



Mary's Musings

I hope you all have been enjoying the revival of our club newsletter. Pam and her contributors are doing an excellent job of keeping us all informed and Pawsitively Connected!

Last month, our club held our very first AKC FETCH event. All the work and planning resulted in a fun well-run event with a great turnout! Blitz and I sure enjoyed it and learned a lot! He earned his first two AKC titles by the hair of his chinny chin. He just had too much fun celebrating when he returned the ball! We have some learning and lots of practice before attempting FETCH Advanced. I hope we will be able to organize some FETCH practices, and we look forward to our next FETCH event.

While I do appreciate the information, I am disappointed to share that I have had some reports of mouse sightings in the agility building. I also saw two small places where the insulation had been pulled out from behind the plastic wall. I re-treated the mouse deterrent packets this last week with the deterrent oils and will do so monthly. Hopefully, it will help. We all know that mice have a destructive nature and carry dangerous diseases for humans and dogs so we just can't ignore this problem.

What can you do to help? Please continue to be vigilant about not leaving anything behind in the agility building that might attract mice. It also helps to use treat plates rather than throwing treats in the dirt to reward your dog. Mice are looking for water, food, and nesting material. Please don't provide it for them. Also, if you are aware of another effective and safe method we could try, please let me know. We may have to find a new method.

I also need your help with another growing issue. Unfortunately, I am receiving numerous separate reports of poop being left behind on the club

grounds. Concerns of this type are no longer an isolated incident. I receive weekly reports about this problem. I don't believe our neighbor dog Winston is involved anymore. He hasn't been seen in a while, and there have also been no reports of unaccompanied dogs on the property.

What can you do to help? Please pay attention when you potty your dogs. Sometimes when we take our dogs out, we are chatting or taking a quick look at our phones. Make sure to notice if your dog poops. Clean it up and dispose of it properly. Poop needs to go in the trash bin (not the recycling bin) by the entrance gates or on the street if the bin has been pulled out for pickup. There is no other place or trash can for poop bags. Since not all class enrollees are members, instructors have been asked to ensure their students are aware and reminded to do the same.

Let's work hard to respect and appreciate our club and fellow members. **Thank you for helping to keep our club a healthy, happy, and respectful place to learn and train.**

Be sure to check out our Area Events & Happenings! So many ways to have fun with our dogs this fall! Enjoy!

Mary, Rudy and Blitz



Reminder – Lead-outs – Guidelines P. 92-93 Updated for FNG

October 1, 2025 AKC Agility Dept

Handlers often attempt to gain an advantage by placing their dogs in a stay prior to the start line and leading out on the course. The handler incurs some risk in attempting this maneuver to gain the advantage of a head start on the dog. Some of the risks include dogs that break early, dogs that start the course before the handler is ready, and dogs running out around obstacle #1. The following policies should be adhered to regarding lead-out advantage:

- Once the timer has given the handler the okay to start, handlers may lead out as many obstacles as they wish.
- A handler may touch the dog to position the dog for the start of the course and may return to the dog and reposition it nicely, without restriction, as long as neither the handler nor the dog has crossed the start line/plane.
- Once a handler crosses the plane of the start line with one foot to lead out, he or she may not touch the dog for any reason. If the handler does so, a Fix N Go (FNG) will be called.
- Once a handler has taken a lead-out, if the dog breaks position (without crossing the start line), the handler may go back to reposition the dog to successfully approach obstacle #1; however, the handler may not lead out again, nor may the handler touch the dog while repositioning it. The judge may tell the exhibitor when they go back that they may not lead out again. If they do touch the dog or lead-out again, a Fix N Go (FNG) will be called
- If a dog breaks before the handler is ready and starts the course either by completing the first obstacle or by crossing the plane of the start obstacle, the handler may go back and reposition the dog and lead-out again and a Fix N Go (FNG) will be called.
- If the handler leads out and it is noticed before the dog starts that any or all equipment is set at the wrong height, the handler may return to the dog and may touch the dog while the equipment is set correctly. Once the ring is ready and the timer indicates that the team may go, the handler may lead out.

Fetch Event

WDTC held its first AKC-certified Fetch Event on September 20th and 21st. We had 27 dogs run and 40 new titles earned! This included three from Oklahoma and a couple of non-members from Kansas.

Thank you to all our participants, especially those trying out Fetch officially for the first time. Thank you to the trial committee - Penny Clement, Scotland Lamb, Mary Moyer, Lori Perkins. And last but not least, huge thanks to our judges- Debbie Snider, Chrystal Beck, and Lori Hays.

Requirements for the Advanced Fetch Title

In Advanced, dogs earn the FTA (Fetch Advanced) title. At this level, retrieving gets serious! The distance for the Advanced retrieves is 70 ft. The course has 3 blinds which are screens at least 24 inches tall, and 10 ft. to 12 ft. wide.

As the dog sits at the handler's side at the start line, a helper drops a bumper behind each blind as the dog watches.

The handler may also choose to throw 3 bumpers/balls over the blinds.

The dog must do 2 single retrieves and 2 double retrieves. The order is chosen by the handler.

The 2 single retrieves will be one to the center and one to the right or left.

For the Double:

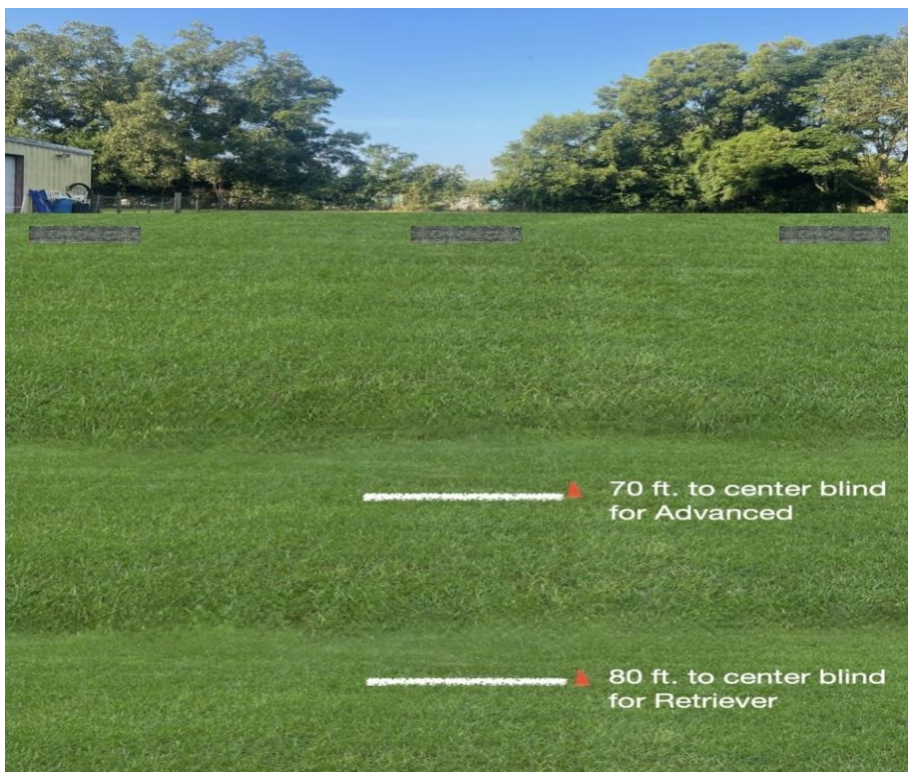
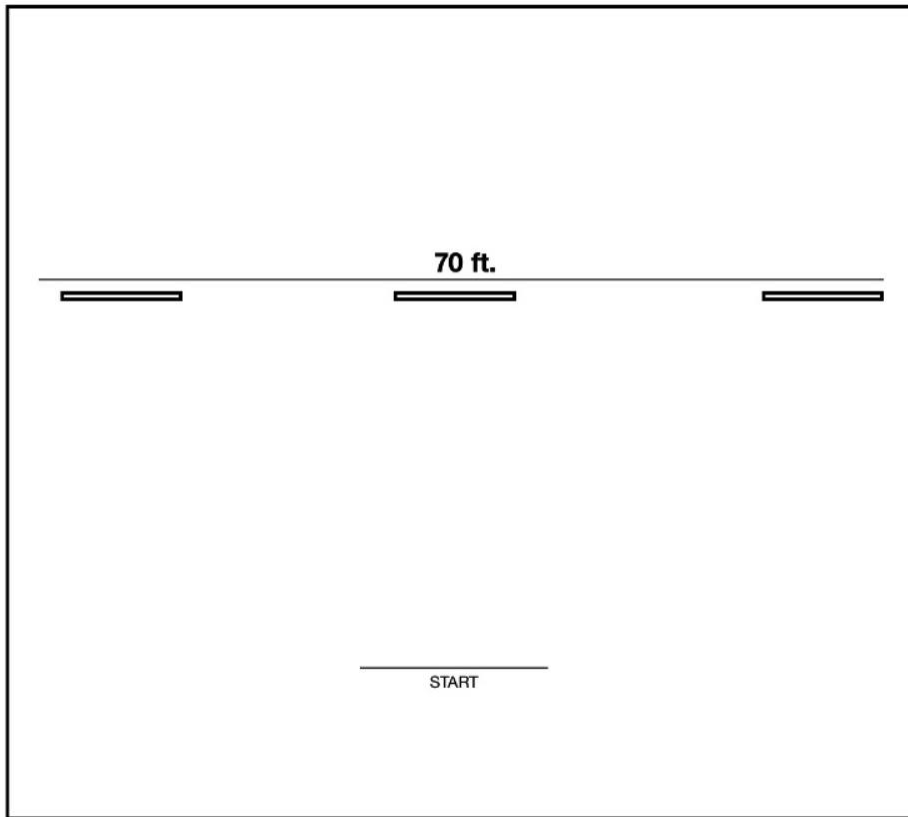
- The dog is seated at the handler's side.
- The dog sits (and stays) and watches as the event helper drops the first bumper behind the blind. The helper gets the dog's attention just before dropping the bumper by saying, "Hey, Hey, Hey," or "Hey-Hey, Hey-Hey."
- The helper then says, "Hey, Hey, Hey" (or "Hey-Hey, Hey-Hey") and drops the 2nd bumper as the dog stays and watches.
- The handler sends the dog to fetch the first bumper (in the order chosen by the handler).
- When the dog returns the first bumper, it is directed to sit, and then it is sent to retrieve the 2nd bumper.

If the handler chooses to throw the bumpers rather than have them dropped, the handler may use a helper to throw. A Chuckit! may also be used to throw balls over the blinds.

In Advanced, the handler may not hold the collar.

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AKC FETCH



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How to Identify and Stop Attention-Seeking Behavior in Dogs

By [Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT](#)

Updated: Aug 29, 2025 | 4 Minutes

- [jumping](#)
- [behavior](#)
- [whining](#)
- [attention](#)

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Does your [dog bark at you](#) while you're on the phone? [Paw you](#) while you're watching TV? [Jump on you](#) when you come in the door? These are all examples of attention-seeking behavior, and they're your dog's way of saying, "Don't forget about me!"

In This Article

- [Recognizing Attention-Seeking Behavior](#)
- [Why Dogs Seek Attention](#)
- [Preventing Attention-Seeking Behavior](#)
- [Avoiding Common Mistakes](#)
- [Responding Effectively to Attention Seeking](#)
 - [Reinforce Positive Alternatives](#)
 - [Ignore Bad Behaviors](#)
 - [Manage Your Dog's Environment](#)
 - [Provide Enrichment](#)

These [unwanted behaviors](#) start innocently enough, but they can quickly escalate to serious problems that try your patience and hurt your relationship with your dog. So, why do these bad habits develop, and how can you stop them?

What Does Attention-Seeking Behavior Look Like in Dogs?

Attention-seeking behavior is any action a dog performs to get a human to notice them. It can include barking, [whining](#), jumping on you, pawing you, or [mouthing](#) you with their jaws. Anything that serves to capture your attention has the potential to become an attention-seeking nuisance behavior.

Dr. Sagi Denenberg, veterinary behaviorist at [North Toronto Veterinary Behaviour Specialty Clinic](#), emphasizes that attention-seeking behaviors are all innate to dogs. In other words, they're natural actions that dogs are genetically programmed to perform. Dogs use them to [communicate](#) with other dogs, so it's no wonder they try them on humans, too.

Why Do Dogs Develop Attention-Seeking Habits?

How do these natural behaviors go from an attempt at communication to a problem? Dr. Denenberg says it's trial-and-error learning. First, dogs try several behaviors on their owners, wondering which will work. Then, with time, they learn which are most effective and continue using those.

For example, if your dog [barks while you're talking on the phone](#), chances are you'll turn to them, even if it's just to say, "Shush!" You might throw a [ball](#) or cuddle them to keep them quiet.

It doesn't take many repetitions for your dog to figure out that barking while you hold that device to your ear is a surefire way to get your focus. And boom, an attention-seeking behavior has been born. Soon, your dog will bark incessantly every time you make a call.

How Do You Prevent Attention-Seeking Behavior in Dogs?

Dr. Denenberg warns you can't wholly prevent attention-seeking behaviors, which are a natural part of your dog's behavioral instincts. You can't stop a dog from barking or pawing completely, for example. But you can limit when your dog chooses to express these behaviors and teach them when it is and isn't appropriate to do these actions.

He advises that owners can help prevent attention-seeking by meeting all their dogs' needs, including providing them with enough attention. And that should start from [the first day you bring your puppy home](#).

"Ideally, you start by ignoring attention-seeking early on during puppyhood and for short periods," he says. "Later, you can increase the time you ignore the dog to develop more [impulse control](#)."

What Not to Do When Your Dog Seeks Attention

Although it might be tempting to discipline your dog for what feels like acting out, there is nothing to be gained from taking that approach. According to Dr. Denenberg, avoiding [punishment](#) is a must.

"First, it is a form of attention, and even if it is aversive, it is better than complete indifference," he says. "Second, it adds negativity to the relationship. Third, even if the dog stops looking for attention, it stops due to aversive consequences, not because it has something better to do."

How to Respond to Attention-Seeking Behavior

There are many positive and effective steps you can take to deal with your dog's attention-seeking, but the issue will take time to resolve. In fact, when you first start changing your response, your dog's behavior will get worse before it gets better. After all, whining at you worked so well in the past, so surely your dog just needs to try whining louder and longer.

Stay strong, [be consistent](#), and maintain your patience. Here are some techniques to help you handle your dog's attention-seeking behavior.

Reward Alternative Behaviors

One of the ways to manage attention-seeking is to provide your dog with alternative behaviors. Your dog wouldn't be asking for your attention if they didn't want or need something in the first place. So, teach them a more effective way to get what they want. Then, [reward](#) that alternative.

O B E D I E N C E

For example, if they want you to greet them when you get home, [teach them to sit](#) to say hello instead of jumping up. If they want you to play with them, [teach your dog to fetch](#) a toy rather than mouthing your hands.

Ignore Bad Behaviors

While you're teaching your dog alternative ways to communicate their needs, you shouldn't reinforce the problem behavior. That means ignoring all your dog's attempts to capture your attention. But you have to be fair.

Dr. Denenberg advises owners must first ensure they're meeting their dog's needs and know that their dog isn't sick or in [pain](#). "Only then can they ignore the attention-seeking but start with short periods. Owners often try doing all or nothing, which is too much for the dog. So, the dog shows exaggerated attention-seeking, including mouthing, jumping, and sometimes outright [aggression](#). Start with ignoring for short periods, say 30 seconds, and later increase the time."

Manage Your Dog's Environment

Because it can be tricky to ignore problem behaviors, and teaching alternative behaviors takes time, manage your dog to minimize their opportunities to practice attention-seeking. That might mean giving them a [food-stuffed chew toy](#) before you make your telephone call or making your call from another room. If you avoid your dog's attention-seeking triggers, you will set them up for success.

Provide Mental and Physical Enrichment

If your dog's needs are met, they will have far less reason to seek your attention. [Establish a routine](#) so they know when to expect playtime, walks, meals, and so on. And make sure you remove frustrations and [provide enrichment](#). For example, give your dog a job to do, like searching for their dinner kibble in the folds of a [snuffle mat](#).

Dr. Denenberg says it also helps to anticipate what your dog might want. "When you know your dog is likely to show attention-seeking, try providing for its needs beforehand: [exercise](#), play, elimination. Then redirect it to self-managing behaviors, such as chewing or playing with a [feeding toy](#). Also, the dog should have designated rest/nap times scheduled for those times."

[Related article: What Your Dog Trainer Wishes You Knew About Consistency](#)

Get Your Free AKC eBook

**Do you have an obedience question or lots of questions?
Please send them to WDTCNewsletter2@gmail.com and
we will work on getting an answer.**

Welcome back to Rally. I have had several questions come up during training. So...let's get to those questions!

Debra, Libby and Ice

Can you work on your RAE and RACH at the same time?

These are two of the higher titles that is above just your class titles.

Yes, you can work toward both the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) and Rally Champion (RACH, also known as "Rock") titles at the same time in AKC Rally. These two advanced titles build upon each other and qualifying scores for one often count toward the other.

Here's a breakdown of how you can pursue both concurrently:

The titles you will be earning

- **Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE):** This is a progressive title that adds a new designation each time the requirements are met. It requires you to qualify in both the **Advanced B** and **Excellent B** classes at the same trial, ten separate times.
- **Rally Champion (RACH):** This is the highest rally title. It requires earning a total of 300 championship points from the Advanced B, Excellent B, and Master classes. At least 150 of these points must come from the Master class. Additionally, you need to earn 20 "triple qualifying scores" (Triple Qs), which means qualifying in Advanced B, Excellent B, and Master at the same trial.

The process for concurrent work

1. **Advance to the "B" classes:** To start working on the RAE and RACH, your dog must have already earned the Rally Excellent (RE) title. This allows you to compete in the Advanced B and Excellent B classes.
2. **Move into the Master class:** After earning your RE title, you can also begin competing in the Master class toward your Rally Master (RM) title, which requires 10 qualifying scores.
3. **Compete at trials with multiple classes:** The key to earning these titles concurrently is to enter all three required classes (Advanced B, Excellent B, and Master) at the same event.
 - A. **Double Qs for RAE:** Each time you qualify in both Advanced B and Excellent B at a single trial, you earn a "Double Q," which counts as a leg toward your next RAE title.
 - B. **Triple Qs for RACH:** When you qualify in all three classes (Advanced B, Excellent B, and Master) at the same trial, you earn a "Triple Q." You need 20 of these for your RACH title.
4. **Accrue RACH points:** Your qualifying scores of 91 or higher in the Advanced B, Excellent B, and Master classes earn championship points toward your RACH title. These points are accrued as you compete and work toward your Double Qs and Triple Qs.

Example trial day

On a given trial day, you would enter and run the following classes:

1. **Advanced B**
2. **Excellent B**
3. **Master**

Here's how the results would contribute to your goals:

- **Scenario A:** You qualify in Advanced B and Excellent B, but not Master. You get a Double Q, which counts as one leg toward your RAE title. You also get any accrued championship points for the qualifying scores.
- **Scenario B:** You qualify in all three classes. You get a Triple Q, which counts toward your RACH title. You also get a Double Q, which counts toward your RAE title. You earn championship points from all three qualifying scores.

By entering and qualifying in all three classes at the same time, you can efficiently progress toward both titles simultaneously.

What is a high triple and a high double and how is that achieved?

To achieve a high triple you must enter masters, excellent and advanced and be the highest scoring team that day in each event. If there are tied scores between exhibitors then it will go by who had the best times.

To achieve a high double, you must enter excellent and advance and be the highest scoring team that day in each event whether it be by score or if there is a tied score between exhibitors then it will go to who has the best time

It is not always the same team that will get the high triple and high double because your scores may vary in those classes and it will depend on who has the highest combined scores

For example

Exhibitor 1.	Exhibitor 2
Masters score 100	Masters score 96
Excellent score 99	Excellent score 100
Advanced score 100	Advanced 100

Exhibitor 1 would have gotten the high triple and exhibitor 2 would have gotten the high double due to scores.

Rally practices are usually held the second and third Fridays of the month, unless there is a trial. There are no practices scheduled in October due to building maintenance.

Do you have a rally question or lots of questions? Please send them to WDTCNewsletter2@gmail.com and we will work on getting an answer.

What does it take to get to Nationals?



2026 AKC Rally® National Championship Class Criteria

The RNC is open to all dogs, which meet the criteria below, that are 6 months of age or older that have an AKC number, PAL/ILP number, AKC Canine Partners listing number, or an identification number issued by AKC.

The Qualifying Period for the event is December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2025.

Dogs may only be entered in one class and must be entered at the highest level for which they are eligible.

Novice Class Criteria

- 🐾 Dogs must have earned a confirmed Rally Novice (RN) title at any time prior to, or during; but no later than by the end of the qualifying period.
- 🐾 At least three (3) Novice scores of 93 or more earned during the qualifying period are required.

Intermediate Class Criteria

- 🐾 Dogs must have earned a confirmed Rally Intermediate (RI) title at any time prior to, or during; but no later than by the end of the qualifying period.
- 🐾 At least three (3) Intermediate scores of 93 or more earned during the qualifying period are required.

Advanced Class Criteria

- 🐾 Dogs must have earned a confirmed Rally Advanced (RA) title at any time prior to, or during; but no later than by the end of the qualifying period.
- 🐾 At least three (3) Advanced scores of 93 or more earned during the qualifying period are required.

Excellent Class Criteria

- 🐾 Dogs must have earned a confirmed Rally Excellent (RE) title at any time prior to, or during; but no later than by the end of the qualifying period.
- 🐾 At least three (3) Excellent scores of 93 or more earned during the qualifying period are required.

Master Class Criteria

- 🐾 Dogs must have earned a confirmed Rally Master (RM) title at any time prior to, or during; but no later than by the end of the qualifying period.
- 🐾 At least three (3) Master scores of 93 or more earned during the qualifying period are required.

Championship Class Criteria

- 🐾 Dogs must have earned a confirmed Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title at any time prior to, or during; but no later than by the end of the qualifying period.
- 🐾 Dogs must have earned three (3) scores of 93 or more during the qualifying period in Advanced B.
- 🐾 Dogs must have earned three (3) scores of 93 or more during the qualifying period in Excellent B.
- 🐾 Dogs must have earned three (3) scores of 93 or more during the qualifying period in Master.
 - 🐾 Any of the above-listed qualifying scores may be earned singularly or in any combination.

Entries will be arranged according to the jump height of the dogs, per Chapter 1, Section 2, of the *AKC Rally® Regulations*.

February 21, 2025

Evelyn Hefley

If you've ever met Evelyn Hefley and her Australian Labradoodle, Cooper, you know what a great team they are. Their story began back in 2018 at Woofstock, when Evelyn and Cooper stopped to watch one of WDTC's agility demos. As she watched the dogs run, she thought, "*Cooper, I bet you could do that.*" Before long, they were both signed up for their first class — and the rest is history.

Evelyn grew up on a farm, where she learned how to work hard, fix what broke, and keep going until the job was done. That same attitude shows up in her training. Cooper may be her first dog, but she's approached agility with the same focus and curiosity she's brought to everything in life. At nine, Cooper still has plenty of puppy energy, but when it's time to run, he's all business.

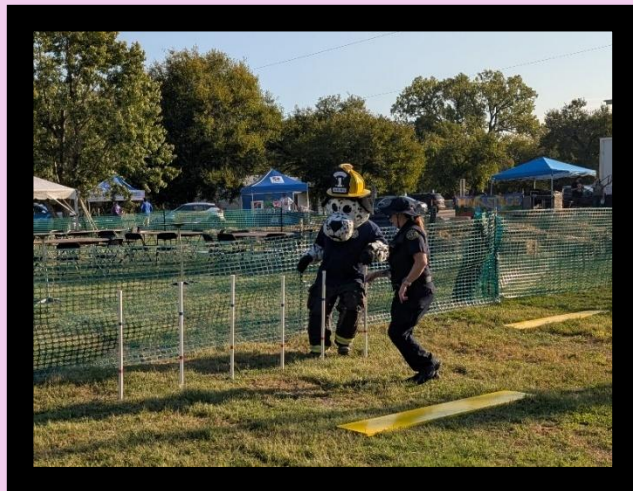
Before she found agility, Evelyn's career path took a few interesting turns. She taught high school for 12 years, covering biology, physics, and chemistry. After leaving teaching, she worked in an outdoor specialty store before joining Boeing as an industrial engineer. After retiring, she made up for lost time by traveling, camping, and exploring the country on her motorcycle and bicycle. She always loved animals but was too busy for a dog until she dog-sat for a family member and discovered how much she enjoyed having one around. When that dog passed away, she started looking for one of her own. A neighbor mentioned Australian Labradoodles, and that led her to Cooper — the perfect match for her lifestyle.

Evelyn is as thoughtful about Cooper's care as she is about training. After researching canine nutrition, she decided against kibble and feeds a gently cooked, homemade raw diet to keep him healthy and strong. Agility, she says, has done the same for her — keeping her active, engaged, and surrounded by friends who share her love of dogs.

At 83, Evelyn continues to learn, train, and enjoy every minute with Cooper. Her story is a great reminder that it's never too late to discover something new — and that the bond we build with our dogs makes the journey even better.



Woofstock 2025



2026 Board of Directors

It's time to think about our 2026 WDTC Board of Directors. Our nominating committee has presented the following slate of candidates to the current BOD.

President: Mary Moyer

Vice President: Kyle Okumara or Katerina Woods

Secretary: Shelley Cox

Treasurer: Sharon Heckman

Agility Director: Chrystal Beck

Obedience Director: Lori Perkins

Activities Director: Scotland Lamb

If you would like to be added to the ballot, it is not too late. According to our bylaws:

ARTICLE IV. The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections SECTION 3. Nominations.....

c. Additional nominations may be made at the November Board of Directors meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his/her name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the person nominating such proposed candidate shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate.

d. After the November Board of Directors meeting, all nominations for the Board of Directors shall be published in the November edition of the Club's Board of Directors monthly meeting minutes.

e. Nomination cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this section.

WDTC Events Calendar

Fall Agility and Obedience Classes - next session starts Oct 27th. Enrollment closes Oct 20th. [WDTC Class Enrollment](#): Are you available to teach or assist? Sign up here: [WDTC Agility Class Schedule & Sign Up](#) or contact p.l.clement63@gmail.com

WDTC Obedience Building Cleanup - Still a few jobs that are open and need volunteers to complete them. Sign up here: [Obedience Building Fall 2025 Clean Up](#) or contact scotlandkplamb@gmail.com Thanks for helping! Please complete tasks by Oct 31.

Steve Moon Agility Seminar - Thursday October 30 - Sunday November 2nd
Enrollment opened August 6th.
For more information contact Julia Tan jtan929@gmail.com

WDTC Board Meeting - Tuesday, Nov 11, 6:30
All members are welcome to attend

Wichita Dog Training Club / Wheatland Golden Retriever Club Agility Trial
Thursday November 13th - Sunday November 16th at the YMCA Indoor Soccer Facility
Judge Abbie Hanson
Premium: [/https://media.rainpos.com/11075/November_2025_Premium.docx_2.pdf](https://media.rainpos.com/11075/November_2025_Premium.docx_2.pdf)
To volunteer to help sign up here [Agility Trial Volunteer Duties](#)
For Trial Committee volunteer questions contact janeneave@gmail.com
For Ring Crew Volunteer questions contact kayjaywoods@gmail.com

Title information and photos due - Wednesday, Nov 19th
Have your dog's title information and photo for this year to Chrystal Beck by November 19th to receive a club recognition certificate and be included in the Christmas Party slideshow. Also please note if it is your dog's first title so we can order a frame. [Chrystal Beck](#)

WDTC Christmas Party / General Meeting
Tuesday December 9th at 6:30 pm
More info to follow soon



HELP Wanted

Needed: Member with a vehicle capable of towing up to 7000 pounds and trailer towing and backing experience. Larry sold his truck and can no longer deliver WDTC's Trailer #2 to and from our trials. We need someone willing and able to transport the trailer from the club to the YMCA on the first morning of the trial. They will then return it to the club at the end of the trial when it is loaded. Mileage is reimbursed. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Larry Moyer at 316-617-9827 or moyerlarry@gmail.com.



We welcome contributors to our newsletter. If you have an interesting article or idea and would like to share it with others, send it to WDTCNewsletter2@gmail.com by the 10th of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

If you hear of events in our area, please let us know so we can share with others.



**WDTC Board of
Directors
for 2025**

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Supplies running low at the club?

Contact

Debbie Snider (316) 201-7347

**If you are on the grounds and notice anything
that needs fixing or immediate attention, please
contact**



Rick Phillips at (316) 655-3738

Send all questions or suggestions to: WDTCNewsletter2@gmail.com

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