



T2T To The Line - And Beyond!

Getting To Know You: A History

Welcome to class! Every good training plan begins with getting information about the dog's 'history'. Please take some time to answer these questions as completely as possible, and provide video clips if you have them. This will help us start to develop the best possible plan for you and your dog.

Please answer the questions and start a forum thread with the answers. You can copy and paste the answers, or you can download the PDF or save the Google docs link so you can write your answers into it on your device. I am looking forward to learning more!

Google docs link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WZlPwjKe_yhUqlaAwhYIDtUFtd-Vy_l75wXOE_RLmjfQ/edit?usp=sharing

General Information

Dog's name, age, gender (spayed or neutered ?), and breed(s): **Charlotte (Char) 7 ½ year old (recently spayed) standard poodle**

What is/are your main sport(s)? **agility**

What is/are main sanctioning org that you compete in (like in agility, AKC, UKI, USDAA, CPE, NADAC, etc)? **Mostly AKC with some USDAA and UKI**

Dog's training level: **She is pretty fluent in her understanding of my handling**

Dog's trialing level: **Masters JWW, Excellent Standard**

Is there a history of any medical issues, physical issues, fear issues, and/or medications? If yes, please explain: **none**

Observations

*Describe your dog's behavior outside the ring while waiting for his turn to run **in training**. This can include body language, eye contact, tail set, reaction to other dogs and people, reaction to dogs running, and anything else you have observed:

We have only done a handful of fun runs and a couple FEO runs. She is very focused on me when we are waiting for our turn because I have treats and am asking her for behaviors like

hand touches, spins, and backing up. If I'm not focusing on her, she might get interested in playing with other dogs (especially terriers! And other poodles) or she will try to get into treats that other handlers have left on their chairs. Sometimes when there's a really fast border collie running, she will get really excited and start to bark and lunge.

*Describe your dog's behavior outside the ring while waiting for his turn to run **at a trial**. This can include body language, eye contact, tail set, reaction to other dogs and people, reaction to dogs running, and anything else you have observed:
Her behavior is exactly the same as described above for fun runs

*Describe your current outside the ring routine when getting ready to run **in training**:
we arrive at the trial site about an hour before her first class starts. I set up her crate and then I get her out of the car and walk around so she can sniff and potty. Then she goes back into the crate while I walk the course. I typically get her out of the crate when there are about 10 dogs before her in the line-up. We practice her "middle" at the practice jump and then I'm very focused on her and she on me as we do our tricks for treats. Occasionally, if she's in the mood, she'll tug right before we go into the ring.

Describe your current outside the ring routine when getting ready to run **at a trial**: Exactly the same as above.

*Describe your dog's behavior as you move from the ring gate to the start line **in training**. This can include body language, eye contact, tail set, reaction to other dogs and people, reaction to dogs running, and anything else you have observed: The one thing I notice is that she seems to walk into the ring with apprehension. She has no reaction to people or the other dog leaving the ring. I have not noticed her tail set but I don't think she makes as much eye contact with me as she does outside the ring.

*Describe your dog's behavior as you move from the ring gate to the start line **at trials**. This can include body language, eye contact, tail set, reaction to other dogs and people, reaction to dogs running, and anything else you have observed: Same answer as above.

In Training (if this varies by location, please explain and give an explanation):

Where is the dog crated? 0 About 50 ft from ring

Is your dog able to eat treats outside the ring? yes

Is your dog able to play tug outside the ring? sometimes

Is your dog able to eat treats inside the ring? yes

Is your dog able to play tug inside the ring? Sometimes (more often than outside the ring)

At Trials (if this varies by location, please explain):

Where is the dog crated? About 50 ft from the ring

Is your dog able to eat treats outside the ring? yes
Is your dog able to play tug outside the ring? sometimes
Is your dog able to play tug with a toy or leash inside the ring? sometimes

Responses

What is your current ring entry and start line routine in training:

How do you bring the dog to the start line? **We train in my yard and most times we are tugging and I do a running start**

How do you ask them to line up and stay? **I give Char my “middle” cue, which tells her to go between my legs and sit until I release her**

How quickly is your dog able to respond to your cues: Immediately

- Immediately
- Within 2 or 3 seconds.
- Needs multiple cues
- Unable to respond

If this varies depending on the cue or location, please explain: **This varies depending on the time of day. She is much more into training in the evening than she is in the morning. When she is engaged, she will jump to get into position. When she is not, it will take her a few seconds to decide to do it. She is not into tugging before breakfast!**

What is your ring entry and current start line routine at trials:

How do you bring the dog to the start line? **I typically remove her leash as soon as we enter the ring and give it to the leash runner. Then I get into position and cue her to get into “middle”.**

How do you ask them to line up and stay? **See above. I don’t use a stay cue.**

How quickly is your dog able to respond to your cues:

- Within 2 or 3 seconds
- Immediately
- Within 2 or 3 seconds
- Needs multiple cues
- Unable to respond

If this varies depending on the cue or location, please explain: **Often times she needs multiple cues to get into her middle position.**

In training, is your dog able to maintain a focused stay position while you lead out

If so, for how long or how far? **I can lead out as far as I need to**

Does he break the stay or look around? **She is pretty rock solid and rarely breaks. If she does, sometimes she just stands up to shake.**

At trials, is your dog able to maintain a focused stay position while you lead out

If so, for how long or how far? **I can lead out as far as I need to**

Does he break the stay or look around? **She never breaks but sometimes looks around**

When your dog is on course **in training**, is he able to run pretty well or does he struggle with distractions or certain obstacles? **She runs fast and focused, unless she makes a**

mistake and then she gets slower on the next rep.

When your dog is on course **at trials**, is he able to run pretty well or does he struggle with distractions or certain obstacles? Char starts out slow but speeds up. The weaves have always been a stress obstacle for her and she does them more slowly at a trial than at home where she blasts thru them.

Does this vary in different locations? If yes, please explain.

Reinforcement Hierarchies

In training, what are your dog's favorite rewards? Sometimes toys, sometimes treats

When there is a reward present, what are your dog's favorite tricks? Backing up

When there is no reward present, what are your dog's favorite tricks? Bark on command

Let's Plan Ahead

Ideally, what would you like your routine to look like between the entry gate and release from the start line?

I would like Char to walk into the ring with enthusiasm and confidence. Line up quickly and release off the start-line with speed and focus.

Tell Me All The Things!

Feel free to tell me about things you are doing that appear to be helping. Feel free to tell me about things that appear to NOT be helping.

Char's stress at trials had gotten so bad that she was refusing to release from the start-line. I believe this occurred because when she was in trialing in the Open JWW class, she got stressed at the weaves and would refuse to do them and then she would poop in the ring. After this happened 3 or 4 times, I pulled her from competition for about 18 months and we practiced proofing weaves until she could get hard entries with distractions. When we started trialing again, the problem cropped up. I then made a habit of making sure she pooped before we went in the ring and that definitely helped. But she never weaved fast like she does at home and I think she stressed at the start-line anticipating the weaves, which caused her to freeze at the startline. I started practicing at home by leaving her cooler with her breakfast in it on the wall by the agility yard. When she does a sequence correctly, I say "cooler" and we run to the cooler for her breakfast. Then I started taking the cooler with her breakfast to trials and her attitude about running improved. She always leaves the startline now (although not as fast as I would like) and she always gets her weaves (although not as fast as she does at home).

Got video? Send me some clips so we have a visual history.

