



Obichaff

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



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"Always give your dog the benefit of the doubt." - Martin Deeley

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Let's welcome Magic Belendiuk back to the "From the Editor" section!

Art was kind enough to take a Saturday in April hosting a travel scent work class at a local Lowe's. What a great opportunity this was! We worked on hides in the store and the garden center. It was great practice, and showed me Hadley is ready to go for her first scent work titles. She's proven to me she can find her hides and give me reliable alerts, all in a timely manner. It's my job now to get her out there!

We also took some time to practice our obedience in the store. The distractions really helped provide an environment more similar

Members at Large
[Luann Korona](#)

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

**Historian (not a
board member)**
[Joan Adler](#)

to that of a show, and Hadley did a great job!

We love training at the club, but this was a great reminder to sometimes get out into the real world and practice our skills in new environments to build up even more reliability. It helped that these girls love each other and are happy to work when the reward is some time together.

AKC's Dog Breed Groups

For thousands of years, people have been breeding dogs to select for desirable traits. We've created working dogs, companion dogs, hunting dogs, and more! These dogs are bred to, and judged by, a specific standard, called Conformation, which allows for breeds to remain true to their purpose over time. The American Kennel Club now recognizes 200 dog breeds! These breeds are split into seven groups based on what they were originally bred to do. These groups are: sporting, working, hound, terrier, toy, herding, and non-sporting. The best dog from each group goes on to compete for Best in Show.



First up: the Sporting Group!

The [Sporting Group](#) consists of four main breed categories: spaniels, retrievers, pointers, and setters. These dogs were bred to be active and alert and work in tandem with their handlers in the field. These breeds make great companions for those willing to be active and meet their dogs' needs. Many of these breeds contain coats built to assist in the field; for example, the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever and their well-insulated double coat built to protect them while retrieving in cold Canadian waters.



Known for being intelligent, strong, and willing to work, the [Working Group](#) consists of many large and naturally protective dog breeds.

Powerful is a word often used to describe the breeds in this group. These breeds shine with jobs like sled pulling, guarding property, and water rescues. The Siberian Husky, Bernese Mountain Dog, Newfoundland, and Great Dane are some of the most popular breeds in this group.



The [Hound Group](#) contains breeds that all share the common trait of being used for hunting. Known in part for their uncanny ability to track a scent and their stamina when on the chase, hounds are perhaps best known for their signature baying. Hounds have been used by hunters for centuries, often running in large packs.

The American Foxhound, pictured above, was a breed refined, in part, by George Washington. Washington kept a pack of American Foxhounds on his Virginia estate.



The [Terrier Group](#) often elicits an idea of feisty, scruffy dogs built to

hunt and kill vermin. This group contains a series of versatile dogs ranging from quite small to large, like the Airedale, known as the "King of Terriers".

Terriers are well loved, though those interested in this breed group should be aware that they are high energy, intelligent, and hard-headed. Many terriers have wire coats that requiring a unique type of grooming called hand-stripping, which removes the dead hairs and can often be quite tedious. If you're willing to put in the work, terriers make brilliant companions!



The [Toy Group](#) may be known for their small stature, but don't let these pint sized pooches fool you! They are smart and capable dogs who have lots of energy and even strong protective instincts. Many of these dogs are popular amongst city dwellers, and their compact size make them more apartment friendly.

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is known for its gentle look and companionate nature. This petite spaniel is adaptable to different lifestyles and is a great example of the Toy Group.



The [Herding Group](#) is a robust group of working dogs, in fact, this group only split out from the Working Group forty years ago. The Herding Group is made up of breeds created to gather, herd, and protect livestock. The desire to herd is so strong and innate within these breeds that they are often known to herd their families!

Perhaps the most famous example of the Herding Group, the collie is a classic American pop culture icon. The rough collie has a beautiful and easily recognizable coat. These dogs are able to work livestock and settle at home with the family, making them a wonderful blend of work and play.



The [Non-Sporting Group](#) is a hard group to generalize, as it consists of a large variety of breeds. This catch-all group is made of breeds from all different places, but who don't quite fit into the other categories. Amongst the most popular in this group are the Poodle, the French Bulldog, and the Dalmatian

Want to dig deeper into these groups and which one might contain the right breed for you? Check out the AKC's feature on the seven groups [here](#)!

Oldest Dog Ever

Guinness World Records has crowned a new winner for the title of "Oldest Living Dog" AND "Oldest Dog Ever". Bobi is currently 30 years old and will turn 31 on May 11th. This Portuguese pooch is a Rafeiro do Alentejo, a type of livestock guardian dog popular amongst farmers in the country. Bobi was registered with Serviço Medico-Veterinário do Município de Leiria (Veterinary Medical Service of the Municipality of Leiria), who confirmed Bobi's birth date. His mother lived to be 18, so it seems Bobi has some great genetics working in his favor.

[split-image-of-bobi-the-oldest-dog-ever_tcm25-736223](#) image

Bobi's owner saved the pup from euthanasia shortly after he was born. His owner is now 38 and attributes Bobi's long life to his diet of human food and his free-range life roaming the Portuguese countryside. Throughout his life, he's been remarkably healthy, only having one health scare in 2018. He made a full recovery and now spends his days with the other animals around town and at home snoozing away.

Bobi took the "Oldest Living Dog" title from Spike, a 23-year-old Chihuahua. He also was able to take the "Oldest Dog Ever" title from Bluey, an Australian Cattle Dog who was born in 1910, worked as a farm dog for over 20 years, and died in 1939 at 29 years old.

Congratulations to Bobi!

I intended to take pictures of the trial this year to send to Payton for OBICHAFF, but each trial day I'd arrive as soon as the building opened (or earlier!) and I'd hit the ground running and forget. So imagine the scene as I paint it with words:

You wake up before dawn and drive north to Westminster with the dogs, seeing the sunrise begin to the East along the way. When you get to Carroll Indoor Sports the parking lot has only the equipment trailer and a car or two of other early bird volunteers. Once inside, the soccer field is empty, waiting for the course build. By 7:45a the first course is set and the trial is starting. The building is full of crates and chairs and bustling with dogs and people. The motion never stops until the end of the day, when the field is again empty. You do it all over again on Saturday morning but (sweet respite!) don't have to clear the field again until Sunday night. Throughout the course of the trial, there are cheers and groans, ribbons and titles won and dogs having a great time even if their handlers are mourning a knocked bar or late cue. Three days of excitement and exhaustion and another trial in the rear view mirror.

The annual 2023 agility trial was a very successful event. Benita chose a great judge for us and the trial filled quickly, with a huge wait list, despite falling on Easter weekend. For folks who have never been to an agility trial, AKC limits the number of runs one judge can handle per day to 350, which is actually quite a lot, so days can be very long. Carroll Indoor Sports, where we hold our trial, has Friday night soccer league, so everything we haul out and set up Friday morning has to be cleared off the course in time for their games, and then we set it all up again Saturday morning. Huge thanks to those of you who showed up early to help Jon and I (co-chief course builders) and Mark (equipment provider) do all that heavy lifting in the mornings. Huge thanks as well to those who stayed late Friday and Sunday to tear down.

Once the trial day gets going, the agility community typically jumps in and volunteers to keep the trial moving along. Unlike obedience and rally trials, at agility trials we recruit as we go from the folks entered, and they get a worker coupon per volunteer task that they can use to buy food or put towards future trial entries with us. This is a smart approach as you are incentivizing your best workers to keep entering your trials! We had great participation at this trial and really never had to stress over filling the worker board, which is not always the case. We also had loads of help during course builds, which my back appreciated.

This year as it was Easter, in addition to worker snacks and water (thanks to Roxane, Julie R, Richard and Martin), and fresh baked brownies for our judge and trial secretary (my treat to keep them sweet), we had a huge basket full of plastic eggs to choose from, each with a little treat for a person or dog. These were for teams who had not qualified on a run so that they could console themselves with a small prize and hopefully get a smile out of it. This popular offering was the brain child of Brianne Studer, who did all the work for the NQ basket herself.

I don't know how this trial could have gone better. I might be jinxing us for next year, but not only was it efficient and drama-free, we did not even need to break out the cleaning bucket once!

CDTC Agility Trail Feedback

An Email of Praise

From: Robin Patt-Corner
Date: Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 11:18 AM
Subject: Mechanics of CDTC Trial
To: Rhonda Toren
Cc: Shannon Hall

Hi Rhonda ...

I'm writing to thank you for the superb level of organization and automation you brought to the CDTC trials which Julian and I just finished. I might have an interesting perspective, as I trialed extensively from 2000-2009 (with my dog Jackson) and know how things were then, then did not trial until this year, and this is my third (second AKC) trial in this year.

And the CDTC process was incredible, organized, easy to engage with, all the things you want. Especially I'd like to call out:

- Ease of registration by involving LabTested (which was around back in the day too)
- Ease and clarity of the wait list and the communication around the wait list
- Your incredibly useful table that estimated the approximate times of each class based on number of dogs and other factors (nice algorithm!)
- eMailed course maps in the early AM that I could actually print instead of viewing on my phone
- Written results return at the end.

I'm not an officer or anything official, just a member, but this was a terrific experience and I appreciate it! And Julian had a ball!

Robin and Julian

Nomination for CDTC AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award 2023

Nomination for CDTC's honoree for the AKC Sportsmanship of the Year Award, 2023

Tom Tatham

Tom has been a CDTC member since 2015 when he was training his Australian shepherd, Maggie. Maggie finished her Utility title a year or so later. He went on to train a Mini American Shepherd, Nick, to his Utility title. Tom currently is working a Border collie, Luna, who recently earned her Companion Dog title.

Tom volunteered to be Training Director in 2018, and served for 4 years. When the person who had replaced Tom had to resign for personal reasons, Tom graciously resumed service in the position. Tom has served the club in many ways as Training Director. Not only has he taught classes, he has streamlined and strengthened the path for raw novice dog owners to competitive exhibitors. His professional training as a supervising scientist has helped the process, and our club is now turning out students who are regularly earning obedience titles. He is also nurturing a cadre of up and coming instructors to further strengthen our program. He works collegially with others in these efforts. It is a major boon for CDTC to have such a forward-thinking and capable Training Director.

Furthermore, Tom is always encouraging and supportive of other exhibitors at obedience trials and genuinely celebrates other handlers' successes.

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Tom Tatham to receive the CDTC's AKC Sportsmanship of the Year Award for 2023.

Submitted by: Donna Cleverdon

CDTC Awards Application for 2023

This form is for all AKC and other titles earned in 2022. Awards will be presented at the CDTC Annual Awards Dinner.

Scores and titles will be verified with the AKC. The date and location of this year's event will be announced in the near future. Every member is invited to attend—you do not need to have completed a title.

Complete the form and return it by mail to:

Amy Scheiner
Trophy Chair
11415 Mapleview Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902

or email to scheiner99@aol.com.

This form must be returned by July 1, 2023 to allow time to purchase plaques and engrave plates in time for the dinner.

[Click here for Application](#)

Bragg

Martin Goldstein writes:

Molly has quite a bit to share this month. Making her Agility debut in our trial, despite completely incompetent leadership, she managed one Novice Standard qualification with a perfect score for the blue ribbon. Invoking a sense of Deja vu, Molly has demanded I 'pay attention' when we begin Handling class later in May. In Obedience news: We spent a full immersion weekend at the Cherry Blossom Cluster, an incredible show. We ran in 4 classes. 2 each day, 4.5 hours apart. On Saturday, Molly completed her BN degree with two legs in solid blue with a 196 and 187 respectively. We were both pretty - done. Sunday, moving to Novice B, a tired team had a fairly lackluster morning run for a 187 3d place. In the 5 pm run, we slammed into our ceiling so hard we put the first cracks in it, yet scrambled into another 3d with a 177, two points ahead of 4th. I can only presume this was because our static exercises were fine and we managed to remain in the same ring together for the rest. Enhancing my odd feeling, Molly has made unquestionably clear her expectation of an immediate, dramatic, improvement in my performance. Or, else. Our next trial is in early May. This may not end well. Stay tuned for the next exciting episode of Molly's adventures in show business!



Barbara Cohl shares:

Bentley, my Blenheim Cavalier needed 1 point toward his Grand Championship when he showed at the York shows last month. He got his Gch and gained 40 points. This is indeed a feat since approximately 1x a year he removes his snood and chews up one of his ears. The damage he does takes the better part of a year to grow in. No showing during that time. He is also an ADD pup who is easily distracted in the ring. So this title was hard earned to say the least.

He was handled by Susan Giles, an excellent professional handler.

Another brag is got my dog Teddy, a GchB Havanese. He and I are competing in Westminster next month.



Brianne Studer writes:

I'm thrilled to share that Noodles earned his Excellent Standard title at CDTC's agility trial in early April. We've worked hard to improve our skills and help him with his trial day ring stress, so being fully in Masters is a big accomplishment for us!

Hazel also had a great time at the Capital trial, earning her Novice Standard title and her first Open Q.



Julie Rovner shares:

Julie Rovner's Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Aspen (left) and Wallace, had quite the day at Oriole Dog Training Club's April 8 rally trials. Under Judge Sandi Atkinson, Aspen earned a 99 and first place in Rally Intermediate in the morning and afternoon trials. Wallace (who only competed in the afternoon) got two perfect scores of 100, 2 first places, and earned High Combined for trial 2.



Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

Congratulations to Tom Tatum on becoming our recent awardee of the CDTC AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. The nomination essay can be read in this newsletter and I will notify AKC of the selection.

Westminster schedule is posted on their website. On Saturday, May 6

is Canine Day with just about all canine sports represented in demos and competition, including dock diving and scent work. The agility competitions are Saturday and Sunday and Obedience is Saturday. Conformation is Monday and Tuesday with breeds being judged in the day and groups at night. Breeds will be streamed and the judging program is out. Groups are televised at night on Fox Sports. All details are in the program.

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

CGC Testing

CGC testing is scheduled for May 4, Aug. 5, and Nov. 4
Links to register: [May](#), [Aug](#), [Nov](#)

Classes

Register for all classes [here](#).

Puppy Kindergarten begins Sunday, May 21 at 9am and Thursday, July 13 at 6pm.

Family Dog 1 - We have Family Dog 1 classes starting May 9, June 9, and July 11.

Family Dog 2/CGC - We have Family Dog 2 classes starting May 9, May 24, and July 11.

Heeling, Fronts, and Finishes
begins Wednesday, June 7 at 7pm.

Beginning Conformation starts Saturday, June 3 at 3pm.

Beginner Novice (competition level) class starts
Tuesday, June 13 at 6pm

Continuing Scent Work
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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

[Beginning and Intermediate Flyball](#) classes meet
Saturday evenings
contact [Dona Dwyer](#)

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.

Training Groups

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

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.

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

May 9th, at 8:00pm



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