

Enriching the lives
of our dogs,
ourselves and others
through
the sport of
Canine Musical Freestyle



Above photo and inside photos:
courtesy of Dick Capello and Brenda Cutting



Above photos : courtesy of Nancy Zietlow



www.dogsgonedancin.com

a member club of the
World Canine Freestyle Organization
(WCFO)

What is Canine Musical Freestyle?

Some (not us) call it doggy dancing, but that conjures images of cartoon dogs boogieing solo, which is not what happens. What actually happens is that freestyle dogs perform alongside their humans as a team, with the human partner cueing the canine partner to perform a sequence of trained behaviors (tricks) that have been choreographed to music.



We begin with basic obedience behaviors our dogs might already know, such as “heel” and “come.” We then teach our dogs foundation freestyle behaviors such as right-side heeling, spinning, and weaving between our legs. A dozen or so solidly trained behaviors

is all it takes to choreograph a beginners’ routine.

We continually add to our dogs’ repertoire of behaviors, for the more behaviors our dogs know, the more expressive our routines can become. As well, the worldwide vocabulary of freestyle behaviors continues to expand as freestylers create and integrate novel behaviors into their routines. It seems there is no limit to freestyle creativity!

Most importantly, our bond with our canine partners strengthens the more we “dance” with them. Because we use positive training methods, our dogs look forward to working with us and will even “think up” new behaviors themselves.



What is Dogs Gone Dancin’ About?

Back in 2000, canine musical freestyle did not exist in the Northwest, but that didn’t stop professional dog trainer, Julie Flanery, from pursuing this sport that had her at hello. Julie convinced five students taking her “Tricks and Obedience” class to help create a canine musical freestyle club, and Dogs Gone Dancin’ (DGD) was formed.

Julie and the five co-founders were the first in the Northwest to sponsor and compete in canine musical freestyle competitions. To this day, all six co-founders remain active DGD members—indeed, they are the very lifeblood of our club which is nearly sixty members strong and still growing.

DGD is committed to making canine musical freestyle events available to all who wish to participate. We invite senior or disabled humans and dogs to compete in specially created categories alongside the standard WCFO titling categories. Therefore, every person and dog, regardless of age or athletic ability, can earn placements and titles.

In addition to our bi-annual WCFO titling events, DGD hosts freestyle workshops, fun matches and demonstrations. Our demos have been particularly well received at nursing homes, hospitals and fund-raising events for humane societies and rescue groups.

What are the Benefits of Joining Dogs Gone Dancin’?

DGD members enjoys the following benefits:

Discounts for workshops and Seminars

Discounts for DGD fun matches and practice days

Liability insurance coverage for DGD freestyle demos and events

Participation in Group Practice

Annual DGD Membership is only \$20

How Do I Get Started?

Begin by working with a professional dog trainer who uses clicker training or other positive training methods. By using only positive training methods, your bond with your dog will deepen, your dog’s attention skills will improve, and your own training skills will advance; these are the key components of a successful freestyle routine.

For up-to-date information on freestyle classes, competitions and workshops, and for membership applications, please refer to our website: www.dogsgonedancin.com

