

GSLAC Training Overview

*The Greater St. Louis Agility Club offers members a variety of classes and practice opportunities presented by experienced members who are dedicated to helping others develop their agility skills. Classes meet for 1 and 1/2 to 2 hours weekly for six weeks at various times throughout the year. Class fees are \$36 for the first dog and \$10 for an additional dog. Class limit is 12 dogs. **There is no charge for practice sessions.** Watch the newsletter calendar or check our Club Web site for listings.*

Beginning Agility Class

This class teaches basic equipment familiarization for both dogs and handlers. Focus is on understanding the fundamentals with an emphasis on safety and keeping agility fun for the beginner dog. Handlers help set up and take down equipment and begin to learn how to run their dog through a short, simple series of obstacles. Class may be repeated until the dog and handler are ready to progress further. *Class fee applies.*

Basic Handling Class

Once dogs and handlers have mastered the fundamentals of agility obstacles, basic handling introduces key handling techniques to prepare for more demanding and faster courses. Dogs and handlers progress toward more complicated courses that require the handler to plan turns and movement on the course. Dogs are expected to perform under control off-leash. *Class fee applies.*

Novice Agility Class

This class is designed for those who have just beginning to enter trials and those who are ready to start. Emphasis is on course strategy, analysis and problem-solving. Expectation is that the dog is able to perform all the obstacles and is under the handler's control off-leash. *Class fee applies.*

Distance Handling Practice

This weekly practice session concentrates on exercises that build confidence and teaches handlers to encourage dogs to perform obstacles away from them. Mastering distance handling facilitates efficient movement of dog and handler with the goal of faster, cleaner runs. This is not a class, however, each session builds upon previous ones so ongoing participation is recommended. Dogs are required to have a solid stay, good recall and have no equipment issues. Handlers may have two left feet! *No fee.*

Advanced Handling Weekday Practice

Depending on the season, weekday and/or evening practice sessions focus on advanced handling techniques. Obstacle sequences are usually short, but are designed to sharpen handler skills to facilitate improved obstacle discrimination and faster, smoother negotiation of courses. Practice is contingent on a minimum number of interested participants, so it's important to call the monitor each week to confirm your plans to attend. *No fee.*

Sunday Practice

Weekly Sunday practices draw the largest turnout of Club members and afford an opportunity for socialization for both members and dogs. All participants are expected to help set up and/or take down equipment. Generally, Sunday practices offer full courses to represent a trial-like environment. To participate, dogs must be able to navigate all obstacles safely and should be under the handler's control at all times. Your class instructor can help you decide if you are ready to participate, but Club members at any stage of progress are encouraged to observe. *No fee.*