

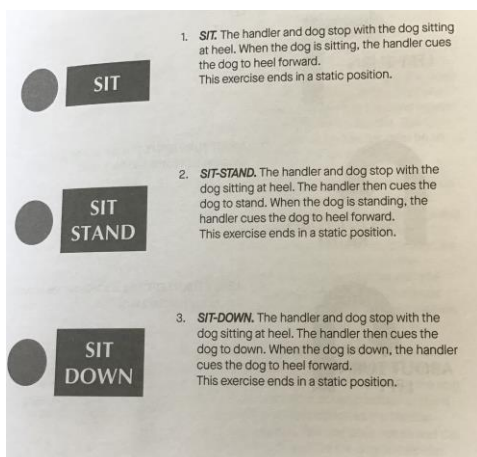
# Rally

## A year of fun training with my (sometimes stubborn) Japanese Spitz, Hoshi

I started training Hoshi at Rally classes just over a year ago when he was 6 months old; it was a new dog sport for me so there has been plenty to learn.

Rally started some years ago in the USA and was called Rally Obedience, this then became Rally O, and now in the UK and under RKC rules it is just Rally. As a handler there is only one piece of equipment needed and that is a standard dog collar with a clip on lead, the rules state that you cannot compete with a slip lead, half check etc.

The course is in the form of printed signs of which action is required and they are placed on the ground, the dog and handler progress around the course with the signs on the right of the handler, here are some typical signs(extracted from the RKC rule book) from level 1.



The circle next to the printed instruction is printed in red and whenever you see the red circle on the course it always indicated a sit, and can be before or after a move.

Whilst on the course the dog is expected to walk on a loose lead and at a consistent distance from the

handler, it doesn't have to be as close to your leg as in an Obedience competition.

Here are some more signs from a course, again showing the circle with the instruction for the dog to sit.

The scoring can seem complicated, all of the dogs start with 200 points and from that deductions are made by the Judge for any errors that are made such as 1 point is deducted each time the lead goes tight or the dog is slightly out of position, 2 points for lack of motivation, excessive barking, 3 points for sniffing and so on until you get a non qualifying result because the dog wore the wrong collar or the handler touches the dog.

For those who have a well trained dog there are 6 levels plus Veteran that can be attained.

The Royal Kennel Club have produced a very helpful booklet for anyone who is interested to learn more about Rally.

My lovely dog is always sniffing so I think it will be a while until we start competing, but it is fun learning and Hoshi enjoys going to the class and meeting his friends.

Fran Cobb - May 2025.

