

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!

### ***A Note on Comparisons***

Have you ever found yourself comparing your dog to another dog or comparing your handling skills with someone else's? It's easy to do, and just about everyone does it at some point in their training career.

It is human nature to compare your progress and achievements or lack thereof with another dog. It might be another dog that you own or one that you have run in the past. It might be a classmate, the same breed, be of similar age, be closely related to yours, or simply another dog that has caught your attention.

While it's normal to make comparisons, it's also important that you make sure your comparisons are helpful instead of harmful, as I described in [last month's newsletter](#). Maybe comparing your dog with another will lead to a little friendly competition or push you to become a better handler (helpful thinking). Unfortunately, comparisons in agility often focus on the shortcomings of a dog or handler, thereby ignoring that team's accomplishments (harmful thinking).



If you compare your dog to another, remember to embrace the similarities and the differences. Be proud of the characteristics that make your team unique.

For example, I often find myself comparing Hart and Clever in training and trials. I say that Hart is slower and that it's harder to run clean with Clever. By comparing them to each other, I could easily focus on their downfalls, but that's not helpful. Instead, I try to turn their differences into unique and positive qualities, being proud of them for their individual characteristics.

With Hart, I am happy that we have fewer off courses and that I am confident with my handling choices. With Clever, whose speed has challenged my training and handling skills, I have realized that it's important to build confidence into the team, not just train obstacles. By focusing on the teamwork, I have a better plan when working with her.

So, allow those differences to define unique successes in your agility career with each dog. Remember that no two dogs are the same and they shouldn't be treated as such. Allow each dog to show you his or her own strengths in their own time. Realize that each dog has his or her own timeline for success.

Happy new year!

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## **Class Schedule**

The next 4-week session starts the week of January 21. 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 9:45-11:15 a.m., 6:00-7:30 p.m., and 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.

## **Reminder – Morning Classes**

As previously announced, there will be **no morning classes or lessons** on January 8 or January 9. Evening classes will be held as scheduled.

## **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 successfully finished her first marathon, with CleverGirl as her companion for the last seven miles. Together they finished the 2018 Hillsborough River Marathon.
- **New Champion!** Diane Gailit's Skylar (pictured at right) earned her C-ATCH at the Pasco Paws CPE trial.
- **New Champion!** Wendi Hammer's Scanner (pictured next page) earned his C-ATCH at the Paws & Ques CPE trial.
- Elaine Rinicker's Jaxs earned a QQ at the AKC Agility trials in Palmetto.
- Maren Baldwin's Bliss received her Alliance of Therapy Dog certification.
- Yuko Otazako's Forrest earned his AKC Open JWW title.



- Maren Baldwin's Hart earned his AKC Preferred Excellent Standard and Preferred Excellent JWW titles. He moved up to Masters classes and earned his first 25 PACH points.
- Sally Treat's Ty earned eleven Qs at the NorAust CPE trial.
- Vicki Drenup's Jinx earned his ASCA Beginner Novice obedience title.
- Lisa Schmeling's Kili did his first UpDog competition and earned a High Roller Achievement in Throw N Go. He also earned two Qs in ASCA Beginner Novice obedience, one of which had a 1st placement.
- Maren Baldwin's CleverGirl earned her first Q in AKC Novice JWW with a 1st placement.
- Lisa Chavez's Ebony had a perfect day with four out of four Qs at the Paws & Ques CPE trial, with three 1st placements and one 2nd placement.
- Sally Treat's Charley earned his AKC Achiever Dog certificate.
- Barbara Layton's Josie got High in Trial at both ASCA obedience trials, with a 199.5 in the first trial and a 195.5 in the second.



### **Training Tip**

Be sure to allow “down time” for your dog between agility runs at trials and at practice. Many dogs find agility more mentally exhausting than physically tiring. Next month's newsletter will have more information about this tip.

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