

Prepare For & Participate in Your First Obedience Event.

By Ingrida Robinson, Teressa Keenan and George Jensen

In the past few issues of *Saber Tails* the Obedience Corner has focused on teaching our PBGVs how to do specific behaviors. We have explained how to teach basic manners, activities you and Fido can do to entertain friends, and some essential commands your PBGV needs to obey. These behaviors were then expanded and refined for use in formal obedience.

You've spent the last few months working with your PBGV teaching him to heel on and off lead, stand for examination, to sit and stay, to lie down and stay, and then refining his skills, proofing for distractions and working together as a team. You've attended a few fun matches and you are ready to enter your first formal obedience trial. So now what? In the rest of this article we will outline what you need to keep in mind as you enter, prepare for, and participate in your first obedience event.

One of the very first things that you should do before entering a trial is to familiarize yourself with the obedience rules and regulations. The United Kennel Club (UKC) at www.ukcdogs.com, Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) www.ckc.ca, and the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA), <http://www.asca.org/Programs/Obedience/>, have their own rules which are similar to the AKC rules. However, some of the exercises have slight variations of the AKC versions, so some specific training for those shows is required. Contact those Clubs for the rule books.

The AKC rules can be found at the AKC site (<http://www.akc.org/registration/rules/RO2999.cfm>).

You can also obtain a printed copy from the AKC representative at a dog show or by contacting the AKC order desk (919-233-9767) and buying a copy of the latest rules and regulations for a small fee. As a first time handler it is important that you understand the content of Chapters 2 & 3 of these rules. They apply directly to you and your PBGV's performance. Understanding the rules will improve your overall performance by reducing handler mistakes, thus reducing the number of points lost to your total score. Be sure to also read the Judges guidelines since they tell you what the judge can and cannot do.

A second comment is worthwhile here. Keep in mind that in reality you are really only competing against yourself. There are only 200 points available for each dog and their handler, and you and Fido only have to get a score of 170 to qualify for a leg towards a CD title. So do not be afraid of what may happen, have fun and enjoy the experience, and laugh at your PBGV if he is funny.

Finding an Obedience Event

First you need to find an obedience event. An excellent source of information is the events calendar at the AKC web page (<http://www.akc.org/dic/events/search/index.cfm>).

Unlike the paper version listed in the AKC Gazette, at this website you can limit your search to specific locations and time periods. The search will provide you with a list which includes the name of the club offering the show, the location (city and state), the event type, event date and the closing date. Obedience trials will have an "O" listed as the event type. If this is the only abbreviation then only obedience is being offered. Sometimes you will see other abbreviations listed as well. It is common to see "AB" (all breed conformation), "S" (Specialty conformation) and "JSHW" (Junior Showmanship). Use this information as a guide when choosing an event to attend. Shows that include conformation will be larger and thus will have more people, more dogs and more distractions while the events that only have obedience will be smaller and quieter. Also, make sure you pay attention to the closing date. This is the date after which no more entries will be accepted. If you click on the name of the club you will find out more information about the show. Here you can find out who the judges will be, how much the entry fees are, and who to contact for more information (usually the show secretary or show superintendent). In addition, you may see a listing for an all breed dog show offering obedience that states the show has a limited entry. This applies only to the all breed portion of the show. Unless a limit is specifically stated for obedience, all obedience entries must be accepted (Obedience Regulations Chapter 1, Section 26).

In addition to the AKC events calendar you can obtain information on obedience trials from dog show superintendents. You can visit the superintendent's individual web pages or you can contact them via phone or mail and ask to be placed on their mailing list. Once you have done this you will receive premium lists for all the shows they are organizing in your general area.

Below is the contact information for some of the bigger show superintendents:

MB-F, Inc: P.O. Box 22107, Greensboro, NC 27420-2107, Main Telephone: 336-379-9352. Fax: 336-272-0864, <http://www.infodog.com/main.htm>

Jack Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC: PO Box 25764, Oklahoma City OK 73125-0764, (405) 427-8181, <http://www.onofrio.com/>

Jack Bradshaw Dog Show Superintendents: P.O. Box 227303, Los Angeles, CA 90022-0718, Phone: (323) 727-0136, fax: (323) 727-2949, <http://www.jbradshaw.com/>

Gavin Show Services: 14622 SE Old Barn Lane, Boring, OR 97009-9267, Phone: (503) 558-1221, Fax: (503) 558-9236, <http://www.garvinshowservices.com/>

BaRay Event Services, Inc.: P.O. Box 3075, Sequim, WA 98382, Phone: (360) 683-1507, Fax: (360) 683-6654, <http://www.barayevents.com/>

Rogers Dog Shows: PO BOX 230, Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0230 230, Phone: 601-583-1110. Fax: 601-582-9909, <http://www.rogersdogshows.com//>

Entering an Obedience Event

Once you decide which event you want to attend you will need to contact the show/event secretary or superintendent and ask for a premium list. A premium list is a written description of the event. It will contain information about the club hosting the event, the location of the event, if it is inside or outside, what classes are being offered, who's judging, prizes, nearby places to stay and any special events or seminars happening in conjunction with the event. In addition to event information the premium list will include an entry form. It is important that you fill this out completely, correctly and legibly (front and back).

Make sure you enter the correct class. It is the handler's (that's you) responsibility to enter a class that their dog is eligible for and to fill in the entry form correctly. Some shows offer non-regular classes. These classes are for fun and practice and do not count toward earning a title. Since this is your first ever-formal AKC licensed obedience event choosing the class you should enter will be pretty easy. You can enter pre-novice if offered or, if you wish to try to earn a leg towards CD you will enter Novice A or Novice B (see the December 2003 issue of *Saber Tails* page 56 or the Obedience Rules, Chapter 3, section 1 for an in-depth description of this class). Make sure to include a check for the proper amount of the entry fee and sign the entry form. Now you are ready to

send in your entry. If the show is a smaller one and has an individual club member as the show secretary you will need to mail in your entry form and check to the trial secretary. If it is a larger trial/show being run by a superintendent you will have a couple of options. You can mail in your entry or you may enter the show electronically from the superintendent's web page. The second method is faster and can be used if you are concerned about getting your entry in on time but, be aware, there is usually an additional fee for this service.

About a week or two before the event you will receive an entry confirmation in the mail. Look it over and make sure the information on it is correct. It will list your dog's name, registration number and the class you have entered. It will also give you your catalog number and a schedule for the show listing the times of each class and which ring they will be in. If there are any mistakes you will need to contact the superintendent or show secretary to get them corrected prior to the start of the trial.



"Don't forget me!" *Teressa Keenan's Nara drops her chewbone in the suitcase then hops in herself.*
Photographer: Teressa Keenan

Packing for the Trial

What you need to take with you depends upon how close the trial is held to where you live. Obviously, you need to take less to a local trial than you would take to a trial that you will travel to and spend one or more days. Also, you will need to consider whether the trial is held indoors or out of doors.

Essentials to Take to Pack for all Trials

At all trials you will need to pack certain essential items for your PBGV and you. These include a properly fitting collar and a 4-6 foot lead. The collar may be a leather buckle collar or a chain or fabric slip collar of a type approved by the AKC. When the dog is in the ring, nothing can hang from the collar, including dog tags, ornaments, or other items attached to the D rings. Training collars such as prong collars, shock collars, etc. are not acceptable or allowed at trials (see Obedience Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 17). Bringing a plastic or stainless steel dish and a container full of water for your PB are essential because often you will have to wait quite a while until you are called to perform the individual and group exercises and it may be hot. You should also take a brush or comb so that Fido can look nice. Remember to take Fido! Bathe and/or brush him up, and trim his nails. Make sure Fido packs the plastic bags for clean-up! In addition, be sure to take the entry information that will be sent to you including the event schedule and entry conformation slips.

Unlike the conformation ring, the dress in the obedience rings is more casual. You and your dog are being judged on how well you perform as a team, so perhaps you want to dress to look like a team. Although our dogs are known for that tousled look, wear clean kempt clothing. You might want to wear clothing that is colored similar to your dog's colors. You can wear slacks or nice jeans and a nice shirt or blouse. Men do not need to consider wearing a tie or a jacket. Nice looking T-shirts and sweatshirts are ok.. According to the AKC Obedience Regulations, Chapter 1, section 9, you cannot wear any adornment or badge, ribbon, etc. that identifies you or your dog. This rule applies to T-shirts, sweatshirts, or other apparel that has club names or kennel names etc. printed on them. Wear comfortable footwear like walking shoes or athletic shoes so that you have sure footing in the grass or on the rubber mats.

Useful Items

For Fido, there are a number of additional items that are very useful to have at trials in addition to those mentioned above. These include a crate, a cart for the crate, a large umbrella or small tarp for shade or rain cover, a favorite toy and/or treats (although you cannot feed him in the ring or use the toy (see Obedience Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 3), and a mat for Fido to lay on. If you are staying for several days you will also need to bring food for your dog. Although a crate is not an essential item, it will give you a place where your PBGV can be safe if you need to leave him for a period

of time and is particularly useful if you are staying in a hotel or camping on the grounds. There are a variety of crates you can use to secure your PBGV. In addition to the common plastic crates such as a VariKennel or a fold up wire kennel you can use fabric crates or an x-pen. Fabric crates are lightweight and easy to pack while x-pens can provide more space for your PBGV to stretch out in. Keep in mind however that fabric crates can be chewed through and x-pens can be knocked over so they may not be a good choice for your individual dog. Some shows have limited space and ask that x-pens not be used. Also, it is useful to have several towels and a role of paper towels available. And always remember to bring some plastic baggies or a scooper to clean up after your dog.



"Don't forget me!" Teresa Keenan's Nara drops her chewbone in the suitcase then hops in herself.

Photographer: Teresa

For you the handler, besides the apparel that you will need to wear when handling your PBGV in the ring, there are additional items that are useful to have depending upon the weather, the time of year, and whether the show is indoors or out of doors. Be sure to take a folding chair, reading material, and snacks and water for yourself since you may be waiting for some time for your turn in the ring depending on the entry. Include rain gear; you may need it winter or summer. If the trial is held indoors rain gear is still useful and if it is not raining you can leave it in the car or where you are staying. Obviously, in the fall or winter at an outdoor show you will need warm clothing and depending where the trial is being held you may need it even in summer. A hat or cap is also useful.

At the Trial

The following are suggestions and items to consider when you get to a trial. Having these in mind will relieve a lot of the stress that you can have at your first trial. As you participate in additional events these considerations will become more automatic and you will find that you will adapt them to your specific needs and desires.

Arriving at the Trial

You will want to arrive at the show/trial site and be parked a minimum of 1 hour before your class starts. It's always a good idea to go on a reconnaissance mission before getting your dog out. Walk around the show/trial site make a mental note of where the Superintendent's table is, vendors, bathrooms, potty area for dogs etc. Find your ring, double check the time your class starts. If the steward is not busy working with the judge or another handler you can sign in and pick up your armband. Or, you may want to wait to check in until you get Fido out of the vehicle and walk him around to make sure he's not feeling ill. Once you pick up your armband you're obligated to enter the ring to show. If you choose to not show for any reason after arriving at the show, don't pick up your armband, but out of courtesy for the other exhibitors in your class, let the steward know that your dog will be absent. Also remember that your event cannot start earlier than its scheduled time, but delays are possible and the class may start later.

If the show/trial is outdoors or is a show/trial with no space restrictions find a spot close to your ring, but out of the way to set up your gear. This will be your home away from home. Set out your chair and the crate for your dog (if you have one). Bring over water and snacks for the day and build shade for your dog if needed. Use enough space to make your dog safe and comfortable but do not spread out all over, as there will be other exhibitors needing to set up as well. If the show/trial has space restrictions and crates are only allowed ringside during the class make a mental note of where you would like to put your crate and chair when you return.

Now that you are organized, go back to the car and get your dog. Use the same routine you did at the fun matches by taking him around to see the sights and sounds of the show/trial grounds. Let them check out their new surroundings, but keep them on a short leash and do not let them visit with other dogs unless you first make sure it's ok with the other dog's owner. Give Fido a chance to do his business, and then bring him over to

your set-up to relax in his crate. Take a few minutes for yourself to walk around, visit the vendors, watch the other dogs, relax and have fun!

When it is time for your class to start, go over to the ring and see if everyone's signed in. There will usually be a board set up next to the ring which lists the catalog numbers of the dogs entered in your class. Make a note of where your number is on the board and how many numbers are in front of you. Allow about 4 to 4-1/2 minutes for a Judge to judge each entry ahead of you to estimate when you will be called into the ring. If someone doesn't show up or has a last minute conflict with another class etc., the order may change and you may find it's your turn earlier (or later) than originally expected. If you check the board regularly you will not be surprised if this happens.

For the group exercises, according to the Obedience Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 12, the Judge must split the class if "there are more dogs competing than can be spaced four (4) feet per dog on one side of the ring." If the entry in the class exceeds this requirement even by one dog, the Judge must split the class. The board will show you where the judge is planning on splitting the class. If this happens, the judge will have about 8-12 dog/handler teams do their individual exercises and then will do the group exercises (sits and downs) with those 8-12 dogs. When that is finished, the judge will start up the individual exercises with the next dog/handler team.

Take a few minutes to watch some of the dog/handler teams before you. Watch and listen to how the judge has organized the ring. Pay attention to the heeling pattern since it will be (should be) identical for all exhibitors. Watch where and how the judge wants the handler to set up their dog for each of the exercises. You do not need to memorize all of this because the judge will tell you what to do when it is your turn, but if you are already familiar with the ring procedure you will know what to expect and will be able to proactively guide your dog to the next exercise before there's any lapse of attention. If you are the first scheduled dog you do not have to worry about going into the ring without knowing the heeling pattern. The judge is required to inform the first exhibitor in each class what the heeling pattern will be (Obedience Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 1). In most cases the judge will ask if you would like to see the heeling pattern. Always say "yes"! How this is done is up to the judge. Oftentimes the judge will call the orders

while one of the stewards walks the pattern, or the judge might walk the pattern himself.

“Show Set-up.” Kathy Zavodjanick is in the background with Jo Quintenz’s dogs in the ex-pen. Equipment they brought to the show site: shade tent, crates, ex-pen, chairs, food, water, towels, and a cart to wheel it all around..Photographer: Teressa Keenan

When there are two or three teams left prior to you, get your dog out of his crate. Give him a chance to stretch and one last opportunity to relieve himself before entering the ring. You don’t want Fido to potty in the ring (see Obedience Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 17). The sky won’t fall down and the world won’t end if this happens, but you won’t be earning a leg toward your obedience title either. Take a few minutes to warm up yourself and your PB to be ready to perform. This is the time to focus and give your dog 100% of your attention, and to expect the same in return. (If someone comes up to chat with you at this time, or wants to meet a PBGV, politely explain that you’re preparing to enter the ring, and would happily talk to them in about seven minutes when you’re done showing.) The doodling exercises we described in our previous article in *Saber Tails* are great ways to get Fido warmed up and ready to trial (his muscles and his mind). You want your dog to be paying attention to you. Make sure you read Chapter 2, Section 26 of the obedience regulations as it defines what you can do to warm up. Stay close to the ring so you will hear when the steward calls your number, but try not to be too distracting to the team who is currently working in the ring.

In the Ring

When the ring steward calls your number double check your pockets and make sure you have emptied them of any food or toys. Proceed to the entrance of the ring and wait there for further instructions. The judge will tell you where he/she wants you to begin. When you walk into the ring remember to relax, keep your sense of humor, and have fun with your dog. Many first time handlers get tense and hold their breath. All of this nervous tension goes straight down the leash to your dog. Then Fido spends more time worrying about what’s wrong with his person than he does concentrating on his obedience commands. No matter what happens you need to remember that you are here to have a good time!

Judges want to see you do well. They have all been there as Novice exhibitors and they know what you are going

through. Like you, they are just people who enjoy doing things with their dogs. Don’t be afraid to ask a question if you don’t understand something, but at the same time don’t waste the judge’s time with idle chitchat...they have many other dogs to judge after you. If you do not hear a command during the heeling pattern, simply stop and let them know that you did not hear them. Occasionally a judge will make a mistake and will say “right turn” instead of “left turn” or something like that. If this happens and you end up turning into a wall with nowhere to go, just stop and have your dog sit next to you. You will not lose points for a judge’s mistake. They will usually just have you turn around and start back up where you left off. Or if you aren’t too nervous and it’s obvious to you that you shouldn’t turn into the wall etc. do the turn correctly and avoid calling attention to the fact the judge made a mistake.

Remember to always smile and be polite. Also, keep in mind that if Fido lags badly, strays away from you, or forges while heeling free or on lead, you can give him one command (and only one) like “heel up” to get back into heel position. You will lose points for this, but that might still qualify you for the whole exercise.

Begin each exercise with confidence in yourself and in your PBGV. You have practiced hard and the two of you are ready to show. If your PBGV decides to show his true happy nature and take a zoon around the ring do not panic, do not scold or correct your dog in the ring. Do what you need to do to get his attention and call him back to you. The judge will let you know if you can continue or if he excuses you from the rest of the individual exercises. (You will still be allowed to participate in the group exercises unless told otherwise.) Thank the judge when your ring time is finished. Pick up your leash from the ring steward and attach it to your dog before leaving the ring.

Once out of the ring take your dog back to your set up and give him a reward for all the hard work he did for you or to thank him for reminding you to laugh at the little things. If there are a lot of dogs left to show after you, go ahead and put Fido back in his crate so he can rest and relax a bit or take him to the side away from other dogs who are working and play with him so you both can release some adrenaline. Remember to keep an eye on the ring, though, as you will need to go back in for the group sits and downs.

Before the last dog finishes its individual exercises in the ring get Fido ready for the group exercises. Give him a quick chance to potty, and do a few tricks to get him warmed up and back into working mode. The steward will call the dogs to line up in catalog order outside the ring. Keep Fido close to you and don't let him visit with the other dogs in line. You don't want him thinking he can go socialize during the sit and down stays! After the stays are finished the judge will usually walk down the line of dogs and let you know if you've passed or not. Put your leash back on your dog and leave the ring with everyone else. Again, give Fido a big hug and a reward for a job well done!

Once the judge has had time to record her scores she will call all the qualifying dogs back into the ring. If you've qualified...Wonderful!!! Put Fido back on his leash, go into the ring with the rest of the qualifiers and have him sit quietly next you. If you didn't qualify, stick around and applaud your qualifying classmates. Some day you'll be proud to be standing there and would want others to clap for you too. The judge will announce the first through fourth place scores and will hand out their prizes. Then she/he will tell the rest of the qualifying handlers her/his score and give each of them a green qualifying ribbon.

A copy of the judge's books will be available at the Superintendent's table or they will be posted in a central location. Take a few minutes to go look at your score (whether you qualified or not) so you will see how the judge scored you for each exercise. That way you will know what you need to work on for next time. If you have a question about your score, go back to the ring and ask the steward when the judge would have time to talk to you, especially if there's been an arithmetic error. The judge may have another class to judge and can be very busy. Most judges don't mind giving you a few pointers and explaining things to you so you will understand; however, do not argue with the judge.

Closing Comments

We've given you a lot of the details about attending a show so that you know what to anticipate, and what to do if things don't go exactly as you expected. A lot of it will become second nature after a show or two. Keep in mind that obedience training can be a lot of fun and that in reality you and Fido are only competing against yourselves. Everyone can get nervous his or her first few times in the ring. Just to prove to you that anyone can do this and have fun we thought we'd close this article with

a few of our own personal experiences as first time obedience exhibitors.

George

When I first took Jake into the obedience ring, all he wanted to do was visit or sniff. At his first trial, all went fine until the off lead heeling. Jake did some trolling with his nose, but made the first two turns ok where he was next to the wall or fence. But then we did an about turn and there was no fence or wall, and he could go towards the center of the ring. He decided that he needed to meet the ring stewards and tell them about PBGVs. So he did just that, wagging his tail all of the way. The next day he thought that the judge needed to meet him, so he introduced himself. On other occasions he would go introduce himself to and visit with the judge or stewards, another dog, or just decide that something in the ring smelled good and needed his personal attention. Twenty or so trials later he finally obtained his third qualifying score. Jake taught me a lot about obedience training and patience for which I am very grateful. Although he is now 13, he still asks to participate in training and knows all of the exercises for the CDX title (the Open class), but for health reasons I cannot let him participate in that class. Since Jake, I have trained four of our other fur friends to their CD and am working with them on CDX and UD exercises. Each dog has been an adventure.

Teressa

The first time I entered a dog (a German Shepherd Dog) in an obedience trial I was very nervous. I stepped into the ring and had my dog sitting next to me in heel position. The judge asked me if I was ready and I replied that yes I was. The judge stood there for a second and then said "No you're not". I almost fainted. I looked over at the judge and said, "I'm not?" He told me to look at my hands. When I looked down I discovered that both of my hands were grasping the leash tightly in front of me. Not a very natural position. In the process of reorganizing myself I dropped the leash completely, picked it up and then told the judge I was ready. He looked at me again and said, "No you're not" I made a faint gasp and looked at him with disbelief; no one told me the judge would do this. His response this time was that I should breathe as he didn't want me turning blue and passing out in the middle of his ring. After that little episode I managed to stumble through all of the exercises and my dog (in spite of me) earned a qualifying score. Before I left the ring the judge made a comment about everyone still being alive. Thanks to that

judge who was nice enough to help a novice get started both of my German Shepherds have earned CD's in AKC, UKC and in Canada. They are both trained through Utility and enjoy practicing at home; but do to health problems won't ever compete in anything requiring jumping.

Last year I had my first experience in the obedience ring with a PBGV; and while I've learned how to control my nerves it became clear to me that this little girl is going to teach me to laugh and not sweat the small stuff. Our on leash exercises went really well and the off leash started out good too. Then she decided to test her freedom with a play bow and a hop toward the judge. Luckily for me she responded to my one extra heel command and she managed to stay under control for rest of the time to earn her first obedience leg and believe it or not high scoring hound in trial. The next day, however, she just couldn't contain herself and the fast portion of the off leash-heeling turning into a grand zoon around the ring. The judge politely excused us from the ring at that point. No legs were earned that day but the spectators, the judge and I had a good laugh and my dog was happy. I am looking forward to future adventures with my PBGV as we have fun working toward our obedience titles.

Ingrida

I have chosen to only remember one thing about the first Novice A trial in which I participated. I remember that it was fraught with frustration and anger caused by a public scolding in the ring by the judge. All I had done was praise my dog who had just successfully completed an exercise we had intently trained for. I vowed to never become as un-fun as this judge had become about a hobby sport that was dog-oriented. This experience changed my philosophy about training and showing.

To me, attending a show is just a variation of training! I don't differentiate between training and showing because otherwise it makes ME more nervous. I wear jeans and a vest just like I do when I train, the same training buddies that we practice with are at the shows. I bring the same training treats that the dogs ONLY get when we're training. We warm up, goof off, laugh and do our tricks just like we do at training. This training is the same routine regardless of how much we've paid for the opportunity...whether it's a \$7 fun match or a \$24 "fun-match" at a real show! The things that didn't work properly in the show ring are what we continue practicing on the weekdays!

I've experienced embarrassing moments: In 1997 in Medford, Oregon, at my first-ever PBGV National show, Hoover abandoned me in the middle of a heeling pattern. He let me to walk most of it solo while he spent considerable time closely examining the electrical outlet in the carpeted floor until the final "halt" command. That's when he came back to sit next to me in proper heel position! At the Albuquerque National Sophie pottied in the ring. At the Charlotte, North Carolina National during the on-leash heeling exercise in the Brace class, Hoover and Sophie stopped suddenly at a double set of doors to listen to the kitchen staff clanging pots and pans. I couldn't PULL them away from that door so the judge just stopped the exercise! Then I had to drag them to the other side of the ring so we could continue with the Stand for Examination exercise!

But I've also had many more wonderful moments where the dog(s) and I are so in tune, in step, in sync that we are "in the zone" of being one. This is the most amazing feeling! Regardless of what happens in the ring, I come out and praise my dog for at least three things he did very well. For instance, "AbraHam, I loved how your attention was focused on me after I turned around in preparation for the Recall exercise!" "Sophie, I just knew you were in perfect heel position all those times I felt your tail thwapping the back of my left calf!" "Caffrey, I loved how quickly you did that about-turn without paying attention to the large chunk of Husky fur on the floor!" And I also give myself credit ...for remembering to inhale and exhale prior to the start of each exercise, and smiling with my PBGV after the last exercise is complete as I'm attaching the leash to his/her collar.

For me, training is a 24/7 journey that will continue throughout the dogs' and my lifetimes. Titles might be earned along the way, but I place more emphasis on being the student who must absorb and learn what the dogs are trying to get me to understand.

Final closing comment

Hope to see you around the ring soon!