

Welcome to our Keegan's Magic student newsletter! Each month, we will share training tips, training philosophies, student achievements, general announcements, and other great information. We hope you enjoy!

What's Your Goal?

Goals are very important in your life, both personal and professional. Luckily for me, those are very close to the same. In your professional life, you probably have long-term and short-term goals about income, status, or maybe benefits such as vacation options. Sometimes, it's easy to achieve those goals or at least see that you are working toward them. However, I feel that goals can be harder to define and achieve in our personal lives.



As an instructor, I watch my students achieve amazing feats, struggle, and overcome problems with their canine partners. Sometimes, I struggle as an instructor to help my students recognize their successes. This has made me question how we view success versus failure.

I, too, have struggled with my own dogs' performance, and sometimes it's hard to see my own success and progress. Luckily, I have a wonderful circle of support to help me. More often than I would like to admit, I have left a run disappointed, not necessarily because I didn't Q, but because we didn't perform to my expectations. I realized that maybe I needed to redefine my expectations and how I view success.

So, with this new outlook, I now have goals in place each time we step into a practice or trial ring. These goals are easy to define, easy to see, and achievable. In practice, I set small goals with each dog. For example, one of my recent goals with Hart is to send him to an obstacle I indicate by taking just one step toward it. That is my overall goal. However, in a training session, I don't expect him to be perfect, but I do expect two successful repetitions for 2 to 3 obstacles within one training session. That's it! I don't expect him to send to the weaves with one step on

the first try quite yet, but I do expect success on the first try when I send him to a single jump. I try to keep my goals realistic for my dogs.

In a trial, I set three goals before each run, such as my dog holding a start line stay or performing an obstacle with the same criteria we have in practice, or me performing a certain handing technique on time. If we achieve all these goals, then it's time to celebrate! If we fail, then I quickly come up with a backup goal we did succeed at before we return to our crating area. For example, if my dog breaks his start line stay, but doesn't bark in frustration during the run because I was out of place to send to an obstacle, then that is a success too and should be recognized.

The essential point is this: you need to be able to recognize when you are succeeding or making progress as a team. Keeping your goals too high may only lead to disappointment. Because of this, I don't always feel that a Q should be the goal. Qualifying runs are great but are the "icing on the cake." Remember to enjoy the journey, not just the finished product.

[Class Schedule](#)

The next 4-week session begins the week of March 5. A handout with class dates for this session will be available at the training field. Class dates may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather.

There will be no classes held on Thursday, March 8. Thursday classes for this session will be for three weeks only. Session prices for those classes have been adjusted accordingly, as shown below.

- **Advanced Agility:** Tuesdays 8:00-9:30 am and Wednesdays 8:00-9:30 pm (\$68/session or \$22/drop-in)
- **OneMind Dogs Inspired Handling:** Thursdays 8:00-9:30 am (\$51/session or \$22/drop-in)
- **Intermediate Agility:** Tuesdays 6:15-7:15 pm & 7:45-8:45 pm, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm (\$60/session or \$20/drop-in)
Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm & 7:45-8:45 pm (\$45/session or \$20/drop-in)
- **Handlers Only:** Thursdays 5:00-6:00 pm (\$45/session or \$20/drop-in)

Private lessons available on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Ring rentals are also available for students. Please contact Maren directly for scheduling and availability.

Accomplishments & Brags

This is YOUR section of the newsletter – where our students can share their accomplishments with their dogs, including titles, placements, breakthroughs, etc. Please send us an email at keegansmagic@gmail.com so that we can celebrate your achievements with all our students!

Congratulations to the following students:

- Maren Baldwin and Clever Girl got their first Q in USDAA, earning it in Starters Gamblers.
- Monica Gobeli and Rocky attended the Strawberry Cluster and competed in Barn Hunt (earning 5 Qs in Crazy8 and 1 Masters Q), Fast CAT (earning their BCAT title with a personal best time of 28.97 mph) and passed the American Temperament Test.
- Maren Baldwin and Hart earned a SuperQ in USDAA Snooker, meeting the requirements of that class toward their ADCH.
- Sally Treat and Ty had a perfect 3/3 day at the Pasco Paws CPE trial.
- Carolyn Rothfusz and Jax earned the last Q needed to finish Level 2 in CPE and earned their Level 3 title in Standard.
- Lisa Schmeling and Neo got their first Q in AKC Beginner Novice Obedience with a 3rd place and a score of 190. Neo also earned his first Q in AKC Scent Work (handled by Lisa's husband), earning a 1st place in Novice Containers with a search time of 6.09 seconds.
- Lisa Chavez and Ebony earned 7 out of 9 Qs at the Pasco Paws CPE trial with five 1st placements and two 2nd placements.
- Diane Gailit and Skylar won High in Trial at the January Cool Critters TDAA trial and qualified for the Petit Prix (TDAA Nationals). They also earned their NA and NAJ in AKC Agility and earned 8 out of 9 Qs at the Pasco Paws CPE trial, with eight 1st placements and one 2nd placement.
- Mary Post and Hunter passed the American Temperament Test and won Best of Breed on both Saturday and Sunday at the Strawberry Cluster (Conformation).
- Elaine Rinicker and Jaxs earned two Triple Qs at the German Shepherd Club AKC Agility trial.
- Mary Post and Josey passed the American Temperament Test and won Best of Winners in Conformation with her other dog Remi earning Best of Opposite.

Over the Rainbow Bridge

Everyone at Keegan's Magic extends our deepest sympathies to Yuko Otazako on the loss of her Flat-Coated Retriever, Keeper.

Nothing loved is ever lost...

"Keeper"

Alidar Finders Keepers RN NA NAJ OF NFP CGC RATN

March 30, 2009 – February 19, 2018

Training Tip

Reward what you want! Are you rewarding a handling technique, obstacle performance, or focus? Be specific with your rewards for your dog. Make your choice before your training session and stick to it!