



Obichaff

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



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

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“A dog owns nothing, yet is seldom dissatisfied.” - *Irish Proverb*

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From the Editor



According to a human DNA test, I'm about

Members at Large[April deBremond](#)[Marnie McCown](#)[Shirley Blakely](#)**New Membership****Information**[Shirley Blakely](#)**Historian (not a
board member)**[Joan Adler](#)

80% Irish. Hadley is a true All-American Dog with her 50% American Foxhound and 50% American Bulldog DNA. Both of us are 100% happy to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

I love a reason to do something fun and different from the day-to-day routine. I'll be in green and Hadley will have her St. Paddy's Day gear on as well. Maybe we'll find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, while we're at it!

Pups and Pints: Dog-Friendly Breweries in the DMV



Hadley and my parents' Golden Retriever, Bodie, enjoying BabyCat Brewery's St. Patrick's Day party last year.

Looking for a dog-friendly spot to enjoy a beer with your best friend? Lucky for us, the DMV is filled with dog-friendly options!

The weather is starting to warm up and we can all comfortably spend more time outdoors. Our area has a ton of great spots for enjoying some time with human and canine friends:

1. **BabyCat Brewery:** Located in Kensington, BabyCat Brewery is a great local spot. Despite the black cat roaming amongst the

brewing equipment, and all of the beers having a feline theme, BabyCat is dog-friendly! This spot has a great outdoor space where they welcome well-behaved canine companions. They also have some fun jungle gyms for the kids. Bonus: check out their annual [St. Patrick's Day party](#) which is fun for the whole family!

2. **[Brookeville Beer Farm](#)**: A bit farther out into Montgomery County is Brookeville Beer Farm. If you're looking to enjoy a beer and some pizza with live music, Brookeville Beer Farm is the place to go! Live music is available on Friday and Saturday nights; a perfect way to spend a weekend.
3. **[Lost Boy Cider](#)**: Not a big beer drinker? Head over to Lost Boy Cider in Alexandria. They have a wide selection of ciders, including a non-alcoholic sparkling cider. This month they have their seasonal Cherry Blossom Hard Cider in beautiful blossom-adorned cans.
4. **[Dacha Beer Garden](#)**: With two locations in DC to choose from, Dacha Beer Garden is a great option for anyone in DC. They have a menu packed with options, from shareable appetizers to full meals. They even have a dog menu, complete with a doggy beer!

Get out there and enjoy!

How We Care For and Find Homes For Our Dogs

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

First off, thank you to all of my dog friends who accept dogs into their homes or work to find dogs new homes as need dictates. My boy Michael came to me as a friend referral (what a blessing he is!) and some of you may have heard one of our dear members “blame” me for her own recently dearly departed dog, who I will admit I gently pressured her to take when she had lost her own good boy (She might dispute the gently?)

Theresa made a good point on the CDTC listserv recently when she reminded us to make provision for our own dogs. I’ve been asked a few times if I’d take a friend’s dog when they were thinking about their own mortality and I’ve said yes, and I’ve said no. Always I loved the dog and would have happily taken it if no other considerations existed. Always I’ve been more than capable of taking care of the dog, as considered in isolation. The complicating factor for the majority of us is that our dog competent friends mostly already have multiple

dogs of their own!

My boy Connor could likely live with anyone in that he is non destructive and wouldn't hurt a fly. He is also insanely Focused on having a job and would make people who don't understand real working dogs absolutely crazy. He needs a working home and I'd almost certainly send him back to his grandma Sarah, from whom I got him when he lost his first home at nine weeks of age because of said insanity and work ethic and was surrendered to rescue.

My boy Michael could live with anyone. Period, no exceptions. But then how did he end up needing a home? I still don't know, but I do know any number of people could take Michael and he and they would be happy with it.

Many years ago I had dogs for whom I'd consider an Egyptian funeral. Not really kidding. Dogs who we could manage but for whom the general population would not be good candidates as pets. One was literally a feral rescue that I took in off of death row. She loved us and would have died for us. She was also very slow to trust anyone else and had no hesitation in biting. Another was a jackass Doberman who bit me when he was a twelve week old puppy hard enough and seriously enough to draw blood. He was for sure the most dangerous dog we ever owned and we managed him carefully. He loved us and he loved our daughter. We loved him as well but were under no illusions that he was a safe or trustworthy dog.

What am I saying here? Understand your dogs, your own capabilities and capacity. Plan accordingly and with always an eye to compassionate and realistic outcomes. I look forward to having both time and sufficient property in retirement to foster and to house friends dogs. I have had to say no now while I am still employed full time and living in suburbia with my own dogs. Be an active planner and proponent for your own dogs and as possible for others dogs. Thank you for caring.

BRAIN GAMES

Submitted by: Marnie McCown



Beau, sporting his St. Paddy's Day best for our March Issue

As much as a dog needs to work his body, he needs to work his mind, too! Here are my favorite brain games that can be played inside and can help expend some mental energy for your dog.

It has been said that, for a dog, 15 minutes of mental stimulation equals 1 hour of physical exercise. If your puppy is way too energetic one evening, give some brain games a try!

1. Muffin Tin Game:

Using a regular muffin tin and several tennis balls or similar sized balls, put a few high value treats in the muffin tin and place the balls on top. When starting out, just put the treats in the tin without covering them. As the dog begins to understand, you can "hide" the treats by putting a ball on top. When he gets the hang of it, place balls on empty spaces or switch up which spots have treats and which don't. Here's a video if my description is lacking: [Dog Enrichment Made Easy: The Muffin Tin Game](#)

2. Treasure Hunt:

If your dog doesn't have a reliable stay command, have someone hold him as you place some extra odiferous (stinky) treats in semi-visible places around the house. Then, release him and say, "find it" and walk around with him to help him get started. If he is superfast,

consider hiding the treats in more challenging spots or adding more spots for him to find.

3. **Hide and Seek:**

Start out the same as in number 2, then go somewhere out of sight and call your dog. If you are just starting out, keep some of those smelly treats on you to help him find you. Hide in somewhat easy places, like behind a door (not IN the closet, but in the space behind an open door), or around a wall, just out of sight. Be sure not to hide so well you distress the dog. Keep your voice high and happy when you call him and encourage him as he searches.

4. **The Mother Lode:**

Take an empty cardboard box (be sure to remove any packing tape or labels that he could eat and ALL the packaging materials unless it is plain brown packing paper) and put in a few squeaky toys, a stuffed toy, a few hand towels, a handful of his regular kibble, and a few high value treats like freeze-dried beef chunks, cheese cubes, or chicken breast. Then fold the flaps together to keep the top closed. Give a few gentle shakes to let your dog know there are amazing goodies inside. Put the box on the ground and encourage him to “get it!” and watch him tear up the box. If he gets stuck, help him by encouraging words and maybe opening one of the flaps.

5. **Snuffle Mat:**

This is a fabric mat that has lots of fabric “fingers” creating a sort of shaggy rug. You can make one or buy one. Then take half his kibble and scatter it in the mat, making sure to evenly distribute it into the fingers. Encourage him to explore the mat and enjoy searching for his dinner. If he is slow to start, try adding a couple of freeze-dried treats or something else he enjoys.

NOTE:

Never leave your dog unattended for any of the above activities - especially if he is a chewer!

Volunteering at an Agility Trial [reprint]

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

Agility trials need many hands. Volunteering at a trial is a fantastic way for an aspiring agility handler to meet the community and get familiar with trialing. Our annual agility trial is coming up in April,

just saying! I expect to spend all day at a trial; if you want to help but are not ready for that, maybe recruit a volunteering buddy and split a day.

Jobs include leash runner, score runner, ring crew (also called bar setter), scribe, timer, and gate steward, as well as course builders and a volunteer coordinator. All these jobs can be taught, but for newbies, ring crew is the best pick. You get to sit in the ring and watch each team run the course, and all you have to do is watch for dropped bars or other “course destruction” committed by dogs during a run and fix it as soon as they are at the finish, and change jump heights as directed by the gate steward.

Score runner and leash runner are easy enough, although there is some judgment called for as leash runner, in that you do NOT want to disturb a dog on the start line, nor cause a distraction, so you need to figure out when to move to pick up the leash (after the dog is away from the start line), and what to do if the course brings the dog back towards the front of the ring while you are moving the leash (freeze and turn away).

Scribe is best left to an experienced volunteer, and timer also has a trick or two to it. Both can be taught though, so if the need arises, don't fear (too much)!

Gate is best done by someone who is organized, can call out loudly, and who knows the teams, especially in Master's where a handler running multiple dogs might have to move dogs up and down in the run order, causing confusion on the gate sheet.

Volunteer coordinators monitor the worker board to make sure each class has enough help, and sings out if not, all the while handing out snack bar coupons and raffle tickets to the volunteers as a thank you and inducement to help.

Course building is a skill one learns over time, with much experience, but if it looks interesting and you have a good back, find a course builder when they are free and ask if and how you can help. We all start somewhere!

Any of this sound interesting? Want to help? Talk to any of us Capital agility folks and we will be happy to bring you on board.

Entries are open and the premium is [here](#).

Brag

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

In the December Companion Events Committee Meeting:

- The staff report was presented which showed the number of entries in Agility up 0.9%, Obedience up 3%, Rally up 12% and Tracking down -2.7%. Fast Cat was up 25.1% and Scent work was up 18.3%. This was as of Nov. 2023.
- Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility reported 701 entries in Orlando with 75 Jr. runs and 170 different breeds from 41 states and Canada. Finals will be on ESPN. The 2024 Agility Nationals will be March 14-17 in Perry, GA. The final will be filmed and on ESPN. She said the International Sweepstakes class is growing and there is a partnership with FCI judges to design courses which the growth of the program. The FCI courses are longer. AKC is the only club to represent the USA at FCI. There will be a new FCI Class for over 55 years of age.
- Diane Shultz, Director of Obedience and Rally and Doug Ljungren, Executive VP of Sports and Events reported this is the 10th year for AKC to host the Obedience Classic and there was an entry of 217 teams from 35 states showing 55 breeds. The NOC will be held July 20 and 21, 2024 in Wilmington, OH and Rally (RNC) will be held on July 18 and 19 at the same location. The Judges Ed. Seminar in Obedience Novice- Course 4 is now on line at Canine College by AKC. Open and Utility Courses will follow shortly. Obedience Stewarding video was published in June. The Displaceable High Jump- At the November AKC Board meeting it was discussed and decided to change the design and construction to the high jump to allow displaceable panels. It will be discussed at the January meeting and if passed Clubs will have until July 1, 2025 to comply. An Obedience Ranking system has been created and for information and details concerning the ranking system visit <https://www.akc.org/sports/obedience/obedience-rankings/>
- Because Doug and Diane were not at the September meeting the issue of gently talking to dogs in Obedience BN and Novice class was discussed again. We explained the CEC did not endorse the change after a vote of committee.
- It was approved and modified by the AKC Board to state in Chapter 1 Section 3 of the Obedience Regulations that the Regular and Preferred Open and Utility class entries MAY be listed together in the catalog, the same way as they are in the judging program and judges' book, effective January 1, 2024.
- Steve Hamblin, AKC Board member, discussed the

Therionogenology Program.

- Larry Wilson reported on his sub committee's progress on ways to help clubs mentoring new exhibitors in Obedience. The subcommittee has put together ideas to help clubs. The ideas were suggested and discussed and the project is ongoing and when completed will be placed in the Best Practices on the AKC website.
- A discussion began on a new class possibly- Beginners Novice Excellent which would be a good transition to Regular Novice. There was discussion on how to keep exhibitors competing after they earn their Novice Title.
- Patty Sample reported on AKC Juniors Committee and encouraged all clubs to support.
- Under New Business there was discussion on some club's trial secretary and trial chairs not being knowledgeable concerning their duties. It was mentioned there is a Trial Manual link. Also, the question concerning some clubs asking judges to do tabulating for HIT, High Combined and HS Triple Qualifying. It is the responsibility of the Trial Secretary/Superintendents to do the tabulating. A letter was received by committee members from an exhibitor suggesting a "Master" class for dogs and handlers who have obtained an OTCH title.

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

Classes

Register for all classes [here](#).

Puppy Kindergarten classes begin
February 15, March 17, and April 21

Family Dog 1 classes
start March 19 and March 20

Family Dog 2 classes
start March 3 and March 20

Foundations and Focus

Thursdays at 10 am
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

Beginning Conformation
Starting February 3 at 3pm

Rally Novice begins March 16

Continuing Scent Work
is taking new students
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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 class.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Testing

CGC/Tricks Testing
March 9 at 10 am to noon

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 March 12th, at 8:00pm



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