

## **FLOW CHART DESCRIPTIONS** (revised Oct 2023)

All of these classes are offered by Santa Clara Dog Training Club.

**PUPPY**—Puppy class introduces very young pups to a group situation plus learning basics. Limited to pups up to sixteen weeks old on first day of class. Pups may earn the AKC S.T.A.R. certificate.

**BEGINNERS**—*Pre-requisite age 4 months and older.* Basic obedience exercises (sit, down, stand, stay, come) that are useful for all dogs of any age. The dogs not only benefit from learning the basics, they also learn around the distraction of other dogs. Occasionally a dog may benefit from re-taking this class. If under a year, a puppy may earn the AKC S.T.A.R. certificate.

**HOLIDAY MANNERS**—*Prerequisite—any Beginners Obedience class.* This is a short class that is offered occasionally. Topics covered include Leave It, Settle on bed, Recall, Sit and Down at a distance, Cooperative care (brushes, jackets, etc.), say “Hi” on cue, Crate games.

**INTERMEDIATE/CGC**—*Pre-Requisite—any Beginners Obedience class.* In addition to building on reliability of the basic exercises, the addition of Canine Good Citizen (CGC) skills are taught. The goal of this class is to earn a CGC certificate from AKC.

***All on lead.***

- Accepting a friendly stranger
- Sitting for petting
- Allow brushing and handling of front paws
- Walking on a loose lead
- Walking through a crowd of people and dogs
- Sit, Down, Stay
- Come when called
- Reaction to another dog
- Reaction to distraction (wheelchair, loud noise, skateboard, etc.)
- Supervised separation for three minutes with handler out of sight.

*This class is often repeated* or the dog may go on to Novice 1. Intermediate/CGC is an ***optional class***. CGC is an additional evaluation that is separate from the class.

**NOVICE 1—Intro to AKC obedience.** *Pre-requisite Beginners and/or Intermediate.* This class is more advanced than Intermediate/CGC. The goal of this class is to teach exercises that lead to getting the AKC Beginner Novice title as well as the Companion Dog title. including Figure 8 heeling, Sit and Stand for Exam, Sit/Stay handler walk around the ring, plus off lead recalls and finishes. *This class often is repeated* or the dog may go on to Novice 2.

**NOVICE 2--Prerequisite Novice 1 and approval of the trainer.** The handler should know all of the exercises included in Novice 1, heel on leash with figure eight and off leash recall plus finishes, stand for exam, heel free, sit stay and get your leash, as well as group sit and down stays according to AKC rules.. This class prepares a dog for the Novice class that can earn the AKC Companion Dog (CD) title. *This class is usually repeated.*

**OPEN--Prerequisite—proficiency in all Novice exercises.** Open is designed to prepare a dog for the AKC Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title. All exercises are off leash. Heel Free, Figure Eight, Command Discrimination, Drop on Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, plus Stand Stay and Get Your Leash. ***This class is usually repeated.***

**INTRO TO UTILITY—Prerequisite--Solid retrieve (no mouthing), Stand for Exam, Recall, Heeling.** This class covers the requirements and start the training of the Utility Signal, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve and Moving Stand. Directed Jumping is NOT included.

**UTILITY--Prerequisite—proficiency in all Open exercises.** Utility is designed to prepare a dog for the AKC Utility Dog (UD) title. Exercises taught include Signal exercise, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Exam, and Directed Jumping. *This class is usually repeated.*

**RING READY--Prerequisite** This class is for those preparing for AKC Beginner Novice (BN), or Novice (CD) Companion Dog. Dog and handler **MUST KNOW** all the exercises as required in the obedience ring. Dog and handler will have the opportunity to go through the exercises as done in an obedience trial. Approximately ten minutes per dog. This class is usually repeated.

**RUN THROUGH 2.** Handler and dog should know all the exercises. This class is for those preparing for AKC Open and Utility titles. Dog and handler will go through the exercises as done in an obedience trial. Approximately fifteen minutes per dog. Team may take another class.

**RALLY.** AKC Rally is intended as a stepping stone to the more formal AKC obedience classes with many exhibitors doing Rally prior to Obedience. Rally Novice and Intermediate are both performed on leash, followed by off leash Advanced, Excellent and Master levels. (Rally Intermediate is an optional level.)

**RALLY INTRODUCTION** This course *introduces* you to the sport of rally. The emphasis is on acquiring rally skills and improving heelwork. The prerequisite for this course is that you have basic obedience and that the dog can heel, sit and down. You should also be able to finish your dog to the left and right. This course prepares the team for the Rally Novice/Intermediate course. Please no halters. This class is offered occasionally.

**RALLY NOVICE/INTERMEDIATE--** At this level the students will master the Rally Novice and Intermediate signs. To be ready for this class the dog needs to be able to heel on leash, sit, stand, down front, finish to the left and right, as well as stay in the sit, down and stand positions. In addition students will also learn how to effectively walk a rally course. So that your dog will be safe during the walk through without the dog you will need to bring a crate. Time permitting, you will learn how to effectively enter the ring.

**RALLY ADVANCED/EXCELLENT/MASTER.** The student will learn the Advanced, Excellent and Master signs. It requires that the handler has successfully completed the Rally Novice class and has an AKC Rally Novice title. Students moving up from the Rally Novice/Intermediate class require the trainer's approval. Students will need to bring a crate to allow for the walk through.

**SCENT WORK.** Scent Work does not fit into the Obedience Flow Chart since it does not require any formal obedience. See below for Scent Work class descriptions.

Scent Work is a fun sport based on work done by real-world detection dogs. Instead of locating drugs or explosives, Scent Work uses four essential oils – birch,

anise, clove, and cypress – to find different target scents that can be hidden anywhere. The role of the handler is not to direct, but to work together as a team. The dog learns to communicate with the handler where the scent is located. The dog learns how to tell the handler that scent has been found, even if there are distractions such as toys and food. This is a wonderful way to build confidence, is great for stimulating your dog's mind, and is enjoyed by all dogs whether young or old.

### **Beginning Scentwork I**

No prerequisites, just a desire to play and bond with your dog.

This class is an introductory class for teams to explore the foundations of scentwork. In this class teams will learn important foundational skills in scentwork through shaping the behaviors, developing a dog's drive to scent, recognizing behavior changes when the dog is on odor, and rewarding success. The handler will learn to interact and handle their dogs using "high value" rewards. One odor (birch) will be introduced in this class.

Please bring to class lots of "high-value" treats, IN TREAT POUCHES, as well as a flat buckle, collar, or harness. Leashes should be easy to take on and off, and at least 6 feet in length.

### **Beginning Scentwork II**

Prerequisite: Beginning I foundations course or equivalent.

This class is for teams that are familiar with the basic foundations of searching for a "high value" treat, and the recognition of at least one odor. Teams will work on the development of alert behaviors, reward timing and methodology, and leash handling. Dogs will be introduced to the odors used by AKC and other trialing organizations and practicing beginning searches in this class. Dogs must demonstrate recognition of odor, and handlers develop the ability to recognize and reward the change in behavior when the dog is on odor in order to move on to the Novice/advanced scentwork class. *This class is usually repeated*

Please bring to class lots of “high-value” treats, IN TREAT POUCHES, as well as a flat buckle, collar, or harness. Leashes should be easy to take on and off, and at least 6 feet in length.

### **Scentwork Novice/Intermediate**

Prerequisite: Beginning Scentwork II or equivalent, dogs should recognize odors

This class is intended for dogs who are on odor and/or pairing. Dogs in this class should recognize odor and want to improve their skills in AKC Scentwork and other trialing organizations. Teams will work on improving their skills in change of behaviors, reward timing, leash handling, handler body movement, and drive to odor. Dogs must demonstrate recognition of all odor scents used by AKC Scentwork and other trialing organizations. Handlers must have the ability to recognize and reward the change in behavior when the dog is on odor in order to move on to the intermediate/advanced scentwork class. This class is usually repeated

Please bring to class lots of “high-value” treats IN TREAT POUCHES, a crate, as well as a flat buckle, collar, or harness. Leashes should be easy to take on and off, at least 10 feet in length.

### **Scent Work Intermediate/Advanced:**

Prerequisite: Scentwork Novice/Intermediate or equivalent.

Teams will learn to identify and indicate specific scents used by AKC and other organizations.. Team handling and proficiency with handler body movement, alert recognition, and timing will be refined. Proficiency with these techniques will lead to AKC scentwork and other trialing organization titles. *This class is usually repeated.*

Please bring to class lots of “high-value” treats IN TREAT POUCHES, as well as a flat buckle, collar, or harness. Leashes should be easy to take on and off, and at least 10 feet in length, and a crate for your dog.

