

www.AcademyofDogTraining.com

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
August 18, 2013	August 25, 2013
September 15, 2013	September 22, 2013
October 20, 2013	October 27, 2013
November 17, 2013	November 24, 2013
December 15, 2013	December 22, 2013

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Our next session of classes start

If you are looking for more agility show and goes or trials please sign up for our yahoo group (ADTAAgility).

Why Tricks?

My first introduction to tricks was watching my brother and his dogs do tricks. There is a widely viewed [YouTube video](#) of one of Wilbur's tricks incorporating his opinions on Steeler's football. Every time I saw them, Wilbur performed his latest trick.

When I started training my dog, Kody, I knew we were going to do agility. So, in Foundations of Agility, I was surprised to be asked to train a trick. So, I asked why a trick? As I remember, Lauren explained that the class was about learning and training new behaviors that aided in agility. Through the challenge of training a trick, you can learn how to reach a goal as a team. She challenged, if you can't train a simple trick, how would you expect to be able to train all of the agility components? So, begrudgingly, I taught my dog to roll over.

The more I researched prominent agility trainers, the more I found about tricks. This is when I started to realize maybe there is something to trick training. So, after learning the different ways to train tricks (shaping, luring, capturing, and targeting) and how to break down the behaviors to manageable pieces, I found the joy in training with Kody. The more tricks I trained the more rewarding I found it, and the more fun I had. So why do I support trick training so much now?

- Entertainment value - I get a kick out of watching Kody learn and offer behaviors during training sessions. He can be much more inventive than me. Then once the trick is complete, there is the entertainment value of seeing other's reaction to your trick.



- Challenge – how do you go about teaching your dog to do a hand stand or yawn on cue? Thinking through the steps and reaching the end product is very rewarding.
- It's a game - just like fetch, teaching a trick is another game to play with your dog, and though some tricks are not as physically demanding, dogs can have just as much joy in trick training, as well as tire from the mental exertion of learning.
- Attention - by working with your dog and having fun with them, they will look to you more for what's next and will generally be more excited to work with you.
- Functional - having a dog that can pick up your keys, flip a light switch, or hold a door is standard for service dogs, and any dog can learn these as tricks, that help around the house.
- State of mind – I have tricks which both pep my dog up if he's slowing down, and ones that are based on self-control when he's a bit too over the top in his energy levels.
- Conditioning – as I have said before, Kody is an agility dog. In order to be in top form, he has to have strength and flexibility. Both of these I work on through tricks.

Trick training should never be a chore, so have a laugh, and spend 5 minutes during the day having your dog learn something new. If you need ideas for tricks to train, how to train, or would like to join in on the fun, check out the Academy of Dog Training's Tricks Class (a 4 week class on Sundays at 4PM). Soon everyone will think your dog is genius, while he/she just loves the game of learning and performing tricks!

Training Challenge

Do you want a challenge to increase your dog's mental stimulation? Shaping can do that! This month's shaping challenge is to teach your dog "A Foot Target". Targeting is the base for a lot of different behaviors, once this is learned then you can really add on to it to get very complex tricks.

What do you need?

1. Your Dog
2. Clicker or verbal cue like yes.
3. Treats and / or tug toy
4. Target

One option to train this cue is by:

1. Put an object on the floor that will act as a foot target.
2. Look for your dog to have any even slight interaction

with the object.

- a. Looking
- b. Moving towards it

Treat this behavior.

3. After you have success here, up the stakes, the dog should be learning that all good things come from this new object, so now wait for more. Wait for physical interaction when the dog hits it with their nose, or paw.

When treating for physical interaction treats on the target at first to really instill in the dog the good association.

4. Now up your criteria again. Only treat on the plate when the dog puts their foot on the target.

When you know your dog's reaction to the target is going

to be to touch it with their foot, you no longer have to feed success on target.

At this point it would be time to attach a Cue. I use "Foot".

Things to remember:

1. Set your criteria before starting
 - a. Is this a duration behavior? Do you want your dog to hold his foot on the target? Or repeatedly hit it?
 - b. Is this cue for one Foot? Is there a separate cue for the other foot?
2. Set your dog up for success
3. Break up your sessions, keep sessions short and give him/her breaks within the session (Tugging is a great break, as it keeps your dog excited to work with you).
4. Above all else, have fun with your dog!

Academy Brags

The last couple of months (March-June), 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:

Obedience / Show Handling / Nosework

- Peggy Udinski and Stoney received their first Utility Leg at Wilmington Kennel Club's Trial
- Julie Miller and Shelby earned 94 out of 100 points in Rally Novice B.
- Clara Robbs and both her dogs Satchel and Kayleigh earned their NW1 nose work titles.
- Clara Robbs and Kayleigh earned their Rally Advanced title
- Janine Britton and Rio (Whippet) Earned Rio's Champion title by winning 3pt Major. Additionally, Rio took 2 Reserve best in multi-breed shows at the Delmarva KC UKC shows and is currently tied for the number 1 Whippet in UKC.

Agility

- Cheryl Ulissi and Chloe earned their MACH title the highest award in AKC agility. This title is earned by qualifying in two classes (Jumps with Weaves and Standard) a day, 20 times, while additionally earning 750 points (points are accumulated by earning 1 point per second under a qualifying course time).
- Michelle Rupp and Spock competed in their first trial. They also earned their first Qualifying runs in Fast and Jumps with Weaves
- Jeff Kase and Miss Daisy Mae-hem, earned their NADAC Elite Regular agility title and thus ended their storied career together. Miss Daisy will retire to her day job of frog gigging in their pond.
- Laurel Pearson and Shelby earned their Open Standard Preferred title in Agility
- Joyce Connolley and Toby earned their MXJ (Master Excellent Jumps with Weaves) title by earning their 10th qualifying Masters run.

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.

Feed back



What did you think about this edition 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](#).