

Beginner's guide to... rally

Would you like your dog
to learn new skills?



What is rally?

Rally is a canine activity derived from the heelwork elements of competitive obedience. It differs from obedience, primarily in that competitors and dogs attempt a pre-set course with signs placed at up to 15 stations along the course, requiring them to perform one of around 50 different preset exercises. The selection of exercises and design of the course is at the judge's discretion. Each individual round is performed at a 'brisk pace' and takes around three minutes. There is no direction from the judge or steward as in obedience; the signs are all the guidance competitors receive. At level 1, the first level, dogs compete on lead and a loose lead is emphasised. The handler may give verbal commands and encouragement throughout as necessary. More advanced levels require dogs to compete off lead.

Why should you take part in rally?

- You will have a well behaved and easily controlled pet
- Impress your friends and family with your dog's new skills
- Stimulation for your pet – dogs have big brains which need to be kept active
- Meet new friends – there is a great social scene to be enjoyed
- Your dog does not need to be a pedigree - all dogs can do rally, including crossbreeds!



All you need to know

- Your dog must be registered with us on the Breed Register or the Activity Register
- Competitors taking part in any Kennel Club licensed event must familiarise themselves with The Kennel Club rules and regulations beforehand. The rally regulations booklet is available for download from our website or to buy from our publications department
- Dogs can start competing at six months of age
- No previous experience is necessary so request a list of rally clubs today
- Make sure you buy a rally record book in which to record all your competition wins and scores

Suitable for both pedigree and crossbreed dogs

Handling your dog

Attending your first rally competition may cause your dog to behave differently than it does in training. Young dogs in particular can be bothered by crowds and if this is the case you can move a little way from other competitors and officials. Just remember it is a new experience for you and your dog and should you have any concerns there are always stewards/officials available to speak to.

Register your dog on the Activity Register
using form 5 online at
thekennelclub.org.uk/activityregister



Get started today!

To find a list of clubs, training classes or competitions near you, use the 'Find a Club' and 'Find a Show' services available on thekennelclub.org.uk

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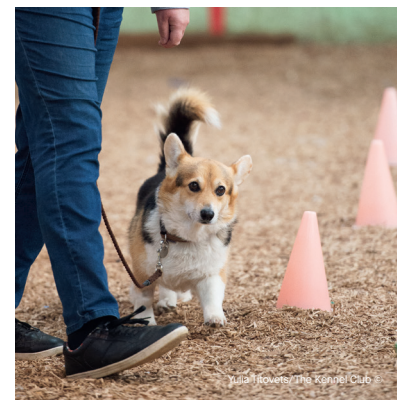
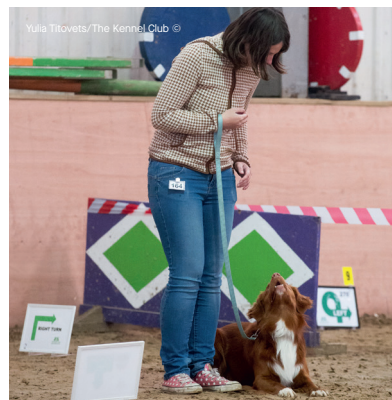
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Starting out in rally

There are six levels of competitive rally. New handlers will start at level 1 and progress through to level 6. Progression is based on the scores you and your dog achieve as a partnership, and not on wins or placings.

The exercises range from heelwork, to a recall, to control exercises such as a halt-sit and halt-sit-walk around. Level 1 is performed on lead and consists of 10–15 exercise signs. As you progress through the levels the exercises obviously become more difficult. Levels 5 and 6 are performed and consist of 15 – 18 exercise signs.



Your first step to competitive rally may be to join a training club. There are numerous rally competitions held annually by Kennel Club societies. Details of these competitions are published in the events diary on our website and in The Kennel Club Journal which can be accessed here: [thekennelclub.org.uk/journal](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/journal)

Whatever competition you choose, your dog will be happier for being trained.

Are you ready for your first rally show?

Visit [thekennelclub.org.uk/rally](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/rally) or email rally@thekennelclub.org.uk to find all you need to know about entering competitions and the next steps to becoming a rally star!

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