




2023 Annual Conference

Trick Dog Training For Confidence Building & Competition

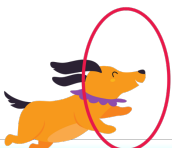





Sassafras Lowrey CPDT-KA
Certified Trick Dog Instructor (CTDI)
AKC CGC/Trick Dog Evaluator

1

Learning Outcomes

1. How to incorporate trick training into your existing classes to help clients develop an enthusiasm for training.
2. Understanding Trick Dog as an accessible sport.

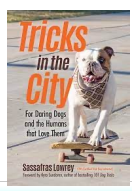
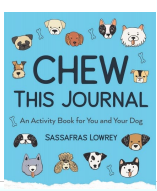







2023 Annual Conference

2

About Me!

- Involved in dog sports for 25+ years
- Author and freelance writer
- Certified Trick Dog Instructor (CTDI)
- AKC CGC/Trick Dog Evaluator

2023 Annual Conference

3



4

What Is Trick Dog?

- Growing Sport
- Casual or Competitive
- Enrichment Games
- Confidence Building
- Accessible
- Foundation Skills



Trick training is a great way to have fun with your dogs.
Photo credit: Kathleen Reynolds

2023 Annual Conference



5



2023 Annual Conference

Competitive Trick Dog



6

How Trick Titles Work:

- Different Tricks learned and performed for each title level.
- Tricks are evaluated either in-person or via video submission.




Daisy shows off her acrobatic prowess with a barrel.

Mary Hunsman's dog, Daisy, says hello with a wave.

2023 Annual Conference



7

Do More With Your Dog

- Oldest Trick Dog Organization
- Video or in-person evaluation
- Purebred and mixed-breed dogs
- No minimum age requirement
- Title Levels:
 - Novice
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
 - Expert
 - Champion
 - Grand Champion




2023 Annual Conference



8

Do More With Your Dog:

- Novice Trick Dog (15 tricks)
- Intermediate Trick Dog (12 tricks)
- Advanced Trick Dog (5 tricks)
- Expert Trick Dog (5 tricks)
- Champion Trick Dog (9 categories demonstrating trick skills)
- Grand Champion Trick Dog (6 categories demonstrating trick skills)



2023 Annual Conference



9

American Kennel Club

- Trick Dog Titling since 2017
- Video or in-person evaluations
- Purebred and mixed breed dogs
- Puppies 4 months and older
- Title Levels:
 - Novice
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
 - Performer
 - Elite Performer




2023 Annual Conference




10

American Kennel Club

- Novice Trick Dog (10 tricks, or 5 if dog has CGC)
- Intermediate Trick Dog (10 tricks)
- Advanced Trick Dog (10 tricks)
- Performer Trick Dog (10 tricks – at least 3 with props)
- Elite Performer (a story performance, 10+ tricks, at least 5 with props)



2023 Annual Conference



11

Safety First!

- Pick appropriate tricks
- Vet checks
- Know dog/handler limitations



Jumping over your area is an imaginative trick sure to please any crowd. Please watch the dog.



Before practicing working on Kallie's Tugger's line.

2023 Annual Conference



12




2023 Annual Conference

Benefits of Trick Training



13

Confidence Building:

- Increases dog's confidence
- Increases dog guardian confidence in themselves and their dog




Barry Gault: Work closely toward your dog tolerating on your body like a canine astronaut's legs.

Lenore Pawlowicz's Lola practicing "four on" on some playground equipment.

2023 Annual Conference



14

Training Benefits

- Gateway to other sports and activities
- Stand-alone accessible sport
- Can be incorporated into existing classes and activities.
- Fun way to encourage practice




Robert jumping through Kathleen's legs for a treat.

Theresa Bennett's Ocie going through an agility tunnel.

2023 Annual Conference



15

Challenging Champions:

- Introvert friendly
- Ideal sport for reactive dogs
- Provides alternate behaviors
- Builds confidence
- Keeps training fun



2023 Annual Conference



16

Accessibility:



Penn Doggie ABC judge's trick dog, must dog, and best champion, Belgian Tervuren, playing basketball.



As your dog becomes more familiar with the trick, you can experiment with different heights of objects.
Photo credit: Kathleen Tepper

- Video Submissions
- No big equipment needed
- Ideal for those who are geographically isolated
- More accessible than a traditional dog show
- Great for dogs with disabilities

2023 Annual Conference



17

Conditioning:

- Builds coordination
- Strength training
- Beneficial but NOT therapeutic
- Can aid with injury recovery



Alan Oates' Bearded Terns (and jumping and diving off)



Conditioned Audubon's dog is ready to swim

2023 Annual Conference



18

Teaching Dog Tricks:



Small Whiskers dogs are ready for the show park.

- Can be incorporated into existing classes
- Trick Dog classes can build excitement for training
- Introduce to private training clients
- Trick classes can be taught in small facilities

2023 Annual Conference



19

Becoming A Trick Dog Evaluator

- AKC.org - "become a CGC evaluator"
- DoMoreWithYourDog.com - "become a CTDI"



2023 Annual Conference

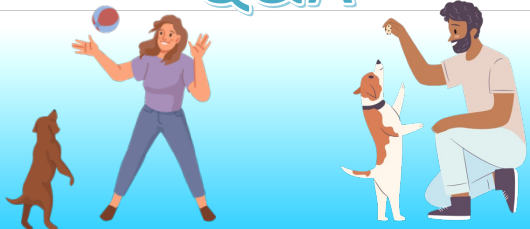


20

2023 Annual Conference



Q&A



21



Introvert Circus



Stay In Touch!

Facebook: @SassafrasLowrey

Instagram: @SassafrasLowrey
@SiriusTheBear

Twitter(X): @SassafrasLowrey

YouTube: IntrovertCircus

Email: SassafrasLowrey@gmail.com

www.SassafrasLowrey.com

2023 Annual Conference