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What's New

We are still ramping things up with social media at the Academy. So, you'll continue to see new ways to connect with the community. Please bear with us as we are growing these venues.

New this month is the Agility Yahoo Group. Based on feedback from some Agility students, we have added this site to share information about upcoming events related to agility (seminars, show

and goes, trials, practices, etc.). If you'd like to participate, please [click here](#).

Obedience, Rally, Nose work, and Show Handling students let us know if you are interested in the academy facilitating this type of training forum.

This month we also published our first Blog Article: "The Space Between: A dog and handler's journey to

Trialing" and received a good response. If this topic interests you, check it out at [our blog site](#). We are looking to publish about an article a month. Let us know if there are any particular subjects that you would like us to cover.

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Upcoming Events

Remember to come out to our Show and Goes for Agility and Obedience to refine you and your dog's skills.

Agility	Obedience
Sunday, August 19, 2012	Sunday, August 26, 2012
Sunday, September 16, 2012	Sunday, September 23, 2012
Sunday, October 21, 2012 (Fair Hill)	Sunday, October 28, 2012
Sunday, November 18, 2012	Sunday, November 25, 2012
Sunday, December 16, 2012	Sunday, December 23, 2012

Our next session of classes start September 24th, 2012.

If you are looking for more show and goes please see the [events section on the Academy Blog](#).

Classical Conditioning

Recently, I saw a [youtube clip of Will Farrell training agility using a clicker](#). After laughing, at the clip, I thought about the clip a little more. It showed me, without association, the clicker is not a training aid. So, how does a clicker become a reinforcement tool, which can mark correct behavior?



By pairing clicks, food, and a hungry dog, when introducing a clicker, we elicit a biologic response. The dog begins to associate the click with fulfilling the biologic need to satiate hunger. This pairing is called classical conditioning. The definition of Classical Conditioning is pairing stimulus, with one being non-biological (conditioned stimulus) and one being of a biologic nature (unconditioned stimulus). This pairing happens without reward or punishment.

Once the conditioned stimulus (the click), is associated with the unconditioned stimulus (satiating hunger). When you click, the dog thinks of eating food. Now, when you receive a desired behavior, you can click to signify positive reinforcement of the food to come.

Training Challenge

Do you want a challenge to increase your dog's mental stimulation? Shaping can do that! This months' shaping challenge is to teach your dog "Sit Pretty".

What do you need?

1. Your Dog
2. Clicker or verbal cue like yes.
3. Treats and / or tug toy
4. A wall, corner, or target.

Sit pretty really works on core strength, and should be done in steps to ensure the muscles are developed to maintain the behavior without injury.

One possible method to teach: You can pair a behavior that the dog knows with what you

want. Sit your dog in a corner. Then ask him/her to target (touch with nose) something above their head. The dog should lean against the wall, and push to reach up to touch the target. After knowing that your dog will successfully complete this behavior add a hand signal.

As your dog reacts to your signal, gradually fade the target, till they will go into the pretty position in the corner without the signal.

Once the behavior is perfected try it against one wall, and see if the behavior is maintained. Next, put the show on the road, and ask for a sit pretty without support. Finally, add your verbal cue to the behavior once you have exactly what you want. To do this you'll say the new Cue (I use Pretty) followed by the hand signal.

Things to remember:

1. Set your criteria before starting
2. Reward the steps at the beginning, if your dog picks up a front foot, if you dog hits the nose target etc.
3. Set your dog up for success
4. If you want to build duration, reward while they are sitting pretty at a high rate, and then incorporate a release cue.
5. Break up your sessions, keep sessions short and give him/her breaks within the session
6. Above all else, have fun with your dog!



Academy Brags

The last couple of months, as always, have been great for students at the Academy of Dog Training and Agility. Our dedicated dogs, handlers, and instructors show that the Academy is a great place to train and they deserve to be recognized:



Agility

- Chew Chew and Cheryl Ulissi received their Novice Jumpers Title NAJ (AKC). Chew is a 5 year old Chihuahua, who has been training with Cheryl and her daughter Danielle for 2 years.
- Karma and Lauren Blackson received their Open Jumpers Title OAJ (AKC). Karma is a 3 year old Border Collie.
- Flash and Jen Slivka have been busy, receiving their CPE Championship FullHouse and Championship Jackpot in July. Also, Flash had 2 amazing weekends in July qualifying in 5 standard runs over two trials (this is a great training success for Flash!). One more standard and Flash will have the CPE C-ATCH. Flash is an American Eskimo dog.

Obedience / Show Handling



- Jack, Obedience Owner/handler William B Algee and Breed Ring Show Handler Margery Good have achieved a lot this year. Jack is the first Giant Schnauzer to have both titles; GCH and CDX. Jack was awarded the 2011 performance achievement award and the 2011 outstanding Giant Schnauzer award at the Giant Schnauzer Club America 2012 National Specialty. He has already earned his first two legs for the UD title
- Stoney and Peggy Udinski earned their open level title: Companion Dog Excellent CDX (AKC) this month. Stoney is a 3 year old English Bulldog, that has been training at the Academy since he was 9 months old. Peggy would like to thank all of the instructors esp. Sue Snyder for being so helpful in their journey.

Join me in Congratulating these dogs, owners, and handlers on their great performances, and wishing them continued success in the future.

Also, join me in congratulating the instructors that have helped each along the way.

If you have brags you would like to include in the next issue of the newsletter, please post them on [the Bags page of our blog](#), put them on the Academy's chalkboard or contact me at Kristin@acdemyofdogtraining.com.



Save the Dates (October 18-21, 2012)

One of the biggest events for the Academy of Dog Training and Agility every year is the Fair Hill International.

The Fair Hill International is an International Horse Show (October 18-21). So what does a Horse Show have to do with Dog Agility? The Academy is part of the Fair Hill Festival. The Festival offers different activities for those coming out to see the Horse Show Events. Over 4 days The Academy will perform demos and hands on mini instruction for the public. Ending with the October 21st agility show and go (all runs are free, but pre-registration is required).



What do we need? We need **YOU!** We need volunteer dogs and handlers of all levels to show the public what we do at the Academy, to give everyone a show, and to help teach new dogs how to do a small jump or a straight tunnel. This is a wonderful opportunity to have training time and fun with your dog.

What we have? We will have a 20' X 20' tent for our information and videos of the Swimming Paws Canine Swim Club and a 100' X 100' fenced area with Bleacher seating for the Agility Demos!

See the [Academy's Events Tab on their Website](#) for more information. Hope to see everyone there!

Job Opening at the Academy

If you haven't seen it on the Academy website the Academy is looking for a few good people:

The Academy needs a few well qualified people to aid in group instruction in Obedience, Agility and all other classes we provide.

Well qualified means:
Experience in Competition Obedience, (CD AND

CDX, ETC.), Rally Obedience, Treibball, Nosework, or any of the above.

Great people skills are required, and previous experience is a big plus. All Academy Staff perks will be provided (e.g. Free Club Membership, Clothing, Swimming, Classes, Pre-Approved Seminar Fees in

related classes and Travel compensation for class time).

Please pass this along to anyone that you know who may be interested. More information is available on the Academy Website or Contact Don Brown with further questions at 302-588-4636.

Feed back



What did you think about this addition of the Academy Times? What would you like to see going forward? We can only improve, if we know what's on your mind. We will strive to cater our information to you.

Please send all feedback to Kristin@Academyofdogtraining.com or use the feedback tool available on the [Academy site](#).