

April 2024



**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 reinforcement training club.

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## I. Goals

Our goals are to:

- Provide a safe, energetic, affordable, positive reinforcement based, learning environment for all members and students
- Provide competent instructors that leverage challenging strategies and innovative techniques to help our members and students evolve with the sport
- Provide high quality training equipment
- Provide equal opportunity for all members to train and advance with a progressive training program that meets the individual needs of members to help them achieve their fullest potential
- Elicit ongoing feedback from members and students on areas where we can improve operations, decision-making, and maximize time spent with our dogs
- Engage in community outreach and mentorship programs consistent with AKC, CPE, NADAC, UKI, and USDAA goals for its membership

## II. Objectives

Our objectives are to teach skills that:

- Enhance the bond and attention between Dog and Handler
- Motivate Dogs and Handlers
- Build Dog and Handler confidence
- Develop and master the technical skills needed to advance each team and our sport
- Ensure a safe, positive training environment that promotes good sportsmanship
- Promote and advance the sport consistent with AKC, CPE, NADAC, UKI, and USDAA objectives for its membership

### III. Beliefs

We believe that the Membership must be provided the opportunity to offer input into the training program. We want our Membership to engage in the ongoing feedback process of designing, presenting and evaluating our overall progressive training program.

### IV. Training positions

#### A. Beginner Training Director

- This role may be shared between two Co-Directors
- Directs the Beginner's training program
- Markets the Beginner program to attract new Beginner Trainees
- Responds to public inquiries about TBAC beginner training
- Creates a list of all beginner training inquiries
- Sends out confirmation letters to all Beginner Trainees
- Collects training registrations and fees; and all waivers and vaccination records
- Schedule and conduct beginner training evaluations
- Provides Beginner Trainees their class placement, schedule, training SOPs, and membership requirements
- Responds to questions from Beginner Trainees about their class placement, schedule, training SOPs, membership requirements or about the sport
- Manages the full dispute resolution process, for Beginner Trainees and Beginner Instructors, from initiation through resolution
- Reports to the Board and Membership on a regular basis

#### B. Advanced Training Director

- This role may be shared between two Co-Directors
- Directs the advanced training program for everything beyond beginners
- Responds to public inquiries regarding TBAC training beyond the beginner level and schedules evaluations
- Provides Training Members their class placement, schedule, training SOPs, membership requirements, and annual volunteer obligations
- Handles class drop-in and guest requests for Members
- Engages in end of semester training evaluations and ongoing feedback program
- Facilitates obtaining substitutes for instructors on an as needed basis
- Coordinates monthly payment to Instructors, Assistant Instructors, and substitutes through the Treasurer
- Determines and communicates all class cancellations
- Maintains the master course list for the entire training program

- Manages the full dispute resolution process, for Members and Instructors, from initiation through resolution
- Reports to the Board and Membership on a regular basis
- Shall manage any training seminars or clinics hosted by the Club
  - ◆ Can delegate coordination of training events to another member
  - ◆ 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 Co-Directors
- The Beginners Training Co-Directors will make initial contact and send out information describing fees, class schedules and prerequisite requirements
- The Beginners Training Co-Directors will maintain a list of potential Beginners

### B. Application Process

- Prior to the start of Beginners training, Beginners Training Co-Directors 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 Co-Directors 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 Co-Directors 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. Beginner 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 Classes)

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 Classes)

- Beginners wishing to continue will pay a fee for the second 10 class session by the date designated by the Beginner Training Director
- Beginner II students wishing to continue to Beginner III will be required to apply for Club Membership. To do so, they will be guided through the process by the Beginner Training Director.



- If there are extra classes between Beginners II and Beginners III, class may held at the discretion of the Beginner Training Director in consultation with Instructors at an additional cost.

## VI. Advanced Training

### A. Training Inquiries for Classes

- All questions regarding training with TBAC should be directed to the Advanced Training Director.
- A handler who wishes to join a class other than Beginner I 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 15 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.
- 8-15 dogs will have one Instructor and one Assistant
- Exceptions may be made to hire a second Assistant Instructor for Beginner III if there are 15 dogs in the class
- Seven or fewer dogs will have one Instructor (see minimum class size above)

### C. Advanced 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 month 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

## **D. Training policies and procedures**

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

## **Registration of Dogs for Training**

- No more than two training spots per handler in any one class. Handlers may choose to bring more than two dogs and divide runs between their dogs.
- 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 Advanced 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 General 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**

- Advanced 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

- Advanced 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

TBAC 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 person, the incident management process immediately activates, and all persons involved should do the following:**

1. The responsible Instructor will immediately evaluate all handlers and dogs involved in the incident and refer any injured parties to the closest emergency room if the skin of a person was broken in any way.
  - a. If any handler refuses or declines to go to the emergency room as advised by the responsible Instructor, then that handler should communicate such refusal or declination in writing or electronically via text, email, telephone or video.
  - b. If the responsible Instructor determines that the injury is serious, then emergency services should be immediately called. In that case, all Instructors and Assistants should remain onsite until emergency services departs the location or until dismissed by the responsible Instructor or Training Directors.
  - c. 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 for a minimum of 10 to 14 days per Pennsylvania State Law.

2. All involved Dogs and Handlers who the responsible Instructor determines to be uninjured will be immediately excused from class. It is left to the responsible Instructor's discretion as to whether the Assistants can continue class for all non-involved parties.
3. The Training Directors will be immediately notified of the incident by telephone either by call or text message.
4. All involved parties and the responsible Instructor and Assistants will complete incident reports and submit them to the Training Directors by electronic mail within 48 hours of the incident. All incident reports should include the date, time, a brief description of facts and observations, include e-mails, telephone numbers, and be signed.
5. The Training Directors will review all incident reports, and contact all parties within 72 hours to communicate the incident management process and next steps.
6. The Training Directors will then work with all parties to resolve the incident to the satisfaction of all parties. This process must include, at a minimum, a physical evaluation of the dog by a qualified veterinarian.
  - a. Physical Evaluation: The handler of the responsible dog must take the dog to the veterinarian for physical evaluation per Pennsylvania State Law. The handler should communicate to the Training Directors by electronic means once the veterinarian completes evaluation of the dog, and provides handler with a letter of physical health status.
  - b. Non-Physical Evaluation: Based upon the outcome of the veterinarian check of the physical health status of the dog the handler should work with the veterinarian to determine whether to seek out the help of a certified dog behaviorist. TBAC urges all handlers and dogs involved in an incident to seek out the services of a certified dog behaviorist, regardless as to the outcome of the physical evaluation, and, if, for informational purposes going forward.
  - c. After Evaluations: The Training Directors will work with the responsible Instructor to determine the best course of action for all involved parties, and based upon the feedback from the physical and non-physical evaluations.
  - d. Training Fees: We will not punish handlers for making responsible decisions for their team, so any unused training fees after an incident will be refunded to the involved parties and upon approval of the Board.
7. The Training Directors will then prepare and electronically send an incident report to the Board for discussion at the next board meeting.
8. The Board will communicate any feedback to the Training Directors for distribution to all involved parties, as may be necessary; and approve the closure of the incident.

## 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 Advanced Training Director and communicated as early in the day as feasible but no later than 3 p.m.
- The Advanced Training Director will cancel classes if the predicted "actual" temperature is 90° F or above at 6 p.m., or 25° F or below at 8 p.m.
- Class cancellation announcements will be made via email or text message
- 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 emergency, the Advanced Training Director will approve cancellation of classes
- Any other cancellations must be approved by the Board
- 

## D. Rules of Conduct

### Dog management

- Ring gates must be used to enter and exit the training rings, and temporary fencing must be used to divide the training rings at every class
- Keep your dog on an appropriate leash that allows you to maintain control at all times, both inside and outside 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 arena-side of the walkway. Use the grass on the pasture-side of the walkway. 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, the waste 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 Open and 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 without the instructor's permission
- 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 to the training arena
- Arrive promptly when your class begins 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 member must be present at the event

**E. 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 by be imposed without a first warning

**Consequences**

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

- First offense after receiving a verbal warning — immediate dismissal from class
- Second offense — immediate dismissal from class and suspension from classes for the next 4 training weeks
- Third offense — 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 Beginner 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

## 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

## 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 4/24)

Training Co-Directors — Beginners  
Jen Leibowitz - [jwleibowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jwleibowitz@gmail.com)  
Stephanie Freundel – [importexportanywhere@gmail.com](mailto:importexportanywhere@gmail.com)

Training Director — Advanced Training  
Linda Morgan  
[fast1530@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.tbacagility.org)

### Drop-in fees

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

### Other class fees

Class evaluation.....	\$35
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