

# TRAIN M.E.

presents

**Petra Ford**

## **Energized Engagement and Speaking Dog**

February 21-22, 2026

9am-5pm each day

Train M.E.

550 Main Street South

Bethlehem, CT 06751

**ABOUT PETRA:** I have been training and competing for several decades in a variety of sports including Hunt Tests, Field Trials, Nosework, Agility and Rally. My first love has always been competition obedience. I have been fortunate to win the AKC National Obedience Championship four times with three different dogs. All my dogs have earned placements at Nationals. My dog Tyler won the World Cup and was First-Runner Up. All my current dogs have earned OTCH's, multiple High-In-Trial and High-Combined awards, wins and placements at Regionals, as well as numerous perfect 200 scores. I find training endlessly fascinating. Figuring out how to be a better communicator with each of my dogs is a never-ending challenge that I wholeheartedly embrace. I love solving training puzzles. It's what has kept me in the sport for so many years. I especially love the incredible relationship developed with my dogs through training and competition. Although not currently practicing, I am a Physical Therapist and a Canine Rehabilitation Therapist. These days I'm an instructor at FDSA and own a Boarding Kennel. I'm passionate about teaching and sharing what I have learned over the years. Watching students grow and succeed is incredibly rewarding. In my spare time I love hiking and playing with the dogs, running, practicing yoga, meditating and spending time with friends. I enjoy writing blogs and working with my friend Laurie on our Canine Connection Podcast.



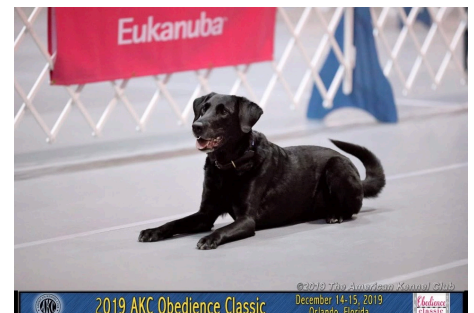
### **Saturday, 2/21/26: Energized Engagement**

Struggling to get and maintain your dog's engagement? Feel like you are nagging your dog to look at you? Begging your dog to watch you instead of the environment or the judge? When we constantly ask for engagement, the dogs often interpret that as pressure. Or they tune it out. For some dogs it interferes with their ability to focus. What does engagement look like? How do we get it? The day will be centered around discussion on what engagement is and why it is so important in all dog sports. Games and exercises will be introduced to help develop and maintain your dog's engagement. Working spots will have floor time in groups as well as possible individual time with Petra.

### **Sunday, 2/22/26: Speaking Dog**

Dogs are our children, best friends, and teammates. We have a strong tendency to communicate with them in human terms. However, English is not our dogs' native tongue. They do an admirable job learning our language and navigating the human world. We are not as good at speaking dog. We tend to interpret dog behavior in human terms. This often causes confusion, stress and anxiety in our dogs. The day will focus on how to recognize when our dogs are trying to tell us something. We will look at:

- How to Interpret and Understand what they are actually saying.
  - How to provide Clear and Consistent information that our DOGS understand.
  - Looking at the Environment and Ring from a Dog's perspective when training and trialing.
  - Understanding Pressure (environment, judge, handler) from a dog's perspective.
  - Analyzing Errors our dogs make in training and in the ring.
  - Accurately Reading your dog's Body Language.
  - How Drive State impacts communication.
  - Creating Trust, Confidence and a Powerful Relationship.
- Working spots will have floor time in groups as well as possible individual time with Petra.



**TRAIN M.E. presents: Energized Engagement and Speaking Dog with Petra Ford**  
**Registration Form (please type or print)**  
**February 21-22, 2026**

Please return this form with payment by January 30, 2026.

EMAIL REGISTRATION FORM and Venmo @Laurie-Strimavicius or MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE to Laurie Strimavicius to:

Laurie Strimavicius, 44 Outlook Road, New Milford, CT 06776, Email: [trainmelabs1973@gmail.com](mailto:trainmelabs1973@gmail.com) PHONE: 860-946-7368

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|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name: _____                  | 2 Day Working Spot \$350 _____ |
| Street Address: _____        | 2 Day Audit \$75 _____         |
| City, State, Zip Code: _____ | 1 Day Audit \$40 _____         |
| Phone: _____                 | Sat _____ Sun _____            |
| Email: _____                 |                                |

A limit of 12 working spots and 12 auditing spots are available. These are reserved only with full payment and a completed registration form. No refunds will be made after January 23, 2026. A confirmation e-mail will be sent upon receipt of the registration form and payment.

\*Handlers must bring proof of rabies for day of event for each dog in attendance.

\*Videotaping is NOT permitted.

\*Dogs with propensities for aggression towards people or other dogs may NOT attend this seminar.

**RELEASE**

•**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I understand that there may be significant elements of risk associated with the activity of dog training. Such risks may include equipment failures, falls due to building or grounds conditions, or the negligence of instructors, fellow students, or other users of the building. I acknowledge that the above list is not inclusive of all possible risks associated with dog training or the use of the facilities of TRAIN M.E LLC (hereinafter "TME") and Petra Ford (hereinafter PF) and that other unknown and unanticipated risks may result in injury.

•**RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** In consideration of being permitted to use the facilities of TME & PF, and mindful of the significant risks involved with the activities incidental therefore, I, for myself, my heirs, administrators and assigns, release, remise and discharge TME & PF and its officers, directors, agents, servants, volunteers and employees in the stated activities of and from any and all liability for injury that may result from my use of the facilities of , TME & PF, and I do hereby waive and relinquish any and all actions or causes of action for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death occurring to myself or those persons for whom I am legally responsible (including but not limited to my children) arising as a result of the use of the facilities of TME & PF, participation in TME & PF activities or functions, or of any activities incidental thereto wherever or however such personal injury, property damage or wrongful death may occur, whether foreseen or unforeseen, and for whatever period said activities shall continue. I agree that under no circumstances will I, my heirs, my estate or my personal representative present any claim for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death against TME & PF and its officers, directors, agents, servants, volunteers and employees for any of said causes of action, whether said causes of action shall arise by the negligence or any person or otherwise.

•**IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE UNDERSIGNED INDIVIDUAL TO EXEMPT AND RELIEVE TME and PF AND ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, SERVANTS, VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES FROM LIABILITY FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE.** •This contract shall be legally binding upon me, my heirs, my estate, and my personal representative, as well as upon any and all other persons authorized by me to act for me or on behalf of my heirs, my estate or my personal representative.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE ABOVE RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY I AM KNOWINGLY AND WILLINGLY AGREEING TO RELEASE TME AND PF AND ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, SERVANTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THEIR LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR WRONGFUL DEATH CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY PERSON OR OTHERWISE. PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES.

I understand that this is only a partial list, and I must be safety conscious and exercise sound judgment at all times. I understand that if I register as a working team and later want to become an auditor that I will only receive a refund if there is working team on the wait list that will take my spot.

I understand that any changes to information that I supplied on this registration form can be made only by contacting Laurie Strimavicius.

Please sign and date to verify that you have read and understand this release and the above participant responsibilities:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_