



AGILITY

The fast-paced, fun atmosphere of the agility ring was almost custom-made for most Yorkies personalities. They love to run through a course zipping through tunnels, racing over dog walks & flying over jumps. There is no dog with more determination and heart than an agility Yorkshire Terrier when it struggles its way up and over the A-frame. You can see spectators holding their breath until the Yorkie makes it to the top and starts down the other side!! Yorkies are show-stoppers in the agility ring and draw a crowd whenever they run a course. Here is a list of the AKC agility titles:

Novice Agility (NA)

Open Agility (OA)

Agility Excellent (AX)

Master Agility Excellent (MX)

Novice Jumpers with Weaves (NAJ)

Open Jumpers with Weaves (OAJ)

Agility Excellent Jumper with Weaves (AXJ)

Master Excellent Jumper with Weaves (MXJ)

Master Agility Champion (MACH)

Preferred Titles are as above & jump 4 inches shorter & include Preferred Agility Champion (PAX)

VERSATILE COMPANION DOG TITLES.

As of January 1st, 2001 the AKC has given companion exhibitors a whole new set of titles to earn. The VCD

Titles can only be earned by achieving titles in Obedience, Agility (both Standard and Jumpers) and Tracking. The number behind the VCD title depends on level of titles the dog has earned.

VCD1 - CD, NA, NAJ, TD

VCD2 - CDX, OA, OAJ, TD

VCD3 - UD, AX, AXJ, TDX

VCD4 - UDX, MX, MXJ, VST

VCDCH (Versatile Companion Dog Champion) -
OTCH, MACH, CT

There are so many things that you can do with your Yorkie that the possibilities are endless. You can easily train your dog to do tricks to dazzle your friends and relatives. These activities can easily expand to visiting and performing at schools, nursing homes, and other organizations.

The Yorkshire Terrier is a highly intelligent little dog with a personality that never quits. A Yorkie can be a wonderful companion dog and truly is a dog for all seasons and events.



Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.



WORKING WITH YOUR YORKIE

When most people think of Yorkies they think of happy little house dogs lounging on the furniture and barking at dangerous things outside, like leaves and squirrels or they think of the beautiful full-coated show dogs, immaculately groomed, gliding around the show ring. There is a third picture to add, however: one of a working Yorkie that is participating in a variety of companion events and/or working situations. These include obedience, agility, tracking, earthdog, and pet therapy as well as a host of other activities such as flyball, frisbee competitions, backpacking and musical freestyle.

Because of their size and attitude, Yorkies will generally draw a crowd around the obedience or agility ring they are working in. There is nothing more adorable than a Yorkie looking up at it's owner at heel position or flying through the tunnels and leaping over the jumps in obedience and agility, even if, on occasion, it's the wrong one !!!! Sometimes even trained Yorkies have minds of their own.

Training for and participating in companion events can be wonderful ways to work with your Yorkie, form a bond like you've never known before and maybe earn a ribbon and title or two along the way.

Here are some things that you might want to do with your Yorkie and the titles you can earn from the American Kennel Club:.

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For more information contact your local breed/
performance club or go to:

www.akc.org

Activity artistry by Sharon Edwards





OBEDIENCE

The novice obedience class includes exercises that show that the handler and dog are working together. The dog will heel by its handlers side & sit when they stop as well as come when called and stay when and where they are told on a stand for examination, sit stay and down stay!!! This last can be hard for the average Yorkie to do with their endless supply of energy but can save it's life some day. The more advanced obedience classes include jumping, scent exercises, bringing its handler back a dumbbell or glove, etc. Obedience is the basis for most of the other companion events and is a great way to start working with your Yorkie. Here are the AKC obedience titles that can be earned:

- Companion Dog (CD)
- Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)
- Utility Dog (UD)
- Utility Dog Excellent (UDX)
- Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH)



CGC

In addition to the formal obedience classes, the AKC also offers a **CANINE GOOD CITIZEN** test. The CGC is not an official AKC title but the dog earns a certificate and is an accomplishment any owner can be proud of. This is a great way to get started and the ten exercises needed to pass the CGC test include everyday things like having your dog under control for a brushing or vet exam and being able to walk up to a person with another dog and have your Yorkie be under control. These are basic exercises that makes living with any dog easier.

PET THERAPY

A Yorkie doing pet therapy, visiting nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, schools, etc. may not earn trophies, ribbons and titles but there is not a more important, worthwhile job that this breed can participate in. Some institutions require a dog to be tested and registered by the therapy dog organizations. This registration provides the owner with insurance, training and assistance. A small dog, like a Yorkie, sometimes will have an advantage over the larger dogs which can be intimidating to some people. Yorkies can go where no larger dog can as they can easily fit on a lap or on a bed. Nothing can be more rewarding than sharing your beloved Yorkie with someone who is in need of being cheered up.



RALLY

RALLY became an AKC titling event as of January 1st, 2005. Where the agility concept was taken from Grand Prix jumping, Rally takes after road rallies where check points tell you your next move. Instead of having the judge call out the commands the dog and owner move from one "course sign" to another following the directions printed on the signs. This is a fast paced, fun-packed kind of obedience that's catching on like wild fire and is absolutely perfect for the way Yorkies like to work. The course changes with each trial as it does in agility and you can talk to your dog throughout the exercises to encourage him and keep him focused on you. Here are the AKC Rally titles that can be earned:



- Rally Novice (RN)
- Rally Advanced (RA)
- Rally Excellent (RE)
- Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)

TRACKING

Although you won't normally see a lot of Yorkies entered in tracking events, they can do very well and have the fire and determination to excel in an activity that is mainly associated with much larger dogs. In tracking a dog learns to do "what comes naturally" and that is to use their nose to follow a scent. Tracking tests are usually run in fields. A tracklayer will lay out a track pre-determined by the judge, making both right and left turns, then lay an article (usually a glove or a wallet) at the end. The dog must follow this track some time later and find the article. In the advanced test, there will also be other articles for the dog to find and indicate along the way. Variable Surface Tracking (VST) is the newest type of tracking test. This test requires the dog to track in urban areas near buildings, on a variety of surfaces: asphalt, concrete, etc. The AKC Tracking titles that can be earned are:



- Tracking Dog (TD)
- Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)
- Variable Surface Tracker (VST)
- Champion Tracker (CT)



EARTHDOG

The Yorkie, even though thought of as a lap dog, can enjoy running through a tunnel to find the rat. Yorkshire Terriers are not at this time approved to enter AKC Earthdog tests, but the YTCA is working to obtain approval for this spunky little breed. Most local terrier clubs can provide more information in this area.