



Obichaff

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



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"If you think a dog can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them."
- Phil Pastoret

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From the Editor



This year, Hadley welcomed the month of May

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[Shirley Blakely](#)

**New Membership
Information**

[Shirley Blakely](#)

**Historian (not a
board member)**

[Joan Adler](#)

with a trip to Moab, Utah. This place is canine paradise - tons of trails, clean water to wade in, and a town filled with dog-friendly establishments. She joyfully joined us on a nearly nine mile hike into a slot canyon to check out a waterfall. It's tough to tire out a hound dog - at eight years old Hadley still whines on hikes if we're not moving fast enough. By the end of this one, she was wiped out!

Luckily, the pet supply shop in town made for an easy pit stop post-hike so she could get some fun treats and replace those calories burned. If you get the chance to go, we can't recommend Moab highly enough!

Pesky Pests!



Spring is in full swing and summer is right around the corner. For many of us, this means more time outside with our pups.

Unfortunately, humans and dogs aren't the only ones who enjoy the warmer weather; many pests and other animals increase their activity during the warm seasons. Here are some tips to avoid unwanted encounters while enjoying the great outdoors.

Fleas and Ticks: The Tiniest Terrors

Fleas and ticks are the worst uninvited guests of spring and summer. These tiny parasites can cause big problems, from skin irritation to serious diseases like Lyme disease. In the Mid-Atlantic, tick season typically runs from March to November when temperatures routinely stay above freezing, while fleas can be a year-round nuisance.

Safety Tips:

- **Preventative Products:** Consult your vet about the best flea and tick preventatives for your dog. Make sure you purchase safe products from a reliable source!
 - **Regular Checks:** After outdoor adventures, inspect your dog for ticks, especially around the ears, face, and paw pads.
 - **Yard Maintenance:** Keep grass short and remove leaf litter to reduce tick habitats. Consider yard treatments that are pet-safe.
-

Snakes: Slithering Surprises

While venomous snakes like copperheads and rattlesnakes are less common in urban areas, they still pose a risk in rural or wooded areas. These snakes are most active during the warmer months and can strike quickly if they feel threatened.

Safety Tips:

- **Leash Your Dog:** Keep your dog on a leash during walks in snake-prone areas, especially in the early morning hours when these snakes are most likely to be seeking some sunshine.
 - **Yard Precautions:** Keep your yard tidy and eliminate hiding spots. If you notice a snake has taken up residence in your yard, consider calling a relocation service for the safety of the snake and your dog.
 - **Rattlesnake Vaccine:** Talk with your vet about vaccinating your dog against rattlesnake venom if you live or frequently visit areas where these snakes are prevalent (Hello, Colorado!).
-

Coyotes: Some Crafty Canines

Coyotes are increasingly found in suburban and urban areas - we once saw one trotting down the sidewalk in NW DC! While they typically avoid humans, they can pose a threat to smaller dogs and cats.

Safety Tips:

- **Secure Your Yard:** Make sure your fence line is secure and remove food sources.
- **Supervise Outdoor Time:** Avoid leaving your small dogs

unattended outside, especially at dawn or dusk when coyotes are most active.

- If you come across a coyote - stay calm while facing them. Put your arms up to appear larger and make noise. Back away slowly and steadily towards safety.

Skunks: A Stinky Situation

Skunks are nocturnal creatures that can cause more than just a stinky mess. Their spray can irritate your dog's eyes and skin, leading to discomfort and potential health issues.

Safety Tips:

- **Secure Trash:** Keep garbage cans tightly sealed and store pet food indoors.
- **Motion-Activated Lights:** Install lights to deter skunks and other nocturnal creatures from entering your yard at night.
- If your dog gets sprayed, seek vet care if their eyes, nose, and/or mouth were impacted. A mixture of hydrogen peroxide, baking soda, and Dawn dish soap should do the trick. Rub on DRY fur first! Wetting a dog first can spread the oils deeper into their coats (speaking from some experience...)

Raccoons, Foxes, and Rats: Oh My!

These pesky animals are all over the DMV area. While we share our spaces with them, it is important to remember they can be a source of trouble for our pets.

Safety Tips:

- **Secure Entrances:** Block access to attics and under-deck spaces where these animals might nest. It's not safe for them or your dogs to be in close proximity with babies involved.
- **Remove Attractants:** Eliminate food sources like pet food and bird seed.
- **Vaccines:** Leptospirosis is a risk in any area frequented by these animals. Rabies cases also continue to be reported in the DMV area. To keep your pets safe, ask your vet about getting the relevant vaccines and the best schedule for you and your pet.

By taking preventive measures and staying informed, you can ensure your dog's safety during outdoor adventures. Remember, a little

preparation goes a long way in keeping your furry friend happy and healthy.

2025 Nomination for CDTC AKC Good Sportsmanship Award: Amy Scheiner

Nominated by: Marsha Iyomasa and Donna Cleverdon

Those humble, behind-the-scenes people are the reason anything gets done.” - Terri Guillermetts

In her own, quiet and humble way, she has reached back to bring others along with her long history in canine sports. She has generously shared her substantial experience with the Capital Dog Training Club for more than 35 years. Her stalwart service to Capital includes, but not limited to, serving across sports as an Obedience and Agility instructor, volunteering at a number of trials, and serving on the board twice as trophy chair, first from 2005-2007, and then graciously again from 2019 to the present. She is the one to ensure all participants at Capital’s sporting events are recipients of their green and title ribbons, but also those special ribbons attained for High in Trial and High Combined, and all the recognitions such as the coveted achievement plaques and trophies. Her leadership skills are considerable and whenever she needs help, without hesitation, many step up to the opportunity. In all these capacities, she served with distinction of the highest caliber with her quiet smile and willingness to help. It is an honor and a pleasure to nominate Amy Scheiner for Capital’s 2025 AKC Good Sportsmanship Award.

Amy’s dedication and focused goals to canine interests, which continues today, were shaped at the wee age of four, dedicating herself to proving to her parents that she would be a responsible dog owner, going on to research on her own initiative, dog breeds by reading breed books at the library and going to dog shows with her dad. This journey led her to owning six Shelties and most recently an Icelandic Sheepdog.

Most notably, Amy began her dog training as a junior handler, at just 11 years old and in the fifth grade, beginning with Puppy Kindergarten at the Capital Dog Training Club under the tutelage of Wendy Volhard.

Amy is a native of Towson, Maryland, and a product of Montgomery County Public Schools, a graduate of Winston Churchill High School. She went on to earn her DVM at Michigan State University, and

returned to Montgomery County thereafter, beginning her veterinary career at the Wheaton Animal Hospital, where she will celebrate her 40th anniversary this summer.

Amy is exemplary of what it means to be a goodwill ambassador of the club. Even with her busy schedule, she manages to carve out volunteer time not only for Capital, but has shared her joy of dogs by having served as a volunteer with the Montgomery County 4-H Dog/4-H Canine Study Clubs, where she began as a junior handler. As a club officer for a number of years, she mentored newer and younger junior handlers. She has reached back to her community, and judged by invitation, the 4-H dog shows at the Montgomery County Fair for a number of years.

Among her many accomplishments with her dogs, Amy has achieved several titles and certificates in Obedience, Agility, Herding, Fast CAT, CGC, Tricks, and has now added an interest in Scent Work. She continued to serve Capital by including several articles in Obichaff, including “The Implications of Ownership Versus Guardianship: A Veterinarian’s Perspective” (December 2007), “To Spay or not to Spay: A Complicated Question” (October 2020), and “Canine Leptospirosis: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” (December 2020).

Amy’s legacy for posterity is that, “(She) believes we are a very special group of people at Capital, and we collectively have an incredible wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience; we also have an amazing capacity for kindness, encouragement, and respect when it comes to our chosen sport/hobby of dog training. I have been truly honored to serve the Club as I have, and I hope to continue to do so for many years to come.”

President John F. Kennedy once said, “Every person can make a difference and every person should try.” Amy doesn’t try, she delivers by actually doing it, and does it from the heart for the betterment of handlers and dogs.

2025 CDTC Awards Application

Please click below to access the 2025 CDTC Awards Application for titles earned in 2024. The application is to be sent to [Amy Scheiner](#).

[Click Here for Application PDF](#)

CDTC's Quarterly CGC

Submitted and tested by: Marnie McCown

Marnie McCown reports that, during the quarterly CGC and Tricks testing day, the following dogs showed off their skills.



Penny, owned by Lois Kietur, earned her Novice Tricks title.



Nico, owned by Liz Records, earned his Novice AND Intermediate Tricks titles!

Congratulations to both, very clever, doggos!

Bragg

Jennie Larkin writes:

Hermes & Nikko have only been able attend a couple agility trials in the last couple of months, but they went big then went home!

Hermes has all his double Qs and half of points needed for the next AKC National Agility Championship (being held in California early next year).

Nikko finished his Open Agility (OA), Open FAST (OF), and Open Jumpers (OAJ) titles. On to excellent!





Joyce Dandridge shares:

My new puppy Max in kindergarten.



Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

Check back next month!

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: May 13th 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](#)!



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