



Obichaff

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



June 2021

Volume 77 - Issue 5

My fashion philosophy is, if you're not covered in dog hair, your life is empty.

--Elayne Boosler

HOW MY DOG SEES HIMSELF WHEN THE DOORBELL RINGS!



Board of Directors

From the Editor

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

[Benita Bottom](#)

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](#)

My wife and I had visitors in May, Linda Hartheimer, Magic's breeder came for a visit. She brought Magic's sister Disco. Magic and Disco had a great time chasing each other around the yard while the two older dogs hung out near the table hoping a stray piece of food might come their way. Pictured from left to right are Milo, Magic, Disco and Savi. Linda is the one that is not a Weimaraner.

I want to thank Milly Welsh and Eileen Freedman for writing articles for this month's *Obichaff*. The *Obichaff* is our club's newsletter. It is important that members and friends provide their ideas and views on dogs, dog training and generally all things doggie. If you want to write an article please feel free to do so; it will be very much appreciated. Happy training!

Education Begins Early.



Bring your babies to school.

President's Message:

Welcome to Cicada Summer! Personally, I have been looking forward to the emergence of the 17-year periodic cicadas this year. This is truly a wondrous

and amazing natural history phenomenon, on the same scale of monarch butterfly migrations. Unfortunately, the monarch butterfly may be on an inevitable extinction trajectory, whereas the cicadas are here in their millions. Maryland Department of Natural Resources estimates the population at approximately 1.3 million *per acre*! That translates to about one half million for every average-sized suburban lot. No wonder the birds are not emptying my feeders at the usual rate. Lucky for me, my dog doesn't seem to be interested in eating them. I have friends who can hardly take a step without their dogs looking for JUST ONE MORE YUMMY BUG!

Two things you need to look out for as far as club news:

We will be voting on the newer and improved iteration of the Bylaws revisions at the June general membership meeting. I will send that out for your review a few days prior to the meeting, which is on Tuesday, June 8, at the customary hour - 8:00. Be there or be square.

At the May general membership meeting a motion was passed to raise the annual Active Membership dues from \$125 to \$150. That figure will be reflected on your renewal form when you get that. When filling out your renewal form, please do not forget to sign and date the waiver that is on the form. We must keep our insurance people happy!

Some of us are now entering trials again, and traveling to other events. I hope you have all gotten your vaccinations! Don't forget that Capital is co-hosting our first FAST CAT trial on the weekend of July 2, 3, and 4! And don't forget the up-coming Connie Cleveland Seminar on June 26 and 27. The last I heard there were still a few working places available.

The club will most likely revisit the masking requirement in the club house in the near future, so keep you ear to the rail. Meanwhile, be careful and have fun in equal measure.

Books for Children and Young Readers Featuring Dogs

I have a three year old grandniece and I am always looking for something to get her for her birthday, Christmas or just because. Her parents have a Bernese Mountain Dog and she is just loves that dog. Books that feature dogs are always a big hit with her. Below are a few books you might consider for the child or grandchild in your life.

Maybe I should write a picture book featuring a real puppy.

I dug up the garden
I tracked in some mud
When you weren't looking
I peed on the rug

I think it is time I calledl a publisher.

Marion Dane Bauer evokes the “summer that changed everything” in the life of a boy growing up without a mother. Since as far back as Ben can remember, it’s been him, his devoted dad, and Sunshine—Ben’s little dog, who rarely leaves Ben’s side. It was Mom who did the leaving, and Ben’s about to spend a whole week with his suddenly present mother in the wilds of northern Minnesota. On the remote island she calls home, Ben will learn to canoe, weather the elements, and weigh a burning question: when will she come back to where she belongs?

Sunshine is appropriate for young readers age 8 to 12.



If I Were a Dog



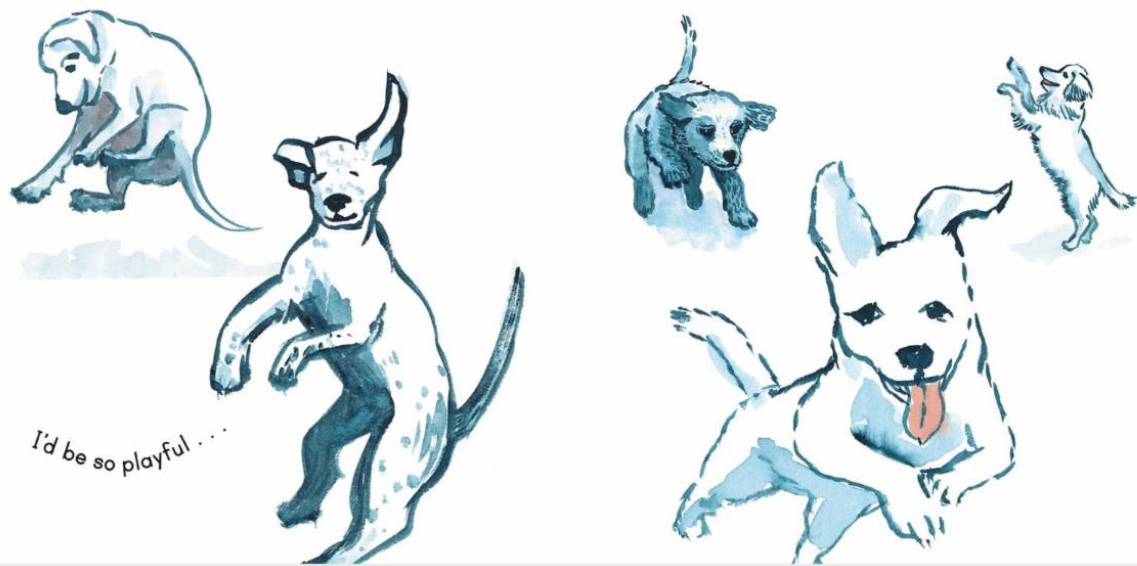
JOANNA COTLER

“With its airy illustrations and reassuring message, this is a book to gladden 3- to 7-year-olds.”—The Wall Street Journal

A beautiful picture book that illustrates the relationship between a young girl and her canine best friend, written and illustrated by Joanna Cotler.

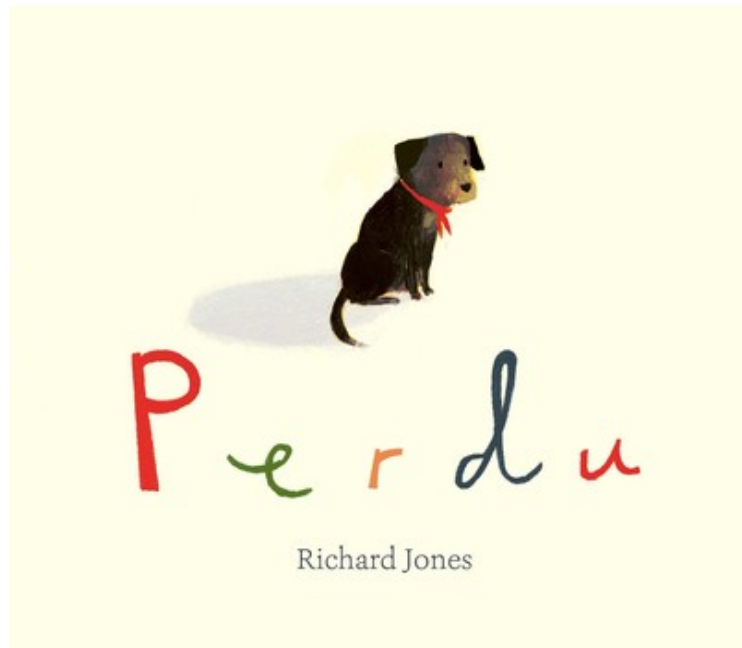
If I were a dog . . .
I'd be silly or patient,
or happy or shy.
Sometimes I'd be grumpy.
Sometimes I'd be playful.
Just like me.

In a celebration of both what it means to be a dog and what it means to be human, *If I Were a Dog* shows us how much we all have in common—with each other, and with our animal friends.



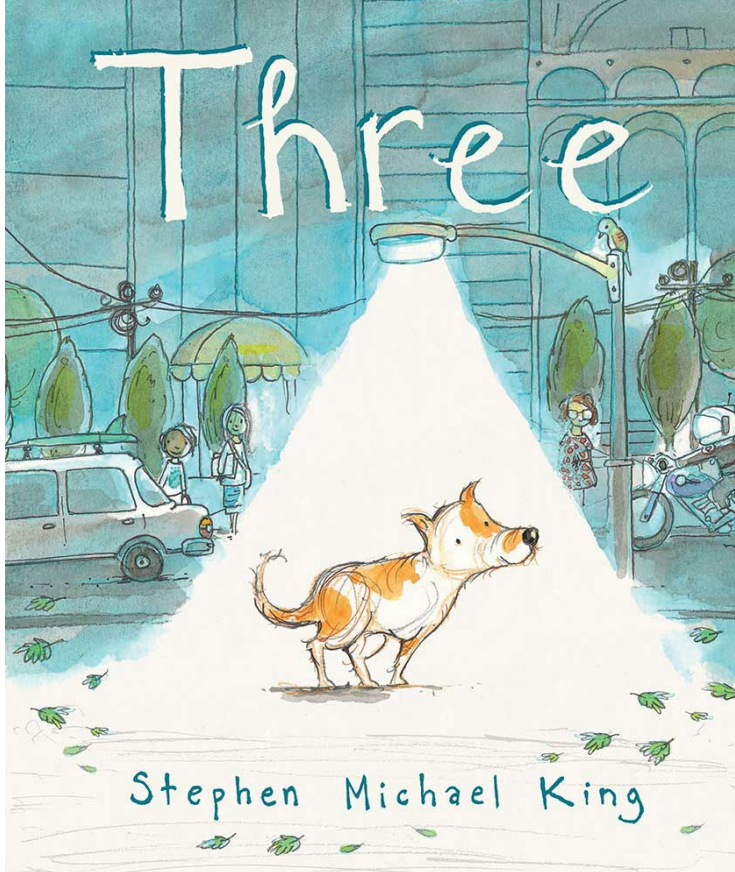
Poor Perdu is all alone as he journeys from the countryside to the city in search of a home. The city is a big place when you are very small. No one seems to notice or care for the little lost dog with a red scarf around his neck.

Except perhaps for a little girl with a frizz of blond hair and red hat who, much to her mother's consternation, keeps wanting to go over to him. Eventually, fate brings them together and a very special friendship is formed.



A heartwarming story of a three-legged dog who follows his nose all over the city, out to the country, and into the arms of a new friend.

One, two, three...
One, two, three...
Every day was a skip



And a hop
For Three.

As a three-legged dog on his own in the big city, Three does pretty well for himself. His waggly tail keeps him fed, and he meets so many different legged creatures along the way. He's happy just the way he is, but sometimes he wonders what it'd be like to have a real home. That all changes when he wanders into the country and meets a quirky young girl and her welcoming family. Appropriate for ages 4 through 8.

For the Love of an Old Dog



His muzzle has turned gray; he will be 10 this month. Milo is showing signs of aging, from his thinning grayish fur to the way he gingerly walks down the stairs, each step carefully considered. Magic my almost two year-old makes a mad dash at a squirrel in our backyard. Milo's ears perk up and he considers running after the squirrel and then thinks better of it. These days he is content to sleep in our sunroom and watch the squirrels from the comfort of a couch. Milo takes supplements and a twice daily dose of gabapentin for his wobblers disease. We no longer go for long walks in the woods; he just can't go that far. Nor do we practice obedience or agility. Milo still enjoys scent work and working the hides are the happiest moments of his life. I think finding hidden scents gives him a sense of

purpose.

Recent research shows that dogs are similar to us in many ways, like how they act during adolescence and old age, and what happens in their DNA as they get older. Researchers in Vienna have found that dogs' personalities change over time. Like humans they mellow with age.

Milo has certainly mellowed, gone is the wild puppy of just a few years ago. In his place is a steady companion. A buddy that has made it his life's work to study me, my many quirks and different moods. Just because a dog gets old does not mean that it can't have a happy life. I still take Milo for walks. They are short walks and I let him take his time to sniff to his heart's content. We still play games, only now they are gentle games that somehow always end in a long belly rub.

I know that someday I will have to say goodbye to Milo, but until that day comes, I am going to do everything I can to make his life pleasant and comfortable. Here is to sitting on the couch with your best friend and watching a movie together.

Bragg

Megan Hemmer writes: On April 5, Bacon (black kitty) & TunaFish (tabby), BOTH earned their NTD, novice trick cat titles at 7 months old.





Jennie Larkin writes: "Tali finished her CDX at the Catoctin KC trial on May 8, 2021. Because of COVID it had been a year and a half since we had last competed in Open. I was all ready to use the new Fix n Go option, but we qualified instead! An automatic finish after the retrieve on flat put us out of the ribbons, but she did a great job working even though she was a bit uncertain about the environment."



Shannon Hall writes: "Connor finished his second NADAC agility champion title. Good boy Connor!"

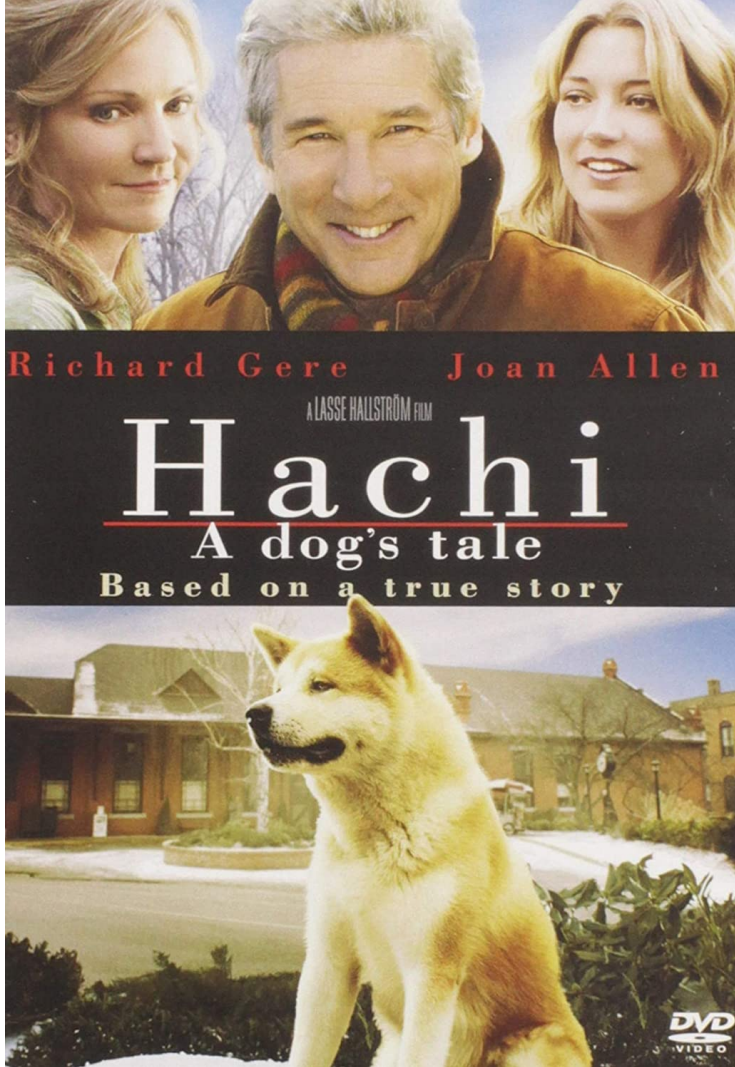


Mary Carson writes: Bramble earned his Barn Hunt Open title on May 8 at SuperPups, LLC, in Severn, MD. He also won the dubious Turtle Award that day--slowest run which still qualified. In his case, he did a climb, a tunnel, and found 2 rats in 2 min 25 sec. The time limit for open runs is 2.5 min.



Movie Review
Hachi: A Dog's Tale
By Milly Welsh

Covid-19 has brought many changes to my life. Some large ones: no trips to restaurants, Zoom meetings, wearing a mask, no obedience trials or



field trials, libraries closed, training my dogs alone, and no trips away from home. Perhaps the biggest single change to my life has been Netflix. I've never watched TV much nor been a fan of movies. Charlie likes TV. In the past we compromised by his watching TV while I read. Then a friend suggested Netflix and a "smart" TV. I bought the TV and signed up for Netflix. So many choices! Some things we watched were good, some were awful, some were things I never thought I'd see on TV. It's difficult to cure an addiction once well established, so we

watch Netflix every night. Even the dogs love it; they get unlimited petting and a chance to sit close and snuggle. Last night we watched *Hachi: A Dog's Tale*. It's wonderful, and I highly recommend it. This recommendation is coming from someone who does not like dog movies nor overly sentimental stories. It's the story of an Akita. The movie stars Richard Gere and is based on a true story about a dog who lived in Japan in the 1920s. The true star of the movie is the dog: from puppy to very old. If nothing else my dog training friends will be overwhelmed by the skills of the dog and his trainer. I cried. Even Charlie cried. Watch it.



Designer Treat Bags

by Sandy Swinburne



Donna Cleverdon recently gave me a few bags of fabric. I saw a YouTube video, on how to sew designer handbags and voila I found a pattern for a small treat bag for dogs. The YouTube guy called it an evening bag. I modified it into a treat bag and started making them, lots of them.

They are belted, have a signature reflective dog paw, a clip to hold keys or a doggy bag holder , a tiny charm that says “I ☐ my dog”. Some have an inner zipper pocket. Many colors!

They are on sale for \$10 and \$12 (zipper pocket) at the CDTC. ALL money goes to the club. Check them out - they are in a shopping bag in the club supply closet.

As added plus for teachers, if you sell 3 treat bags then you get one free. All checks should be placed in the check drop next to the restroom door.

Want to Make a Donation for Hungry Dogs? It's Easy!

The food pantry is now accepting unopened containers of dog food. Cleverdog is accepting dog food donations in their front vestibule and then delivering them to the food pantry. Feel good by dropping off doggie food donations on your way to CDTC. It takes less than a minute and does so much good.

PUPPY KINDERGARTEN

By Instructor Eileen Freedman

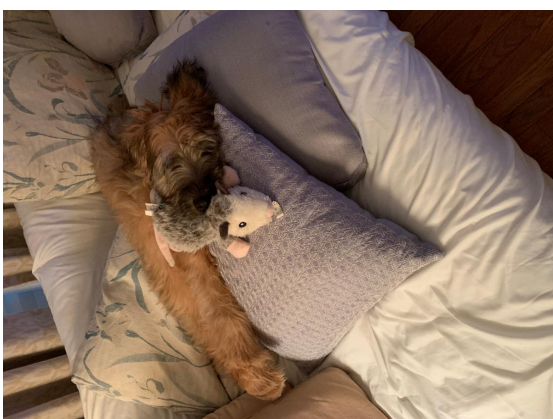
This article will be short and sweet...just like puppies are!

Teaching PK is hugely rewarding for all involved. As the instructor, I get a sense of accomplishment when I see handlers transition from knowing little or nothing about how dogs learn or how to train them to having a better understanding of the training process. The handlers, who are quite motivated, they get instruction on how to successfully teach the sit, down, stand, come, and the all-important polite leash walking. They learn or are reminded how to care for the pup with mini-lectures I include in each class. As for the pups, they learn as much as we can teach them. How great is that!

Knowing that people and dogs learn at different rates and different methods, my class includes HEAR IT - I talk about the behavior they are about to teach. SEE IT – I demonstrate how to get the behavior and what the finished product should look like. DO IT – they practice in class while an assistant and I go around to each team to make sure they are doing it correctly. READ IT – I give handouts each week further explaining how to teach a specific behavior. I also send emails after class recapping what was taught that day and what behavior will be introduced the following week.

Rather than submit a lengthy article about how I teach PK (there is more than one way to train a dog), for now, I decided to let the photos speak for themselves.

The average number of PK teams per session I teach is 12 and attendance is stellar. Many teams finish with 100% attendance for the 8 week session. Teaching Puppy Kindergarten is quite satisfying indeed.





Dogs of the Rich and Famous

Kaley Cuoco, of Big Bang Theory fame, is known for her love of animals, and in 2019 named many of her animals during an appearance on "The Kelly Clarkson Show," including her pet bunny Simon, her pet goat Tarantula, and the pet that she had the longest, Norman the dog — who was with her for 14 years. When Norman died Kaley wrote on her Instagram page: "Earth-shattering deep gut-wrenching pain I didn't know was possible. Norman, you were my entire world for 14 years. Thank you for smiling at me as you left this world, confirming for me once again our language was ours alone. You will always have my heart," she captioned the social media post, adding two broken-heart emojis.



Connie Cleveland

Obedience Seminar



The Capital Dog Training Club Presents a workshop with...

Connie Cleveland

Obedience Seminar

Theory, Working and Problem Solving

★★★

A Two-Day Workshop
Saturday & Sunday • June 26-27, 2021

★★★

Registration opens for CDTC members on April 9, 2021
and to the general public April 16, 2021

About the Seminar



The seminar will begin with a discussion of how dogs learn. Connie will then work with each of the 20 handlers and their dogs individually while the participants watch and ask questions. Plan on

attending to solve your training problems, organize your training sessions and create long-range training goals.

If you want a working spot, please sign up early. Unlimited audit spots are available.



About Connie Cleveland



Connie Cleveland is an internationally recognized dog trainer who offers specialized weekend training seminars to competitive dog trainers around the country and overseas.

As important as Connie's achievements in training her own dogs is her passion for teaching others.

Her own experience included 11 Obedience Trial Champions (OTCH), 2 Field Champions (FC), 5 Amateur Field Champions (AFC), a UDT Maltese and a CDX Shih-Tzu.

Connie is the author of a DVD series, "How Dogs Learn, The Connie Cleveland Method" and a book entitled "Dogs Are Problem Solvers, Handlers Should Be." She is a regular contributor to *Front & Finish*, *The Golden Retriever News*, and the *Greenville Journal*.

For more information [click here](#).

Available Classes

Class List and Registration

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

Puppy Kindergarten - puppies born AFTER 2/21/2021 (Sundays 7/11)

Family Dog 1 (Tuesdays, 6/22)

Family Dog 2 - Next session listed in July newsletter
(if you are a CDTC FD1 Grad and need a FD2 class, email [Karen](#))

Intro Obedience Skills for Rally – Next session listed in July newsletter

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 (Wednesdays, 6/23)

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 2 - email [Tom](#)

Novice & Open classes on Monday nights are taking new students

Rally Competition Class - for those ready to or already competing
(Atkinson, Thursdays @ 11AM, starting 7/1)

Click [here](#) to go straight to registration. Email [Karen](#) for questions.

[FLYBALL](#) has space for new participants, tell your friends!

Email [AGILITY](#) to get on the wait list for the next available class.

Click [here](#) for more class information on the CDTC website.

Members use your discount codes to register. Email [Karen](#) for questions.

NEW CLASSES!

Intro Obedience Skills for Rally Novice: This class provides a quick introduction to several obedience skills that are necessary for participating in Rally. Skills taught include heeling, fronts and finishes. At the end of the class students should be ready to enroll in Rally Novice. Students who are primarily interested in competition obedience are advised to instead enroll in Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1. This is a 4-week class. We recommend enrolling for Rally Novice (offered consecutively) as well.

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 (FCO1) : This class slowly and systematically teaches heeling with sustained attention. Dogs will also be taught to stand, sit and down quickly and without moving out of position. Fast, straight fronts and sits will be taught. Ring entry and sustained connection between dog and handler will also be emphasized. Students enrolling in this class should have a strong commitment to excelling and will be expected to practice between classes. Permission of the Instructor is required. Email [Tom](#)

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 2 (FCO2) : This class teaches foundation skills necessary for competing in Open and Utility. It is not necessary to have earned a novice title before taking this class, but all dogs must have excellent heeling (on and off leash), and straight fronts and finishes that are performed promptly. Students will have typically completed Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 prior to enrolling. Foundation skills that will be taught include: retrieving, go-outs, directed jumping, pivots and scent discrimination. The emphasis will be on providing a firm foundation in these skills and providing a roadmap for training the actual competition skills. Less emphasis will be placed on training these skills to the point of being competition-ready. Instead, students will be prepared to perfect these skills in open and utility classes. Ideally, this class will be taken upon completion of Fundamentals of Competition Obedience. Permission of the Instructor is required. Email [Tom](#)

Training Groups:

FCO Training Group meets some Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Tom](#).

Thursday Open/Utility Training Group (Goldstein@ 12:30pm) has resumed. Contact [Karen](#).

Rally Training Group meets some 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Sue](#).

Thinking of joining CDTC as a Member?

Active membership in the Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC) is available to an individual who:

- has completed no less than three (3) months as a training member paying the prescribed fees/dues, and
- whose dog has passed a Proficiency Test as prescribed by the Club with a dog that she or he has trained **or** has obtained a qualifying score toward an AKC title in any "dog companion sport" trial.

Active membership includes the right to attend meetings, vote, access to the

Members Only section of CDTC's website, access to seminars, events, announcements of the Club, the right to hold an elective office in the Club, and all other privileges and benefits of the Club (including 2 free classes per quarter). Contact [Karen](#).

Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

The next Delegates meeting of committees is during the first week in June followed by the all delegates meeting on June 8.

The AKC announced it is honored to collaborate with the USPCA, the U.S. Police Canine Association. They protect our citizens, strive to educate the public on many important dog-related topics, and are an integral part of communities. They are the nation's oldest and largest Police K-9 organization. The USPCA and AKC will work together to hold the first AKC detection dog competition.

CDTC Swag

Do you love CDTC? If so, you can purchase CDTC logo items at [Cafepress](#). Order now and get your stuff for the holidays. Capital gets a portion of the proceeds. There's a great selection from sweatshirts, to mugs to magnets.

CDTC Groups.io

CDTC members, if you have not done so already, please join <mailto:cdtc@groups.io>. It is a great way to keep up with the day-to-day activities of our club. To sign up, go to <https://groups.io/g/cdtc> and click "Apply for Membership."

Next General Membership Meeting
June 8, 2021 at 8:00pm



Visit our website