

Intro to Dog Sports

Advanced Training Course

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OVERVIEW

Intro to Dog Sports (Advanced Course) is a new training course offered at the shelter. This class would cover advanced obedience work and introduce different dog sports and enrichment practices. This course would be a 6-week long course. In the course, trainers would cover advanced tricks for American Kennel Club (AKC) trick titles, Agility, Scentwork, and Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluation preparation.



OUTLINE

Week 1 - Registration & AKC Trick Title

In Week 1, we would cover AKC Trick Titles, explaining what they are and how to get them. We would briefly review our basic obedience, like sit, down, touch, watch me. We would teach new tricks like Crawl, Spin, and Doggie Push Ups. Provided their dog can sit and touch, this is 5 tricks towards the ten total needed for the first AKC trick title. Or, if their dog has earned their CGC, they can earn their first trick title by just performing these 5 tricks. *AKC Trick Title Novice requires CGC + 5 tricks or 10 tricks total.*

Week 2 - Agility & Impulse Control

In week 2, we would cover low-impact agility obstacles: pause table, cones, and jumps. We would practice all of these and learn two more AKC approved tricks which are “Paws Up” (Two paws on platform), “Get On” (Four paws). *Bonus: Jump is an approved AKC trick.*

In week 2, we would also cover impulse control exercises such as desensitization to movement while tethered and flirt pole, *leave it* and *drop it* games.

Week 3 - Agility

In week 3, we would cover the remaining agility obstacles: A-frame, teeter-totter, tunnel, and chute. Flirt pole and tethering games may be reviewed.

Week 4 - Scent Work

In week 4, we would cover the basics of nose work. We would use cardboard boxes with treats and scents for the dogs to seek out in a yard. We can also play the *Find It* game with a treat under a cup (AKC approved trick for trick title). I will also explain different ways to use scents for enrichment.



Week 5 - CGC Review

In week 5, we would discuss the evaluation process for CGC, explain the requirements of the CGC, and go through the test items for practice, providing feedback for improvement.

Week 6 - CGC Review

In week 6, we would perform a mock evaluation, going through each item, explaining why their dog would pass or fail, and providing feedback for improvement. Then we would close the class with a graduation! Students would earn a printed completion certificate and a reduced evaluation fee. *We are considering providing a 50% off coupon for the evaluation fee.*

Implementation:

This course will be offered onsite at the shelter due to the equipment needed. Behavior staff and approved volunteers would conduct the class for one hour each week. This course will not be



conducted during inclement weather. Water, pools, and cooling mats will be utilized to keep participating dogs cool and healthy during class.

Supplies:

Most of these items are regularly donated or already in the shelter's possession:

- Cardboard boxes
- Puzzle feeder supplies
- Treats (mostly provided by attending students)
- Agility equipment
- Cooling mats
- Pools
- Water buckets

