



# Obichaff

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



December 2020

Volume 76 - Issue 11

"The gift which I am sending you is called a dog, and is in fact the most precious and valuable possession of mankind"

-Theodorus Gaza



Board of Directors

From the Editor

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**AKC Delegate**  
[Joyce Dandridge](#)

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**Members at Large**  
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[Julie Rovner](#)

[Shirley Blakely](#)

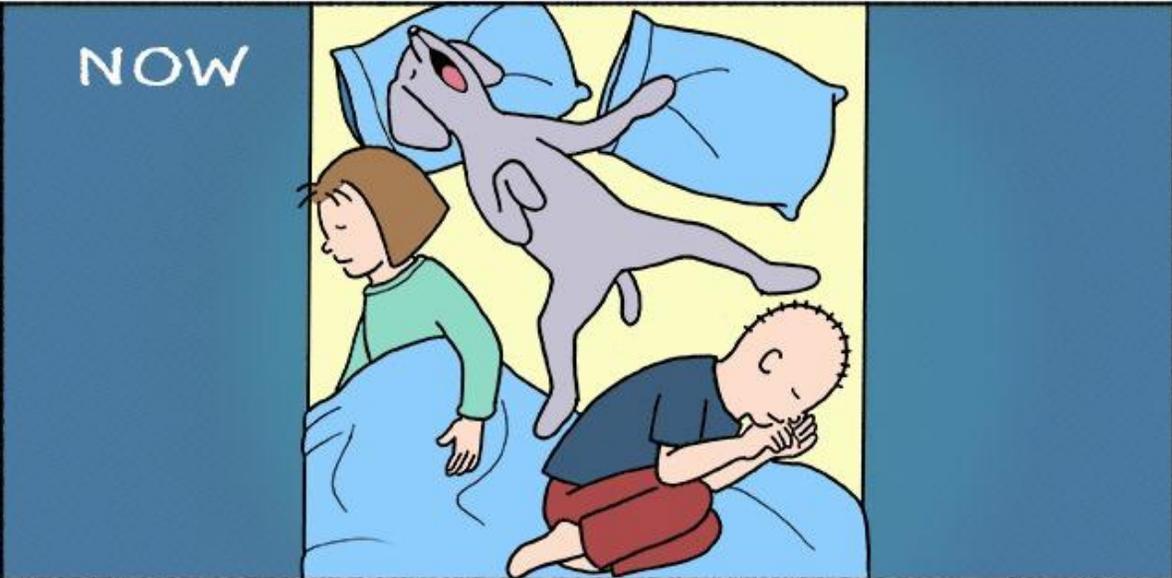
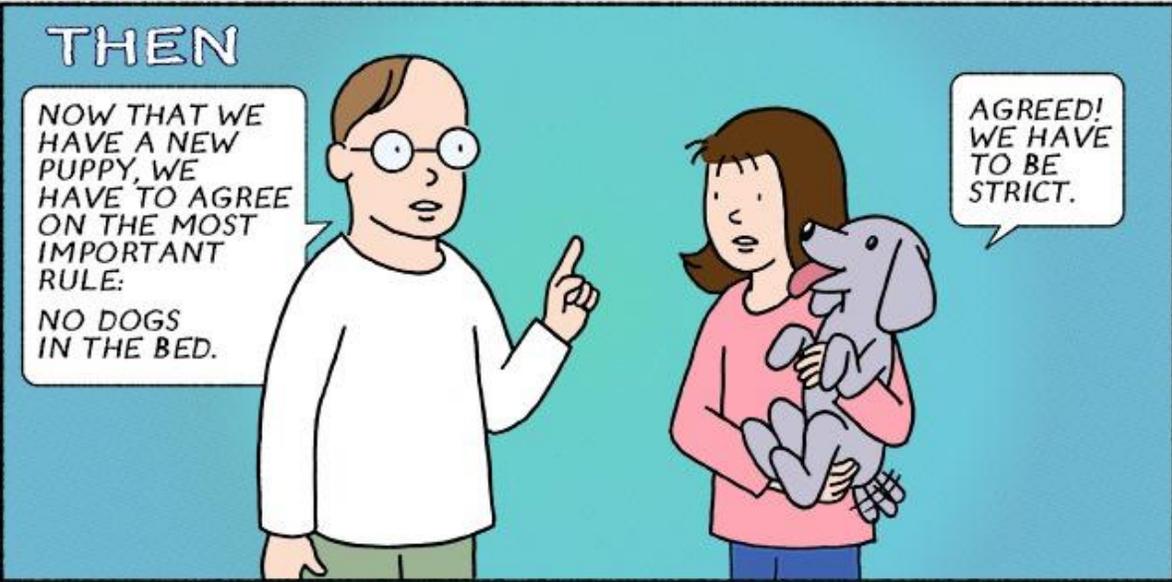
**New Membership Information**  
[Shirley Blakely](#)



I think Max, the dog in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, is just the best little dog ever. The Grinch is a grumpy, misanthrope who is out to spoil Christmas for the good citizens of Whoville. Yet Max loves him and sees in him more than the Grinch sees in himself. Our dogs see the better angles of our natures. They see in us the gentle touch and the loving smile. They make us whole, they bring out the humanity that is sometime buried deep inside us. Perhaps, this deeper understanding of our human nature is a dog's greatest gift.

After my mother passed away, my niece and nephew asked me for old family photographs. I collected old photos and had them digitized. In those photos, I saw at Thanksgiving, Christmas, at weddings and funerals - one or more dogs. Dogs have been an integral part of my life. They have shared with me the best and worst times in my life. I would have it no other way.

Pictured above in Milo when he was about 6 months old. He hated wearing those antlers and promptly chewed them up the moment I left them unattended.



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## Nominations to the CDTC Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee, has completed its work and put forth a slate of candidates for the CDTC 2021 Board of Directors. We wish to thank Melissa Dilla, Diane Harab, Shirley Harry and Jennie Larkin for their time and effort in this most important of efforts. The proposed 2021 Board of Directors is:

- Donna Cleverdon - President
- Sue Faber - Vice President
- Martha Perkins - Secretary
- Pamela Ayres - Treasurer
- Tom Tatham - Training director
- Janine Castorina - Assistant Training Director
- Karen Steinmeyer - Training Secretary
- Benita Bottom - Trial Chair
- Amy Scheiner - Trophy Chair
- Joyce Dandridge - AKC Delegate
- Arthur Belendiuk - *Obichaff* Editor

Julie Rovner - Member at Large  
Shirley Blakely - Member at Large  
Luann Korona - Member at Large



### **Donna Cleverdon - President**

I joined the club in 1992 and have served on the Board several times, as Vice President, as Obichaff Editor twice, and as President as of 2018. Since joining CDTC, I trained three Standard poodles to Utility titles, and I'm starting a fourth. I used to have Siberian huskies, greyhounds and whippets, and one wonderful Border terrier. There was a Doberman in there somewhere, and briefly a Tervuren as well. I have taught obedience classes at every level, from Puppy on up. Professionally, I ran a grooming salon, until I sold my stake in the business some years ago. In the dim past I was the manager of a Humane Society shelter. I have two

grown sons and two adorable grandchildren. While training has been an enduring interest since that first husky forty years ago, I also enjoy gardening, travel, reading, and music lessons. I try to do the Sunday crossword, with varying success. I am happy to assist the club when ever I can because we are amazingly fortunate to have this resource in our community. We are an important reservoir of knowledge and talent in the D.C. Metro area. We are here not only to train our own dogs, but to show others how and help new dog owners.

### **Sue Faber - Vice President**

I am pleased to again be your Vice-President in 2021. I look forward to working to achieve what will be best served by our club.

I have been training dogs since 2000 with Miniature Schnauzers. I have a Border Terrier that I am currently training along with my Miniature Schnauzer. Stevie, my Miniature Schnauzer, has achieved the Utility Dog Title and I am now working on Obedience Master Points. My Border Terrier is a TDI Therapy dog. He is reading with middle school students one day a

week. He is also doing Agility and loving it!!t I now have a female puppy age one year/ 5 months and is adorable. Her breed is a



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje. She has passed her CGC Test, Novice Tricks, Intermediate Tricks, and Advanced Tricks and received her Rally Novice Title with high scores. We are working on Intermediate Rally and advanced at the same time.

I have taught STAR Puppy Classes, Rally Novice, Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent. In obedience, I have taught Beginner Novice, as well as Basic at Capital . I am now doing a Focus/Foundation Class and I am in charge of Rally Training Group on Saturdays. I have been a CGC Evaluator for about 4 years. I am able to do all levels of CGC Evaluations and Tricks. I am happy to be on the Board again for 2021.

### **Martha Perkins - Secretary**

I have been a member of CDTC for four years and have served as club secretary for one year. I have two Welsh Springer Spaniels, Zander and Moose; and right now we are enjoying classes in conformation, obedience, and agility. I am so appreciative of the excellent CDTC instructors who have guided my WSSs and me in our teamwork quests

and so grateful for the wonderful friendships I have formed through CDTC. I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve the club as secretary.



### **Pam Ayres - Treasurer**

I would be honored to continue serving as Treasurer of CDTC. I have been a financial officer of many organizations, have an MBA and an active CPA license, and currently work for the National Museum of Women in the Arts. I've been coming to the club for about 7 years. Suki, my Japanese Chin, got her CD in 2017 and her Rally Excellent title in 2019. She is a retired Therapy Dog. Babu, our Tibetan Spaniel, started his first class at CDTC in 2017 and got his CD in 2018.

### **Tom Tatham - Training Director**

I have been training dogs since 2013 and have earned Obedience titles on 3 dogs (a CDX on my Corgi, my Aussie is UDX2 OM1, and my Mini American is UDX). We have also actively competed in agility and hold several rally titles. My interest in animal training is intertwined with my educational and professional life—I hold a PhD in Experimental Psychology and have published research on operant and classical conditioning, and have taught learning theory to undergraduate,

graduate and medical students. I currently work as a Scientific Review Officer for the National Institutes of Health.



**Janine Castorina -  
Assistant Training  
Director**

I have been a CDTC member for several years. I got started when a close friend suggested that I take my hyper husky-cattle dog to agility class. I took the next Intro to Agility with Hermes and have never looked back. In addition to agility classes, my dogs have taken obedience and rally, though agility is my first love. I began assistant teaching the Intro to Agility class with April a few years ago and love it. The students and the dogs are great. Watching them progress in the sport is so rewarding. I was honored to be asked to be the Assistant Training Director for the agility program and look forward to the additional challenge and being able to give back to the club in a new way. In addition to volunteering for the club, I volunteer for a few dog rescues, where I advocate for positive reinforcement training and other measures that are important in the rescue movement.





## **Benita Bottom - Trial Chair**

As a member of CDTC for 15 years Benita first came to Capital for an Agility class, and is ready to give back serving as Trial Secretary. She brings past experience on the Board as a Secretary and a Director. Presently she teaches a Foundation Agility class and has taught Conformation and Basic Obedience. Since joining Capital, Benita has bred and titled her Portuguese Water Dogs (PWDs) in AKC Agility, Rally and Obedience; as well as Conformation and PWDCA water work. Benita is also the trial chair for National Capital Kennel Club's annual Obedience and Rally trial where she serves as their club Secretary. Living in Kensington with her

husband Doug, and PWDs Antonio, Sabato and Savoy when not training or playing with her PWDs, she is a Business Development Director for a Federal Health IT contractor. Like her dogs, Benita loves to have fun at CDTC and is always learning how to be a better trainer. She is grateful for the opportunities CDTC and its members have given her to achieve with her dogs.

## **Amy Scheiner - Trophy Chair**

I've been a member of Capital for about 30 years (yikes!) and served as Trophy Chair once before about 15 years ago. I've owned and trained Shelties since I was a child, and I took my first puppy to a Capital PK class (at B-CC High School) taught by Wendy Volhard in the early 1970s. I was hooked for sure, and obedience (and later agility) became lifelong passions. Over the years, I've



put a UD on one dog (my Novice A dog) and CDXs and a variety of agility titles on two others. I have dabbled (very minimally so far) in herding and am just now starting to discover the joys of scentwork. When I'm not working—I'm a small animal veterinarian—or training dogs, I enjoy riding my horse, traveling to remote places (Mongolia and Kenya were favorites), and reading. I am happy and honored to be nominated to serve the Club in the capacity of Trophy Chair for 2021.



### **Joyce Dandridge - AKC Delegate.**

First, I would like to thank the CDTC Nominating Committee for considering me for the position of AKC Delegate. I have enjoyed serving in this position. I have been a member of CDTC since 1990 and have put obedience and conformation titles on my Chow Chows. I have been a Chow Chow breeder owner handler for over 30 years. Presently, I judge all the Non Sporting breeds and the group, Best in Show, Juniors and 28 Working breeds. I have had the opportunity to judge at

National Specialties and the AKC Championship Show as well. I have been Corresponding Secretary for the Chow Chow parent club and have been for more than 18 years serving on the Board of Directors. I am a member of National Capital KC and currently serve on their Board. I am a member of Mid-Atlantic Stewards Association and have been an officer of the club and currently serve as one of the Chief Stewards. I was elected by the AKC Delegate body for a third three-year term on the Companion Events Committee last year.

If elected to represent you again, I will continue to seek feedback from the members on AKC Delegate voting issues as well as share your concerns with the Delegate committee. Of course, having initiated the Delegates Corner in our newsletter, I would continue to keep you informed on AKC issues there and most importantly I will continue to be available to the membership to discuss issues of concern in the sport.



**Arthur Belendiuk -  
Obichaff Editor**

On December 5th my wife and I will celebrate 37 years of Weimaraners. We got our first Weim, a six year old rescue, when we were married just 6 months. When she passed away, a Weim puppy, Lazlo, came into our lives. Lazlo was an active puppy, so we decided to give him proper training. Lazlo and I liked it so much that we got a CDX. Now that I am close to retirement and have more time on my hands, I spend more time training and sharing what I have learned with my students. I am currently training in obedience, agility and scent work. I am loving every minute of it.

**Julie Rovner - Member at  
Large**

Julie Rovner is a health policy journalist who currently owns and trains two Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Wallace and Aspen, in obedience, rally, and agility. She has been a member of the board since 2018.



**Shirley Blakely -  
Member at Large**

Shirley Blakely has been a member of CDTC for nearly 15 years and a Board member for 2 years. She is a nutrition scientist, retired, who enjoys interacting with her dog, Gigi, an 8 yr old poodle-Australian Shepherd mix breed. Gigi is a therapy dog who



loves to visit with patients at the Children's National Medical Center, pre-pandemic. Gigi and Shirley have also teamed up in Canine Freestyle competitions, where she's earned several titles. She has achieved certification at the "Expert" level as a tricks dog. During the pandemic, some therapy visitations have occurred via Zoom and classes for Open A obedience and Canine Freestyle have continued on a limited basis. While in-person activities are restricted due to Covid-19, Gigi and Shirley are enjoying taking long hikes and having more playtime with a ball or small disc.

While serving on the CDTC Board, Shirley is learning the business side of running an organization under AKC rules. She is enjoying interacting with and getting to know other Board members who have interesting ways of training and interacting with their dogs.

**Luann Korona  
-Member at Large**

I'm pleased to be

nominated to serve as a Member-at-Large on our Board for another year. This year has been challenging for us all. I believe our club has lots to offer its members and the public, especially during these trying times as more families bring dogs into their lives, and I want to be a part of the leadership that continues to move our club forward. Currently, I have one dog, a tri, smooth collie,



Bodhi, and I am hoping that 2021 may be the year for another pup to join our pack. I found Capital (at the Kensington Armory) when I first moved to the area more than 30 years ago and was looking for a place to train my German Shepherd. I've owned and trained a number of different dogs since then and all have gotten off to a good start at CDTC. I have met so many great people and gifted trainers at Capital, and I am happy to be able to give back to a club that has given me so much.

## DECEMBER MEETING AKA HOWL-A-DAY PARTY



We WILL have a party this year, but it will perform via ZOOM as we have all our meetings of late. We will START at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8. I will be sending out the "invitation" to the meeting/party a day or so before, so keep an eye on your inbox. AND, To get you into the party mood,

there will be games to play! Have your favorite munchies and beverage at hand, as well as paper and pencil, just in case you want to jot down notes to win a prize on one of the games. We may even find a way to include the dogs in the games! Have your favorite silly pet trick ready!

Be there or be square,  
Donna

## President's Message:

Dear Friends,

Two important things to talk about this month:

## Equipment in the club house, and staying safe in the Age of Covid-19

At our recent general membership meeting several members talked about noticing that training equipment in the club house was not being properly stored. This is an issue of safety as well as courtesy. There is a proper place for everything: jumps and agility obstacles. As you all know, there are **THREE TRAINING RINGS** in our building. They are numbered and the numerical designation is even posted on the wall in the area. The obedience jumps are also numbered with 1, 2, and 3, so that each ring will have a set of jumps. If you move a jump from the ring where it belongs, please return it to its **HOME RING** before you leave, so that trainers who come in later will not be forced to retrieve items to the ring where they need to work. This is just common courtesy. Some of us (myself included) are advancing in years and we have limited resources of energy and time. Using strength to move jumps is tiring and eats up valuable training time. Be kind, be thoughtful and return those jumps!

By the same token, unless you are in an Agility Class, you should not be moving any large agility equipment at all! It is dangerous to do so. If you are training alone, and are hurt, nobody can help you. Also, it is expressly against our rules to use contact equipment when not in class, most especially the A-frame, the Dog-walk, and the Teeter. For your own safety, and the safety of your dog, leave those things in their storage spots. Do not move them!

On the subject of safety, I feel compelled to mention the increasing spread of Covid-19. The virus is infecting more people nation-wide AND in our area. With the holidays approaching, it is incumbent upon **EVERYONE** to use appropriate behavior to avoid being infected and to avoid becoming an infector! Everybody loves to get together with friends and family to celebrate at this time of year. However, this year all celebrations should be curtailed to the minimum. Avoid gatherings whenever possible. The bottom line is, if we can do that this year, we will be around next year at the holidays and things will be better. The harsh reality is that it is going to be a rough winter with regard to this illness. Remember what Smokey the Bear used to say: "Only **YOU** can prevent forest fires." A small trope of that is: "Only **YOU** can prevent becoming ill."

Stay home as much as you can. Stay at a distance from all others if you must go out. If you do socialize, do so out of doors. Use your mask! Wash your hands!

## The Best Holiday Movies with Dogs

As we prepare to celebrate the holidays, what could be better than watching a holiday movie with a dog as the featured character? Here are some of my favorite holiday dog movies.

Snoopy in **A Charlie Brown**

**Christmas.** Whether he's dancing on a piano or decorating his doghouse, Charlie Brown's loyal sidekick knows how to celebrate this special time of year. *Linus Van Pelt:* "I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."



Max in **How the Grinch Stole Christmas.** In this adaptation of the beloved children's tale by Dr. Seuss, the reclusive green Grinch decides to ruin Christmas for the cheery citizens of Whoville. Reluctantly joined by his dog, Max, the Grinch comes down from his mountaintop home and sneaks into town to swipe everything holiday-related from the Whos. However, the bitter grump finds a hitch in

his plans when he encounters the endearing Cindy Lou Who.

### Christmas in **A Dog Named Christmas**

This holiday movie tells the tale of a developmentally challenged young man, with a penchant for caring for animals in need, who sets out to convince his family - and their whole rural community - to participate in a local shelter's inaugural "Adopt a Dog for Christmas Program."



Bumpus Hounds in **A Christmas Story**. The Bumpus hounds, the great foes of the father of the main character in the movie, do not have a featured role, but they do steal the show along with the Christmas turkey.

Tucker in **Christmas with Tucker**. This is a story that will make you want to hug your dog a little tighter. After losing his father, 13-year-old George must deal with his sadness while helping his grandparents run their struggling farm.

# MARVISTA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS



## Training a Service Dog

By Arthur Belendiuk



Normally, I do not include my name in the byline of an *Obichaff* article, but this story is different, because it is, in part, also about me. Last year, my wife and I took a trip through the mid-west. In a hotel where we were staying there was a sign by the front desk announcing that fire alarms would be tested

that day and the following day. The testing would take place from 10am to 4pm. Something went wrong and the fire alarm went off at three in the morning. The next morning, my wife asked if I heard the alarm. I said no. I had slept through a fire alarm. That was my wakeup call. I wear hearing aids. They generally do a good job of letting me hear the people and sounds around me. However, when I take them out, as I do when I sleep, my ability to hear deteriorates significantly. Soon after our vacation, Magic, a Weimaraner puppy, joined our family. For my wife's sake and my own safety, I decided to train her to be a hearing assistance service dog. Specifically, I wanted her to alert me when a fire alarm goes off.



I turned to CDTC instructor and trainer, Joan Adler for help. She has experience training hearing assistance dogs and was willing to help. We started with easy exercises. I would place a treat on my mobile phone and when the alarm went off, all Magic had to do was run to the phone to claim her treat. Then she was taught to run to me to alert me and, of course, she would get another treat. Later, when we switched to working with an actual alarm, Joan's husband, Sandy, built me a smoke detector that could be triggered remotely. Magic is progressing very nicely and as I write this, I am confident that should a smoke or fire alarm go off in the middle of the night, Magic would alert me to the sound.

This brings me to the point of this story; how should I and Magic be treated when we are out in public? I have no visible handicap, and when I am wearing my hearing aids I can hear reasonably well. Yet, to do her job, Magic needs to be trained to go into stores, restaurants and most importantly hotels. As service dogs have become more commonplace, so too have the problems that result from a lack of understanding about service dog training, functions and access to public facilities. The [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) defines a service dog as “a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.” “Disability” is defined as an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation.

A service dog is trained to assist a person with their specific disability. For example, guide dogs help blind and visually impaired individuals navigate their environments. Hearing dogs help alert deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to important sounds. Mobility dogs assist individuals who use wheelchairs, walking devices, and who have balance issues. Medical alert dogs signal the onset of a medical issue such as a seizure or low blood sugar, or alert the user to the presence of allergens, and perform functions.

The ADA makes clear that a service dog is a dog that is trained to perform a specific task or tasks for a person with a disability. A vest does not make a service dog. Although some service dogs may wear vests, special harnesses, collars or tags, the ADA does not require service dogs to wear vests or display identification. Conversely, dogs that do wear vests are not necessarily service dogs. For example, emotional support animals (ESAs) provide comfort just by being with a person. But, because these dogs are not trained to perform a specific job or task for a person with a disability, they do not qualify as service dogs under the ADA. Therapy dogs provide opportunities for petting, affection, and interaction in a variety of settings on a volunteer basis. Therapy dogs and their owners bring cheer and comfort to hospital patients, assisted living center residents, stressed travelers in airports, college students during exams, and in other situations where friendly, well-trained dogs are welcome. Therapy dogs are not defined as service dogs under the ADA.

Federal laws provide special accommodations to the disabled and limit the questions that may be asked about disabilities. Under ADA rules, in situations where it is not obvious that a dog is a service animal, only two questions may be asked: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? The reply to question (2) must affirm that the service dog has been trained to take specific



action when needed to assist the person with a disability. Unfortunately, too often these laws are abused by people who fraudulently misrepresent their dogs as service animals. This harms the truly disabled, confuses the public, and affects the reputation of legitimate service dog users. Even worse, a poorly-trained fake service animal can be a danger to the public and to real service dogs.

About nine months ago, I took Magic with me to her first ever overnight stay in a hotel. When I checked in the clerk was not happy about me bringing a “service” dog into the hotel. It was clear from her attitude that she had seen this trick one too many times. That evening, I met friends in the lobby for pizza and beer. As we were all dog people, my friends wanted to see how Magic was progressing with her training. I took out my phone, set the timer and waited for the alarm to go off. Magic ran to the phone, then to me to alert me to the sound. I looked at the front desk and there was the desk clerk with a big smile on her face. That evening as I was heading to bed the clerk stopped me and asked me if I needed anything and told me what a nice dog I had.

Just as I am doing with Magic, if you have a disability, you can train your own service dog. The ADA does not require service dogs to be professionally trained. Individuals with disabilities have the right to train a service dog themselves and are not required to use a professional service dog trainer or training program. If you want to train a service dog, the first thing you need to do is work on the dog’s foundation skills. It goes without saying that the dog must be potty trained and well socialized with dogs, unfamiliar people, places, sights sounds and other animals. The dog will be out in public and can’t have a meltdown because she sees a person in a mask or something else that is unfamiliar or which the dog perceived as scary. The Canine Good Citizen program is benchmark to determine whether a dog has the necessary foundation skills. CDTC offers course that can give your dog the basic foundation skills it needs, whether you need a service dog or just a best friend.

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## Christmas Music for Dogs

I have to admit that when I first read about Christmas music for dogs, I thought it was a silly idea. Still I felt that as the *Obichaff* editor I had a duty to check it out. When I played the video below, Magic came over to my computer and started watching the video with me. Drop me a line and let me know if your dog reacted to the video.



## Canine Leptospirosis: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

By Amy Scheiner, D.V.M.

Leptospirosis in dogs is a serious disease which can be fatal, and it appears to be on the rise in North America. It is zoonotic (transmissible between animals and humans) and thus has public health implications for all of us. Both humans and dogs can be infected by contact with contaminated urine or water. If a dog swims, drinks from puddles, or even noses around in moist areas, it is at risk for contracting leptospirosis. Urban wildlife, particularly rodents and raccoons, serve as reservoir hosts for the bacteria that cause this disease.

While many infected dogs show only mild, subtle signs of disease, dogs that become severely ill with leptospirosis often develop acute kidney failure and/or liver disease. Sometimes lung disease and clotting abnormalities also develop. Symptoms can be quite varied and include fever, vomiting, increased thirst and urination, jaundice, muscle tenderness, decreased appetite, bloody stools, labored breathing, nosebleeds and hemorrhages in the skin and gums, and inflammation in the eyes.

Both antibody tests and PCR tests (tests for the presence of the DNA of the bacteria that cause leptospirosis) are available to help diagnose the disease. These tests have their limitations. For example, an antibody test can be falsely positive if the patient has recently been vaccinated for leptospirosis; it may be falsely negative very early in the course of disease. PCR tests may be falsely



negative if the patient was already on antibiotics when the test was performed. Test results must be interpreted together with the patient's history and clinical signs in order to make an accurate diagnosis.

Vaccines are available for dogs for 4 of the most common serovars (strains) that cause "lepto," and they should be considered for at-risk dogs. I believe that a frank discussion between every dog owner and his or her veterinarian about each individual dog's risk and the benefits of vaccination is imperative. For both puppies and adult dogs that have not previously been vaccinated, two doses of the 4-way vaccine must be given 3-4 weeks apart, followed by an annual booster. I prefer to give puppies the vaccines at 12 and 16 weeks of age, at the last two puppy vaccination visits. Lepto vaccines can be administered either alone or in a combination product with canine distemper-adenovirus-parvovirus. In the past, concern about the safety of the vaccine has limited its use, even in endemic areas. However, a study in 2015 involving over 130,000 dogs showed the vaccine is safe in the majority of cases. While mild, self-limiting reactions were reported twice as frequently in dogs who received the lepto vaccine as in dogs who were given other vaccines (but not lepto), the study authors concluded that the risk of any adverse events was still extremely low. Serious allergic-type reactions were found to be no more of a risk with the lepto vaccine than with any other vaccination.

If your dog is diagnosed with leptospirosis, your veterinarian will prescribe antibiotics, usually one of the penicillins or doxycycline. Doxycycline has the advantage of preventing shedding of the organism in the patient's urine, thus decreasing the risk of transmission to people and other animals. Supportive care including IV fluids is often necessary as well. Some severely ill patients may require more aggressive therapy such as dialysis and/or blood transfusions.

Survival rates vary depending on the manifestations of infection, severity of disease and general health status of the infected dog. Dogs with kidney failure, liver failure, or lung involvement can have high mortality rates. Severely affected dogs that survive may sustain permanent organ damage. The last patient I diagnosed with leptospirosis was a young miniature dachshund. He became quite ill and required hospitalization and intensive supportive care. It was pretty touch-and-go for a while, but he fortunately made a complete recovery. This dog was at risk because he spent a lot of time outdoors on camping trips with his owners. Vaccination would probably have prevented my patient's illness, but the owners had been advised by their breeder not to immunize for lepto.

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation recently presented a great webinar on the topic of canine leptospirosis. It is archived and can be viewed free of charge [here](#).

The AKC also has several interesting articles on this topic which summarize recent information about the disease: [Article 1](#); [Article 2](#); [Article 3](#).

The CDC is also a good source of basic information on leptospirosis in dogs and humans. For more information [click](#) here.

If you're a true epidemiology geek and like to read original research papers, try these: [Paper 1](#); [Paper 2](#).



Lastly, in case anyone is curious, Teagan and Devyn (my Shelties) are both up to date on their leptospirosis vaccinations!

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## Bragg

CDTC welcomes three new Canine Good Citizens, from left to right Bowser with his handler Lilian Bruch and her son, Jamie Harding, Tom Tatham, the CGC evaluator, Aamir with his handler, Hargobind Vohra, and Milo with his handler Cheryl Bregman. Congratulations to our newest Canine Good Citizens!



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Megan Hemmer writes: "Earlier this year, Buffy earned her NTD, novice trick dog title. While Do More With Your Dog is the organization, the AKC recognizes and grandfathers in titles from this organization. Facebook recommended a group called Cat Trick University that also does cat titles. So I decided to give it a try. Their lowest level, called Performance Cat Freshman (PCFR), is a bit like the CGC with the AKC."



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At 9½ months, Moose, pictured in his first show with Martha Perkins, wins the Welsh Springer Spaniel 9-12 months Puppy Sweepstakes at the Hunt Country Classic on October 31, 2020, in Doswell, VA.



Not to be outdone by the cat, Megan Hemmer writes that "Connor finished his open agility titles in good fashion, with two first place runs in jumpers and standard. Good boy! In other news, Michael enjoyed himself and amused the audience. He also managed to get a couple of Qs. Good baby boy!"



My Pandemic Project or Yes! And Old Dog CAN Learn New Tricks by Pam Coblyn



On September 10, AKC announced the 2020 National Trick Dog Competition—open only to Elite Performer titled trick dogs. Fen recently earned that title so it was game on! We had only 20 days to meet the October 1 deadline. In order to compete, I had to produce a 6 minute video with a theme, write a script that told a story, gather props and think up a minimum of 10 high level tricks. This became my Pandemic Project and it was just what was needed during the shutdown and isolation. Goals are good when times get tough!

The hardest part was figuring out tricks that were safe for my 13+ year old Fenway. He no longer jumps and I'm very careful about what he does and how he moves. That means super athletic moves are out: no rolling, leaping or walking on his hind legs. He's slowed down and is even more opinionated (read barky!), so figuring out a minimum of 10 high level tricks wasn't easy. I made a list of reasonable things Fen CAN do and relied on his years of obedience, rally and agility moves as inspiration. Team Fenway could reasonably do the tricks—all I needed was an idea to stitch them together to form a story around a theme.

Everything came together in the wee hours one morning when it came to me. Fen's an old dog. He's learning new tricks. That gave me my theme! The title was obvious—"Yes! You CAN Teach An Old Dog New Tricks". I started with this concept and planned out a routine with a script that told the story—how learning and performing specific tricks helps senior dogs like Fenway stay flexible, strong, mentally sharp, engaged and happy.

The local thrift shop's toy section was a great resource for props that inspired individual tricks. Fen enjoyed banging on a little piano, riding in a wagon, retrieving rubber duckies, walking through a hula hoop and doing a ring toss game. I set these up in our front yard, decorated a few things, and created Fenway's Tricks Stadium. Heeling and signals became the foundation for our transitions from one trick station to another—thank you to all our obedience and rally instructors! Quite a few tricks are adaptations from his AKC venues.

We practiced individual tricks and then put the routine together, one station at a time, until we could do the whole trick circuit in one take. Baby steps and back chaining—concepts I learned at CDTC—were my training foundations. The hardest part was doing the whole routine in one take because AKC specified that the video had to be in one continual sequence: no do overs and no combining different scenes.

Fen was so happy learning new things and felt quite proud of himself—just like the old days in the competition rings. I was thrilled, too, because it was pure fun. There were no spectators, judges, judging times and run orders or ribbons to get anxious about. It was pure fun and the only pressure was the deadline!



AKC is judging the routines this fall and awards will be based on creativity, fluency (accuracy of tricks, difficulty), flow from one trick to the next, handling skills, entertainment value and overall impression (background, etc.). Our submission isn't as flashy as others with younger, more agile dogs and Fen's tricks aren't the "WOW!" type—no pushing shopping carts, rolling over or riding skate boards—but he performed what he could do and was happy to do it. The most important thing is that we spent lots of time together, had so much fun, Fen got lots of Good Boy treats and I forgot all about COVID for 20 days! And, AKC sent us a nice trophy and a paperweight for our qualifying submission. Nice job, AKC! Here is a [link](#) to our video submission:



# Dogs of the Rich and Famous

Reese Witherspoon, the *Big Little Lies* and *Legally Blonde* star loves animals. Reese has several dogs. Pictured below is Reese with Pepper, a blue-gray French Bulldog who joined Witherspoon and her family in 2016. By all accounts Reese spoils her dogs, which includes dressing Pepper in designer outfits.



## Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

### Upcoming Classes/Tests

CGC TEST - December 5 & 20, February 6

Beginning Conformation - January 2

Beginning Conformation (Juniors U18 Only!) - January 15

S.T.A.R. Puppy/Kindergarten (born after 8/18/2020) - January 5

Puppy Kindergarten (born after 9/20/2020) - February 7

Family Dog 1 (formerly Basic Obedience) - January 4, 5

Family Dog 2 (formerly Advanced Basic Obedience) - January 3

CGC Prep Class - January 2

Rally Novice - January 2

Intro to Scent Work (Finding Hidden Odor) - January 3

**January and February class registration is open. Facility use remains at 25% capacity with masks required.**

Click [here](#) to go straight to registration.

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

**Winter Agility will start on January 3rd. Current students and those on a waitlist for Winter, watch for a registration link in your email soon. Email [AGILITY](#) to get on the wait list for Spring.**

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

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

**Fundamentals of Competition Obedience** - This 12-week 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. In addition, foundation skills for retrieving will be addressed. Students enrolling in this class should have a strong commitment to excelling and will be expected to practice between classes. Contact [Tom](#) if you are interested. **New session will begin around the end of January.**

### **Training Groups:**

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

**Obedience Video Training Group** meets most 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Jennie](#).

**Conformation Training Group** will start meeting Friday evenings. Contact [Janice](#).

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

### 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

The Delegates Companion Events Committee meeting was a zoom meeting held on Nov. 16. All other AKC Delegates were invited to listen to the meeting.

The meeting started with a report from Doug Ljungren, VP of AKC Sports Events:

- The actual past three months July-Sept showed the following # events % of 2019. In Agility 97% of what was in 2019 and Obedience and Rally 65% of the what was in 2019. All events are trending upward and this is a better report than Sept.
- The event application fees of canceled events will be rolled ahead to the next event of the same type. Also, clubs are allowed to submit event applications up to 30 days prior to the event without incurring a late fee.
- AKC Virtual Rally and Virtual Agility ACT programs will be extended through the end of 2021. They were due to expire the end of this year.
- Agility for exhibition only and Fix and Go pilot programs have been well received and therefore will be made permanent parts of the agility program.
- The following extending modifications that expire the end of this year will be extended through 2021. They are: 1) Two judges required to earn a title: Agility=18 titles, Rally=4 titles; 2) The 30 days and 100 miles assignment restriction for judges in Agility, Obedience and Rally is waived; 3) Distance

between exhibitors in Obedience Novice group exercises will be 8 feet; 4) Tracking test certifications that expired in 2020 and 2021 are extended one year.

- The following modifications will become permanent effective Jan. 1, 2021: 1) Closing Date option of a closing date no later than 7 days prior to event will be at club's option; 2) Obedience, rally and tracking regulations affecting an exhibitor's eligibility will change from 30 days to 10 days prior to an event; 3) The obedience and rally regulations affecting a dog's eligibility will change from 30 days to 10 days prior to an event; 4) For obedience and rally, the eligibility restrictions on exhibitors and dogs when there is an emergency judge change will be waived; 5) For the obedience Figure Eight exercise, cones will be used instead of Stewards- Required Height-17" to 37" and no more than 15" wide; 6) The club may distribute the rally course maps by email and post them electronically online no earlier than 6PM the evening before the trial.

- An ACT Jumpers Class was recommended by staff and was approved effective

Feb. 1, 2021. The ACT Jumpers may be done virtually or in an event setting.

- A new virtual program for obedience consisting of the Beginner Novice and Novice class level will be on a pilot basis starting March 1, 2021. The exercises in the VOT program will be slightly different than the in-person obedience trials and therefore, the titles earned will be designated with the letter V. There will be no crossover from virtual titles to regular obedience titles. This pilot will be for one year.

- The Fix and Go concept is being proposed for obedience trials. It will allow the team to reattempt that one exercise and then leave the ring. A survey was sent to exhibitors (30,000 and 5310 responded) and 66% wanted this and 13% were against.

- A proposed change for standalone obedience and rally trials on the issue of wait lists was discussed. It is believed the change of allowing a waitlist to be held beyond the closing date for a trial will allow clubs to fill an event.

- Another proposed change for obedience and rally is the use of the random draw entry method in limited events. This would be a club option and it is felt this change will create equity between all exhibitors entering the limited trials and it has been successful in agility.

AKC Board Member Steven Hamlin spoke on his role current as the committee's board liaison.

Patti Sample reported on her participation on the Junior Participation Subcommittee. She said clubs are discounting fees for Juniors and the age of 18 to 21 (young adults) group should get a reduced rate. Maybe these initiatives will get and keep more young folks involved in the sport. She said the committee would look at safety issues, Junior Advocates and the use of mixed breeds in Jr. Showmanship. Special TOP JUNIOR jackets and Rosettes will be presented to the Juniors in Obedience, Agility, Rally, Herding, Earth Dog, Coursing, Field trials, and Conformation at the AKC National Championship in Orlando. For those winners not in attendance the jackets will be mailed.

Finally, in this meeting, a discussion occurred on the need for more obedience and rally judges and the difficulty some clubs are having finding judges for their events. A subcommittee was formed to further investigate and make suggestions on how to get more people interested in judging as well as review the existing requirements for applying. If any members have any thoughts on this topic you would like me to share with the committee, please email me your

thoughts. This issue was discussed over a year ago but some feel it is still a relevant one.

During the week of Delegate Committee meetings, it was announced that the ACE awards would not be presented in Orlando for obvious reasons and therefore each of the five awards winners will be featured on AKC.TV. There will be five shows; one for each recipient.

Lastly, due to COVID-19, there will be no spectators allowed at the AKC National Championship Show. However, if you want to view the judging in real time on Saturday, Dec.12 and Sunday 13, AKC is arranging for this to be done for a fee; both days for \$3 which will be donated to canine charities assisting during this crisis. The total entry is around 4000 with 608 in Agility and 125 in Obedience. Juniors entry is 105. Otherwise, the show will still be televised at a later date as has been in the past. Streaming of specific breeds can still be done according to the judging program schedule.

The above is just my report from the committee meetings held in November. The general Delegates meeting will be held by zoom on December 2. I will write a separate report on that meeting in the next issue.

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## Nota Bene regarding the “LOST AND FOUND” box at the club house

Every year at the end of the year, we empty out the Lost and Found box at the club house. Now is a good time to check it for any item you may have misplaced during the past year. Currently there is a dumbbell, an un-marked metal scent article, and numerous leads and leashes. A few other small items as well. January 1, 2021 will find that box empty.

You have been alerted!

## 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/cdte> and click “Apply for Membership.”



[Visit our website](#)