



Obichaff

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



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

April 2024

Volume 81 - Issue 3

“Be the most interesting human your dog has ever met.” - Ralf Weber

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From the Editor



The club hosted our quarterly CGC and Trick Dog testing on March 9th. Marnie McCown and I handed out a handful of titles to well-

Members at Large

[April deBremond](#)

[Marnie McCown](#)

[Shirley Blakely](#)

New Membership Information

[Shirley Blakely](#)

Historian (not a board member)

[Joan Adler](#)

deserved teams!

Hadley and I decided to go ahead and complete her Trick Dog Advanced title. She loves learning new tricks, and I love when she's excited to work! Since Hadley is a pretty sensitive-yet-stubborn dog, it is occasionally a struggle keeping her engaged. I like being able to change up what we do at the club so she's always eager to learn and work.

Despite her bow-legged sit and skeptical ears in this picture, she had fun!

Cherry Blossom Cheer!



As I am sure some of you may remember from last year's cherry blossom story, I am a HUGE fan of these trees and how beautiful our city looks in the springtime. This year, I checked "Tidal Basin Sunrise Walk" off my DC bucket list with the help of Marnie McCown and her handsome Beau. While Hadley and Beau were smitten with each other (please see them holding hands below), us humans were smitten with the perfect petals and dramatic sunrise.

There is something particularly magical about walking around the tidal basin just as the sun rises. The blossoms catch the light

perfectly and everything has a pink-gold glow. Turns out, all the time we spend training our dogs pays off tremendously when it comes time to pose them for photos! They were good sports and got a ton of attention from other petal peepers. It was a really beautiful morning!

With the incoming, and much-needed, repairs to the sea wall, the Tidal Basin will look different for the next few years. It was wonderful to experience this cold, yet beautiful morning while we still could!





In addition to the Tidal Basin blossoms, we've taken many afternoon strolls through the Kenwood neighborhood in Bethesda during this abnormally long stretch of lingering blossoms. These trees seem to be about a week behind the Tidal Basin, and as such are still going strong! The green leaves are poking through, but a lot of pristine petals remain. I highly recommend parking in downtown Bethesda or near the [Wag'n'Wash](#) and taking the Capital Crescent Trail until it crosses past the entrance to the Kenwood neighborhood, as parking is heavily restricted over there this time of year. This makes for a really beautiful three to four mile walk that will result in many photo opportunities and a tired pup!

Happy blossom season!

CDTC 4th Annual Fast CAT Event

Submitted by: Martin R. Goldstein

CDTC is hosting our 4th year of this AKC event June 28-30, 2024, in White Post, VA, and we are seeking volunteers!

For those unfamiliar with Fast CAT, it is a completely non-denominational AKC event where dogs can earn a title simply for running! Fast CAT is an outdoor weekend of fun, racing, cheer, and equality. With that said:

- Obedience dogs may still lift their noses at the uncivilized and unruly Agility dogs.
- Agility dogs may scoff at the pretentious and dull Obedience dogs.
- Scent Work dogs may sniff to their heart's content.
- Freestyle dogs may dance with reckless abandon.
- Conformation dogs may enjoy mingling with the other inferior breeds of their species.

Fast CAT is very much like National Brotherhood Week, only shorter! But wait! There's more!

Fast CAT (Coursing Ability Test) is a 100-yard dash where dogs run one at a time down a fully fenced 'track' chasing a 'bunny' (lure, which is a plastic bag), and are timed.

Each dog may run twice per day. The days end around noon to beat the heat. No special skills are required. A title is based on points. Points are calculated with your dog's time. At the end of each run, you'll receive a qualifying ribbon on the back of which you'll find your time and points earned. With the requisite points, you earn a title! More points take you to the next level. Some will earn additional achievements to gloat about, fastest dog in class, etc. The faster your dog, the more points you earn, and the fewer runs it takes to achieve a title.

It's also fun to watch and assist with. Some dogs love chasing the 'bunny'. Some, so much so, you must catch them in the 'catch pen' before they destroy it! Other dogs, like Molly the Wonder Collie, simply enjoyed the long recall. Molly's runs spanned 'mild enthusiasm' to 'strolls through the park'. Others fly down the track. You see dogs you wouldn't expect to see. Then, there are the 4000 Schipperkes: tiny Buffalo stampeding across the plains...one...at...a...time.

I hope I've inspired you all to attend. :) You may bring whatever refreshments you'd like. Some folks even arrive in campers, as the venue provides parking and a bathroom.

Volunteers run their dogs first to be available for the rest. Lunch is provided at the end of each day (which is right at lunchtime). There are many support positions needed for Fast CAT; from checking people in, checking for dogs in heat, 'catch pen' to catch dogs, etc.

If you're able to volunteer for one or all days, please contact our friendly Volunteer Coordinator, Emily Grundy by clicking [here](#).

Thanks, and we hope to see you all there!

Gigi's Recent Accomplishments: My Gratitude to the Club for Guidance Along the Way

Submitted by: Ed Read



Ed and **Gigi Of Cameron Hill** CDX PCDX BN GN GO RE NAP NJP NFP ACT2
ACT2J SWA SCE SIE THD DS CGCA TKP - NW2 (NACSW) UD-C (CDSP) Crisis
Response Dog (HOPE/AACR)

Although truth be told, I'm most proud of our first couple legs in AKC's (American Kennel Association) Utility A division these past two weeks, we did even better on 3/3/24 at K9 Oriole in a totally different venue, called CDSP or Companion Sports Dog Program (<http://www.companiondogssportsprogram.com>).

Gigi worked really hard, more Obedience classes entered than she's ever done over the course of two trials (Utility B twice, and Versatility B

twice). And she held up. I was most proud of her consistent heeling and transitions (no begging or struggles moving from one exercise to another!). She had a High Combined in both trials, and a High in Trial (HIT) in one! Her scores reflected pretty solidly her performance overall: a 193; 218.5 (she achieved a 20 point bonus for the baseball exercise in Utility B); 197.5; and a 198 for her final Versatility run of the day. There was precious little time between Utility B and Versatility B classes. Probably good practice for our AKC run for the UDX title?

Who knows...I can't even believe we're showing solidly in Utility! I'm so grateful to have Gigi, a total godsend, to this retired guy who initially (a little less than five years ago) simply wanted a dog that would love him more than his wife!

To my fellow training enthusiasts who have not considered CDSP, you really should. It's such a perfect tool to help with your AKC or other, more conventional obedience goals. Yes, arguably it's a little more forgiving, and there are guidelines allowing you to treat in the ring and even praise as you perform, BUT that's FUN for your pup with a major distinction: you ARE "showing". You ARE performing. You ARE training, and ultimately in a way that may benefit your AKC performances where the atmosphere is more austere. I see it as a win/win. But that's us. You make your own decision! But at least try it out.

Treat Valuation

Submitted by: Marnie McCown

When you are training your puppy, or even your adult dog, understanding how your dog perceives the value of certain treats can be an effective tool for you as the trainer.

Some dogs will work for Cheerios, some dogs will work for apples, some dogs will work for cheese and some dogs will work for hot dogs. You may even have a dog that works for a tug toy or works for cuddles. Every dog has a treat they perceive to be more valuable than the rest and it's up to you to figure that out.

The benefit to performing this exercise is that you will know what treat at most motivates your puppy and that will help you when it comes time to teach or reinforce a new or particularly challenging skill.

To conduct a treat valuation for your own dog, follow these steps:

1. Get 4 or 5 plastic containers and put a different treat in each one.
 - a. Plain boiled chicken or plain steak cut into tiny cubes
 - b. Cheerio's, Charley Bears, or something else low flavor and

crunchy

- c. Bil-Jac or another soft treat
- d. Carrot pieces or apple pieces

2. Place two or three pieces of each treat in its own container
3. Put the containers on the ground in a line in front of your puppy with a few feet between containers
4. See which treat container your puppy goes to 1st and then remove that container; that is the highest value treat for your puppy
5. Remove that container and repeat the process with the remaining containers.
6. When you are left with only one container, that is likely the lowest value treat. If the puppy eats it, you can keep it in the treat rotation. If they don't eat it, consider adding another treat in as the lowest value treat.

If you have a very food motivated puppy, be sure to do this exercise after the puppy has eaten. It is also worth noting that you may have to conduct this valuation exercise every so often as dog's can change their tastes.

Regarding treats, choose a product that isn't made in China. This is a statement about safety NOT about politics. Products and treats made in China are not subject to the same rigorous testing and monitoring as those made in other countries. Oftentimes, there are dangerous levels of chemicals and metals in these products.

Obedience Trial Results for CDTC Members January 1, 2024 – March 28, 2024

Submitted by: Tom Tatham

- Diane Hardy and Rye earned 2 nd place in Beginner Novice B and earned their Beginner Novice title.
- Pam Mechler and Keiki earned their Beginner Novice title with three 2 nd placements in Beginner Novice B.
- Shirley Blakely and Coco earned their Companion Dog title, and had a 2nd place finish in Novice B.
- Nan Marks and Jilly Joy earned 1 st place in Novice B and earned their Companion Dog title.
- Julie Rovner and Aspen earned a 1 st placement in Novice B.
- Laura Stefani and Olli earned a 1 st placement in Preferred Novice and earned their Preferred Companion Dog title.

- Laurie Cook and Crash earned a 4th place finish in Open A.
 - Ed Read and Gigi earned a 1st placement in CDSP Utility A and a new Utility C title.
 - Milly Welsh and Razor earned a new Utility title with three 1st place finishes in Utility A. In addition, they earned three additional Utility A legs with 1st place finishes.
 - Tom Tatham and Luna earned 10 UDX legs (Open B / Utility B double Qs) and their Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) and Obedience Master (OM) titles, as well as 1 High in Trial and 2 High Combined (Open B + Utility B). In Open B, they finished 4th (4 times), 3rd (twice), 2nd (once) and 1st (once), and had 4 additional qualifying scores. In Utility B, they finished 3rd (3 times), 2nd (twice), 1st (three times), and had 4 additional qualifying scores.
-

Bragg



Pam Mechler shares:

So proud to share that Keiki earned her BN at the Mason & Dixon Kennel Club on March 23. She is now FC Lorica's Dash of Cayenne and Aloha BN RI NE BCAT CGC TKN.

This is my first obedience title, too, so she's had to learn with me. Many thanks are owed to our patient teachers and friends here at CDTC!



Julie Rovner writes:

Julie Rovner and Aspen earned their second CD leg with a 194.5 and first place at Dog Owners Training Club trial on March 17. One to go!



Dawn Thompson writes:

I am delighted to brag about my dog, Titan. He attended Eileen Freedman's PK class and a few of Janice's drop in conformation sessions. At the end of 2023, his conformation career was on fire!

At the Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club show on December 13, he was awarded Reserve Best in Show. At the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club show on December 14, he was awarded Reserve Best in Show. AND at the Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club show on December 17, he was awarded BEST IN SHOW!

Way to go Titan!

He is **BIS MRBIS MBISS GCHS Topaz Dark Sky**



Laura Stefani shares:

Ollie has been a good boy and earned both his advanced tricks title and preferred novice title this month.



Kate Mazza writes:

Teddy and I had a great weekend at Catoctin Kennel Club May 9 & 10

earning Rally Advanced and Tricks Novice titles.



Jennie Larkin says:

My Papillon Hermes has been doing wonderfully!

I entered him one day in conformation, where he won BOB-owner handled. The following week he picked up his first agility triple Q, qualifying in Masters Standard, Jumpers, and FAST on the same day! He also earned his Masters Jumpers Bronze (MJB) title (that means 25 MXJ Qs). By the time you read this, he'll have competed at the 2024 AKC National Agility Championship and be back home.



Milly B Welsh writes:

Milly B Welsh and Graden's Cutting Edge, MH, QA2, UD, RE - known as Razor - completed the requirements for UD on 3/3/24 at MD Sporting Dogs. Neither the judge nor Razor looks very impressed; Milly was. Photo by Tom Tatham.













Eileen Freedman's Family Dog 2 class had a wonderful group of graduates earn their CGC titles. Congratulations to these teams!

Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

- Gail, the chair of CEC from Georgia opened the meeting with

the announcement she and others in Georgia got the legislature to designate May 1 and 2 Purebred Dog Days in the state. She encouraged us to try to work on legislatures in our state to recognize companion dogs.

- We have until July 2025 for displaceable jumps. A discussion began on ways to adapt what you have (the old) to the new requirement. It was mentioned AKC prefers cups to attach to jumps. There is a video that will be sent on how to adapt to the new requirement. The new jumps can be purchased from Max 200 and Mad Dog Agility for \$450 each.
- John Cox's idea about BN Excellent as transitional class for Novice was discussed further. It was mentioned many BN exhibitors do not go on because of confidence lacking in an issue. The BN Excellent would hopefully keep them in the game. This class which is mostly off lead at this point builds confidence. If anyone has any comments about this class, please send to me. The CEC is in favor but will survey exhibitors before submitting to AKC staff. Noreen, a committee member will do a questionnaire for survey monkey to send to exhibitors.
- Obedience is up 3.3%! Our best positive in years.
- A discussion occurred about the new program FETCH. At this point it is very popular. More than 300 events have signed up for the program. Some audience participants discussed its value for retrieving.
- A discussion occurred on educating the public on Responsible Dog Ownership and exposing the public to obedience skill sets that help them with being responsible. Showing the public how the training pieces come together for example in the FETCH activity. What being Responsible means- RDO Day?
- The Jr. Coordinator position was discussed. We are still looking for a coordinator for our club. It was mentioned we need to promote our juniors. One delegate mentioned they feature juniors in their newsletter. This is something we can do with photos.
- A club mentioned they do a Meet and Greet for new exhibitors at Obedience and Rally trials. It helps with a friendly face and someone who can answer questions newbies may have. Newbies often stand out at trials. Is this done in our Family Dog classes? Maybe those students can do this at our trials. It is important to support each other.
- A discussion occurred about the difficulty in getting judges in obedience. It appears the proposal to allow CDX and PCDX folks to apply to judge the lower classes is going to be approved. No longer will a UD be required to judge Novice classes. The applicant must take the seminar and test and then apply to be mentored.
- Doug, the VP of Sporting Events joined us. He stated there was a record high in 2023 in Sports and Events last year. It was a great year. There was tremendous growth in FAST CAT and

Rally. He mentioned Obedience being up. Tracking was the only sport that was flat.

- In Agility, Doug stated the tire was limiting course designs so they will do the tire once and this will open up options on course design. He also stated you would only have to wheel once for open. Agility FEO does not count in entry numbers.
- In Orlando there will be a new event for Rally called Rally Rock Dogs. Some Rally exhibitors will receive ROCK Invitations.
- Doug spoke about putting a time limit of FETCH and dogs doing zoomies. So far, they have found about 20% cannot do the activity. Durham Kennel Club had an entry of 200 dogs at their FETCH event. Jack, a CEC committee member and judged the event, stated the event can help clubs make money like FAST CAT.

In the General Meeting:

- There was the election of the AKC Board. The results are Class of 2028- Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, Delegate German Sheherd Dog Club of America, Sally Fineburg, Delegate, Hatboro Dog Club, Inc., Dr. Michael Knight, Delegate, Texas Kennel Club
- AKC RX has partnered with a pharmaceutical company (same company as Pet Smart and Walmart) to provide low-cost Pet Meds to owners and breeders. For those that register, the company is offering one free month of flee and tick protection with registration. They have testimonials on savings and Breeders get 5% off every day. Check out AKCRX.com. They respond to vet Prescriptions very well and have good customer service. They take phone service. Yes, AKC legal department says it is legal for AKC to sell drugs for pets. (smile)

In addition, The AKC Board met later and reelected Dr. Thomas M. Davies Chairman of the Board and Dominic Carota was reelected as Vice Chairman.

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

Classes

Register for all classes [here](#).

Puppy Kindergarten classes begin
April 7 and April 21

Family Dog 1 classes
start May 8 and May 14

Family Dog 2 class
starts May 7

Beginner Novice Obedience
starts April 24

Beginning Conformation
Starts April 27

Continuing Scent Work
starts April 8

Rally Competition Class has space available.
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

Permission is required to register for Beginner Novice, Novice,
Open, and Utility Obedience classes
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

Fill out the [Agility Waitlist Questionnaire](#) to get on the wait
list for the next available classes.
Email the [Agility Director](#) with all agility related questions.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with all other questions.

Training Groups

Rally Training Group
meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month 1 - 2:30 pm.

Obedience Training Group
meets the 1st Saturday of the month

Conformation Group
meets Saturdays. Contact [Janice](#) with questions. Non-members pre-
register and pay for dates you plan to attend [here](#).

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

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

For information about **Freestyle Training Group**
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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 (Obedience, Agility, or Rally).

Active membership includes the right to attend meetings, vote, access to the Members Only section of CDTC’s website, access to seminars, events, announcements of the Club, the right to hold an elective office in the Club, and all other privileges and benefits of the Club (including 2 free classes per quarter). Visit cdtc.org/membership.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Next Membership Meeting **April 9th, at 8:00pm**



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