



# *Obichaff*

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



April 2022

Volume 79 - Issue 3

If a man aspires towards a righteous life, his first act of abstinence is  
from injury to animals.

Albert Einstein

---

## Happy Mother's Day!



---

Board of Directors

From the Editor

**President**  
[Donna Cleverdon](#)

**Vice President**



[Marsha Iyomasa](#)

**Secretary**  
[Martha Perkins](#)

**Treasurer**  
[Pam Ayres](#)

**Training Director**  
[Carla LaFleur](#)

**Assistant Training Director**  
[Janine Castorina](#)

**Training Secretary**  
[Roxane Bouten](#)

**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](#)

**Historian**  
[Joan Adler](#)



I miss my mother. I miss sitting at the table with her or picking up the phone and talking to her. She had strong opinions about a great many subjects and was always willing to share them with me. She loved dogs, cats and all animals. She fed Florida wildlife in open and notorious violation of the law. What I would not give to watch her feed the Florida Wood Storks or for one long conversation with her.

In this issue I have included an article on inbreeding in dogs. I urge you to read it carefully. I believe that as an AKC club we need to start a serious conversation with the AKC concerning the continued practice of inbreeding. Our dogs health, happiness and longevity is at stake. The AKC must be asked to do more.





## After the Russians Retreat, Over 300 Dogs Found Dead in a Ukrainian Shelter

As reports of atrocities amass in Ukraine, disturbing video footage has emerged showing hundreds of dead dogs at an animal shelter in Borodyanka, a small town outside of Kyiv. As the *Obichaff* is a family publication, we will not publish the pictures or post the video with this story, but the horrific images can be found on the internet.

According to the charity UAnimals, the shelter's 485 dogs remained locked in their cages from the beginning of the war in late February



until the beginning of April, when Russian soldiers retreated from Borodyanka and volunteers were finally able to return to the shelter. During that time, the dogs were left without any food or water. By the time the volunteers finally gained access to the building on April 1, all but 150 of the 485 animals had died.

Sadly, this shelter is one of many forced to go without management or supplies, due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In early March, several volunteers were killed while attempting to bring dog food to starving animals in another shelter outside Kyiv.

According to UAnimals, volunteers have now fed the dogs that survived weeks without food or water in the Borodyanka shelter and transferred 27 of the animals in the gravest condition to private clinics for treatment.

## Cool Places to Wet Your Whistle With Your Dog

The weather is getting warmer. What could be better than lifting a pint or two with your furry best friend by your side? What follows is a survey of breweries and pubs in our area that welcome dogs. This is by no means an exhaustive list, there are many breweries and pubs in our area that welcome dogs. Each location has different rules concerning dogs, so visit their websites and call before you go.

### **7 Locks Brewery**

7 Locks Brewery allows leashed dogs only on Sundays. 7 Locks offers nine signature craft beer selections. Their rotating selection of craft beers on tap includes their flagship Devil's Alley IPA, Redland Lager, and Surrender RyePA plus seasonal and limited edition styles. There is no food service, but rotating food trucks are on-site throughout the week. Dogs are welcome inside.

#### [7 Locks Brewery](#)

12227 Wilkins Ave,  
Rockville, MD, US, 20852  
(301) 841-7123



## Barkhaus

Barkhaus bills itself as DC metro's first ever dog friendly bar & restaurant featuring an off-leash indoor & outdoor dog park. "At Barkhaus, we pride ourselves on the freshness of our food that is made to order from our onsite, scratch kitchen. We're more than just a dog bar, our service and relationships built each day make members more of a family and Barkhaus a home away from home."

"I am not sure how I feel about people drinking beer and letting their dogs run off-leash." Carla LeFleur wrote an article about Bark Social recently for the *Obichaff*. I agree with Carla, I have no desire to let my dog run free with dogs that I do not know and who may be suddenly aggressive. Barkhaus does require that any dog visiting the dinning room be on a leash. This may be the better way to explore Barkhaus.

### [Barkhaus](#)

529 East Howell Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301





## Wet Dog Tavern

Created to share the legacy of their beloved golden retriever, the Wet Dog Tavern is the perfect place to take your best friend for a burger and a beer. The owners created the tavern to share the memory of their golden retriever, Lily Sophia. Lily Sophia passed away suddenly from Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA). Part of the restaurant's proceeds go towards raising awareness about life-threatening diseases in pets and supporting organizations that help those causes.

### [Wet Dog Tavern](#)

2100 Vermont Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 234-3334





## **Jailbreak Brewing Company**

Jailbreak is a freedom expression. Its artfully crafted beer is meant to be an escape from whatever drama is present in your life.

Jailbreak's modern concrete-and-wood taproom has a U-shaped bar with an expansive view of the brewhouse. There's plenty of room for small and large groups, who park at tables or couches to watch sports and drink from up to 12 beers on tap, some made with such ingredients as basil, carrots, or honeydew.

### [Jailbreak Brewing Company](#)

9445 Washington Blvd N Ste F,  
Laurel, MD 20723  
443-345-9699





---

## VANISH

Vanish is a 63-acre, family-owned farm-brewery. It's known for good beer and a laid-back vibe. With the use of local ingredients, Vanish focuses on bringing you beer that is plant-to-pint and seed-to-sip. There is also plenty of outdoor space with scenic views. The covered patio is a lovely place to watch the sun set while sampling up to 20 beers on tap. Friday through Sunday, the kitchen serves a barbecue menu.

Well-behaved dogs (are there any other kind?) are welcome in the Dogtown room, pavilion and field area. Dogs have to be on a leash.

### [Vanish](#)

42245 Black Hops Lane,  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
Phone: 703-779-7407





## Study Finds That Most Dog Breeds Are Highly Inbred

In a recent study published in *Canine Medicine and Genetics*, an team of researchers led by University of California, Davis, veterinary geneticist Danika Bannasch show that the majority of canine breeds are highly inbred, contributing to an increase in disease and health care costs throughout their lifespan.

"It's amazing how inbreeding seems to matter to health," Bannasch said. The average inbreeding based on genetic analysis across 227 breeds was close to 25%, or the equivalent of sharing the same genetic material with a full sibling. These are levels considered well above what would be safe for either humans or wild animal populations. In humans, high levels of inbreeding (3-6%) have been associated with increased prevalence of complex diseases as well as other conditions.

"Data from other species, combined with strong breed predispositions to complex diseases like cancer and autoimmune diseases, highlight the relevance of high inbreeding in dogs to their health," said Bannasch.

So, what makes a dog breed more inbred than others? Bannasch explained that it's often a combination of a small founding population



followed by strong selection for particular traits in a breed -- often based on looks rather than purpose. While she has always had an interest in the population structure of some of these breeds, she became particularly interested in the Danish-Swedish farmdog several years ago. She fell in love with their compact size, disposition and intelligence, and ended up importing one from Sweden.

Bannasch discovered that Danish-Swedish farmdogs have a low level of inbreeding based on their history of a relatively large founding population of 200, and being bred for function, rather than a strong artificial selection for looks. And according to the insurance health data on breeds collected from Agria Insurance Sweden the farmdog is one of the healthiest breeds.

The study also revealed a significant difference in morbidity between brachycephalic (short skull and snout) and non-brachycephalic breeds. While that finding wasn't unexpected, the researchers removed brachycephalic breeds from the final analysis on effects of inbreeding on health.

In the end, Bannasch said she isn't sure there is a way out of inbred breeds. People have recognized that creating matches based solely on pedigrees is misleading. The inbreeding calculators don't go back far enough in a dog's genetic line, and that method doesn't improve overall high levels of population inbreeding.

There are other measures that can be taken to preserve the genetic diversity and health of a breed, she said. They include careful management of breeding populations to avoid additional loss of existing genetic diversity, through breeder education and monitoring of inbreeding levels enabled by direct genotyping technologies.

Outcrosses are being proposed or have already been carried out for some breeds and conditions as a measure to increase genetic diversity, but care must be taken to consider if these will effectively increase overall breed diversity and therefore reduce inbreeding, Bannasch said. In particular, in the few breeds with low inbreeding levels, every effort should be made to maintain the genetic diversity that is present.

---

## Minesweeping Dog Helps Clear Chernihiv of Russian Explosives



A Jack Russell has been hard at work helping to remove explosive devices left behind by retreating Russian troops.

Patron is currently working in the Chernihiv region, north of Kyiv, and has so far helped to remove hundreds of devices.



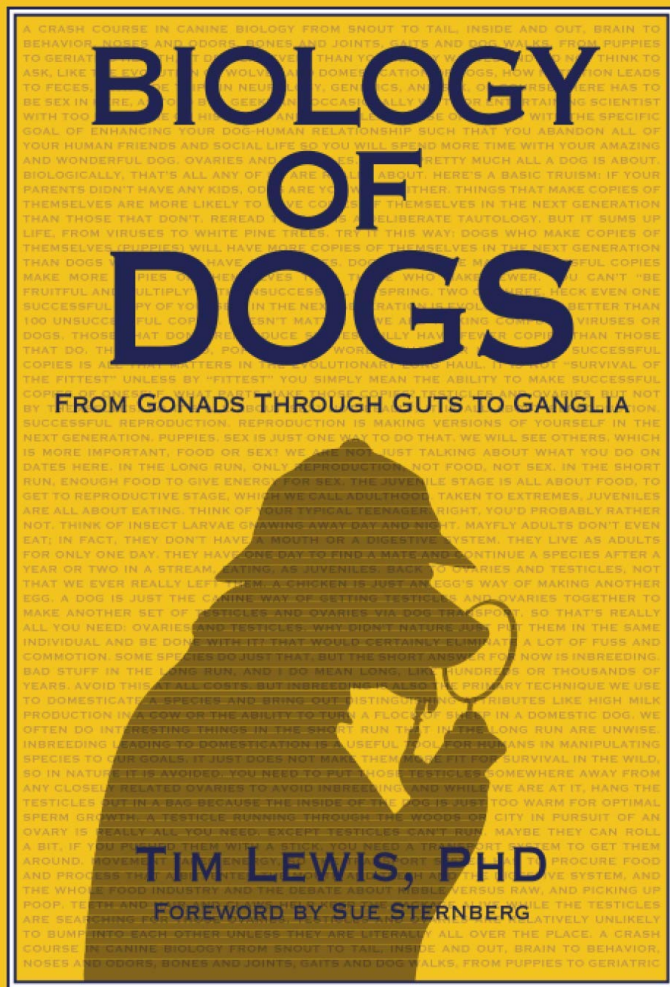
## **Biology of Dogs: From Gonads Through Guts To Ganglia**

### **Book Review**

**By Donna Cleverdon**

I acquired this book based solely because Sue Sternberg wrote the Forward. I am a big admirer of Sue's work. My expectations were, while not low,





not high either. Bottom line is that I learned a lot, and enjoyed much of this book. I recommend it.

The book is organized in the “Tours”, i.e. chapters, named: Tour 1 - Dogs and Humans; Tour 2 - The Reproductive System; Tour 3 - A Float Trip Down the Digestive System; and so forth, to Tour 11 - Home Base: The Brain. Last chapters are about behavior “Our Messiest Tour” and “Keeping Your Dog Healthy.”

It appears that Dr. Lewis wrote most of this book during, and

perhaps because of, the pandemic. What a wonderful way to cope with adversity: write a book for layman dog people to help them understand the inner workings of our dogs. I particularly enjoyed the information about the digestive system, the skin ( being a groomer this was particularly cogent), Tour 10 - A Guided Tour of Inputs to the Brain: The Senses, and Tour 11 - The Brain.

We often have discussions with other dog owners about food: what kind of food we feed, how “natural” is a particular food and how well our dogs are processing that food, i.e. what comes out of our dogs. Only dyed-in-the-wood dog people can discuss dog’s excrement while eating a meal. Understanding the structure and evolutionary reasons for how that structure developed is useful information toward interpreting the quandaries of how and what to feed. Dr. Lewis is not above the occasional rant such as his digression on dog food labels and regulatory requirements for them. Again, useful information.

The bit about sensory input and the brain was interesting. Of course, our scientific knowledge of *any* brain, human or canine is, at this point quite limited. But we can still learn a lot with what information is currently available. You probably know that researchers have been successful in mapping canine brains with MRI studies, using dogs carefully trained to remain motionless in the MRI machine. That is cool, as it is hard enough to get a human to do that.



The chapter on eyes and ears and other senses is particularly cogent to our training endeavors. Not only do we learn about the physical mechanisms, but Lewis gives us important information about exactly what color range dogs see, and how near-sighted or far-sighted in the range of vision. Information about sense of smell should be useful to those of us doing nose work and tracking. But Lewis doesn't stop at the obvious senses, he goes into touch and balance, and the inputs from those as well.

There are lots of dog books out there - have been for years - that talk about the beginning of a canine's life: how to house-train a puppy, even what to name your puppy. But few include a discussion about the end of life. Lewis includes that topic as well, in a sensitive and comprehensive fashion. For this I am grateful.

Don't be put off by the somewhat flippant writing style in the opening chapters, that's just to get us hooked into the deeper topics. Stick with it and learn a lot. I will be putting my copy into the club library shortly, so you can look for it there.

---

## Brag

Sherri Locke writes: Priss, Sharjet's Starr Lite Starr Brite, received her NW3 Elite in Nose Work. We will now search in NACSW Elite trials.





---

I'm very proud of my little rat terrier, Teddy, for qualifying for the Rally National Championship Master's level. We will not be able to attend, as I am recovering from knee surgery. Teddy has also been a very good boy in adjusting to his new sister, mini Aussie Penny.

Lois Kietur

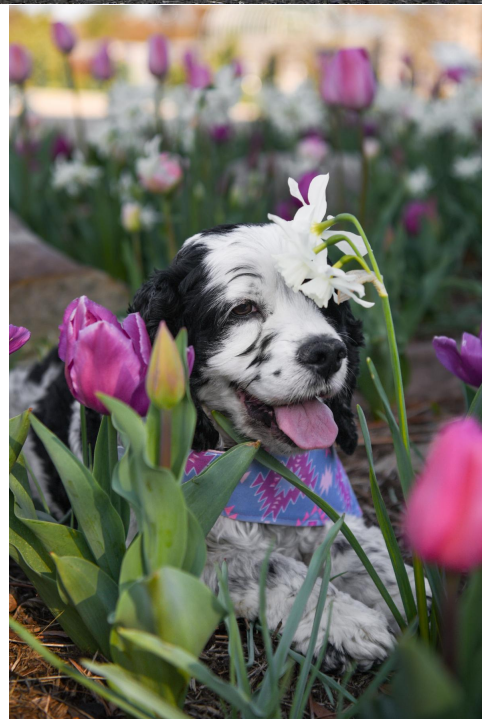




---

Mariah Stover writes: My favorite time of year to shoot photos of my dogs is spring so I plan lots of outings every weekend. Tenley is always a good sport about posing in front of any tree or bush I stick him in front of. And despite being pretty clumsy normally, he is very good at going into a flower bed so I can get photos of him in the flowers (usually he manages to do it without doing any damage). Plus these outings are a great opportunity to practice long sit and down stays and to work on impulse control because of all the distractions (birds, squirrels, other dogs, people who are all so tempting).









---

There are six more certified Community Canines in the DC area! Thanks to Carla La Fleur for providing witness signatures and assistance. Several of the teams are new Capital members and, after seeing how well they did, I look forward to their obedience careers. Congratulations all!

-Shannon Hall

---

Martha Perkins reports that Zander earned his CGC-Advanced in April. Thank you, Shannon Hall and Carla LaFleur, for planning and making the test so much fun for all the teams.

On another front, Zander's "baby brother" Moose finished his Grand Championship in April.







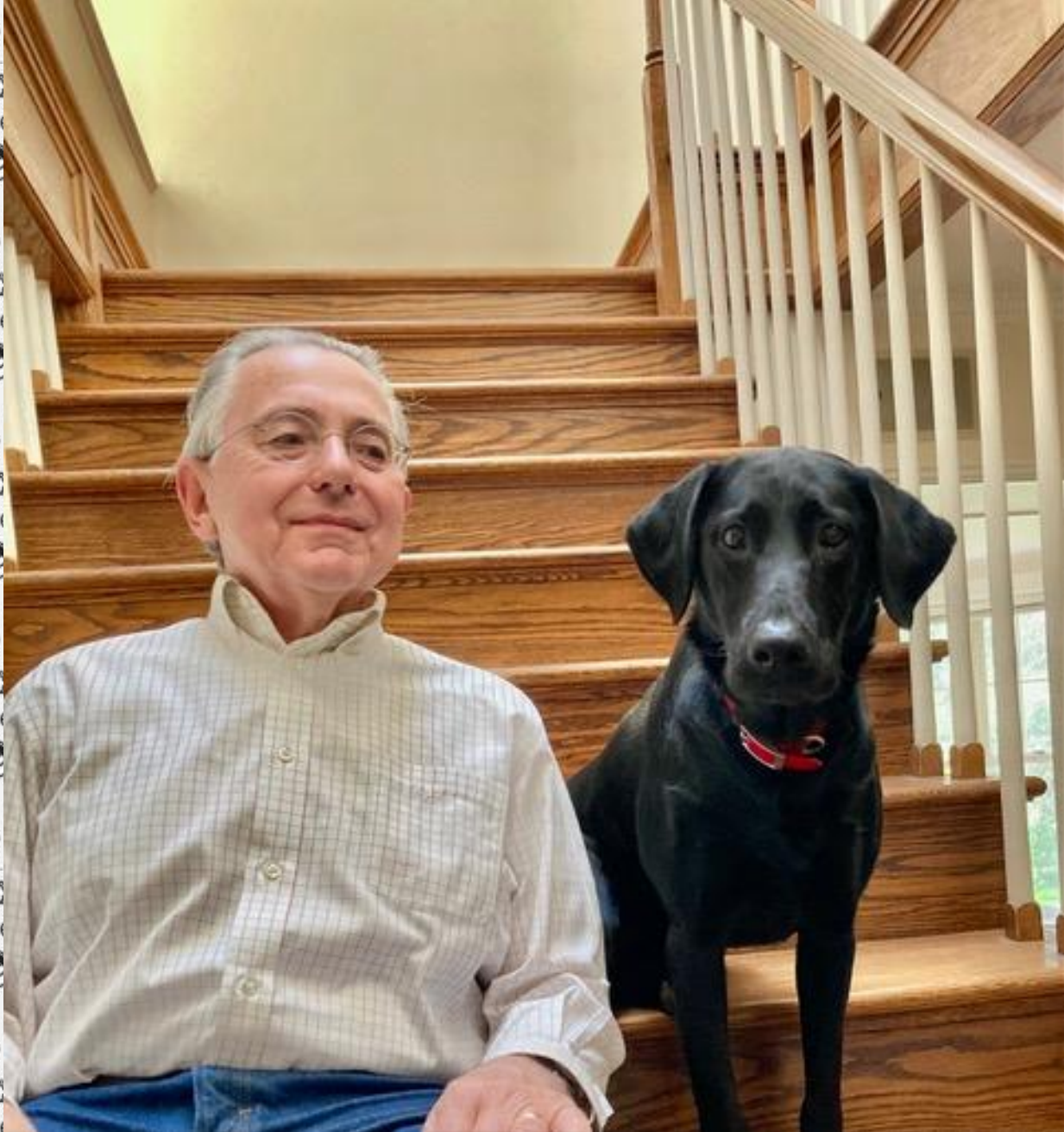


---

Tess and Bob Reinhardt have had a busy Spring. A first and a second place at The Mason and Dixon Kennel Club's Obedience Trial in March added two legs and gave Tess her Novice B Obedience Title. A third place in April at the Labrador Speciality Obedience Trial added a fourth Novice B leg.

Later that day at the same trial, Tess earned her Canine Good Citizen Title along with her Novice Tricks Title. In between the two obedience trials, Tess and Bob earned two first places in Open Standard Agility at Capital's Agility Trial. Eileen Freedman, Shannon Hall, Joan Adler and Dianne Harab deserve a lot of credit for helping us build a strong foundation as a team. Thanks too, to Burton Goldstein whose Thursday Training Group helped to fine tune us before the obedience trials.





---

Janine Castorina writes: Horus earned is JWW Novice title. He's glad I stayed until the end. In the second to last run of the trial, Horus decided the weaves weren't so bad and we had a perfect run.

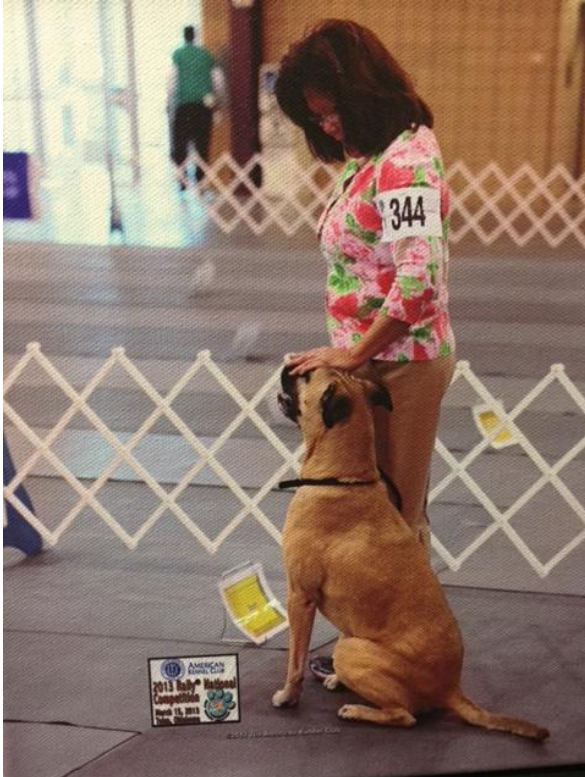




## Marsha Iyomasa Nominated for this Year's CDTC Sportsmanship Award

I would like to nominate Marsha Iyomasa for this year's CDTC Sportsmanship Award. Marsha is a long standing, very active





member of CDTC. Marsha has been teaching the Thursday evening Novice class since 2018(?) and is currently serving on the board as club Vice-President.

As a club member, Marsha is reliable, generous and always willing to lend a hand; expecting nothing in return. She is a great ambassador for our club and for the AKC. She recently stewarded at the MSDA shows and left the judges incredibly impressed with her knowledge and professionalism. One of the show chairs was, in fact, so impressed with her work ethic,

take charge attitude, and generous support to exhibitors, that he asked her to co-chair those trials with him next year! Marsha regularly attends the annual Awards Dinners and Howl-a-day Parties. She brings home made baked goods that not only taste great, but feature hand-crafted decorations with 'dogcentric' themes, including a cake with tiny hand made agility obstacles! She always makes herself available to help out at the CDTC obedience trials and other special events whether by stewarding, setting up, taking down etc.

As an instructor, Marsha is energetic, creative and incredibly supportive of her students! She is always willing to go the extra mile for her students. As a result, she has earned the affection and respect of each student in her class. She recently marshaled a junior member/handler and her Collie through BN and Novice, taking the time to mentor her one on one; even attending trials to support and mentor her on site. This was not an isolated incident with this particular student. Marsha has on many occasions set aside one-on-one time with other students as well. She has attended countless shows that her students have entered to make sure her students feel like they have someone in their corner rooting for them and their dogs. She is thrilled when any of her fellow club members or students get a victory, no matter how big or small. She holds everyone in class, especially herself, to a high standard. She helps raise the bar in everything she does and glows radiantly with praise at the success of others. All the while, maintaining a humble attitude - deflecting accolades and admiration for herself.

As a person, Marsha is genuine, honest, friendly and witty. She's passionate and skillful in the art of dog training and incredibly generous with her knowledge, time and support.

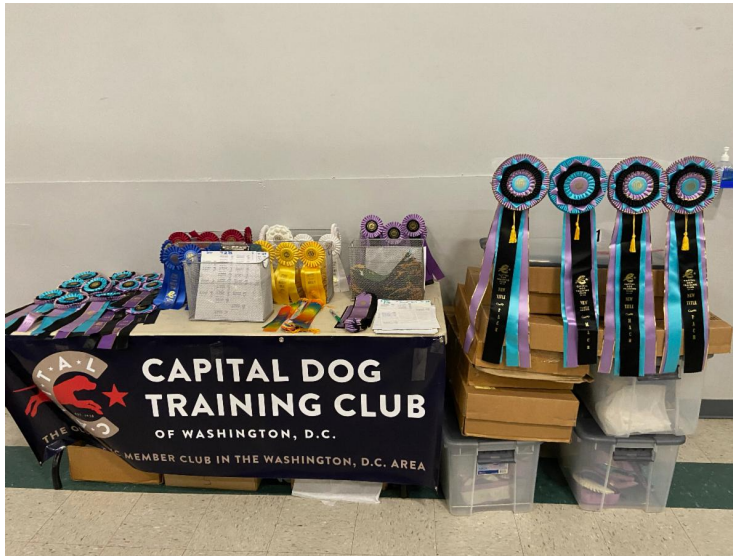


She is a wonderful candidate for the CDTC Sportsmanship Award and I wholeheartedly recommend her!

Dawn Felsen

# CDTC Agility Trial

By Benita Botton, CDTC Trial Chair



We successfully hosted CDTC's annual Agility Trial on April 8-10 at the Carroll Indoor Sports Center. Thanks to our members and Agility friends who made the event a success. It takes a dedicated team to fill the roles of gate steward, leash runner, timer, scribe, score runner and ring crew

for each class. Member Shannon Hall recruited our Chief Course builder Jean Wilkins and worked with Jean and our volunteers to build the courses for each class. Our trial secretary Rhonda Toren of Clantyre as always did an excellent job keeping us organized. Many of us enjoyed the courses our Judge Cheri Tyre-Roberts from Florida had designed. There was a MACH to celebrate and lots of rosettes and ribbons earned with 350 runs each day. CDTC's Agility program led by Janine Castorina is growing so congrats to all our members who had Q's and some good runs to celebrate over the weekend.









## Available Classes

Class List and Registration

### Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

Four-week long **Obedience for Rally** and **Rally Novice** classes  
begin Saturday, May 14 (no class May 21)

**Puppy Kindergarten** begins Tuesday, May 3  
register online

The next class will start in June, check the website for start date.

**Rally Competition Class** - for those ready to or already competing  
contact **Training Secretary**

Check the website for an upcoming **Scent Work 2** class  
to begin May 16

**Beginner Conformation** - Use link to register. Training group is  
ongoing. Contact **Janice** for help choosing a class.



**Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 and 2** - Please request permission of instructor to enroll by emailing [Tom](#).

**[Novice & Open](#)** classes on Monday nights are taking new students contact [Training Secretary](#)

**Fill out the [Agility Waitlist Application/Questionnaire](#) to get on the wait list for the next available class.**

**Click [here](#) to go straight to registration. Email [Training Secretary](#) for questions.**

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

### **Training Groups:**

**Conformation Group** meets 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm and Thursdays at 8pm. Non-members pre-register and pay for dates you plan to attend [HERE](#).

**Thursday Open/Utility Training Group** (Goldstein @ 12:30pm). Contact [Burton](#).

**Friday Utility Training Group** (Cleverdon @ 1:00pm). Contact [Donna](#).

**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). Visit [cdtc.org/membership](http://cdtc.org/membership).

---

## Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

At the last Delegates General Meeting, President Dennis Sprung presented interesting data on clubs from the last five years:

- Scent Work gained 36 clubs
  - 51 new Field clubs
  - 3 new Obedience clubs and lost 1 club
  - 2 Tracking clubs gained
  - 11 new Agility clubs gained
  - 8 new Group clubs gained; for example, Working Group dogs and Non Sporting
  - 7 All Breed clubs gained but lost 6 clubs
  - 12 new Parent clubs gained and lost 1 club
  - 65 Specialty clubs gained and 28 clubs lost
  - 236 new clubs recognized and 39 clubs disbanding
  - There are 4992 standing clubs and 4166 are licensed
- Clubs gave reasons for disbanding which included aging members, loss of interest and loss of convenience.

A couple of you were curious as to whom has received the club's AKC Outstanding Award in the past. I have communicated with AKC and we have updated the list with names missing and I did submit previously. We are still looking for the club's 2018 winner. If you are that person, please contact me. In the transmission of files from old computer to new everything did not transfer. Anyone can view the entire list of clubs and winners on AKC's website. Just put what you want in search. Congrats to Marsha, this year's nominee.

---

## CDTC Swag

Do you love CDTC? If so, you can purchase CDTC logo items at [Cafepress](http://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

### May 10, 2022 at 8:00pm

---



Subscribe

Visit our website