



# AGILITY NEWSLETTER

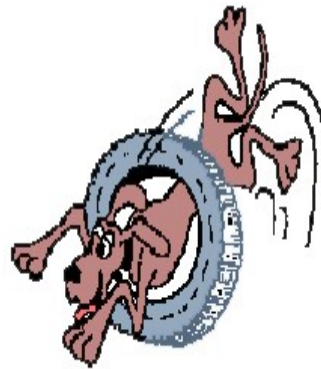
Volume 1, Issue 1  
January 1, 2012

## 2012 NEW ENGLAND AGILITY TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED

The New England Agility Team would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the 2011 Board of Directors for their leadership and service. Our organization relies on dedicated volunteers for continued success. NEAT would especially like to thank our 2011 President, Mary Keays.

The 2012 election results are as follows:

- President: Karen Kay
- Vice-President: Nadine Perry
- Treasurer: Andrea Rogers
- Secretary: Megan LaCroix
- Membership Coordinator: Isabel Danforth



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## THE 2011 N.E.A.T. SUPERSTARS: NANCY HOFFMAN AND STEWIE

NEAT Team members would like to officially congratulate Nancy and Stewie on both their NATCH accomplishment and on their trip to the NADAC National Championships in Springfield, Illinois.

NATCH Stewart Gilligan Griffin  
S-EAC, S-TN-E  
S-EJS, S-TG-E  
WVE, O-ECC  
HP-O

Several NEAT members were able to witness Stewie and Nancy achieve their NATCH Award in No. Smithfield, RI. The victory lap was as good as the run itself!

The dynamic duo then set their sites on the trip to NADAC Nationals with their long-time traveling partners, Mary Keays and Kiah.



### Points of Interest

- NEAT Show N Go in October at Tonry Tree Farm
- Addition of Flying Colours Barn for Competition Training and NEAT Practice
- NEAT Christmas Party at the NHSPCA in Stratham on January 14th at 4:30pm

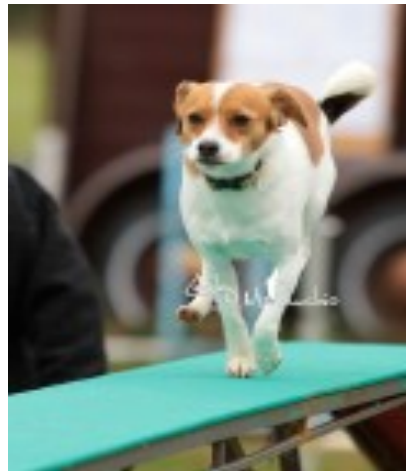
## NEAT HOSTS OCTOBER SHOW N GO

NEAT hosted its annual Show N Go Event at the Tonry Tree Farm in Exeter, NH on October 30th, 2011. Although we faced the first "chilly" temperatures of the fall season, we beat the Sunday snowstorm and fun was had by all who attended.

The Show N Go is a great event for all. Our judge for this years event was Seth Dunn. Seth was extremely helpful and supportive to the first time agility handlers and dogs in attendance.

The Show N Go format is designed for both new and seasoned agility participants. It is a great environment to test both you and your dog in. The judge and master handlers in attendance are extremely helpful to those trying competition for the first time. You can also utilize toys and treats to train in the ring. There is no pressure. . just lots of

fun for all involved. The NEAT Show N Go is also the end of our outdoor season at Tonry Tree Farm. Upon completion of the event, NEAT members pack up the equipment for winter!



### NEAT Team Members

#### Participating In The Show N Go

- Mary Keays: Kiah
- Andrea Rogers: Phoebe
- Liz Pasek : Danny Boy
- Sandy Cody: Jed
- Nancy Hoffman: Stewie
- Meghan & Darren Lacroix: Chance
- Karen Kay: Taffy
- Margaret Palladino : Jimmy and Lucy
- Allegra May: Violet
- Helen Connell: Choc and Tenzing
- Maggie Currier: Sadie

Photo of Taffy by Show N Go Photographer Lesley Mattuchio of Melrose, MA

## USDAA INTRO PROGRAM FOR BEGINNERS

The Intro program is designed to help new competitors and dogs get started in dog agility by measuring accomplishments in the early stages of training. Performance standards in the Intro program are based upon those in USDAA's other classes with adjustments to equipment configuration and course times . Competitors

*"Come join NEAT members Jed and Sandy, Twinkle and Nadine, and Taffy and Karen at the next Intro Event in Nashua!"*

with dogs that are at least fourteen (14) months of age and upon which have not earned titles in the Championship, Performance or Veterans Program are eligible to earn titles under this program. The Intro program provides titles in a single level in Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, and Snooker.

Riverside Canine Club  
Nashua, NH

January 27 at 4:30pm

February 24 at 4:30pm

\*Check the USDAA website for premiums to sign-up. Walk-Ins Accepted.

## DOGS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CHRISTMAS VIDEO

The Dogs of New Hampshire video was filmed at No Monkey Business Dogs in Bow, NH. You can visit DeesDogs (Dee Ganley) on Facebook or link directly to it on You Tube.

The Dogs of New Hampshire came to the rescue for all of those dogs in local shelters during the holiday season. This is the dog version of Toys For Tots and they made quite an impression on everyone.

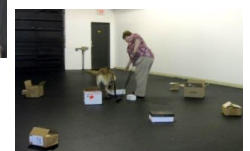
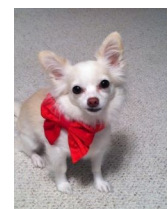
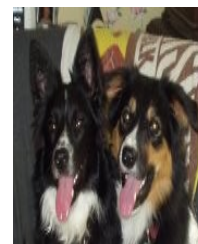
Please make sure to check out a few of **NEAT's own stars** that participated in the video.

**Andrea with Phoebe**

**Margaret with Jimmy**

**Sandy with Jed**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-ESCAIwaRk&feature=youtu.be>



# NADINE PERRY'S TRAINING TIPS

Three elements of my positive training approach will serve you well as you begin agility training.

1. **It is correction-free.**
2. **Your dog is frequently reinforced for the desired behaviors.**
3. **Communication with your dog is clear, timely, and consistent.**

Correction-Free Training is necessary in order for your dog to play the agility game quickly. Your dog must be relaxed and confident. The dog must know that you and he/she are playing a great game together and that they will be rewarded for their best effort! The dog must not worry about disapproval.

Always remember that there are no "mistakes" in agility training. A dog who is corrected during agility training, even in the most subtle ways, becomes worried about making mistakes and slows down.

### The Challenge of Staying Positive

Giving no corrections is amazingly difficult. You will want to do or say something when mistakes are happening, but continue along and give no hint of your disappointment for frustration. Then, go back and try it again, providing clearer direction for your dog. If he then gets it, it's JACKPOT TREAT time!

Please email: [NadinePerry2003@yahoo.com](mailto:NadinePerry2003@yahoo.com) for tips you want to see in the NEAT Newsletter



*"Making training all about games is what I seek to achieve. Both the dog and the handler/owner should be enjoying the experience to be successful."*

**Nadine Perry**

## TIPS ON REWARDING FOR MOTIVATION

- Keep your sessions short
- Reward. . .Reward. . .Reward!
- Know when to handout the "Jackpot" of treats
- No negative energy or frustration should be demonstrated by you, the handler.
- Know what is reinforcing and rewarding for your dog (toys, food, touch, verbal praise, play, etc.)
- Be the leader: provide energy and focus for your dog
- In agility, reinforce motion with motion (throw a toy, ball or pouch, etc.)
- Never let your dog think he or she is wrong for the handling mistake that you made.

*"The minute you get away from fundamentals the bottom can fall out."*  
-Michael Jordan

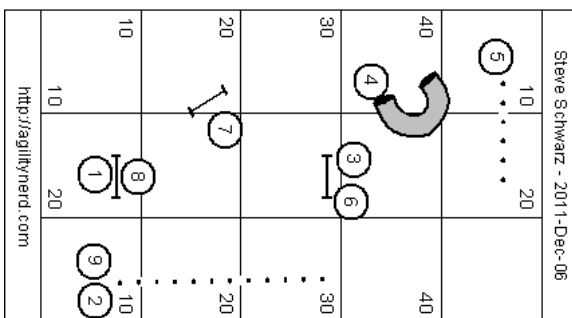
- Don't stop momentum to fix a mistake—you can get it right the next time around.
- Ask your instructor where and when you should be treating your dog during training.

### Reward Your Dog

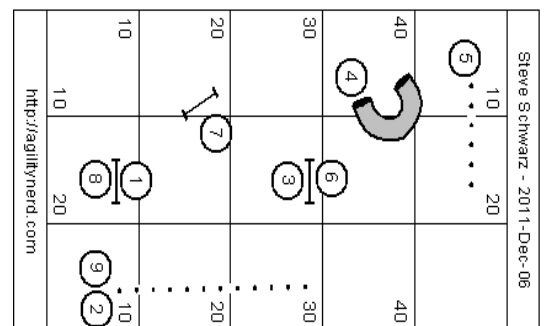
**MORE**

**Than You Ever Thought You Should!**

## AGILITY NERD SAMPLE MINI COURSES



Visit Steve Schwartz  
At  
<http://agilitynerd.com>



## NEW ENGLAND AGILITY TEAM

President Karen Kay KarenKay@metrocast.net  
Vice President Nadine Perry NadinePerry2003@yahoo.com  
Treasurer Andrea Rogers wildwill123@msn.com  
Secretary Megan LaCroix m.lacroix@comcast.net  
Membership Isabel Danforth danforth@alumni.tufts.edu

*Come and Join The FUN!!!!*

Please LIKE us on  
facebook: NEAT  
Agility Team



*The New England Agility Team also known as NEAT is a local Club for dog agility enthusiasts . The objectives of the Club are as follows:*

- 1. To encourage and promote the sport of dog agility in New England by holding practice sessions, matches, trials, exhibitions, clinics, and or other dog-related activities.*
- 2. To protect and advance the interest of all dogs—mixed-breed, rare breed, and purebred alike—in the sport of dog agility.*
- 3. To promote cooperation, sportsmanship, and enjoyment among Club members, other agility groups, and fellow dog enthusiasts at all times.*
- 4. To support any local and national dog agility organizations of which the Club votes to be a group member.*
- 5. To do any and all necessary functions to enhance the purposes of the Club.*

*Please come join the FUN today. . .we have individual, junior and family memberships. A person is eligible after attending just one six wk session of an approved agility class. Contact Isabel Danforth at danforth@alumni.tufts.edu for a membership form.*

## AGILITY CLASS SCHEDULE

NEAT Training Classes are taught by Nadine Perry and conducted at the Stratham SPCA, The Tonry Tree Farm in Exeter, and The Flying Colours Horse Arena in Kensington.

Classes run in six (6) week intervals. You can register online at [www.nhspca.org](http://www.nhspca.org) under the training/classes link. Contact Nadine at NadinePerry2003@yahoo.com if you have questions regarding what level class to attend.

### Beginner HI Agility

Wed Jan 4th 5:00pm SPCA  
Wed Jan 4th 6:15pm SPCA

### Intermediate Agility

Wed Jan 4th 7:15pm SPCA  
Sun Jan 8th 6:30pm Flying Colours

### Competition Agility

Sun Jan 8th 5:30pm Flying Colours

## NEAT PRACTICE

NEAT  
PRACTICE  
(Club Members Only)

Flying Colours Arena  
Kensington, NH  
Sundays  
3:30pm-5:15pm

Additional Times will be posted on the yahoo group as they become available.

\*Please come at 3:30pm and help with set-up in order to make it easier on everybody and it gives us more time to practice.



Too Many Holiday Treats . . .We Better Get Back to Agility Class!