

## Class Descriptions

**AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy:** STAR stands for socialization, training, activity and responsibility. The program is based on the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program but is geared especially towards puppies. The STAR puppy program consists of a set of tests that you and your puppy must pass throughout the session including basic obedience commands and socialization requirements. At the completion of the program, your puppy can earn an AKC STAR puppy award.

**My First Dog:** If you've never owned a puppy (or dog) before or it's been a long time, this class will help you learn about feeding, grooming, housetraining, help solve problems, give advice, and guide you through the first-time pet parent blues with your new canine.

**Clicker Training:** This is an introduction to the world of clicker training. Have you ever wondered how they train whales and dolphins to do all of those fancy tricks? This class will help you to understand that and learn how to apply it to training your dog. Clicker training can be used to shape behaviors for a variety of activities including basic and advanced obedience. It is also a fun way to teach tricks to your dog. You will learn how to apply basic clicker training concepts. "Targeting" is taught as a foundation exercise.

**Crate Games:** Based on methods developed by Susan Garrett for focus, motivation, self-control, speedy and dependable recall, distance skills and much more!

**D.A.R.E.: Dream Achieve Reach Enjoy (aka Shy Dog Class):** This class will help build confidence in your shy or insecure dog with fun games and instruction.

**Beginner:** This is a basic class for handlers and dogs to learn skills needed for everyday life with your dog. Skills such as sit, down, come, and controlled walking on a leash will be covered, as well as other exercises necessary for the AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

**CGC/Therapy Work:** Dogs with some previous training can brush up on basic obedience skills, controlled walking on a leash, walking through a crowd, reaction to distraction and supervised separation. The exercises necessary for the AKC Canine Good Citizen test will be practiced in preparation for testing as well as the skills necessary for therapy work (dogs must be at least 1 yr old to test for therapy work, although dogs can be younger to attend the class).

**Beginning Pre-Obedience/Rally:** This class will concentrate on foundation skills needed for Obedience and Rally competition, including attention and heeling, components of the recall, position changes (sit, down, stand), and stays. Prerequisite: Beginner, CGC or instructor approval.

**Advanced Pre-Obedience/Rally:** This class is a continuation of the Beginning Pre- Obedience/Rally and will concentrate on improving skills from that class. Prerequisite: Dogs successfully completing the Beginning Pre-Obedience/Rally class, or instructor approval. Dogs coming out of Beginner or CGC/TDI should take the Beginning Pre-Obedience/Rally class.

**Novice/BN Skills** (formerly called Pre-Novice/Beginner Novice): Designed to familiarize students with Novice and Beginner Novice routines, as well as working on all components: heeling, stays, recalls and finishes. Pre-requisite is Advanced pre-Obedience/Rally or Instructor Approval.

**Novice:** This class follows Advanced Pre-Obedience/Rally or the Novice/BN Skills classes. For those who are interested in showing in the obedience ring. Novice is an introduction to novice ring procedures and will strengthen the dogs' and handlers' ability to do each novice obedience exercise with distractions and proofing.

**Open:** Participants should be interested in showing in the obedience ring. The exercises in this class will include heeling, drop on recall, sits and downs. Jump exercises and retrieves will be introduced.

**Utility:** The goal of this class is to create the advanced teamwork necessary to obtain the title of Utility Dog. There are many methods for teaching the utility exercises. No one method works for all dogs. We

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will cover scent discrimination, directed retrieve and signals. No doubt there will be all levels in the class, so plan to be patient and enjoy learning with your partner. Prerequisites: Off leash control is a must and a retrieve – trained is preferred; fun is acceptable.

**Rally Novice:** This class is for dogs and handlers who have knowledge of basic obedience exercises as taught in the Advanced Pre-Obedience/Rally class. Rally exercises, signs, and procedures will be introduced. Novice to advanced rally courses will be set up as the class progresses.

**Rally Advanced/Excellent:** Dogs and handlers must at least be competing in Rally Novice to be in this class. The advanced and excellent rally signs and exercises will be taught. Advanced/Excellent courses will be set up.

**Pre-Agility:** This class will cover clicker training, targeting, "baby" obstacle familiarization, focus, on and off switches, and groundwork. Adult dogs should know sit and down stay for at least 10 seconds and come when called. (no age limit)

**Agility Distance Skills:** Develop distance skills needed for Fast (AKC) or Gamblers (USDAA). For all levels. Must have contact skills and targeting behavior.

**Intermediate Agility:** Focus on longer sequences, jumping performance and improvement of handling skills. Should be getting ready to compete or competing at the Novice/Open level.

**Agility Skills:** Jump Chutes, Weave Poles, Running A-Frame: Register for this class so you can drop in and work with an instructor on the agility skills you need. Focus on jumping style, practice components of weave pole proficiency, learn the running A-frame using the box method. (If you are currently competing, contact the instructor about the running A-frame). Prerequisite: Groundwork or Foundations, or instructor approval.

**Beginning Agility:** Build on skills learned in the Pre-Agility class on the Agility field. Work on targeting, jump bumps, table skills, short sequences and beginning weaving. Prerequisites: Pre-Agility, good stays, and consistent recall or instructor approval.

**Masters Agility:** This class is for dogs and handlers who are competing in Master or Excellent level agility. Class participants will watch each other run and give helpful suggestions. Must be competing in Master/Excellent and/or have pre approval from instructor

**Tracking:** The goal of this class is to introduce new dog and handler teams to the AKC sport of tracking as well as working with experienced teams to enhance their skills. The following are some of the skills that will be taught: a start routine for your dog and consistency of starts, article indication, learning how to read your dog when tracking, restarting your dog, turns, and some basics of track laying.