



NATHAN WOODS

Professional Dog Trainer

AKC OBEDIENCE AND RALLY TITLES

What the titles mean, what it takes to earn them, and what they really tell a pet owner about training depth

Prepared in the Nathan Woods Dog Trainer style using the current AKC obedience and rally rules, plus AKC annual participation statistics.

Quick answer
AKC obedience titles are not participation ribbons. They are public, judge-scored proof that a dog and handler can perform under pressure, in sequence, with precision.
The basic obedience ladder moves from Companion Dog (CD) to Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) to Utility Dog (UD), then into the elite combination and championship titles such as UDX, OM, OGM, and OTCH.
AKC Rally is friendlier in presentation but still serious as it climbs. It moves from RN through RI, RA, RE, then into RAE, RM, RC, and the Rally Championship (RACH).
For a pet owner, the practical takeaway is simple: a trainer who has personally put upper-level obedience or rally titles on dogs has done far more than memorize theory. They have produced repeatable performance in front of judges over time.

That matters because high-level AKC titling is one of the clearest forms of public proof in the dog world. The dog has to work in a strange building, around distractions, under ring pressure, and under a written rules system. The handler does not get to explain away mistakes. Either the performance qualifies or it does not. That is why these titles carry so much weight among serious obedience people.

This report explains the full AKC obedience ladder, the full AKC rally ladder, what each title actually means, what kind of dog-and-handler team it takes to get there, how rare many of the upper titles really are, and why these achievements are a meaningful way for a pet owner to evaluate training depth.

1. Why AKC titles matter to a pet owner

A pet owner does not need to become a competition exhibitor to benefit from understanding titles. Titles are useful because they translate vague claims into visible standards. A trainer can say a dog is "well trained," but AKC titles define what that means in concrete exercises, scoring thresholds, and repeat performances.

In obedience, a qualifying score requires more than half the points on every exercise and at least 170 out of 200 overall. In rally, the team starts with 100 and must retain at least 70 to qualify. In other words, the titles are earned under a measurable standard, not by opinion alone.

The higher the title, the more this matters. A CD shows a dog can work through a formal Novice routine. A CDX shows the team can handle advanced off-leash work, retrieves, and jumping. A UD shows the dog can perform scent discrimination, silent signals, directed work, and other demanding exercises. A UDX, OTCH, OM, OGM, RM, or RACH shows not just skill, but consistency across many trials, under many judges, with very little room for error.



805.427.9898

3210 State Street Santa Barbara, CA 93105

nathanwoodsdogtrainer.com

*Unleash your dog's full potential—
and your own.*



A plain-English way to think about the ladder
BN / RN: good introduction titles; excellent confidence-builders and a realistic early goal for many pet owners.
CD / RA / RE: clear proof of real training beyond basic manners.
CDX / UD / RAE / RM: serious hobby-sport territory; this is no longer casual weekend practice.
UDX / OM / OTCH / RACH: elite competitive work that usually reflects years of training, ring experience, emotional control, and problem-solving.

2. The AKC obedience title ladder

AKC obedience is the classic precision sport. The regular titling path moves through Novice, Open, and Utility. After that, a dog can pursue combination titles and championships that stack difficulty and consistency on top of those base levels. AKC also offers optional titling classes, an alternative Preferred path, and cross-venue versatility titles.

Abbrev.	Title	How it is earned	Why it matters
BN	Beginner Novice	3 qualifying scores in Beginner Novice	An entry-level optional title that builds ring experience and foundational control.
CD	Companion Dog	3 qualifying scores in Novice	Formal basic obedience under trial conditions: heeling, recall, stand for exam, and stays.
CDX	Companion Dog Excellent	3 qualifying scores in Open	Advanced off-leash obedience with retrieves, jumping, and position work.
UD	Utility Dog	3 qualifying scores in Utility	Upper-level obedience with scent discrimination, silent signals, directed retrieve, and directed jumping.
UDX	Utility Dog Excellent	Open B and Utility B qualifiers at 10 separate trials	Proof that the team can qualify in both advanced classes on the same day, repeatedly.
OM	Obedience Master	200 OM points from 190+ scores; at least 60 from Open B and 60 from Utility B	High-score consistency at the upper level.
OGM	Obedience Grand Master	10th OM level	The top continuation of the Obedience Master path.
OTCH	Obedience Trial Champion	100 points plus required first places in Open B and Utility B under 3 judges	A true championship title built on placements and competitive wins.
NOC	National Obedience Champion	Annual national winner	The sport-level national championship designation.
GN / GO / VER	Optional Titles	3 qualifying scores each	Skill-building optional classes that do not replace the regular ladder.
PCD / PCDX / PUTD / PUDX / POC	Preferred Path	Alternative titling path with its own advanced progression	An alternative route that parallels the regular ladder.
VCD / VCCH	Versatility Titles	Combination of obedience, agility, and tracking titles	Recognition for dogs that excel across multiple AKC performance venues.

Beginner Novice (BN)

Beginner Novice is an optional title, not the core regular ladder, but it is a smart place for many pet owners to begin. AKC describes it as a class for dogs without advanced obedience titles, and the exercises focus on practical, confidence-building control: heel on leash, a figure eight, sit for exam, sit stay, and recall. It is ring exposure without throwing the team straight into higher pressure work.

A BN does not make a dog a high-level obedience dog, but it does tell you the team can enter a ring, work under rules, and put together a coherent performance. That is already more meaningful than backyard training claims that have never been tested outside the home.

Companion Dog (CD)

The CD is the first regular obedience title. It is earned with three qualifying Novice scores. The Novice class includes heel on leash and figure eight, stand for examination, heel free, recall, sit stay-get your leash, and group stay work. This is where obedience stops being informal and starts becoming public proof.

To a pet owner, a CD-level dog should represent more than a dog who knows a few cues. The dog should be able to stay with the handler, come when called, tolerate examination, and remain composed in a formal environment. It is still a foundational title, but it is a legitimate one.

Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

The CDX is earned with three qualifying Open scores. Open adds major difficulty because the work is more technical and more fully off leash. AKC lists heel free and figure eight, command discrimination, drop on recall, retrieve on flat, retrieve over high jump, broad jump, and stand stay-get your leash. In plain English, the team now has to show clean control, cleaner mechanics, and a dog that understands multiple distinct tasks.

A CDX is where a lot of casual competitors stop. It is not because it is impossible, but because the jump from CD to CDX is real. Retrieving cleanly under ring pressure, dropping instantly on recall, and handling jumping exercises with precision all demand more practice, cleaner proofing, and better emotional control from both dog and handler.

Utility Dog (UD)

The UD is earned with three qualifying Utility scores and is widely viewed as the major dividing line between advanced obedience and true upper-level work. AKC utility exercises include the signal exercise, scent discrimination, directed retrieve, moving stand and examination, and directed jumping. This is not just harder obedience. It is a different kind of mental pressure.

At the UD level, the dog has to work with much less handler help. Silent signals mean the dog must read the handler at a distance. Scent discrimination means the dog must think, not just react. Directed retrieve and directed jumping require clarity, impulse control, and trust under pressure. This is one reason Utility has the reputation it does.

Among obedience people, Utility is sometimes jokingly called "futility" or "humility." The nickname is crude, but the point is real: this level exposes weak spots fast. Nathan describes his first Utility title as a six-year project with his first dog, and he notes that when he finished that UD he earned first place all three times not because the scores were spectacular, but because he was often the only team left standing after the class sorted itself out. That is exactly why seasoned trainers respect the title so much.

Utility Dog Excellent (UDX)

The UDX is where consistency becomes the whole game. Under the current AKC rules, a dog that already has its UD must qualify in both Open B and Utility B at ten separate trials. In other words, the team has to walk into a trial, run two difficult upper-level classes in one day, and come out with two qualifying scores - ten different times.

This title is a big deal because it compresses difficulty. It is one thing to qualify in Open. It is one thing to qualify in Utility. It is a different thing entirely to do both on the same day, repeatedly, with no collapse in attention, scent work, retrieves, jumping, or handler execution. Nathan also shared a video example of earning a UDX leg, which is exactly that challenge: qualifying in Open and Utility on the same day to move one step closer to the title.

Obedience Master (OM) and Obedience Grand Master (OGM)

The OM title is built on high scores, not just qualifiers. AKC records OM points for scores of 190 or better in Open B and Utility B. A dog needs 200 OM points total, with at least 60 points from Open B and 60 from Utility B, and the remaining 80 from either class. AKC awards nine OM levels, and the tenth level becomes the Obedience Grand Master, or OGM.

That requirement matters because it rewards sustained excellence, not survival. A team that squeaks through with bare-minimum qualifying scores is not on the same path as a team that repeatedly posts 190-plus scores in both advanced B classes. The OM and OGM titles therefore tell a pet owner something slightly different from the base ladder: not merely that the dog can do the work, but that it can do the work at a high scoring standard over time.

Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH)

The OTCH is one of the most respected performance titles in the dog world. AKC requires a dog with a UD to earn 100 championship points, plus a first place in Utility B with at least three dogs in competition, a first place in Open B with at least five dogs in competition, and an additional first place under those conditions, with all three first places under three different judges.

That title is not simply about qualifying. It is about winning against quality competition while still qualifying. It reflects depth, durability, and ring toughness. If a trainer says they have personally put OTCH points or an OTCH title on dogs, that means something to people who know the sport.

National Obedience Champion (NOC)

The NOC is not a progression title like CDX or UDX. It is awarded annually to the dog that wins the national obedience championship. It is rare by definition because only one dog earns it each year.

Optional, Preferred, and versatility titles

The obedience system is broader than the main CD-CDX-UD ladder. AKC also offers Graduate Novice (GN), Graduate Open (GO), and Versatility (VER) as optional titles. Graduate Novice blends off-leash heeling with recalls over a jump and dumbbell work. Graduate Open includes utility-style exercises such as signals, scent discrimination, go out, directed jumping, moving stand and examination, and directed retrieve. Versatility mixes two exercises each from Novice, Open, and Utility.

AKC also offers the Preferred path: PCD, PCDX, PUTD, PUDX, and POC. The Preferred Obedience Champion (POC) is especially notable because it requires 750 points plus qualifying scores in both Preferred Open and Preferred Utility at 20 separate trials. Finally, the Versatile Companion Dog series (VCD1 through VCD4) and VCCH recognize dogs that combine obedience with agility and tracking. Those titles are important because they show the dog is not a one-venue specialist.

3. What it actually takes to reach each obedience level

Pet owners often ask the wrong question. They ask, "How many classes would it take?" A better question is, "What type of dog-handler project is this?" The answer changes dramatically as the ladder rises.

A BN or CD is a realistic stretch project for many motivated owners working with a capable trainer. It still takes structured practice, ring exposure, and proofing around distraction, but it is within reach for a large population of pet dogs. A CDX is different. Now you are asking for more precision, cleaner off-leash work, reliable retrieves, and much better ring polish. A UD is different again. At that point the team is not just trained; it is practiced, proofed, and pressure-tested.

This is where Nathan's perspective becomes useful for a pet owner. His point is not that every owner should chase a UD. His point is that if a trainer has personally trained dogs to the upper obedience levels, teaching a pet owner how to get through Novice-level public manners, leash walking, recall, and steadiness is a far easier task by comparison. The trainer has already solved harder problems.

In practical terms, the upper obedience titles usually require years, not weeks. They require planning, not just enthusiasm. They require a dog with enough stability and work ethic to handle pressure, a handler who can practice cleanly, and a trainer who knows how to troubleshoot when performance falls apart. That is why the titles are meaningful. They are expensive in time, attention, and discipline.

4. The AKC rally title ladder

Rally is often the most approachable performance sport for pet owners because it feels interactive and supportive. The handler may talk to the dog, encourage the dog, and navigate a course built from signs. But that should not make anyone dismiss it. Rally becomes very serious at the upper levels, especially once the team reaches RAE, RM, RC, and RACH.

AKC describes Rally as a teamwork sport. The dog and handler move side-by-side through a sign course. Scores start at 100, and 70 or better qualifies. That friendlier format makes Rally a great bridge for owners who want to move beyond manners into structured sport work.

Abbrev.	Title	How it is earned	Why it matters
RN	Rally Novice	3 qualifying Novice scores	On-leash introduction to signs, turns, pace changes, and ring teamwork.
RI	Rally Intermediate	3 qualifying Intermediate scores	On-leash progression with 12-17 signs and no jumps.
RA	Rally Advanced	3 qualifying Advanced scores	Off-leash work with one jump.
RE	Rally Excellent	3 qualifying Excellent scores	Off-leash course with more difficulty and two jumps.
RAE	Rally Advanced Excellent	Qualifying scores in Advanced B and Excellent B at 10 separate trials	Consistency in two upper classes on the same day.
RM	Rally Master	10 Master qualifiers under at least 2 judges	Advanced off-leash rally with no retries and more technical sign combinations.
RC	Rally Choice	10 Choice qualifiers under at least 2 judges	Upper-level off-leash rally without jumps, built from Master/Excellent/Advanced signs.
RACH	Rally Champion	300 points, at least 150 from Master, plus 20 triple qualifiers	The rally championship title; high scores and same-day consistency across three classes.
RNC	Rally National Champion	Annual national winner	The national championship designation in rally.

Rally Novice (RN)

RN is the starting title. It takes three qualifying Novice scores. The dog remains on leash, the courses have 10 to 15 signs, and the handler may talk, clap, and encourage. For many pet owners, this is an excellent first ring title because it rewards teamwork rather than imposing the colder feel of traditional obedience right away.

Rally Intermediate (RI) and Rally Advanced (RA)

After RN, the team may choose Intermediate or Advanced depending on readiness. Intermediate remains on leash, has 12 to 17 signs, and no jumps. Advanced moves off leash and adds one jump. Both titles require three qualifying scores. These levels matter because they begin separating "nice class dog" from "ring-ready dog." Off-leash performance in a trial building is not automatic.

Rally Excellent (RE)

Excellent continues the climb with three qualifying scores. The dog works off leash, the course uses 15 to 20 signs, and there are two jumps. AKC notes that handlers in Excellent are no longer allowed to clap their hands or pat their legs to encourage the dog. So although rally still allows communication, the support becomes more restrained and the dog must carry more responsibility.

Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)

RAE is where Rally starts to resemble UDX-style consistency. After the RE title is completed, the team must earn qualifying scores in both Advanced B and Excellent B at ten separate trials. That means the dog is now doing meaningful double-duty on the same day and staying mentally available across two runs.

A single RE does not prove the same thing as an RAE. The RE proves the dog can do the Excellent work. The RAE proves the team can keep doing upper-level work repeatedly and cleanly over time.

Rally Master (RM) and Rally Choice (RC)

Master is one of the highest regular rally classes. AKC requires ten qualifying Master scores under at least two different judges for the RM title. The Master course is off leash, uses 15 to 20 signs, includes one required jump, and must contain a mix of Master, Excellent, and Advanced signs. There are no retries on Master signs. That no-retry rule matters because it removes the safety net.

Choice is another advanced class. It is also off leash, has no jumps, and uses a high-level sign mix. RC requires ten qualifying scores under at least two judges. For pet owners, the practical point is that RM and RC are not beginner-friendly vanity titles. They reflect repeated successful performance at a demanding level.

Rally Champion (RACH) and Rally National Champion (RNC)

RACH is the rally championship title. Under the current regulations, a dog that already has RE must earn 300 points, with at least 150 from Master, and must also receive qualifying scores in Advanced B, Excellent B, and Master on the same day at the same trial on 20 separate occasions. Scores of 91 through 100 are converted into points, so this title rewards both quality and consistency.

That is why RACH carries serious weight. A triple-qualifying score day is not a routine accomplishment. It means the dog held together through three classes, and the handler managed three judged performances in sequence. The RNC, like the NOC in obedience, is the annual national champion designation.

5. How rare these titles really are: AKC 2024 statistics

One of the easiest ways to understand the weight of upper-level titles is to compare the base titles with the advanced ones. AKC's 2024 annual statistics show a broad funnel: many more dogs finish entry-level titles than high-level titles. That is exactly what you would expect in a real performance sport.

Abbrev.	Obedience title	2024 completions
BN	Beginner Novice	2,404
CD	Companion Dog	2,279
CDX	Companion Dog Excellent	746
UD	Utility Dog	322
UDX	Utility Dog Excellent	165
OM1	Obedience Master 1	151
OTCH	Obedience Trial Champion	82
GN	Graduate Novice	170
GO	Graduate Open	117
VER	Versatility	79
PCD	Preferred Companion Dog	241
PCDX	Preferred Companion Dog Excellent	103
PUTD	Preferred Utility Dog	46
PUDX	Preferred Utility Dog Excellent	3
Total	All obedience titles completed	8,196

Abbrev.	Rally title	2024 completions
RN	Rally Novice	5,789
RI	Rally Intermediate	2,840
RA	Rally Advanced	2,751
RE	Rally Excellent	1,891
RAE	Rally Advanced Excellent	710
RM	Rally Master	831
RC	Rally Choice	302
RACH	Rally Champion	383
Total	All rally titles completed	17,976

Those numbers tell a clear story. In 2024, AKC recorded 2,279 Companion Dogs but only 322 Utility Dogs and 165 first-level UDX titles. Rally shows the same shape: 5,789 RN titles, but only 710 first-level RAE titles, 831 first-level RM titles, 302 first-level RC titles, and 383 first-level RACH titles. In other words, large numbers of teams begin; only a comparatively small slice stays long enough, trains deeply enough, and performs consistently enough to reach the top.

The annual class participation numbers point the same direction. AKC recorded roughly 92,266 obedience trial participations across all-breed, limited-breed, and specialty obedience events in 2024, and 132,657 rally trial participations. But only a small fraction of those participations turned into upper-level titles. That spread is what makes the advanced titles meaningful.

6. Nathan Woods' own title history as real-world context

This report is not abstract for Nathan. His own published resume lists titles earned on handled dogs that include CD, CDX, UD, UDX, OM, RN, RA, RE, and RAE, along with championship and performance titles from other venues. His About page also notes that he started formal dog training at age 10, trained his family's miniature poodle to the Utility level, taught approximately 3,000 owners how to train their dogs, and later led numerous breeds to titles such as CH, CD, CDX, and UD.

That matters because it grounds the report in a real training career rather than borrowed commentary. When Nathan says that upper-level obedience gives pet owners a perspective on what true training depth looks like, he is not speaking as a spectator. He is speaking as someone who has personally lived the repetition, troubleshooting, pressure, and time horizon involved.

His resume page also lists UDX and OM, and he provided a video example of earning a UDX leg - meaning an Open-level and Utility-level qualifying performance on the same day. For a pet owner, that is a powerful visual example of why high-level obedience is so demanding: the team must switch between different types of pressure, different exercises, and different ring management problems without falling apart.

7. Certification versus performance-based proof

This is the section where nuance matters. A certification is not automatically meaningless. It can show that a trainer has studied, logged experience, agreed to an ethics framework, and passed an exam. For example, the current CCPDT CPDT-KA pathway requires the applicant to be at least 18, have a high school diploma or equivalent, log at least 300 hours of dog-training experience within the previous three years, obtain a signed attestation from a CCPDT certificant, veterinarian, or other approved professional, and pass a 200-question multiple-choice exam.

That said, certification alone is still not the same thing as personally taking dogs through CD, CDX, UD, UDX, OM, OTCH, RM, or RACH-level work. One is primarily a credentialing process. The other is public ring proof under judges, over time, against failure, distraction, travel, and pressure. A pet owner deciding between trainers should understand that these are different kinds of evidence.

Nathan's critique is that modern trainer education can sometimes be too easy to market and too light on public proof. His point is not that every certified trainer is weak, nor that every uncertified trainer is strong. His point is that a high-level title is unusually transparent evidence because the dog must actually perform. There is nowhere to hide in the ring.

His second critique is philosophical. Some dog-training education systems explicitly teach force-free or positive-reinforcement-only methodology. Karen Pryor Academy, for example, states that it teaches effective force-free training in all of its courses and aims to build a community of positive reinforcement trainers. CCPDT is somewhat broader: its published hierarchy includes positive reinforcement, differential reinforcement, negative punishment, negative reinforcement, extinction, and positive punishment, though it places them in a hierarchy of preference.

Nathan's own view is that showing a dog what to do is essential, but not always sufficient by itself if the goal is high-level reliability. In his framework, the dog also has to understand boundaries and what not to do. He would argue that you do not normally build true upper-level obedience by teaching only one side of the picture unless you are working with unusually easy, unusually compliant, or carefully selected dogs. Reasonable trainers disagree on method, but it is fair for a pet owner to recognize that high-level obedience and rally titles are one of the strongest forms of objective proof that a trainer can produce results under a demanding standard.

There is also an institutional clue hidden in AKC itself: the sport treats these achievements as serious prerequisites. AKC's current obedience judging requirements say that a person applying to judge Open and Utility must have personally trained and titled a dog to a UD or PUTD title, plus a second dog to a CD or PCD title. AKC's rally judging requirements beginning January 1, 2026 require either a personally trained RACH title or a Rally Master plus a CDX or PCDX. That does not settle every training debate, but it does show how much weight the sport itself places on real titling accomplishment.

8. Other AKC performance venues and their approximate annual participation

AKC offers far more than obedience and rally. If a pet owner wants to understand the larger world of dog sports, the organization supports a wide menu of venues that test structure, speed, scent, hunting ability, livestock work, instinct, and teamwork. The participation figures below come from AKC's 2024 annual statistics. They are best read as participation volume for the year, not as a clean count of unique individual dogs.

Venue	What it is	Approx. 2024 participation
Conformation shows	Breed evaluation against the written standard; the traditional dog-show venue.	~1,158,877
Obedience trials	Precision obedience under formal rules.	~92,266
Rally trials	Sign-course teamwork and obedience.	132,657
Agility events	Speed, handling, obstacles, jumping, tunnels, contact equipment.	1,085,450
Tracking tests	Following human scent tracks in field or urban settings.	~1,290 combined
Field trials	Competitive hunting and game-finding performance by type.	~114,595 combined
Hunting tests	Practical hunting and retrieving ability measured against a standard, not head-to-head placement only.	~54,266 combined
Herding tests and trials	Moving livestock under control and according to stock-dog tradition.	~20,166 combined
Lure coursing	Sight hounds chasing a mechanical lure over a course.	~9,615 combined
Earthdog	Small terrier and dachshund-style underground hunting instinct tests.	5,892
Fast CAT	Straight-line 100-yard dash for speed and enthusiasm.	279,571
Coursing Ability Test	Open-to-many-breeds lure-chasing instinct event.	16,689
Scent Work	Odor detection and search problems in varied environments.	256,713
AKC Temperament Test	Basic stability and temperament screening in a structured event format.	6,902
Coonhound events	Bench shows, field trials, nite hunts, and water races for coonhound competition.	~1,322 combined

For a pet owner, the main point is not to memorize every venue. The point is to appreciate that AKC performance sports form a whole ecosystem. Obedience and rally test trained control and teamwork. Agility tests speed and handling. Tracking and scent work test nose and problem-solving. Herding, field, hunting, and coursing venues test instinct married to training. A trainer who has actually competed across multiple venues has usually seen dogs under a much wider range of challenges than ordinary class-room obedience alone.

9. Final takeaway

If a pet owner wants a clean answer, it is this: AKC obedience and rally titles are one of the strongest public ways to separate marketing from mastery. The lower titles already require real work. The upper titles require years of cumulative skill, consistency, and resilience. A trainer who has personally trained dogs to CDX, UD, UDX, OM, OTCH, RM, or RACH-level accomplishments has solved much harder training problems than the average household obedience case.

That does not mean every owner needs a competition dog. It does mean that the road to a calm public dog, a beach-ready recall, or a reliable leash walk looks much smaller in the hands of someone who understands what true precision and proofing require. Seen that way, titles are not just letters after a dog's name. They are evidence of standard, repetition, and substance.

Selected sources used for this report

- American Kennel Club. Obedience Regulations, amended to March 1, 2025.
- American Kennel Club. Obedience Titles.
- American Kennel Club. Obedience Classes.
- American Kennel Club. How an Obedience Trial Works.
- American Kennel Club. Rally Regulations with 2025-2026 inserts and updates.
- American Kennel Club. Rally: Get Started.
- American Kennel Club. 2024 Annual Statistics.
- American Kennel Club. AKC Obedience Judging Requirements.
- American Kennel Club. AKC Rally Judging Requirements.
- CCPDT. How to become a certified dog trainer.
- CCPDT. Hierarchy of Behavior Change Procedures.
- Karen Pryor Academy. About / trainer program overview.
- Nathan Woods Dog Trainer. Nathan T. Woods Resume.
- Nathan Woods Dog Trainer. About Nathan.
- User-provided YouTube example of Nathan earning a UDX leg.

Note: This report is written for educated pet owners. It simplifies some ring-procedure details while keeping the title requirements and competitive meaning accurate.