



Obichaff

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



May 2024

Volume 81 - Issue 4

"I'm suspicious of people who don't like dogs, but I trust a dog when it doesn't like a person." - Unknown

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From the Editor



Welcome to the May edition of the Obichaff!

We are having some software difficulties with this platform; if you did not receive the April issue, you may view it [here](#). I am working on a fix for this!

If you've sent me an email recently without a response, I apologize. In my (all-too-little) free time between lawyering/puppy kindergarten teaching/my own dog training, I also foster kittens and the occasional puppy. We have fostered dozens of kittens through a handful of local rescues and really love getting to be a

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

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board member)**
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stepping stone on the journey to a forever home.

A few weeks ago, we took in some new fosters and had a duo of orphaned boys, each found in pretty tragic circumstances. Despite round the clock care and a tremendous amount of effort, one of these little boys did not make it. It is a harsh reality of caring for neonatal kittens, but one I had been lucky enough to not yet face before now. It was hard on everyone in my home and we are still recovering from the loss.

The tuxedo guy above is my remaining little orphan boy. He is incredibly sweet, bold, and (clearly) dog-friendly! He's been a great distraction during this tough time.

Thanks to you all for your patience with emails during this time.

Canine Physical Therapy: A Review



A few months back, Hadley was zooming around in the woods when she suddenly came to a stop and was reluctant to put much weight on her back right leg. We were immediately worried she had done some serious damage; she is an active dog and the idea of potentially

dealing with surgery and healing time felt incredibly daunting. The injury took place over a weekend, and by the time her Tuesday vet appointment rolled around, she was weight bearing and seemed okay.

We watched closely for any signs of pain and observed a fair amount of soreness after exercise. Hadley had the slightest limp and would appear bit stiff upon getting up after resting. It was determined she likely had a partial CCL tear and/or a strain of her iliopsoas muscle.

Since she wasn't actively in pain and was eager to get back to her usual routine, we decided to search for a canine physical therapist to aid in her recovery and provide some additional support. We received a referral for [Justin Bassett at Pet Dominion](#) in Rockville and we are thrilled with the level of care and progress we have seen!

They started us off with an intake vet visit to determine Hadley's health status and whether she was a candidate for physical therapy. We then had an extremely thorough evaluation with Justin, who is a Certified Canine Rehab Therapist, on top of his doctorate of physical therapy. Justin spent 30 minutes measuring Hadley's pressure applied to each foot, her muscle loss (4cm less in her injured leg - this is a big deal!), measured heat in her body to show signs of inflammation, and more. He went over all of these findings with me in great detail utilizing an anatomically correct canine skeleton model to show me exactly which areas on Hadley's body showed signs of tension and possible injury. I received dedicated care and attention to my concerns for an hour straight - nearly unheard of in a medical setting!

We've returned back for twice weekly physical therapy sessions since our consult. These sessions include time on the under-water treadmill, laser therapy, strengthening exercises, massage, and more! Hadley just LOVES getting to work with Justin; she has a ton of fun and gets to work her brain in a different way, which is great for a dog who is used to doing dog sports! We've seen a significant improvement in Hadley's movement since beginning her therapy; she is much more comfortable. An added bonus: this is covered under her insurance policy!

If you, like me, share your home with a canine athlete who is showing some signs of stiffness, soreness, or had an injury - I cannot recommend Pet Dominion and Justin Bassett highly enough!



Agility Trial Report

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

2024 is in the books and this was an excellent trial all around. We had our last year with our beloved trial secretary Rhonda, we had fantastic volunteers, and we had Darryl Warren judging. Darryl's courses were terrific and very well nested, and he kept us cheerful and mellow all weekend long with his fun music mixes during course builds and walks. Our builders and volunteers were fast and efficient, and everyone was kind and grateful. Really, I could not have asked for a better trial. Major shout-out to volunteer coordinator and hospitality queen Brianne Studer, who made everyone's lives smoother and who reminded us to be grateful for even our non-qualifying runs.

Laurie Cook was a blessing all weekend. She was there at the start of every day to do whatever needed doing and stayed to the very end. Having another experienced agility competitor around who knows the drill and just jumps right in was incredibly helpful.

Janine Castorina and Kara MacWilliams were stalwarts throughout, and I cannot possibly get all the CDTC members and students right who came to trial or just support, but I'll try! Forgive me if I default to dogs' names in several cases.

Erika, who was not even entered, but who came to help and hang out. Namrata who had great runs and worked tons as well. Nancy, who fed us, worked, ran her dog, and worked some more. Bill who had some fabulous runs with his green dog and then learned how to leash run. Martin who staffed the doggy relief areas. Who am I missing? So many people I am sure! Carrie, Julie R and Julie P, Jennie, and Ollie's mom (see, I told you I'd have to do that) and family members of students who also came and pitched in.

I am reminded frequently that other folks read our newsletter, so I'll put it in here: THANK YOU to every single competitor who came to our trial and volunteered. I love our agility community and that "pitch in to get it done" attitude is high on the list of reasons why. I hope to see you all back with us next year, and of course, also at the next local trial!

I almost forgot to thank Ed Read, who jumped in when Trophy Chair Amy was not well enough to get the ribbons up to us on Friday. He met her and brought them all up himself. Can you imagine having a trial with no ribbons! Oh no! Thanks to Amy for prioritizing asking for help when she felt awful and to Ed for stepping right in. Whew!



May 12th is Mother's Day, a day to celebrate all of the mothers in our lives. This is an AKC Club filled with an array of incredible dogs, many of whom have had their own litters in the hopes of passing on those stellar genetics. Let's celebrate those canine mothers, too!

From the moment those tiny puppy paws enter the world, the remarkable journey of motherhood begins for our canine companions. Let's delve into the fascinating world of mother dogs and discover how they raise their puppies with tender care and boundless devotion, with a special emphasis on breeding with vision and purpose.

The arrival of a litter of puppies is an incredible, albeit nerve-racking event. Mother dogs, or dams, often show signs of labor about 24 hours prior to delivering their first pup. These signs include: panting, pacing, nesting, and a temperature drop. Once the puppies are born, the maternal instincts kick in - the mother dog uses her tongue to clean each puppy, stimulating their breathing and fostering the crucial bond between mother and pup.

During the first few weeks of life, puppies are entirely dependent on their mother for survival. Mother dogs provide everything their puppies need: warmth, nourishment, and protection. One of the most crucial roles of a mother dog is providing her puppies with nourishment. For the first few weeks of life, mother's milk is the sole source of nutrition for the puppies. Nursing not only provides essential nutrients but also transfers vital antibodies, bolstering the puppies' immune systems. Puppies are also relying upon their mother to stimulate them to go to the bathroom and for clean-up duties.

As the puppies grow, they begin to explore the world around them. Mother dogs encourage this exploration but also gently guide their puppies towards independence. Around 3-4 weeks of age, the puppies start to nibble on solid food, initiating the weaning process. Mother dogs gradually reduce their nursing sessions as the puppies transition to solid food.

While mom does most of the heavy lifting, good breeders are keeping meticulous records of puppy weights and health, sometimes needing to supplement with puppy formula to make sure puppies gain weight evenly. This is also often a time where breeders engage in early neurological stimulation in an attempt to create more stable and adaptable adult dogs. The combination of attentive mother and knowledgeable breeder leads to a stable and well-bred puppy more likely to adhere to the breed standard.

Breeding with vision and purpose is about more than just producing puppies; it's about preserving and improving the breed. Responsible breeders carefully select mating pairs based on health, temperament, and conformation to breed standards. This ensures that each litter is a step forward in maintaining the breed's integrity and purpose.

Mother dogs, with their unwavering dedication and boundless patience, shape the lives of their puppies in profound ways. Breeding with vision and purpose ensures that each litter is not just a replication of the past, but a step forward in the betterment of the breed. As we appreciate all of the mothers in our lives, let's take a moment to appreciate the incredible journey of mother dogs and the profound impact they have on the lives of their precious puppies and their families!

CDTC AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Nomination - Janine Castorina

Janine Castorina has been taking classes at CDTC since about 2013. She is guessing this date because her dog Hermes would have been 3 years old. She started agility at the recommendation of Mariah Stover. Janine and Mariah had rescued dogs together. Mariah knew both Janine and Hermes and thought agility would be great for him and that he'd love it. Mariah was right.

Janine and Hermes took their first agility class and never looked back. After taking classes with Hermes, they became immersed in the club and she started taking obedience classes with her other dog, Athena. Athena wasn't an agility dog, so they took obedience and rally classes. Athena particularly enjoyed rally classes.

Janine became a member a year or two after starting classes at CDTC.

Carie Wohl encouraged the nominating committee to nominate Janine to become the Assistant Training Director since Abigail was stepping down. Janine took the "bull by the horns" and became the Assistant Training Director for CDTC's Agility Program in January of 2019. When Janine took over the agility program, CDTC had 5 agility classes. Once taking over the program, she began trialing more intensively with Hermes and training one of her other dogs, Horus. Since Janine has been the Assistant Training Director, the agility program has grown to 11 classes and 17 agility instructors.

Agility has also instituted a ground-breaking program of "summer camp." During the summers, we were noticing that we had a lower enrollment rate because people went on vacations. To accommodate our students, we came up with a creative solution. That solution was to have short programs and seminars over the summer. All of the programs are skills-based, to enhance the students and expose them to other instruction. Since instituting this summer camp program, we have seen a dramatic jump in the skills of our students.

Recently, Janine was instrumental in procuring turf for CDTC at a significantly discounted price. After installation, CDTC has been safer for the dogs, brighter and cleaner.

Janine has been an ambassador for reactive dogs and has a reactive dog who she trains in agility. She has worked incredibly hard to move from novice to master's agility with this dog and has shown what any dog is capable of regardless of their limitations. Moreover, she has demonstrated the benefits that dog sports have on reactive dogs and how dog sports can give dogs more confidence, as well as their owners.

In addition to volunteering for the club, Janine volunteers for a few dog rescues, where she advocates for positive reinforcement training and other measures that are important in the rescue movement as well as AKC dog sports.

Submitted by: April de Bremond & Carie Wohl



Ed Read shares:

Gigi and I like to compete in our specialty breed show at the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac Inc.'s annual 4 day Rally and Obedience Trial at Breakaway Action Dogs, Inc. (B.A.D., Inc.) in Frederick, MD. It's a great venue run by wonderful Labrador retriever lovers. Can't beat it. It was from 4/9 through 4/12/24. We were able to secure our Open (CDX)

title there last year and this year Gigi earned her coveted Utility (UD) title as well as picking up a Rally Master title (you have to qualify in 10 Rally Master course trials). Her Utility run was respectable, above 190, and we felt good about it. But I will say it was a humbling week. We trialed three of the four days and we (that's me, really!) over did it. I learned I can take on too much for her and that I should scale it back a bit, take my time, and enjoy the process. By the 3rd day, and after a brilliant "safety leg" NQ in Utility (no down on signals, pretty typical for new dogs but otherwise such a super run), and a less than stellar Q in Open B, she was 3/4 of the way through a nagging Rally Master course (her third time for the week, after at least one Obedience run per day, followed by a triple Rally sequence of Master, ExB, and AdvB), and she turned and pranced out of the ring to her crate. It was not a potty issue. It was a statement: "Dad, you need to relax and not have me entered in so much stuff in one week!". Direct and to the point. I was disappointed, a little embarrassed, but promptly got over it after consulting with OTCH level handlers and the other 100 years of experience in the room. My fellow handler competitors were great in putting this all in perspective. So, we're focusing on celebrating the UD title and then continuing to work on what needs to be worked on to capture our next goal, the UDX or Utility Dog Excellent title. Wish us luck and thank you so much to my Capital (most are members of Capital, maybe some CTA only) training friends and mentors: Tom Tathem, Donna Cleverdon, Stacie Ka, Sandi Atkinson, Art Belendiuk, Diane Orth, Louise Griffin, Pat Vitale, and Milly Welsh. I hope I didn't miss anyone because it literally takes a village!





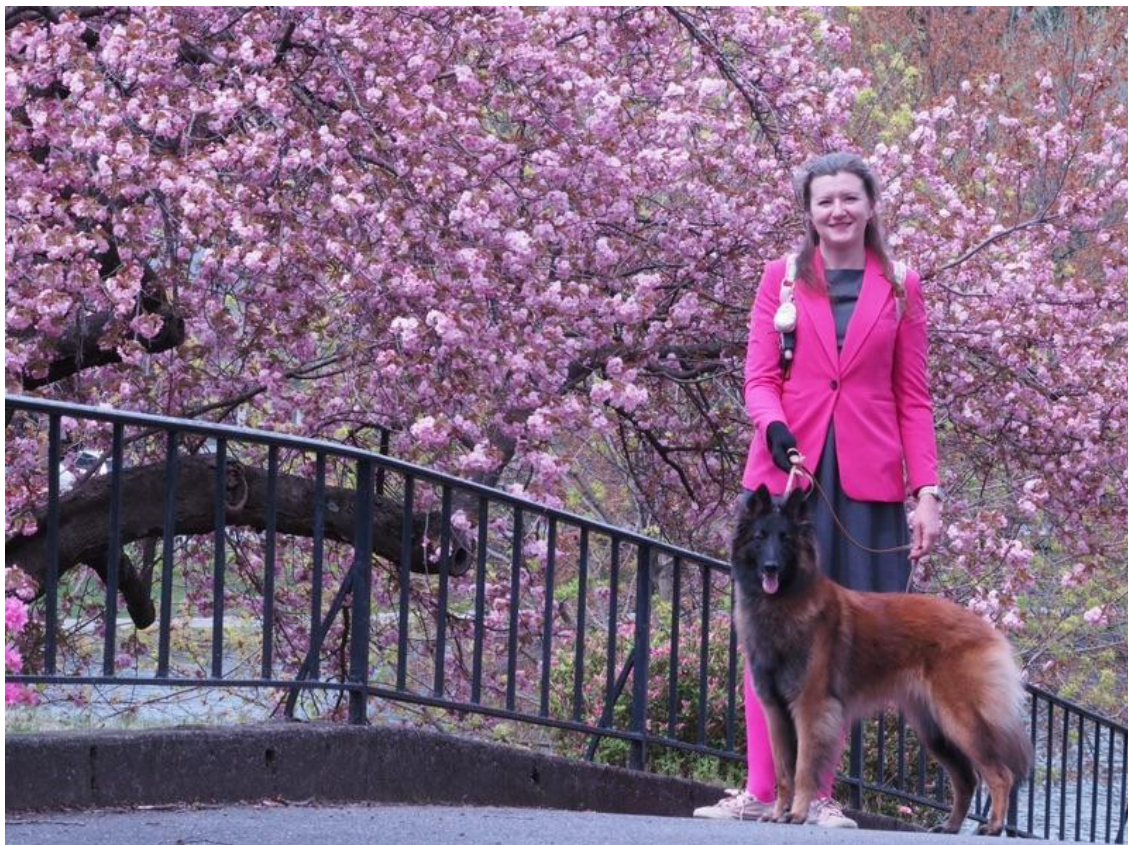
Diane Hardy writes:

Santana (MACH2 Rhyshek's Samba Pa Ti MXG MJG MFB TQX T2B2) earned her MACH 3 at the April 2024 Capital Dog Training Club Agility Trial, under judge Darryl Warren. We needed two Double Qs going into the trial. We started out strong on Friday, with a second place qualifier in Master's F.A.S.T., a qualifier in Time 2 Beat, and a double Q with a first place in Master's Standard. On Saturday, we didn't qualify in Premier

JWW, or in Master's Jumpers with Weaves, where we had a spectacular Wrong Course fault of two jumps after the tunnel (a.k.a. the puppy cannon). When this happens you think, okay, it's not going to happen today, relax and enjoy. We, qualified with fourth place in Master's Standard. On Sunday, we started out with a first place Qualifier in Master's F.A.S.T., then a first place in Premier Standard, and a first place in Master's Standard. I just had to keep it together and play it safe in JWW. Unlike me, Santana always seems to have it together, she's a happy Lab, with great drive, and she loves agility. We got the Q, did a short victory lap of two jumps and 12 weaves, received a hug from Darryl, and Carrie brought me a MACH bar. It was wonderful getting a MACH at my club's trial!

Rye (Periland Rye BN RN OA NAJ XF CGC) qualified in Open Standard on Friday, it was a bumper leg. It was reassuring to get that Q anyway and we didn't take a placement away from another team. Rye has natural distance because of her speed and in F.A.S.T., you need to do obstacles in order in the Send Bonus, but the dog can make some choices in point accumulation. She did stick to my plan, for the most part, which allowed us to accumulate enough points to get fourth place on Friday and third place on Sunday, thus she and Santana earned half of the placements in the Master's F.A.S.T 20 inch class on both days. Rye's first time in AKC agility was at the CDTC Agility trial last April, this was an anniversary!

There is one more title for Santana. Master's F.A.S.T. Silver (50 legs). The Master's F.A.S.T Silver was earned the same day as the MACH 3.



Mary Carson writes:

Hawkeye completed the requirements for her breed championship at the Blue & Grey Cluster in Harrisburg on April 13th with her 4th major and Jen Wager handling. She will now be known as CH Reflections Kate Bishop CGC. Many thanks to Janice Kopp and CDTC's conformation program for helping this happen! The picture is from the following day, when Melanie Carson showed her as a special and won BOS and OHBOB. Our breed ring time was 8:30 am and Herding Group was the last to go, so we had time to visit a local park in Harrisburg.



Milly B. Welsh shares:

Razor (Graden's Cutting Edge, QA2, MH, UD, RM) completed the requirements for her RM title at the LRC specialty on 4/10/24. She won the class with a 100. The Lab specialty was 4 days and she qualified in Rally Master 4 times - 2 first and 2 fourth (apparently I can't tell left from right). Better yet she qualified 4 times in Utility A and won her classes with excellent scores.



Diane Harab writes:

Rocky earned his Rally Novice title on April 7, 2024 at Oriole Dog Training Club in Halethorpe, Maryland with scores of 99-1st place, 100-1st place, and 99 first place. This is his first title.



Shannon Hall says:

The Dread Pirate Michael finished his AKC Master's Agility Championship (MACH) 2 at our CDTC agility trial this April. While any major title is a thrill, getting it at our own trial was a real pleasure. The support was amazing and our ribbons are gorgeous (Thanks Trophy Chair Amy!). As you can see, Mikey was less than pleased with the photo session, but I paid him in bacon later, so don't feel too sorry for him. :)



Janine Castorina shares:

My amazing little boy, Horus, eared a spot in finals for the US Open for agility (UKI) in November. Of course we're totally going to Jacksonville FL to compete.

Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

Good news is Obedience continues to be positive as seen in chart.

Information for the Companion Events Delegates Committee
March 2024

Status by Sport - Number of Entries
As of February 16

	Jan - Dec: 2023 vs 2022		
	2023	Change from	% change
	Entries	2022	from 2022
Conformation*	1,486,766	512	0.03%
Agility	1,207,651	21,796	1.8%
Fast CAT	253,964	49,870	24.4%
Scent Work	237,986	36,616	18.2%
Rally	138,453	15,192	12.3%
Field Trials	122,489	1,933	1.6%
Obedience	108,181	3,451	3.3%
Hunting Tests	64,994	-536	-0.8%
Herding	21,939	343	1.6%
Coursing Ability Test (CAT)	15,501	-825	-5.1%
Lure Coursing	9,567	1,058	12.4%
Earthdog	6,133	679	12.4%
AKC Temperament Test	5,225	669	14.7%
Tracking	1,332	-40	-2.9%
All Other Events	1,868	585	
Total Entries - all AKC Events	3,682,049	131,303	3.70%
Total Number of Events	26,742	1,564	6.21%

* Includes AB, LB, Specialties, BPUP & Open Shows
2023 was a record for participation in AKC sports.

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
May 14th, at 8:00pm



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