



AKC KIDS' NEWS

March 2021 Issue 5, Number 5



A+ IN OBEDIENCE

Are your friends and family jealous with how well you've trained your dog? Then you might want to take things to a new level by participating in Obedience competitions (aka trials).

Developed in the 1930s, Obedience is one of the AKC's oldest sporting events. From walking on- and off-leash to retrieving and jumping, or demonstrating your dog's ability to stay, Obedience trials feature dogs that are well-behaved at home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. It is important that the obedience dog shows willingness and enjoyment while it is working with the handler.

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AKC SPORTS: MANNERS MATTER

Whether or not you want to compete, every dog owner should consider some form of obedience training. It's the best way to establish good communication skills between you and your dog - and to make sure that your dog is the most well-behaved one in your neighborhood!



Avery Adams and Border Collie, Spark, at the 2019 Junior Obedience Classic

GETTING STARTED IN OBEDIENCE:

1. Start training your dog in Obedience early. It is much easier to train a puppy than an adult dog because a puppy is more open to new ideas and has not yet developed bad habits.

2. Find a training class and practice at home. Keep practice sessions short, and make sure you and your dog are having fun!

3. Once you've taken some classes and your dog has mastered the necessary skills, you might decide to compete. You might also decide to participate in the AKC Canine Good Citizen program.



Notice how focused the dog is on his handler.

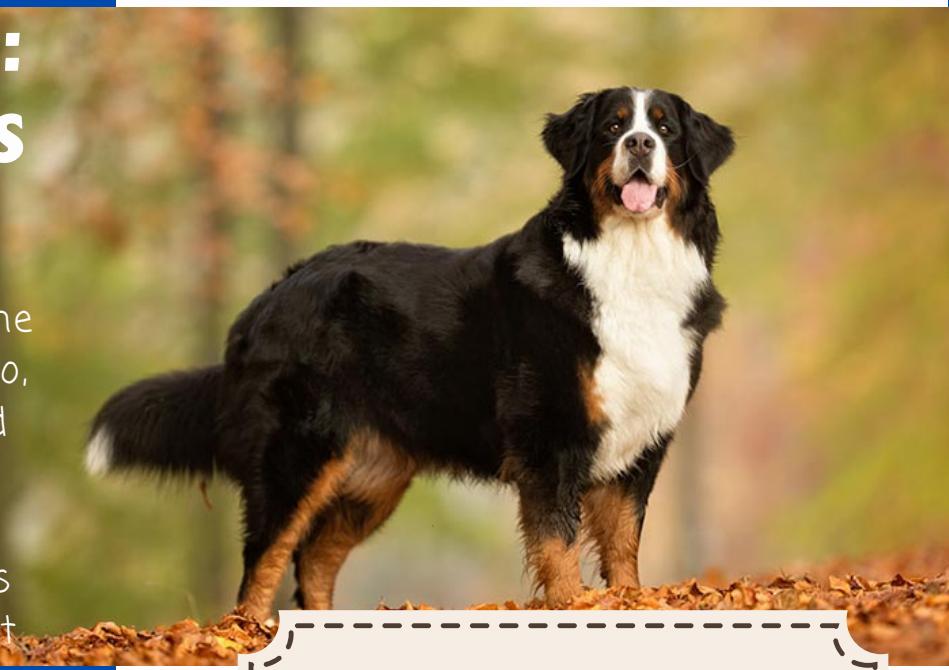
Why might eye contact be important when training a dog?



[**Click here to find out how to teach your dog to sit!**](#)

WORKING DOGS: JOBS ONLY DOGS CAN DO

We all know about some of the jobs that dogs were bred to do, such as herding, hunting, and retrieving. In fact, dogs have been helping humans for hundreds of years with tasks around the farm or to protect livestock, property, and the home. And there are specialized jobs, some long gone, some still relevant today, which our canine partners are known for.



Bernese Mountain Dogs are a part of the Working group. They are big, powerful, and built for hard work.

Find out more about working dogs at akc.org.



TRUFFLE HUNTERS

Truffles grow underground near specific types of trees, and for centuries pigs were used to hunt these treats. Unfortunately, pigs are not only talented at finding truffles; they also like to eat them. Enter the dog, specifically the Italian Lagotto Romagnolo. Originally used as hunting dogs and water retrievers, Lagotti have an enhanced sense of smell and have been trained to search for truffles. Unlike pigs, they show no desire to eat their find.



REINDEER HERDING

For centuries, the Sami indigenous people living north of the Arctic Circle used the Finnish Lapphund to herd reindeer. Reindeer are essential to these Scandinavian people for their meat and hides, and these thick-coated, powerful, and hardworking dogs are up to the task.



Dogs are better than humans at many tasks. In fact, there are jobs where talented, trained dogs excel that humans probably can't do at all. Here are some unique dogs doing unique work.



ART PROTECTOR

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts has come up with a way to protect artwork, delicate materials, wooden objects, and books from bugs: a dog. A Weimaraner puppy named Riley is being trained to sit down in front of an object when he detects the smell of a bug.

Since humans can't smell insects, Riley can save countless hours, dollars, and much heartache by detecting the offending insects before the damage is done. The museum chose a Weimaraner because the breed has a sharp sense of smell and the stamina to work long hours without becoming bored.

RUNWAY WILDLIFE CONTROL

A Border Collie named K-9 Piper had an important job to do at the airport in Traverse City, Michigan. He kept wildlife off the runways and was one of only 10 such working dogs in the country. K-9 Piper's task was to chase away rodents and the birds of prey they attract from the airport. He also made routine perimeter checks.



MEET SULLY H.W. BUSH

Among presidential dogs, few are as accomplished as Sully H.W. Bush. The Yellow Labrador Retriever served as the former service dog to President George, H.W. Bush. Click [here](#) to find out Sully's new assignment



ROLL A STORY: WORKING DOGS



Roll a die three times to pick a character, setting, and conflict. Use these to write your creative story!

Roll	Character	Setting	Conflict
	a muscular Akita	in the snowy hills of Alaska	a dangerous journey takes place
	a loyal Boxer	on a farm in Germany	an unusual discovery is made
	a smart Doberman Pinscher	in Denmark near a castle	bravely helps out a friend
	a courageous Mastiff	in ancient Japan	a mystery must be solved
	a loving Rottweiler	in an Italian city	gets separated from his/her friends
	a mischievous Siberian Husky	in England by the sea	an adventure takes place



Quick to learn, dogs of the Working Group are intelligent, strong, watchful, and alert. Find out more at akc.org.





AKC KIDS NEWS

Teacher Page



AKC Character Education:

Have you heard about the AKC Canine Character Education Program? It is a complete character education unit, best utilized in a K-6 classroom. Students will learn about bravery, determination, kindness, loyalty, resilience, self control, and being trustworthy. Learn more about the program [here](#).

Did you notice the comprehension questions on pg. 7?



Next up

Talents & Teamwork:
AKC Rally

Presidential Pups

Meet Your Match

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K-2 Social Studies [Lesson Plan](#) -
Careers in Dogs

3-5 Math- [Lesson Plan](#) -
Multiplication Stories

Name _____ Date _____

AKC Kids News March 2021 Issue 5

Use this month's issue of **AKC Kids News (Issue 5)** to answer the questions. For multiple choice questions, **circle** the letter next to the best answer. For written response questions, please write your answer in **complete** sentences.

RI.3.2; RI.4.2

1. The article *A+ in Obedience* is mainly about
 - a. how to teach your dog tricks
 - b. places dogs go to compete in Obedience trials
 - c. one of the oldest dog sports, Obedience trials
 - d. teaching your dog to sit

RI.3.3; RI.4.3

2. Re-read the section "**Getting Started in Obedience**" in the article *AKC Sports: Manners Matter*. What are the most important steps to remember?

RI.3.1; RI.4.1

3. Which working dog was used in the Arctic circle to herd reindeer in the article *Working Dogs: Jobs Only Dogs Can Do?*
 - a. the Lagotto Romagnolo
 - b. the Border Collie
 - c. the Weimaraner
 - d. the Finnish Lapphund
4. Refer to the article *Working Dogs: Jobs Only Dogs Can Do* to answer the following question:

Why did the museum choose a Weimaraner to protect their art? Use specific details from the text to support your answer.

5. Follow the *Roll A Story* instructions on pg. 5 of **AKC Kids News** to write a creative story about Working Dogs.

