

Rio Grande Valley Golden Retriever Club

Web Site: <http://rgvgrc.org/>



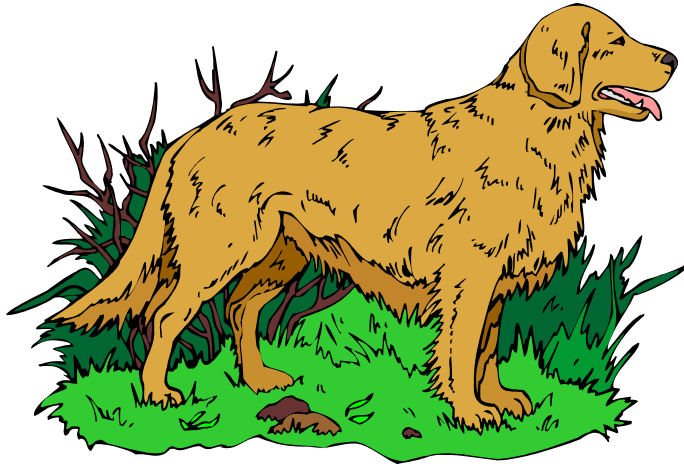
April, 2008

Golden Moments!



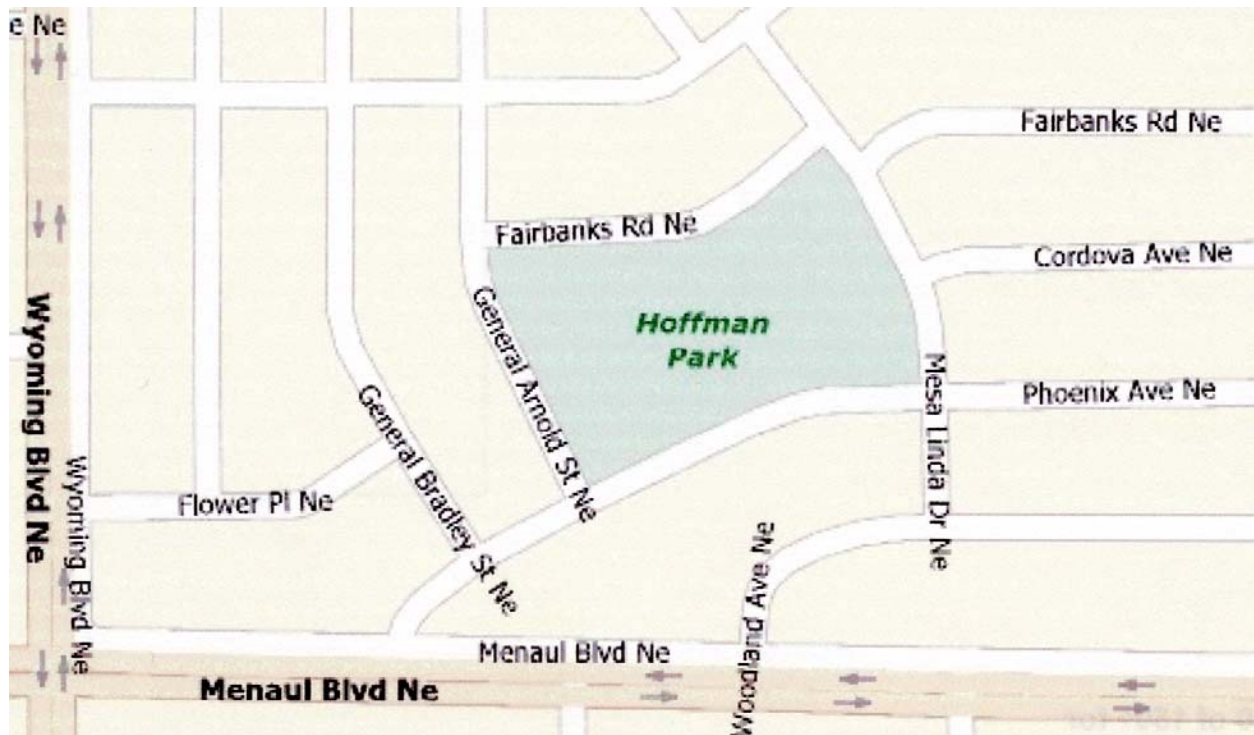


We're having a fun Match!



Join the fun at Hoffman Park on Sunday, April 27th!

This is a perfect opportunity to get ready for dog shows, practice or for you and your buddy to get use to the ring.



Friends of the **Rio Grande Valley Golden Retriever Club, Inc.** are sponsoring a
 1 Day All Breed & Obedience Fun Match
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008

LOCATION: HOFFMAN PARK
Chair Person: Dianne Uzdawinis - Phone: 856-6658

We reserve the right to refuse entry to any owner/handler whose conduct does not follow the AKC rules.
 In such case the entry fee will not be refunded.

Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. – Judging begins at 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. --- Obedience	\$ 5.00
9:00 a.m. --- Rally	\$ 5.00
Conformation (Starts immediately after Puppy Match)	\$ 5.00
Additional entry of same dog	\$ 3.00
Major-pointed dogs can be shown in exhibition only	Junior Showmanship Free

Pre-Entry Registration Form:
Pre-Entries Close Friday, April 25, 2008
Pre-Entries for Conformation, Obedience & Rally = \$ 4.00
Make Checks Payable to: RGVGRC and mail to:
Dianne Uzdawinis, 2745 Tramway Circle, NE, Albuquerque, NN 87122

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Dog's Call Name: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Owners Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Breed Conformation:

Puppy Dogs 3-6 Months _____ 6-9 Months _____ Puppy Bitches 3-6 Months _____ 6-9 Months _____

9-12 Months _____ 12-18 Months _____ 9-12 Months _____ 12-18 Months _____

Open Dogs _____ Open Bitches _____

Dogs Exhibition only _____ Bitches Exhibition only _____

Obedience:

Novice A: _____ Novice B: _____ Rally: _____

Open A: _____ Open B: _____ Utility A: _____ Utility B: _____ Jump Height: ____/____

Quick Tips for the Ring - by Cheryl May

How to improve heeling - Be consistent. Keep moving. Stay out of the way of your dog.

You are the team leader and must give timely and correct signals to the dog. Practice correct footwork without the dog. Then, when you are working with your dog, your improved footwork will come naturally. Correct footwork gives the dog a better chance to be right because he "sees" a signal before the change of direction. There are several methods that work very effectively. The important thing is to select one method that works well for you and your dog and stick with it for now. Some modifications might need to be made as you and your dog progress in the training process due to how fast the dog works and the size of your dog. Practice walking in a straight line by walking on lines in a parking lot, or lining yourself up with floor tiles in a long hallway.

The first step of heeling

Starting on the left leg: Probably best for the slower or less attentive dog.

Starting on the right leg: Probably best for the fast, ready to go dog. This start has a tendency to keep the dog in more of a straight line when beginning to heel and avoids a bump on the first step.

Modifications: The length of the first step of heeling depends on how fast the dog works and the size of the dog. Don't leave your dog behind because you took too big a step!

Halts

Feet: It is best to teach the dog to stop whether you plant the left foot and bring the right foot up or vice versa. (Note: the "plant" of the foot should be a soft one.) The length of the last step as you plant your foot depends on the size and speed of your dog.

The signal: What happens naturally when you stop walking? If you are clipping along in a hurry to get somewhere and must suddenly come to a halt, your upper body leans back just before you stop. In training, exaggerate the lean as you plant your foot so your dog "sees" a definite signal before you stop. As time goes on, drop the exaggeration and just have the slight natural lean.

Change of pace - Just as in the halt where there is a natural backward lean to slow your forward motion and change your center of balance in order to change to a slower pace, so too is there an opposite natural lean in order to speed up. When you start to go faster, there is a natural forward lean to change your center of balance and collect yourself as you move out briskly. Exaggerate these leans in practice. Then gradually wean the dog off the exaggeration to the natural.

Quick Tips for the Ring (continued)

Left and right turns

Round off your corners *slightly*. Rounded corners are much more smooth and natural looking than military style 90-degree turns.

You can signal the turn on either your left or right foot by swiveling your foot slightly before you actually begin the turn. Practice both because sometimes the dog will dictate which signal works best for your specific team.

Keep in mind that you must signal the dog *before* you actually turn, so you must initiate the turn in a straight line, then turn. Shorten your stride slightly through the turn and gradually move back to a normal pace.

Figure 8

The dynamics of this exercise dictate the footwork. You must maintain a consistent pace and distance around each post. Your dog should do the work changing pace - not you. There are things you can do to help your dog: Make sure you walk a straight line through the middle of the figure eight. In training, teach your dog "easy" and "hurry." Exaggerate these speeds in your training session so your dog learns and understands the pace changes he will have to make.

About turn

This is the most difficult turn to execute well. You must be able to maintain your consistent pace through the turn while staying out of the way of the dog. Teach this exercise by luring the dog around the turn with a treat. Treat when he reaches heel position, if he has executed the turn quickly and accurately. Make a game of it. A very fast turn earns the dog a bite of cheese or liver. A good turn earns the dog a bite of kibble. A slow turn earns nothing. You might say, "too slow, too bad." I do not believe that corrections or pulling the dog around the turn are effective in speeding up about turns. Keep training positive and make it fun for your dog.

Footwork for the about turn

Step 1. When judge calls "about turn," place your left foot in a "T" with your right foot.

Step 2. Pivot with your right foot.

Step 3. Small dogs. Bring your left foot around and step out in the new direction. Your step must be shorter for a small, or a slower moving, dog.

Step 4. Large dogs. Bring your left foot around and step out in the new direction. Use a larger step for a large dog, or one that moves very quickly around the turn.

Quick Tips for the Ring (continued)

Handler nerves - Practice deep breathing exercises (away from your dog) and repeat this mantra: "I am having fun; I am doing this for fun; this is what I do for fun; this is fun." *Bev Watson*

A friend of mine has a mantra she repeats to conquer "ring nerves." She's even set it to a cadence that matches her heeling. "I will float around the ring like smoke." *Jill Morstad*

Arrive in plenty of time. Keep track of when you show. Prepare to warm your dog up with a little heeling just before it is your turn in the ring. *Mary Jo Gallagher*

Getting into heel position to start - Always line up to start an exercise with a half or full circle to the left with a sit command as you come to a halt. Follow with praise. This gets the dog into the correct position with a minimum of fussing, gives you a chance to praise your dog, and makes you both feel more confident at the beginning of the exercise. *Margie English*

Recall - When you leave your dog for a recall, walk away with confidence and mentally mark the place at which you will stop and turn, not on a dime, but close to it. *Bev Watson*

Stand for exam - Make sure you have your hands off the dog when you say "stay." Lots of people do this and fail for a double command. *Edell Marie Schaefer*

Be sure to leave the dog from heel position and return completely to heel position after the exam. *Mary Jo Gallagher*

Heeling - Keep moving at a brisk pace. Don't look back for the dog. Keep your feet together and keep moving on turns. Command, pause, move. Watch the heeling pattern and know it before you go in the ring. Don't over train the night before the trial. Concentrate on your dog. *Roger Greenwald*

And a final few words - Have fun. Be a good sport. If you win, don't gloat. If you lose, don't complain (at least not in public.) Appreciate your dog.

<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~may/quick.html>



AKC Obedience Refresh

There are three levels of competition in obedience:

NOVICE - For the dog just getting started in obedience the exercises include:

- **Heel on Leash and Figure Eight** - show whether the dog has learned to watch its handler and adjust its pace to stay with the handler.
- **Heel Free** - done off leash.
- **Stand for Examination** - is of great benefit when the dog needs hands-on care by a veterinarian.
- **Recall** - provides the handler with the ability to call the dog and get an immediate response at all times.
- **Long Sit (1 minute)** - allows the handler to have control of the dog when visitors come to the home.
- **Long Down (3 minutes)** - dog must remain in a down position.

OPEN - The second level includes more complicated exercises, which teach the dog to do a variety of tasks and to follow commands either by voice or signal. Exercises include:

- **Heel Free and Figure Eight** - Same as Novice, but off leash.
- **Drop on Recall** - can be a lifesaving command for a dog, since it gives the handler control in potentially dangerous situations.
- **Retrieve on Flat**
- **Retrieve Over High Jump**
- **Broad Jump**
- **Long Sit (3 minutes)** - similar to the long sit in Novice, but the position must be held for a longer period of time with the handler out of the dog's sight.
- **Long Down (5 minutes)** - dog must remain in a down position.

UTILITY - The third and highest level of obedience competition. Exercises include:

- **Signal Exercise** - shows the dog's ability to understand and correctly respond to the handler's signal to stand, stay, down, sit and come. No voice commands are given; only hand signals are allowed.
- **Scent Discrimination** - shows the dog's ability to find the handler's scent among a pile of articles.
- **Directed Retrieve** - proves the dog's ability to follow a directional signal to retrieve a glove and promptly return it to the handler.
- **Moving Stand and Examination** - the dog must heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away. The dog must stay and accept an examination by the judge and return to the handler on command.
- **Directed Jumping** - the dog must go away from the handler, turn and sit. Then, the dog must clear whichever jump its handler indicates and promptly return to the handler.

AKC Obedience Refresh – Continued

Qualifying Performance

A qualifying score indicates that the dog has performed all the required exercises according to AKC Obedience Regulations and justifies the awarding of the obedience title associated with the particular class.

Qualifying Score

A dog receives a qualifying score when it earns more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise, with a total of at least 170 points. A perfect score in any class is 200.

How Do I Get Started in Obedience?

The best advice is to START TRAINING EARLY! Training a puppy is easier than training an adult dog because a puppy is more open to new ideas and has not yet developed "bad habits."

While it's best to start young, the old saying "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" is only partially true. It is never too late to train your dog, although it may take longer to retrain it to eliminate undesirable habits.

Most AKC clubs conduct a variety of classes instructed by trainers who have won awards in obedience competition with their own dogs, and they make sure to stay up-to-date on the latest training techniques. They have experience training all breeds of dogs and can help solve behavior problems. Most clubs accept all types of dogs, mixed breeds and purebreds, and prospective students are usually welcome to observe a class before signing up for a training course.

When you attend classes with your dog, instructors will show you how to teach it and will expect you to practice at home. The younger the dog, the shorter the practice sessions should be. For the best results, both you and your dog should enjoy frequent short sessions, combined with some play and rewards. To find AKC clubs in your area that offer training, please visit our [Training Resources section](#).

Tips for the First-time Exhibitor

- Register your dog with the AKC.
- Be sure your dog is current on all inoculations and health check-ups.
- Visit the AKC website to find a local obedience club.
- Attend obedience classes with your dog.
- Become familiar with the *AKC Obedience Regulations*.
- Attend obedience trials, and become familiar with the ring procedures.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions of experienced exhibitors.

AKC Obedience Refresh – Continued

Tips for the First-time Spectator

- However tempting, do not pet a dog without first asking for and receiving permission.
- Many obedience trials have vendors and an information booth with helpful information for the general public. Browse, gather information and ask questions.
- Arrive early, and bring a chair! Obedience often starts very early in the morning.
- If you have not as yet purchased your dog, speak to exhibitors about their breeds to gain knowledge of the best dog for your family. Also visit the "[Buying a Puppy](#)" section of the AKC website.
- If you bring a baby stroller to an obedience trial, be careful not to run over any dog's tail. Be sure your child respects the dogs and does not grab or poke at them. Some crowded trials forbid baby strollers.

Obedience Titles

AKC titles can only be earned at an AKC-licensed or member club trial. The Novice (CD) title must be completed before an exhibitor can enter the Open class. The Open title (CDX) must be earned before an exhibitor can enter the Utility class.

- **Companion Dog (CD)** - The letters CD may be added after a dog's registered name when it has been certified by three different judges as receiving qualifying scores in Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials.
- **Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)** - The letters CDX may be added after a dog's registered name after it has been certified by three different judges as receiving qualifying scores in Open classes at three licensed or member obedience trials.
- **Utility Dog (UD)** - The letters UD may be added after a dog's registered name after it has been certified by three different judges as receiving qualifying scores in Utility classes at three licensed or member obedience trials.
- **Utility Dog Excellent (UDX)** - Dogs with UD titles must earn qualifying scores in both Open B and Utility B at 10 trials in order to add the UDX title after their registered names.
- **Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH)** - Dogs with UD titles must win 100 points and a first-place in Utility B and Open B, plus a third first-place win in either class, under three different judges.
- **National Obedience Champion (NOC)** - The AKC awards this prestigious title annually to the dog that wins the AKC National Obedience Invitational. The letters NOC are placed before the dog's AKC-registered name and become part of the dog's permanent title.

March Meeting Highlights



Good Member Support Fund:

RGVGRC is starting up a club fund called "Good Member Support". The intent will be to support club members with severe health care cost of Golden Retrievers in need. A percentage of the earnings from the fund match will be used to get the fund kicked off to a good start. If you would like to donate, please contact Gin Chappelle or we hope to see you at the next club meeting



Nature's Select:

The Rio Grande Valley Golden Retriever Club would like to thank Greg Gillogly for visiting with us in the March club meeting. Greg introduced "Nature's Select ABQ", in which he offered insight into dog food quality, Nature's Select and a new service in the greater Albuquerque area. We especially enjoyed the dog food samples!

For additional information on Nature's Select Super Premium Pet Products, go to <http://www.paulspetfood.com/> or call Greg Direct @ 505-328-5277.



Pre Fun Match Meeting:

There will be a club meeting on April 20th @ 1:30 pm, at Hoffman Park (west side) for alignment and last minute details for the fund match. *Hope to see you!*



Garage Sale: Just a friendly reminder, a garage sale will be held at Mary Ann Bosworth's home on Friday and Saturday June 6th - 7th. Club members are urged to start collecting items for the sale now!

Birthday Wishes!



Linda!

Bonnie!

Golden Birthday Wishes!

Bif! Star! Basie! Star! R.A.P.D!