



APDT Rally Obedience™

Getting Started with APDT Rally in Your Business

Why APDT Rally?

APDT Rally offers teams real-world skills to navigate everyday life. Dog sports are becoming more popular as people want to do more with their dogs, and APDT Rally – one of the most accessible team dog sports – is growing fast.

What can APDT Rally do for my business?

- APDT Rally can help you to generate revenue as an instructor and/or training facility owner. APDT Rally can help your business retain students longer.
- APDT Rally is a relatively inexpensive sport to teach, and trials are easy to run.
- APDT Rally is one of the few dog sports and activities in which nearly every person and every dog can participate.
- Both handlers and dogs with physical challenges can participate.
- There are titling classes for puppies as young as 6 months and for veterans over 8 years old.
- There are 3 competition levels to hone, incorporating both on-leash and off-leash activity.
- APDT Rally is a friendly venue where relationship and teamwork are as valuable as performance.
- There are many combined championship levels that keep teams in the sport for a long time.

About APDT Rally

Rally for All Dogs

Since its inception in 2001, APDT Rally registration has been open to all dogs, purebred and mixed. All dogs over six months old are welcome. There are special classes - for puppies 6 to 12 months of age and veterans 8 years and older - to earn their own titles. Additionally, both physically challenged dogs and handlers are encouraged to participate. Exercise modifications are allowed to help dogs and handlers with special needs manage the courses and compete on a level playing field. Since Level 1 is performed on leash, dogs with some behavior issues that might preclude them from other dog sports can participate and even do well in this sport.

One thing that distinguishes APDT Rally from any other dog sport is that it allows a team to remain on-lead in Rally Level 1 indefinitely! This allows teams to further hone their skills, continue competing, and earn additional championships in Level 1 for as long as they like. The emphasis of APDT Rally is on how the handler and dog relate to each other, rather than how the dog relates to outsiders, distractions, or other dogs.

Rally is User Friendly – Train the Way You Compete

Rally is one of the most dog and handler friendly of all current dog sports because handlers are not restricted from praising and communicating with their dogs. There's no better way to turn a ring experience around than APDT Rally! In APDT Rally, you can talk to your dog, and use food and touch rewards; you can compete the same way you train. A handler does not have to become a "silent alien" in the ring to his or her dog, which provides for a much smoother and natural transition from student to competitor.

You Can Repeat Exercises and Still Qualify

In most instances, APDT Rally allows a team to repeat exercises that have not been performed correctly, giving you and your dog an opportunity for success in the ring and to exit feeling good about your performance.

Rally is the perfect remedy for a dog who balks and doesn't work in the ring. In the obedience ring the handler has no remedy to help the dog be successful. APDT Rally affords ample opportunity to help the dog learn what success is.

First Step — Offer Rally Classes

The first step in getting APDT Rally started in your area is to offer classes that build from basic to Rally. These classes can teach many of the APDT Rally exercises, including sits and downs at the side; recalls and sitting at front; right and left turns and complete circles with the dog next to the handler; moving in and around several traffic cones in a zig zag pattern; and teaching the dog the left and right finish from sit at front. It's easy to incorporate one or two or more appropriate APDT Rally signs in many of your classes, which introduces the concept of an organized sport utilizing newly-learned skills.

Downloadable lesson plans, as well as the rules and guidelines, are available on the ADPT Rally website at www.apdt.com/rally.

Even if you haven't tried competitive dog sports, you can teach Rally. Just keep in mind the sport is based on heel work. Not as stringent as other heel work sports, the dog has to be on the handler's left side and the head has to be touchable by the handler (use your imagination to account for very short dogs or very tall handlers!).

Marketing Rally Classes

Your pool of potential Rally participants will be larger than most other dog sports since APDT Rally is one of the few dog sports and activities in which nearly every person and every dog can participate. Basic training classes currently prepare teams for much of what they need to do Rally.

Market your Rally classes to the following groups of people and your classes will not only be full, but you should have continual waiting lists of eager students and happy dogs!

- Basic or beginning manners students, as well as those in your intermediate and advanced pet or family dog classes.
- Teams that have obtained a C.L.A.S.S. certificate (www.mydoghasclass.com) or Canine Good Citizen Award are already proficient at many of the basic Rally exercises, as are those teams who do therapy dog visits.
- Those who are pursuing agility but require their dogs to have more self-control and handler focus benefit greatly from Rally, as do any teams in a Grumpy Growler-type class. Rally offers all of these teams a chance to work on their focus and teamwork, and teaches them basic maneuvers that can assist with navigating crowds and other tight spaces.
- Existing Agility handlers will enjoy the smooth transition from agility to Rally; they are already experienced with following and directing their dog around a course. Another perk to having agility handlers in your class is they don't mind helping set up courses!
- Canine Musical Freestyle handlers will love APDT Rally. Add music to Rally, as many instructors do, and not only does it appear "dance-like," it greatly helps teams work at a smooth pace. The two venues use many of the same exercises, often with different names. In freestyle, what is referred to as a "Schutzhund turn" is called a Left About Turn in Level 2 APDT Rally. Laterals are Moving Side Steps Right. The main difference is the set up and environment in which the movements are performed, but a freestyle-trained dog can become a Rally-trained dog with ease.
- Retired Dog/Handler Teams. Today our dogs are mostly companions, but we can't forget that dogs were originally bred to work. Senior dogs, and dogs that handlers considered "finished," are often put out to pasture much too soon. There's nothing like APDT Rally to bring out the spark and adolescence in a senior dog.
- Junior Handlers - APDT Rally is rated "E for everyone." Great for *everyone* in the family! The Junior Division program is specifically for children ages 8 to 18, and Pre-Juniors are children under 8 who can compete, accompanied by an adult. If your community has an active 4-H club, you could offer to do demonstrate APDT Rally or offer an APDT Rally class just for juniors. In a class specifically for children, you can modify the class to allow for their shorter attention spans, and cater to their specific needs.
- And don't forget many of your long-time and more experienced students who have tried other ring sports, and even AKC Rally, and would like a more natural and relaxed way to have fun in the ring with their dogs! Many handlers attending the class with the intention of competing in AKC trials will often be wooed by the challenge and diversity of the APDT exercises.

When you offer ongoing classes, you have a group of ready and willing exhibitors at your fingertips. Within six to twelve months of starting APDT Rally classes you should be able to hold your first trial. Any club, individual, or organization may host a Rally trial.

For more information about APDT Rally, please contact Ann Allums, Special Programs Coordinator, at rally@apdt.com.



APDT Rally Obedience™ Hosting an APDT Rally Trial

Here is a list of things that must be done to hold an APDT Rally trial. Begin the planning process, most importantly for the first trial, about **6 months in advance** of the trial. (Note: Hosts who are participating in the “**Getting Started with APDT Rally**” Seminar program can skip steps 7 and 8.)

1. Establish a host group (club, individual, or organization) to organize and sponsor the event.
2. Find a suitable location.
 - a. May be outdoor or indoor.
 - b. Must be securely fenced with ring gates or other fence, at least 50 x 40 feet but preferably 50 x 80 feet.
 - c. Must have ample parking for exhibitors.
 - d. Must have some kind of shaded crating area for the dogs.
3. Obtain liability insurance for the trial location.
4. Apply for the trial at least 4 months in advance.
5. Provide the following equipment for the trial:

<input type="checkbox"/> Complete set of APDT Rally signs	<input type="checkbox"/> 26 sign holders	<input type="checkbox"/> Number signs (1-22)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 cones
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar and/or high jump, 4 feet wide, as needed for L2 and L3 courses	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 food bowls with covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Ribbons and awards	
<input type="checkbox"/> Table and chairs for trial officials	<input type="checkbox"/> Stop watches	<input type="checkbox"/> Armbands or adhesive labels for team identification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clipboards	<input type="checkbox"/> Large flip chart and easel or blackboard for posting order and score information		

6. Make a budget. (See attached list for budget estimates.)
7. Determine entry limits and fees to at least break even. (Many trial hosts do make a profit.)
 - a. Consider offering at least three Level 1 trials, so exhibitors can title.
 - b. Two Judges are needed if offering three trials.
8. Secure Judge(s). (See list of Judges at www.apdt.com/rally/officials.)
9. Advertise the event to local exhibitors.
 - a. Prepare a premium (both paper and electronic versions.) A premium is a document announcing the trial event and contains all relevant trial information, including entry forms.
 - b. Distribute premium to any exhibitor who requests it. (See www.apdt.com/rally/rules/pdf/premium.pdf.)
10. Arrange for people (at least 6) to staff the event for the following positions:

(some duties may be combined to be performed by a single person)

<input type="checkbox"/> Trial Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Trial Monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> Desk Steward	<input type="checkbox"/> Ring Steward (2 stewards may be necessary)
<input type="checkbox"/> Timing Steward	<input type="checkbox"/> Scoring Steward	<input type="checkbox"/> Floating Volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Chief Course Builder

Please go to www.apdt.com/rally/rules to download the APDT Rally Complete Rules and Guidelines. For more details on trial hosting, see Chapter 10 - Hosting A Trial.

For any questions or to be placed in contact with an experienced trial host, please contact rally@apdt.com. Thank you for your interest in APDT Rally Obedience—Rally For All Dogs!



Sample Rally Trial Budget Items

Pre-Trial and Trial		
APDT Trial Application fee	\$	40.00
Ribbons (Hodges Badges)	\$	-
Facility/Grounds Rental	\$	-
Equipment Rental	\$	-
Insurance	\$	-
Portable Restroom Rental (if needed), handicap accessible	\$	-
Judges		
Judging Fees	\$	-
Hotel	\$	-
Transportation (air fare, mileage, tolls, parking, shuttle)	\$	-
Judge's gift	\$	-
First-time Trial Hosts		
Field Representative Fee	\$	-
Office Supplies		
Postage before trial (trial application, premiums, returned checks)	\$	-
Postage after trial (post-trial paperwork and trial fees)	\$	-
Photocopies before trial (score sheets, maps)	\$	-
Photocopies after trial (post-trial paperwork and evaluations)	\$	-
Prizes and Food		
Prizes	\$	-
Food for Judges and Trial Officials	\$	-
Post-Trial		
APDT Trial Fees (\$1.50 per run)	\$	-
Unreimbursed Expenses from past Trial	\$	-
Total Expenses		\$ -
Entry Fees Received		
Food and Raffle Donations Received		
Total Revenue		\$ -
Net		\$ -