



## Rally Obedience Fundamentals

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**Description:** Rally provides a natural transition from the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program to obedience or agility competition, both for dogs and handlers. In addition, rally promotes fun and enjoyment for dogs at all levels of competition.

Rally is the sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the Rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required. Any faults in traditional obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the Rally Regulations. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

Communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

**Objectives:** The goal of this class is to teach the skills required to earn a Rally Obedience title in AKC (American Kennel Club) or APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers). It is our intention to prepare you to move from one level (Novice, Advanced, & Excellent) to the next with little or no additional time needed to train for the next level.

**Requirements:** Dogs should already have some basic training (sit, down, come, stay, heel), and be in good health and flea-free. Dogs must be non-aggressive towards people and other dogs. Handlers should come with a positive attitude plus treats and/or toys to use as motivation and rewards.

**Homework:** As with any sport, practice makes perfect. With that in mind, you will need to work on your exercises from class at home during the week. I recommend short sessions – 2 to 5 minutes several times each day. Start each session with a play game and end each session on a positive note. If you are having a problem with an exercise, do not end your training session with that exercise. Instead, pick something your dog does well and do it a time or two and praise him for his outstanding effort and end there.

**Syllabus:**

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Attention	Work previous weeks exercises	Practice previous weeks exercises	Work all exercises learned to date	Work all exercises from previous weeks	Work all exercises from previous weeks
Sit	About U turn	Left about turn	Change pace, fast, slow, normal	Halt fast forward from sit	Serpentine (weave once)
Down	270 Left	Call front finish Left Halt	Spirals right and left	Halt 1, 2, & 3 steps forward	Call front, 1, 2 3 steps backward
Stand	270 Right	Call front finish Right Halt	Moving down	Straight figure 8 weave twice	Halt down walk around dog
Set Up	360 Left	Call front finish Left Forward	Halt walk around dog	Offset figure 8	Halt stand, down
Right Turn	360 Right	Call front finish Right Forward	Back up		
Left Turn	About turn right	Moving side step right			

**References:**

AKC Rally Site: <http://www.akc.org/events/rally/index.cfm>

APDT Rally Site: <http://www.apdt.com/po/rally/>

Yahoo! Rally Discussion Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Rally-obed/>

Rally Signs: <http://www.playdogexcellent.com/RallySigns.pdf>

