



Grafton Dog Obedience Club Inc.

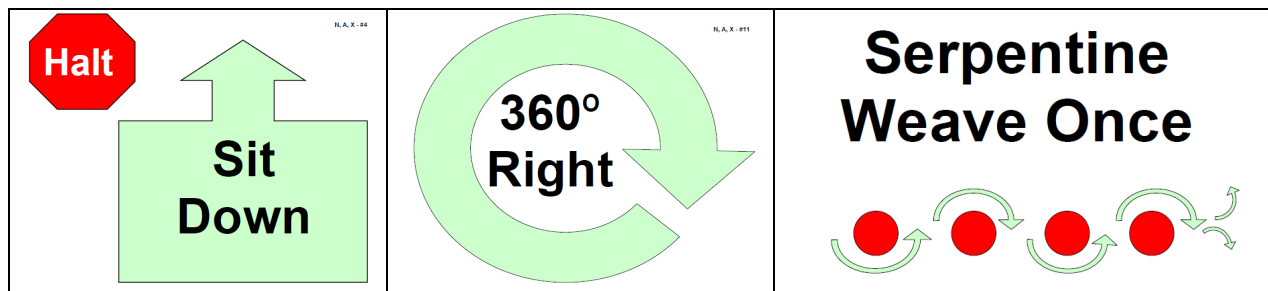
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WHAT IS RALLY OBEDIENCE?

As of January 2012, Rally Obedience (commonly simply called Rally-O) will become an official dog competition sport in Australia. Rally-O is a fun form of obedience (a bit like a cross between obedience and agility) and in USA and Canada is the fastest growing dog sport.

A Rally-O course is set out with numbered stations including a Start and Finish. Like Agility, competitors have the opportunity to walk the course to become familiar with it before competing. Participants then navigate the course by following the numbers and carrying out the exercise shown on the sign positioned at each of the numbered stations, with dogs working in the "Heel" position between exercises. At Novice level, dogs negotiate a course having between 10 and 15 stations (not including the start and finish) and work on lead during the test.

Here are some sample Rally-O signs:



Unlike obedience, where competitors wait for direction from the judge before performing an exercise, in Rally-O competitors run the course on their own (much like agility). Rally-O handlers are also encouraged to talk to and encourage their dog as they make their way around the course.

If you've never had the confidence to attempt competing in an Obedience or Agility Trial here are some reasons you might consider Rally-O:

- your dog is on lead for the whole test in Novice level
- handlers in a Rally-O competition are encouraged to talk to and encourage their dog as they make their way around the course
- you can give more than one command for each exercise
- Rally-O is less physically demanding for both handler and dog than Agility
- your dog isn't handled by the judge, so dogs that are uncomfortable with strangers don't become stressed
- dogs don't have to work near other dogs, so dogs that are uncomfortable with other dogs close by don't become stressed or reactive.

Rally-O promises to be a fun addition to the dog sport scene.

Carole Bryant©