

All seminars can be half day or full day seminars. Half day seminars should be limited to 6-8 dogs. Have an idea that's not listed below? I am always open to formulating new workshops to fit the needs of participants!

Foundation Handling Skills

This workshop will cover flat work and one jump foundation exercises. We will start with flat work to check the dog's understanding of deceleration and acceleration, blind crosses, shoulder rotation, and side cues. A good foundation of these skills must be laid on the ground before we can do them over jumps! Next we will work on one jump skills like - wraps, distance sends, backsides and serpentines. Lastly we will cover start line behaviors and sit stays. Appropriate for young dogs just learning these skills and experienced dogs looking to expand their skill set.

Handling Skills Power Up

Want independent skills so your dog knows exactly what you want from them? Want to trust your dog so you can tell them what to do, then get moving down the course? This workshop will focus on teaching those independent skills and more! Drills using 1-2 jumps and tunnels will power up and proof - Distance Sends, Jump Commitment, Tunnel Sends, Tunnel Threadles, Backsides, Acceleration and Deceleration. Appropriate for young dogs just learning these skills and experienced dogs looking to challenge and expand on skills they are familiar with.

2on2off Contact Power Up 1

In this workshop we will cover 2on2off foundation exercises on a travel and DW plank. Check the dog's understanding of release cues, making sure you AND the dog know what the release cue is! Work on maintaining speed to touch position, no matter what position the handler is in. This workshop is appropriate for dogs just beginning to learn contacts, or experienced dogs who need a tune up.

2on2off Contact Power Up 2

Level two of the contact power up, for dogs who have completed level one (or have instructor permission). We will transfer the skills we worked on in level one, to the actual contact equipment. Proofing the dogs understanding of release cues, and practice ways of varying reinforcement. We will explore proper handling cues of sequences approaching and exiting the contacts (including – tunnel/contact discriminations, and front/blind/rear crosses).

Timing and Execution

This workshop will focus on proper timing and execution of handling moves in short sequences (emphasis on front/blind/rear crosses, and tunnel threadles). Well timed cues are one of the most important ways to stay ahead of your dog on course. In order to have proper timing, you also need proper placement and execution of your cues. We will also work on trusting your dog so you can “send and go!”. Dogs should be competent on jumps and tunnels, and able to do 10+ obstacle sequences.

Threadles and Bypasses

One of the most common challenges on course is getting the correct tunnel entry. How do you handle it when the correct side is not the obvious side to the dog? That’s where tunnel threadles come in! This workshop will focus on teaching the dogs independent skills to predict going to the correct side of the obstacle (jump or tunnel). We will balance that out by also teaching a bypass cue, which will let the dog know when to NOT take an off course obstacle. This workshop is appropriate for young dogs just learning these skills and experienced dogs who need to grow these skills.

Fancy Feet

Time to get super fancy and practice elements commonly seen on Premier and Master Challenge Courses. We will test your team’s understanding and execution of threadles, lap turns, blind crosses, bypass cues, backsides, challenging weave entries, blind tunnel entries, tunnel brakes, and more! We will start with skill sets to see where each team is at with these skills, then move into course work if time allows. Dogs/Handlers should be competent with Master’s level handling

Masters + Handling

This workshop will delve into more coursework, working on team's ability to keep consistent cues up throughout an entire course. We will work on recovery plans when things go wrong on course, and never giving up! Masters Plus will work on handling elements commonly seen on Masters level courses in AKC and USDAA, plus more challenging elements seen on Premier and Biathlon courses. We will analyze dog's lines and handling options to find all possible options, and the best options for each team. A successful team, is a well prepared team! Dogs/handlers should be competent with Master's Level Handling.

Novice Dogs

Appropriate for dogs who are competing in the Novice/Open level or getting ready for competition soon. We will work on start and finish line behaviors, practice running with distractions (such as bar setters and judges), and common novice handling sequences.

Pre-Sport Puppy

This workshop will be appropriate for dogs between 4 and 12 months old. We will work on flat work exercises (recalls, circle work, shadow handling), focus and motivational games, body awareness skills, noise and movement desensitization, and skills that will set them up to be successful agility dogs!

ALL The Ways!

The cool thing about agility is there is more than one "right answer" when it comes to handling. During this seminar we will discuss all the handling options on a given sequence, then practice running all of those options. See what you and your dog are most comfortable with, and learn new options for the future.

Duration Stations

Does it seem like your dog has ants in their pants on the start line? Are they often breaking stays or contacts? This workshop is for you! We will build behaviors that will help strengthen the dog's understanding of start line stays, table, and 2on2off contacts. We will break down the basics of building distance and duration for these behaviors, even in the face of distractions. We will also cover different reinforcement strategies. This workshop is for dogs of any level, those just learning these behaviors or experienced dogs who need a tune up.

One Jump – Two Jump

Have limited space or equipment to train? This workshop will cover the training of common handling maneuvers on one or two jumps. Skills covered – deceleration/wraps, acceleration, distance sends, backsides, bypasses, threadles, lead outs, and rear crosses.

Jumping Skills

This workshop is for dogs who struggle with knocking bars, or young dogs who are learning jumping skills. We will do a variety of different grids and one jump exercises to work on – the desire to keep the bar up, extension and collection, judging the path and distance of upcoming jumps to determine the correct amount of strides and appropriate take off points, and bending for turns.

Commitment Issues

Fear of commitment? This is the place for you! This workshop will focus on building strong obstacle commitment in your dog so you can trust them to do their job while you keep moving ahead on course. We will look at commitment on jumps and tunnels, so you can send your dog from a great distance, and start moving towards the next obstacle ASAP! We will also do a check on weaves (so your dog knows to keep weaving no matter where you are), and contacts (so they know to keep moving across the obstacle without turning back to look for you!).

Novice Dog Check List

This workshop is for young dogs who have started or completed Foundation Training. This is a full day seminar that will be broken down into 4 categories – Jump Skills, Tunnel Skills, Contact Skills, Handling Skills. We will work through a checklist to make sure you and your dog have been exposed to all the necessary skills to make for a successful agility career.

Taming Tunnels

This workshop is all about tunnels! We will work on tunnel entrances – how to send and commit to the obvious entrance, how to threadle to the non-obvious entrance, and how to find blind tunnel entries. We will work on tunnel exits – how to drive straight out of tunnels or turn tightly. Lastly we will work learning cues to bypass tunnels and avoid them completely.

Private Lessons

Have a specific issue you want to work on? Or just want personalized one on one time? Private lessons are available in 30 minute increments for one or two people. \$40/half hour. \$80/hour.

About Heather Kaluza O'Neill

Raised by an obedience instructor, Heather has been training dogs her entire life. In 2000 she first tried agility with her German Shepherd. A few years later in 2003, she started teaching Agility at Argus Ranch in Auburn, WA, where she taught weekly class for 17 years.

Heather now teaches in multiple locations around Western WA.

Heather believes that there is no "one size fits all" for agility training, and helps her students to learn what works best for their individual dogs. An emphasis is placed on trained skills, so that the dog knows exactly what is expected out of them and develops strong obstacle commitment, allowing the handler to stay ahead on course. Heather has worked with Justine Davenport, Susan Garrett, Silvia Trkman, Tori Self, and Greg Derrett, and draws inspiration from all of them.

Two dogs are responsible for where she is now, and shaped her agility career and training system –

Golden Retriever, Derby (MACH2 Spirit's Run for the Roses CD RA). Derby passed away in 2017.

Border Collie, Chip (MACH Speedoggie Woowho PCDX RN).

Derby was a 4 time National Finalist (USDAA 2010, Kentucky. AKC 2012 Reno. USDAA 2012 Colorado. USDAA 2014 California) and a 5 time Regional Champion (2009 and 2010 NW Performance Grand Prix Champion, 2014 NW Performance Steeplechase Champion, 2014 NW PVP Team Champion, 2014 Western Performance Biathlon Champion).

Chip is a 4 time National Finalist (USDAA Steeplechase 2014, California. USDAA Steeplechase 2016, Arizona. AKC 2017, Georgia. USDAA Grand Prix 2017, Tennessee) and 2 time Regional Champion (2016 NW Steeplechase Champion. 2017 NW Grand Prix Champion). They also won the Silver Medal in Biathlon at Cynosport World Games in 2016. At their second AKC Nationals in 2017, Chip and Heather won the 20" Standard class and came in 2nd place in the NAC Finals.

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