



# Obichaff

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



October 2021

Volume 77 - Issue 9

One day you'll find someone that is obsessed with you.  
It's probably going to be a dog, but it is what it is.



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## From the Editor

This issue of the Obichaff did not start out with a theme, but one soon developed. In early September the news was about the service dogs abandoned in the Kabul Airport. Next, I started researching a story on Laika, the poor little dog that the Soviet Union launched on a one-way trip into space. This got me thinking about how we, as human beings, treat dogs that are in our



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**New Membership  
Information**

[Shirley Blakely](#)

care and under out control. That led me to write an article about about puppy mills.

We know not to buy puppies from puppy mills or pet stores, but the puppy mill business is thriving. It has moved from pet stores to the internet. There are many internet sites that offer puppies for sale. These site all claim that they do not deal with puppy mills, but of course they do. They also sell purebred dogs with AKC certifications. As an AKC club, we should question why it is that the AKC name and reputation is being used as a marketing tool for cruel puppy mills. St. Bernard of Clairvaux said, "*Qui me amat, amat et canem meam*," Love me, love my dog. I would like to think that if St. Bernard was alive today he would say: "If you love your dog, love all dogs." I don't know how to say that in Latin, the good Jesuit fathers either did not teach that to me or I slept through that class.

Editors Note: The St, Bernard dog is named after St. Bernard of Menthon.

*What if Edvard Munch was really trying to paint a dog with long ears, but he wasn't a good painter and people got all excited about his painting, so he just kinda went along with it?*



*Well, now I can't unsee that...*

# President's message:

Dear Friends

Fall is in the air, and one of Capital's signature events takes place October 9, 10, and 22. The Rally Trial is the evening of Friday the 9th, and two Obedience Trials will be on Saturday 10th and Sunday the 11th. Sue Faber ([bobf1040@verizon.net](mailto:bobf1040@verizon.net)) is our Chief Ring Steward. She may still need some stewarding slots filled. People sometimes must pull out at the last minute, leaving an empty slot. If you can lend a hand, contact Sue and let her know. All these Trials are to be held at the familiar CTA Beltsville location, so close it's easy to volunteer.

Meanwhile, I hope you are all enjoying the cooler temperatures and welcome respite from the dreadfully hot summer we had this year. Cooler temps make for more enjoyable walks outside with our canines, and allow us to train outside. I recommend it. My crystal ball is showing me images of outdoor competition events in our future. Be prepared!

Also, with such champion weather in the offing, that same future-predicting device sees an upcoming Fit Dog Hike for the fall. We haven't had such a get-together in many months. Your Fit Dog Hike leaders feel it may be TIME! So heads up, everyone. If we still can't gather indoors, maybe we can gather outside. Happy training, and I hope to see some of you at the trials.

## Puppy Mills: How Much is that Puppy in My Browser?

By Arthur Belendiuk





Puppy mills (or puppy farms) are places where dogs are bred for commercial purposes. Puppy mills have a reputation for ignoring the needs of the puppies and their mothers. Dogs from these types of facilities are often sick and unsocialized. Puppy mills, many of which are licensed by United States Department of Agriculture, are located throughout the United States. Puppies from these mills are sold to pet stores, through online internet sites and to so-called rescue and adoption centers. Most of these dogs are listed as purebred and come with AKC registration papers.

According to the Humane Society of the United States there are 10,000 puppy mills operating in the United States. Of these, 1,924 are USDA licensed facilities. These licensed facilities alone produce over a million puppies per year.

Most people know they should avoid puppy mills, but it is not always that easy. By typing into my internet browser, “looking for a puppy to buy” I was greeted with a plethora of websites that sell puppies. How do I know that they don't sell dogs from puppy mills? Not to worry, each site assured me that their dogs were bred to the highest of ethical standards. For example, one heavily advertised site has a no puppy mill pledge. “We have zero tolerance toward puppy mills and pride ourselves in connecting you with honest and reputable breeders where puppies are raised with love and compassion.” And yes, they can ship your puppy directly to you. “This is our favorite part of our puppy transport service because we get to spend precious time petting your pup during the entire ride to the airport!” No doubt. Another site goes a step further, it provides the potential purchaser with a good breeder guarantee. The site claims it is “fighting hard to sniff out online puppy scams.” It even has a breeder accreditation program and semi-annual surprise inspections. “Every breeder is required to receive unannounced, in-person visits to audit their breeding facility twice a

year.” I could go on, there are dozens of sites like this all claiming not to be puppy mills. These puppy sites all have one other thing in common, they sell AKC registered puppies.

The AKC has come under considerable criticism from animal rights organizations, including the ASPCA and the Humane Society for accepting registrations from puppy mills. Animal rights organizations claim that the AKC gives unethical breeders the imprimatur of credibility by registering their dogs. An AKC registration does not guarantee the quality of breeding, or the conditions in which the puppy is bred. It tells you nothing about the health or quality of the puppy you have purchased. It merely means that the puppy is registered with the AKC and that both its parents are registered with the AKC – nothing more.

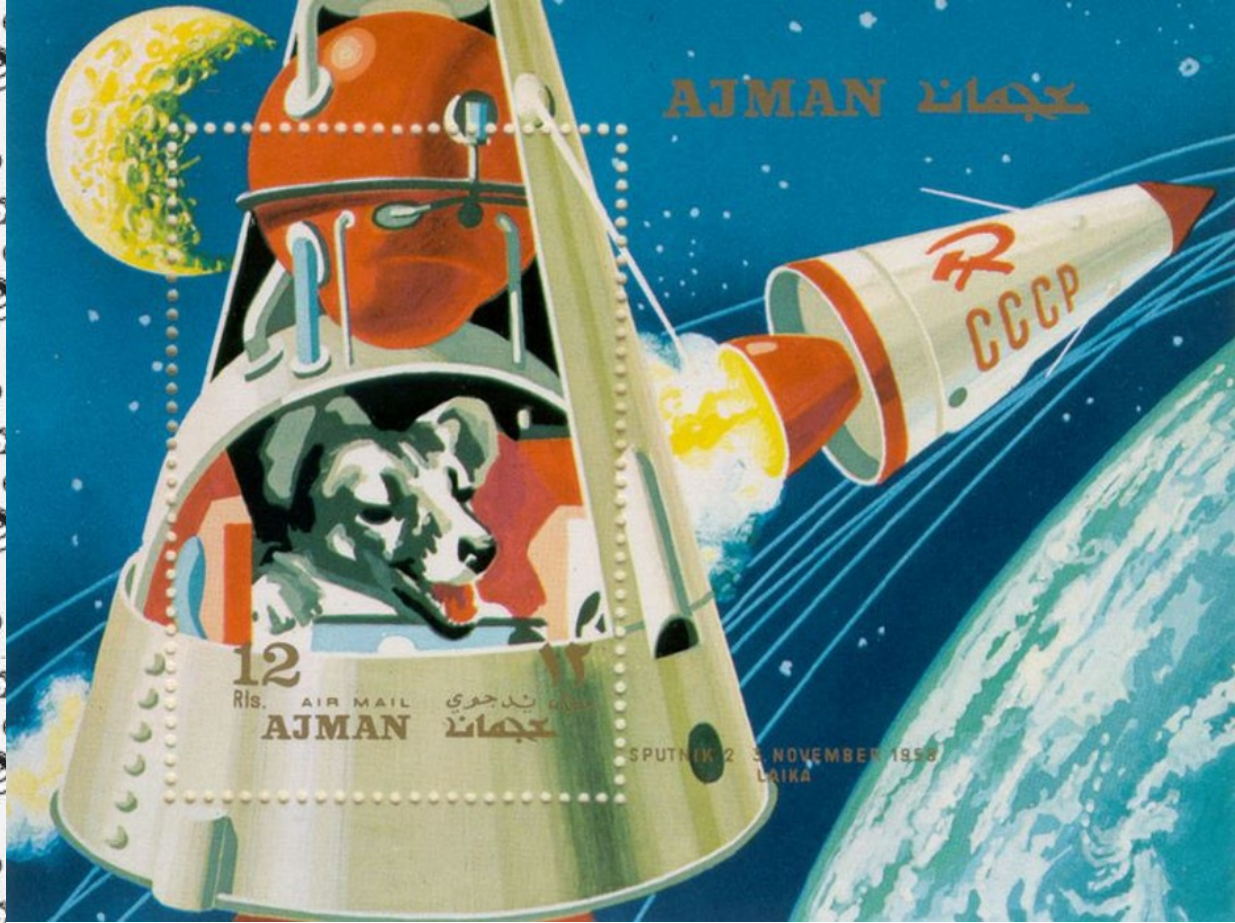
The AKC has taken steps to combat the worst of puppy mill abuse. It too has its own kennel inspection program. According to the AKC it employs 14 inspectors that inspect the thousands of puppy mills nationwide. While these facilities are inspected for overall conditions, the AKC’s inspections are focused on the purity of the breed rather than on the health and living conditions of the mother and puppies. The AKC states: “AKC Representatives take DNA samples at randomly selected kennels to verify identification and parentage of litters. AKC litter registration and privileges will be withdrawn when the parentage of the litters is determined to be incorrect.”

Speaking only for myself, I would rather have a healthy Weimer-doodle than a sickly and poorly formed AKC registered dog. To be sure there are many ethical breeders, who care for and love the dogs in their care. But unfortunately, there are too many puppy mills who abuse dogs. I believe that as an AKC club, CDTC can work to influence the AKC to take a tougher stand against these heartless purveyors of puppies.

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## The Sad Story of Laika, Space Dog





On November 3, 1957, Sputnik 2, with the dog Laika aboard, lifted off with g-forces reaching five times normal gravity levels. With a pounding heart and rapid breath, Laika rode a rocket into Earth orbit, 2,000 miles above Moscow streets she knew. Overheated, cramped, and frightened, the space dog gave her life for the vainglory that was the Soviet era space program.

Laika, a stray dog from Moscow's streets, became a part of history as the first living creature to orbit the Earth. Soviet engineers expected Laika to die from oxygen deprivation after seven days in space. To get her ready for her flight Laika lived in tiny pressurized capsules for days and then weeks at a time. The doctors also checked her reactions to changes in air pressure and to loud noises that would accompany liftoff. She was fitted with a sanitation device connected to the pelvic area. Doctors performed surgery on Laika embedding medical devices in her body to monitor heart impulses, breathing rates, blood pressure and physical movement.

Three days before the scheduled liftoff, Laika entered her constricted travel space that allowed for only a few inches of movement. Newly cleaned, armed with sensors, and fitted with a sanitation





device, she wore a spacesuit with metal restraints built-in. On November 3 at 5:30 a.m., the ship lifted off with G-forces reaching five times normal gravity levels.

The noises and pressures of flight terrified Laika: Her

heartbeat rocketed to triple the normal rate, and her breath rate quadrupled. She reached orbit alive, circling the Earth in about 103 minutes. Unfortunately, loss of the heat shield made the temperature in the capsule rise unexpectedly, taking its toll on Laika. She died “soon after launch,” Russian medical doctor and space dog trainer Oleg Gazenko revealed in 1993. The temperature inside the spacecraft soon registered over 104 degrees. Laika body could not take the stress or stand the heat It would not have mattered because the Soviet Union lacked the technology to return her safely to Earth.

During the Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity mission in March 2005, NASA unofficially named a spot within a Martian crater “Laika.”

The story of Laika lives on today in websites, YouTube videos, poems and children’s books, at least one of which provides a happy ending for the doomed dog. See video below for an example.

rathergood.com



## 2021 Awards and Instructor Appreciation Picnic

By Amy Scheiner

On the afternoon of September 11, Capital Dog Training Club members, guests, and dogs gathered at Seneca Creek State Park to catch up and to celebrate individual training accomplishments and to honor the dedication, passion, and expertise of our instructors. We were blessed with unusually beautiful weather: clear and sunny, dry, temperatures in the high 70s, and low humidity. There was just a hint of fall in the air.



At picnic tables





decorated with pumpkins and chrysanthemums, we chatted, enjoyed each other's real (not virtual!) company, and munched on a variety of delicious boxed lunches from Panera.

The dogs we brought to this event represented an extraordinary variety of breeds. It was not lost on me that we had both an example of the

smallest dog breed--Maurine Atkinson's Chihuahua (long coat), Verdi—as well as a representative of the tallest breed—Jodie Jeweler's Irish wolfhound, Quigley—present at the picnic. We also had three adorable young puppies—a pair of Shetland sheepdogs belonging to Kathleen Sandy and Mary Losikoff and a nine-week-old golden retriever puppy owned by Julie Pavlin—who were able to meet for an informal play date. We were also accompanied by several poodles, schipperkes, collies, and a basenji—all amazing examples of the diversity that canine selective breeding has produced.

After we all had had the chance to visit with each other and enjoy our meals, the awards program was presented. Capital Dog Training Club's 2020 High Average Obedience Score winners were:

- 1) Beginner Novice (BN)—Donna Cleverdon & Standard Poodle "Arrow" (Fair Hill Honor Code)—Average Score of 198.2
- 2) Companion Dog (CD)—Dianne Harab & Field Spaniel "Willy" (Liz Ann's Golden Ticket)—Average Score of 189.8
- 3) Utility Dog (UD)—Milly Welsh & Labrador



Retriever “Polly”  
(Graden’s Major Mariah)  
—Average Score of 189.7

We had no members earn  
the Companion Dog  
Excellent (CDX) title in  
2020.



President Donna Cleverdon then presented the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award to Brooke Holt. Special congratulations go out to Brooke for this well-deserved honor.

Next, we read and recognized the names of all of CDTC’s class instructors who volunteered from June 2020 through June 2021. There were thirty-one individuals who taught classes in a variety of disciplines, including competition obedience, rally, agility, conformation,

flyball, scent work, puppy kindergarten, family dog, and canine good



citizen test preparation. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, our instructors are integral to CDTC's mission and critical to our very existence—we appreciate the service of each and every one of you and consider you invaluable to the Club.

Lastly, the Club presented awards to members who earned titles in 2020. Twenty-six dogs and one **cat** (kudos to Megan Hemmer and her feline Buffy for earning a couple of trick titles) were recognized. Despite cancellation of many shows/trials in 2020 due to COVID-19, our members earned

numerous titles and certificates through AKC and various other organizations. These titles/certificates were earned in multiple sports and tests, including obedience, rally, agility, the Canine Good Citizen program, the Farm Dog Certification program, Fast CAT, scent work, tricks, barn hunt, and temperament testing.



At the conclusion of the afternoon's presentation, Donna Cleverdon asked us each to take a moment to reflect on the significance of the somber date on which our event was being held—the twentieth anniversary of 9/11—and to remember those we have lost.

I hope we are able to do this again next year. Thank you to everyone who came out and made this event a success. I especially want to thank Sandi Atkinson, Donna Cleverdon, and Jodie Jeweler for arriving early to the picnic, bringing supplies, and setting up.

Photo credits: With the



exception of the photo of Brooke Holt receiving her award, all photos were taken by Lillian Burch.



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## Braggs

Megan Hemmer writes: On sunday August 22, Kai earned his first rally excellent leg with a 99!





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Megan Hemmer also reports that: On September 5, Kai earned his RE. He earned 1st places in both trials that day!





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Moose, whose staff includes Martha Perkins, won his first 3-point major towards his championship in Doswell, Virginia, on August 29 at the Celebrate Virginia cluster. He is shown here with his breeder/co-owner, Beth Holmes.





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Kim Quach writes: Roux debuted in UKI Agility at Dynamic Dog Sports. She won two first places in Novice Speedstakes for 12 points out of the 20 needed for the title. (photo with the trophies)

She also debuted in AKC Obedience in Novice A at Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club's trial. She earned her first two legs towards her CD with a third and a first place.





One September 25, 2021, Magic competed in Beginner Novice and Rally Novice. She got her second leg in each. In Beginner Novice she scored 195 1/2 and came in second. In Rally Novice she scored a 98 and tied for first place with Roxane Bouten's dog Ivy. Roxane and Ivy were faster by one fifth of a second so they took first place. Congratulations to all CDTC member who competed in the Hyattsville Obedience trial. - Art B.





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Five club members (Marsha Iyomasa, Jennie Larkin, Ed Read, Julie Rovner, and Tom Tatham) participated in a 3-day seminar held at Top Dog Obedience in Flanders, NJ. The seminar covered fundamental skills for beginning dogs. The instructors, Linda Brennan and Betsy Scappicchio, have each earned Obedience Trial Championship (OTCH) titles with many dogs, and Linda won the Westminster Obedience Show in 5 consecutive years. The seminar covered the basics of handling (marker words, effective use of reinforcement), attention, heeling, and fronts. Although we all worked very hard, we were able to find time to have fun with our dogs outside of the seminar, including a visit to a beautiful local park.





Ed Read and Gigi





Jennie Larkin and Hermes



Julie Rover and Aspen



Tom Tatham and Luna



The Wolf Pack, Luna,  
Hermes and Aspen

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Mary Carson writes: Holly had a pretty good last week of September at SuperPups' Barnhunt Trial and the Hyattsville Obedience and Rally Trials. 8 entries, 7 qualifications, 4 placements, 2 new titles (BN and RN) and 3 first legs).





Dogs Abandoned at Kabul Airport Prompt Outrage





As U.S. troops exited Afghanistan, at least 50 dogs were believed to have been left behind at the airport in Kabul. Public anger erupted after images shared online showed dozens of dogs in cages, with empty plastic water bottles strewn around and a large helicopter in the backdrop with smashed windows.

GardaWorld, a military contractor, confirmed to the Military Times that it had dogs in Kabul. It said it would work with Kabul Small Animal Rescue to continue evacuation efforts despite “grueling” setbacks. “Our team has worked relentlessly with numerous dedicated charities to rescue our dogs and all the animals under KSAR’s care,” GardaWorld said in a statement to the Military Times.

Hewad Azizi, who works for a UAE-based company that has provided ground and security handling services at Kabul airport said he found 30 dogs, half of them in the area that was controlled by the Americans, and others were discovered in zones that belonged to former Afghan police.



The dogs are now being fed, cared for and trained by Azizi and his colleagues at the security company's training center.

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## 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.

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## Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

### Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

#### [Capital Dog Training Club Obedience Match 11/13/2021](#)

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

Puppy Kindergarten or S.T.A.R. Puppy - New classes will be listed in November newsletter.

Family Dog 1 - classes are full, more will be listed in December. Add your name to the update list [HERE](#) for early announcements

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 begins 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 will be [HERE](#) (registration opens October 1, 2021).

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](#).

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## Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge



Before I get into my detailed report, I want to say it was great to see how much the AKC staff worked so hard to get this meeting off the ground after over one and half years of not meeting. They went far beyond to do whatever they could to keep us safe in a public hotel situation.

The AKC Board and Officers wanted us to thank you the club members for working with them to keep the organization afloat during these tragic times. With forced layoffs of personnel and many cancelled events, the organization could have reached a drastic decline. Due to a hard-working staff many working from home, AKC staff developed programs that kept show folks and their dogs involved like the virtual programs. The individual clubs worked hard using creativity to keep afloat. All of us are basically back giving our events. Record highs with an increase in events has occurred. The result would you believe for AKC and many of the member clubs because of hard work has resulted in many clubs being in the black and even made a few gains. There was even a 2% gain in Obedience which has not occurred in over 20 years.

ESPN News- It was announced that ESPN is thrilled with the ratings on the AKC dog events being televised. For years ESPN has been looking for programming that would draw more of a female audience and finally they found it- AKC dog show events has expanded ESPN female viewing. Thus, they have committed AKC to a multi-year contract.

My report on the meeting will be presented in two parts in two issues of our newsletter.

In the Companion Events Committee Meeting:

- Steve Hamil, AKC Board Member, reported a survey will be sent out to a number of club Board members from the Canine Health Foundation. It will ask how CHF can be a better partner? Also, it will ask how CHF and clubs can make better canine athletes.
- Patty Sample, the CEC representative on the Juniors sub committee stated that a juniors document will be presented at the December Delegates meeting. In addition, she mentioned a video on Juniors in AKC will be shown at the Delegates Forum this week. I viewed that video and it is an excellent presentation on where we are with Juniors in AKC participation and where we need to go. I am going to see if I can get it downloaded to me so the membership can view it. Possibly after viewing the video, some members will decide to help our club with a Juniors program. We have been asked by AKC to select a Junior's Coordinator possibly by the end of the year. This important position could possibly bring more motivated young people to our club in all companion events and conformation. Thus, we will have more workers at our shows, more stewards at our shows, more helpers at Run-thrus and more advanced class students.



· The committee again discussed the topic of All Breed Clubs dropping Obedience Trials at their shows. Our last survey and report were written four years ago and has been placed on AKC's website under Best Practices from our CEC committee. It was mentioned we need to update the strategies listed and work some more on solutions since clubs are continuing to drop the trial portion of their shows. Also, Gail, the committee chair, suggested another subcommittee be formed for the update. A committee person suggested that this time we ask the All Breed Committee to pick two members to sit on the subcommittee with us. This participation could have them own the problem more. Everyone agreed and I was again selected to chair this subcommittee. If any of you have any suggestions, please share with me at [justuschows@verizon.net](mailto:justuschows@verizon.net). Remember, the more trials held gives us more opportunities to get Q's and titles.

In the General Delegates meeting:

Dennis Sprung showed a 20th anniversary video presentation on 9/11. This is a must see and I will see if I can get it to the membership for viewing. AKC was very involved with the rescue that day and days to come. Many AKC resources assisted the first responders and their canines. I think it is important to see what the organization does with some of its funds and we rarely hear about it in the media. We already know about funding for the disaster trailer program and the AKC Humane Fund for homeless women in shelters with their pets.

## CDTC Swag

Do you love CDTC? If so, you can purchase CDTC logo items at [Cafepress](https://www.cafepress.com/cdtevents). 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/cdtevents> and click "Apply for Membership."

**Next General Membership Meeting**  
**October 12, 2021 at 8:00pm**







[Visit our website](#)