

To ALL Aussie Lovers:

**As the Hospitality Co-Chair and a member of the Gateway Terrier Association,** I hope to see you and your Aussies at the Rally trial being held Thursday, May 31, 2012. Very nice prizes are being offered, including a really special prize, described below, for novices.

***HIGHEST SCORING AUSTRALIAN TERRIER IN RALLY NOVICE A or B***

***- entry fees paid for ALL entries for that dog during the week in (obedience/rally, earthdog, coursing, & conformation) - offered by Heather Rife DVM***

For those of you attending the national, if you have not tried Rally before, I hope that you will consider learning about it so that you can join us in Rally. Even if your dog has a Rally Novice title, as long as your dog doesn't have an Advanced leg, you can enter that dog in Novice B. First- through fourth-place rosettes will be awarded to dogs placing in the Novice classes, and a green qualifying rosette (not a flat ribbon) will be awarded to all Aussies that obtain a qualifying score in any Rally class. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have all Aussies in the placements? That would be a great photo opportunity.

Rally is very welcoming and laid back compared to Obedience. Also, scoring is not as rigorous as that in Obedience. Novice is performed on a loose leash, and you can talk to your dog as much as you want, giving praise and encouragement. Emphasis is on fun and excitement for the dog and handler. The dog and handler complete a course of numbered stations with the dog at heel, on the handler's left side. A course map is available for you to study prior to judging. Handlers walk the course without their dog prior to the judging. If you can sit and down your dog for a brief period of time, chances are you can be successful in Rally. Multiple verbal commands and/or signals, using one or both arms and hands, are allowed. The qualifying rate is high. If your dog does not have a reliable sit and down, consider starting training now so that you can join us in Rally.

I started taking a weekly class in October. We went to a show-n-go the Sunday before our first trial and at our first event, Toni earned two qualifying scores. Taking classes was an easy way for me to learn the signs and how to perform them; however, classes are not necessary. Consider going to watch a Rally trial or a show-n-go. Join us at the National, try something new and HAVE FUN!

***Additional Information: National Specialty package, "Obedience/Rally 101" page 19***

***[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) to learn more about Rally. Click on Events. Next, click on AKC Rally. Take a look at Getting Started in Rally. Also go to the 2012 AKC Rally Information section. Click on the link 1. DRAFT copy of the AKC***

***Rally Regulations - Effective April 1, 2012. Rally signs and descriptions start on page 30. The signs used for Novice are on pages 30 through 39.***

I welcome you to attend the National and visit the St. Louis area. I am very excited about all of the fun events planned and hope that you can join us.

Diane Cahill