



Obichaff

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



November 2021

Volume 77 - Issue 10

I once decided not to date a guy because he wasn't excited to meet my dog. I mean, this was like not wanting to meet my mother.

-Bonnie Schacter



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Occasionally, my 10 year old dog, Milo and my 2 year old, Magic find common ground for play. Usually, Magic is too much movement and energy for Milo. But on this afternoon, the stick entertained them for a long time. When it broke they found another one. They pulled and tugged, but mostly they just stood, enjoying each other's company. What made it better was my presence. It just isn't fun unless your human is watching.



Mercy Dogs



On November 11th we
will celebrate Veteran's



Day. It is fitting and proper that we should also remember the dogs that served in the military forces.

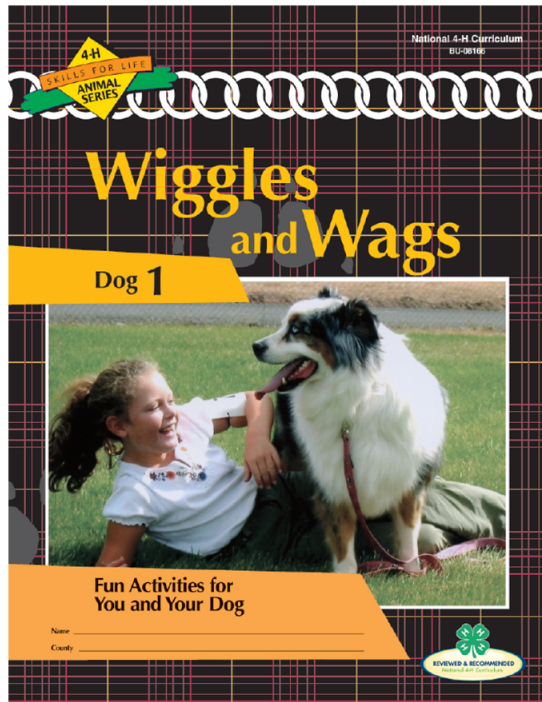
Mercy dogs or ambulance dogs primarily served during World War I. These dogs were sent out to no man's land after a large battle,

where they would seek out wounded soldiers. A typical mercy dog in World War I was outfitted with a saddlebag that had water, liquor, and first aid supplies. They were trained to seek out wounded soldiers and comfort dying soldiers. These hero dogs would guide combat medics to wounded soldiers who required extensive assistance. As many as 20,000 dogs are estimated to have served as mercy dogs in World War I and World War II, and they have been credited with saving thousands of lives. They would later go on to be used in the Korean War. Thank you for your service.

Thousands of soldiers owed their lives to these mercy dogs and it is not surprising that they are remembered to this day. Outside the New York City, the Hartsdale Canine Cemetery has a monument of a German shepherd, dedicated to all dogs, "for the valiant services rendered in the World War, 1914-1918."



4-H Doing it Right: Training the Next Generation

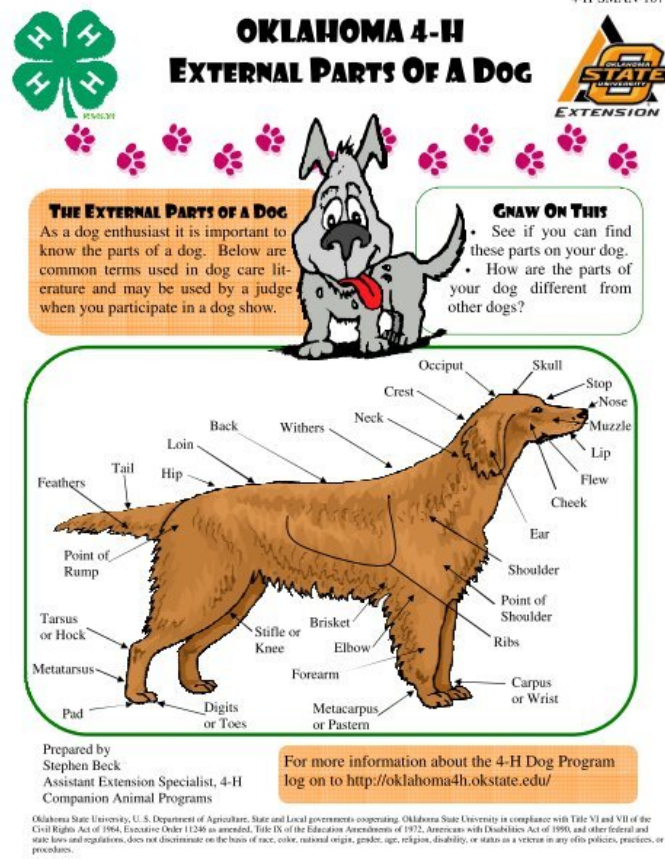


In August I judged a 4-H obedience trial at the Maryland State Fair. I spent a pleasant Saturday afternoon, working with kids and their dogs. The young 4-H members worked hard to train their dogs and generally were able to get their dogs to perform at the Beginner Novice or Novice level. The enthusiastic and youthful participant had a great time

showing their dogs, and I had an opportunity to learn about the amazing things 4-H does with its dog youth program.

4-H offers youths from grade 3 through 12 a hands-on opportunity to work with dogs. The program gives 4-H members a chance to show dogs in confirmation and showcases the 4-H members' ability to groom and show their dogs. Obedience training is also very much part of the 4-H curriculum. 4-H members can participate in obedience and rally training. The goal is not so much to compete in trials as it is to teach 4-H members how to train dogs to be well behaved as family members and in social situations.

What I found amazing was the level of dog knowledge 4-H members who participate in the program are required to master. At the youngest level, Wiggles and Wags, grades 3 through 5, young 4-H members are expected to know about the different breeds, basic dog care, feeding, grooming and how to keep a dog healthy. What impressed me was that 4-H did not pull its punches, there is also a section on euthanasia. Even the youngest members of 4-H need to know that there comes a time when we must say goodbye to our dog friends.



In Canine Connection, grades 6 through 8, 4-H members are expected to learn such subjects as appreciating dogs' places and roles in society; grooming, fitting, showing and training a dog; and exploring dog-related careers and activities. Here again the emphasis is on the care and well-being of dogs. For example, there is a section on first aid and one on genetic disorders.



In the advanced course, Leading the Pack, grades 9 through 12, 4-H members learn about emergency care, puppy training, guide dogs for the blind, dog bite laws, state leash laws, pet food labeling requirements and much more. At this level 4-H members are expected to organize events, give presentations, and teach others.

CDTC members, as dog owners and enthusiasts, it is our job to teach the next generation. The 4-H members I met and those that are participating in the 4-H training program are the next generation of dog owners, trainers, and breeders. I take pride and comfort in knowing that future generations of dogs will be in their capable hands.

CDTC Rally and Obedience Trials in the books!

By Donna Cleverdon

Capital Dog Training Club held our Rally and Obedience Trials on October 8, 9 and 10, at the Beltsville location of Canine Training Association. This was our first trial in two years due to the pandemic. The Trials were dedicated to the memory of our member and dear friend, Charma Le Edmonds.

All Rally classes were judged on Friday afternoon and evening by our own Sandi

Atkinson. Sandi gave this service as a gift to the club. The dog earning the Highest Combined Score from Advanced B and Excellent B was a Belgian Tervuren, Windamyr's Gabrielle Ange au Fier Ami, owned and handled by Cathie Alderks. This same dog was also the winner of the highest combined Triple Q. Ms. Alderks said, "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would win this!" Well done and congratulations, Ms. Alderks!





On Saturday and Sunday, competition in Ring One started at 8:30 with Betsy Humer judging. Sandi Atkinson started judging in Ring Two at 9:30. We had about 45 entries on each day. On Saturday, High in Trial and High Combined prized went to the Border collie, wildfire Anything Goes handled by Robyn Magee. On Sunday, Robyn earned High in Trial again, with High Combined going to a Golden Retriever, OTCH Eldorao's Magnum P.I. handled by Peggy Ann Bowers.

While this year's trial was small compared with years past, it was a pleasant weekend. The weather cooperated with mild temperatures and no rain. All workers and competitors were conscientiously wearing masks and the atmosphere was collegial and relaxed. All the competitors were very complimentary of Ring Stewards, who were described as "Friendly, helpful, and efficient." Who could ask for better than that? Over all, the only hitch in anything was that we had not planned for anything to cover the mirrored wall in Ring One. A make-shift cover was arranged for Friday during the Rally Trial. Next morning, we retrieved several white paper table cloths from the club house, and used those to cover the mirrors. This arrangement worked well! Thanks go to Benita for the idea!

Following their tradition, Joyce Dandridge and Shirley Harry prepared gift bags for every Novice A competitor. Packed in AKC totes, they include things that exhibitors will find handy at trials: a copy of the AKC Obedience

and Rally rule book, dog treats, a water bottle, a tug toy, and many other things. These ladies have been doing this for many years running, and the gift bags are always a lovely surprise for our newly competing guests.

One note for you to take away for next year. In an effort to attract and support Junior handlers, the club is offering a trophy and lovely rosette ribbon for High Scoring Junior. Please mention this to all your dog club friends. We didn't get a chance to award this nice combo this year. It would be wonderful to give it away next year!



Seminar Recap: Training Dogs According to Temperament

By Carla LaFleur

On October 1-3, I attended a seminar by Phyllis Smuland (Canine Counselors in Virginia) and Julie Hart ([Rescue Dogs Responsibly](#) in New Mexico) at Snorkle's Way in Walkersville, MD. The topic was

training dogs according to their temperament. I didn't exactly know what to expect...and rightly so! Even the presenters said they did not use a premade agenda because it all depends on what the dog in front of them needs in the moment.



The first day was all about how to evaluate dogs' temperaments. An onlooker would have thought it was the most boring seminar in the world, watching dogs meander around the stage on a long line, but the attendees were all watching in rapt attention. A head turn, a raised tail, a low tail, or the choice to jump up on a chair all gave clues to the dog's mental state.

The presenters explained that when evaluating a dog, the evaluator should be someone the dog does not know, and it should be in as low-distraction an environment as possible. They gave the dog a few minutes to acclimate to the environment before even attempting to engage with it, and in fact, this was typically when we learned the most about the dog!

One particular lesson that clicked with me was the idea that when dogs circle their handler, it can be a sign of possessiveness, and may signal a tendency toward separation anxiety or reactivity. Herding dogs circle their flock, essentially saying "This is mine" and they control the movement of the flock. Same thing goes for dogs that attempt to move their owners around--they may show signs of stress when separated from their "flock" or "pack", or they could blow up, barking and lunging when others approach a resource (the owner) the dog considers "his". Circling the handler does not mean the dog WILL have separation anxiety or reactivity, just that the tendency could be there and that's useful information.

Days 2 and 3 were about problem solving. Pushy dogs learned how to move out of the handler's space. Less confident dogs, like a Cavachon who yapped in the crate, learned how to tolerate separation in a very step by step manner, and how to settle without demanding attention. The common denominator with both was patience, and waiting for the dog to show physical signs of relaxation before increasing the challenge level.

One particular attendee learned her dog did not actually enjoy the high-drive activities like dock diving she enjoyed. He did them, but with some frustration (unwillingness to drop toy rewards). Left to make his own choices, again and again he gravitated toward the nearest patch of sunshine to sun himself. All he wanted was to relax!



As instructors and trainers, we can all learn from our dogs when we slow down enough to listen.

Of course, as humans, we can be difficult to convince even when the facts are right in front of us. For members of CDTC teaching group classes, I wrote down an easy formula the presenters recommended to help owners feel less defensive when making a suggestion.

State the facts: Your dog is panting very fast and trying to turn


away from the other dogs.

Here's how to change it to avoid X result: I have an idea to avoid him becoming more stressed.

Here's what the dog needs/Here's how to help your dog: You can help him by adding some distance from the other dogs and working on something calm, like a "settle" or "place" command until his breathing slows down.

If you have the opportunity to see these presenters, I would recommend it. As trainers we all enjoy communicating with our dogs, and isn't it fair to learn how to listen to their side of the conversation too?


Brag

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On the first Saturday of October, six Capital members enjoyed sauntering around the lake on the Rio Lakefront at the Washingtonian Center. We went up and down stairs, through a building hallway, around the lake past dogs small and large, walkers and runners, children and babies in strollers, and Canada Geese, of course! All dogs behaved very well indeed, and after a restful 3 minute down-stay on wooden amphitheatre steps, all earned their CGC-U or Urban Canine Good Citizen certifications. Congratulations to Zander Perkins, Bosco and Willy Harab, Horus Castorina and Reuben Ftilis. Thanks to fellow evaluator Dianne who allowed Connor Hall to also earn his CGC-U. It is always very pleasant to go on a walk with friends and dogs, and how lovely to combine that with earning another AKC award!

-Shannon Hall

Photo caption: Connor excitedly waiting for his friends to arrive.

A vertical decorative border on the right side of the page, featuring a repeating pattern of black and white icons: bones, paw prints, and dog bowls. The icons are scattered across the entire height of the page.



Janine Castorina writes: "Horus got his urban CGC and his first agility title! ACT jumpers 1. :)"



At the CDTC trial, Magic took first place and finished her Rally Novice title. The next day she took fourth place and earned her Beginner Novice title.

At the Mount Vernon trial Magic scored 100 in Rally Novice and a 196 1/2 in Beginner Novice for a first place finish in both.

I am very proud of what Magic has accomplished. That said we still have lots of work to do. Arthur Belendiuk.



Milly Welsh writes: Dotty - Graden's Master Gardener, MH, QA2, CDX, RE - completed her RE and CDX titles at the LRCP (Labrador Retriever of the Potomac) show on 10/12-14 in Frederick. The venue, fancy ribbons, volunteers, and judges were all the absolute best.

After showing on Thursday, Dotty and three of her human friends went to lunch at the Wine Kitchen in Frederick. Frederick is very dog friendly, and Dotty was welcome at an outdoor table. After a day off, Dotty was competing in a field trial in Easton.



Mariah Stover writes: Pee-yew - what's that smell?! It's just Tenley the poop factory and Reid toxic fumes (aka farts) showing off this year's homemade Halloween costume.



Maya Maric writes that: On Friday, October 8, Standard Schnauzer (Bardhills) Cori (19 mo) earned her first rally leg with a score of 79. It was her first time ever at a trial and she won second place in the Novice A group! She had lots of fun exploring a new environment and especially enjoyed all the treats she got as a reward. She was somewhat disappointed that ribbons were not edible. There's still room for improvement, but Cori is excited to take on the challenge of her next trial.



Burton Goldstein writes: The Bear finished his rally career, with a High Combined (Excellent and Advanced), and a High Triple (Masters/Excellent/Advanced), in both the morning and the afternoon rally trials, hosted by Mount Vernon Dog Training Club, Saturday, October 29th. They did it the hard way, having overslept, and missing their first Masters course walk through. (Did you ever try walking up to a rally sign, reading it, figure out how to do it, do it, all on the fly? At the Masters level?) Most important, and under these

conditions, he finished his rally championship title, and is now RACH Bear. (Regardless, he'll still give you a slick and a kiss.)



Milly Welsh writes: Graden's Major Mariah, MH, QA2, RE, UD, aka Polly, was recently awarded CDTC's utility award for 2020. CDTC's awards are always wonderful, and a picture frame is a special treasure. She completed the requirements for the third leg of her UD at the last show before Covid shut down dog shows. Two weeks later she ruptured her second cruciate ligament, which caused her to be out of training for nearly six months. She, along with my other dogs, saved my sanity through the first long year of Covid. Now officially retired

from all competitions, she is generally referred to as Pet Dog. Polly will be 9 on 11/22; she's hoping to have lots of cookies for her birthday.



Milly Welsh writes: Graden's Cutting Edge, aka Razor, was also a victim of Covid. She was purchased in the fall of 2019 to be Milly's derby dog. Then Covid and no field trials. She has been competing in the qualifying stakes at field trials this fall, and on October 22nd placed second at the Del Bay RC's fall trial, thus making her a Qualified All Age dog. Razor will be 3 on 11/27. She too hopes to have lots of cookies for her birthday.



An Introduction to Dogs

By Ogden Nash

The dog is man's best friend.
He has a tail on one end.
Up in front he has teeth.
And four legs underneath.

Dogs like to bark.
They like it best after dark.
They not only frighten prowlers away
But also hold the sandman at bay.

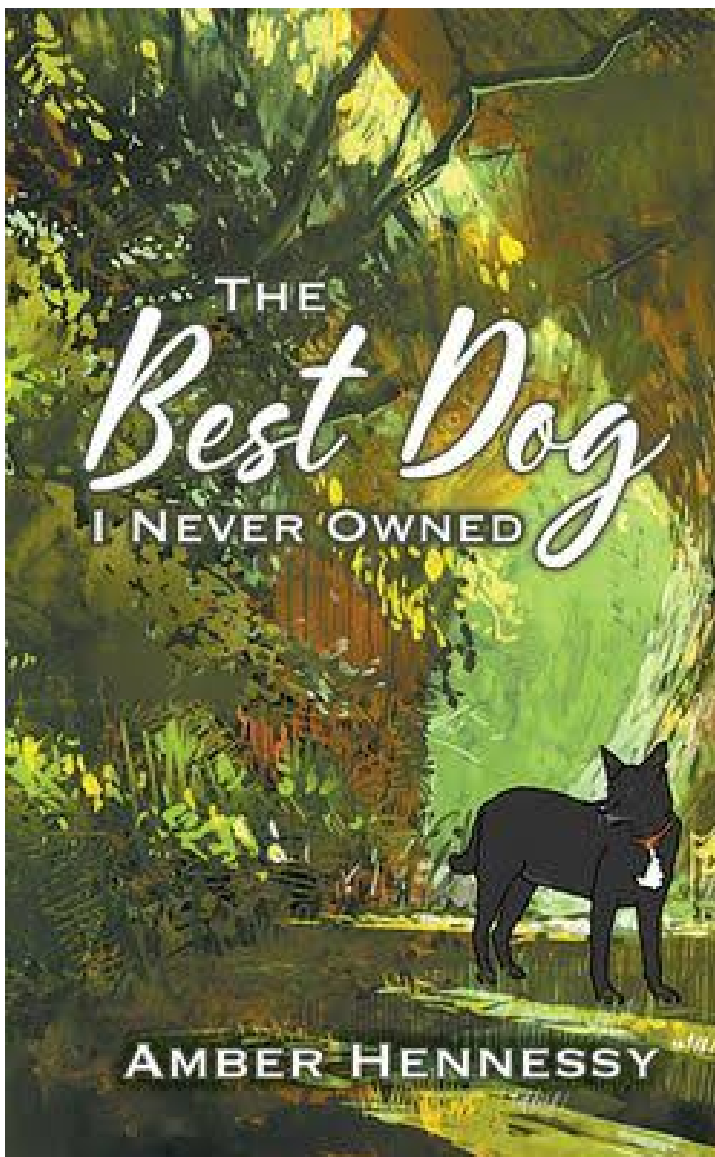
A dog that is indoors
To be let out implores.
You let him out and what then?
He wants back in again.

Dogs display reluctance and wrath
If you try to give them a bath.
They bury bones in hideaways
And half the time they trot sideways.

Dogs in the country have fun.
They run and run and run.
But in the city this species
Is dragged around on leashes.

Dogs are upright as a steeple
And much more loyal than people.
Well people may be reprehensibler
But that's probably because they are sensibler.

Book Review: The Best Dog I Never Owned



This is a book for anyone whose heart has been owned by a dog. As a young woman with her first apartment and on her own, Amber Hennessy decides she just must have a dog. Enter Baxter, a dog with serious reactive issues. Early in the narrative you can tell this is going to be a love story. This is how Ms. Hennessy describes her first meeting with Baxter: “He was black and shiny, skinny, and slippery like a seal. A tuxedo white-speckled chest, ears pointed straight up in interest and then pinned back in excitement as he bolted towards me across the glassy

linoleum, legs skidding in all direction but forwards as he couldn’t grab any traction.”

Love at first sight, perhaps, but Baxter comes with serious fear-based reactivity issues. Many an experienced handler would have given up. Not Ms. Hennessy. This sentence that defines Ms. Hennessy: “I

thought that if I reported these behaviors to this already under-staffed shelter and said I could not handle him, I would be sending a black dog back to the shelter as the first in a series of unsuccessful placements that I feared would end with him being put down.” And that was just not going to happen. She and Baxter where just going to have to work it out. As book’s jacket makes clear, this is not a training guide, nor does it offer practical advice for first time rescuers of reactive dogs. It is what it professes to be - a dog story full of challenges but also rich in the joy of having a dog be part of your life. You can buy a copy of *The Best Dog I Never Owned* at [online](#).

Food, Fun and Nose Work Scent Work Travel Class



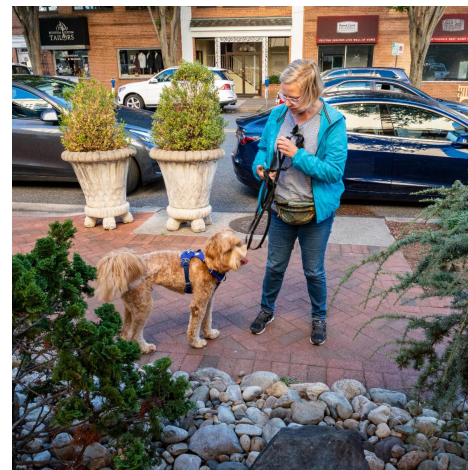
On Monday October 18th, students from the CDTC Scent Work Travel Class met at Bacchus of Lebanon in Bethesda for happy hour drinks, food and scent work fun. Bacchus has a large closed-in patio, and we were able to place scented hides on the patio and around the



perimeter of the restaurant. Dogs and humans had a great time. Attending were Amy Scheiner, Martha and Stephen Perkins, Pat and Jerry Bost and Cathie Alderks. Lydia Belendiuk, Art's wife also made an appearance. Everybody thought that getting together for happy hour and scent work was a good

idea. The consensus was that we should do it again.

If you are interested in Scent Work travel class, contact [Arthur Belendiuk](#). Don't forget to keep sniffing.



A New Law Provides for Service
Dogs for Veterans with PTSD



In August the president signed into law Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act (PAWS), which increases the number of service dogs available to support veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and related

conditions. Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement a five-year pilot program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mental health service dogs can assist people with PTSD by waking them from nightmares, responding to panic and anxiety attacks, helping them open doors, turning on lights or finding an exit from a crowded space if they are in distress. Dogs of all sorts are fit to serve, including Labradors, golden retrievers, mixed breeds and shelter dogs.

Before the passage of PAWS, the VA covered the veterinary costs of service dogs that support veterans with physical disabilities, including blindness and mobility issues. The VA did not previously provide service dogs for veterans with PTSD, saying research supporting their effectiveness was limited. However, results from a first-of-its-kind pilot study investigating the efficacy of service dogs as a complementary, therapeutic intervention for veterans with PTSD found that veterans with service dogs exhibited significantly lower overall PTSD symptom severity, including increased overall psychological well-being; a better ability to cope with flashbacks and anxiety attacks; a lower frequency of nightmares and less overall sleep disturbance; lower overall anxiety, depression, and anger; higher levels of companionship and social reintegration; and lower levels of social isolation. Participants in this study were recruited from a database of individuals provided by K9s For Warriors, a nonprofit organization that provides veterans with service dogs.

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.

Available Classes

Class List and Registration

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

Capital Dog Training Club Obedience Match 11/13/2021 - Pre-registration required, reserve your run time.

Conformation (Beginner, Jrs., Puppies, Training Group) - Use link to register.
Training group is ongoing. Contact Janice for help choosing a class.

Puppy Kindergarten and S.T.A.R. Puppy (available)

Family Dog 1 (available)

Intro Obedience for Rally and Novice Rally (available)

Family Dog 2 -no new classes listed until December newsletter, add your name to the update list HERE for early announcements
(if you are a CDTC FD1 Grad and need a FD2 class, email Karen)

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1,2, &3 - email Tom

Novice & Open classes on Monday nights are taking new students

(New!) Novice, Preparation for Companion Dog - Class began on Wednesday, 10/13 at 6PM. Art Belendiuk, instructor.

Rally Competition Class - for those ready to or already competing
(Atkinson, Thursdays @ 11AM, ongoing)

Obedience Match (BN/Nov/Open/Util) will be held 11/13/2021. Registration link can be found [HERE](#) under SPECIAL EVENTS. Pre-registration required, reserve your run time.

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

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

Fill out the [Agility Waitlist Application/Questionnaire](#) 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:

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

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

During the events at the Delegate meeting in September, there was a Forum held and video presentation on “Bringing Juniors to the Sport.” It was mentioned a master list of all activities for Juniors will

be sent to clubs. AKC would like to see each club appoint a Juniors Coordinator and submit that name with the club's next officers list.

The following suggestions were presented in the Forum:

- Clubs should provide for Junior/Youth Memberships to encourage participation.
- Clubs can hold Junior Showcase Events. AKC waives fee for Junior events
- Clubs are allowed to eliminate Junior fees on entries.
- AKC has "Jackets for Juniors" program for those who have made accomplishments.
- AKC has a Patch Program for Juniors.
- Clubs can teach Juniors to steward.
- Clubs can have Juniors assist with social media- Jr. in Agility, Jr. in Rally, Jr. in World Championships, Jr. in Performance Events

Michael Knight, AKC Board member, mentioned that Juniors who come to his club's shows (Texas Kennel Club) are given lunch and a tour of the show. They also discuss what a breeder is and how a dog show is budgeted. They also have a Q & A session.

Emily Barnhart mentioned their Junior Club pilot program at Greater Clark County Kennel Club. Each Junior has a "goal sheet" and each kid works towards a title. It was mentioned to not forget the parents who are very important because they have to transport the kids to activities.

In my opinion, certainly a strong Juniors program works with persons highly interested in motivating young people to exceed in the sport of their interest. Having a committee of interested individuals would be ideal. Any interested members can contact Donna. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at justusshows@verizon.net REMEMBER: No young people in our sport will eventually lead to no sport because of low entries. Survival of the sport depends on entries which fund expenses for trials and events.

In the General meeting of the Delegates, AKC Board Chairman Tom Davis thanked everyone for their efforts during the Pandemic. He said "We are back and better than ever." There was a record high increase in events for AKC. He wanted us to convey his thanks to the membership in our clubs. He also mentioned the fact that AKC programming with the viewing of dogs expanded the female viewership on ESPN.

In the President's Report a 20th anniversary video on 9/11/2001 was presented. Each Delegate was given a commemorative pin. I sent the

members of CDTC a copy of that video. The financial report was given by the AKC accountant. Charles Garvin, an AKC Board member, discussed the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank concept which has focus on the long-term future of breeds.

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 November 9, 2021 at 8:00pm



Visit our website

Capital Dog Training Club | 2758 Garfield Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

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