



# Obichaff

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



November 2025

Volume 82 - Issue 10

*"Believe in the abilities of you and your dog, and persevere!"*  
- Susan Garrett

## Board of Directors

### **President**

[Shannon Hall](#)

### **Vice President**

[Kara MacWilliams](#)

### **Secretary**

[Julie Rovner](#)

### **Treasurer**

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### **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



After 8 years of dozens of foster puppies and  
kittens in and out of our home without a single

**Obichaff Editor**  
[Payton Murphy](#)

"foster fail", we have a new permanent resident here! Everyone, meet Junie!

**Members at Large**  
[Bill Peyser](#)

[Marnie McCown](#)

[Shirley Blakely](#)

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

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

When the rescue sent out an email seeking fosters for Junie and her three brothers, we knew not many people would be experienced (or insane) enough to handle a female dog with her alleged breed make up. We agreed to take her thinking there was no way we would ever consider owning a dog like her. Well, this little lady immediately fit in with the crew and showed an incredible aptitude for learning. She's a great sport prospect - incredibly agile, handler focused, thoughtful, and driven. We'll be testing out everything to see what she enjoys most, even venturing into agility! [Click here](#) to reveal one of the worst DNA results I could imagine - that somehow produced an incredible little puppy!

PS. for my former puppy kindergarten students - notice that I practice what I preach and have Junie in her martingale collar as we learn about leash pressure!

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## CDTC Board Slate 2026

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following slate for the CDTC Board:

**President:** Shannon Hall

**Vice President:** Kara MacWilliams

**Club Secretary:** Julie Rovner

**Treasurer:** Bill Peyser

**AKC Delegate:** Joyce Dandridge

**Training Director:** Tom Tatham

**Assistant Training Director:** Janine Castorina

**Training Secretary:** Dianne Hardy

**Trial Chair:** Martin Goldstein

**Trophy Chair:** Amy Scheiner

**Obichaff Editor:** Marnie McCown

**Member-at-Large (Membership):** Shirley Blakely

**Member-at-Large:** Tomas Bonome

**Member-at-Large:** Tiffin Shewmake

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**President:** Shannon Hall

A fourth year? I guess I can do that.

As I wrote three years ago: “I’ve been training with Capital since 1997 and teaching for Capital since 2002. I’ve been club president, training secretary and training director. I’ve trained in obedience, rally and tracking, learning right alongside many of you over the years. I now focus primarily on agility and on the family of CGC events, and my dogs are very good boys for me in both areas.

For those who don’t know me well, I have a PhD in Physics and a daughter who is at the University of Pittsburgh. For some of you who

do know me well, you are remembering me pregnant and wondering how the years have gone by so fast!” (She graduated this spring!)

My goals this coming year remain to continue our series of small facility improvements while maintaining focus on ensuring a welcoming and warm environment to train our dogs and teach others to do the same. We do have some newer members ready and willing to step into key board positions, which is amazing! A deep bench is the best way to ensure a solid future for the club long term. Someone please volunteer to be mentored to be the next president! :)

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**Vice President:** Kara MacWilliams

I have been training at Capital since 2013 and have been Vice President of CDTC since 2023. I currently have two Bernese Mountain Dogs, Daisy (6 1/2 years old) and Calla (4 1/2 months old). Daisy and I have been training almost nonstop at Capital since we started puppy kindergarten when she was 12 weeks old and got her CGC and TKN at 16 weeks. We've had fun trying a lot of different types of training and dog sports and have collected a few titles along the way - CH Olekas Sun Shines on Daisy at Boredale Versatility

(Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America) NDD (Novice Draft Dog) FDC OAP NJP NFP ACT1 ACT1J CGC CGCA CGCU TKN TKI. Calla has her AKC Star Puppy title, and we are about to start Family Dog 2. I was on the board of the Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club (PVBMD) as an at large member in 2021-2022 and as Treasurer in 2023. I was chair of the back-to-back PVBMD Independent Regional Specialty in 2022.

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**Club Secretary:** Julie Rovner

I am a health policy journalist who currently owns and

trains two Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Wallace and Aspen, in obedience, rally, and agility.

I have been a member of the board since 2018.

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**Treasurer:** Bill Peyser

My affiliation with CDTC started over 50 years ago when I did obedience training with my poodle, Taffy at BCC. After a long hiatus, I was delighted to return to the club in 2023 with my cavapoochon, The Marvelous Mrs. Maple (aka, Maple). This time around, my focus is agility. We are now competing at the masters level in both standard and jumpers.

I'm a retired CPA with 40 years of accounting and finance experience. I started my career as an auditor at Arthur Andersen, and then led the finance operation for the Washington office of the association management firm, Smith, Bucklin & Associates. I was responsible for managing the finances of over 50 trade associations and professional societies. My most recent position was CFO at The Chronicle of Higher Education, where I managed business operations and, with our executive team, led strategic planning.

I retired in May of 2024 and joined the Montgomery County Police Department as a Keeping Seniors Safe volunteer. In that capacity, I help senior citizens keep their money and personal information safe from scammers. In 2025, I've made 25 scam presentations at community centers, neighborhood villages, and residential living facilities throughout Montgomery County.

As Treasurer, I look forward to building upon the foundation created and maintained by Pam during the last 10 years. I'll be focused on financial analysis, internal accounting controls, efficiency, and financial reporting while Julie Pavlin, as Assistant Treasurer, keeps the books on a day-to-day basis. I'm confident this team approach will serve the club well in 2026.

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**AKC Delegate:** Joyce Dandridge

First, I would like to thank the CDTC Nominating Committee for considering me for the position of AKC Delegate. I have enjoyed serving in this position. I have been a member of CDTC since 1990 and have put obedience and conformation titles on my Chow Chows. I have been a Chow Chow breeder owner handler for over 30 years. Presently, I judge all the Non Sporting breeds and Working breeds, Best in Show, Juniors and some toy and herding breeds. I have had the opportunity to judge at National Specialties including three times at the Chow Chow National. I have also had the privilege to judge at the AKC Championship Show in Orlando twice. In addition, I have judged the Westminster KC show. I have been Corresponding Secretary for the Chow Chow parent club and have been for more than 18 years serving on the Board of Directors. I am a member of National Capital KC and currently serve on their Board. I am a lifetime member of Mid-Atlantic Stewards Association and have been an officer of the club. I was elected by the AKC Delegate body for a

fifth time to serve for a three- year term on the Companion Events Committee this year. If elected to represent you again, I will continue to seek feedback from the members on AKC Delegate voting issues as well as share your concerns with the Delegate committee. Of course, having initiated the Delegates Corner in our newsletter, I would continue to keep you informed on AKC issues there and most importantly I will continue to be available to the membership to discuss issues of concern in the sport.

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**Training Director:** Tom Tatham

I have been training dogs since 2013 and have earned Obedience

titles on 3 dogs (a CDX on my Corgi, my Aussie is UDX2 OM1, and my Mini American is UDX). We have also competed in agility and hold several rally titles. I am currently training my fourth dog, a Border Collie named Luna. Luna recently earned her Obedience Trial Championship and holds 2 Utility Dog Excellent and 2 Obedience Master titles. My interest in animal training is intertwined with my educational and professional life—I hold a PhD in Experimental Psychology and have published research on operant and classical conditioning, and have taught learning theory to undergraduate, graduate and medical students. I currently work as a Scientific Review Officer for the National Institutes of Health.

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## **Assistant Training Director:** Janine Castorina

I have been a CDTC member for many years now, though sometimes it feels like I just found CDTC and my place here. In addition to training dogs at CDTC, I have been an avid dog training for 10 years before finding CDTC. I got my start at CDTC when a close friend suggested that I take my husky-cattle dog to agility class. I began with Introduction to Agility with Hermes and have never looked back. In addition to agility classes, my dogs have taken family dog and rally classes, though agility is my first love. I began assistant teaching the Introduction to Agility class with April. She grounded me in teaching agility and I found a love for it. Teaching agility is a uniquely rewarding experience. The students and the dogs are great and watching them progress in the sport and grow as a team is so rewarding. Over the years CDTC has grown the agility program into an enviable and admired program. I look forward to continuing my tenure as Assistant Training Director and the great progress those before me began.

In addition to volunteering for the club, I volunteer for a few dog rescues, where I advocate for positive reinforcement training and other measures that are important in the rescue movement.

Duties: The duties of this position will be to oversee the agility program assist and substitute for the Training Director as needed.

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**Training Secretary:** Dianne Hardy

Dianne (Oshiro) grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, obtained her A.B. in Biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. After a postdoctoral at Johns Hopkins she worked as a research scientist in a laboratory for many years at Population Council in New York, NY. After the death of Matthew, her husband, Dianne moved from New York to Maryland to work at the National Institutes of Health as a Scientific Review Officer (SRO) at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). The job of SRO was administrative and included use of NIH databases and software, matrix compilers, record keeping, and preparation of written summaries. At CSR, Dianne also served on various committees and served as the Chair of

the Scientific Review Officer Council for one year before retiring from the NIH in August 2024 after 13 years as SRO.

Dianne's obedience training competition experience goes back 35 years to her Chow Shepherd mix Sasha, who earned the CD and CDX from AMBOR before the AKC allowed mixed breeds in obedience competition and when they still had out-of-sight 3 minute sits and 5 minute down stays. Her AKC Novice A dog was Nash, a black Labrador Retriever from a kill shelter. Nash earned a CD, RN, RA and Masters and Masters Preferred agility titles. He followed Dianne out of the ring for out of sight stays every week for a year in class and never competed in Open. He was a patient sibling to puppies Sierra and Santana and lived to 15 1/2 years of age. Her current dogs are Sierra, 13, a yellow Labrador Retriever, (MACH PACH Rhyshek's Sierra Of Isabela RN MXS MJB MXP4 MXPB MJP4 MJPB PAX MFB MFPB T2B T2BP2); Santana, 7, a black Labrador Retriever, (MACH3 Rhyshek's Samba Pa Ti RN MXG MJC PJD MFS TQX T2B3) and Rye, 3, a black and white border collie (Periland Rye CD BN RN OA NAJ MXF CGC). Sierra is retired from AKC agility but still runs in CPE agility where she can run (and qualify) at lower jump heights, and is competing in AKC obedience and rally. As of this writing she has two legs toward the CD and two legs toward the RA. Santana and Rye are currently competing in AKC agility, rally and obedience, and in agility in USDAA, UKI and CPE. Rye is also training in sheep herding and has shown immense aptitude and interest in it, a result of her strong working lines.

Dianne has been a member of Capital Dog Training Club since December 2022 and has been an instructor of Beginning Handling in the Agility Program on Friday evenings since Fall 2023. The students are just learning to sequence the obstacles and it is extremely enjoyable and rewarding to help them at this stage. She became the CDTC Training Secretary in January 2025 and enjoys the many challenges of the position and the rewards of helping clients get into the appropriate classes.

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### **Trial Chair:** Martin Goldstein

Molly, accompanied by her handler, Martin Goldstein, has been competing in Agility and Obedience since 20XX. Over the years, Molly has earned many titles and received many ribbons. Molly recommended her human for Trial Chair so that she can watch all of her furry friends compete that weekend while she relaxes with a milk bone or two.

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**Trophy Chair:** Amy Scheiner

I am looking forward to serving the Club for another year as Trophy Chair. I have been a member of CDTC since the late 1980s. In real life I'm a small animal veterinarian, and I currently share my home with my Shetland sheepdog, Devyn, and my Icelandic sheepdog, Tryggur. When not working or training dogs, I love to travel. I have been to every continent except Antarctica—it's on my bucket list. In the photo, I am straddling the equator on a trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos this past May.

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**Obichaff Editor:** Marnie McCown

Marnie McCown has been training at CDTC since October 2021, becoming a member in February 2022. She has experience in working dogs going back as far as 1998 and has been enjoying the adventure with her own dog since October 2020.

She assisted Eileen Freedman with several classes before becoming an official instructor and, in addition to Puppy Kindergarten, she also teaches FamilyDog 1, Family Dog 2, and the occasional Tricks class.

When she is not hiking with her dog, visiting friends with her dog, training her dog, photographing her dog, or talking about her dog,

Marnie makes her living as a Principal of Workforce Experience Consulting, helping global companies with their end-to-end talent development strategies.

Marnie is a CGC evaluator and enjoys being involved in the club, as it allows her to continue learning more about canine behavior, increasing her ability to help others with their dogs, and participate in fun activities with her own dog.

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## **Member-at-Large (Membership): Shirley Blakely**

Shirley has been a member of CDTC for nearly 30 years. During that time, she has trained three dogs (Amy, Gigi & Coco), earning CD, CDX, Advanced tricks, and Canine Freestyle Novice titles. She has earned an ACT in Agility with Coco. Certified by the Alliance for Therapy Dogs, Shirley, Gigi & Coco enjoy doing therapy visitations at hospitals, schools and nursing homes. Teaching Beginner Novice at CDTC over the past 4 years has been a way to refine her skills in obedience and learn new training techniques. She is looking to continue learning and training in obedience and other canine activities.

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## **Member-at-Large:** Tiffin Shewmake

In 2020, my Covid puppy, Rocket Shewmake, (Yes, I accidentally gave him my last name as part of his official AKC name) started puppy kindergarten at Capital. He now has his CD, BN, CGCU, and TKN. We are currently working on his Open title. Rocket is a mix of at least 13 breeds. The top breeds are Australian Cattle Dog, Chow, Sheltie, Siberian Husky, and Weimaraner, with smaller percentages of other breeds, including 2% chihuahua. In 2022, I joined Capital as a member. I currently teach Family Dog 1 and Puppy Kindergarten and am also an AKC CGC evaluator.

Last year, we got a new dog, Lord Wensleydale “Wesley.” Wesley has his CGC and is working on his BN title. He is an Australian Shepherd/Pit Bull mix.

On and off, I have been training dogs since I was a kid. Years ago, my mixed breed, Shelter Boy Blitz, earned a CD from the UKC and was one leg short of his CDX (at the last show, he stood up on the out of sight down) when my showing was interrupted by the arrival of twins. Our other family dogs went to basic obedience lessons, but I didn’t continue training because of work and family.

In my professional life, before retiring, I worked on a diverse range of environmental and sustainability issues, including hazardous and solid waste, wastewater, environmental management systems (EMS), environmental compliance in the retail sector, and environmental health and safety.

In my spare non-dog time, I enjoy hiking, running, gardening, and writing fiction and non-fiction.

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## **Member-at-Large:** Tomas Bonome

Tomas currently works in the health IT industry. Previously, he was a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service. During his tenure he served as the Director of Federal Occupational Health with responsibility for supporting over 365 occupational health programs across the Federal Government through a network of over 400 clinics, fitness centers, and environmental testing facilities. Tomas also staffed three U.S. Surgeon Generals, supported special projects for the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition, and conducted translational research in ovarian cancer at the National Institutes of Health. During his service he developed an affinity and deep appreciation for military working dogs, which led him to the brilliant decision to take in and train three female German Shepherd / Belgian Malinois pups who also happen to be litter

mates. Today, at almost 2 years old the pack happily resides in Bethesda, MD.

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## AKC Meet the Breeds

Debby Quigley, a nationally recognized trainer, competitor, and educator is coming to Capital next April. With a passion for dog sports she demonstrates “How to Increase Fun and Improve Focus!”

With multiple AKC Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH), Master Agility Champion (MACH), Preferred Agility Champion (PACH), and Tracking Dog (TD) titles to her name, Debby brings a wealth of hands-on experience from nearly every corner of the dog sport world. She actively competes in herding, fieldwork, scent work, and canine freestyle, showcasing the same precision and enthusiasm she inspires in her students.

Over her accomplished career, Debby has earned more than 200 High in Trial and 150 High Combined awards, along with three placements at the AKC National Invitational. Her success extends well beyond her own dogs—her students consistently achieve top honors and personal bests, a testament to her clear, motivating, and effective teaching style.

As the author of *Success is in the Proofing*, Debby shares her proven, step-by-step approach to developing confident, reliable performance in the ring.

At her seminars, Debby’s warmth, humor, and depth of knowledge create an engaging learning environment where every attendee walks away with practical skills and renewed inspiration. Her methods help handlers build stronger communication, enhance teamwork, and bring out the very best in their dogs—both in and out of the ring. Join us for this wonderful weekend.

The following is a interview with Debby, conducted by our own Julie Rovner.

The flyer and how to sign up below is included in this issue of your newsletter!

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*Interview with Debby Quigley, by Julie Rovner*

(this interview has been lightly edited for clarity)

Julie Rovner: Tell me a little bit about you and how you came to dog

training.

Debby Quigley: Well, I was born in Houston, Texas. And I lived there all my life until just a few years ago, when I moved to Mississippi. And when I was 15 or 16 years old, I got a Siberian Husky and she ran through the door one day because obviously she wasn't trained, and ran into the side of a Volkswagen and dented it. Dented the Volkswagen. Didn't hurt her, but dented the Volkswagen. Well, while I was trying to catch her, I happened across a friend of mine that had shelties and she was out training her sheltie in open work. And I was fascinated with it. She got me into it. She took me to a club in Houston, and we trained out in a parking lot. And I showed Rasha, that was my dog's name. She was not the easiest dog to train. No, it wasn't a good first dog, but she taught me a lot. And I had a couple of shelties after that and I had a couple of Goldens and I've had four or five border collies at this point. I just really always enjoyed training and it to me that was fun. I have done not only obedience but I've done rally and I've done conformation, and I've done tracking, and scent work, and freestyle, and hunt work, and herding. So I've done a little bit of everything.

JR: And agility, right?

DQ: Yes, and agility, too. I've got a number of MACHs and PACHs and OTCHs, and 200s, and AKC Invitational placements. I've always just really enjoyed it.

JR: I do both obedience and agility and I always feel like I would be further along in agility if I were doing less obedience and I would be further along in obedience if I was doing less agility. Why should people do multiple sports?

DQ: I think multiple sports actually help develop the teamwork. Agility is great. I love agility. I love obedience too. And I really honestly feel that no matter what you do, you need to train your dog. So to me, obedience, even if you never show in obedience, you need to be training it to some extent because you need the leadership and the rapport that it brings, as well as the training that it brings. We all need sit stays, we all need down stays, we all need a dog to stay with us, we all need a dog to stay focused on us. I know a lot of people went from obedience to agility for the fun aspect of it. And to me, anything you do with your dog should be fun. I am all about building desire and building fun in whatever I do, so it's one of those things that regardless of what venues you do, if you build the fun and the desire, that transfers into more focus from your dog, which transfers into more success. And eventually, if you build desire properly, the act of training itself becomes rewarding. So, you know, a lot of times I have people that say, well, I have to get rid of treats. My dogs only do it for treats. Well, you know, when I hear that, that's

kind of telling me that you haven't made whatever you're doing fun enough for the dog. Once the focus and the fun come into it, then the dog is enjoying it, the person's enjoying it more, and they have more success.

JR: What's the biggest obstacle to people having fun with their dog? Because we hear that all the time from all the trainers, that if it's not fun, it's not going to work, but it's hard to make it fun.

DQ: I think a lot of times we all get trapped in what we have to do to qualify. In obedience, I see people doing run -throughs all the time, but they're not actually utilizing the run -through or the match. When they train, they sequence train. Well, I don't know if you have ever seen an assembly line where somebody works in line? When someone who works in an assembly line, what happens after a certain amount of time is it just becomes something that you don't even think about anymore and it's just a mundane thing that you do day after day. So you know to me staying out of that "exercise box" helps the person stay more inventive and more spontaneous and that in itself helps it be more interesting for the person but also more interesting and more fun for the dog.

JR: What's your favorite part about teaching?

DQ: Seeing people succeed, seeing the team grow as a team and succeed. Even if it's just, a simple title, you know, it doesn't have to be an OTCH and it doesn't have to be a MACH, just watching the person learn that they can have fun doing this and seeing the dog respond to the fun.

JR: What can our members expect to get from your clinic?

DQ: Usually the first day is good for anything. If you want to learn games, how to have fun with your dog, see the dog respond to fun, usually the first day is all about games, and how I respond to the dog and how I shift responsibility. Besides the fun aspect, shifting the responsibility to the dog to do criteria and skills, it's probably just as important because I see people fail at the shifting a lot. And so I work a lot on how to shift and consequences. I don't use the word correction because correction to obedience people and even agility people means a physically harsh something that happens to the dog and I you know I have nothing against a physical correction but that's going to be dependent on the dog's temperament on the dog's level of training and what the dog's actually doing so you know to me it's not a correction it's a consequence okay? And I go over all the different consequences and you get a chance to see how I respond to different things. And then we go into more problem solving and proofing and stuff on the second day. But I leave that up to the group. They tell me what they want to do. And then I form the seminar and the workshop

to that.

JR: Thanks for your time, I'm looking forward to meeting you in person!

CAPITAL DOG TRAINING CLUB PRESENTS  
**Debby Quigley Seminar**  
"HOW TO INCREASE FUN  
AND IMPROVE FOCUS"  
April 11 and 12, 2026

**Debby Quigley** has earned multiple AKC OTCHs, MACHs, PACHs, TDs titles with her own dogs. She also competes in herding, huntwork, scent work and freestyle. She has also earned over 200 High-in-Trials as well as over 150 High Combined scores, 12 perfect 200 scores and 3 placements at the AKC National Invitational. Her students also excel.

- Debby has published the book *"Success is in the Proofing"*, a step-by-step guide to preparing dogs for competition.
- Debby's techniques will help anybody improve their relationship with their dog, and improve ring performance.



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

**FEE:** \$250 for working spots  
\$125 for non-working/audit spots

**SNACKS AND LUNCH PROVIDED!**

**SIGN UP:** [HERE!](#)

**QUESTIONS?:** Email – [CDTCclasses@gmail.com](mailto:CDTCclasses@gmail.com)



To register for a working spot, [click here!](#)

To register for a non-working/audit spot, [click here!](#)

**How to Become a Member of CDTC**

Submitted by: Shirley Blakely

An update by: Shannon Hall

*Hi all! I got a few questions about Shirley's article on how to become a member and had a clarification. The proficiency test she mentions is currently the AKC Beginner Novice test, as administered by a qualified club member identified by the Training Director. This is also described on our website in the [Membership](#) section. Thanks for your questions!*

*-Shannon*

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Becoming a member opens so many opportunities for you and your dog.

***Membership requirements are as follows:***

To apply for membership at Capital Dog Training Club you must first attend 9 of 12-weeks of classes. You are then eligible to take a proficiency test (administered by any club member with an obedience title except the Training Director, or Assistant Training Director). A copy of the test is available from your instructor. The proficiency test consists of the following five exercises: heel on leash, figure 8, sit for exam, sit-stay, and recall. This test is not needed if you have earned a leg or title in obedience, rally, agility or other companion sport. Upon meeting either of the above requirements, you will fill out and submit the membership application form along with proof of rabies and a check (or Paypal receipt) for the current membership dues amount (\$150 July 1, 2025) to CDTC (prorated to \$75 for applications received after the first of the year).

Once your application has been filed, you will be notified by the Membership Chair. You are now eligible to enroll in two free classes including obedience, agility, flyball, freestyle, etc. If you wish to enroll in more than two classes, each additional class costs 25% of the list/published price.

***Here is the process:***

Your application will be read at the next general membership meeting, held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00PM. It will then be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. The BOD meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. For the final step, your membership will be voted on at the following general meeting with a quorum present. You will be contacted by a Board Member to inform you that your status has been changed from training member to Active Member. If a quorum was not reached at the meeting, the process will extend to the next month.

Membership is renewed annually on July 1<sup>st</sup>. A reminder and renewal form will be included in the June issue of OBICHAFF, our newsletter. Your membership renewal form along with your dues and rabies certificate must be received by July 31<sup>st</sup> or your membership will expire and you will need to reapply.

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## Braggs

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Submit yours to [CDTCObichaff@gmail.com](mailto:CDTCObichaff@gmail.com)

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## Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

# AKC® Code of Sportsmanship and Civility

Preface: The tradition of competitive purebred dog events predates 1884—the year the American Kennel Club (AKC®) was founded. Those involved in these sports share core values, including a strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces the diverse community united by a love of dogs.

These values are evident across all aspects of the sport: conformation, performance, companion, and family dog activities.

Many believe that the enduring principles of sportsmanship and civility are key reasons the sport has thrived for over 140 years.

Recognizing that periodically reaffirming our shared values strengthens our community, the revised code will be shared widely to highlight the foundational values and principles that define the sport.

- Sportspeople always place the welfare of their dog above all else.
- Sportspeople prioritize the long-term health and preservation of their breed, making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.
- Sportspeople respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportspeople conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport, the American Kennel Club, and themselves.
- Sportspeople appreciate, encourage and support all who associate with and participate in the sports by fostering an environment where respect, equity, inclusion, and courtesy are foundational.
- Sportspeople understand, uphold and abide by all AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Sportspeople contribute to a positive atmosphere at events by avoiding negative gossip, disparagement, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Sportspeople extend their values of civility, fairness, and respect to all digital and social media platforms.
- Sportspeople actively support the education and mentorship of newcomers, helping them learn the rules, values, and traditions of the sport in a respectful way.
- Sportspeople recognize that they are role models in the sport, and strive to lead by example through humility, kindness, and ethical conduct.
- Sportspeople treat fellow exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, spectators, and AKC staff with dignity and respect, regardless of experience, background, or differences in opinion.
- Sportspeople are committed to fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, approaching both winning and losing with grace.
- Sportspeople understand that strong competition and civility can—and should—coexist. They appreciate the quality of their competitors, and the effort put forth by others.
- Sportspeople uphold their responsibilities to the sport of purebred dogs and refuse to let personal gain or self-interest influence their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsperson judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsperson judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsperson exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsperson exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- Sportspeople are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportspeople decline to exploit any positions of authority or recognition for personal advantage.
- Sportspeople appreciate those that have gone before them and realize they are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sport for future generations.



Everything We Do,  
We Do for Dogs.

## 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 Groups**

A group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month at 2pm.

Mary Carson hosts a Rally Training Group every Thursday from 11 am to 12:30 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](#).

### **Saturday UDX Training Group**

(Tatham @ 1:00pm). Contact [Tom](#).

### **Masters Agility Training Group**

Meets Tuesday 10:30 AM. Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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](http://cdtc.org/membership).

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

## Next Membership Meeting: November 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](#)!



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