

*Poised
for
Success Freestyle*



*Guide to Etude
Titles*

Introducing Etude Titles!

Etude Titles are “Special Event” Titles that are offered by Poised for Success Freestyle for a limited time.

In music, an “etude” is a short musical composition that is designed to provide practice material for perfecting a particular musical skill in an aesthetically pleasing way.

Likewise, the Etude Titles provide Poised for Success Freestyle teams with the opportunity to create short practice exercises to perfect a particular Freestyle skill in an enjoyable way and to earn titles for performing those exercises.

These are offered through Poised for Success Freestyle at certain times throughout the year, and each one is offered for a limited time.

Anyone is eligible to enter submissions for Etude Titles. No prerequisite titles are necessary. All you need is a Poised for Success Registration number. For information on how to register, see the “Titling in Musical Freestyle” page on the Poised for Success website.

<http://www.poisedforsuccessfreestyle.com/titling-in-musical-freestyle>

Titling Classes

Three titling classes are offered for the Etude Titles:

- **Debut Class:** Puppies and adult dogs who are new to training are eligible to enter the Debut Class
- **Laude Class:** Senior dogs and dogs with disabilities are eligible to enter the Laude Class
- **Performer Class:** All dogs are eligible to enter the Performer Class

For teams in the Debut and Laude Classes, treats may be visible to your dog during a performance, and you may treat at any time during the performance. Handlers are encouraged to reinforce in a way that maintains as much flow as possible within the performance, although loss of flow for reinforcement will not cause a team to NQ.

For teams in the Performer Class, treats may not be visible to your dog during a performance, although you can have them in a pocket or bait bag, and you may not treat until after the performance is fully complete.

A team may enter any given Etude event in one titling class only per offering of that event.

However, a team that enters in the Debut Class one year can enter the same event in the Performer Class in another year, once the dog is ready to do so. And a team that enters in the Performer Class in one year can enter the same event in the Laude class in a later year, once eligible to perform in that Class.

Current Etude Title – Bunny Hop
Open: April 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024

Come and join us for some dancing fun this spring with our latest Etude Title – the Bunny Hop!

Basic Title Criteria

To earn this title, you and your dog will film just one performance that features some kind of “hop” at some point within the movement sequence.

The “hop” might be a jump over or through a prop, a bounce up into the air, or a “hop” onto a prop or into a prop. Be creative!

If you are working with a puppy, or a senior who cannot perform a true “hop” in some way, a step or paw lift can be substituted.

You have license to be VERY creative here! Editing is allowed, music overlays are allowed, multiple dogs may appear in one video (additional dogs serve as “support” for the dog for whom the submission is being entered).

Unlimited use of props is permitted.

The time limit is also very flexible. The minimum time is 30 seconds, and the maximum is 2 minutes.

No particular theme is required for the performance, nor for the music that you choose to use.

Step 1 – Plan Your Performance

Plan out your dog's performance. Choose music, choose any props, plan out your dog's moves and movements.

Step 2 – Decide how you will incorporate a "hop"

This can be a jump over a prop, a "bounce", a jump up onto a prop, a bounce into a prop – you can be creative here.

Whatever you choose, make sure your dog is confident performing the move, and that it will be carried out safely within the performance.

The "hop" should be somewhere within the performance. If you are only incorporating one "hop", avoid leading off or ending with it. If you include multiple "hops", you can include another "hop", and that can be at the beginning and/or end, but there should be one featured within the "body" of the performance somewhere.

There is no limit to the number of "hops" that you incorporate, but they should not comprise of the entirety of the performance, and always keep your dog's safety and confidence in mind.

Step 3 - Design Your Performances

Once you have chosen your "hop", design one short performance.

There is no minimum or maximum number of moves or movements required, nor is any particular type of move or movement required beyond the required "hop".

If you want to feature movement, do so. If you want to feature tricks, do so. If you want to feature prop behaviors, do so. If you want to mix things up, please do so.

Step #4 – Train and Practice

Once you have designed your performance, practice it with your dog until your dog can perform fluently.

As is always the case in Poised for Success Freestyle, both verbal and physical cues are welcome.

Step #4 - Video Your Performances

Once you have designed and practiced the performance, video it.

Step #5 – Submit Your Entry

The entry fee for each submission is \$15.00. One video makes up a single submission for this Title. The Title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Transition Tango Etude Title.

Title

PFS - Etude – Hop

Or

PFS-Etude – Hop - Debut

Or

PFS-Etude - Hop - Laude

Each qualifying team will receive a printed certificate and flat ribbon in the mail. If you prefer to have your certificate emailed, please indicate that preference when you submit.

To enter, please copy and paste the following into the body of an email and send to:

pfsfreestyle@gmail.com

Entry

Please include the link to your video with your entry.

- Handler Name
- Call Name of Dog
- PFS Registration Number
- Class Entered (Debut, Performer, or Laude)
- Etude Title – Transition Tango

Entries – Bunny Hop

Entries for the Bunny Hop will open on April 1st and end on May 31st

Entries must be received no later than May, 31, 2024.

If corrections are needed to the entry, all corrections must be submitted by June 15th.

Enjoy! I look forward to seeing your entries!

Past Etude Titles
These may be offered again in the future,
but entries are not open right now

Festival of Props

Step 1 - Choose Your Props

To earn this title, each handler should choose five different props.

A prop can be a ground prop or a hand-held prop. A prop can be any item that a dog can perform behaviors with safely. For this title, no humans or other live animals can serve as props.

The five props should all be different from one another. An upturned bucket, a suitcase, a cane, a chair, and a hoop would all be five different props, for instance. Props do not have to be themed, and training equipment, dog sport equipment, and dog fitness equipment may be used as a props for this title, in addition to themed props, or everyday household items.

For at least four of your submitted video clips, only one single prop may be used. For one video clip, a pair of identical items may be used as a set and that will be considered one prop. This is an option and is not required.

Step 2 - Design Your Performances

Once you have chosen your props, design five movement sequences - one featuring each prop.

The sequence must consist of:

- ✚ A prop behavior
- ✚ A non-prop behavior
- ✚ A second, distinct prop behavior, using the same prop

These skills should be performed in sequence, with one behavior flowing into the next.

Prop Move or Prop Behavior

For this title, a “prop move” or “prop behavior” is a trained and cued behavior that the dog performs using a prop in some obvious way, or that the dog and handler use together. Examples of prop moves include: dog jumps over prop, dog places paws on prop, dog and handler circle a prop together with dog moving in position or in opposite directions, dog performing a cued behavior on or inside of a prop, dog performs a figure 8 around two ends or parts of a prop, dog touches a prop with a paw, dog holds a position on a prop while handler circles dog, dog circles both prop and handler as handler hold the prop, etc.

Creativity is encouraged, and if you have any questions about use of a particular prop, please ask on the Poised for Success Freestyle Facebook Group.

A hand-held prop may be used in any way that is safe, and it may be moved in any way the handler sees fit throughout the movement sequence.

A ground prop may be moved only if moving the prop does not interrupt the overall flow of the movement sequence. For instance, a ground hoop might be very quickly picked up for a second use as a hand-held hoop.

However, the flow of movement should not be stopped in order to change the configuration of a ground prop.

Non-Prop Move or Non-Prop Behavior

A non-prop move or behavior is any trained and cued behavior that the dog performs that does not include use of the prop, even though the handler might still be holding a prop in hand.

The non-prop behavior does not have to be a transition move, and a separate transition can be performed to set your dog up to return to the prop. In that case, the move and the transition will be considered a “combined transition” for judging purposes. However, the non-prop behavior can be a transition move, and a separate transition move is not required.

In addition, the non-prop behavior may be a very short movement skill, such as a bit of backing, lateral movement, or heelwork in a distinct pattern or configuration, such as a circle or figure 8.

A few things to note:

- ✚ No two movement sequences can be exactly the same, nor should any of the sequences simply be a reverse of another that you are submitting for this title.
- ✚ A move used on or with a prop can be repeated as the non-prop move. For instance, if your dog performs a spin on a prop, another spin can be performed on the ground, as a stand-alone move, or as a transition.
- ✚ No two behaviors can be repeated as the prop behavior within a performance. For instance, if your dog circles the prop as the first behavior, the second prop behavior cannot be two circles around the prop in the same direction.

And, while distance work with props is welcome and encouraged, the same move performed with the prop both close to you and at a distance is still considered that one prop move.

- ✚ A move with a prop can be repeated on the prop if it is a necessary part of another prop move. For instance, if your dog puts two front paws on the prop as the first behavior, the two paws can be placed on the prop again to perform a pivot with it as the second behavior.
- ✚ All moves must consist of a distinct performance of a behavior by the dog. It is fine if handler movement is included. A dog may get on a prop and the handler may circle the prop as the dog holds a "wait". Or, a dog and handler may circle a prop together. Or, a dog and handler can circle a cane simultaneously in opposite directions. But, the handler should not use the prop without the dog as one of the prop behaviors.
- ✚ Each distinct prop move, or behavior, can only be used a maximum of three times over the course of the five separate performances.
- ✚ Each distinct non-prop move, or behavior, can only be repeated once over the course of the five separate performances.
- ✚ A single item with different related "parts", such as an Agility jump, is considered one prop. A dog could jump the bar for one prop move and circle one of the end posts of the jump as another. However, two separate items cannot be placed next to each other to create a single prop, with one exception (see next bullet point item)

- ✚ For one video clip only, a set of two identical items may be paired together to form “one prop”. Two chairs, two flower pots, two lanterns, etc.

Strategy

I strongly recommend that you write your movement sequences down and check them against this list to ensure that you meet all criteria for the title before submission!

If you have questions about any of these rules, please ask for more examples of the Facebook Group.

Step #3 – Train and Practice

Once you have designed your five sequences, each with a different prop, try each one out and practice it with your dog until your dog can perform each sequence fluently.

As is always the case in Poised for Success Freestyle, both verbal and physical cues are welcome.

Step #4 - Video Your Performances

Once you have designed and practiced your five prop performances, video each one in a separate video clip with music playing in the background.

There is no minimum time for each video clip, but the maximum time for each of the five video clips is 45 seconds per clip. I expect that most of the video clips will be more along the lines of 10 to 20 seconds long.

Please be sure that music is playing in the background for each of your videos.

No music overlays can be used for this title.

No food or toys may be in your hand in your submission clips unless your dog is performing in the Debut or Laude Classes. You may have food in a pocket or bait bag, or a toy concealed.

For submission, the five video clips may be edited together into a single video, or they may be submitted as a Playlist.

Title Offered

The Title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Festival of Props Etude Title.

PFS - Etude – FOP

Or

PFS-Etude-FOP-Debut

Or

PFS-Etude-FOP-Laude

This event is currently closed. I will probably re-open it, and possibly offer a second level, in summer of 2024.

The Pumpkin Ball

The skill that will be featured for this event is contrast!

Contrast is a Freestyle skill that helps to add artistry and dynamism to a performance.

Step 1 – Choose Your Points of Contrast

To earn this title, each handler should choose three different ways to demonstrate contrast in a sequence.

Points of contrast can include, but are not limited to:

- ✚ Synchronized vs. Unsynchronized Movement
- ✚ Stillness/Pause vs. Burst of Movement
- ✚ Slow Movement vs. Faster Movement
- ✚ Close Movement vs. Distance Work
- ✚ Curves vs. Straight Lines
- ✚ Flow to a Standstill Stop
- ✚ Handler (mostly) Stationary vs. Open Flowing Handler Movement

The three points of contrast should be different from one another.

Note well: Use of props is permitted, although certainly not required. Use of a prop can be incorporated to create a point of contrast, but “Prop Moves” vs. “Non-Prop Moves” alone cannot be used as a point of contrast.

For instance, if you are demonstrating close movement vs. distance, a send around a prop can be used to create the distance. But just having a prop in a performance and having the dog use it in some way is not necessarily a point of contrast.

If you are not sure if a particular idea for creating contrast will work for this event, feel free to ask on the Facebook Group.

Step 2 – Design Your Performances

Once you have chosen your points of contrast, design three separate movement sequences, each one featuring a different point of contrast.

The sequence must consist of:

- ✚ 5 - 7 different moves/movements (a clear pause can count as a “move”)
- ✚ A point of contrast – you may chose when to incorporate the point of contrast into the performance

These skills should be performed in sequence with one behavior flowing into the next.

A few things to note:

- ✚ No two movement sequences can be exactly the same, nor should any of the sequences simply be a reverse of another that you are submitting for this title.
- ✚ Behaviors may be repeated, but a particular move/movement only counts as one, even if repeated, unless there is something substantially different about a performance of the behavior.

For instance, if your dog performs a spin, that counts as one and if you and your dog do a simultaneous spin transition, that would be a second behavior.

However, if you have your dog perform a single leg weave and then two leg weaves, both of those count only as a leg weave.

“Unspecified” forward movement, or heeling, is counted as one move/movement even if you incorporate forward movement several times in the sequence. However, distinct movement patterns, such as a Figure 8 or Serpentine or a strong Diagonal or Circle can count as multiple moves.

- ✚ The maximum time for each of the three movement sequences is 1 minute 30 seconds. I strongly recommend that you design your movement sequences to be performed in under 1 minute. That way, you can consider the additional 30 seconds a “cushion” so you do not have to worry about time.
- ✚ All moves and movements must consist of a distinct performance of a behavior by the dog.
- ✚ Music is required for each performance.
- ✚ Although not strictly required, it is recommended that you list the sequence behaviors, either on a frame in your video, or in the title or description of your clip on your Playlist. That way the judge will not question what you intended.

Strategy

I strongly recommend that you write your movement sequences down and check them against this list to ensure that you meet all criteria for the title before submission!

If you have questions about any of these rules, please ask for more examples of the Facebook Group.

Step #3 – Train and Practice

Once you have designed your three sequences, each with a different point of contrast, try each one out and practice it with your dog until your dog can perform each sequence fluently.

As is always the case in Poised for Success Freestyle, both verbal and physical cues are welcome.

Step #4 - Video Your Performances

Once you have designed and practiced your three performances, video each one in a separate video clip with music playing in the background.

There is no minimum time for each video clip, but the maximum time for each of the three video clips is 1 minute 30 seconds per clip.

Please be sure that music is playing in the background for each of your videos.

No music overlays can be used for this title.

No food or toys may be in your hand in your submission clips unless your dog is performing in the Debut or Laude Classes. You may have food in a pocket or bait bag, or a toy concealed.

For submission, the three video clips may be edited together into a single video, or they may be submitted as a Playlist.

Step #5 – Submit Your Entry

The entry fee for each submission is \$15.00. The three video clips together make up a single submission for this Title. The Title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Festival of Props Etude Title.

PFS - Etude – PB

Or

PFS-Etude-PB-Debut

Or

PFS-Etude-PB-Laude

This event is currently closed. I will probably re-open it, and possibly offer a second level, in fall of 2024.

Jingle Bell Jubilee

Get ready for a fun holiday themed Etude Event!

The criteria for the Jingle Bell Jubilee is very open-ended!

The entry for the Jingle Bell Jubilee consists of just one performance with some kind of holiday theme. You are not limited to Christmas or other December holidays.

The theme should be expressed in some clear way. This can happen through the music chosen, your attire, the setting, or props. However, the theme does not have to be expressed by all of these, and props are optional.

You have license to be VERY creative here! Editing is allowed, music overlays are allowed, multiple dogs may appear in one video (additional dogs serve as “support” for the dog for whom the submission is being entered).

The time limit is also very flexible. The minimum time is 30 seconds, and the maximum is 2 minutes.

Step 1 – Choose Your Holiday

To earn this title, each handler should choose a holiday.

If the holiday that you choose is not readily evident, please identify the holiday in your submission email.

Step 2 – Decide How You Will Express the Holiday Theme

Theme can be expressed through music chosen, setting, props, attire, but not necessarily through all of those.

Your dog may wear a decorative collar or harness, but be sure that anything that you place on your dog does not inhibit his or her movement in any way.

Step 3 - Design Your Performances

Once you have chosen your holiday, design one short performance.

There is no minimum or maximum number of moves or movements required, nor is any particular type of move or movement required.

If you want to feature movement, do so. If you want to feature tricks, do so. If you want to feature prop behaviors, do so. If you want to mix things up, please do so.

Step #4 – Train and Practice

Once you have designed your performance, practice it with your dog until your dog can perform fluently.

As is always the case in Poised for Success Freestyle, both verbal and physical cues are welcome.

Step #4 - Video Your Performances

Once you have designed and practiced performance, video it.

Note Well:

The criteria for this Etude Title is very similar to one of our Performance Division categories: Holiday Theme.

While you could certainly use a second filming of your performance for Dynamic, Master Performer, or Category Specialist, as long as it meets time criteria, a single video can only be submitted for one title.

So, a video take used for this Etude Title cannot be submitted for a Performance Division Title and vice versa.

However, if you end up with multiple takes of the performance, you can submit the additional takes.

Title

PFS - Etude – JBJ

Or

PFS-Etude-JBJ-Debut

Or

PFS-Etude-JBJ-Laude

Current Etude Title – Transition Tango

The objective of this Etude Title is to encourage you to begin to think “outside the box” when it comes to transitions of position in Freestyle.

For this title, a “transition” is defined as a move or movement that results in a change of side for your dog, relative to you.

For the purpose of this title, a “transition” can consist of a single move (ex. Dog circles behind handler) **or** of a combination of two moves (ex. Dog circles behind handler and flows into a single leg weave).

A transition can also incorporate a prop – see below for details.

Basic Title Criteria

To earn this title, you and your dog will need to film two separate sequences, each of which will incorporate two distinct transitions of position.

For each of the two sequences, music must be playing. No music overlays are permitted.

Each sequence must be filmed as one clip – no editing permitted, other than trimming the ends of your video clip.

Instructions are as follows for each sequence

Step #1

Start with your dog facing you. Your dog may begin standing, sitting, or in an opening pose.

From that opening, take some steps of movement (forward or backward) in a line with your dog in that position. If you have a large space, you can move some distance forward. For a small space (or, if you prefer), you can take just a few steps. Just get moving a little bit.

Step #2

Once you have moved at least a few steps, have your dog perform a transition move (or combination) that results in him or her ending up on your right or your left side. **Perfect position is not required.**

Note well: For this transition, you may not use ... (except Debut and Laude classes!)

- A simple call or "swing" into position
- A single leg weave

... as the transition unless it is used as part of a combination of moves. (Example: Dog circles handler and flows into a single leg weave as part of that combination or dog swings into position and then the team performs a couple of scallops as a combination)

This restriction does not apply to the Debut and Laude classes.

Also, a Figure 8 Leg Weave, or multiple Leg Weaves in flow can be used.

For this move, or combination of moves, you may stand still, or you may move, but your dog must move for at least part of the transition. (Example: It would not be OK to have the dog sit and stay while handler moves from in front of the dog, around behind dog to end up with the dog on the left or right. However, it would be OK do that and then have the dog circle (and end up on the left or right) as a combination.)

Step #3

Take a few steps of movement (forward, backward, or sideways) in a line with your dog in that position.

Step #4

Have your dog perform a different transition move, or combination, that results in him or her ending up in front of you again. Take a few steps with your dog in that position to finish.

Your dog may perform a closing pose in front of you, or can end simply standing (or sitting) in front of you.

Film **two different** sequences demonstrating four distinct transitions of position (or combinations).

Props

Props may be used, but if a prop is used, it must be incorporated into at least one of the transitions somehow.

Example: Handler can send the dog from right or left side to go around a prop, and then pick the dog up in center position as the dog returns after performing the send.

Time

The maximum time allowed per clip is 1 minute. Most performances will be well under that amount of time.

Step #5 – Submit Your Entry

The entry fee for each submission is \$15.00. One video makes up a single submission for this Title. The Title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Transition Tango Etude Title.

PFS - Etude – TTango

Or

PFS-Etude-TTango-Debut

Or

PFS-Etude-TTango-Laude