

GETTING STARTED IN PERFORMANCE

Bulldogs love to snuggle with family members on the couch, but they are not just couch potatoes! They are intelligent, energetic, willing workers that have earned advanced level titles in all kinds of sports & activities.

The key to success in training and excelling in competition is motivation. Keep training sessions short, fun, incentivizing & rewarding. Bulldogs will work for what they value: tidbits of yummy food, toys, praise, petting & games.

It's vital to start with a healthy, sound Bulldog, and to keep it that way thru a conditioning program tailored to its build, stamina & age. And don't pack on the pounds! A Bulldog's thickset body does not come from fat!

Going to training classes where clicker/positive reinforcement methods are used is a great way to get off to the right start. Training help can also be found thru online instruction and video demonstrations.

Basic manners and even fun tricks lay a lovely foundation upon which more advanced performance skills can be built. After your Bulldog has undergone some training and mastered the basics, it should be ready to be evaluated for a title in Canine Good Citizenship or other activities that test how well a dog functions and interacts with family & community, such as Virtual Home Manners, Farm Dog Certification, Temperament Testing, Fitness Workouts, Trick Dog, Stunt Dog or Therapy Dog.



BARN HUNT, PARKOUR & DRAFTING

Barn Hunt - dogs search thru straw bales to locate rats that have been safely placed in containers and concealed in the straw.

Parkour - dogs interact with the environment to jump, climb, balance on, bound off of, crawl under & go around obstacles in their everyday world.

Drafting - the dog is hitched to a cart and pulls it along to perform a variety of exercises



Wishing you great fun & success in all your Performance endeavors!

For a more comprehensive resource on the Bulldog in Performance scan the QR code.



THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

The Bulldog Club of America was established in 1890 to promote the Bulldog breed and assist owners, breeders and exhibitors of Bulldogs as well as the public by providing educational information and exhibition opportunities.

BCA is a member of the American Kennel Club.



**BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA
PERFORMANCE & EDUCATION COMMITTEES**

THE BULLDOG IN PERFORMANCE EVENTS

Information on Bulldogs in Performance

*Obedience, Rally, Agility,
Tracking & Scent Work,
Dock Diving, Coursing, Barn Hunt,
Parkour, and Drafting*

**NO ONE KNOWS BULLDOGS LIKE
THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA**



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STABILITY, VIGOR & STRENGTH

OBEDIENCE

Titles in Civic Activities are a great starting point for a Performance dog and can be stepping stones into the more difficult Performance Sports. Obedience is the oldest of organized canine Performance sports. At all levels of obedience, the dog must be able to Heel - maintain position at the handler's left side. At entry level, the dog will also have to hold still while touched by the judge, come when called and do long stays. At advanced levels, more difficult skills are required that include retrieving, jumping and being sent away from the handler.



RALLY

Rally is a spin-off from traditional Obedience and includes many of the same skills, but in bits & pieces that are easier to accomplish. Handlers may talk to the dog and use hand & body language, and repeated cues throughout a course of stations that have different exercises posted on signs.



AGILITY

Agility involves racing against the clock on an obstacle course of jumps, weavepoles, ramps & tunnels. It is fun & exciting for participants & spectators alike.

Thru mid-2021, over 80 Bulldogs have titled. Dogs that compete in this rigorous sport need sound bodies, athletic conditioning, extensive training, consistent concentration and superb teamwork to succeed, especially beyond the entry & novice levels. The number of obstacles on the course ranges from a minimum of 10 for an Agility Course Test (entry level), up to 21 at the most challenging level (Premier). In addition to an increased number of obstacles as progression upward thru the classes goes, increased challenges include more side switches, harder approach angles & turns, faster times, and fewer faults allowed (no faults are allowed at the uppermost levels) to receive a qualifying score. Within the Regular & Preferred classes, there are Jumpers courses & Standard courses. In Jumpers, the dog must be able to negotiate a variety of jumps, a set of weave poles, and tunnels. To fully participate, and compete in the Standard classes of the sport, the dog will also need to be able to correctly perform across a variety of ramps (A-frame, dogwalk & seesaw) and on the pause table. There are also games classes (Time 2 Beat & FAST). Judges design their own courses for use in the trials at which they officiate. Every course is different, but must conform to certain specifications. The dog must follow direction from the handler to take each obstacle in the correct sequence & perform as required as they race against the clock in this timed event.



TRACKING & SCENT WORK

In Tracking & Scent Work, dogs use their noses. In Tracking they follow a trail of human scent. In Scent Work, they find articles with specific odors on them that have been hidden.



DOCK DIVING

In Dock Diving, dogs launch themselves off a platform into a pool. There are 3 titling disciplines: the longest jump, the longest jump while grabbing a bumper suspended over the pool, and the fastest swim to the end of the pool. Bulldogs should always be supervised & wear a life vest in & around the water.



COURSING

In Coursing, Bulldogs chase a lure – either on a 300-yard course with turns (Coursing Ability) or a straight, 100-yard dash (FAST CAT).

