

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!

Trial Behaviors: Sticks & Stones...

This is the second in a series of articles that address what I consider proper trial behaviors, such as earning personal Qs, entering trials, supporting your fellow competitors, being a good volunteer, and balancing your own competitive nature. This month's article focuses on supporting each other at competitions.

I have always hated the saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Words can definitely hurt someone, whether intentional or not. Many competitors have been on the receiving end of hurtful comments. Sadly, many of us (myself included) have been on the giving end of those comments as well.

Words can heal as much as they can harm. Sometimes, a nonchalant comment overheard by someone might have a significant impact on a fellow competitor. I feel that it's better to focus on making comments that are both uplifting and useful. After all, you never know the last time a fellow exhibitor received a compliment, so an uplifting comment might just make their day or weekend better.

Many times, I hear other exhibitors giving each other feedback after their runs that isn't useful. This feedback often describes everything that went wrong during a run without offering any helpful advice. Instead of focusing on the faults and mistakes, I prefer to focus on the positive parts of the run. Compliments should be specific and useful to that team. For example, instead of saying, "Good run" or "Nice job," try complimenting specific handling techniques or obstacles, such as "Great A-frame contact. You really trusted your dog and moved easily to that next sequence."

Keep in mind that agility is a team sport. You and your dog are competing against the course the judge has set using the rules of the particular venue. You are only competing against yourself, not every other team out there. When you compare yourself to other teams in a negative way, you might end up hurting yourself or those other teams. If you must compare yourself to another team, concentrate on what they do well and push yourself to improve and become a better team.



When you see a fellow competitor struggling with an issue, don't make their problem about you. Take the time to be helpful. Helping a friend become a better handler doesn't detract from your successes. If your friend gets first place and you come in second, congratulate them and train so that you will run better next time. You should always strive to do your best, not just run well enough to qualify.

Supporting your fellow competitors is what can make or break someone's day or passion for the sport. Keep your thoughts and your voice positive.

[Class Schedule](#)

The next 4-week session started the week of July 24. Class dates may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances.

- **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, 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 Handling:** Thursdays 8:00-9:30 am (\$68/session or \$22/drop-in)
- **OneMind Dogs Foundation:** Tuesdays 7:45-9:00 pm (\$136/8-week session, no drop-ins)

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 earned her OneMind Dogs Handling Techniques 2 certification.
- Maren Baldwin and CleverGirl ran together in the Athena's War: Mount Olympus Championship Series 5K in early July and Maren earned 2nd place female finisher.
- Lauren Gomez and Dancer earned High in Trial for Open 8" dogs at DACOF, with a 1st placement and four 2nd placements.
- Lisa Chavez and Ebony ran in Excellent for the first time at DACOF, a state team agility competition. She was the third highest scoring 8" Excellent dog in the competition and placed in the top 10 in 4 out of 5 runs, earning 3rd in Jumpers, 5th in FAST and Time 2 Beat, and 7th in Standard.
- Elaine Rinicker and Jaxs were the third highest scoring Excellent dog in DACOF in 16" (12P").
- All the Keegan's Magic students who competed at DACOF this year.

Training Tip

Commitment means that your dog is looking at the next obstacle and is moving toward it. You can only see this by looking at your dog. When you see your dog's commitment, you can move into position to begin handling the next sequence.

Do you have an article suggestion for our newsletter? Please [send us your suggestion](#) and we might include it in a future newsletter. We recently had a suggestion to occasionally include short biographies of our canine students, so we will be contacting students at random to feature in an upcoming newsletter!