



DOG TRAINERS WORKSHOP

864-862-8626

www.dogtrainersworkshop.com

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NEWSLETTER

May 2010

Upcoming Shows

May 13-16
Columbus Kennel Club
Southeast Alabama Kennel Club
Macon Kennel Club
Perry, GA

May 15 & 16
Greater Columbia Obedience Club
Columbia, SC

May 22 & 23
Myrtle Beach Kennel Club
Florence, SC

May 22 & 23
Greater Kingsport Kennel Club
Gray, TN

June 12 & 13
Palmetto Obedience Training Club
Spartanburg, SC

June 19 & 20
Western Carolina Dog Fancier
Waynesville, NC

June 26 & 27
Savannah Dog Training Club
Savannah, GA

July 31-August 2
Greenville Kennel Club
Spartanburg Kennel Club
Hendersonville Kennel Club
Greenville, SC



From Teacher to Coach

It is certainly not an uncommon complaint to hear a competitor say that the dog does not perform in the ring like he does in training. Many of you have become good teachers. Your dog has successfully learned lots of obedience exercises, if not all of them. What is it that keeps your dog from performing in the ring like you hope he will?

In my own experience, I have had teachers and I have had coaches. My father taught me to play tennis. He was an incredible teacher. Later, my father became my coach. His focus changed to strategy, teaching me to be a smart player, to become competitive and dig out energy when I thought I had none left. Furthermore, he prepared me for every tournament, both in the days preceding the event, and then right up until the moment I stepped on to the court.

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Summer Workshops

Connie Cleveland's two day Theory and Problem Solving Workshop.

**June 19 & 20, 2010
and
July 24 & 25, 2010**

For more information:

Visit:

www.dogtrainersworkshop.com

or call us at:

864-862-8626

800-610-1099

Each workshop is limited to 16 participants

**Dog Trainers Workshop
Fountain Inn, South Carolina**

Canine Good Citizen

When: May 1 at 9:00 AM

Location: Dog Trainers Workshop

Contact:

Dog Obedience Club of Greenville
<http://DOCG.info>

Bonnie: bonlmckinney@yahoo.com

Pat: patbrausch@gmail.com

Congratulations New Title Winner

Utility Dog

*Barbara DuCharme & Bamboo
(Border Collie)*

Melissa Croft & Hershey (Labrador)

Companion Dog Excellent

Happy Gregson & Brio (Belg. Terv)

Melanie Page & Trixie (Shih tzu)

Other Titles

*Mike Williquette & Gypsy (PBGV)
OM1 & Ver.*

*Betty Lewandowski & Skeeter
(Papillion) Ver.*

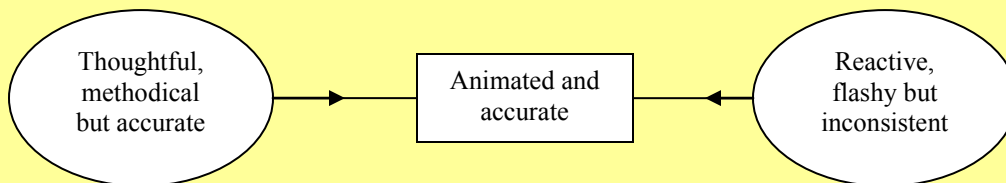


Do you do that for your dog? In actuality, if you believe that you have taught him the obedience exercises well enough to enter an obedience trial, then you need to change roles. You are no longer his teacher and he your student. Now he is the player and you are the coach.

How do you coach your athlete?

The first question you ask yourself is “Who is the athlete I’m coaching?”

In the article titled “Continuum, I said that dogs present themselves on a continuum that might look like the following diagram.



Where is your dog on the continuum? Is he a thoughtful dog that might start to worry about making a mistake and become too slow and methodical in his performance? Or is your dog fast and reactive and needs to be calmed down and controlled to prevent anticipation or some other thoughtless mistake that leads to a non-qualifying score?

What your player needs the day of the show depends on his personality.

The reactive, flashy, and often inconsistent performers need a coach who is calm, and intends to spend a good deal of time relaxing the player before he goes into the ring. This dog may need you to start coaching at the hotel before ever getting to the dog show. You may need to spend quite a while heeling in the parking lot to get this dog in rhythm with you. Your motto is “fatigue is my friend.”

Highly driven, over-excited dogs tend to get more reactive and more excited with lots of food, release and corrections. Therefore, you should avoid trying to correct this dog for forging or anticipating, but will be better served by simply working him. With fatigue, he will settle down and relax; he will not be able to keep up that level of excitement with a long, smooth warm-up.

Once at the dog show, you may need to walk this dog around the show site and let him look at everything that surrounds the ring area. You may need to continue to do some heeling, asking him for attention, rhythm, and concentration.

How far ahead of your turn you start your warm-up is your call as the coach. Again, you need to keep in mind that you are moving him to the left on the continuum. You want to do everything possible to get him to be calmer and more concentrated.

Conversely, most of us are dealing with a dog that is a slow, methodical, sometimes worried performer. Your concern is that your dog may not have enough momentum to make it through the performance at a “brisk trot.”

There are three strategies to keep in mind if you are trying to prepare a more methodical performer to enter the ring.

1. Sometimes a special treat, toy or game will wake up a disinterested dog quite quickly.

It's a wonderful strategy to have games your dog will play with you in order to wake him up and get him ready to go "into the game." Certainly human athletes "warm-up" and stretch before beginning to compete. Perhaps your dog enjoys playing tug-o-war or some other silly game the two of you have devised. Many people teach their dogs tricks such as spin, touch, or speak to get the dog moving quickly and interested. These are all great ideas; however, if you have trouble getting your dog to do these things, don't despair, there are other strategies you can employ.

2. Sometimes a life style change will wake a dog up and get him ready to enter the ring.

Most competitive obedience dogs are so comfortable in their crates that when your turn approaches, and you go to your crate to get your dog ready, he is curled up asleep. Your job, to get an often slow, methodical dog awake and ready to "give the coach his all," is looking bleak!

Ask someone else to hold your dog while you make a final trip to the restroom. Perhaps you should ask a training partner to do a little heeling with your dog. Often dogs will wake right up at the idea, "who is this guy?" or "where did my boss go?"

If the weather and show conditions permit, leave your dog in the crate in the car. Many dogs rest better there, and are more eager to get out and work when you reappear to bring them into the show.

3. Prepare some difficult exercises that you can do outside the ring to put your dog on notice that you are about to require all his energy and enthusiasm.

For a dog that understands that retrieving is required, a quick, difficult retrieve is often very effective. For example, have him retrieve on a flexi-lead. If your dog understands that he must retrieve quickly, pick up the dumbbell quickly, and return quickly, he will wake right up for the task at hand. Perhaps you can simply teach him that on-leash, he must quickly grab a dumbbell that you are walking by.

You might have some heeling drills that are difficult, and attention getting, like doing a fast-halt, or other unpredictable maneuver. Remember, if you employ this strategy, you are the coach, not the teacher. Now is not the time to teach him to do this, but to fuss at him if he fails. He needs to get his head in the game!

A final thought...

Every coach regrets some of his coaching decisions. No coach expects his players to win every event. It's simply not possible for you to be at your best all the time, and sometimes you will fail to prepare your athlete to his best advantage. Training your dog to perform the individual exercises is a challenge. Preparing him to compete is now your challenge. If you have a bad class, a bad weekend, even a bad season, in the words of my favorite coach, "Shake it off!" There is another dog show, you can modify your strategy and try different coaching techniques.

Finally, to all you coaches out there, from this coach... You will have times you need to encourage, times you need to reassure, and times you need to insist your dog put forth all his effort. You choose whether this is a frustration or a challenge. Now get out there and get to work. On the good days, you will be richly rewarded by a player whose every move seems to say, "Coach- Thanks for putting me in!"

Upcoming Classes

New Term starts May 4 & 5, 2010

All Classes are 8 weeks

Fee: \$100.00

There will not be class on June 1 & 2, 2010

Heel, Jump, Retrieve

May 4: Tuesday @ 6:15 pm

For dogs learning the fundamentals of heeling, jumping and retrieving.

Novice/ Beginning Open

May 5: Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

For dogs who understand the fundamentals of jumping and retrieving. Heeling skills, as well as the other Novice/Open exercises will be taught.

Novice/Open

May 4: Tuesday @ 7:15 PM

For dogs preparing to show in Novice and

Open /Utility

May 4: Tuesday @ 8:15 pm

May 5: Wednesday @ 6:00 pm

May 5: Wednesday @ 8:00 pm

For dogs learning and preparing to compete in Open and Utility.

Day Class

May 4: Tuesday @ 1:00 pm

For dogs learning the Open and Utility exercises.

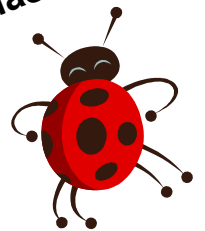


**Classes fill quickly, please register by
May 1, 2010**

**Dog Trainers Workshop
207 Greenpond Road
Fountain Inn, SC 29644**

Stamp

**Sign Up
For Class Now!**



Classes 🐾 Private Lessons 🐾 Boarding 🐾 In-Kennel Training 🐾 Daycare