



AGILITY NEWSLETTER



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2012 NEAT AGILITY TRIAL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

The New England Agility Team would like to thank all of its' members for the success of our 2012 USDAA Agility Trial at Sanderson Field in Greenland, NH. The annual Trial is the major fundraiser for our agility club.

The weather was awesome and the competition was too! The two day event consisted of over 850 runs in two different rings. Ring 1 was judged by Seth Dunn, who is a resident of Milford, NH. Ring 2 was judged by Jessica Ajoux, who is a resident of Smallwood, NY. Fun was had by all and the dogs were able to cool off with a little swimming in the pond located on site at Sanderson Field.

Neat would like to extend an extra big thank to the Trial Secretary, Judy Davis and Co-Chairs Sandy Cody and Andrea Rogers. Other committee members included Megan LaCroix, Public Relations Representative; Nancy Hoffman, Awards and Hospitality; Nadine Perry, Facilities Coordinator; Mary Keys, Booth Sales/Vending; and Isabel Danforth, Potluck Coordinator.

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TRIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

BY JEREMY KEZER AND LESLIE MATTUCHIO



PLEASE VISIT :

WWW.JEREMYKEZERPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

AND

WWW.PBASE.COM/LESLEYLOU

Points of Interest

- Visit the new NEAT website at www.neatclub.com
- The date is set for PAWS WALK 2012 for June 10th. Please visit NEAT and try out agility for a great cause!
- Class and Practice Schedule at Tonry Tree Farm Set!

BOOK SUGGESTION: ALPHABET DRILLS BY NANCY GYES

The drills in this book are based on patterns from letters of the alphabet. Their purpose is to help you become more imaginative when setting up practice drills for yourself, or for your students, and to familiarize you with common obstacle patterns seen on agility courses. Each letter focuses on specific handling skills, and uses a minimal amount of space and number of jumps.

The drills are designed so that they are useful for all levels of agility handlers. If you're new to the sport, there are drills to help you and your dog learn the basics of front and rear crosses, lead-out pivots, threadles, serpentine handling, pinwheels, 270s, and more—you can truly train the full spectrum of necessary handling skills with this book. If you're an advanced competitor, you'll find more technical drills

for maintaining and tuning up your skills, as well as problem solving.

Regardless of which handling method you use, Alphabet Drills will provide years of material for maintaining your agility skills and also training new skills. You'll never have to worry about what to practice again! Problems getting your dog in the correct entrance of the tunnel? Do the R Drills for a week. Wide front crosses or problems with lead-out pivots? T is your drill. Does your dog spin in the wrong direction when you do a rear cross? Work on J Drills.

What Equipment Do You Need?

Ideally you should have both winged and non-winged jumps since that is what you will see at a trial. Wings force

You to handle differently at times. Each square in the diagram represents 10 ft. Refer to "Which Drill When" to select your letter for training.

- Start and End every training session by playing with your dog.
- Run each drill with focus and determination.
- Do the exercises in each drill in order.
- Reward your dog's start line stays often.
- Don't let your dog wonder around the practice site between drills, keep his energy and focus.

You Can Buy This Book At:

www.CleanRun.com

HANDLER AGILITY HOOP EXERCISES BY KAREN KAY, CSCS, CES, CPS,

This month we will practice some agility exercises for the handler utilizing the good old-fashion "Hula Hoop". Grab a few Hula Hoops from your kids or the Dollar Store or maybe you've taught your dog some clicker tricks with hoops during foundation training.

Place the hoops flat on the grass in different sequences to improve your foot speed and quickness. You can also draw circles on the pavement with sidewalk chalk, but it's a little harder on the joints working on pavement.

Create interval workouts for yourself utilizing the different exercises. You can perform the exercise for very short intervals like 15-20 seconds or for a time more similar to one of your runs. .20seconds to one minute. Perform the movements as quickly as possible during the work phase.

See www.accessacceleration.com for more information on physical training.



Hopscotch Drill

- 1ft in each hoop then jump and land with both ft in the middle
- Jump from 2ft in the middle to 1ft in each hoop again
- Repeat forward to Backward

Lateral Hops

Drill

- 2ft in the 1st hoop and jump both ft to the 2nd hoop then on to the 3rd hoop
- Stay facing the same way and jump back to the start; repeat several times.



Box Jump Drill

- 2ft or 1ft jumps in a "box" around the square (both ways).



1 Foot Bounding Drill

- Start on your right leg and jump to hoop 2 landing on your left leg
- Jump off the left leg and land on the rt leg in hoop 3, etc.
- Continue in a Zig Zag Pattern Forward and Backward



Quick Touch Sprints

- Squat down and place on hand in the 1st hoop
- Stand and sprint to the 2nd hoop and touch your hand in the ctr of the hoop and then continue to the 3rd hoop and touch your hand in the ctr of that hoop.



NADINE PERRY'S TRAINING TIPS

CPE Wildcard Game

The idea of the games is a short course where along the way you will have a choice of two obstacles. One will be a little harder than the other. This will happen three times on the course. Depending on which level you are on, you will either need to take 2 easy and 1 hard (Levels 1 and 2) or take two hard and one easy (Levels 3, 4, 5, & C). The course is numbered so you will have obstacles say 1, 2, then 3a & 3b. The "b" will be the harder of the obstacles. Sometimes they are different colors—yellow & blue—in which case the judge will let you know which color is considered the "hard one".



There are no refusals, but once your dog starts an obstacle, you need to stick with that one. This means that if your dog takes the easy one first and you meant to do a hard one, you will have to make the adjustment on the next choice, so flexibility and thinking on your feet are important.

As you go through the obstacles you will hear the judge call out points—1 pt (easy) and 2pts (hard). In Levels 1 & 2 you are allowed an off course. In all Levels 1-4 you are allowed up to 10 faults (can not be the same faults) like a bar down (5 faults) or overtime (up to 5 faults –5sec). You cannot have an off course in Level 3 and higher. Level C must run with no faults.

CPE Fullhouse Game

The course is set in no particular order of obstacles. All levels run the same course and time. Large dogs, 16" and over have 30 seconds to accumulate points and small dogs have 35 seconds. At this time a whistle is blown and you have 5 seconds to get to the table to stop the clock. For every full second after the 5, a point is deducted from your score. Depending on your level, you will need 19-25 points.

Jumps are worth 1pt, circles (tire, chute, & tunnels) are 3pts, and the joker is worth 5pts. There are usually at least 2 jokers. Jokers can be a contact obstacle (A-Frame, dog walk, teeter), weaves (usually 6 poles), double or triple jumps, or combinations. Aside from having to accumulate a certain number of points depending on your level, you must do at least three jumps, 2 circles and 1 joker. You can have 30 pts, but if you only took 2 jumps, you will not qualify. Also, the table is live at all time, so if your dog goes to the table at any time during your run, you are done.

You can go to the table at anytime. Many times competitors will acquire enough points to qualify and just go to the table (before the whistle). This will get you a Q, but you probably won't place very high. The last thing you want to do is get enough points and end up on the other side of the field when the whistle blows and lose pts for taking over 5 seconds to get to the table. In CPE, your dog only has to get up on the table (no sit or down hold).

AGILITY SPEAK: WHAT IS AN AGILITY PREMIUM?

An agility premium, besides containing the entry form for your dog, will include other important information, such as motels near the show site that accept dogs, camping options, emergency veterinary care, directions to the show, and whom to contact if you have questions. It is a good idea to put your premium in your travel kit after you have sent in your entry. Premiums are released at different times within each organization and each trial venue. Most premiums will have entry postmark deadlines or other deadlines that you must meet in order to register.

NEAT MEMBER BRAGS FOR MAY

Member: Nadine Perry and

Twinkle-Ch Laralees Irish Lady CGC TDI CL-1 CL-2

May 28th at AKC Trial in Granby, CT

AKC Novice Standard 1st Place and Q

AKC Novice Jumpers 1st Place and Q

Member: Karen Kay and Taffy CL-1

May 19th and 20th at USDAA Neat Trial , Greenland, NH

USDAA P1 Pairs 12in with Sadie Currier 1st place

USDAA P1 Snooker 12in 4th Place

USDAA P1 Gamblers 12in 4th Place

Member: Maggie Currier and Sadie

May 19th and 20th at USDAA Neat Trial , Greenland, NH

USDAA P1 Standard 12in 1st Place

USDAA P1 Pairs 12in with Taffy Kay 1st Place

USDAA P1 Snooker 12in 3rd Place

USDAA P1 Gamblers 12in 3rd Place

Member: Isabel Danforth and Cocoa

May 4th, NADAC Trial at Greenfield, MA

NADAC Tunnelers Q

*earned Outstanding Novice Tunnelers Title

NADAC Regular/Standard Q

NADAC Weavers Q

NADAC Jumpers Q

Member: Sandy Cody and Jed

May 5th and 6th at ACE Trial, Spencer, MA

USDAA P1 Gamblers 16in 4th Place

USDAA P1 Jumpers 16in 4th Place

USDAA P1 Snooker 16in 2nd Place and Q

USDAA P1 Standard 16in 3rd Place

May 13th at ARFF Trial, Amherst, NH

USDAA P1 Standard 16in 1st Place

USDAA P1 Gamblers 16in 1st Place and Q

May 19th and 20th at USDAA Neat Trial , Greenland, NH

USDAA P1 Standard 16in 1st Place and Q

USDAA P1 Pairs 16in 3rd Place and Q

USDAA P1 Snooker 16in 1st Place

USDAA P1 Standard 16in 1st Place and Q

USDAA P1 Gamblers 16in 2nd Place

USDAA P1 Jumpers 16in 4th Place

Member: Andrea Rogers

Andrea is now a certified AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator (CGC). She can evaluate whether your dog can have its canine good citizen certification. Check out more details on the Canine Good Citizen on the AKC website.



Picture: Tod Hebert's Dog Khloe

10 TOP TRAINING TIPS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

www.scramblesdts.com

"Never blame your dog. If it goes wrong, it is either the fault of your handling or a fault in your training of the dog. They only want to get it right. If the information we have trained into them or imparted to them on the day is wrong, it is our fault NOT theirs." Lu Candy

www.PACE-Agility.com

"Always have a plan before you start any training session. Have a clear idea about what you want to do and what you want to achieve. Never blame the dog for your inconsistency or poor results. What you see in the competition ring is normally the direct result of your training approach and methods." Steve Croxford

www.anjuagility.co.uk

"Invest your time into play. It can be play with a toy or just with you. It's a great bond enforcer as well as a brilliant form of praise. And remember that to drop your shoulders and look disappointed can be as bad as screaming at your dog so finish every round with a smile." Leah Gardner

www.leegibsontraining.co.uk

"One golden rule I use in my training is that no matter where you are in the course, your body language should be reinforcing what you are saying/instructing the dog to do. If it is not, you cannot blame the dog for perhaps choosing the wrong obstacle or making an error.

I always teach my dogs to read from verbal commands, and body language acts as reinforcement, not guidance. I know my dogs are far quicker than I am, and I want them to be 100% confident that they have my trust and belief when they are working the course, and making vital decisions based on my instructions. If they have that confidence, I know they will attack every element of that course without any doubt." Lee Gibson

www.freewebs.com/davemunnings

"Make it fun and never blame the dog for your handling and training mistakes." David Munnings

www.aslanagility.com

"If you are sick of finding biscuit crumbs and lumps of frankfurter in the lining of your pockets, but a treat bag and fix it to your belt or waist band. Keeps your clothes clean and stops you smelling like the dog's dinner!" Mary Ann Nester

LesleyOlden@aol.com

"Be Fair—before criticizing your dog remember who taught it!" Lesley Olden

www.fieldofdreamsdogtraining.co.uk

"The next time you get annoyed that your dog has not followed your instruction and you are ready to accuse it of being naughty, remember who trained it? The fault almost certainly lies with you." Bob Sharpe

www.madkathagility.com

"Train hard, train every day, learn all possible agility positions and movements, then train some more! Sort out all your arms and legs, get them doing the right signal at the right time in the right place, do this again and again. . .on your own with an imaginary dog. Then ask your dog if you are good enough to join him and have fun together!" Kathrin Tasker

www.dawnweaveragility.com

"Learn from your dog in training. When he goes in the 'wrong' direction, realize that you have cued him incorrectly. You should not withhold from rewarding the dog when it is the handlers error. How many times does a sequence go wrong and you go back, change your handling and try again without rewarding your dog?" Dawn Weaver

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

NEAT CLUB MEETINGS

Thurs June 7th 6:30pm Access Acceleration

- Review the May Trial and Finalize Pawswalk 2012

Sun June 10th 9:00am PAWSWALK

- NEAT members give mini lessons for a donation to the NHSPCA
- Stratham Hill Park, Stratham, NH

THANK YOU TO ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS

THAT HELPED TO MAKE OUR

2012 USDAA NEAT TRIAL SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS!

Co-Chairs: Andrea Rogers & Sandy Cody

Members: Nadine Perry, Megan & Darren LaCroix, Isabel Danforth, Mary Keays, Nancy Hoffman, Tod Hebert,

Liz Pasek, Grace & Maggie Currier, Helen Connell,

Mike Carroll and Margaret Palladino.

Also to family & friends. . . Jimmy Cody, Bob Keays,

TJ Wheeler, Bob Kay, Becky Kay, and Samantha Kay

I hope I didn't forget anybody!

Thanks Again!! Karen Kay, NEAT President

NEAT

PRACTICE

NEAT

PRACTICE

(Club Members Only)

Tony Tree Farm

Exeter, NH

*Tuesday OR Thursdays TBA

Will alternate ea wk

Check The Yahoo List Each Week

Time: 4:30pm-Dark

You must arrive at 4:30pm to set up OR stay til the end of practice and help close down. The equipment stays out in the field, but the tunnels must be turned over and the plates and bungees removed. Jumps moved to the sides for easy access lawn mowing.



AGILITY CLASS SCHEDULE

NEAT Training Classes are taught by Nadine Perry and conducted at the Stratham SPCA and The Tony Tree Farm in Exeter.

K9 Combo: taught by Nadine Perry or Eden Guibault. . . a combination of basic obedience commands and basic agility skills

Thu May 31 5:30pm SPCA

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Beginner I Agility

Mon Jun 4 5:30pm SPCA

Beginner II Agility: must have previously taken Beginner I or K9 Combo

Sun Jun 3 4:30pm SPCA

Mon Jun 4 6:30pm SPCA

Beginner III Agility

Sun Jun 3 5:30pm SPCA

Intermediate Agility

Wed May 30 6:30pm Tony Tree

Sun Jun 3 6:30pm SPCA

Competition Agility

Wed May 30 4:30pm Tony Tree

Wed May 30 5:30pm Tony Tree

Classes run in six (6) week intervals.

You can register online at

www.nhspca.org under the training/classes link. NEAT members should use the coupon code NEAT2012 and hit "apply" for the discount.

Contact Nadine at NadinePerry2003@yahoo.com if you have questions regarding what level class to attend.