



Obichaff

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



November 2020

Volume 76 - Issue 10

Dogs teach us a very important lesson in life:
The mail man is not to be trusted.

— Sian Ford



Board of Directors

From the Editor

President
[Donna Cleverdon](#)

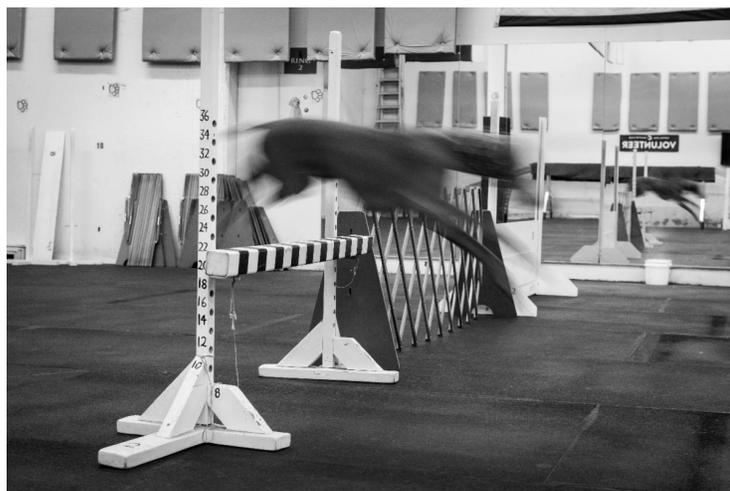
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In November we celebrate Veterans Day, a

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New Membership Information

[Shirley Blakely](#)

time when we honor those who served in the armed forces. This issue has an article about dogs that serve in the military. The article covers how military dogs are trained and the services they provide our soldiers. Also, there is a book review about a service dog, Tuesday, that helped a wounded warrior find healing and stability in his life. The book, *Until Tuesday*, is an often heartwarming, often difficult story about a dog who comes into a wounded warrior's life and helps him adjust to life outside the military.

Pictured above is Magic going over the bar jump. Magic continues to mature and is getting better and better in obedience, agility and scent work. She is currently a student in the Fundamentals of Competition Obedience class taught by Tom Tatham and Jennie Larkin. She is also excelling in her agility classes. A special shout out to all the agility trainers that are helping me and Magic with our agility training. You are awesome! Most importantly, Magic and I are having the best time training together. Last week when it was time to leave a training session, she refused to leave the ring. Yes, she was being naughty, but how wonderful that she was having so much fun that she did not want the training session to end.



0-4 Months



4-36 Months



36 Months+

President's Message:

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well as you can in the Time of Covid. If we say one thing about 2020 in the future, it will be: "I remember 2020!"

The club is doing fine. Our income has been steady, even though we are only

holding one class per hour in the club house. There is a large pent up demand for our classes because so many have acquired new pups/dogs during this time as everyone is working from home. That's a lot of dogs that need training!

Some of our members have been able to exhibit their dogs in recent days as there are some clubs offering trials with stringent protection measures in place. Good for you! As for me, I'm staying home. There will be some new activities to look forward to at Capital in the future. In the meantime, keep training.

We will continue with the current mode of operations for the foreseeable future. As you know, more cases of active disease are diagnosed in every state in the last several weeks. We cannot afford to relax our behavior, or become complacent!

I've said it before, but I will say it again, please take care of yourselves, because when we do get together again, we don't want anybody to be missing. I mean that from my heart.

The Nominating Committee is currently forming the slate of officers for 2021. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, you should contact the head of the committee, Jennie Larkin. She will be announcing the slate at the November General Membership meeting on Tuesday, November 10. Look for the ZOOM invitation in your email a day or so before that date. Be there or be square.

Capital Dog Training Clubs Annual Awards Dinner

On Sunday, October 4 we held the Capital Dog Training Clubs Annual Awards

Dinner, postponed from the usual date in July. The exact location was amongst the trees of the Buck Picnic Pavilion in Seneca Creek State Park in

Gaithersburg. The weather was perfect:

cloudless and sunny, warm but not hot, and with a bit of a breeze. Forty club members attended, all wearing masks and practicing safe distances. Nearly all brought a dog-show chair of choice and sat in small spread-out clusters, and we ate our picnics either brought from home, or supplied by Panera.



Since we were outside, we were able to bring our dogs, something we normally can't do at the indoor Awards Dinner at



the club house! Consequently, many of our canine partners were on display. Jodie Jeweler brought her enormous Irish wolfhound puppy, Quigley. Sandi had her two little guys, Danny and Figaro, April and Ted and Carie had the Skipperkees of course. Donna's poodle got to meet and greet his buddy Tenley who brought his handler Mariah Stover. Tom Tatham and Karen Steinmeyer had their Aussies with them. Assorted other pooches came as well, and all were beautifully behaved as befitted a gathering of trainers!

Responsible for arrangements were first and foremost our Trophy Chair, Amy Scheiner. Assisting were Janine Castorina who placed directional signs to help folks find us; Sandi Atkinson who brought fun decorations from home and made the pavilion very festive indeed; Sandy Swinburne brought extra drinks - even beer! Tom Tatham and Donna Cleverdon and Sue Faber arrived early to help Amy unload and arrange the tables and awards for presentation.



After an appropriate interval to allow visiting



and eating, we started the program with a few remarks from President Donna Cleverdon. She mentioned that while there was to be no formal meeting for business on this occasion, attendees should remember the loss of one our our own, Jane Weisemann. We all made a toast to “Absent Friends.” And on a happier note, we also observed that our newsletter Editor Art Belendiuk had his birthday on the day.

Those of the members present who achieved titles on their dogs during 2019 received their awards. These titles reflect the varied and diverse training interests of the club: conformation, Rally, Agility, Obedience, Good Citizen, Tricks, and Scent work. For a complete list see a copy of the program, available at the club house. In addition, we recognized the earners of special achievement in several areas. High scoring dog for earning a Companion Dog title was Anita



Rhawn and Mason; for high scoring dog earning a Companion Dog Excellent was Milly Welsh and Polly; for high scoring dog earning a Utility title was Sandi Atkinson and Danny. There was also a High In Trial gift for Julie Rovner and Welsh Corgi Wallace!

Culminating the celebration was the award to April de Bremond who was presented with the American Kennel Club Outstanding Sportsmanship Award for 2020. This award is in recognition of her



unfailing and cheerful guidance to many students attending the club's agility classes in particular, over many years. Congratulations to April!

The last presentation of the day was a rare and special honor to Shannon Hall in the form of a Life Membership in "sincere gratitude and appreciations....for her many years of dedication and service to the club." Everyone present was delighted to join in applause for a well deserved award for Shannon.



It was a lovely way to spend an afternoon outside with friends on such a gorgeous day.

Photo credits: Tom Tatham and Art Belendiuk











How the Military Trains Dogs For Active Duty



This month we celebrate Veterans Day, so it is only fitting that we say something about dogs in the armed forces. Military dogs are an integral part of many military units, whether they are trained in bomb, weapon, drug detection, tracking, or to attack the enemy, the military uses dogs in a myriad of ways. For some service members, having a dog around keeps them

"distracted...from exhaustion, complacency, and being far from home" and for others, dogs can play a big role as therapy dogs when their service comes to a close.

Hero dogs are not born, they are carefully trained from puppies to be fearless four-legged warriors. Conan the hero dog who took down ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi got his training at 341st Training Squadron on the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where the military's K-9s have been schooled since the 1960s. The Military Working Dog program at Lakeland provides working dogs to every service branch. Today, more than 1,000 dogs are trained at any given time by a staff of 125 from all branches of military service.

To prepare for war zones, dogs need to feel comfortable in any environment, whether it's an Army tank rumbling past the Syrian border or aboard a Naval ship docked off the coast of Africa. "We want a dog who can be woken up at two in the morning, stuck in a running helicopter, flown somewhere for a couple of hours and be put down with a whole bunch of operators with lights flashing and shining and stuff like that and the dogs can do their job," says Dr. Stewart Hilliard, a civilian animal behaviorist in charge of Lackland's whelping kennel and breeding program. The military has puppy development specialists. They work with the carefully selected puppies from the time they're born until they begin their training at around 6-7 months of age. They help them develop basic social skills and get the puppies ready for the jobs they will perform later in life. How great is that job?

By the time the dogs are 7 months, specialist decide which dogs are going to stay in the program, and which are going to be pets, by assessing things like their "boldness," capacity for aggression and how well they stand up to a human when challenged.

Basic training for dogs at Lakeland is not significantly different from what is offered at CDTC. Puppies are socialized and exposed to a variety of sights and sounds. All training begins by establishing the handler - dog relationship through constant close association, feeding, grooming, exercise and play. Once this relationship has begun to develop, basic obedience training is introduced.



The same key factors used at CDTC, patience, firmness, repetition, reward and correction are applied throughout the training process. Desired response is communicated to the dog through reward and correction. When the dog responds correctly, it is

rewarded with verbal praise, physical petting or, with food or play articles. If a wrong response is made, the reward is withheld or the correction is applied. For most dogs, a firm "no" and jerk on the leash are sufficient corrections. This is the only form of correction generally applied to military working dogs. Inflicting pain on a dog is detrimental to training and is not allowed.

From the initial phases of training, the dog is never permitted to ignore a



command or fail to carry it out completely. If a dog fails to execute a command properly, praise is withheld, and the dog is placed in the desired position and then praise is given.

After the dogs complete basic training they receive, 65 days of detection training, or learning how to sniff for explosives and narcotics, and 55 days of patrol work — basically, how to chase down bad guys. Only about 50% of the dogs make it all the way through training. A fully trained bomb detection dog averages 98% accuracy in its detection skills. The peace of mind such a dog provide to the troops is beyond price.

There are about 2500 dogs in active service today and about 700 deployed overseas. Military dogs play an integral role in the overseas conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dr. Stewart Hilliard, Chief of Military War Dog evaluation and training at Lackland Air Force Base told San Antonio Magazine in 2013, “These dogs are among our most effective counter measures against terrorists and explosives.” A military dog is always one rank higher (unofficially) than its handler. That says something about the esteem in which these hero dogs are held by their handler.

Just like their human brothers and sisters in arms, dog soldiers are susceptible to the horrors of PTSD. War dogs experience severe emotional trauma during deployment, and for some it becomes too much. Gunner, a Marine bomb sniffing dog became so skittish and unpredictable during active duty that he was declared “surplus” by the military and released from service. Gunner was adopted by the family of Corporal Jason Dunham who was killed near the Syrian border in 2004. He and the Dunhams are working on healing together.

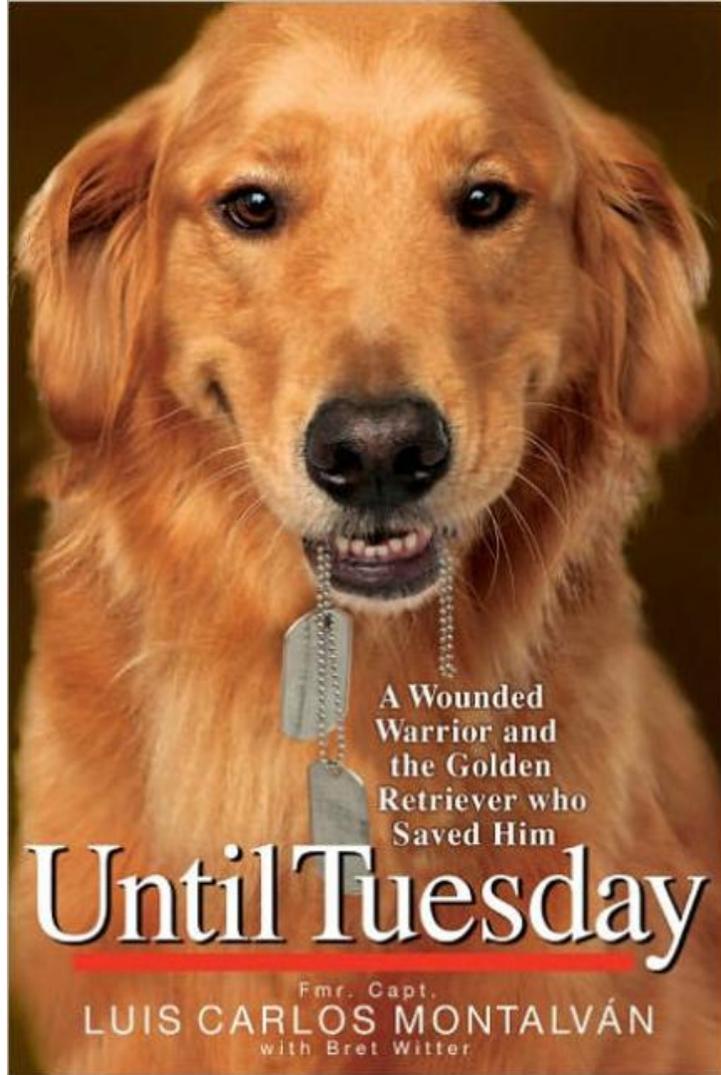
We offer a sincere thank you to our nation’s veterans, two and four footed alike.





Book Review: Until Tuesday

"We aren't just service dog and master; Tuesday and I are also best friends. Kindred souls. Brothers. Whatever you want to call it. We weren't made for each other, but we turned out to be exactly what the other needed."



A highly decorated captain in the U.S. Army, Luis Montalván never backed down from a challenge during his two tours of duty in Iraq. After returning home from combat, however, the pressures of his physical wounds, traumatic brain injury, and crippling post-traumatic stress disorder began to take their toll. Haunted by the war and in constant physical pain, he soon found himself unable to climb a simple flight of stairs or face a bus ride to the VA hospital. He drank; he argued; ultimately, he cut himself off from those he loved. Alienated and alone, unable to sleep or bend over without pain, he began to wonder if he would ever recover.

Then Luis met Tuesday, a beautiful and sensitive golden retriever trained to assist the disabled. Tuesday had lived amongst prisoners and at a home for troubled boys; he could turn on lights, open doors, and sense the onset of anxiety and flashbacks. But because of a unique training situation and sensitive nature, he found it difficult to trust in or connect with a human being-until Luis.

Until Tuesday is the story of how two wounded warriors, who had given so much and suffered the consequences, found salvation in each other. It is a story about war and peace, injury and recovery, psychological wounds and spiritual restoration. But more than that, it is a story about the love between a man and dog, and how together they healed each other's souls.

This book is a deeply personal account of the struggles of one veteran and how a service dog helped him lead a more normal life. Of particular interest to CDTA members are the sections of the book that talk about service dogs and the organization that trains them. I was deeply moved by this book as will anyone who loves dogs. Click below for the trailer for the book.



Braggs

Mariah Stover writes: Here is Tenley and Reid in their homemade Halloween costumes. My favorite kind of rain - raining cats and dogs! Being a new rescue, Reid was a little too nervous to put his on, but he was brave enough to sit beside it in his rain coat (huge improvement in his confidence - its all about the baby steps).



After a 15 month layoff, Julie Rovner's Wallace returned to the agility ring in October and got his second Novice Jumpers leg with a clean, fast run. Standard is still a work in progress...



Milly Welsh writes: Razor, Graden's Cutting Edge, has been at home having her fall break from boarding school with Tony Flowers at West Bay Retrievers. We've had a grand time bonding, training, learning about my house and its rules, and competing in some derbies. We were fortunate to place first in the MRC derby on October 17, 2020.



Dogs of the Rich and Famous

Pablo Picasso had many dogs and cats during his long, productive life. Frika (circa 1904-1913) was his dog when he was in a relationship with Fernande Olivier. In 1907 Picasso did drawing of Frika and her pups to amuse Oliver. In 1912, after Picasso's relationship with Oliver ended, Frika spent some time with the painter, Georges Braque. After things settled, Frika went back to living with Picasso. Frika truly lived a charmed life.

In 1907 Marie Laurencin, printmaker, stage designer and painter met Pablo Picasso and through him the poet Guillaume Apollinaire. Laurencin painted the group portrait below. The central figure is Apollinaire, seated holding a book. Laurencin stands behind him. Next to her is Picasso, presented in profile, accompanied by Frika. The fourth figure on the right is Oliver.

Laurencin's painting, *Group of Artists*, is part of the Cone Collection of the Baltimore Museum of Art.



Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests

[CGC TEST](#) - December 5 & 20

[Tricks TEST](#) - November 17

January classes/registration will be announced in the December newsletter.

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

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

Email [AGILITY](#) to get on the wait list for Winter.

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

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

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. Contact [Karen](#).

Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

The next Delegates Companion Events Committee meeting will be held the end of November by Zoom. The next full body Delegates meeting will be held the first week in December by Zoom. Plans continue to be made for the Royal Canin Championship Show in Orlando in December. It will not be a spectator

event and there will be no Meet the Breeds. Of course, it will be televised later. There are over 400 entries in Rally and over 125 in Obedience.

The AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge continues to be successful. Participants submit videos that do not exceed 2 minutes in length and must include the dog in stack from the front, side and rear. There must also be a display of an appropriate oral exam for the breed. There will be breed winners and group winners as well as Best in Show. Various AKC judges have been selected to view the videos and select the winners. The entry fees will be donated to the California Fire Foundation's SAVE Program.

The following candidates have been selected by the Nominating Committee to run for 2025 AKC Board seats: Rita Biddle, ESQ., Dominic Carota, Dr. Thomas Davis, and Thomas Powers. In addition, Patricia Cruz submitted a petition to run for one of the 4 vacant seats. If any member has a reason for me not to vote for any of these listed candidates, please contact me personally by phone or email. One candidate listed had been mentioned to me negatively 2 years ago by a CDTC member and was defeated. However, a vacancy occurred last year and the Board selected the person to finish the term. So, again I am open to whatever that member wants me to do in terms of my vote.

The AKC Museum is featuring Presidential Dogs from Sept. 8 - Jan. 3. Tickets can be bought on line.

Virtual Home Manners- VHM is the answer when you want to train your dog at home. The evaluation of a dog's ability to perform 10 home manners skills will be done by video recording. Two levels of Home Manners will be offered. Dogs that pass the tests will be awarded titles, VHMP and VHMA. Go to the AKC website for more details on how the program works.

Stay safe and healthy.

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

