

# Introducing the Stoneleigh Rally Challenge Awards.

Stoneleigh Rally is excited to invite you to participate in our Challenge Awards.

Our first challenge is the “TRAIN AT HOME” Challenge, enabling us all to take make the most of the limited space available to us during Lockdown.

During 2020 we ran three online competitions, which were open to everyone, alongside a series of challenge events for our own members. These challenge events encouraged our members to focus on the foundation skills that we all too often neglect but can prevent us from reaching our full potential. They proved very popular as they fitted into both people’s lives and their homes, enabling them to enjoy time with their dogs during the first lockdown. We understand how hard it can be to find the motivation to work with our dogs, especially when we can see no end goal in sight, so we are pleased to extend these challenges to everyone as we find ourselves back in Lockdown.

You can approach the Challenges at your own pace, unlike a show there is no opening or closing date. The Train At Home Challenge will be available through out 2021 (and may be extended into 2022).

The challenges are not competitive, everyone is capable of earning an Award. Each individual square you submit either passes or you are invited to resubmit after further training. Successful submissions for each award will receive an Award Certificate and Ribbon.

There are three awards.

Purple	£12
Green	£18
Rainbow	£18

## **Purple Award**

To earn a Purple Award complete a single run from top to bottom made up of 5 connected squares, 1 from each row. You may move diagonally i.e. corner to corner.

## **Green Award**

In addition to a successful Purple submission you need to complete an additional run from top to bottom, as well as making a new route from side to side. Diagonal movement is still allowed. You will need 10 additional squares, enabling you to reuse a square from your Purple Submission and share an intersection square to achieve your path across the board for Green. There are examples in the Facebook Group.

To help ensure that your dog is used to working in different locations you must film at in at least two places, one of which was not used in your purple submission. For example, try filming in the kitchen instead of the living room.

## **Rainbow Award**

In addition to successfully earning both your Purple and Green Awards you need to complete the board with a further 20 squares.

You must film at least one of your additional squares in a new location making at least 3 different locations in total across the Challenge Awards.

These challenges have been designed to be living room friendly so all the squares can be completed inside, although if the weather and restrictions in your area allow you are welcome to film outside. More details on the individual squares can be found in the dedicated Facebook group.

To claim your Challenge Award please submit videos of your chosen squares through the claim form which can be found on the website or via the dedicated Facebook group. Videos can be edited together but must clearly state which square is being claimed.

Each Challenge Award submission must be accompanied by the submission fee.

The assessors' decisions are final.

All training should be a positive experience for both dog and handler, luring or handling your dog into position will result in that square needing to be resubmitted. You may have treats and/or toys on your person but these should not be used as a lure. You are encouraged to reward at the end of each square.

All submitted squares must pass before your Award is confirmed. If only one square needs to be resubmitted this will be reassessed free of charge, however, if two or more of your squares are not passed at your first submission then there will be a reassessment fee of £5. Harsh handling will not be tolerated and will require resubmission at the full rate, with no refund.

*Each square contains an individual challenge making up the Train At Home Challenge. Each square represents a building block towards competitive exercises rather than formal exercises in their own right. They are not intended to be approached as formal exercises so have some fun and hone up your skills!.*

## FAQ

### Eligibility

Q Can I do these awards with my puppy?

A All puppies can attempt this from 4 months of age, however, all breeds develop at different rates so take account of your individual dog. They may not develop the coordination required for all the squares until nearer a year of age.

Q Is there an upper age limit for dogs?

A There isn't an upper age limit, however, all dogs will still need the coordination required to attempt these challenges. For the Rainbow award only Veteran dogs over the age of 10 may submit a "best efforts" attempt for Squares 6, 13, 23, 30 and 35.

- Q I have more than one dog, can I do these awards with all my dogs?
- A Of course you can. However, please film each square with one dog at a time.
- Q We have one dog, can we both do these awards with our dog?
- A Yes, however, the same handler needs to film all the squares with each dog as you both need to work through from Purple to Rainbow individually.
- Q I don't live in the UK, can I have a go with my dog?
- A Of course you can, however, your dog must be eligible to compete in the UK so cannot be from one of the four UK Banned Breeds and also cannot have cropped ears or docked tails (working gundogs exempted but we will ask for proof).

There is a slightly higher rate for overseas entries to cover the additional postage costs, however, if you would prefer to just receive a digital certificate without a ribbon then please choose the UK option when submitting. Overseas submissions will attract an extra £2.50 per submission.

## Performance

- Q Can I use food or toys?
- A You may have these on your person but cannot use them to lure your dog to do the exercise.
- Q Can I touch my dog to cue them?
- A No, if your dog does not understand the behaviour on a command or cue then further training is required to achieve a pass.
- Q Do I need to be competing in Rally to take part?
- A No, anyone can have a go. These challenges are not full Rally exercises and aim to help develop the bond between dog and handler while building skills which are useful across a range of activities.
- Q What collar should my dog wear?
- A If you film inside, or in your own garden, they don't need to wear a collar (apart from square 17). Collars should not be punitive in nature and should be adjusted correctly. If your dog wears a GPS collar, we suggest that you remove this so we don't mistake it for a punitive device.
- Q Should my dog be on or off lead?
- A Your dog should be working off lead apart from for Square 17. The only exception to this is if you are working in a public or unenclosed space.

Q How many commands can I give?

A More than one repetition would indicate that more training is required before re-filming this square.

However, you may use both verbal commands, signals or a combination of the two.

## Assessment

Q What is the pass rate for each award?

A For all the awards you need to pass all the squares entered. There is a possibility to resubmit one square free of charge at each level. After this a resubmission fee covering will be required.

Q Who will be assessing these Challenge Awards?

A Our team of assessors are all experienced trainers and competitors and will be assessing your video submissions to the guidelines.

Q Why might I need to resubmit?

A There are a number of reasons why you may not pass on one or more of your submitted squares. The camera angle may not show the exercise clearly, the video quality may not be good enough, you may have not performed the indicated square or you may need to do some more training before resubmitting. Squares will be assessed individually so you don't have to resubmit any that have already passed. The exception to this is where the assessor highlights an instance of harsh handling, this will then be committee assessed and, if upheld, the handler forfeits that submission and has to resubmit in full with a new payment.

## Filming

Q How should I film my submission?

A We need to be able to see all of your dog at all times. Please set your camera angle to clearly show the behaviour – i.e. DOWN to SIT is best filmed from the side, whereas From STAND Sidestep Right STAND is best filmed with you facing away from the camera.

Q What do I need to show in each clip?

A The video must show all of the exercise stated in the square. For square 6 "SIT to STAND at heel" we need to see your dog sit at heel and then the video needs to run for long enough for us to see the stand established, however, for square 30 "SIT to STAND (kickback) you may start the video with the dog already in the sit.

You may edit your videos to remove any additional footage i.e. walking too and from your camera, however, you may not edit the actual footage to be assessed and your clips must maintain their original sound.

Q Do I need to edit my clips into a single video?

A This would be ideal but is not essential. Clearly label the clip so we know which square you are submitting. If you are submitting multiple individual clips then please import them into a single playlist using Youtube or a similar service. It is possible to be assessed via Zoom for an additional fee – if you are interested in this service please email us.

## Entries

Q Where do I send my submissions?

A Please submit via our website.

Q Is there a set submission date.

A No, you can submit whenever you are ready.

Q How long will the assessment period be?

A We aim to do the initial assessment of Purple and Green Challenge Awards within a week and Rainbow Challenge Awards within a fortnight.

Q If I am successful when will I receive my certificate and ribbon.

A We will be doing a weekly certificate run each Thursday to meet the Friday post. Your certificate will be produced the Thursday after you are notified of your successful submission.

Q How do I pay?

A There is a PayPal link on the online form, if you do not have PayPal please contact us for an alternative payment method.

If you have any further questions please contact us on [challenges@stoneleighrally.co.uk](mailto:challenges@stoneleighrally.co.uk) or via our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/689500101719745>