JANUARY 2026

K-9 TAILS

K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville Inc.

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2025 BOARD

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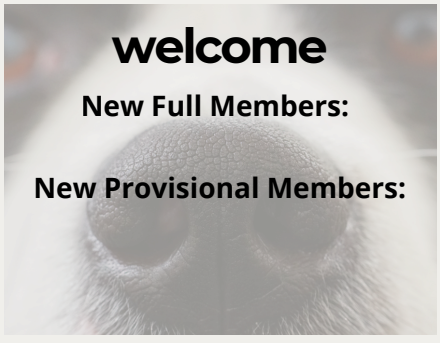


President's Letter

We had a great turnout for our Annual K9 holiday party. The gifts were stolen and coveted and the food was delicious. Best of all was the community sharing laughs and holiday cheer.

We had two interesting speakers at our December members meeting, Maureen Krenzer and Christie Whitt who are experienced instructors in Pet First Aid and CPR. They brought a "dummy dog" to demonstrate CPR and a First Aid kit for dogs and cats for us to see.

We are planning a two-hour life saving course with Maureen and Christie in February that will cover the essential pet first aid and CPR techniques for dogs. Keep an eye on our website for more information to come.

The shed that was in the agility ring has been moved and is now beside the show shed. This shed now houses the nose work and rally equipment. It is not locked and is now easily accessible and has plenty of room for storage.

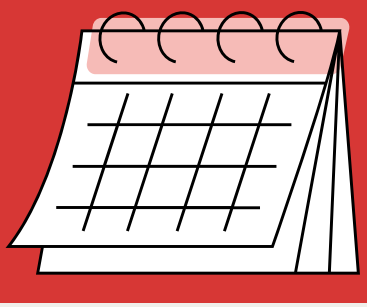
The last news is that our 501c3 application was approved!!!!! This can be a game changer for K9. Many thanks to Christine Peterson and Charlene Francis for their dedication to this effort.

Happy New Year,
Deb Hardman

DON'T FORGET

1/11 Show n Go 10am - 1pm

2/25 Newsletter deadline



Training Director's Report

January classes are open for enrollment! We do have a smaller schedule this term, but I'm excited to be offering a new class with Jacquelyn Newlands help, Sport Puppy Foundations! This class is perfect for any puppy!

Registration closes two days before the class start date, so make sure you register early.
If you are in need of volunteer hours, Juli would love help with her Saturday classes! Not only will you get hours but you'll also learn a lot about dog training.

Barks & Brags

Ernie White and 10 month old MAYA beginner novice title with first place each of 4 run December 6 and 7 Daytona Beach

Changing Behaviour

Every year we tell ourselves “new year new me!” However it’s easy to lose momentum because behaviour change is hard for both ourselves and our dogs. So why is it so hard to change, and what can we do to help both ends of the leash?

Behaviours can be categorized based on the level of skill and motivation needed to execute them. Tasks that generally feel easy include simple routine tasks as well as complex routine tasks. Those that feel more difficult and where most goals tend to fall, include simple novel tasks (for example: tracking and writing a training plan, your dog responding to a “down” in competition) and complex novel tasks (for example: preparing for a trial or titling goal, heeling in a new environment). These 2 categories both require high motivation and are largely managed by the prefrontal cortex. As the behaviour gets repeatedly rewarded, the basal ganglia starts to free up conscious thought and automates through habit formation.

There are multiple hindering factors as we attempt to change behaviours. The dopamine reward system conflicts with behaviour change because past learning has rewarded old behaviours while the new behaviour has not. Executive function can suffer from psychological fatigue as the process also signals internal priorities and opportunity costs. Writing a training plan might mean less time watching a favourite show or getting other work done. Engaging with you means the dog misses out on sniffing or chasing squirrels. To combat this, we can change the activity’s subjective importance to the individual compared to alternative choices through cumulative rewarded learning. This begins by dedicating distraction-free time to work on the novel behaviour combined with short breaks and positive experiences. Give your dog mini breaks, switch to fun or easier behaviours, avoid drilling, and insert play for the sake of playing with food or toys. In the process, the skills will strengthen and develop a positive conditioned emotional response thereby increasing importance to the individual that can now combat alternative choices. Motivation also works against reinforcement learning mechanisms as it’s tied to past reinforcement. Working against learning mechanisms means new behaviours emerge slowly. Start with small changes and reward the small steps toward them. In other words, split criteria, don’t lump! We can also increase motivation through the Self-Determination theory whose hallmark includes an important characteristic we use in positive reinforcement training: choice. The autonomy to choose to engage increases performance because autonomy is intrinsically motivating and prevents reward activity reduction when there’s negative feedback. This is where things like offering behaviours, engagement games, and start button routines come into play.

The points made thus far apply to both ends of the leash with overlaps in human psychology and dog training, but let’s emphasize the human end as we’re the ones responsible for initiating behaviour change. In addition to things like writing down a plan, we must also determine the source of difficulty both for ourselves and our dogs. What is the cause preventing the behaviour from happening, what are the potential problems, and how might we solve them? In order to handle these challenges, we can all benefit from being open to new ideas and widening our attention to broader possibilities regardless of experience level. Finding a supportive network not only helps you stay accountable, but opens you to different experiences and perspectives to navigate the novel challenges that make training, and life as a whole, both frustrating and endlessly interesting.

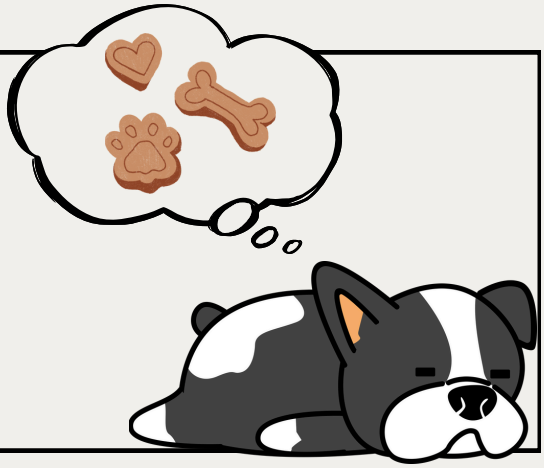
Reference: Berkman, Elliot T. “The Neuroscience of Goals and Behavior Change.” Consulting Psychology Journal, vol. 70, no. 1, Mar. 2018, pp. 28–44. PubMed Central, https://doi.org/10.1037/cpb0000094.

K9 Class Calendar

Monday

5:00-6:00pm Sport Puppy Foundations
6:00-7:00pm STAR Puppy
6:15-7:15pm Advanced/Master Rally
7:15-8:15pm Family Dog

Friday



Tuesday

6:00-7:00pm Advanced 1
7:15-8:15pm Advanced 2

Saturday

9:00-10:00am STAR Puppy
10:30-11:30am Family Dog
12:00-1:00pm Tricks

Wednesday

10:00-11:00am Advanced Rally
7:15-8:15pm Conformation Drop-in

Sunday

Thursday

6:00-7:00pm Continuing Nosework (off site)

Click to check the K9 web calendar for last minute updates

Upcoming Florida Trials

January 226

Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
1/8-1/11	RLY, O	Hernando County Kennel Club	Brooksville	12/24	M Becker, BJ Crim Critelli, L Seeley, RE Seeley
1/10-1/11	O	Obedience Club of Palm Beach	Lake Park	12/24	ENA
1/10-1/11	SCWK	Imperial Polk Obedience Club of Lakeland	Plant City	12/24	TBA
1/16-1/18	O	Marion Alachua Dog Training	Ocala	12/31	AP Kincaid, K Kincaid
1/18	RLY, O	Manatee Kennel Club	Brookesville	12/31	NJ Watson
1/20-1/21	SCWK	Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club	Brooksville	1/13	TBA
1/23-1/25	SCWK	Marion Alachua Dog Training	Ocala	1/7	N Duberow
1/24-1/25	RLY, O	Five Flags Dog Training Club	Pensacola	1/9	L Currey, CA Klein
1/24-1/25	RLY, O	Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers Association	Ocala	1/7	J Caputa, J Rogers, NE Noonan
1/24-1/25	RLY, O	Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood	Davie	1/14	RE Seeley, CA Boyles
1/30-1/31	SCWK	Dog Obedience Club of Lee County	Cape Coral	1/16	JM Leitzsch, D Conroy

RLY (rally), O (obedience), PO (preferred obedience), NA (not yet approved), TBA (to be announced), ENA (event not approved), P (pended), PJA (pending judge approval), PPP (pending panel processing)

Upcoming Florida Trials

February 226

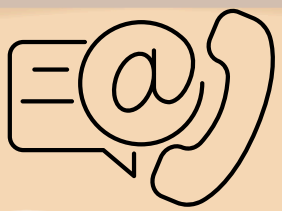
Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
2/1	SCWK	Dog Obedience Club of Lee County Florida	Cape Coral	1/16	J Leitzsch, D Conroy
2/7-2/8	SCWK	NorAust K9 Agility Club of Mid Florida	Lady Lake	1/28	E Jernigan
2/10-2/11	SCWK	Sonlight Agility Club of Brooksville	Brooksville	2/3	T Johnson, W Hudson
2/12-2/15	SCWK	Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club	Lakeland	1/28	T Johnson, W Hudson, B McDonald
2/13-2/15	RLY, O	Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club	Lakeland	1/28	C Boyles, N Watson, D Neufeld
2/14 -2/16	O, RLY	Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club, Ochlockonee River Kennel Club, Okaloosa Kennel Club	Tallahassee	2/4	N Hayes, K Wrey
2/20-2/22	SCWK	Dog-On-It Agility Club of Greater Orlando	Lady Lake	2/6	L Rieves, C Dostal
2/21-2/22	RLY	Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg	St Petersburg	2/13	S Jones, J Lowry
2/21-2/22	SCWK	Greater Panama City Dog Fanciers Assoc.	Tallahassee	2/11	L Bara-Weaver, W Hudson
2/21-2/22	O	Indian River Dog Training Club	Palm Bay	2/4	B Hornfisher, R Hornfisher
2/27-2/28	RLY, O	Pensacola Dog Fanciers Assoc.	Pensacola	2/11	N Grimm, R Garvin
2/28	SCWK	Indian River Dog Training Club	Palm Bay	2/13	L Bara-Weaver, W Hudson

Upcoming Florida Trials

March 2026

Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
3/1	RLY, O	Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association	Pensacola	2/11	N Grimm, R Garvin
3/1	SCWK	Indian River Dog Training Club	Palm Bay	2/13	W Hudson, L Bara-Weaver
3/6-3/8	SCWK	Ochlockonee River Kennel Club of Florida	Monticello	2/25	D Dowler-Parmer, C Rolfe
3/6-3/7	RLY	Sarasota Obedience Training Club	Myakka City	2/18	A Kincaid
3/6-3/8	SCWK	Scent Work Club of Brevard County	Cocoa	2/20	N Duberow, C Happel
3/13-3/14	SCWK	Lake Eustis Kennel Club, Inc.	Lady Lake	3/4	J Leitzsch
3/14-3/15	RLY	Mid-Florida Dalmatian Club	Ocala	2/25	D Neufeld
3/14-3/15	O	Jupiter-Tequesta Dog Club, Inc.	Jupiter	2/25	ENA
3/21-3/22	O	Central Florida Obedience Dog Club	Orlando	3/4	N Noonan, L Seeley, R Seeley
3/24-3/25	SCWK	Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club	Brooksville	3/17	TBA
3/28-3/29	O	Orlando Dog Training Club	Orlando	3/11	ENA
3/28-3/29	O	Miami Obedience Club	Miami	3/11	ENA

Contact Us



K9 Webpage

For questions or comments related to the K9 web pages, please contact **Alison Nelson** at **anelsonphs@yahoo.com**

Membership

Any membership questions can be sent to **Stacy Payne** **k9spayne@gmail.com**

Sunshine

Jacquelyn Newlands oversees the "Sunshine Committee." If you know of a member in need of cheering up or well wishes from the club, email **jacquelyn.newlands@gmail.com**

Building & Grounds

If you see something that needs cleaning or repairing, please email **Ben Bond** **benbbond@yahoo.com**

Facebook

Juli Wilkison administrates the Facebook page. For issues or additions related to Facebook, email **Juli** at **dakoiah@gmail.com**

K9 Web Calendar

Megan Hoeppner updates the calendar on the K9 website. For issues or additions related to the calendar, please email **hoeppner.megan@gmail.com**

Wishlist

Program Committee

If you have suggestions for speakers, contact **Deb Hardman** at **debhardman1@comcast.net** **Jacquelyn Newlands** at **jacquelyn.newlands@gmail.com**

Newsletter

Email material to include in the newsletter to **amee763@hotmail.com** with the subject *"Newsletter"* by the *25th* of this month. If not received by the 25th, it'll be included in the next issue.