



Obichaff

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.



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“There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.”

— Bernard Williams

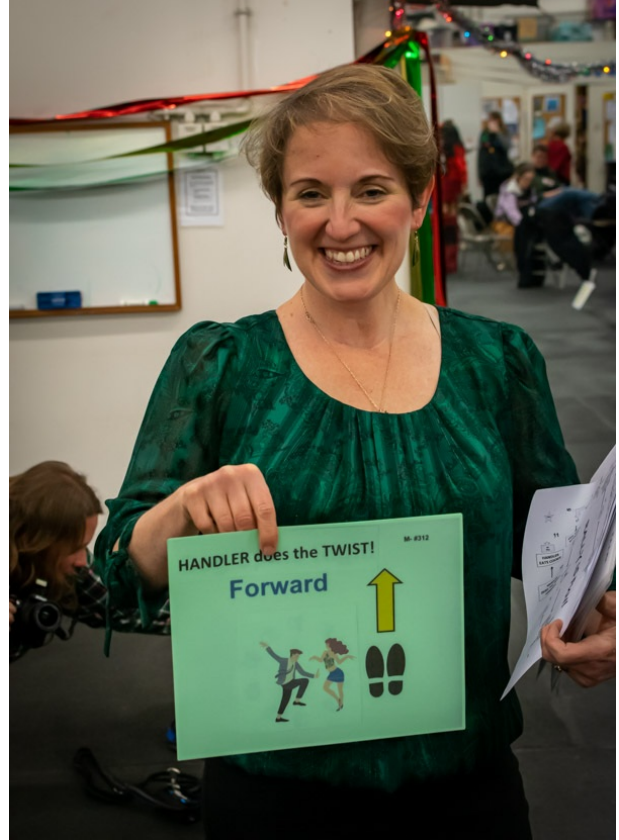
HOWLIDAY PARTY

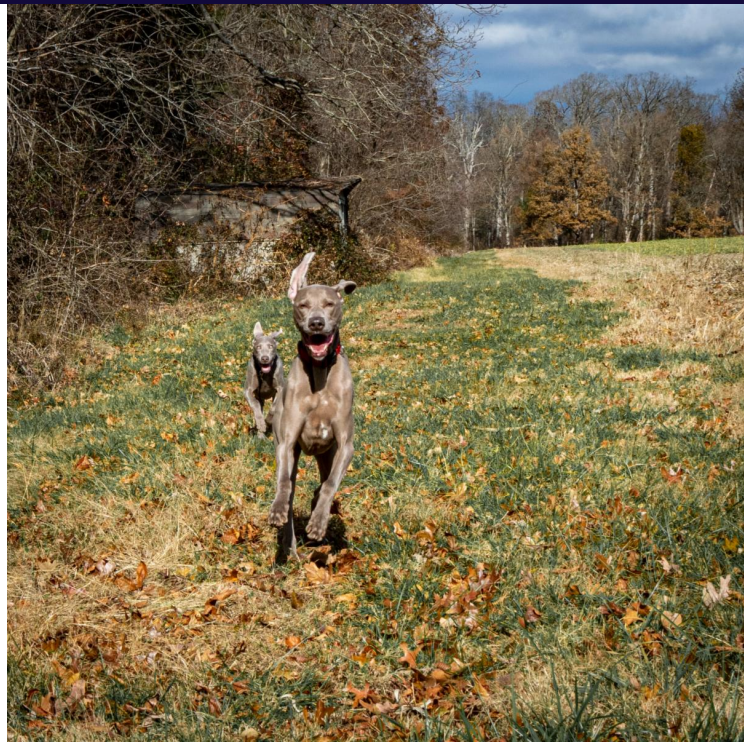


The CDTC annual Howliday Party was on December 10. It started at 6:30 with a meet and greet for new members. As always, dogs were welcome. There was lots of delicious food and drink and plenty of good cheer. Dogs and humans socialized and there were games to play, including a nose work challenge and a rally game. A special thanks to everyone who helped organize this wonderful Howliday event.







President[Donna Cleverdon](#)**Vice President**[Sue Faber](#)**Secretary**[Martha Perkins](#)**Treasurer**[Pam Ayres](#)**Training Director**[Tom Tatham](#)**Assistant Training Director**[Janine Castorina](#)**Training Secretary**[Karen Steinmeyer](#)**Trial Chair**[Sandy Swinburne](#)**Trophy Chair**[Amy Scheiner](#)**AKC Delegate**[Joyce Dandridge](#)**Obichaff Editor**[Arthur Belendiuk](#)**Members at Large**[Luann Korona](#)[Julie Rovner](#)[Shirley Blakely](#)**New Membership
Information**[Shirley Blakely](#)

The Obichaff has a new look and a new editor. This is the first edition of the Obichaff that I have edited. I am excited by the opportunity to bring you news of what is happening at CDTC and news about the wider world of dog training. I love dogs. There is something about spending time with a dog that is so rewarding. Pictured above are my two dogs, Milo and Magic, running free at the Izaak Walton League. Just look how happy they are!

In this issue along with our regular columns you will find an article by Carla LaFleur on affordable dog training vests and how to use them. There is also a book review on one of my favorite dog themed books, Dog on It. Dog on It is a very funny detective story with a lovable dog narrator, who does not always get it right and is easily distracted, mostly by food and wild animals.

Please feel free to contact me with suggestions for articles, YouTube videos that are funny or educational, dog treat recipes, or other dog related information that you would like to have included in the newsletter. Finally, please be patient, I am still learning the ins-and-outs of publishing a newsletter.

From the President

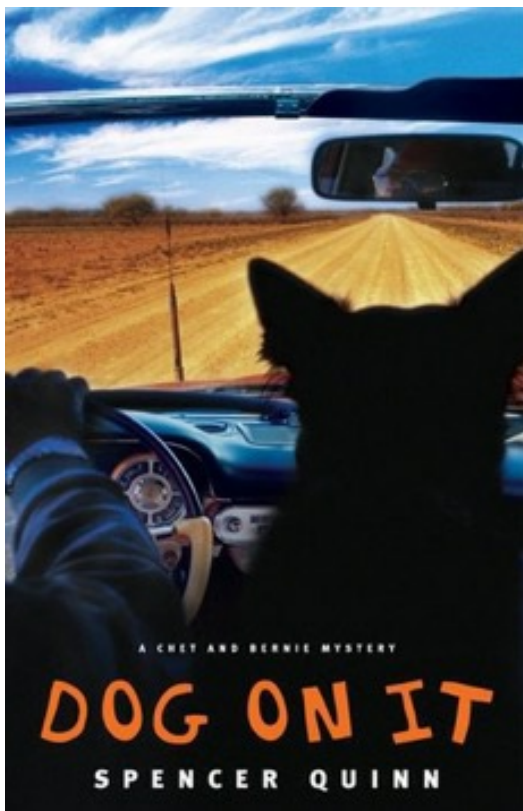
Obedience: The original performance sport for dogs in the U.S. We keep hearing about how it is now in decline. A recent discussion amongst practitioners prompted the following comments: "Obedience is HARD!";

“Obedience isn’t ‘Fun,’”; “People are lazy.”

My thoughts on the subject: Yes, of all the venues available to us performance aficionados, obedience is the hardest. It is a precision sport, and to attain the highest level of titles and achievement requires lots of training - lots of time, effort, skill, thinking and planning. It is in many ways a ‘head game.’ Trainers must learn mental skills, observational skills, learn to love their dogs in ways that they never anticipated or appreciated before starting to train. We learn to trust and respect each other.

In addition, obedience skills, for the dog, are the basis of every other type of training. Every single one! A case in point: I attended a Therapy Dog International test a while back. One of the dogs brought to the test was a born therapy dog: calm, gentle and friendly, yet he failed the test, because he simply did not have the basic obedience skills of “Sit”, “Down”, “Come” and “Stay.” Every dog, all dogs, non-competition dogs, every household pet benefits from having those basic skills in his repertoire. Anybody who has taught a dog anything, call it what you will, obedience, tricks, manners, they all add up to the same thing: a better mutual understanding, a better relationship, better citizenship in the home and in the community.

Book Review: Dog On It



Dog on It, by Spencer Quinn is the first book of the bestselling Chet and Bernie mystery series, an “enchanted one-of-kind novel” (Stephen King) that is “nothing short of masterful” (Los Angeles Times). Meet Chet, the lovable canine narrator of Dog on It, who works alongside Bernie, a down-on-his-luck private investigator. As the narrator, Chet doesn’t quite get idioms, is confused by conversations, sees the world through his nose, and is always on the lookout for a tasty snack. Chet may have flunked out of police school (“I’d been the best leaper in K-9 class, which had led to all the trouble in a way I couldn’t remember exactly, although blood was involved”), but he’s a detective through and through. Bernie who has cash flow problems, a concept Chet does not quite understand, is quick to take a

new case involving a frantic mother searching for her teenage daughter. This well-behaved and gifted student may or may not have been kidnapped, but she has definitely gotten mixed up with some very unsavory characters. With Chet’s highly trained nose leading the way, their hunt for clues takes them into the desert, to biker bars and other exotic locales—until the bad guys try to turn the tables and the resourceful duo lands in the paws of peril. If you are looking for a laugh out loud mystery, with a dog hero as the narrator, this is the book for you. If you love Dog On It, you can check out the other Chet and Bernie

Review: A Budget-Friendly Dog Training Vest

By Carla LaFleur

Vests are common for service dogs and therapy dogs because they can be used as a signal that it's time to work. Dogs are quite adept at learning that different equipment means different rules. I use the same principle for my obedience dog...except I wear the vest! So many people have asked me about it, I figured I would write a review.

In the protection dog sports, vests are popular because many of those trainers use tugs or a ball on a rope as motivators. It is very easy to stow your training equipment in the large pockets of a training vest--but "dog training" vests cost upward of \$100! So instead, I looked for a hunting vest at a more affordable price point. The UTG True Huntress Sporting Vest is one of my best training tools, and it comes in more fashionable colors than camo.



The vest has 9 exterior pockets and 6 interior pockets. The one I use the most is a generous "hoodie" style pocket on the back of the vest. It has right and left openings, so I can pull out a toy quickly, plus a zippered bottom edge, which I open to air the pocket out, if needed.

There is a noticeable difference in my dog Calvin's focus and work ethic when I have the vest on versus when I don't. Why? I NEVER give Calvin his high value reinforcers UNLESS I am wearing the vest. So when I wear the vest, he knows it's training time...and the kitchen might be open!

Wearing a vest is legal for AKC obedience, but you are not allowed to have any treats or toys in the ring. I always make it very clear to the steward and those around me when I am removing "contraband" from the vest.

The UTG True Huntress Sporting Vest is made of water repellent canvas with a mesh inner lining. It does get pretty warm in the summer, but in the winter it is easy to wear over a jacket as a visual cue to your dog. The vest is one-size-fits-all, and you can easily adjust the stretchy side laces with a toggle. There is also a men's version--but the women's version, amazingly, seems to have more pockets situated in better places! It comes in black, black with pink trim, gray with teal trim, gray with pink

trim, and orange with black trim.

Depending on the options selected, the vest costs \$23-\$25 on [Amazon](#).

Brag



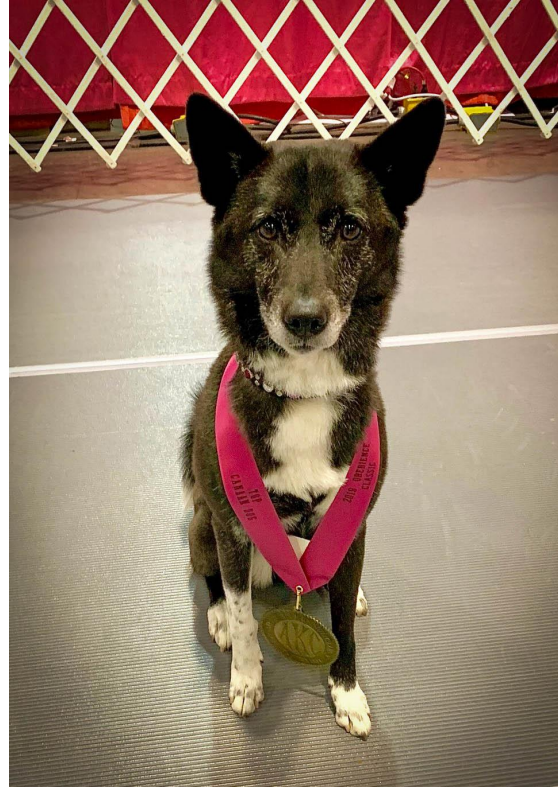
Sue Faber writes that Dazzle passed Intermediate obedience and has moved on to Advanced. Also, Dazzle won the CDTC Rally Challenge.



Arthur Belendiuk's Weimaraner, Milo earned his Nose Work 2 title on December 14. Milo also earned his first leg in UDX. Arthur and Milo continue to train in both nose work and obedience. Arthur is also working with his puppy, Magic. Magic earned her Canine Good Citizen title in January.



Jennie Larkin reports that Tip CH PACH Waytogo's Walk This Way CD BN AX AXJ MXP3 MXPB MJP3 MJPB PAX T2BP, finished his Preferred Agility Championship (PACH) and his PAX title at the Oriole "Kitty Litter" trial in December 2019. Jennie says, "Earning enough speed points were never our problem — it was getting the QQs (qualifying in masters standard and jumpers on the same day). Tip finished his breed championship in 3 weekends (all majors!), earned obedience titles and went from a scared little dog who only did agility for me to a confident enthusiastic agility dog. Tip also earned a spot at the 2019 National Agility Championship (finishing the first day in the top 10 of 4 Preferred dogs!). I will be winding down Tip's agility career in the next few months as he is going to turn 13 this year."



Jennie Larkin says that Tali, CH Kol Tuv Fuligin Tali CD PCD BN RI OA OAJ AXP MJP NF OFP CA DCAT ACT2, also had a fantastic year. "She is an amazing companion, hiking partner, and all-around fantastic competition dog. This year she finished 5 agility titles (OA, AXP AJP OFP and MJP). She also tried a foray into the Open Obedience ring, earning two Qs her first weekend out, both with placements (1st and 2nd) at the Oriole trial. We also explored lure coursing — she got her CA (Coursing ability). She also has been enjoying Fast CAT (the drag race of the dog world — a 100 yard timed sprint). She earned her DCAT (500 speed points) and was the third fastest Canaan Dog in the country. She also completely blew me away at the Salisbury trial in the last weekend of December, when she put in 4 very fast times that earned her 4 placements and earned TWO first places for speediest non-sighthound. Tali also enjoyed a great road trip down to the 2019 AKC Obedience Classic in Orlando, with Julie Rovner and her corgi Wallace. I was incredibly proud of how well she performed at the Classic — she truly represented her breed well and earned a lovely medal for highest-

scoring Canaan Dog."



Dianne Harah reports that Willy, GCH Liz Ann's Golden Ticket BN RE CGC TKN, earned his Grand Champion Title at the National Dog Show in Oaks, PA, he went Best of Opposite.



New Trick Dog Novice and Intermediate. Carla LaFleur reports that Calvin Golden Boy CD BN CGC TKI had everyone laughing at the Trick Dog Test on 1/9/20. He had his own ideas about the tricks he wanted to show off, especially spinning around with his front paws in the rubber bucket. What made it even more fun was that he took the test with his best doggy friend, Macchiato the Pembroke Welsh Corgi, who was reunited with her puppy class instructor from 2 years ago, Melissa Dilla!



Cindy Sander's Tucker received his Rally Novice title and his Beginning Novice Obedience title. He competed in 4 events, 2RN and 2BNO at the recent Talbot County Kennel Club show. Tucker took firsts in all four events. For the 3 legs of each title he not only received qualifying scores but took first place in all 6

legs. Cindy writes that she is "so proud of this guy," no doubt and for good reason.

Available Classes



[Basic Obedience](#)



[Puppy Kindergarten](#)



[Canine Good Citizen
Prep](#)

[See All Available Classes](#)

Seminar on Managing Reactive Dogs in Classes

Shannon Hall will be presenting a seminar on managing reactive dogs when teaching classes. The seminar will be on Sunday afternoon, March 8, from 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm.

All current instructors and those considering becoming instructors are strongly encouraged to attend. However, you are welcomed and encouraged to attend regardless of whether you are an instructor or future instructor. Shannon provided the following description of the seminar, "This is intended as a practical seminar on reactivity in dogs in the context of instruction. It should be generally useful, however, not only to instructors and assistants, current or future, but also to anyone who might find themselves in a position to advise others on the management and training of reactive dogs. I have no intention of conducting a monologue, and while I will bring 17+ years of instructing basic classes and tons of reading and practical experience, I expect also to listen and learn from you, so please come prepared to listen, learn, share and teach."

CDTC Agility Trials

CDTC is holding its annual agility trials on April 3, 4, and 5, 2020. The premium can also be downloaded from the [Clantyre](#) web site

Enter your dogs! Volunteer to help! Come to watch! What better way to spend your weekend.

CDTC needs all hands to support this trial. You don't have to be a club member to volunteer. Everyone invite your friends.

CDTC will need ring support all three days. Each day there are morning and afternoon four-hour slots available for 2 rings. In addition 8 volunteers are needed to setup the agility equipment in both rings early on Friday morning and also to tear down on Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to volunteer email [Sandy Swinburne](#) and let her know what

day you can help and if you want to work the morning, afternoon or both shifts. There will be raffles with great prizes each day for the volunteers. This is a great way to learn about agility and to make new friends.

New Classes

Puppy Kindergarten

(FOR PUPPIES 10 TO 20 WEEKS OF AGE AT CLASS START)

Start Date: April 4, 2020

Day & Time: Mondays @ 6:00pm

Duration: 8-week class

Instructor: Betsy Flagg

Start Date: April 26, 2020 (no class 5/24)

Day & Time: Sundays @ 9:00am

Duration: 8-week class

Instructor: Eileen Freedman

Basic Obedience

(DOGS 5 MONTHS AND OLDER)

Start Date: March 2, 2020

Day & Time: Mondays 8:30pm

Duration: 6-week class

Instructor: Shannon Hall

Start Date: March 3, 2020

Day & Time: Tuesdays 7:00pm

Duration: 8-week class

Instructor: Art Belendiuk

Start Date: March 9, 2020

Day & Time: Monday 2:00pm

Duration: 6-week class

Instructor: Robert Reinhardt

Advanced Basic Obedience

(GRADUATES OF BASIC OBEDIENCE OR BY PERMISSION OF DIRECTOR)

Start Date: March 3, 2020

Day & Time: Tuesdays 7:00pm

Duration: 8-week class

Instructor: Tom Tatham

Start Date: March 15, 2020 (no class 4/12)

Day & Time: Sundays 12:30pm

Duration: 8-week class

Instructor: Carla LaFleur

Canine Good Citizen Prep

Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Prep
Start Date: March 5, 2020
Day & Time: Thursdays 7:00 pm
Duration: 4-week class
Instructor: Melissa Dilla

Canine Good Citizen Advanced (CGC-A) Prep
Start Date: April 9, 2020
Day & Time: Thursdays 7:00 pm
Duration: 4-week class
Instructor: Melissa Dilla

Novice/Intermediate Tricks

Novice Tricks
Start Date: March 5, 2020
Day & Time: Thursdays 8:00 pm
Duration: 4-week class
Instructor: Jennie Larkin & Melissa Dilla

Intermediate Tricks
Start Date: April 9, 2020
Day & Time: Thursdays 8:00 pm
Duration: 4-week class
Instructor: Melissa Dilla

Rally

Rally Advanced & Excellent
Start Date: February 22, 2020
Day & Time: Saturdays 12:30pm
Duration: 6-week class
Instructor: Sue Faber

Competition Rally Class: Thursdays @ 11:00am. Contact cdtcclasses@gmail.com if interested.

Beginner Conformation

Start Date: May 2, 2020
Day & Time: Saturdays @ 10:00 am
Duration: 8-week class
Taught by: Janice Kopp

Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) Tests

CGC: February 12, 2020 (Wednesday) 6:30pm

CGC: February 15, 2020 (Saturday) 12:30pm

CGC: April 2, 2020 (Thursday) 7:00pm

CGC-A (Advanced): May 7, 2020 (Thursday) 7:00pm

[AKC Trick Dog Tests](#)

AKC Tricks Test ALL LEVELS: February 13, 2020 (Thursday) 8:00pm.

AKC Tricks Test ALL LEVELS: April 2, 2020 (Thursday) 8:00pm.

AKC Tricks Test ALL LEVELS: May 7, 2020 (Thursday) 8:00pm.

Delegates Corner

— by Joyce Dandridge, CDTC AKC Delegate

The December Delegates' meeting was held in Orlando.

- Doug Ljungren, the VP of Sport Services, informed the meeting that Agility was down 21,000 entries this year and this is the 6th year that it has been down. He also mentioned that Obedience entries were down 5% and Tracking entries were down 9%.
- Pam, the Supervisor of Companion Events, led a discussion as to why only a small percentage of Novice title holders move on to compete in Open.
- Gail, the chair of the subcommittee on creating a bridge to fill the gap between Obedience and fun gave a report. Respondents in surveys often mentioned that Obedience is not fun for them or their dog. They are looking at an activity that the handler and dog can do as a team. This activity would demonstrate skills as they do a performance. It would be entertaining and have that fun factor. A Judge would be in the ring to score the performance.
- Carrie from the Agility department mentioned that the Agility Championship will be March 27-29. She also emphasized that she wanted people to know that the Preferred Agility title is NOT a lesser title. The title was created so that dogs with body and age issues could continue to compete.
- The Tracking Championship will be October 24-25 in Raymond Nebraska.
- Carrie discussed the For Exhibition Only Program. It allows for training in the ring. An exhibitor must let the judge know it is an FEO. She discussed a second program which is called Fix and Go which will be allowed in all Agility classes. She also mentioned why the rule on tape on weave poles was changed. Tape was coming loose and injuring dogs, especially cuts on dogs' eyes.
- Doug mentioned the Temperament Test. There are currently over 1200 evaluators. There have been over 50 events in Nov.-Dec. and 82% of the dogs have passed.

In the general meeting, a forum was held where candidates for the next AKC Board spoke. They were Tom Davies for the 1 year term and Carl Ashby, Jeffery Ball, Carmen Battaglia, Michael Knight and Karolyn McAteer for 3 year terms. Delegates vote at the March meeting. If any member has any comments positive or negative on the candidates and would like me to vote accordingly, please contact me.

- President mentioned Free litter registrations can be given at Parent Club National Specialties for Best Bred By, if offered by the club.
- A very interesting presentation was made by Ashley Jacot in the AKC Education Department. I was on a mobile app developed called AKC Math Agility. Players tour the country and points are made from agility exercises.
- Ashley spoke about the AKC Pup Pal Program where letters are written to kids from a canine friend. AKC has received more than 250 requests for such letters. The age of

CDTC Members Go For a New Year's Day Hike



On January 1, 2020, CDTC members and friends met at Little Bennett Park to go for a hike with their dogs. On the hike were Sandi Atkinson and her granddaughter, Cora, Amy Scheiner, Amy Cook, Eva Przygodzki and husband Ron, Mary and Mark Carson, Holly Wright, Karen Christenson, Alan Muldawer, and Donna Cleverdon, who organized the day's activities. The participants walked approximately

3 miles from Froggy Hollow and the historic schoolhouse to the camp ground. There the party rested, had a snack, and chatted.

Then everyone walked down the Loggers Trail and back to the parking area. The weather was perfect and everybody, especially the dogs, had a good time!

If any member would like to organize a group hike, send [Donna](#) an email with the details and she will forward it to the membership list. Weather permitting, it would be great if the CDTC members and friends could meet once a month to go for a hike with their dogs.





PUPPY CULTURE

By Sandy Swinburne

Many of you have met my Miniature American Shepherd, Abby. I purchased her from a well known breeder when she was 6 months old. She had lived in a kennel with little or no socializing. She has always been suspicious and guarded in her interactions. Needless to say, training her was challenging.

When Abby became pregnant, I was determined that her puppies would go to their new homes well adjusted. At Donna Cleverdon's suggestion, I began a puppy raising protocol called "Puppy Culture." This comprehensive program starts with a 4 disc dvd and puppy workbook prepared by Jane Killion. With dedicated help from other CDTC dog trainers, especially Karen Stainmeyer, we took on a litter of eleven puppies. I have to say with that many puppies, I could not have done this alone.

Early on, we introduced the puppies to basic neurological exercises that encourage lifelong cardiovascular and neurological health. As the puppies became more aware, we started to potty train our crew to a litter box. It worked! Then on to other challenges: fun new toys,

climbing over small barriers, and learning to deal with fearful situations. One of my most rewarding accomplishments came when all eleven puppies would politely sit in a row when they wanted attention. Who would have thought!

Sadly all the puppies have left for their forever homes. Every new owner has given ecstatic feedback. Their puppy is so smart, it slept through the night, it's litter trained, it's happy in the crate. However, the best endorsement came from my husband, Doug. He thought that the breed, Miniature American Shepherd, was a timid, distrustful, animal with many bad habits. But then one of the puppies came back to me. His name is Trouble. He was named by my granddaughter and he is anything but trouble. At 3-1/2 months he could sit, come, down, and sit politely for attention. Doug was amazed. I wanted to write this story because there's a whole cadre of dog breeders who are embracing the puppy culture protocol. I want to encourage breeders in our club to check it out. I also want puppy buyers to ask for a breeder that used this method to raise their puppies.

TOP DOG SEMINAR



Betsy Scapicchio and Linda Brennan from Top Dog came from New Jersey teach a two day seminar focusing on Competition Obedience: Teaching, Motivating and Proofing for Novice and Open□. The seminar focused on the fundamentals of competition obedience. Betsy and Linda

emphasized the importance of having your dog focused on you when in the ring. They demonstrated several exercises to get and keep a dog's attention. Likewise, the fundamentals and intricacies of heeling were examined in great detail. The two day course also covered, fronts, sits, downs, recalls and finishes. Betsy and Linda also demonstrated how to teach the drop, command discrimination, retrieving and jumping. There were twenty-five working spots and the participants had an opportunity to work on the improving their handling skills with the assistance of the Top Dog instructors.

Breakfast and lunch was served both days and those that wished went to dinner on Saturday evening with Betsy and Linda. The seminar was a great opportunity to hone handling skills and to learn new techniques. Everyone had a great time and came away with new skills and training routines. Special thanks to Sue Faber and the CDTC volunteers who put the event together and helped it run smoothly.







CDTC AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award

CDTC AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award

Five years ago the AKC started giving all affiliated clubs the opportunity to present annually to a member an award of “outstanding sportsmanship”. The following are criteria for which this award recipient at CDTC will be chosen:

1. The recipient will be **an Active Member in good standing** for at least five years. The recipient will have contributed time and effort in support of club activities, for example classes, matches and trials.
2. The recipient shall have made a difference to the sport of performance dogs, for instance encouraging newcomers, promoting participation in club activities among members and furthering the knowledge and practice of dog training.
3. The recipient will have shown examples of sportsmanship in the following ways:
 - Refusing to compromise his/her commitment to the sport of performance dogs or the reputation of the club by injecting personal advantage or consideration into his/her decisions or behavior.
 - Spurning any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed.
 - Making always his/her chief responsibility the welfare of his or her dogs.
 - Refusing to embarrass the sport, himself/herself, or CDTC while taking part in activities.

The Selection Process:

1. Nominations from the membership will accepted starting February 15th in the form of written supporting informative statements of 500 words or less, sent by mail or email to the AKC Delegate, [Joyce Dandridge](#), no later than April

15th of the current year.

2. The nominations and supporting information will be published in the June Obichaff so members may vote.

3. Members will vote by written ballot at the general meeting in June. The CDTC President will select tellers to count the votes and the membership's choice will be announced at the meeting.

4. The presentation of the AKC medallion will take place at the Annual Awards Dinner in July.

5. Nominees must approve of their nomination.

If you are nominating someone, please check with them to see if they qualify and will accept the award.



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