



It's Rally Time!

By Sarah Scarborough



Rally Obedience is a fun and engaging performance event that dogs and handlers of all experience levels can participate in! It's a great sport for developing teamwork with your dog and working toward some Total Dog awards along the way. UKC Rally Obedience trials can be held independently or in conjunction with conformation shows and other performance events. Entering your first Rally-O trial can be a bit confusing, so let's take the guesswork out of it and go through the process!

First things first ... your dog must either be permanently registered with UKC, have a performance listing number, or a temporary listing number. You'll need this number to enter a trial.

Consult the [UKC events calendar](#) for trials near you. Listings will contain information on the number of trials offered, which are typically one or two trials per day, and anywhere from 1 to 4 days in a row. You can enter as many or as few as you'd like, but you can only enter each class that you are eligible for once per trial. If there are two trials offered in a day, you can enter the same class in both trials for two chances at qualifying runs.



All dogs will start at the RO1 level, which is entirely on leash. You have a choice from RO1 A, B or C. The A division is for novice handlers who have not handled a dog to any rally or obedience title before, and for dogs that have not earned any rally or obedience titles. The B division is for handlers who have previously titled dogs in Rally and/or obedience and for dogs that have earned a Rally or obedience title in another venue. If you are competing with a dog you don't own, you would enter the B class. Finally, the C division is for dogs who currently hold the RO1 or higher rally titles but are continuing to compete in that level. Often, teams enter RO1-C to collect All-Star points and Total Dog awards—there will be more on that in a future blog post!



Each trial has specific instructions for entering. Some have online entry, some have an option to email in your entry form, and some require them to be mailed. The trial listing in the events calendar will have instructions on how to enter. Don't hesitate to contact the trial secretary with any questions! If you are entering an event that has conformation as well, and you are competing in both, make sure to check the box for Total Dog on your entry. You can earn a Total Dog award by getting a conformation win and a qualifying performance score at the same show/trial.

Entry forms can be found at the bottom of the page of each trial listing in the event calendar. Don't forget to sign it! Submit to the trial secretary before the closing date according to the instructions, and pay the entry fee. Once you've done that ... it's time to prepare for your first trial!

Here are some helpful links to get you on the right path to entering your first Rally Obedience trial:

UKC Events Calendar:

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/show-ops-events-calendar>

UKC Performance Entry Form

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/docs/showforms/performance-entry-form.pdf>

UKC Rally Rulebook

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/docs/rulebooks/2020-rally-rulebook.pdf>

Learn the Beginner UKC Rally Obedience Exercises

<https://youtu.be/WOPXqO12OGA?si=muJDVA80syANv75Y>