

Sealyham Terriers in Rally Performance

The American Kennel Club's website states: "Rally is a successful stepping stone from the AKC Canine Good Citizens program to the world of Obedience and Agility."

In AKC Rally your dog doesn't have to heel perfectly! In truth your dog does not even have to heel at all and you can talk to your dog (*if you want you constantly*). If you can get your dog to sit and down then all you need is a map and that's given to you before you go in the ring. The real training is you becoming familiar with the posted signs.

January 2005, AKC Rally competition became a titling event, the main objective of rally is to produce dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport of rally at all times and under all conditions.



A rally course includes 10 to 20 stations, depending on the level.

Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. Communication between handler and dog is encouraged and perfect heel position is not required, but there should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler.

Regular Titles

| Class | Title | Suffix |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Novice A or B | Rally Novice | RN |
| Advance A or B | Rally Advance | RA |
| Excellent A or B | Rally Excellent | RE |
| Advance B & Excellent B | Rally Advanced Excellent | RAE# |

The Rally Trial:

AKC Rally is the new dog sport that is taking the nation by storm; Rally offers both the dogs and handlers an experience that is fun and energizing. The canine team moves at a pace of their own choosing, very similar to rally-style auto racing. Rally was designed with the traditional pet owner in mind, but it can still be very challenging for those who enjoy higher levels of competition.

The three regular classes of rally training, each with their own prescribed sets of rules:

Rally Novice Class is the beginner level. All exercises are judged on leash. The class must have between ten (10) and fifteen (15) stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) stationary exercises per class.

Rally Advanced Class is the intermediate level. All exercises are judged off leash. The class must have between twelve (12) and seventeen (17) stations (Start to Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary stations. Course shall have a minimum of three (3) Advanced level stations plus one (1) required jump per class.

Rally Excellent Class is the highest level again all exercises are judge off leash except the Honor exercise. Handlers must provide a six (6) foot leash. The class must have fifteen (15) to twenty (20) stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Course shall have a minimum of three Advanced level stations and a minimum of two (2) required jumps and the Honor exercise per class.

The higher level title, **Rally Advanced Excellent** is earned when the dog has earned the Rally Excellent title. The dog must received qualifying scores in both Advanced B and Excellent B at 10 separate trials. A numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met the RAE requirements.