

Training Victory's Field of Dreams For AKC!

By: Naomi S. Gunnett, AKC Junior Handler



I am Naomi, a junior handler and this is my story of how I trained my dog Poppy (Victory's Field of Dreams) for AKC Rally events. I trained Poppy from when she was 10 months old. At first, we just talk how rally works about the different levels and also had to work on her heeling. We started working on the different signs, but it wasn't just going to class, it also was every Tuesday I would work with Poppy for 30 minutes, trying to make sure that she was able to retain the commands. We had three months of classes before we entered our first show! It took a lot of preparation. We practiced a lot on heeling, also on any signs that she was not good at. For me I had to work on maintaining the "j" in the lead and signs that requires foot work on my part. Before our show we had one last class with our instructor, Miss Deb at Happy Tails Dog Training, Chambersburg, PA. At that class we did a whole course and while our instructor watched like

she was a judge and told me what we did wrong and what we did right and gave me helpful things to remember and work on. We did pretty good for our first show, we showed in the ring two times and qualified both times and got two 2nd place ribbons, and I was super proud of Poppy. After the show we went back to class talking about the show and what I thought we needed to work on for are next show. Then we went to are second show and we got are RN TITLE (rally novice). We are continuing our class and I am working with her at home. We are also taking her to Tractor Supply, PetSmart, Petco, etc. to have her get better at going new places that aren't home! So, I encourage you if you are training a dog and it's not going well or they do well sometimes, and not so well other times, it is all part of the journey. One day you will look back to the days of them doing questionable stuff a see how much you and your dog work through to get to the place you are now! This journey with Poppy has been amazing there have been some ups and downs, but we always work through it as a team. I am also thankful I have a team of great friends & family that support me by taking me to training, shows and encouraging me along the way. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for me and this beautiful Golden Retriever!



Thank you!!