



# Youngstown All Breed Training Club

## What is Rally?



Rally is fun. Yep, fun. It is basically Obedience with signs, and is intended to be a stepping stone between the time a dog earns a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Certificate and the point when he is ready for more formal obedience trials. Any dog may take classes regardless of breed. If your dog is registered with the AKC, you may compete in AKC trials. If not, there are still many venues in which you and your dog may compete.

Instead of the Judge giving an order to perform a specific obedience skill, there are signs. In AKC Rally, there are 50 signs that may be used. They are printed in colored ink on pieces of paper that are about 8 1/2 by 11 inches in size. Each of these signs has a picture and an accompanying written description of an exercise to perform. Of these 50, the Judge selects between 10 and 20 signs based on skill level, and places them in stands on the floor. Sometimes the stands will be an upside down flower pot, or a wreath holder, and sometimes the signs are placed on metal stands that were manufactured specifically to hold a Rally sign.



The Judge lays a course that features a Start sign, followed by the signs with directions, and then a Finish sign. Beside each sign is a small traffic type cone with a number printed on it. The numbered cones are followed in sequential order. A map of the course and sometimes a briefing is distributed to all contestants at a check in table. For about 10 minutes prior to the start of an event, entrants are permitted to walk the course without their dogs. During this time, the Judge is normally inside the ring with the entrants and most will answer any questions you may have.



At a trial, every entrant starts with 100 points. When it is your turn, the Judge utters only 4 words. The orders "Are you ready?" and "Forward" are given to each handler who enters the ring. You, however, are permitted to talk to your dog as much as you want. The Novice level competitor must use a leash in the ring. There are many faults that will cause the judge to deduct points from your 100. For example, your dog should be walking pretty close to heel position, and should not be tugging, if he does tug, the Judge may take off 1 point for a tight lead. If you don't perform one of the signs correctly, the Judge may take 10 points away from your 100. To pass, or qualify, or get a leg, you and your dog must walk out of the ring with 70 or more points. If you can do this 3 times, under 2 different judges, you will earn a Rally title.



YABTC has AKC rule and sign books for sale at our cost of \$2 per book. Ask your instructor to get you a copy today.

**11801 Mahoning Avenue ♦ P.O. Box 397 ♦ North Jackson, Ohio ♦ 44451**  
*Conveniently located just southeast of the Route 80/Bailey Road exit or west of the 76/80 Turnpike exit  
Across from Carter Lumber*

To Register for a Rally class, contact us at [Registrar@yabtc.com](mailto:Registrar@yabtc.com) or by phone at 330 398-9270



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