

Norina Foster

Advanced Obedience/Intro to Competition Rally Novice and Rally Advanced



I have wanted to be a dog trainer since I was in the third grade. I read a book called Champion Dog Prince Tom and daydreamed about having a dog who competed in Obedience and earned a Utility Dog title. I got my first dog in 1992, a beautiful Australian Shepherd named Murphy, and learned that a Utility Dog title was a lot harder to earn than what the book portrayed! But I fell in love with training, and Murphy earned her Companion Dog title before being retired because of arthritis.

In 2001, I began teaching dog obedience classes at Dauphin Dog Training Club and in 2005, I began the Rally Obedience program there. I love teaching Rally because it's a great way to train your dog without getting bored.

In 2014, when we started Supporting Paws Foundation, I knew I wanted to continue teaching Rally Obedience, and it has become a staple at Supporting Paws. I still love it, but that little girl inside me still wants that Utility Dog title...

Supporting Paws began offering Companion Dog Sports Program trials in September 2016, and this titling organization has been a breath of fresh air. I often describe CDSP trials as a place where dog friends get together and enjoy each other's company while a dog trial is going on in the ring. We work hard to cultivate a warm and welcoming trial venue that is consistent with CDSP's description as "the fun style of obedience."

To encourage more of our students to enter our CDSP trials, I began the Advanced Obedience/Intro to Competition class. The goal of this class is not just to teach the obedience exercises, but to invite the dog to participate in the exercises with joy and enthusiasm. We use clicker training to encourage the dog to think and offer behaviors. It's a wonderful experience to see dogs and their handlers forge a solid partnership!