SEPTEMBER 2026

K-9 TAILS

K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville Inc.

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2026 BOARD

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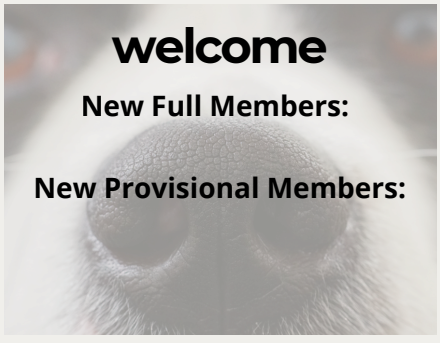
K9 Website Alison Nelson
K9 Calendar Megan Hoeppner



President's Letter

I have been in the mountains of North Carolina for the past two weeks, and the weather has been glorious. Today it is 70 degrees with a nice breeze and blue sky. Nights are in the 50's. I am not looking forward to my return to Florida's heat and humidity!
Our new yard service is doing a great job. He has asked that we return the hose to the side of the house after using it. I told him, "no problem"! Please help make that happen.

We have a lot starting to happen as fall approaches.
Membership renewal starts in October. Be sure you have submitted all your required volunteer hours to k9's email address k9obedienceclubjax@gmail.com. You must complete volunteer hours to receive membership benefits.

Classes for fall opened September 15th. There are many wonderful opportunities for you and your dog. Check it out on our website.

As the board continues to search for a new facility, we will kick off our Capital Campaign in October at our 75th Anniversary celebration October 31st on Halloween Day.

Our next trial in Daytona is October 3rd and 4th. We are looking for volunteers to help steward our rings – a great way to get hours, meet members, and help the club in a meaningful way. Contact Jacque Newland if you are interested.
I will be asking members to make a financial contribution towards the awards given at our trial. Your contributions really help defray the costs of putting on a trial. Please send your financial contribution to our K9 address - 2638 Powers Avenue, Jax, 32207 or make a payment via zelle at K9obedienceclubjax@gmail.com.

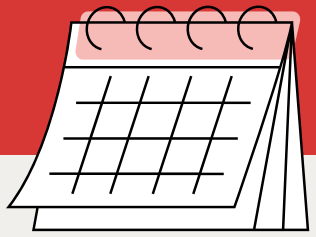
Jacksonville Bark Fest is September 20th from 10-3:00 at Riverside Artist Square.
The Canine Fitness Part 2 is September 13th at 5:00 p.m. You do not need to have attended Part 1 to attend Part 2. Both are very popular events.

This Month:

9/12	Grounds Clean Up Day
9/13	Canine Fitness and Massage Seminar
9/20	Bark Fest 10-3pm
9/25	Newsletter deadline

Upcoming Program Events:

October: Tracking demo (New class!) with Kate at General Meeting & 75th Anniversary Event on Saturday 10/31 (open to the community)
November: Engagement with Rachel Flatley Saturday 11/21 (registration coming soon)
December: Holiday party at General Meeting
January: Happy Ratters Seminar Sunday 1/17
February: Grooming Seminar with Brianna Sunday 2/21
March: Something exciting! Stay tuned for updates...



Training Director’s Report

Classes are still open for enrollment, with only a few spots left, and the fall term start the week of September 13th.

If you are looking for volunteer hours or would like to earn a free class, assisting with upcoming classes is a great way to get either. Contact me if you’d like to help!

Thanks, as always, to our instructors at K-9! The club and our students appreciate all you do

Clean Up Day

Hey Members!!! Calling all volunteers for an important clean up day. September 12th from 9:00 till noon. I need as many people as possible to spruce up our pavilion and training area for the seminar on Sunday, September 13th and in preparation for classes which begin the week of September 14th. Things are a little Dusty! We just need to do some lighthouse keeping and straightening up and many hands make the workload light. So bring some rags. Maybe a weed wacker, or other cleaning and yard devices that you think could be handy and help me to prepare a pleasant environment and atmosphere as we start the fall activities at at K9. Hope to see you there and thank you for helping to take care of the club property!

Trial Basket

Friends, the October Trials in Daytona Beach are right around the corner and I wanted to give you all a heads up about the raffle. First of all, I am making the baskets, thanks to the generosity of those wonderful people who donated last fall. But, I won't be there.
My husband's granddaughter is getting married that weekend and we will be leaving Thursday for New York state. So, If you will be at the trials by 8:00 Saturday morning and have room for a basket or two, they would appreciate the ride.

If you are contributing a basket (and that makes you one of my favorite people) PLEASE let me know how many so we don't have too many baskets for the tables.
Also, affix a note telling "shoppers" what the basket contains; a list of contents, please.

If you have any "WOW!" items you wish to donate, I will be leaving my crate labeled or you can leave it in the house. I have plenty of toys but could use some more treats. Please put your name on any donated items so I can thank you in the newsletter for your kindness.

Ginny Ruskuski
ruskuski5030@att.net
text - 904 661 8999

Trial Report

DATELINE OCTOBER - OBEDIENCE AND RALLY TRIALS AROUND THE CORNER!
Calling all member volunteers: the October 3rd and 4th obedience and rally trials are just around the corner. The trials are held in Daytona Beach both days as in previous years. Please contact Jacque Newlands to steward one or both days and contact me at anelson@yahoo.com for other volunteer opportunities or questions about the trials. All help is appreciated and needed. Obedience and rally trials cannot run without member volunteers' support. K-9 is so fortunate to have talented steward volunteers and others who have made our trials well-respected and attended.

Steward Volunteering

Volunteers Needed: Stewards for Our Upcoming Rally & Obedience Trial

Our club's Rally and Obedience trial is coming up, and we need YOU! Stewarding is one of the easiest, most rewarding ways to give back to the Club — no experience necessary, and it's a fantastic way to learn the ropes of trialing from ringside and get your volunteer hours. Stewards help keep the ring running smoothly by setting up equipment, managing paperwork, and assisting the judge throughout the day.

Whether you're a seasoned member or brand new to the club, we'd love your help. Your time makes a huge difference for our exhibitors and judges — and it's a great way to earn some serious goodwill. Stewards also receive a **$30 voucher for each full day of volunteering** that can be used toward classes at the club.

Interested? Reach out to Jacque Newlands at Jacquelyn.Newlands@gmail.com. Thank you for helping make our trial a success!

K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville 75th Anniversary Community Event

We're celebrating 75 years of K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville, and we want the whole club involved! Join us on Saturday, October 31st, 10 AM–2 PM as we mark this incredible milestone with our community. Members- we need your help!

🎁 Raffle Donations Needed
Have a product, service, gift card, or handmade item to donate? Our raffle is a highlight of the event (and a big fundraiser for the club!). Pet-related items are always a hit, but we welcome anything you'd like to contribute.

🎨 Game Prizes Wanted
We're also looking for cool or interesting items and art to give away as prizes for games throughout the event! Got something unique, handmade, or one-of-a-kind sitting around — art, crafts, collectibles, whatever catches the eye? We'd love to hear from you!

🙋 Volunteers Needed
We need hands on deck to make this day a success! A great way to get volunteer hours. Opportunities include:

- Setup/teardown
- Registration table
- Raffle table
- Games/prize table
- Demo/activity support
- General day-of help and more!

Whether you can give an hour or the whole day, every bit helps us celebrate 75 years right.
📩 Interested in donating or volunteering? Email Jacque Newlands at Jacquelyn.Newlands@gmail.com — let's make this anniversary one to remember!

Also we need vendors for this event:
Calling All Vendors for the 75th Anniversary Celebration!

As part of the festivities, we're inviting vendors to set up a table and share their products or services with our members and guests.

Whether you offer pet products, training services, photography, grooming, artwork, anything dog-related, or know someone who does, we'd love to have you all join us. It's a great opportunity to connect with a community of dedicated dog enthusiasts and celebrate 75 years of Club history alongside us.

Interested in reserving a table or know someone who might? Contact Ely at Nimbusbirddog@yahoo.com for details!

K9 OBEDIENCE CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

Canine Fitness & Massage

Building Upon Basics

Hands-on, 2.5-hour Workshop

DATE	TIME	DURATION	REGISTER BY
Sun, Sept 13, 2026	5:00 - 7:30 PM	2.5 hours	Sept 6, 2026

Build your dog's strength, mobility, and confidence through guided fitness exercises and introductory massage techniques you can use at home!

Builds upon the techniques covered in our previous session

Beginners welcome!

INSTRUCTOR
Caitlin DeGross
BS, CVT, CCRVN, PPCFT

INSTRUCTOR
Cara Depontes
AAS, CVT, CCRVN, CCTVT

WORKING SPOT

$60 20 spots available

Get hands-on feedback and guidance from highly qualified instructors as you work through fitness and massage exercises.

Open to club members through Aug 23, 2026, 11:59 PM — opens to community after that date

Working Spot Registration Link

AUDIT SPOT

$40 unlimited spots

Take a front-row seat observing 20 examples of canine fitness and massage techniques in action — no working dog required.

Open now to club members and the community alike

Auditor Spot Registration Link

QUESTIONS?
Email
k9obedienceclubjax@gmail.com

LOCATION
K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville
2638 Powers Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32207

iPad Dog

You've probably heard of "iPad kids" in reference to children addicted and raised on digital technology, but we may not be far off from seeing "iPad dogs" in the future. Animal-computer interaction (ACI) is a relatively new field of research focused on designing and using technology with animals in mind to enhance well being, support their function, and enhance human-animal relationships. Dog computer interaction is of particular interest and currently includes biosensing wearables to monitor vital signs, interfaces to train and entertain dogs, games that owners and dogs can play together, and interfaces to help service dogs perform tasks and operate appliances.

Clever Dog Lab and Wolf Science Center in Austria and the Family dog project in Budapest have collectively trained 265 dogs and 20 wolves to use touchscreens in different studies to research learning, memory, and reasoning capacity of dogs among other species. One such study proposed that touchscreens with cognitive enrichment programs combined with reinforcement learning could improve quality of life particularly in senior dogs. Positive effects using memory games on iPads have already been demonstrated in human studies which included improved memory, engagement and motivation in those with age related cognitive impairment. Benefits of using touchscreens as a training tool include flexibility, reliability, and the ability to provide novelty. It can also train more consistently than humans giving immediate audio feedback with food rewards. Once dogs learned to associate the touchscreen and stimuli with rewards, the device creates anticipation even without food. Researchers observed that some dogs even continued to work alone with the touchscreen on discrimination tasks even when the feeder failed without reward. At this time, touchscreens have only been used in lab environments but researchers see potential in producing technology for dog use in the home environment for boredom and separation anxiety as well as using this citizen data to increase our understanding of lifelong learning, cognitive decline, and dog behaviour.

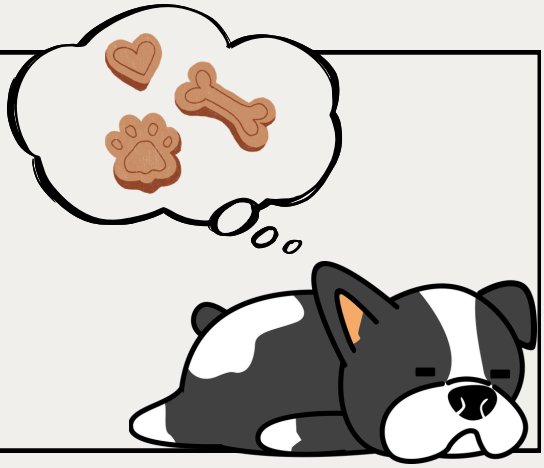
References:
https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6166787/
https://www.open.edu/openlearn/digital-computing/animal-computer-interaction-and-dogs

K9 Class Calendar

Monday

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

Friday



Tuesday

6:00-7:00pm Novice Obedience
7:15-8:15pm Adv. Novice/ Open Foundations
7:15-8:15pm Family Dog

Saturday

1:00-2:00pm Nosework 1
2:30-3:30pm Nosework 2

Wednesday

10:00-11:00am Advanced Rally
6:00-7:00pm Family Dog
6:00-7:00pm CGC
7:15-8:15pm Conformation Drop-in

Sunday

10:30-11:30am Nosework 3
6:00-7:00pm Engagement Games

Thursday

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

Click to check the K9 web calendar for last minute updates

Upcoming Florida Trials

September 2026

Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
9/5-9/6	RLY, O	Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg	St Petersburg	7/15	B Selton, C Mielziner, O Jr.
9/5-9/6	SCWK	NorAust K9 Agility Club of Mid Florida	Lady Lake	8/26	E Jernigan
9/7	RLY, O	Tampa Bay Area Shetland Sheepdog Club	St Petersburg	8/28	N Noonan, C Mielziner
9/11-9/13	SCWK	Obedience Club of Daytona	Daytona Beach	8/21	L Bara-Weaver, W Hudson
9/12-9/13	RLY	Imperial Polk Obedience Club of Lakeland, Florida	Lakeland	8/26	J Kern, N Watson
9/18-9/20	RLY	Marion Alachua Dog Training Association	Ocala	9/2	K Hazelet
9/19-9/20	O	Orlando Dog Training Club	Orlando	9/2	KA Walker, AP Kincaid, NJ Watson
9/19-9/20	O	Miami Obedience Club	Miami	9/2	L Seeley
9/26-9/27	RLY	Orlando Dog Training Club	Orlando	9/9	K Hazelet, J Kern

Upcoming Florida Trials

October 2026

Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
10/2-10/4	SCWK	Sarasota Obedience Training Club	Myakka City	9/18	N Duberow, J Leitzsch
10/3-10/4	O, RLY	K-9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville	Daytona Beach	9/16	A Eisthen, D Neufeld, M Wilson, S Baker
10/3-10/4	RLY, O	Five Flags Dog Training Club of Pensacola, FL	Pensacola	9/18	A Kincaid, K Walker
10/5-10/6	SCWK	Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.	Ocala	9/16	N Duberow, L Walsh
10/7-10/8	O, RLY	Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.	Ocala	9/16	J Kern, N Grimm
10/9-10/11	SCWK	Doberman Pinscher Club of Florida, Inc.	Punta Gorda	9/25	W Hudson
10/9-10/11	SCWK	Dog-On-It Agility Club of Greater Orlando	Lady Lake		T Johnson, C Dostal
10/10-10/11	RLY	Dog Obedience Club of Lee County Florida	N Fort Myers	9/30	N Heidt, W O'Brien
10/10-10/11	RLY	Miami Obedience Club	Miami	9/25	J Rogers
10/16-10/17	RLY	Sarasota Obedience Training Club	Myakka City	9/30	J Rogers
10/17-10/18	O	Imperial Polk Obedience Club of Lakeland, Florida	Lakeland	9/30	TBA
10/17-10/18	O	Jupiter-Tequesta Dog Club, Inc.	Jupiter	9/30	T McCall
10/17	RLY	Obedience Club of Daytona	Daytona Beach	9/30	S Baker, C Boyles
10/23-10/25	SCWK	Dog Obedience Club of Lee County Florida	North Fort Myers	10/14	W Hudson
10/24-10/25	SCWK	Greater Panama City Dog Fanciers Association	Panama City	10/14	C Dostal, E Jernigan
10/24-10/25	O	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tampa	10/7	ENA
10/24-10/25	RLY	Brevard County Dog Training Club	Orlando	10/7	M Becker, A Kincaid
10/27-10/28	SCWK	Sonlight Agility Club of Brooksville	Brooksville		W Hudson, T Johnson
10/30-10/31	O	Marion Alachua Dog Training Association	Ocala	10/14	N Withers
10/30-10/31	SCWK	Scent Work Club of Brevard County	Titusville	10/9	N Duberow, C Happel
10/31	RLY	Australian Shepherd Club of Central Florida	Lakeland		ENA

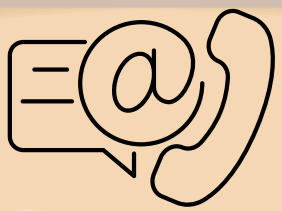
Upcoming Florida Trials

November 2026

Date	Event	Club	City	Closing	Judges
11/1	RLY	Australian Shepherd Club of Central Florida	Lakeland		ENA
11/1	SCWK	Scent Work Club of Brevard County	Titusville	10/9	C Happel, N Duberow
11/1	O	Marion Alachua Dog Training Association	Ocala	10/14	J Kern
11/6-11/7	SCWK	Lake Eustis Kennel Club, Inc.	Lady Lake	10/28	T Johnson
11/6-11/8	SCWK	Sailfish Capital Agility Club of Florida	Punta Gorda	10/23	J Leitzsch, W Hudson
11/7-11/8	RLY	Indian River Dog Training Club	Palm Bay	10/21	K Hazelet, N Noonan
11/7-11/8	O	Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County	Lake Park	10/21	R Knight, C Knight
11/14-11/15	RLY, O	Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.	Ocala	10/28	C Knight
11/14-11/15	RLY	Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County	Lake Park	10/28	J Rogers, N Noonan
11/17-11/18	SCWK	Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club	Brooksville	11/10	W Hudson, T Johnson
11/20-11/22	SCWK	Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg	St Petersburg	11/9	W Hudson, B McDonald
11/21-11/22	RLY	Dog Training Club of Tampa	Tampa	11/4	B Critelli, M Becker
11/21-11/22	SCWK	Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County	Lake Park	11/4	C Happel, F Smith, M Hohmann

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)

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

Robin Wallen oversees the "Sunshine Committee." If you know of a member in need of cheering up or well wishes from the club, email **Wallenrobin@yahoo.com**

Building & Grounds

If you see something that needs cleaning or repairing, please email **TBD**

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.