

RALLY O - HINTS & TIPS

The trick to Rally is the details

It's great to see Rally still going on strongly. But we still see some people entering trials who haven't read the rules. That's their prerogative I guess, but then they ask the judge and other competitors in the walk throughs how to do particular exercises. Comparing notes on the finer points is one thing, but asking how to do the basics is something else.

If you get the details right, you are set. But if you haven't even got the basics, how do you expect to get the details?

And Rally is all about details.

Let's look at some examples:-

- You can pat your dog but you can't guide them eg patting them on the shoulder which causes them to sit closer.
- You have to move briskly but going too fast is more liable to lose you points because drops, sits etc won't be completed before you move off.
- If your dog is sitting a little too far forward, the left exercises are so much harder.
- A Turn can be a Pivot but a Pivot can't be a Turn.
- The Pause on the Walk Arounds is a must.
- You can take some steps backwards on the Novice Call Fronts but you have to learn to do it without because of the Halt Call Fronts in Advance.

In obedience you have a whole ring to work in, okay – maybe not, but when the judge gives a command you can take an extra step or so to get your footwork right etc. In Rally you have 600mm in front of the sign to work in so you have to be organised and getting ready on the heel up from the previous sign. If your dog is out of position or you aren't paying enough attention, you are going to be caught out and may end up doing the wrong sign – or worse still, not doing the sign at all which is an automatic NQ.

Get really familiar with all the signs and all the little details. Take the rules with you when you walk the course to make sure you are doing the right exercise.

The moral of the story is ... Read the Rules and concentrate on the details.