

DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: OBEDIENCE GENERAL INFORMATION

From: Obedience Committee (Lynn Luikart)

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Obedience training is a great way for a Dalmatian and his/her owner to build a closer bond with one another. The goal of basic training is to have a responsive, well-behaved dog that is enjoyable to live with.

First-time Dalmatian owners are able to find information on obedience classes from the breeder of their dog, their veterinarian, other dog owners, and the internet. Training clubs, obedience schools, humane societies, and private instructors offer classes ranging from puppy kindergarten to advanced competition. For many, teaching a Dalmatian to sit, down, come when called, and stay off things around the house will be all that is required. Most Dalmatian puppies learn very quickly in puppy kindergarten, which is which is also an ideal place to socialize the puppy to a variety of people and experiences and experiences.

For those who want to do more with their Dalmatian there are obedience and rally trials in which you can train for, enter and receive titles. Qualifying scores toward titles may be earned without winning or placing in a class.

Rally is a relatively new venue designed to introduce a novice dog and owner to obedience competition. In Rally you are able to talk to your dog and use hand motions to encourage your dog to perform the various exercises. This environment makes it more relaxed competition environment for the Dalmatian and his/her owner. The AKC offers Rally titles from the RN (Rally Novice) through the RE (Rally Excellent) title. Each title is earned by receiving qualifying scores of at least 70 out of a possible 100 in three different Rally trials. The RAE (Rally Advanced Excellent) title can be earned by receiving 10 qualifying scores in both the Advanced and Excellent classes on the same day.

For the obedience enthusiast, the AKC offers obedience titles ranging from a CD (Companion Dog) to UD (Utility Dog), the UDX (Utility Dog Excellent), and the OTCh (Obedience Trial Champion). Obedience competition is more formal than Rally with only single command allowed, more precision and increasingly more difficult exercises and increasingly more difficult exercises. With their innate intelligence and joyful attitude, Dalmatians can do well in obedience. For each title you must earn three qualifying scores, at least 170 out of 200 points, including at least 50% of the points allotted to each exercise. You may continue to compete in a class for 60 days after receiving your third qualifying score.

Along with obedience titles, exhibitors can work at getting their dogs recognized in several ranking systems. The Dalmatian Club of America keeps track of the Top Spots in obedience, recognizing the Top 10 Dalmatians as well as the Top 10 Dalmatians who have received qualifying scores in each class every year.

As people get more involved in training for obedience trials, they are usually in search of continuing educational material. Following is a basic list of sources to which you can subscribe or order materials from.

Front and Finish
P.O. Box 333
Galesburg, IL 61402-0333
(309) 344-1333
<http://www.frontandfinish.com/>

Dogwise
403 S. Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
1-800-776-2665
<http://www.dogwise.com/>

AKC Gazette
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27617
(800) 533-7323
<http://www.akc.org/>

Max 200
2113 State Route 31
Port Byron, New York 13140
(800) 446-2920
<http://www.max200.com/>

J & J
P.O. Box 1517
Galesburg, IL 61402-1517
1-800-642-2050
<http://www.jandjdog.com/>

Many will agree that Front and Finish is the leading source for obedience information. Within the magazine you can find seminar information, regional competitions, and the latest discussions concerning the rules and regulations. It is now published 6 times a year. Many books on dogs and training can be ordered at Dogwise.

In subscribing to the Gazette with Events Catalog you will receive information on all dog shows and obedience trials along with topics concerning the dog fancy. Rule books may be ordered directly from the AKC at no charge for a single copy or viewed online.