

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!

### ***Who's to Blame?***

This month's article is very close to my heart. Ever since I embraced the OneMind Dogs style of training and handling, I have noticed that my dog's ability to handle a course is primarily limited by my skills as a handler. This also relates to my training tip this month.



I often hear handlers blame their dog or come up with excuses for something that went wrong in practice or at a trial. I'm guilty of doing this too. For example, Hart has had issues performing his weaves in trials. Did you notice that just the way I worded that sentence placed the blame on him and not on me?

It would be more accurate to say that I have issues cueing weaves in trials or maybe I haven't adequately trained his weaves, thus placing the blame on me instead of on him. After all, if he was really at fault, then it would only be up to him to fix the issue. But, as we all know, that's my job as his handler and trainer.

As soon as we begin blaming our dogs, we have given up any hope of fixing the situation. We may as well just stop training. If I blame Hart for his inability to weave, for missing a contact, or for going off course, then what is the point of training at all? He should just be able to read my mind and run a perfect course without me, right?

Instead, it's my responsibility to figure out how to train and cue the weaves in a way that Hart understands. I need to view this as a challenge to overcome and not as a barrier to our success. I need to help him so that weaves are easier for him to perform. He does agility with me because I ask it of him; therefore, I need to hold up my end of the partnership and train and handle him clearly.

The next time you are on course and your dog does something unexpected, ask yourself what you as the handler did to cue that behavior. Your dog simply responds to your cues, both good and bad. For example, Hart used to bark at me and spin at trials. I thought that was just his personality, even when it interfered with our runs and caused many refusals. Finally, I took responsibility and figured out that he needed immediate connection with me after each obstacle instead of two strides later as I was doing. Only then did he stop barking and spinning and we actually started running courses together.

Dogs aren't robots and I don't expect perfection from them. However, I do expect that I will aspire to be the best trainer and handler for my dogs every time we step to the line together. At a recent agility training session, I heard a fellow competitor say, "You're either right or you're learning." I agree with that. As OneMind Dogs says, "Learning is infinite." This is a good thing and we all still have lots to learn about this sport.

### [Class Schedule](#)

The next 4-week session begins the week of May 1. A handout with class dates for this session is available at the training field. Class dates may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather.

- **Advanced Agility:** Tuesdays 8:00-9:30 am and Wednesdays 8:00-9:30 pm (\$68/session or \$22/drop-in)
- **Intermediate Agility:** Tuesdays 6:15-7:15 pm & 7:45-8:45 pm, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm, Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm & 7:45-8:45 pm (\$60/session or \$20/drop-in)
- **OneMind Dogs Inspired Foundation:** Wednesdays 5:00-6:15 pm (\$68/session, no drop-ins)
- **Handlers Only:** Thursdays 5:00-6:00 pm (\$60/session or \$20/drop-in)
- **OneMind Dogs Inspired Handling:** Thursdays 8:00-9:30 am (\$68/session or \$22/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](mailto:keegansmagic@gmail.com) so that we can celebrate your achievements with all our students!

Congratulations to the following students:

- Maren Baldwin and CleverGirl got their first Q in USDAA Starters Snooker with a 1st place. They also earned their Starters Gamblers title with a 1st place.
- Marilee Pasche and Sunny earned their CT-ATCH2 in CPE on March 9th at Sonlight Ranch. They also earned their Enthusiast Champion Standard title.
- Helen Yettaw and Buddy got a Q and 1st place in Jackpot at the Pasco Paws CPE trial.
- Maren Baldwin and Hart earned their Performance Masters Jumper title at the Tailwaggers USDAA trial.
- Carolyn Rothfusz and Jax qualified for 2019 CPE Nationals (finishing the year in Level 4 & 5) and made it entirely to Excellent classes in AKC.
- Lisa Chavez and Ebony earned their Championships in Standard and Fullhouse in CPE at the Pasco Paws trial in April.
- Jan Casey and BT got their second Q in CPE Standard and their first Q in CPE Jumpers.
- Ellen Kurland and Magic earned their CPE Extraordinaire titles in Standard, Colors, Wildcard, Jackpot, and Snooker.
- Lisa Schmeling and Neo earned two Qs toward their Advanced Starter Novice title in CDSP obedience, with a 1st place and a 3rd place. Handled by Lisa's husband, Neo also earned two Qs in AKC Scentwork Novice Interiors and Novice Containers, both with a 3rd place.

## ***Training Tip***

A successful agility run relies on a balance of training and handling. The next time you're struggling on a course, think about whether you could have trained a specific behavior better or handled a challenge better to achieve more desirable results.