



Obichaff

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



March 2025

Volume 82 - Issue 2

"I want to work like a dog, doing what I was born to do with joy and purpose. I want to play like a dog, with total, jolly abandon."

- Oprah Winfrey

Board of Directors

President

[Shannon Hall](#)

Vice President

[Kara MacWilliams](#)

Secretary

[Julie Rovner](#)

Treasurer

[Pam Ayres](#)

Training Director

[Tom Tatham](#)

Assistant Training Director

[Janine Castorina](#)

Training Secretary

[Dianne Hardy](#)

Trial Chair

[Martin Goldstein](#)

Trophy Chair

[Amy Scheiner](#)

AKC Delegate

[Joyce Dandridge](#)

From the Editor



Welcome to the March Edition of the 82nd

Obichaff Editor

[Payton Murphy](#)

Members at Large

[Bill Peyser](#)

[Marnie McCown](#)

[Shirley Blakely](#)

**New Membership
Information**

[Shirley Blakely](#)

**Historian (not a
board member)**

[Joan Adler](#)

Volume of the Obichaff. We're feeling lucky this month, and not just because we're Irish! Our local trails here have been a true joy to explore - there's so much to do and see here. Hadley is loving everything she sees, including the foothills of Golden, pictured above.

Check out my article below to see one of my new favorite views on the trail, not a mountain, but rather a sign!

The 149th Westminster Champion: The Giant Schnauzer



Every year, people tune in to see who will win the coveted Best In Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. It's thrilling to watch the best of each breed strut down the turf in an attempt to wow the judges. This year, the top prize went to Monty the Giant Schnauzer. Monty and his owner/handler Katherine Bernadin have

won the Working Group three years in a row now, so this win was well-earned. It's worth noting, Monty is more than just a proper physical representation of the breed - he also holds a Rally Intermediate title, as well as his Canine Good Citizen and Trick Dog Novice titles, demonstrating the trainability of the breed.



The largest of the three schnauzers, the giant schnauzer was first bred in the Bavarian Alps in the mid 1800s. They were used throughout Europe as police and military K-9s. Described by the AKC as alert, loyal, and trainable, the Giant Schnauzer has become a choice for those looking to train a protection dog that's not the typical shepherd.

Despite being recognized by the AKC in 1930, Monty is the first Giant Schnauzer to win Best in Show. Congratulations to Monty and all of those who helped him on his way to success!

**Colorado Off-Leash:
An Appeal to Other States**



In my house, we're dog people. We revolve most of our life around our dog, train other people's dogs, talk about dogs, etc. - so it makes sense that one of the first things we noted after moving to Colorado was how different the dog-culture is here. The dogs are just...chiller. Not to say we don't love our East Coast canines, however there are notable differences in behavior out here that would be hard to ignore for any self-proclaimed dog person.

Most notably, we have yet to encounter a reactive dog. We live within the city limits, my office is downtown, we've been on hiking trails, and in a dog park, so we have seen our fair share of dogs since moving and yet - silence, everywhere! It's been a wild thing to

witness. Now, I have a few theories as to why that's the case. Fewer reactive dogs means fewer experiences for dogs to practice reacting at one another creating a snowball effect. I feel, however, the biggest factor is lifestyle.

In Colorado, being outside is a given. People ski, run, hike, climb, you-name-it. There are tons of opportunities to engage in physical activity; that doesn't end when it comes to dogs. We have acres and acres of accessible land where dogs are able to run freely and engage, though most of the time the dogs choose not to. That was rarely ever my experience on trails on the east coast, most dogs were extremely restricted in their ability to run freely, especially with other dogs in their space, so when given a (all-too-often illegal) chance to be off leash, their manners did not reflect the freedom given. Take a look at the picture above, this is a trail in Boulder which allows for dogs to be off leash so long as they are part of the Voice and Sight Control Program and it's a week day - when trails are less busy. The program trains owners to be responsible and maintain proper trail etiquette with their off-leash pups while collecting a fee that goes towards trail maintenance = a huge win-win! Every dog we encountered on the trail was neutral, fully under control, and respecting those around them. Additionally, hikers without dogs were thrilled to see dogs on the trail; clearly used to passing calm dogs who caused no trouble to people or wildlife.

I've long believed that the answer to off-leash dogs in public spaces isn't banishment, but rather specific opportunities that allow for off-leash activities in a safe and controlled way - much like the above-mentioned program or New York City's designated off-leash hours in city parks. When dogs practice being around other people and dogs, practice their recall, and get to burn off excess energy, they are better citizens of society. We owe it to our canine companions to give them freedom in a safe way. Hopefully other states can follow along and create environments everyone can enjoy safely and freely!



CDTC's Newest CGCs

Submitted and Tested by: Marnie McCown

Did you know CDTC does Canine Good Citizen testing? It's true! We have evaluators and routinely offer Canine Good Citizen, Canine Good Citizen Advanced, and Canine Good Citizen Urban tests. See below for the most recent CGC graduates:











Here are the teams that got their CGCs on February 16th!

Gus - not pictured
Wesley
Scooby
Penny
Ruby
Stax

Congratulations to all!

Upcoming: Connie Cleveland Seminar

CAPITAL DOG TRAINING CLUB PRESENTS

Connie Cleveland-Nolan Obedience Seminar

Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13, 2025

CONNIE CLEVELAND-NOLAN is an internationally recognized dog trainer who has been teaching and coaching dog obedience students for over 3 decades.

In 2019, Connie launched *The Obedience Road*, a complete online resource for obedience competitors. Utilizing written and video content, monthly webinars, community forums and personalized video review, Connie coaches obedience newcomers and experienced competitors alike.

Connie competes in both Obedience and Retriever Field Trials, having finished 12 Obedience Trial Champions (OTCH), 2 Field Champions (FC), 5 Amateur Field Champions (AFC), a UDT Maltese and a CDX Shih-Tzu.

(For more information, visit www.ObedienceRoad.com)



SEMINAR LOCATION: 2758 Garfield Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910

TIME: 8:30am – 4:30pm

SEMINAR SPECIFICS: Working spots capped at 20, unlimited audit space

LUNCH: CDTC will provide lunch and snacks included in seminar fee

FEE: Working spot \$300 for both days
Auditors \$150 for both days

SIGN UP: See form below

DEADLINE: Cancellations with full refund accepted by March 15, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Donna Cleverdon – 301-785-5203
clvrdog@verizon.net



For more information, please reach out to [Donna Cleverdon](#).

To sign up, please utilize the form below, which can also be accessed as a PDF [here](#).

SIGN-UP FORM FOR

Connie Cleveland-Nolan Obedience Seminar

Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13, 2025

☐

WORKING SPOT

☐

AUDIT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

DOG BREED: _____

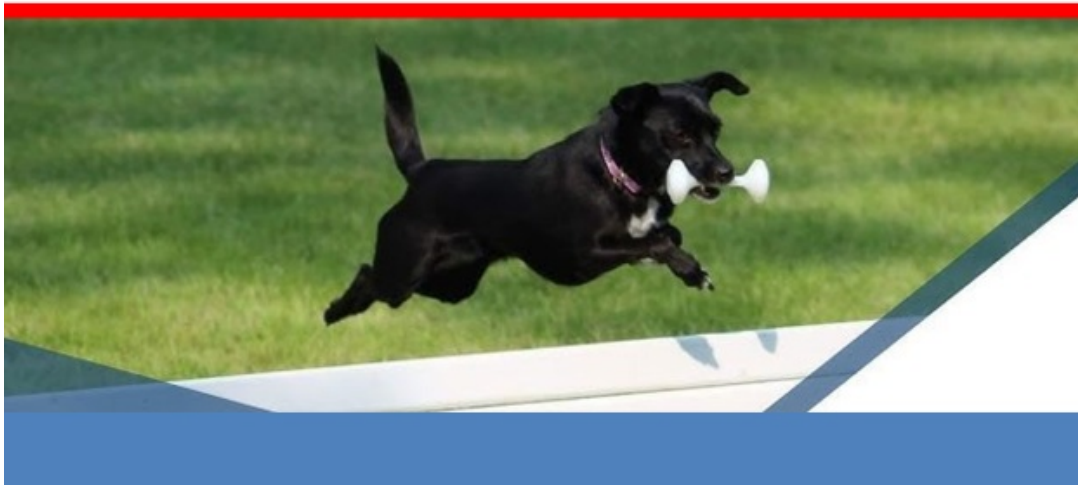
DOG'S AGE: _____

CALL NAME: _____

CURRENT TRAINING LEVEL: _____

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CDTC)

MAIL THIS FORM WITH CHECK TO: **Donna Cleverdon**
8913 Walden Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20901



Braggs

Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

DQ by Event Committee- 3 strikes- The AKC Board has approved a recommendation to establish a process where a dog that an Event Committee determines has attacked a person or dog on three occasions, even without an injury, shall be administratively disqualified by the AKC. It will apply to all AKC Sports.

Agility Regulation Change- Transferring of Points- The AKC Board approved allowing individuals to transfer points and QQs acquired towards their dog's MACH title to the earning of a PACH title through a one-time application process effective July 1, 2025.

Agility Regulation Change- Tire Jump- In providing additional safety for the dog in the performance of the tire jump, the AKC Board of Directors approved the inclusion of the wording that the connecting strap in the tire jump must be displaceable from the tire frame when force is applied. This will be effective July 1, 2025.

Agility International Sweepstakes Class Update- The AKC Board approved a one-year trial period allowing bitches in season to compete in International Sweepstakes Class trials only at the club's discretion effective May 1, 2025. In addition, a number of changes were made to the ISC Regulations for clarification and to keep them consistent with changes in international agility standards.

Next Delegates Meeting will be a voting of the AKC Board. Check out the list of candidates. If there is one you would like me to support by voting contact me.

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

Classes

Register for all classes [here](#).

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

More information to come.

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 11th at 8:00pm

Do you have an idea for an article? Perhaps a message for dog-people is taking up space in your brain and you need to put pen to paper? Submit your articles for the Obichaff [here!](#)



Subscribe

Visit our website

Capital Dog Training Club | 2758 Garfield Avenue | Silver Spring, MD 20910 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!