

October 2018



**Tail Blazers Agility Club
of The Brandywine Valley, PA, Inc.**

**Training Standard Operating
Procedures**

Training Mission Statement

Tail Blazers Agility Club of The Brandywine Valley, PA, Inc. (TBAC) will provide a venue for furthering the sport of agility under the supervision of competent instructors using the latest established techniques for the purpose of enhancing the relationship between the Handler and the Dog.

**TBAC IS A POSITIVE TRAINING CLUB.
NO HARSH METHODS WILL BE TOLERATED IN TRAINING AT ANY TIME.**

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I. Goals

Our goals are to:

- Provide and maintain a safe, energetic learning environment for all members
- Provide and maintain quality equipment for training
- Provide competent instructors that will maintain a high level of instruction through the use of innovative, challenging strategies, and the utilization of the latest techniques
- Continue to improve the training program by exploring new techniques and through attendance at seminars and clinics
- Provide an equal opportunity for all members to train and advance
- Provide a training program that meets the individual needs of members and gives them the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential through the use of standards and planned sequential programs
- Provide a positive reinforcement training program
- Provide affordable training for all members
- Implement the mission statement, goals, objectives, beliefs, and standard operating procedures so that they serve as the basic guide for daily operational and instructional decision making as well as long range planning
- Provide evaluation surveys to assure a quality training facility and training program
- Gauge the effectiveness of our program, to plan both day-to-day operations and long-term future operations of the training program

II. Objectives

Our objectives are to teach skills that promote:

- Bonding of Dog and Handler
- Motivation for Dogs and Handlers
- The ability of the Dogs to think and solve problems
- Dog's attention to Handler and Handler's attention to their Dog
- Dog's confidence
- Safety while working on all agility equipment
- Handler's confidence in understanding agility courses
- Good foundations for improvement and/or advancement
- Good sportsmanship
- Confidence to compete in any venue

III. Beliefs

It is our belief that the total membership must be provided the opportunities to offer input into the training program in order to make our mission statement, goals, objectives and standard operating procedures an integral part of the total program. It is our intention to involve all members in the ongoing process of designing, presenting and evaluating the total training environment.

IV. Training positions

A. Training director — Beginners

- Directs the Beginner's training program
- Publicizes Beginner program to attract new Beginner Trainees
- Responds to public inquiries regarding TBAC beginner training
- Creates a list of all who inquire about beginner training
- Sends out confirmation letters to all Beginner Trainees
- Collects training registrations and fees and keeps on file all waivers-and-vaccination record documents
- Sends all Beginner Trainees their class placement and schedule
- Ensures that Beginner Trainees understand training SOPs, membership requirements and responds to additional questions about the training program
- Prepares annual budget
- Handles resolution of complaints from Beginner Trainees and Instructors
- Reports as needed at general meetings and to the Board

B. Training director — Continuing training

- Directs the upper level training program
- Responds to public inquiries regarding TBAC training beyond the beginner level and schedules evaluations
- Sends Training Members their class placement and schedule
- Ensures that Training Members understand training SOPs and membership requirements
- Handles member requests to drop in to classes or to bring guests to class
- Schedules mid-session training evaluations
- Prepares annual budget
- Will help to obtain a substitute instructor if coverage can't be worked out among the instructors

- Coordinates with the Treasurer the monthly payments of Instructors, Assistant Instructors and any substitutes when classes are canceled
- Determines and communicates all class cancellations
- Maintains a master list of all classes
- Handles resolution of complaints from Training Members and Instructors
- Reports as needed at general meetings and to the Board

C. Training seminars and clinics

- Board must approve any event which involves a monetary transaction
- Barn must approve the date and time of the event
- Parking is limited to 20 cars, including Instructors
- Beginner Trainees and Training Members will have first consideration for acceptance

V. Beginners training

A. Inquiries

- All inquiries will be directed to the Beginners Training Director
- The Beginners Training Director will make initial contact and send out information describing fees, class schedules and prerequisite requirements
- The Beginners Training Director will maintain a list of potential Beginners

B. Application process

- Prior to the start of Beginners training, Beginners Training Director will contact potential Beginners to confirm interest, arrange evaluations and provide required registration and waiver forms.
- TBAC Members will have first consideration for class entry when requested in reasonable time and after receipt of a nonrefundable deposit.
- Non-TBAC trainees who send the nonrefundable deposit will be given a spot in the class on a first-come first-served basis until the class is full
- Potential Beginners must send the signed registration form, waiver, a copy of the dog's rabies certificate, and the remaining fee for the first 10 week session prior to starting classes
- Rabies vaccination must be current as required by state law
- Beginners Training Director will send a confirmation to Beginners registered for the first class confirming class dates, times, helpful information for the first class, and the Training SOPs
- Beginners Training Director will send class information to the Instructor prior to the start of classes

- If space is available, Beginners inquiring after the first class has started will be scheduled for an evaluation. Beginners must bring the training fee, registration form, waiver, and rabies certification to the evaluation
- **All training fees are nonrefundable after the first class**

C. Class size

- Maximum class size is 15 dogs, unless approved by the Beginners Instructor
- Minimum class size is five dogs. If there are five or fewer dogs enrolled by the registration deadline, the Board reserves the right to either cancel the class or combine it with another class. The Board will make the decision after consulting with the Instructors, and will notify affected class members as soon as possible before the start of the first class of the season.
- Class size may be adjusted because of the following:
 - Availability of the facility and size of the training area
 - Availability of parking spaces at the facility
 - Availability of the Instructors and Assistant Instructors needed to maintain an acceptable instructor-to-student ratio
- 11-15 dogs will have one Beginner Instructor and two Assistants
- 6-10 dogs will have one Beginner Instructor and one Assistant
- Five or fewer dogs will have one Beginner Instructor (see minimum class size above)

D. Class cancellation

- Decisions to cancel classes due to weather and/or conditions at the training facility will be made at the discretion of the Training Director and communicated as early in the day as feasible but no later than 3 p.m.
- The Training Director will cancel classes if the predicted "actual" temperature is 90° F or above at 6 p.m., or 30° F or below at 8 p.m.
- Class cancellation announcements will be made via email
- Classes will be cancelled if they fall on a designated holiday
- Classes will be cancelled if they fall on the day of a TBAC trial or, if necessary, for the loading of equipment for a trial, with Board approval
- In case of an emergency, the Training Director will approve cancellation of classes
- Any other cancellations must be approved by the Board

E. Beginners training classes

- Prior to first class, evaluations will be held to verify dogs and handlers meet requirements for class. Please see Beginners I prerequisite in section IX.
- Beginners Training Director will verify that fees, waiver, registration forms, and rabies verification have been received
- Instructor will clarify class procedures and rules for use of the training facilities and equipment
- Aggression of handler and/or dog will not be tolerated
- If a dog is observed to be aggressive, handler will be required to follow the procedure described in section VII.B before being accepted for class

Beginners I — 10 Weeks

Classes rotate start times every other month from early to late and this continues throughout training on all training nights unless special circumstances do not allow for rotation.

Beginners II — 10 Weeks

- Beginners wishing to continue will pay a fee for the second 10-week session by the date designated by the Beginners Training Director
- Beginners II wishing to continue to Beginners III will be required to apply for Club Membership. To do so, they will be guided through the process by the Beginners Training Director.
- If there are extra classes between Beginners II and Beginners III, class will be held at the discretion of the Beginners Training Director in consultation with Instructors at no additional cost.

VI. Continuing training

A. Training inquiries for classes

- All questions regarding training with TBAC should be directed to the Training Director.
- A handler who wishes to join a class other than Beginners will be evaluated for class placement
- Handlers being evaluated must bring a waiver, vaccination certification, and evaluation fee to class
- If accepted for class, handlers will pay a prorated training fee.
- If accepted for class, handlers must complete the membership form and pay the membership fee
- If the appropriate class is full, new handlers will be placed on a waiting list

B. Class size

- Maximum class size is 14 dogs, unless approved by the Instructor.
- The minimum class size is six dogs. If there are six or fewer dogs enrolled by the registration deadline, the Board reserves the right to either cancel the class or combine it with another class. The Board will make the decision after consulting with the Instructors, and will notify affected class members as soon as possible before the start of the first class of the season.
- Class size may be adjusted because of the following:
 - Availability of the facility and size of the training area.
 - Availability of Instructors and Assistant Instructors needed to maintain an acceptable instructor to student ratio.
 - Availability of parking spaces at the facility.
- 8-14 dogs will have one Instructor and one Assistant
- Seven or fewer dogs will have one Instructor (see minimum class size above)

C. Class cancellation

- Decisions to cancel classes due to weather and/or conditions at the training facility will be made at the discretion of the Training Director and communicated as early in the day as feasible but no later than 3 p.m.
- The Training Director will cancel classes if the predicted "actual" temperature is 90° F or above at 6 p.m., or 30° F or below at 8 p.m.
- Class cancellation announcements will be made via email
- Classes will be cancelled if they fall on a designated holiday
- Classes will be cancelled if they fall on the day of a TBAC trial or, if necessary, for the loading of equipment for a trial, with Board approval
- In case of an emergency, the Training Director will approve cancellation of classes
- Any other cancellations must be approved by the Board

D. Continuing training classes

Assignment to classes is determined by progression of the handler and dog as well as space availability and approved by the Training Director and Instructors.

Beginners III— 6 months session

Beginners continuing with training will now follow the regular twice a year registration for classes.

Novice

Six months starting after Beginners III and lasting approximately 12 months at the discretion of the Training Director.

Open

- At this point, handlers may move to a different class with different Instructors
- Requests to take class all early or all late are considered based on the level of the handler/dog and ensuring a balanced class size

Excellent/Masters

- These classes are held on a different class night with different Instructors
- Assignment to classes is determined by progression of the handler and dog as well as space availability
- Requests to take class all early or all late are considered based on the level of the handler/dog and class size; special exceptions may be made

E. Training policies and procedures

All exceptions to training policies and procedures will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Training Directors.

Training inquiries for classes

- All questions regarding training with TBAC should be directed to the Training Directors
- A handler who wishes to join a class other than Beginners will be evaluated for class placement
- Handlers being evaluated must bring a waiver, vaccination certification and an evaluation fee to class
- If accepted for class, Handlers will pay a pro-rated training fee
- If accepted for class, Handlers must complete the membership form and pay the membership fee
- If the appropriate class is full, new handlers will be placed on a waiting list

Registration of dogs for training

- No more than two dogs per handler in any one class
- Members may register for one training spot, and alternate bringing two dogs of similar ability, or register for two training spots and bring two dogs
- Training of dogs not registered for class is not permitted unless approved by the Training Director as a drop-in
- Permanent or temporary replacement of a registered dog with another dog owned and handled by the Member, in the same class, can occur after an evaluation and approval by the Instructor
- Members must initiate any request for class changes with the Training Directors

- Registration must be received in full before starting classes in any session
- Registration forms must include signatures on the waiver statement, date of last rabies vaccination, and signature certifying rabies information is accurate
- Rabies vaccination must be current as required by state law
- Must be a member in good standing as described in the TBAC SOPs

Class placement

- Class placement will be determined based on the level of the handler and dog and must be approved by the Instructor and Training Directors
- Instructors and Training Directors will evaluate dogs and handlers twice a year according to the Training Curriculum.
- Class size and compatibility of the entire class will also be taken into consideration when assigning members to a class
- Members will be assigned to a class and cannot change classes, days, or times without the approval of the Training Director and Instructor

Class schedule

- Class scheduling will be arranged according to the availability and restrictions of the facilities and Instructors
- Classes may be rotated between times as needed in order to be fair to the entire membership
- Classes of similar abilities will be scheduled on the same night wherever possible
- December may consist of only 2-3 weeks if there is a holiday break and January may not start until the second week
- Handlers (except Beginners) may request to train for 6 months out of a training year but will not be guaranteed a training slot upon their return and may need to be evaluated. Class placement will be based upon the discretion of the Training Director and class Instructors.

Member drop-in to classes

- Training Director, in conjunction with the Instructor, must approve all drop-ins before Member comes to class
- If Member is not currently registered for training they must bring a signed waiver form and drop-in fee to the class
- Members not registered to train may drop-in to class a maximum of 4 times in a 6 month period
- Members who are registered for training are permitted to drop-in to a class one level down, with a dog currently registered to train, if space is available and the Instructor approves
- Training Members may drop-in to a lower level class a maximum of 4 times in a 6 month period.
- Members cannot take more than one class per week with the same dog.
- The same rules apply to Lifetime Members.

Nonmember drop-in to classes

- Training Director, in conjunction with the Instructor, must approve all Nonmembers before Member and Nonmember come to class
- Members registered for training are permitted to have a Nonmember visit their class with them if space is available and the handler and dog are at the same skill level as the rest of the class
- Nonmembers must bring a signed waiver form and Nonmember fee to the class
- The same Nonmember may attend class a maximum of 4 times in a 12-month period
- The Instructor may ask the Nonmember to sit out the class if the handler or dog is disruptive to the class

VII. Class rules and conduct

A. Inappropriate handler behavior

Tail Blazers is a positive reinforcement training club and will not tolerate any physical correction of dogs by handlers. This applies to all classes and applies to Members, Nonmembers, Beginners, Instructors, and Assistant Instructors. The Instructor should be informed if any of the following behaviors are observed. Do not approach the offender.

- Striking, kicking, punching a dog with your hand, foot, or any other object
- Dragging, choking, hanging a dog
- Use of a prong collar or any electronic device
- Throwing any object directly at a dog
- Shaking, striking, kicking of a crate with a dog inside
- Aggressive behavior towards other dogs or people

B. Dog aggression

If a dog bites another dog or a person, handler and dog will be immediately excused from class. All involved parties and the Instructor will complete an incident report and the incident report will be immediately submitted to the Training Director, who will then submit to the Board within seven days. The Board will meet and discuss within seven days after receipt of incident report.

A dog that has bitten another dog(s) or person(s) shall be temporarily suspended from class pending professional evaluation by a veterinarian before beginning or returning to class. The minimum amount of suspension is 10-14 days according to State Law. The handler must write a letter to the Training Director stating that the dog has been evaluated by a veterinarian, who may suggest the dog see a behaviorist, and is no longer exhibiting aggressive behavior. The Training Director will then arrange for a reevaluation of the dog and handler with the Instructor, who will either approve or deny TBAC training. Training fees paid will not be refunded.

C. Rules of conduct

Dog management

- Double gates must be used to divide the training rings at every class
- Keep your dog on an appropriate leash and in control at all times inside and outside of the training facility. Flexi leashes are not allowed. Dogs may wear gentle leaders or a harness type into and out of the facility but must be removed for training. The dog cannot be tied or left in sit/down stay
- When not training, confine your dog in an exercise pen or crate or on leash held by a responsible person in order to prevent wandering
- Dogs should not directly socialize or play with one another inside or outside the facility. Stay at a safe distance to avoid any possible problem
- Control excessive barking in and outside of the training facility by covering the crate or removing the dog from the training facility
- Bitches in season are permitted to attend upper-level classes (Excellent and Masters) provided they wear well-fitted sanitary britches and use a start line mat
- Do not let dogs relieve themselves in the grass along the left side of the walkway to the facility. Any solid waste must be picked up and disposed of off premises
- Do not bring a sick dog to class
- If a dog has an accident inside the arena, it must be cleaned up and removed
- Do not take your dog out of the crate unleashed
- When class begins, only the training dog and handler can be on the course. All other dogs must stay off the course and out of the way of the training team
- Dogs 4 months or older may be brought to the Excellent classes for socializing purposes as long as they are not disruptive to the class and the Instructor is informed prior to class. Under no circumstances may a young dog be put on any equipment
- It is strongly suggested if your dog is reactive, the dog should wear a bandana or other marking plus a sign or other marking on the crate to alert handlers

Handler conduct

- Rudeness between class participants and/or Instructors will not be tolerated. Training privileges may be suspended or membership revoked by the Board without refunding of membership or training fees
- Be considerate of other handlers and refrain from monopolizing the Instructor's time during class. Any handler who wishes to talk with an Instructor must wait until the end of class
- Do not enter the horse stables at any time. Handlers must enter and exit through the side door
- Arrive on time when your class begins at 6 p.m. so that setup goes quickly and everyone does their share of the work. It's a good practice to set up the heavier contact equipment together before the rest of the course
- Inform the Instructor as soon as possible if you cannot attend a class.
- Refrain from providing instruction to other handlers.

- Only qualified TBAC agility employees/Instructors should be teaching during class time. No other training or activities should take place during class time or at the training facility.

Parking

- Always drive slowly down the driveway so as not to disturb horses in the pasture
- Only one car may use the driveway at a time. Do not attempt to pass a car coming in the opposite direction. Cars coming out have the right of way over cars coming in. An inbound car may need to back out the driveway for an outbound car if necessary
- If you arrive for the late class and do not see that there is a space in the parking area, park temporarily in the driveway that leads to the house, parallel to Providence Road. Do not park your car along the side of the driveway waiting for a parking spot because it will block outbound cars
- Handlers who are leaving the early class must load up and leave as soon as class is over so that the next class can park and the class will start on time
- Park considerately and do not park in front of the barn doors
- Driveway must be kept open for emergency vehicles
- Do not leave a vehicle running in the parking lot anywhere near the barn
- Do not allow a dog in your vehicle to bark continuously; bring dog inside

Use of the facility

- No one may enter the arena until the designated class time
- Everyone must be out of the building and parking lot by 9:30 p.m.
- All horse jumps that are moved during class must be replaced in the same previous position before leaving
- Arena floor must be cleared of all agility equipment before leaving
- TBAC may use the storage area immediately to the left of the doorway, the ledge area, and the storage cabinets built into the sloped walls. The A-Frame may remain on the floor leaning against the ledge on the back side. All agility equipment along the ledge must be put back in the same position from which it was removed
- All lights and electrical equipment must be turned off and doors closed before leaving. Overhead doors should be returned to their pre-class position
- TBAC cannot use any flammable (gasoline, gas, propane) fuels or any heat source that may cause a fire if tipped over
- Water containers should not be emptied inside the arena
- All refreshments and containers must be removed at the end of classes
- The bathroom door must be kept closed at all times
- No TBAC member will be permitted in the facility when there are no classes scheduled
- If class has been canceled, Handlers cannot use the site or equipment outside of a scheduled class
- No smoking is allowed on White Horse Stables property

Agreement between White Horse Stables and TBAC

- All communication between White Horse Stables and TBAC will be handled by one designated person
- TBAC must carry current insurance coverage for personal liability and equipment. An insurance endorsement must be provided to White Horse Stables by March of each year
- TBAC will rent the facility month-to-month to include two to four days of training per week and days as necessary to provide for additional training opportunities
- If a training day is canceled, TBAC will not rent the facility to another club, group, association, etc.
- Rent is due by the first day of each month
- White Horse Stables will be responsible for all property management
- Occasionally a weekend day may be rented for a seminar, clinic, etc., if approved by White Horse Stables, a Training Director or Board President must be present at the event

D. Procedures for handler concerns or complaints

- Handlers should not approach other handlers directly. Immediately inform the Instructor
- A complaint from a handler in a class about an infraction of any of the class rules and conduct will be investigated, documented and reported to the appropriate Training Director
- All concerns and complaints will be handled by the Instructor on a case by case basis along with the appropriate Training Director
- Only one verbal warning by an Instructor, with documentation to the appropriate Training Director will be allowed before imposing consequences for the second infraction
- If the offense is severe, consequences will be imposed without a first warning

Consequences

Consequences will be documented in the appropriate Training Director's file and will be as follows:

- First offence after receiving a verbal warning — immediate dismissal from class
- Second offence — immediate dismissal from class and suspension from classes for the next 4 training weeks
- Third offence — suspension of training privileges for one year and recommendation of expulsion from TBAC, depending upon the severity of the infraction, to be decided by the Board

VIII. Instructors' procedures, responsibilities, and conduct

TBAC's philosophy is to provide a multiplicity of competent Instructors to all class levels. The Training Director and Beginners Training Director will manage the instructor program. TBAC will attempt to hire Instructors and Assistant Instructors from within our membership.

A. Instructors

- Instructors will develop a training program that is consistent with the goals, objectives, and beliefs of TBAC that should include handouts, videos, and emails that reinforce the lesson taught in class
- Instructors will review the goals of the class and Training SOPs with the class
- Instructors will be familiar with and uphold the procedures, class rules, and conduct defined in the Training SOPs, especially those defined in sections V, VI, VIII, and IX
- Professional behavior is expected at all times
- In order to receive payment, all Instructors must report dates, times classes worked, and attendance sheets to the Treasurer by the last day of the month, who will issue a check within one week. No checks will be issued without classes worked and attendance records
- Concerns about handlers and or other Instructors/Assistant Instructors should be brought to the attention of the Training Director and not discussed within the class
- All outside and indoor lights must be on starting at dusk and until the last student is at their car
- Instructors should check that outside lights are on at the start of tear down of equipment
- Begin and end classes on time
- Provide each student with equal training opportunities. Beware of students who monopolize Instructors
- Ensure the proper procedures are followed for closing the building
- Check that all students can leave safely at the end of class
- Report anything that is unsafe or in need of repair to the Training Director by email
- Instructors may train their dogs between classes as long as it does not interfere in any way with the scheduled class
- Instructors have the right to enforce any infraction of class rules
- Instructors are required to stay current with continuing education in agility from seminars, advances in training, and informational material. The minimal amount of continuing education in agility is two paid events a year

B. Assistant Instructors

- Assist the Instructor in carrying out the training program set forth by the Instructor for the class level
- Assistant Instructors will review the goals of the class and Training SOPs with the class
- Assistant Instructors will be familiar with and uphold the procedures, class rules, and conduct defined in the Training SOPs, especially those defined in sections V, VI, VIII, and IX
- Professional behavior is expected at all times
- In the absence of the Instructor, Assistant Instructors must report dates, times, classes worked, and attendance sheets to the Treasurer by the end of the month, who will issue a check within one week. No checks will be issued without classes worked and attendance sheets
- Concerns about Handlers and or other Instructors/Assistant Instructors should be brought to the attention of the Training Director and not discussed within the class
- All outside and indoor lights must be on starting at dusk and until the last student is at their car
- Assistant Instructors should check that outside lights are on at the start of tear down of equipment
- Begin and end classes on time
- Provide each student with equal training opportunities. Beware of students who monopolize Instructors
- Ensure the proper procedures are followed for closing the building
- Check that all students can leave safely at the end of class
- Report anything that is unsafe or in need of repair to the Training Director by email
- Assistant Instructors may train their dogs between classes as long as it does not interfere in any way with the scheduled class
- Assistant Instructors have the right to enforce any infraction of class rules
- Assistant Instructors are required to stay current with continuing education in agility from seminars, advances in training, and informational material. The minimal amount of continuing education in agility is two paid events a year

IX. Training curriculum

A. Beginners I

Prerequisite: Dog must have a recall of 5-6 feet, be able to walk on a leash on handler's right and left side, a 3-5 second sit or down and demonstrate a trick or hand touch.

Goals:

- Dog will become comfortable with the movement of the tippy board or low teeter using 2-4 paws
- Dog will keep two paws on a perch while back feet move right or left
- Dog can walk on a travel plank or dog walk on or above the ground
- Dog is able to nose or paw target an object
- Dog and handler will be able to demonstrate the beginning of sequencing, containing at least three obstacles going to a target (food or toy)
- Dog will be able to go through a straight-tunnel
- Dog is working on a start-line stay and a release cue

B. Beginners II

Prerequisite: Either completion of Beginners I or the demonstration of the beginning of a working relationship between handler and dog by meeting the goals for the Beginners I class.

Goals:

- Dog will begin to have the ability to complete all contact equipment at half height with the 2 on/2 off technique or chosen end behavior.
- Dog and handler will be able to demonstrate the beginning of sequencing containing at least 3 obstacles going to a target (food or toy).
- Dog and handler will begin to train exercises using 1-5 jumps, including the tunnel, tire and table.
- Handler will be able to send and recall the dog to an obstacle or jump.
- Dog will have a start line stay and a release cue.
- Dog will have a start line stay in front of any obstacle.

C. Beginners III

Prerequisite: Either the completion of Beginners II or the ability to demonstrate the goals for the Beginners II class.

Goals:

- Dog will have the ability to complete all contact equipment at half height with the 2on/2off technique or other end behavior
- Dog will have the ability to find the correct weave pole entrance with reliability and independence
- Dog will have the ability to correctly complete 6 straight weave poles within 3 attempts
- The dog and handler will be able to complete front and rear crosses
- Dog and handler will be able to complete short sequences of 10-12 obstacles using front and rear crosses

D. Novice

Prerequisite: Either the completion of Beginners III or the ability to demonstrate the goals of the Beginners III class.

Goals:

- Dog will possess the ability to correctly complete 6-12 straight weave poles within 3 attempts
- Dog will be able to complete all contact equipment at full height with two-on/two-off technique, or other end behavior
- Dog will be able to correctly complete the tire, table, tunnels double, triple, panel, and broad jumps
- Handler and dog will possess the ability to sequence 10-16 obstacles using front, rear, and blind crosses
- Handler will learn to read a course map and create a plan by walking the course
- The ability to (if desired) compete in Novice (AKC), Starter (USDAA), Level 1/2 (CPE), or complete the AKC ACT Test

E. Open/Advanced Open

Prerequisite: Students who have been evaluated, the completion of the Novice class, be able to demonstrate the ability to complete all contacts at full height, tire, spread, panel and broad jumps, tunnels, table, and 6-12 weave poles.

Goals:

- Handler will continue to learn to make a plan by walking the course
- Dog and handler will be able to either compete in Open (AKC or NADAC), Advanced (USDAA), Level 3/4 (CPE), or any second-level at other agility venues
- Whether competing or not, each team will be able to complete a sequence of 14-16 obstacles using front, rear, and blind crosses
- Continue to try more advanced sequencing and distance work to gain the ability to complete a Level 4/5C (CPE), Advanced (USDAA), or Excellent/Masters (AKC) course either in a class or trial setting

F. Excellent/Masters

Prerequisite: Completion of Open/Advanced Open Class

Goals:

- Handler will refine their ability to make a plan by walking the course
- Dog and handler will be able to compete at Excellent/Masters level (AKC), Level 4/5/C (CPE), Advanced/Masters (USDAA), or Senior/Champion (UKI)
- If not competing: The ability to complete 12 weave poles, 15-22 obstacles in succession, including but not limited to spread, panel and broad jumps, table and tunnels, and handle the dog's line around a course using front, rear, and blind crosses
- To advance the skill of handler and dog by trying out new handling techniques, crosses, and turns to complete Masters, Premier, or International courses

Appendix 1 Training positions (updated 7/22)

Training Director — Beginners

Barb Brandt

brb694@yahoo.com

Training Director — Continuing Training

Linda Morgan

fast1530@gmail.com

Appendix 2 Fees

Training fees for continuing training may change from 6-month session to session. Refer to the training registration form for the fee currently in effect. Similarly, refer to the Membership Form for current membership fees. Check current fee at www.tbacagility.org

Drop-in fees

Nonmember	\$35
Member	\$25
Lifetime member	\$5

Other class fees

Class evaluation	\$35
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