

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!

Are You Ready for a Trial?

Maybe you have been training your first agility dog for a while, are doing well in classes, and are thinking about entering your first trial, but how do you know if you're ready? Some students find entering their first trial overwhelming, so let me help ease any confusion.

Before You Enter an Agility Trial

Before entering, I encourage students to visit a local trial. Going without their dog gives them a chance to focus on the environment, watch other competitors, and see how a trial day runs. Some suggestions:

- **Volunteer to help.** One good job for new handlers is bar setting, which lets them sit in the ring and watch the dogs, handlers, and judge. Most clubs are happy to teach you the job, so don't worry if you aren't sure what to do.
- **Ask questions.** Feel free to ask questions of other competitors, and even the judge, when they aren't busy, such as between courses.



Talk to your trainer and fellow classmates about which venues might be right for you, which classes you should enter, and even which locations might be better suited to you and your dog. Some teams work better in certain environments, such as indoors or outdoors, and on certain surfaces, such as clay, dirt, or grass. Some dogs may do better beginning with a short Jumpers course, while others enjoy the diverse obstacles found in a Standard course.

No one can guarantee that you and your dog are ready to trial. My advice is to practice courses more difficult than you'll typically see at Novice levels, which will help build your team's confidence.

After Entering Your First Trial

Now that you have entered your first trial, be aware of a few things:

- **The running order**, which is found in the premium. This helps you know when you should arrive and about how long you might have to wait between runs. The trial secretary also usually sends out a final running order after the trial closes.
- **The email confirmation** from the trial secretary. Read the entire email and make sure that all the information is correct. Let the trial secretary know as soon as possible if something is wrong.
- **Measuring.** The first day you compete in each venue, you usually need to arrive early enough to have your dog's height measured before you can run.
- **Course maps.** For most venues, printed copies of course maps are available for each of your runs. These help you plan your handling strategy before you can walk the course. Ask your friends at the trial for help if you need it.

Make sure you and your dog are both physically and mentally warmed up before you run. Once you go into the ring, remember to be a good partner and concentrate on your dog and your handling. Many new handlers worry about others watching, but most competitors are so focused on their own performances, they aren't concerned about you.

When I start trialing with a new agility dog, I make sure they are having fun and building confidence. You and your dog are not perfect, and you will both make mistakes. Some dogs might be demotivated if you fix mistakes in the ring. Dogs do the best they can, so it's your job to support them both in and out of the ring. Eventually, there will be fewer mistakes.

If you start to feel stressed, take a mental break and think about the journey you and your dog are on together and how far you've come since your first lesson. Most of all, have fun!

Our First OneMind Dogs Seminar!

On September 22 & 23, Maren taught her first OneMind Dogs Handling Techniques 1 seminar. All the working spots were filled and there were several auditors.

Handlers learned eight of the basic techniques – the Front Cross, Blind Cross, Backside Send, False Turn, Rear Cross, Lateral Push, Reverse Spin, and Whisky Cross. The techniques taught in this seminar used the dogs' natural skills. Handlers applied the techniques in a variety of sequences and learned when they could use them in trials.



Maren is a certified OneMind Dogs instructor, having completed training in Finland in 2017. She's been an agility instructor for more than 12 years and has been actively studying OneMind Dogs techniques for over four years. She will be offering this seminar again in early 2019 and will be offering Handling Techniques 2 in the Spring. More information is available [on the website](#).

Meet CPE! A Free Seminar at Keegan's Magic

On Sunday, October 7 at 9:00 a.m., Sally Treat will introduce you to the world of CPE (Canine Performance Events) agility. She will tell you about the different classes and games and explain how to get started if you decide to enter a CPE trial.

This free seminar will last a couple of hours (depending on the number of people attending). Handouts, including course maps and class descriptions, will be provided.

Sally is an enthusiastic CPE participant with plenty of experience to share. If you plan to attend, please let Maren know. There will be a sign-up sheet at the field.

[Class Schedule](#)

The next 4-week session starts the week of October 15. Class dates may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. Unless otherwise stated, classes are \$75 for each 4-week session or \$25 for each drop-in.

- **Advanced Agility:** Tuesdays 8:00-9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays 7:45-9:15 p.m.
- **Intermediate Agility:** Tuesdays 6:00-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 p.m., Thursdays 6:00-7:30 p.m. & 7:45-9:15 p.m.
- **OneMind Dogs Inspired Handling:** Thursdays 8:00-9:30 a.m.
- **OneMind Dogs Foundation:** Tuesdays 7:45-9:00 p.m. (\$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 accomplishments with their dogs, including titles, placements, training breakthroughs, etc. Please [send us an email](#) so we can celebrate your achievements with all our students!

Congratulations to the following:

- Maren Baldwin's Hart completed all five sets of 12 weaves on the first try at the September Calusa AKC Agility trial. He also earned two Excellent Standard Qs and one Excellent JWW Q.
- Ellen Kurland's Magic earned his first Q in Utility at the ODTK AKC Obedience trial in Orlando.
- Sally Treat's Charley passed his final therapy dog test.
- Kelli Carter's Rigel attended his first dock diving competition and earned a 1st place in the Junior Division with a jump of 12 feet 3 inches – and Rigel is just 11 months old!
- At the SOTC AKC trial in Punta Gorda, Diane Gailit's Skylar qualified in Excellent JWW, earning her AXJ title and a 1st place. She also qualified and earned 1st place in Excellent Standard. At the DTCT AKC trial in Palmetto, she qualified with a 1st place in Novice FAST, two 1st placements in Excellent Standard, and a 2nd placement in Time 2 Beat. She also earned her Novice FAST and Excellent Standard titles.

- Maren Baldwin's CleverGirl ran at her first AKC trial in Palmetto, earning a Q and 4th place in Novice FAST with a course time of 16.22 seconds.
- Jan and Fred Schultz's dogs, Valor and Faith, both earned their Intermediate Tricks titles with AKC.
- Monica Gobel's Rocky earned his Crazy 8s Silver (CZ8S) in Barn Hunt.
- Elaine Rinicker's Jaxs earned 110 PACH points at the September Calusa AKC Agility trial.
- Kelli Carter's Bentley attended his first dock diving competition and earned a 1st place with a jump of 14 feet 9 inches.
- Lauren Gomez's Dancer earned her first two double Qs toward her AKC agility championship at the September Calusa Agility trial.
- Carolyn Rothfusz and Jax competed at NADAC Championships in Gillette, Wyoming. Their full results will be in next month's brags.

Do you have an article suggestion for our newsletter? Please [send us your suggestion](#) and we might include it in a future newsletter.