

Training for either Obedience or Rally can be fun for both the handler and dog, special time that is spent together, and forge a stronger bond between the two. Additionally, the skills learned for the Novice level can serve as an excellent foundation for agility and for therapy work. The training can pay off in other ways such as passing the Canine Good Citizen test. This program is administered by the AKC and is currently used by some States and Insurers as a test of a dog's reliability.

These activities are appropriate for Shibas of all ages. Even the seniors can benefit in that learning new skills keeps them mentally and physically active.

OBEDIENCE

Obedience is one of the oldest AKC companion event competitions with the 1st licensed trial held in 1936.

A variety of skills requiring teamwork and communication between the dog and handler must be demonstrated. These include:

- * On- and off-leash heeling
- * Standing for exam
- * Maintaining a sit and a down with the handler at a distance of 6'.
- * Recall

At advanced level:

- * Dropping on recall
- * Signals for stand, down, and sit
- * Retrieving on flat and over a jump
- * Directed retrieval
- * Scent article discrimination and retrieval.

Each team starts with 200 points divided among the exercises and a score of 170 or better is needed to qualify. Three qualifying legs are needed for a title. Different exercises are used for each of the 3 levels: Novice, Open, and Utility. In addition to the regular classes, there are now preferred classes which have lower jump heights and no group exercises.

Other classes that may be entered for titles or for fun and practice include:

Optional Titling Classes	Non-Titling Classes
Beginner Novice (BN)	Wild Card Novice
Graduate Novice (GN)	Wild Card Open
Graduate Open (GO)	Wild Card Utility
Versatility (VER)	Team
	Brace
	Veterans



RALLY

Rally is one of the newer AKC companion events, having become a titling event on January 1, 2005. It was initially intended to be a bridge between the Canine Good Citizen program and formal Obedience competition but is now a sport on its own.



The course consists of a number of exercises at "stations", (the number and type of exercises depend on the level of the course), each marked with a sign telling the handler which exercise to do. The exercises are mostly based on "doodles" that trainers use to fine tune their dogs' understanding of the Obedience exercises. The dog/handler team goes through the course at its own speed, with the judge following. The only command the judge gives is the "forward" or start command. Although the team is timed, timing is only used to break a tie for class placement.

Each team starts out with 100 points with points being taken away for mistakes. One of the major differences between Rally and Obedience is that, if the handler realizes an exercise was performed wrong, it can be attempted again, as long as no other exercises have been done since. Correctly re-doing the station results in only a 3 point penalty, rather than a 10 point deduction for not doing the exercise correctly. Handlers are also permitted to talk to their dogs, pat their legs (in Novice only) and do anything necessary to encourage the dogs through the course,

short of treating and/or physically touching or correcting the dog.

A score of 70 or more is considered qualifying and is called a “leg”. The team needs 3 legs, under at least 2 different judges, to earn a title. Rally Novice and Rally Intermediate are worked on leash; all other classes are off leash. In addition, all classes, other than Rally Advanced Excellent, are divided into A and B classes. “A” is for dogs that don’t have a title at that level, or an Obedience title; “B” is for those who are continuing in the same level after titling, or who may have an Obedience title. In Novice only, if the handler has earned either a Rally or Obedience title with any dog, the team must compete in the “B” class, whether or not the dog has a title.

There are also a couple of non-regular classes: Rally Pairs and Rally Teams



Rally allows an inexperienced dog and/or handler to gain ring experience without the stress that can occur in the formal Obedience ring as well as a means to keep retired Obedience dogs active and competing without too much exertion on old bones and joints. The exercises aren’t physically taxing and the jumps are low. It can be so heartwarming to watch the veterans happily working in the ring again.

For more specific information, check the American Kennel Club website:
<http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/index.cfm>
<http://www.akc.org/events/rally/index.cfm>

To order rules and regulations booklets for Obedience & Rally, contact the AKC order desk at 919-233-9767 or email orderdesk@akc.org.

To see Shibas in action, you can view video highlights from Shiba events at <http://www.shibas.org/obedience.html> and <http://www.shibas.org/rally.html>.

Shibas with AKC Obedience Titles (12/31/21)	
BN	41
VER	1
CD / PCD	129 / 2
GN	1
GO	1
CDX / PCDX	26 / 1
UD	6
UDX	1

AKC TITLES

- CD - Companion Dog
- CDX - Companion Dog Excellent
- UD - Utility Dog
- UDX - Utility Dog Excellent

Shibas with AKC Rally Titles (as of 12/31/21)	
RN	189
RI	10
RA	58
RE	37
RAE	14
RAE2	1
RM	1

AKC TITLES

- RN - Rally Novice
- RI - Rally Intermediate
- RA - Rally Advanced
- RE - Rally Excellent
- RAE - Rally Advanced Excellent
- RM - Rally Master

OBEDIENCE

And

RALLY



Blue Loon Kuro Kido UDX