

AKC Obedience & Rally Trials

No Longer Just for Purebred Dogs

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Every year in mid March, Carolina Dog Training Club holds a 2-day Obedience trial and a Rally trial. CDTC has been putting on yearly trials for over 50 years and up until about 5 years ago, the only dogs that could be entered in either trial were purebred dogs. However, with more people adopting their new dog from rescue groups and shelters, the AKC has now created an opportunity for these dogs to compete too!

Depending on your situation, you can obtain two different AKC registrations:

(1) Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP). This program allows unregistered dogs of registrable breeds to compete in AKC companion events. Visit AKC.org for requirements and to download the required application.

(2) AKC Canine PartnersSM program. This program is for ALL dogs, including mixed-breeds and dogs that are not eligible for AKC registration. All dogs in the AKC Canine PartnersSM program must be spayed or neutered. Visit AKC.org for requirements and to download the required application.

Obedience trials offer a way to take your dog's training to a whole new level. These trials involve several different levels in which dogs must follow their handler's commands, however, there is no talking to your dog during obedience exercises. The **NOVICE** level involves heeling on and off leash, a figure 8, a recall, a stand for examination, sit stays and down stays. The **OPEN** level involves these same exercises along with dumbbell retrieval, jumping, and out-of-site sit stays and down stays. Most exercises are done off leash. The **UTILITY** level involves heeling, directed retrieval, directed jumping, scent discrimination, all being done off leash. In obedience the judge tells you when to do each exercise. The team must receive 3 qualifying scores under 2 different judges to receive an obedience title before moving on to the next level.

Rally also has several different levels and was designed with the pet owner in mind. It's a great way for your dog to enter the world of sports and offers challenges in every level. The handler and their dog work as a team in following signs such as 360 degree turns, sits, downs, left turns, right turns, about turns and weaving around cones. The signs are numbered to make it easy to find the next station. The handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs by talking to them. All this is timed just in case there is a tie in the scores. In the **NOVICE** level all exercises are done with the dog on leash and consists of 10 to 15 signs. The **ADVANCED** level is performed off leash with 12 to 17 stations and includes a jump. The highest level is **EXCELLENT** and includes 15 to 20 stations. In Rally the judge tells the handler when to start and the handler must follow the signs at their own pace in order to complete the course. The team must receive 3 qualifying scores under 2 different judges to receive a rally title before moving on to the next level.

The benefits of obedience and rally trials are immeasurable. They reinforce good behavior in your dog, helping him or her to become more obedient whether in the home or out in public. These trials can be fun, yet challenging, offering a wonderful bonding experience for you and your pet.

All this being said, please join CDTC at our March 16th and 17th Obedience and Rally trials. Obedience trials will be held from 9am to 1pm both days, while Rally trials will be from 1-5pm on March 16th only. Remember that you must have some kind of AKC registration number in order to enter our trials or any other AKC trials. Please note that only dogs entered in the trials are allowed on the show grounds. Please visit our website at www.carolinadogtrainingclub.com/akcobediencetrialinfo.html for more information.

