

# Rally-O

A team of a dog and a handler move around a course with the dog in a 'heel' position. The course is laid out using numbered signs which instruct the team to go fast or slow, to halt (dog must sit at heel), to make turns and circles, to reverse direction, to do a sit-stay-recall, to go over a jump, and to follow other basic obedience exercises.

There are four levels in competition:

- Novice • Advanced • Excellent • Masters

Novice is conducted on-lead. Advanced, Excellent and Master classes are conducted off-lead and include jumps and more challenging exercises such as circling around a toy or a tempting bowl of food.

There should be evidence of teamwork between the dog and handler, but perfect heel position is not required. The judge deducts points for mistakes such as a tight leash, crooked sits, or performing an exercise incorrectly and expects to see the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment. Unlimited communication between handler and dog is encouraged. Handlers may give multiple commands and signals but may not physically guide or correct the dog. Food or toys are not permitted in competition. Courses are different in every trial. Handlers receive a course map from the judge and can walk the course without their dogs prior to the start of the competition.

## What are the Rally-O Classes?

### Rally Novice Class – R.N.

For Dogs over 6 months old which are not eligible for the title of Rally Novice (RN). All exercises are judged on lead. Rally Novice must have between 10 – 15 stations (start and finish not included) with no more than 5 stationary exercises per class.

### Rally Advanced Class – R.A.

**Rally Advanced A** - This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Novice (RN) Title but are not eligible for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title.

**Rally Advanced B** - This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. All exercises are judged off lead. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead. Rally Advanced A and B must have between (12) – (17) stations (start & finish not included) and use a minimum of 3 to a max. of 10 stationary exercises; and requires one jump. Courses shall have a minimum of 4 Advanced level stations, including the jump.

### Rally Excellent Class – R.E.

**Rally Excellent A** - This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Advanced (RA) Title, but are not eligible for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title.

**Rally Excellent B** - This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Excellent (RE) Title and may continue to compete in this class indefinitely.

All exercises are judged off lead . All

dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead.

The Excellent class must have 15-20 stations and use a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10 stationary exercises and requires two jumps (not consecutive). Courses shall have a minimum of 6 Advanced level stations and a minimum of 4 Excellent level stations, including the jumps. A station consists of a single jump. One or two types of jump may be used. A single jump may be used in 2 stations. Jumps must not be used consecutively.

### Rally Advanced Excellent – R.A.E.

Upon qualifying for the Rally Excellent Title, qualifying scores may be accumulated from the Rally Advanced B Class and the Rally Excellent B Class to earn the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) Title.

To qualify for the title of RAE a dog and Handler team must receive a minimum of five (5) qualifying scores, in both the Rally Advanced B & Rally Excellent B Classes at the same trial, of 80 points or more out of a possible perfect score of 100, under at least two different Judges.

The RAE Title will appear at the end of the dog's name.

### Rally Master Class – R.M.

This class shall be for dogs that have qualified for the Rally Excellent Title (R.E.). All exercises are judged off lead, with no jumps in this class. Rally Master must have between (18) and (24) stations with no more than (10) stationary exercises.

**So practice, train & ask for help.  
Happy Rally-O Trialling!**

German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc

# I want to Compete in RALLY-O with my dog

## what do I do now??

Congratulations on being ready to take the next step with your dog !

**This document gives a brief overview of all the things you need to do and consider when first trialling. If you need any further help or clarification, contact [obedience@gsdcv.org.au](mailto:obedience@gsdcv.org.au) or your Chief Instructor**

### Rally-O

**Rally-Obedience** is a new form of obedience based on traditional Obedience but carried out in a more informal and relaxed style. The obedience exercises are in a course situation with signs for activities. Unlike in traditional obedience trials, handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs during the course, so you may use verbal praise and petting.

### Rally-O Signs

To complete a Rally-O course, you and your dog have to follow the signs and perform the exercises, such as shown below



### What are the trial classes available?

Rally-O Classes begin at **Rally Novice** (RN) level which is on-lead and then progress through to **Rally Master** (RM) title. As our breed is a working breed, where better than the trial ring to see the ability and extended level of obedience these dogs and handlers can aspire to and achieve.

## Joining Dogs Victoria

In order to compete in a trial, you must first become a member of Dogs Victoria. When joining Dogs Victoria you must also register (if not already done so) your dog(s) that you wish to compete with. You can download an application form from the Dogs Vic website: [www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au)

**Dogs without pedigrees can be registered as 'associates'. There are many obedience, tracking and endurance trials you are eligible to enter with associate dogs, but they cannot be shown.**

Once you have joined, you will receive a monthly Dogs Vic Gazette. The Gazette contains trial schedules for up and coming trial events (and shows) plus lots more. All schedules will contain the name of the host club, time & date, judges, details of entry, payment and the entry closing date.

**What trials can you enter?** If you have a pedigree GSD, you can enter all trials that are listed as Open, Restricted to Breed or for Group 5 dogs. If you have a GSD that is registered as an associate (no pedigree) then you can enter Open Obedience trials for obedience, tracking or endurance.

## Does my dog have the right papers???

### What is the difference between the Main Register and Limited Register pedigrees?

Pedigree registrations are issued by the ANKC through the State associations (e.g. Dogs Victoria) after application by the Breeder (who must be a member of Dogs Vic).

The Main Register pedigrees are blue in colour, whilst the Limited Register pedigrees are orange in colour, both A4 size. Dogs registered on the Limited Register may not be exhibited in conformation shows, nor can they be bred with, but can still be entered in Obedience Trials. Dogs registered on the Main Register are eligible to participate in all of the above areas.

**If your dog does not have papers, you can register them with Dogs Victoria as an associate, and you can enter 'Open' trials, rather than breed or group trials**

## Entering your first trial – How? Where's the Schedule?

**After you have joined Dogs Victoria and registered your dog, you can now enter trials. What do you do....?**

Trial schedules will be listed in the Dogs Victoria Gazette (you receive this with your membership) and GSDCV trials are also listed in both the Shepherd News and on the GSDCV website. Decide on the trial you wish to enter, note the closing date for entries and send off your entry form to the secretary with your payment cheque. You can also enter online for GSDCV trials.

## Where do I get an entry form?

Entry forms can be downloaded from Dogs Victoria for all trials [www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au)  
OR you can enter online (and pay by credit card) for GSDCV trials via [www.gsdcv.org.au/entries](http://www.gsdcv.org.au/entries)

If sending a hard copy entry, ensure your entry form is cut to size (~ $\frac{1}{2}$  A4) and include a SSAE to get confirmation your entry is received. Nothing worse than driving a long distance only to find that your name is not in the catalogue because the secretary didn't get your entry in time. Get in the habit of including an email address and phone number so if there is a problem with the entry the Trial secretary can contact you if needed.

## Preparation, preparation, preparation..... What Next?

Go along to a trial before your own 1<sup>st</sup> entry. Then nothing will be a surprise. Perhaps tag along with someone you know from your branch who is trialling and can show you the ropes. Speak to your chief instructor, who will be able to help you with training, and hopefully some ring practice at your branch, as well as answer any questions.

## The day of the trial

- Know where you are going – don't get lost!. Arrive early
- Bring a lead, water (and perhaps some treats) for your dog
- A chair is handy, as are poo bags
- A drink and any food you might need yourself
- The trial can last several hours, so be prepared !
- Check in at the desk, and get your number and catalogue
- If you have a female dog, arrive in time for vetting – to check that she is not in season. Have your exhibit number card stamped. Bitches in season are not eligible to participate in trials. If you're unsure, this will be identified when vetted and you'll have to wait until the next trial
- Find your ring, and keep an eye on when you will be called (in catalogue order). If you don't present, you're marked absent, no 2<sup>nd</sup> chance !
- Presentations are done when all rings are finished, so hang around and support – or collect your ribbon and pass card !!

## Equipment

Lead – must be a minimum of 750mm long with a clip.  
Armband – for your entry number must be worn on the left hand side of your body. The clear plastic ones are good, or you can just use a safety pin on your chest, but don't let the number flap around and be a distraction.

## Rules

Detailed rules and regulations for all Rally-O classes can be viewed on the ANKC website [www.ankc.org.au](http://www.ankc.org.au)

**Signs:** The rules also include pictures and explanations of all the signs used in each class, so have a thorough read of what each exercise entails.

## What is a pass mark?

For all Rally-O classes - 75/100 is a pass, 80+ in higher classes.

## How do I achieve a title?

A title is completed when the dog has three passes at that level. The entry class of RN requires 75 points out of 100 on offer. Subsequent classes of RA require 3 passes and RE 5 passes of 80/100. RAE requires 5 qualifying scores of 80/100 in the Rally RA B Class and the RE B Class at the same trial. Rally Master (7) qualifying scores of 85/100 points  
Rally Obedience Champion gain a further (10) qualifying scores of 90 or more points in the Rally Master Class  
When you achieve a title, the letters of that title can be placed at the end of your dog's name. These titles are shown after the dog's name and becomes part of the registered name. Only the highest title will be used.

From Rally Novice onwards, you **MUST** apply to Dogs Victoria for your title **before** participating in the next level Trial. You must submit 3 pass certificates with the application.

## Other Types of Trials

GSDCV Obedience Trials - Classes begin with Community Companion Dog (CCD) for the beginner, followed by Novice, Open, Utility and Utility Dog Excellent classes for advanced dogs.

Trials are held March, May, Oct & Nov, with various breed or Group 5 restrictions. The Open trial is held in October GSDCV Endurance Trial (June) – a 20km test for handler & dog, done in 3 parts (8km, 6km, 6km). Ride or run yourself.

## Tracking Trials

Open Tracking Trial – June & Track & Search Trial - October

## Rally Obedience Signs & Class Explanations

- Heeling is from sign to sign in a continuous performance.
- Handlers may praise and pat their dogs, repeating commands and signals if necessary. The performance is timed.
- The Novice Class is done on lead, using exercises 1-32, with of 10-15 stations with a max of 5 stationary exercises.
- The Advanced Class is off lead, using exercises 1-46, with 12-17 stations with a min. of 3 to a max. of 10 stationary exercises. Courses shall have a minimum of 4 Advanced level stations, including the jump.
- The Excellent Class is off lead using exercises 1-52, with 15-20 stations with a min. of 3 to a max. of 10 stationary exercises. Courses shall have a min. of 6 Advanced level stations and a min. 4 Excellent level stations, including jumps.
- The Master Class is off lead using exercises 1-59, with 18-24 stations with no more than 10 stationary exercises, and must contain a min of 4 excellent exercises and 3 master exercises.