

Goals of this class:

1. Learn about what skills are required to compete in the three levels of AKC obedience.
2. Learn some fundamental obedience competition skills that will allow you to go on to more advanced classes at ADOG.
3. See that you have fun with your dog!

Your responsibilities

1. Bring needed equipment to class
 - a. Buckle or snap closure collar (prong collar if needed)
 - b. 6-foot leash
 - c. Bed or mat when needed
 - d. LOTS of cookies that your dog will work for (dog treats, strips of hotdog or cheese, etc.)
2. Do your homework
3. Read the AKC obedience rules
4. Understand that learning to be a great obedience competition team is a process and takes time and practice

If you want to compete in AKC Obedience Trials

Your dog needs to know how to:

1. Pay attention to you
2. Respond to your body cues
3. Respond to commands while at your side
4. Respond to commands at a distance (Circular Signals)
5. Heel at your side (Circle of Control, right turns only with dog on the outside)
6. Sit straight at your side
7. Sit straight in front of you
8. Stay in sit or down position when told (and release for next exercise)
9. Retrieve things
10. Respond to directions (as in directed retrieve or directed jumping)
11. Come when called
12. Jump things
13. Go to something
14. Maintain self-control
15. Ignore distractions
16. Do the exercises promptly and willingly
17. Appropriately relieve stress

While teaching the dog new things:

- Do not rush to help them. They can figure things out for themselves or they can learn “helplessness”
- Teach wrong using the chair and lots of cookies
 - Then, you can tell the dog that they made the wrong choice—this is information for the dog

Handy tricks

- Tap
 - Rub hotdog on palm and hold palm in front of dog
 - Once she offers to touch your palm, add the command “tap”
- Left
 - With dog sitting between your feet, lure into left circle with cookie
 - Move forward as the dog comes forward
 - Feed in “cookie delivery position”
- Bounce
 - Have a cookie in each hand
 - Dog gets a cookie for jumping up
 - Can use this right after removing leash in the obedience ring, then move to the starting position for the first exercise
- Wrist flip
 - In the cookie delivery position, hold treat in your palm with palm facing dog
 - Once you have dog’s attention, flip your wrist so the cookie is facing to the back
 - Let the dog work itself around so that it is now facing forward, with nose to cookie
 - Be patient and let the dog work it out
- Bop
 - Stand with your dog and you facing the wall
 - Using a cookie, encourage your dog to jump up and touch the wall
- Silent set-up
 - Hold cookie between thumb and middle finger, with index finger extended
 - Lead dog into correct heel position

Skills list:

1. Pay attention to you
 - a. Cookie face
 - b. Watch
 - c. Stationary attention at side and in front
 - d. The Circle of Attention
2. Respond to your body cues
 - a. Practice moving your shoulders while using a cookie to lure your dog
3. Respond to commands while at your side
 - a. Sit
 - b. Down
 - c. Stand
 - d. Stay
 - e. Watch

4. Respond to commands, eventually at a distance (the half-circle of attention with hand/voice signals)
 - a. Sit
 - b. Down
 - c. Stand
 - d. Stay, including release and moving to next exercise
 - e. Watch
 - f. Backup
 - g. Settle
 - h. Wait
5. Heel at your side
 - a. Circle of control from Matt Twitty
 - b. Dogs on outside of circle
 - c. Right turns only
 - d. Treat often with cookie in “cookie delivery area” when dog is in correct position
 - e. Heel position is “Disneyland”
6. Sit straight in front of you
 - a. Chair front game—remember to toss the treat to different places, including behind you
 - b. Chair then stand game
 - c. Fronts where handler stands against the wall with knees bent.
 - d. Fronts where handler stands up against the wall
7. Stay in sit or down position when told
 - a. Proof stays
8. Come when called
 - a. Proof recalls
9. Jump things
 - a. Beginning jumping with dog on one side and handler on the other
10. Go to something
 - a. Go to your mat/platform
11. Ignore distractions on all exercises
 - a. Spatial Pressure (e.g., people)
 - b. Sight (other things going on)
 - c. Smell (cookies)
 - d. Sound (toys)
12. Appropriately relieve stress
 - a. Bounce
 - b. Tug