your posture will be correct, your footwork will be right on, and your pace will be enthusiastic. This, in turn, will greatly enhance Prince's ability to strut proudly and confidently beside you. Your assurance will give him assurance.

TRAIN FOR MORE THAN WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE RING. In any given exercise, any given class, push the limits of your training far beyond that which you will need to accomplish your goals in a ring. You'll have greater success in a stressful situation when the requirements are less challenging than those you demand from yourself and your dog outside of the ring. For example: if you demand and successfully get attentive, fast right-270-degree turns in practice, an about-turn in the ring will be a breeze. Likewise, if Prince is trained to retrieve dumbbells that are hidden in bushes or on chairs, under chairs, and in the midst of his favorite toys a retrieve in a ring situation will be a lark. No problem. In other words, the exercises in the ring should ultimately be easier to execute than those in practice outside of the ring. This contrast—conjoined with (1) above—can greatly enhance a handler's confidence and subsequently moderate ring jitters.

PROOF WITH REALISTIC DISTRACTIONS. Training Prince to zero in on a dumbbell no matter what toys the dumbbell has landed among is one type of proofing: it's to make the retrieve an absolute in Prince's mind. Familiarizing and proofing Prince to the activities at a show or trial is another type, and one that too often is overlooked. It is very important that you not only introduce Prince to show environs early in his life, it is also essential that you teach him that he can/will work comfortably and reliably in show circumstances. Simulate potential distractions in your training regimen. For example, if Prince loves to retrieve, have a friend do retrieves near you while you heel around the commotion with Prince. Or have Prince do a Recall next to a dog doing retrieves, etc. It's very likely that someone in an adjacent ring will be doing retrieves while you're in the abutting ring with Prince. Prepare for that eventuality! Show noise can be horrific—and unnerving.

Tape some show noise, replete with booming loudspeakers and carts pulling crates, etc., then play it back while training Prince. Have someone walk in behind Prince as Prince is coming to front, something a judge is apt to do. Get him accustomed to the audible distractions as well as the physical. Be inventive! Knowing that Prince can perform under almost any circumstances will give you added assurance and again, reduce ring jitters.

ATTEND MANY SHOW 'N GOES AND MATCHES. What you want to do as near as possible is simulate show conditions—in and out of the ring. Your canine buddy needs to become comfortable working in a show-like environment, and the ambiance at these events will contribute greatly to this end. When at a match or show 'n go, **SET YOURSELF UP.** By this I mean speak to whomever is going to take you through your exercises before entering the ring and ask him/her to verbally judge you, to announce every crooked sit, wide turn, bump, whatever so that you know precisely when an error is happening so that you can apply the appropriate correction in a timely fashion. These are things you need to know. It's also an excellent use of the venue, and getting a verbal blow by blow will increase your anxiety. This is important as it gives you the opportunity to learn how to deal with your unease in a positive fashion: focusing on your dog and rectifying his errors. In addition to this, you should ask friends, colleagues, and/or family to stand ringside while you are in the ring. This will a.) put more pressure on you and so subsequently better simulate a true show, and b.) provide realistic distractions for your dog. People often stand ringside, erect, quiet, and staring, a posture that is frequently intimidating to a dog. It's necessary to insure Prince to such diversions. (Maintaining his focused attention on you will greatly offset such 'diversions'.) The use of matches and such will also allow you to better grasp your dog's weaknesses and strengths. Knowing them (and believe me: no dog is perfect. All dogs have strengths and weaknesses!) will afford you great flexibility: you as the handler can call upon and exaggerate the strengths while working to attenuate circumstances that would show his weaker areas. This takes experience, but it can and is done. Use matches and the like to teach you how to get started! In any event, the practice at these venues will afford you a stronger foundation for the actual AKC trial.

HAVE YOURSELF VIDEOTAPED. Having someone videotape you and your canine companion going through the paces can often put things in perspective. You're also made self-conscious and a little uneasy, which gives you the opportunity to willfully rise above these anxieties in order to focus on your job. Teach yourself to concentrate under self-imposed, apprehensive conditions. Working at mental control here will make it easier for you to achieve it in an obedience trial. Being videotaped also has the benefit of allowing you to recognize what areas need work. Seeing yourself and Prince performing on a big screen can have both a pleasant or jarring effect (I was 'jarred' into losing 12 lbs!!) A videotape is not as effectual as a match or show 'n go, but if you do both—have yourself videotaped at a match—you will double your analytical powers. Again, knowing where you are and what to expect will give you an inner strength that ultimately will help abate ring nerves. **DON'T THINK ABOUT THE GREEN: CONCENTRATE ON YOUR JOB.** Wanting to take home a green ribbon (or better) is natural. But the idea mustn't consume you. This ambition should not dominate your thoughts and purpose while in the ring. If it does, the hungry desire will actually deter your performance. This is not constructive. As a result you will neglect your part of the bargain with your dog: you won't be able to concentrate and therefore will be less than an adequate leader. You'll be fretting and worrying and wondering if Prince is going to lag, or miss a turn, or break groups. This is all negative thought, and totally unproductive. If you aren't there with Prince (and you can't be if you're worried about what might happen: that's the future, not the present,) there is no way you can expect Prince to be with you. A tumbling domino effect can result, with each consecutive time in the ring becoming more and more of a nightmare. What you need to do is be positive. You need to be the leader Prince depends upon you for. You need to concentrate on those things that demand your attention and focus so that you can better assist your dog. Concentrate on your handling, of giving the appropriate body cues, etc.; concentrate on keeping your dog focused and alert; concentrate on where you need to be at any given moment; be alert to potential hazards. In other words, **BE IN CONTROL!**



ARRIVE EARLY ON THE DAY OF SHOW. You can best prepare for your performance by arriving early on the show grounds. Arriving early and setting up in a convenient, yet relatively calm place will allow your dog to acclimate and accept the sights, sounds and smells permeating the show site that day. It will also afford you time to train if desired, as well as to watch your judge and the way the ring is being conducted. You'll be able to leisurely potty your dog, even play with him. Don't arrive late, rush up to the ring gate and enter unprepared. This will result in a less than desired performance no matter what level you're striving for. Nor will the experience be enjoyable, and it should be—despite ring nerves! Give yourself ample time to conclude all your busy work, greet friends, train Prince, and relax. Now you're set to go. This can only help calm show nerves.

KNOW THE HEEL PATTERN BEFORE ENTERING THE RING. Never, but never enter a ring without knowing the heel pattern. To do so is to leave this exercise to chance, which means you will not be in control. Sure, you'll probably get through it well enough, but it will not have the smoothness nor fluidity that it could have were you familiar with how it is called. Don't be caught off guard by a turn you didn't expect. Don't jerk into a halt that you didn't know would be where the judge called it. By knowing the ring pattern you do not need to focus all of your attentions and listen intently to what the judge is calling, you merely need to hear the command to perform it. This gives you the invaluable ability to be there with your dog, to be the leader he expects, not an intermediary between the judge and him. By knowing the ring pattern you will have more confidence and control, both of which greatly depreciate ring nerves!

VISUALIZE YOUR PERFORMANCE. Now that you know the heel pattern, have maybe even practiced it, take a breather. Sit down quietly and close your eyes. Mentally picture you and your dog performing each exercise, not just vaguely, but in its every step. Be positive. Feel its flow. Picture moving from the conclusion of one exercise to the setup for the next as well. (Seriously. Many dogs are lost during this transition.) By clearing your mind of everything save the visual imagery of the performance you are envisioning, you will discover that you have relaxed. Your breathing will be calmer and you will be more serene overall. By thinking about a positive performance and excluding concerns about disasters or NQs, you will take a giant step toward reducing ring nerves.

SHOW AS OFTEN AS YOU CAN. The more often you enter a ring, the more confident and knowledgeable you will become. Your fellow teammates, friends, instructor, and trainer can talk to you about ring procedure until they're blue in the face, but the bottom line is you won't truly understand and appreciate the subtleties of showing until you've stepped into a ring many, many times. Like the dog, a handler, too, must become seasoned. Entering a ring repeatedly will give you an intuitive understanding and feel that I personally believe is individualistic: no two people understand or feel it exactly the same. Succinctly put: there is no substitute for experience. Grow with the experience and learn to channel nervous energies such as anxiety and worry into positive energies such as self-assurance and self-control. Being excited is one thing: being a nervous wreck is another. To go into a ring as tense and rigid as a lightning rod can't be fun in the long run, and showing in obedience should be fun. It is fun! And extremely satisfying. So learn to channel your nerves into positive energies. Then go into the ring and enjoy the adventure!

Got Treats?



Your dog is ring ready if:

- He is competitive for his age physically
- He is comfortable with strangers touching him
- He is okay around other dogs
- He is trained to understand the behaviors necessary for the show ring
- He is comfortable in new locations

If your dog does not meet this criteria, he is probably not ready to show and may not be competitive yet.

www.showdogprepschool.com



Scent Games: Unlocking Your Dog's Olfactory Superpowers

Hannah Biddenstadt and Natalie Szymiczek naturalfarmpet.com

One of the most remarkable biological feats in the animal kingdom is the canine olfactory system. While humans possess roughly 6 million scent receptors, dogs boast up to 300 million. Their ability to analyze the world through scent is so sophisticated that they don't just smell a "stew"; they smell every individual ingredient, the age of those ingredients, and who handled them.

Engaging your dog in a scent game is more than just a pastime; it's practical "nose work" that satisfies a real biological need. By tapping into this instinct, you give mental enrichment that physical exercise alone rarely matches, especially for smart, busy, or easily bored dogs.

Continue reading to learn how to turn your living room (or backyard) into a sensory playground, build "mental fatigue" in a healthy way, and level up your training using simple dog nose work games.

The Core Benefits of Dog Nose Work: More Than Just Fun

Understanding why your dog needs to sniff is the first step toward a more balanced life for your pet. While a walk around the block provides physical movement, a "sniffari", a walk focused on smelling, is what truly tires a dog out. If you do longer sniff-heavy outings, keep them safe in warmer weather with this guide to walking your dog in the heat.

When we incorporate structured dog nose work games into a routine, we're essentially giving dogs a high-level cognitive puzzle to solve. That kind of enrichment often shows up in daily life as better focus, less restlessness, and fewer boredom behaviors—especially when you combine nose work with other healthy habits like playing with your dog.

Mental Exhaustion vs. Physical Exercise

Many pet owners confuse physical fatigue with mental fulfillment. A high-energy dog can run for miles and still feel restless. However, dog nose work games require intense cognitive processing. Scientists suggest that 15 minutes of focused sniffing is mentally equivalent to an hour of walking. This "brain work" lowers the heart rate and helps satisfy the dog's predatory drive in a controlled, indoor environment.

Anxiety Reduction and Confidence Building

Scent work is a powerful tool for behavior modification. When a dog sniffs, their brain releases dopamine, the "feel-good" neurotransmitter. For anxious or reactive dogs, focusing on a scent game provides a "job" that builds confidence. As they successfully navigate environmental challenges to find a hidden reward, their self-assurance grows, often translating into calmer behavior in daily life.,

From Beginner to Pro: Progressive Scent Games for Dogs

To keep your dog engaged, you must treat scent work as a progression. Moving from simple "find it" tasks to complex discrimination exercises ensures long-term interest.

Level 1: The "Self-Rewarding" Search (Getting Started)

The goal here is to build a "search drive." The dog must understand that using their nose leads to an immediate payoff.

The Drill: Start in a small, distraction-free room. Place highly aromatic treats, like Natural Farm Anchovy Treats, in plain sight.

The Command: Use a consistent cue like "Search!" or "Find it!"

Progression: Once the dog associates the cue with the reward, begin placing the treats partially hidden (e.g., under a cardboard flap or behind a chair leg). - *Jamie note, I began with a treat in one closed hand & closed empty hand.*

Level 2: Environmental Discrimination (Muffin Tins and Boxes)

This stage introduces the concept of "filtering." The dog must differentiate between objects that contain a scent and those that are "cold" (empty).

The Muffin Tin Puzzle: Place treats in three cups of a 12-cup muffin tin. Cover every cup with a tennis ball. The dog must pinpoint which three balls to remove, ignoring the nine empty ones. *Jamie note - I only used treats under 1 cup out of 3-5 cups because at this stage I didn't want Finley continuing the "search" after the reward was found.*

The Box Circuit: Set out five empty boxes. Place a high-value reward like a Beef Natbone in only one. This forces the dog to work through a "scent plume" to find the exact source. *Jamie note - this is when I used 6-9 boxes to create a better "scent plume" which is the fragrant strength trail dogs follow to locate a scent.*

If you're using chews as the high-value reward in this level, choose options thoughtfully—especially for strong chewers. This guide on how to decide which treats are best for your dog can help you match the reward to your dog's size, habits, and needs.

Level 3: Dynamic Tracking (Scent Trails and Air Scenting)

Advanced scent games for dogs involve following a trail that has "aged" or catching a scent on the wind.

Scent Trails: Rub a piece of treats along the floor in a continuous line, ending with a "jackpot" (a larger pile of treats).

Air Scenting: Hide a treat in a high place (like a windowsill) where the scent will drift through the air rather than staying on the ground. This teaches the dog to use their nose in three dimensions.

Training & Discipline: Integrating Scent Work into Daily Life

The benefits of these games extend far beyond the play sessions. By integrating scent work into your daily routine, you can bridge the gap between "playtime" and "obedience time," making your training much more effective and enjoyable for your dog.

The "Scent-Driven Recall"

If your dog struggles with coming when called, use their nose to fix it. Scatter a handful of Natural Farm treats in the grass near you and call them. The combination of your voice and the irresistible "scent cloud" makes your position the most rewarding place on earth.

Impulse Control: The "Which Hand?" Technique

This game teaches your dog to think before they act.

Place a treat in one closed fist.

Present both fists.

The dog must sniff and then signal (by sitting or touching with a nose) which hand has the treat.

If they paw aggressively or bark, the reward is withheld. This builds patience and focus.



Why the "Aroma Profile" of Your Treats Matters

In professional scent games, the reward is the motivation. Low-quality, "bready" treats often lack the chemical volatility needed to create a strong scent trail. To optimize your sessions, choose treats with a high aroma profile.

Step-by-Step: Setting Up Your First Professional Scent Circuit (at home)

Use this checklist to ensure a successful session:

Clear the Area: Remove toys or other food that might distract the dog.

Select Your "Hot" Object: Use a high-value, odorous treat from Natural Farm.

Set the Boundary: Decide if the game is in one room or the whole house.

The "Stay" Phase: Keep your dog in a different room while you set the "hide."

Release and Reward: Use your cue word. When they find the treat, offer verbal praise immediately to reinforce the success.

If your reward is a chew rather than a soft treat, make sure it fits your dog's chewing style—and build a safety habit around chew time.

Troubleshooting Common Challenges

My dog gives up: The hide is too difficult. Go back to Level 1 and make the treat visible. (*Or the reward more valuable*)

My dog uses their eyes, not their nose: Play in a darkened room or hide the treat inside an opaque container (like a box) with small air holes.

My dog gets too frustrated: Keep sessions short. 5 to 10 minutes is plenty. Always end on a successful find!

Scent games are a fantastic way to tap into your dog's extraordinary sense of smell, providing mental stimulation, enhancing training, and strengthening your bond.

With high-quality treats and chews from Natural Farm (*or anywhere your dog loves*), you can make these games even more rewarding and enjoyable for your furry friend. So, why wait? Get ready to embark on a scent-sational journey of fun and learning with your beloved canine companion!



Getting Started in AKC Scent Work

AKC divides Scent Work into 2 divisions: The Odors (distinguishing essential oils) and Handler Discrimination (dog searches for the scent of the handler). Each division has four levels Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Master.

Teams are judged on a qualify/non-qualify basis. Your dog must use his nose to search out the hidden odors, and then alert you when the odors are detected. Dogs may paw, bark, point with their nose or body, sit, lie down, or use any other behavior to communicate the location of the odor. The odors are Birch, Anise, Clove, and Cypress.

more details can be found on [AKC.org](https://www.akc.org)



🦠 Fall Cleaning for our Furry Friends 🦠 From Center of Disease Control

A thorough fall cleanup of dog kennels, toys, and bowls prepares your pet's space for cooler weather by removing summer grime, dirt, and lingering pathogens.

Here is a step-by-step guide to cleaning and sanitizing everything safely.

1. Clear and Prep the Space

- Move your dog: Take your dog out of the kennel and place them in a safe holding area or inside the house.
- Remove all items: Take out all bedding, food and water bowls, and toys.
- Clear debris: Use a scooper, broom, or vacuum to pick up all solid waste, dirt, hair, and old food crumbs.

2. Deep Clean and Disinfect the Kennel

- Wash first: Scrub surfaces with a detergent or dish soap and water to break down dirt and biofilms. Disinfectants do not work properly on dirty surfaces.
- Rinse: Rinse away the soap with a hose.
- Apply disinfectant: Spray a pet-safe, heavy-duty cleaner like Rescue Ready to Use Veterinary Disinfectant or Nature's Miracle Advanced Stain & Odor Virus Dog Disinfectant Spray across all walls, gates, and floors.
- Wait: Let the product sit wet for the manufacturer's recommended contact time (usually 5 to 10 minutes).
- Rinse and dry: Rinse all chemical residues completely with hot water, then use a squeegee and good airflow to dry the space fully before letting your dog back in.

3. Sanitize Bowls and Toys

- Food and water bowls: Wash hard plastic, metal, or ceramic bowls in hot, soapy water or run them through the dishwasher if they are labeled dishwasher-safe. Disinfect by soaking them in a diluted bleach solution, then rinse thoroughly.
- Rubber and plastic toys: Scrub hard rubber, nylon, and plastic toys in warm water with antibacterial soap, using a toothbrush to clean tight crevices.
- Rope and plush toys: Wash soft toys and machine-washable rope toys in the washing machine on a hot cycle, then dry them completely on low heat or in the sun to prevent mold. Throw away any heavily chewed, splintered, or damaged toys that can trap bacteria.

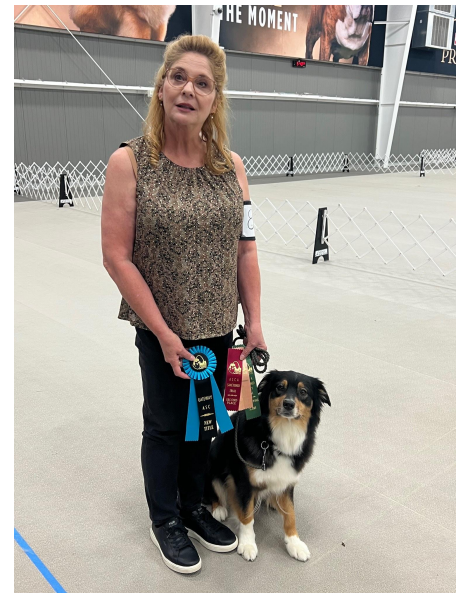
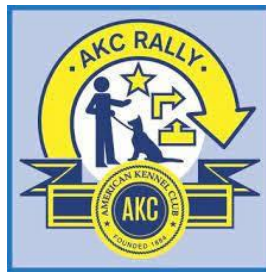
🍠 Sweet Potato Jerky 🍠

- Wash, remove skin, and slice thin lengthwise strips about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.
- Place the slices on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- Bake at 250 degrees F for 3 hours, flipping halfway through, until the strips are dried, chewy, and crisp.
- Hopefully your dog will love this inexpensive and healthy fall treat! But DO NOT over treat these as with any treats.





From Nancye and Tim McGowan:
Cassie and Katie went to an ASCA (Australian Shepherd Club of America) show at Purina Farms in Missouri earlier this month and earned ASCA rally titles, Katie a RNx (rally novice excellent) and Cassie a RN.



AKC RALLY® CLASSES

AKC RALLY® is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course, designed by the rally judge, made up of various skills as stated on the sign. Each sign provides instructions regarding the skill that is to be performed. There are six levels of classes, with Novice, Advanced and Excellent having two divisions, each with increasing levels of difficulty. An "*" denotes Optional Titling Classes. These are not required for the dog to progress to other classes.

- Rally Novice
- Rally Intermediate*
- Rally Advanced
- Rally Excellent
- Rally Master
- Rally Choice*

AKC Rally®: Handlers in the "A" classes must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family.

RALLY NOVICE A [RN Title]	RALLY ADVANCED A [RA Title]	RALLY EXCELLENT A [RE Title]
Dog must not have an AKC RN or AKC Obedience (CD) title or higher prior to the close of entries. Handlers may not have earned any AKC Rally or AKC Obedience (CD) title or higher. The dog may be shown in Rally Novice A for 60 days after earning an RN title. Thereafter, any events entered where the entries have not closed, must be moved either to the "B" class or moved up to the next class level.	Dog must have an RN title but not an RA title or an AKC Obedience (CD) title or higher prior to close of entries. The dog may be shown in Rally Advanced A for 60 days after earning an RA title. Thereafter, any events entered where the entries have not closed, must be moved either to the "B" class or moved up to the next class level.	Dog must have an RA title but not an RE title or an AKC Obedience (CD) title or higher prior to close of entries. The dog may be shown in Rally Excellent A for 60 days after earning an RE title. Thereafter, any events entered where the entries have not closed, must be moved either to the "B" class or moved up to the next class level.

AKC Rally®: Handlers in the "B" classes may be the owner of the dog entered or any other person.

RALLY NOVICE B [RN Title]	RALLY ADVANCED B [RA Title, RAE Title & RACH Title]	RALLY EXCELLENT B [RE Title, RAE Title & RACH Title]
Dog may be entered in this class until earning a qualifying score in Rally Advanced.	Dog must have an RN title to be eligible to enter this class. May compete indefinitely.	Dog must have an RA title to be eligible to enter this class. May compete indefinitely.

AKC Rally®:

RALLY MASTER [RM and RACH Title]	RALLY INTERMEDIATE* [RI Title]	RALLY CHOICE* [RC Title]
Dog must have an RE to be eligible to enter this class. May compete indefinitely.	Dog must have an RN title to be eligible to enter this class. Dogs may compete in Intermediate & Advanced at the same trial, <u>but after earning an RA title</u> , they are no longer eligible for this class.	A prerequisite title is not required to enter this class; all dogs are eligible to enter. May compete indefinitely.

UPCOMING EVENTS from SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 - MAY 09, 2027

AB=Conformation; AG=Agility; O=Obedience; JSHW=Jr Showmanship; RLY=Rally; BPUP=4-6 month Beg Puppy; SCWK=Scent Work,
CABT = Coursing Ability; FCAT = Fast CAT, OPNC = FSS Open Conformation, FETC = Fetch (Within 350 miles of Jackson, MS for conformation)

Foy Trent Dog Shows ~ PO Box C Sturgeon, MO 65284-0397 ~ (573) 687-2101 ~ info@foytrentdogshows.com					
MB-F Inc. ~ PO Box 22107 Greensboro, NC 27420-2107 ~ (336) 379-9352 ~ Mbf@Infodog.Com					
Onofrio Dog Shows ~ PO Box 25764 ~ Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0764 ~ (405) 427-8181 ~ Mail@Onofrio.Com					
Date	Club	Location	Event	Super	Closing
Sep 12 & 13 '26	Southeast Missouri Herding C	McRae, AR	FCAT (2 each day)	McGowa	Sep 04
Lisa McGowan PO Box 340 McRae, AZ 72102 ~ (501) 281-5214 ~ lismcgowan33@yahoo.com					
Sep 18 - 20 '26	Jackson Obedience TC / BARK	Richland, MS	FCAT (2 each day)	Shaw	day of
Frances Shaw 1402 Olivia Ln Terry, MS 39170 ~ (601) 260-7368 ~ shawfrances@bellsouth.net					
Sep 19 - 20 '26	White County KC Academy	McRae, AR	Barn Hunt (open Aug 07)	Gaffney	Sep 07
Mollie Gaffney ~ 501-658-8949 ~ Email: m_fiegel@hotmail.com					
Sep 25 - 27 '26	LA Capital City OC	Carencro, LA	AG (limited to 330)	Guthans	Nov 20
Nedra Guthans 10115 Tams Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70815-1533 ~ (225) 954-5208 ~ nedrahg@cox.net					
Sep 26 & 27, '26	Hot Springs Nat'l Park KC	Hot Springs, AR	AB / BPUP / JSHW / O / RLY	Onofrio	Sep 09
Sep 26 & 27, '26	Murfreesboro OTC	Murfreesboro, TN	SCWK (opens Jul 29) 2 trials per day	Underw	Sep 09
Shay Underwood 3850 W Trimble Rd Milton, TN 37118-4434 ~ (615) 653-5523 ~ trialsecretary4motc@gmail.com					
Oct 02 '26	American Pomeranian Club	Ecu, MS	SCWK (2 each day) (opens Sep 04)	Nesbit	Sep 18
Oct 03 & 04	Memphis Kennel Club	all breeds			
Nancy Nesbit 99 East Rd Ecu, MS 38841 ~ nesbitm@bellsouth.net ~ 901-240-7945					
Oct 02 - 04 '26	Birmingham KC	Wilsonville, AL	FCAT (2 trials each day)	Wren	Sep 18
Jenni Wren PO Box 356 Magnolia Springs, AL 36555 ~ (251) 752-1061 ~ saltydogscoursing@gmail.com					
Oct 03 & 04, '26	Deep South All Breed OTC	Kenner, LA	O - 2 trials each day	Hill	Sep 16
Julie Hill 240 Sandra Lee Dr. Mandeville, LA 70448 ~ (985) 626-3556 ~ prankstr2@bellsouth.net					
Oct 03 & 04, '26	Southeast Missouri Herding C	McRae, AR	CABT (2 each day)	McGowa	Sep 04
Lisa McGowan PO Box 340 McRae, AZ 72102 ~ (501) 281-5214 ~ lismcgowan33@yahoo.com					
Oct 03 & 04, 26	Decatur Alabama KC	Decatur, AL	O	Richey	Sep 16
Laquinn Richey 804 Bowles Bridge Rd Hartselle, AL 35640-7705 ~ (256) 303-1784 ~ laquinn.richey@yahoo.com					
Oct 03 & 04, '26	Hot Springs National Park KC	McRae, AR	FCAT (2 trails per day)	Potter	Sep 28
Melanie Potter 113 Fern Street Hot Springs, AR 71901 ~ (501) 622-8674 ~ mvp123@sbcglobal.net					
Oct 03 & 04, '26	Five Flags DTC of Pensacola, FL	Pensacola, FL	O / RLY (2 each on Sat)	Grinstea	Sep 18
Tami Grinstead 5792 Pebble Ridge Dr Milton, FL 32583-2305 ~ (850) 501-5778 ~ tsyorkieland@aol.com					
Oct 09 - 11, 26	Mobile Bay Dog TC	Vancleave, MS	AG	Leard	Sep 25
Winona Leard 4300 Hoffman Rd Mobile, AL 36619 ~ (251) 604-3100 ~ nonaleard@comcast.net					
Oct 17 & 18, 26	Greater Birmingham AC	Westover, AL	AG	Crisman	Oct 03
Jennifer Crisman 1073 Rock School Rd Harpersville, AL 35078-4311 ~ (205) 233-7294 ~ jcrisman01@gmail.com					
Oct 17 & 18, 26	Mid South Fox Terrier Club	Millington, TN	FCAT (2 each day)	Cummi	day of
Krista Cummings 385 Crooked Creek Oakland, TN 38060 ~ (901) 301-8111 ~ krista.cummings@comcast.net					
Oct 17 & 18	Greater Birmingham Agility	Westover, AL	AG pended	Crisman	Oct 03
Jennifer Crisman 1073 Rock School Rd Harpersville, AL 35078-4311 ~ (205) 233-7294 ~ jcrisman01@gmail.com					
Oct 22 - 25, 26	Swamp Dog AC of GNO	Covington, LA	AG	Shoop	Oct 08
Rosalind Shoop 20461 Smith Road Covington, LA 70435 ~ (985) 201-4978 ~ rozyschoop@gmail.com					
Sat Oct 24, 26	Jackson Obedience TC	Pelehatchie, MS	Farm Dog, Fetch, Temperament Test, CGC, Trick Dog	Shaw	day of
Frances Shaw 1402 Olivia Ln Terry, MS 39170 ~ (601) 260-7368 ~ shawfrances@bellsouth.net					
Oct 24 & 25, 26	LA Capital City OC	Baton Rouge, LA	SCWK (2 trials per day)	Odum	Oct 15
Polly Odum 10125 Tams Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70815-1533 ~ (225) 335-3445 ~ podom1@msn.com (Random draw)					
Oct 24 & 25, 26	Montgomery AL DOC	Millbrook, AL	O (2 on Sat & 2 on Sun)	Harless	Oct 07
Beth Harless 6086 Deatsville Hwy Deatsville, AL 36022-5919 ~ (334) 354-2535 ~ beth.madoc@gmail.com					
Oct 29 - Nov 01	Group clubs & MS Gulf Coast	Gulfport, MS	FCAT (2 each day)	Elkes	Oct 14
Dan Elkes 9120 Airport Blvd Suite N Mobile, AL 36608 ~ (251) 459-4970 ~ elkesdan@gmail.com					
Oct 31 Nov 01	Paw Prints AC of Shreveport	Bossier City, LA	FCAT (2 each day)	Scorzelli	Oct 21
Elizabeth Scorzelli 333 Fontaine St Shreveport, LA 71105 ~ (318) 347-9359 ~ sawyer422@aol.com					
Oct 31 - Nov 01	Ragtime Ratters	Olive Branch, MS	Barn Hunt (2 each day)	Willis	day of
Kathryn Willis ~~~ 949-463-8112 ~~~ Email: kathrynwillis@gmail.com					

Date	Club	Location	Event	Super	Closing
Nov 13 - 15, 26	Little Rock Dog TC	Little Rock, AR	SCWK (opens Sep 28)	Jackson	Nov 06
Susan Jackson 1617 Britney Dr Sherwood, AR 72120-4811 ~ (501) 515-1410 ~ sjackson2@comcast.net					
Nov 14 & 15, 26	Mobile Bay DTC	Vancleave, MS	O / RLY	Clement	Oct 28
Susan Clement 8555 Sterling Dr Mobile, AL 36695-3650 ~ (251) 767-7253 ~ fsuclem@bellsouth.net					
Nov 13 - 15, 26	Greater Birmingham Agillity	Odenville, AL	AG		Oct 31
Jennifer Crisman 1073 Rock School Rd Harpersville, AL 35078 ~ (205) 223-7294 ~ jcrisman01@gmail.com					
Nov 20 - 22	Montgomery KC	Wetumpka, AL	CABT / FCAT (2 each Fri - Sun)	Wren	day of
Jenni Wren P.O Box 356 Magnolia Springs, AL 36555 ~ (251) 752-1061 ~ saltydogscoursing@gmail.com					
Nov 27 - 29, 26	Five Flags DTC of Pensacola	Pensacola, FL	AG	Grinste	Nov 13
Tami Grinstead 5792 Pebble Ridge Drive Milton, FL 32583 ~ (850) 501-5778 ~ tsyorkieland@aol.com					
Nov 28 & 29, 26	Memphis Kennel Club	Ecu, MS	SCWK (2 a day / opens Nov 4)	Nesbit	Nov 18
Nancy Nesbit 99 East Road Ecu, MS 38841 ~ (901) 240-7945 ~ nesbitm@bellsouth.net					
Dec 04 - 06, 26	LA Capital City OC	Port Allen, LA	AG (opening Oct 5 / limited to 330)	Guthans	Nov 20
Nedra Guthans 10115 Tams Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70815-1533 ~ (225) 954-5208 ~ nedrahg@cox.net					
Dec 04 & 05	North Arkansas KC	Harrison, AR	2 O / 2 RLY per day	Gibbany	Nov 20
Sherry Gibbany 158 Bland St Cotter, AR 72626 ~ (870) 416-7062 ~ sherrygibbany57@gmail.com					
Dec 05 - 06, 26	Paw Prints AG of Shreveport	Greenwood, LA	AG (opens Oct 14 / 350 limit)	Scorzelli	Nov 18
Elizabeth Scorzelli 333 Fontaine St Shreveport, LA 71105-4135 ~ (318) 347-9359 ~ sawyer422@aol.com					
Dec 26 - 27	White County KC Academy	McRae, AR	Barn Hunt (open Aug 07)	Gaffney	Sep 07
Mollie Gaffney ~ 501-658-8949 ~ Email: m.fiegel@hotmail.com					
Dec 27 - 30, 26	Berger Picard Club of America	Foley, AL (2 a day)	CABT / FCAT (open to all breeds)	Wren	Dec 17
Jenni Wren P.O Box 356 Magnolia Springs, AL 36555 ~ (251) 752-1061 ~ saltydogscoursing@gmail.com					
Dec 28 - 31, 26	Swamp Dog A C of GNO	Covington, LA	AG (opens Oct 12)	Shoop	Dec 14
Rosalind Shoop 20461 Smith Road Covington, LA 70435 ~ (985) 201-4978 ~ rozyschoop@gmail.com					
Jan 08 - 10, 27	Pensacola Dog Fanciers	Pensacola, FL	FCAT (2 each day)	Webb	Jan 10
Sharon Webb P.O. Box 275 Grimsley, TN 38565 ~ (707) 733-3644 ~ speeddogcoursing@gmail.com					
Jan 15 - 17, 2027	Golden Triangle KC of MS	Starkville, MS	AB / BPUP / JSHW 2 RLY on Sat / 2 O on Sun	Foy T	Dec 30
Jan 22 - 24, 2027	Mississippi State KC	Jackson, MS	AB / BPUP / JSHW / OPNC / O / RLY (2 rally on Fri / 2 obed on Sat)	Onofrio	Jan 06

The 1-2-3 Game!

Training Articles by Catherine L. Zinsky (<http://www.gettoready.net/>) (Donna's note - This was one of Mary's most favorite exercise)

Remember when you were a child and you would count to '3' before sprinting off in hopes of outracing your peers? The wait and the count helped build your anxiety, your intensity. It encouraged you to take off with gusto. It also forced you to wait and not take off before the allowed time.

Well, incorporating this drive and impulse control is exactly why I love to use the 1-2-3 game in my everyday training. It encourages my dog, makes him want to do whatever we're doing even more so--and it forces him to wait until released. It's a fantastic game that I use over and over, even integrating it with other games I use with my dogs. It's my favorite game, bar none. And it's so simple.

The game goes like this:

Set your dog up for whatever skill or exercise you wish to work on. Before giving a command, build intensity by slowly counting with a tantalizing voice first '1', then '2', then '3'. Pause in-between counts. Entice with your pace and your tone. After the count of 3, release your dog with the command for the skill you're working on--and watch your dog's enthusiasm grow!

It's important to remember that should your dog break BEFORE you give the release command, you start all over again! Do not resume from wherever your dog broke. START ALL OVER AGAIN FROM THE COUNT OF '1'.

(My Cattle Dog, Derby, used to get so frustrated with me at times when I played this game with her. If she would start before I gave a command and I let her know that she had cheated, she would bark and bark at me, letting me know that I had to get on with it! Loved that dog. And she dearly loved this game!)

And remember: this is a game. When playing this game the only correction my dog gets is when my dog breaks the stay before I send him, and then I only let him know that he's screwed up. I want him to know he's made a mistake, but that it's not the end of the world. No big deal. I want my dog to grow through success, not be beaten into submission. That's the true purpose of these games: to help a dog succeed and grow and enjoy the process!

GOT TREATS?