



Rally-Obedience “AKC Novice” - Introduction

This is a course designed for graduates of our basic, intermediate and advanced group classes. The class size is limited to 6 dogs. Each session lasts about 1 to 1 ½ hours. Students are expected to help with the set-up and take-down of the rally courses.

According to the American Kennel Club “AKC Rally is the new dog sport that is taking the nation by storm, a successful stepping stone from the AKC Canine Good Citizen® program to the world of obedience or agility. Rally offers both the dogs and handlers an experience that is fun and energizing. The canine team moves at their own pace, very similar to rally-style auto racing. Rally was designed with the traditional pet owner in mind, but it can still be very challenging for those who enjoy higher levels of competition.

A rally course includes 10 to 20 stations, depending on the level. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. Communication between handler and dog is encouraged and perfect heel position is not required, but there should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler. The main objective of rally is to produce dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport of rally at all times and under all conditions.

Rally provides a link 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.” (from http://www.akc.org/events/rally/getting_started.cfm)

Please note:

- All dogs must be on leash at all times, unless otherwise instructed by one of the trainers.
- If your dog has any medical or behavioral issues, please speak to an instructor prior to class.
- Your dog must be under your control at all times.
- Your dog should have some basic obedience skills (e. g. attention to name, sit, down, stay, come) and be comfortable with being handled and restrained.
- Please clean up after your dog. Plastic bags can be provided on demand.
- Please ask for permission before you approach and greet another dog-handler team. Please respect other team’s social space/comfort zone.



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Classes will be held on the parking lot at Wagging Tail Doggie Day Care, 95 East 10th Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, tel. 570-784-9244, unless advertised otherwise.

You need to bring to each class:

- Snap, buckle or martingale collar, harness or head halter (please no choke chains, prong/pinch or shock collars)
- 4-6 foot nylon, leather or cotton leash (please no chain or retractable leashes)
- High-value treats (e. g. string cheese, hot dogs, chicken breast; cut into pieces, half the size of your fingernail). If your dog has any health restrictions, please contact your vet about appropriate treats.
- Your dog’s favorite toy

IMPORTANT: Please bring your dog’s vaccination records to the first class!

Please note that HeRo Canine Consulting is offering this course as a pet dog rally class, not a competition dog class. We will be doing this for fun and so that our dogs can stay in training. We expect everyone to be responsible, respect other dogs’ social space issues and listen/respond to other attendees’ wishes and concerns.

When you arrive at Wagging Tail, please leave your dogs in the car (make sure that they don’t get too hot or start destroying things – you can crate them in your car and leave the doors open) and come inside. At the beginning of each class, we will be introducing some signs of the novice/beginner course and discuss/demo the best ways to teach those to the dogs.

We will then go outside and practice with the dogs. We may rotate dogs initially rather than work all the dogs at once, so people can also observe other people, and help problem-solve. As you all know, it can sometimes be difficult to listen and concentrate when there is a pooch at the other end of the leash 😊. And it’s a good way to teach our dogs patience as well...

We may have to do a lot of brainstorming during the course as well, so on occasion we may be inside to try and figure out how to teach a particular dog a particular exercise, with no distractions around. Dogs may be crated then or left in the car.

Please familiarize yourself with the Rally signs and rules prior to class:

http://www.akc.org/events/rally/getting_started.cfm

http://www.gracegift.info/rally/akcsigns_duplicates.pdf (one sign per page, in case you want to print them out)

http://www.akc.org/pdfs/about/board_minutes/Rally_Regulations.pdf

(Note: there is also APDT Rally-O; see <http://www.apdt.com/po/rally/default.aspx> and http://www.apdt.com/po/rally/rules/ch_10_course_design.aspx for more info)



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Please fill out the form below and send it with full payment to HeRo Canine Consulting LLC, 175 B Tunnel Road, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, , or drop it off at Wagging Tail Doggie Day Care where the classes will be held. Please make checks payable to HeRo Canine Consulting LLC. **Cost for the 6-week course: \$100.00**

Class: Intro to Rally-Obedience "AKC Novice" Start Date/Time: _____

Owner's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number Home: _____ Cell: _____

e-mail: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Breed: _____

Sex: _____ Age: _____ Spayed/Neutered (please circle): Yes / No

Please describe any physical limitations of the dog owner, and any physical and/or behavioral issues of the dog that the instructors need to be aware of:

Referred by (e. g. vet, another client, advertisement, etc.): _____

Payment in full is required at the time of registration. The course fee includes a \$40.00 non-refundable registration deposit. All discounts must be presented at the time of registration. NO REFUNDS OF ANY FEES AFTER FIRST CLASS.

Student Agreement: I assume full responsibility for myself, my dog, and for any attending family members or guests. I further agree to hold HeRo Canine Consulting LLC, Wagging Tail Bed & Biscuit Inc., Richard E. Angelo Inc., and their agents, instructors and employees faultless for any illness, injury or loss that may occur to myself, to my dog or any attending family members or guests. I pledge to abide by the stated rules and will ensure the same of my companions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

-----for office use only-----

Paid Amount _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Paypal _____ Taken by _____

HOUSEKEEPING RULES

1. Please keep your dog on leash at all times, unless otherwise directed by your instructor.
2. Please follow the directions of your instructor at all times. Feel free to ask questions and ask for help, when something needs clarification or more practice.
3. Please arrive on time for your class, or preferably several minutes early, so your dog can eliminate outside.
4. Pagers and cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate while the class is in session. If you must answer your phone, kindly step outside so as not to interrupt the class.
5. Wear comfortable clothing (dress in layers, as we will spend time outside) and relatively flat-soled footwear to class (no flip-flops please).
6. Well-behaved children are welcome and indeed an asset in class. Parents must be able to supervise and control their children at all times. We reserve the right to remove disruptive children from class.
7. If you are unable to make it to class or will be late, please call or email us. Silke's phone number is (570) 458-5749 (home) or (574) 512-8170 (cell), and her email address is contact@herocanineconsulting.com.
8. Please bring your dog to class with a flat (buckle, snap) or martingale collar, and/or a head collar (Gentle Leader, Halti), if your dog is comfortable wearing one. A front-clip harness (e. g. Sense-ation, Freedom, Easy-Walk) is also very helpful. We would prefer to see no choke chains or prong/pinch collars. Shock collars are not permitted in class. Please use a 4-6 foot nylon, leather or cotton leash. Retractable or chain leashes are not permitted.
9. Please clean up after your dog inside and outside of the building. If you did not bring a plastic bag for your dog's poop, please ask the instructor for one.
10. Please do not feed your dog right before coming to class (unless otherwise instructed by your veterinarian). This will help your dog focus on you and the reinforcing treats you will use in training. An earlier meal is fine. If you feel that your dog is so hungry that s/he cannot concentrate, let us know and we can discuss an alternative feeding plan.
11. Please do not let your dog greet other dogs on leash, unless directed by your instructor, and respect the wishes and concerns of your fellow students. Remember that not every dog may be friendly towards dogs and/or humans.
12. If your dog is sick or in heat, please leave him/her home but come yourself. Although you will not be able to work with your own dog, you can observe, help someone else with their dog, and practice what you learned later at home.
13. In case of inclement weather, we may postpone the class and make it up at the end of the course. Please call us if you have not heard from us already and are unsure.
14. A tired dog is a happy dog! Play games with your dog that will give him/her lots of physical exercise. Retrieve, fetch and tug-of-war are excellent as long as basic rules are understood and followed. Playing hide-and-seek adds some mental challenge as well as motivates your dog to want to find and be with you. You will find that mental exercise (such as training) is usually just as or even more tiring for your dog than physical exercise.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding these guidelines, please speak to an instructor.