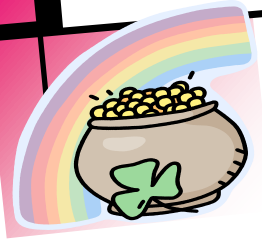


AGILITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Issue 3
March 1, 2012



NEAT TO HOST USDAA TRIAL

The New England Agility Team hosts one USDAA Trial each year in Seacoast New Hampshire. We are excited to announce that this year's trial dates are set for Saturday, May 19th and Sunday, May 20th. We will be hosting the Trial at Sanderson Field, 683 Post Road, Greenland, NH. There will be two agility rings with the first dogs on the line by 8:00am on both days and competition will continue to the late afternoon/early evening both days.

NEAT is a small non-profit organization that relies on it's membership to volunteer for these types of events. However, we also welcome others that may be interested in volunteering. Helping with the set-up on Friday, May 18th is always welcome and we need helpers throughout the weekend. It's a great way to learn

more about agility and about NEAT. NEAT non-member class participants should let instructor Nadine Perry know of your interest in helping with the trial. Hope to see you at the event in May!

NEAT USDAA Agility Trial
May 19th and May 20th
Sanderson Field
Greenland, NH

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WHAT IS THE USDAA?

More than 400 days of events each year throughout the continental United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and Japan.

Organized in 1986 to introduce and "Promote International Standards For Dog Agility" patterned after the British standards for the sport, USDAA has evolved into an international organization with the most comprehensive and diverse certification program for dog agility anywhere in the world. USDAA is a producer of three international tournament series—Grand Prix of Dog Agility World Championships, now

In it's 17th year, the \$10,000 Dog Agility Steeplechase, and the Dog Agility Masters Grand Three-Dog Team Championship. Each has enjoyed national television coverage in recent years, with the "Grand Prix" being the longest running tournament series in the western hemisphere and one of the most prestigious tournaments in the sport. The Grand Prix has drawn competitors from more than a dozen countries on four continents.

www.usdaa.com

Points of Interest

- Fix & Paint Day on April 20th; Get Equipment Ready For The Trial in May
- The 2012 NEAT USDAA Trial dates set for May 19-20, 2012 in Greenland, NH
- The date is set for PAWS WALK 2012 for June 10th. Please visit NEAT and try out agility for a great cause!

The United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. (USDAA), is the world's largest independent authority for the sport of dog agility, with more than 25,000 registered competitors and more than 200 different breeds of dogs, including mix breeds. USDAA represents more than 100 affiliated groups conducting

TRAIN, PLAY, REPEAT! BY AMANDA NELSON OF NADAC

.Most of the time when I ask people "how long do you train for?" I get lots of different answers, some may have short sessions that only last 5-10 minutes once a day and others may have longer training sessions that last 30 minutes with short breaks during the session. The length of a training session depends greatly on the dog and the handler both. I have seen some dogs do better with longer sessions and I have also seen some people do better with short sessions, so the amount of time that you spend training each day depends on both handler and dog.

The one think I have found that works well for most all dogs (and handlers) is short burst training sessions.

A **short burst training session** is a certain amount of time spent training, followed by that same amount of time spent playing. In most cases I spend between **1-2 minutes training** and then I spend **1-2 minutes playing** with my dog. I do this for pretty much all of my training sessions, doesn't matter what I am working on. I will **do about 3 reps** of this; so 1-2 minutes of work, 1-2 minutes of play, and repeat that series twice. So the dog ends up doing a **working session 3 times and a play session 3 times.**

For what I have seen with my dogs and students dogs is that

it keeps the dog's (and the handler's for that matter) mind fresh, a lot of times during training the dog works really well in the beginning of the session but towards the end you sometimes either end up with a dog who seems to be going through the motions but not really engaged or a dog who starts to lose motivation and drive. This can happen even with a short 5 minute session, but when breaking up your training session into **1-2 minute intervals with play in-between it gives your dog's brain a chance to reset and not start to shut down or go into auto pilot.**

The play time spent with your dog can be anything that your dog likes doing, but don't make it into another "fun" training session, like asking your dog to do tricks, etc. It needs to be actual play, something that your dog can just have fun doing and not have to think about.

I do all of my training this way and I have noticed a huge difference in not only my dogs attitude but also in how well they retain the exercise I am teaching. I have also noticed that I train much better with the shorter intervals as well.

Amanda Nelson's Training Philosophy

Amanda uses a clicker and targets in most of her training, her focus is on building a strong relationship between handler and dog, to do this she emphasizes lots of relationship building exercises such as her TEAM Training Program as well as a strong foundation with clickers and targets. Amanda's goal when working with her own dogs as well as her students is to create a lasting partnership between handler and dog both in and out of the agility ring.

Amanda has been competing in agility for 19 years and has been teaching agility across the country for 8 years; Amanda practices Canine Massage and Reflexology as well as Canine Nutrition, Herbology and Energy Therapy. Amanda has integrated her massage therapy with acupressure and reflexology to create Fluid Motion Bodywork. She is also a certified NADAC Clinician.

For more information check out Amanda's website.

www.fluidmotionagility.com



"Step by step. I can't see any other way of accomplishing anything." Michael Jordan

HURDLE STRETCHES FOR THE HANDLER

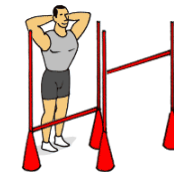
Hurdle stretches are performed on a regular basis to imitate functional movements patterns within our body as another form of a dynamic warm-up. You will see many sports teams implementing these exercises with their athletes. These stretches are very simple to do utilizing the same hurdles that your dog will be jumping during your training sessions or class.

www.accessacceleration.com



Walk Forward and Backward over 4-8 hurdles. Chest up, knee to chest, and toes up to shin.

Walk Lateral or Side-ways over 4-8 hurdles. Chest up, knee to chest, and toes up to shin.



Over and Under
Walk Over the first hurdle and Under the second hurdle. Same posture as previous exercises

going Over, but go down into a lunge position with chest/head up to go Under the 2nd hurdle.

You can also repeat Over and Under going backward.

NADINE PERRY'S TRAINING TIPS

Training Tips of Positive Training/Being A Good Trainer

1. High Frequency Of High Value Rewards/Reinforcement
2. Short Time Between Desired Behavior And Reward
3. Using Many Reinforcements Such As Treats and Toys
4. Working Toward A Variable Reinforcement Schedule



Give lots of rewards in the beginning. Don't be stingy. Improve your timing of the rewards. Move to a variable reinforcement schedule and use more than one reinforcement/reward. Keep your signals consistent. Build a strong relationship with your dog. Think of rewarding as 'cookies in the bank' as Julie Daniels says. Make lots of deposits in your foundation work. The more deposits the richer the work relationship will be.

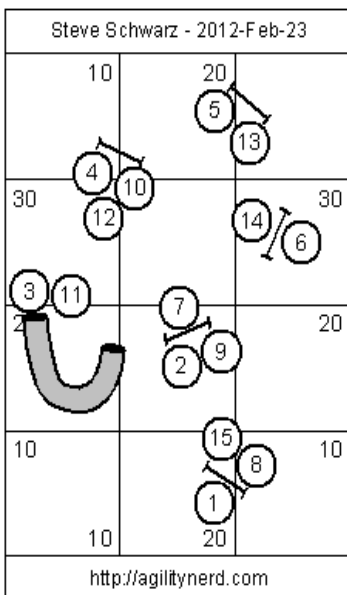
Common Terms

1. **Luring:** using a cookie/toy reward to lead the dog into a position or help with a behavior. This should be done only a few times and then return to a reward system where you give the reward after the behavior is done.
2. **Shaping:** marking and rewarding small approximations to a finished behavior. Break down behavior into small steps and reward each step. This allows a high reinforcement schedule.
3. **Reinforcement Schedule:** this is a plan for giving a reward
4. **Variable Reinforcement Schedule:** reward is given on a unpredictable time table and is given after a varying number of times of correct behavior

Trial Measurements

Because every organization requires that dogs be measured to confirm their jump height, it is desirable to train your dog to stand nicely for this process. A wrestling match between your dog and the judge is not a good way to start a day of agility.

Look for **two types of measuring devices you may encounter: the measuring bar and the wicket.** Practice lowering the measuring bar over your dog's shoulders and setting the wicket in the same spot. A wicket is a PVC device that is set over a dog's back. Wickets come in different sizes, and when the wicket's "feet" touch the ground, it indicates the correct jump height.



SMALL SPACES: RUN BOTH SIDES

Skills: 270s, threadles, and jump wraps

Some Challenges For You When Working On This Course:

- Handle 1,2,3 without a lead out; you can't pass jump 2
- Handle 1 and 2 with the dog on your left and again on your right
- Turn from 6 to 7 with a front cross and again with a back cross and possible a clean blind cross (if you're fast enough)
- Handle 8-10 with the dog on your left and again on your right
- Great opportunity for a single sided threadle while rotating forward to go from 14 to 15

NEAT MEMBER BRAGS FOR FEBRUARY

Member: Nadine Perry and her dogs

Twinkle, Etta, and Izzy

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

January & February Agility at Riverside K9, Nashua, NH

- Intro USDAA Standard 1/27/12 1st Place and Q
- Intro USDAA Jumpers 1/27/12 1st Place and Q
- Intro USDAA Standard 2/24/12 1st Place and Q
- Intro USDAA Gamblers 2/24/12 1st Place and Q
- Intro USDAA Jumpers 2/24/12 2nd Place and Q

Etta-Merci Isle Dedication

Breed Ring

- Winners Bitch Hartford, CT 2/18/12 2 Points

Izzy-Ch Laralees Autumn Isabella

Breed Ring

- Best of Sweeps Hartford, CT 2/18/12
- Best of Breed Hartford, CT 2/18/12 5 Point Major
- Group 4 Herding Group 2/18/12
- Best of Winners Hartford, CT 2/18/12 DownEaster Belgian
- Sheepdog Regional Specialty 2/18/12 3 Point Major to Finish Her Championship

Member: Nancy Hoffman and her dog Stewie

The North American Dog Agility Council has announced it's Top 10 dogs for 2011. Stewie placed in the Top 10 nationally for Jack Russell Terriers for 2011.

- NADAC Chances 2011 50pts 5th Place
- NADAC Regular 2011 140pts 5th Place
- NADAC Tunnelers 2011 100pts 3rd Place
- NADAC Jumpers 2011 90pts 4th Place
- NADAC Touch N Go 2011 70pts 3rd Place

Yeah Nancy and Stewiel

NADAC Top 10 In The Country For 2011

Member: Karen Kay and her dog Taffy

January & February Agility

- Intro USDAA Jumpers 1/27/12 2nd Place
- CPE Trial at All Dogs Gym, Manchester, NH 2/11/12

- Snooker Lv 1 2nd Place
- FullHouse Lv 1 2nd Place and Q
- Standard Lv 1 1st Place and Q

USDAA Intro Trial at Riverside K9, Nashua, NH

- Intro USDAA Standard 2/24/12 1st Place
 - Intro USDAA Gamblers 2/24/12 2nd Place
 - Intro USDAA Jumpers 2/24/12 2nd Place
 - Intro USDAA Snooker 2/24/12 2nd Place
- CPE Trial at Riverside K9, Nashua, NH 2/25/12

- CPE Lv 1 JackPot 1st Place and Q
- CPE Lv 2 FullHouse 2nd Place and Q
- CPE Lv 1 Jumpers 1st Place
- CPE Lv 1 Snooker 1st Place

Member: Isabel Danforth and her dog Cocoa

NADAC Agility Trial, January 1, 2012 in No. Smithfield, RI

- Cocoa received 4 Q's out of the 5 Classes he was entered and earned his **TN-N (Tunnelers-Novice) Title**

NADAC Top 10 Stewie!!!!



NEAT MEMBER BRAGS FOR FEBRUARY

Member: Sandy Cody and her dog Gidget

Gidget graduated from her Level 1 Training Class at No Monkey Business Dog Training in Bow, NH. This class was taught by Helen Nicholls. Helen possesses the following impressive dog training credentials:

CPDT-KSA

Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge & Skills Assessed

CDBC

Certified Dog Behavior Consultant

OSCT

Operation Socialization Certified Trainer

Gidget and Sandy worked diligently on the skills listed below and on many more in Helen's class.

- Loose leash walking
- Staying on her mat
- The "Leave It" command
- Walking by other dogs without reacting

- Watching other dogs play and not reacting
- Touching a "target"
- Coming When Called

Congrats to Gidget!!!!



Member: Mary Keays and her dog Kiah

Member: Karen Kay and her dog Taffy

Kiah and Taffy are participating in the Really Reliable Recall class at the NHSPCA in Stratham, NH. This class is being taught by Nadine Perry.

Mary and Karen are working on getting their dogs to pay attention to them when they are distracted by smells,

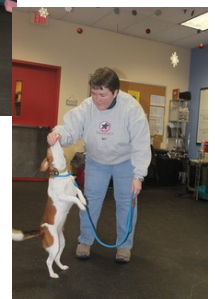
squirrels or other animals, toys, food, and other dogs. This class lays the foundation of getting a REALLY RELIABLE RECALL by playing games and doing other fun activities.

Kiah and Taffy have learned a series of exercises in the classroom that can also be done at home. Homework is a must for the rest of your dog's life in order to have a REALLY RELIABLE RECALL.

The Hide N Seek Game seems to be everybody's favorite thus far!

Check out the NHSPCA website to sign up for the next session:

www.nhspca.org



Member: Margo Slattery and her dog Solis Sea Goddess At Rising Star "Calypso"

- WD/BOS at her 1st AKC show at only 7 months of age
- She is out of MontRose Move On Over Boys JS-E GS-O RS-N OAJNA CL2-F CGC "Maia" and AKC CH Rising Star's Heaven Sent RN "Rafe"

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

NEAT would like to welcome our newest member, **Mike Carol and his dog EZ**. Mike is currently participating in the competition class on Sunday evenings at Flying Colours Farm. The class is taught by NEAT Vice-President, Nadine Perry. The other NEAT members currently participating in this class are Karen Kay and her dog Taffy, Maggie Currier and her dog Sadie, and Margaret Palladino and her dog Jimmy.

Mike and EZ participated in NEAT's Show N Go back in October and participated in their first USDAA Intro event in February at Riverside K9 Club in Nashua, NH.

NEAT Would Like To Welcome Mike and EZ!

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

Your business tag line here.



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.

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

Thu Apr 12 5:30pm SPCA
Thu Apr 12 6:30pm SPCA

Beginner I –II Agility

Thu Apr 12 4:30pm SPCA

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

Wed TBA 6:15pm SPCA

Intermediate Agility

Wed TBA 7:15pm SPCA
Sun TBA 6:30pm Flying Colours Farm

Competition Agility

Sun TBA 5:30pm Flying Colours Farm

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

NEAT CLUB MEETINGS

Club business meetings shall be held as designated by the Board of Directors and written notice of each meeting shall be given by the President at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the membership in good standing. Each member who is in good standing and who has paid membership dues for the current year, shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he or she is present or when voting is conducted on the internet. Please join us. . .

Thurs Apr 12th 7:00pm Access Acceleration

- Jump Building at 4:30pm on April 12th prior to the meeting at Access Acceleration
- Paint & Fix Equipment Day at TBA/AM on April 20th at Flying Colours Farm

Thurs May 10th 7:00pm Access Acceleration

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.