



# *Obichaff*

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



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No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation  
as much as the dog does.

Christopher Morley

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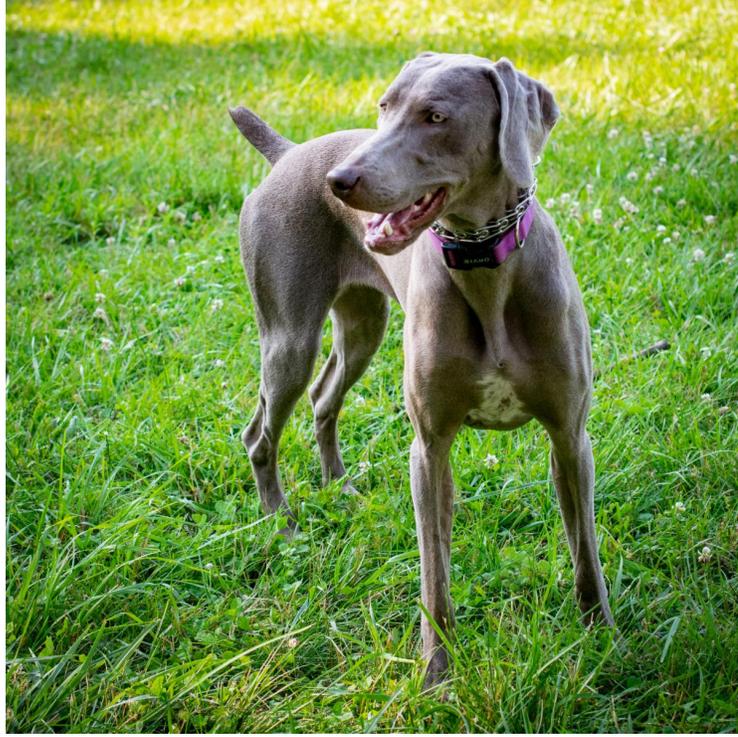
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It has been little over a year since my wife and I brought Magic home. We love this little girl and the confident, well behaved dog she has become.

Magic and I have been working on obedience. Even with the Covid-19 epidemic lockdown, we have found time for regular training sessions. I have discovered that video training sessions work well and that the feedback I get from the instructor focuses my attention on areas where additional work is needed. I am glad that classes have started again and I am trilled to be working with Magic in agility. She loves agility and I see great things ahead for her in that sport. Magic has also been working in scent work. Scent work is great because you can start working your dogs as a puppy and continue into old age. Milo, my other dog, is retired from agility and obedience, but continues to excel in scent work.

CDTC has so many options available for training your dog. Find something you and your dog love, then go have fun with your best beloved. Happy dog time.



## President's Message:

Friends,

Do you know that our club has a library? This is a greatly under-used resource to all you dog trainers. You can check out a book anytime you come to the club house. There is a wide range of titles and materials available. Everything from fiction to how-to is on offer. Many of the books are old and out of print, but that does not mean that the information inside is obsolete. A couple of years ago I was given a book on training by one Henry R. East, published (second edition) in 1946. It is as old as I am - *really* old. *How To Train Dogs*, for the home, stage and moving pictures. There is a note on the inside cover in a childish cursive hand, "a merry Christmas to Daddy from Denny and Robby and Jennifer. December 25, 1946." The instruction inside is still very sound! Here is an excerpt from the beginning of Chapter VII "Admonition."

Do not play tricks on your dog or scare him in any way. If you do, he will lose his respect for you and mistrust you at all times. A wary, suspicious dog is difficult to train. Do not use a whip, stick, or rolled paper to punish a dog. Such methods are not humane.

This little book isn't in the library yet. But one day it will be. Meanwhile there are more than enough to keep you in reading material for months, if not years.

As there are so many books about dog training, old and new, some fall out of fashion. Sometimes the books prove to be more or less useless, but perhaps only because they don't suite your training style or philosophy. The ones that survive and get used the most are the ones that not only offer advice that is effective, but that also nurture a good relationship between dog and handler.

If you borrow a book that uses a method that does not suit your training style, return it and try another! Just as with instructors we encounter, you can learn something from anybody and everybody. For instance, I have attended many - I hate to think of how many - training seminars over the past 40 years. I have learned something from every single one, sometimes grudgingly. (On a couple of occasions the thing I learned was not to attend another seminar by that presenter.) But that accumulated knowledge serves me well on most days.

One of the reasons that I taught classes for so many years was to try to save other handlers many of the mistakes I made over the years. Having watched and talked to so many trainers, over time I developed my own style and philosophy of dog training. Reading books about training also helped me formulate those ideas.

In this time of spending many hours isolated from groups, and training by ourselves, it is a good time to sit down with a book and learn something new or different. You may be surprised by the well of knowledge that is literally at your fingertips. It all adds up.

Here is another quote: from the Washington Post Sports section from Sunday, September 6. In an article about Cal Ripkin, Tom Boswell wrote:

In that one way, it truly is like life: You can deal with far more - endure more, create more, recover from pain or disappointment more, be your best more often - in one-day increments. It's almost as if there is no such thing as a "life" and its "meaning." There are just todays. but with work and luck, they sure can add up.

A very wise person once said, "What makes you a Champion is not that lovely, near-perfect performance that earned you a blue ribbon. It was the daily training, observation, reassessment, honing of skills in your dog and in yourself; daily application of what you learned, and appreciation that you still have much to learn."

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## Connie Cleveland Seminar

Connie Cleveland came to Capital Dog Training Club on Saturday, August 29 for a day of training, problem solving and good fun. Each participant had an opportunity to work with Connie individually as she explained her training methods and offered training advice. Everyone had a great day and came away from the seminar with one or two new training strategies. Special thanks to Sue Faber for putting the seminar together and for arranging a delicious lunch.









## Wine Review



You should not judge a book by its cover or a wine by its label, but when I can across this label in Wine Spectator, I just had to purchase a few bottles. The wine turned out to be great. Cabernet Franc is not a popular grape varietal. It is a strong wine and often has a taste of green peppers. In France, Cab Franc is blended with other wines to give them structure.

Enter Mike and Lori the owners of [Dracaena Wines](#). They wanted to honor the memory of their adored Weimaraner, Draco, in their winemaking endeavor, so they put him on the label. They also did something amazing with their Cab Franc. They softened it and made it into a nice sipping wine. Wine

Spectator gave it 92 points, high praise indeed. This is what Wine Spectator has to say about the wine: "The wine itself shows dark red fruit and cinnamon on the nose, with savory touches of white pepper, thyme and oregano. The palate's tangy cranberry fruit is paired with herbal notes, leather and tobacco."

You will not find Draceana's Cab Franc in the store, if you want to try this wine you will need to order it directly from the winery. If you call the winery, chance are you will get Lori on the phone. Be prepared to spend a few minutes talking about dogs and then a few more talking about wine.

## Estate Planning for Dogs What happens to your dog if you should die?

As a matter of law, dogs cannot own property, so you cannot leave property to your pet. However, you can plan to make sure that your dog is cared for after you die. You can provide that your dog goes to a caring person or organization, and the new caretaker has the resources to take good care of him or her.

When planning for your dog's life after your death, you have a range of options – from making simple, non-legal arrangement, to making a complex trust, to leaving your dog with an organization dedicated to taking care of pets after an owner's death.

To make any of these arrangements, you need to find a person or organization that you trust to care for your dog. Make sure you have a candid conversation

with your dog's potential caretaker about how to care for your pet and how expenses will be met.

Again, you cannot use your will to leave money or property to your pet. However, you can use your will or living trust to leave your pet -- and money to care for your pet -- to a trusted caretaker.

For example: Ben's health is failing and he's concerned about what will happen to his four-year old lab mix, Sarah, when he passes. He talks to his brother John about taking Sarah after his death. John knows and loves Sarah and would like to take her, but he is on a very tight budget and is not sure how he'll pay for Sarah's food, vet bills, and occasional boarding. Ben decides to use his will to leave Sarah to John, and he also leaves John money for Sarah's care. This type of arrangement is legal in the sense that Sarah will legally belong to John. However, John will have no legal obligation to use the money on Sarah -- he will receive the money outright. If he used the money to play the lottery, there would be no legal recourse. It's also a good idea to name (and talk to) an alternate caretaker, in case your first choice cannot do the job.

A stronger and more expensive legal option is to make a pet trust. With a pet trust you can leave your dog, money, and a legal obligation to care for your pet. If the caretaker fails to follow your instructions, he or she can be sued.

Advantages to using a pet trust. Pet trusts 1) create a legal obligation to care for your pet (as you describe), 2) provide accountability for the money that you leave to the caretaker, and 3) allow you to set up a caretaking plan that will take effect if you become incapacitated.

Disadvantages to using a pet trust. Pet trusts are 1) expensive, 2) inflexible if circumstances change after your death, 3) likely to be more planning and structure than you need if you trust your named caretaker.

If you're not able to find a person both willing and able to take care of your dog after you die, you're not without options. Programs exist across the country that allow you to leave your dog to a trustworthy caretaker after you die. The easiest and most flexible arrangement for your pet doesn't require formal legalities. If you fully trust your executor and the person who will care for your dog, simply tell your executor who should care for your pet when you die. As long as everyone involved is in agreement, there will be no problem for your dog to go to your chosen caretaker.

If you don't make arrangements for your dog in your estate plan, who will get your dog depends on what other arrangements you've made, or not made. If you have made a will, your dog will go to your residuary beneficiary -- that is, the person you've named to get the remainder of your estate after any specific gifts have been doled out. If you haven't made a will, all of your property (including your dog) will be distributed according to the laws of your state.

Personal note: In my will I made a bequest to Weimaraner Rescue. When my wife and I die, Weimaraner Rescue will get our dogs. We also wrote in a provision in our wills that our primary beneficiaries can adopt any pets we have, but are under no obligation to do so. Whether or not my beneficiaries adopt my pets, Weimaraner Rescue will receive the bequest.

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# Braggs

Sandi Atkinson writes that on September 5, 2022 at the AKC Scent Work Trials hosted by York Co. DTC, Carlisle, Pa.: "We competed in Handler Discrimination Novice B and HD Advanced in each trial.

Trial 1 - 2 NQs.

But in Trial 2, Fig placed 4th in HD Novice B and 1st in Advanced. 6 of 9 dogs in HDNB qualified; in HDA, Fig was the only qualifier of 7.

The photo shows Fig with his ribbons, the HD Novice box and my (stinky) sock. The handler keeps the box used in the Novice search."



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Janine Castorina writes: "Freyja miraculously got her CGC :)" Editor's note: Miracles happen with hard work and practice.



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Julie Rovner and Wallace are pleased to welcome to their family Honeyfox Rocky Mountain High, AKA Aspen. Aspen is already settling in well and is enrolled in CDTC's Puppy Kindergarten.



Shirley Harry writes that ZeZe she got her Senior Dock Diver Excellent 2 title 4 weeks after her Senior dock Diver Excellent Title! ZeZe loves the dock diving.



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Sue Faber writes that Dazzle received her Rally Novice title.



Pam Coblyn's Fenway (CH Tartan Bay Green Monster, UD RE AX MXJ MXP MJP XE CGCA FD TK-E) added yet another title to his name. Fennie earned his AKC Trick Dog Elite Performer title on August 21, 2020 just a few weeks shy of his 13th birthday, proof that you CAN teach an old dog new tricks!

Pam says, "Earning the TK-E was the most fun title of all for Team Fenway. Thinking up a routine, writing a script and then performing the tricks kept us both smiling and working as a team. It is the perfect venue for my Fenway since he's retired from agility, obedience and rally. The biggest challenge was thinking up high level Elite Performer tricks that would be safe for senior citizen Fen. I urge all our CDTC members to get involved with the AKC Tricks program and have fun with your dog!"

During the COVID-19 shutdown, AKC allowed video submissions for Trick titles which made this possible—thanks AKC!" Here's a [link](#) to an edited version of Fen's video.



**Tali: CH Kol Tuv Fuligin Tali C-CDX CD PCD BN RI RL2-AOE RLP-AOE FDC OA OAJ AXP MJP NF OFP CL2 CAA FCAT2 ACT2 ATT**

**Tip: CH PACH Waytogo's Walk This Way CD BN AX AXJ MXP3 MXPB MJP4 MJPB PAX T2BP**

### Dog Competition in COVID-times

Its hard to believe that spring and summer of 2020 have come and gone, and we are into the autumn. The world has ben upended, our normal social interactions cut off, and activities were largely halted or changed hugely. My husband and I are lucky in staying healthy and keeping our jobs, but what I do with my dogs, where and how have changed. Sometimes for the better. At the start of the epidemic in April, our oldest dog Bo passed away, peacefully in my lap on our back deck. He was almost 15 years old and in failing health, but he got to be with me to the very last, which is what we both wanted. Tip earned a spot at the 2020 National Agility Championship (second year in a row), but it was cancelled. Tali earned a spot at the 2020 Obedience Invitational – it is not cancelled but I am leery about traveling down to Orlando in December, so we won't be going.

For Tip and Tali: the last 6 months have meant no more dog training classes multiple times per week and no obedience and agility competitions on the



weekends. But they have stayed busy! Especially in the early months of the pandemic, Tali got a lot of walks and a lot of hikes in! And we got to enjoy just having a dog be a dog: hanging around the house, playing in the back yard, going for walks and hikes.

We also played [UpDog Video Games](#) in the back yard this spring. Each week was a different game and these games gave us focus and distraction. A different game every week, with very different rules and skills required! We had such a good time that we have joined up for the fall version going on right now! All that is required is a 30 by 30 foot space. (just barely fits in my back yard). And dogs can either catch discs in the air or you can roll them on the ground.

For Tali, we took our coursing ability tests (CAT and Fast CAT) seriously over the spring and summer. These are dog sports that are naturally COVID-19 compliant. CAT is a 600 yard complex course, and it is pass/fail (smaller dogs and brachycephalic breeds run 300 yards). The Fast CAT is a 100 yard timed straight sprint. (Thank doggy drag racing, really). These are outdoors and very socially distanced dog sports. The Fast CAT has gone to concurrent trials, so instead of being at the event all day, you get a one-hour time slot to show up and do your dog's two runs. And we formed a cabal of friends who release each other's dogs (yes, we all wear masks, even though we are outside). Tali earned her FCAT (1000 points) in the spring, and her FCAT2 (1500 points) in September, and she also earned her Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA, 10 qualifying runs). She also earned her farm dog certification (FDC) and American Temperament Test (ATT). And we tried some video NADAC agility and video CDSP obedience, as well.

The capstone of the Fast CAT season was having THREE Canaan Dogs earn FCAT titles together on the same weekend. Vino (owned by CDTC members Cynthia Dodson and David Golden) earned his FCAT2 (possibly a first for the breed!) then the next day two Kol Tuv Canaan Dogs (Tali and her cousin Caleb) earned FCAT2 and FCAT titles respectively! That was a great weekend because we also got to help Sue and Dazzle try Fast CAT for the first time as well!





## Dogs of the Rich and Famous

Sir Winston Churchill's rhetoric and humorous putdowns are well documented. Lesser known is the fact that he was a big softie. His two great loves were brown miniature poodles named Rufus and Rufus II – "but the II is silent". Rufus (pictured below) may have accompanied Churchill to Buckingham Palace, but he was rebuffed padding into the Cabinet Room: "No, Rufus," said the Prime Minister. "I haven't found it necessary to ask you to join the wartime Cabinet."



## To Spay or not to Spay A Complicated Question

By Amy Scheiner, D.V.M.

Back in 1985, when my classmates and I graduated from veterinary school, we were taught the ins and outs of gonadectomizing dogs and cats. We diligently practiced spaying and neutering, and we became quite skilled and adept at sterilizations, the surgical procedures we would most often perform in small animal practice. Our professors also taught us that the “ideal” age for both spaying bitches and castrating dogs was six months of age. At the time, we didn’t question this recommendation. Prepubertal gonadectomy at six months of age was traditional at that time, and it was also an easier procedure. Smaller, younger dogs have smaller blood vessels and less intra-abdominal fat—this allows us to make smaller incisions with a lower risk of complications such as hemorrhage, and we can therefore perform these procedures more quickly and with less anesthesia time. Most owners of pet female dogs appreciate not having to deal with the inconvenience of managing a puppy in estrus and not running the risk of an unintended pregnancy. And early spaying/neutering allows owners to ensure compliance with shelter contractual obligations and spay-neuter contracts they may have with their breeders. We veterinary students were also aware of the results of a very early landmark study from 1969 showing that spayed bitches had 12% of the mammary cancer risk compared to their intact counterparts (matched for age and breed). Bitches spayed before any estrous cycles had approximately 0.5%



of the mammary cancer risk; those that had only 1 estrous cycle had 8%, and animals that had 2 or more estrous cycles before spaying, 26%. Within the group having two or more estrous cycles before being spayed, those spayed before 2 1/2 years of age exhibited a marked sparing effect on mammary cancer risk not shown for bitches spayed after the age of 2 1/2 years. This results of this study have stood up remarkably well to the test of time, and veterinarians still refer to this research when discussing the factors influencing canine mammary cancer development with clients; this information needs to be considered by owners of female puppies when deciding if and when to spay.

In the past 10-15 years, much more information has become available on the subject of the pros and cons of spaying and neutering dogs and the optimal age to perform these procedures. There is still a lot we do not know. The recommendations we now follow depend, in large part, on our goals and expectations for each individual dog. The necessity, and the timing, of gonadectomy in dogs remains controversial. There is currently no single recommendation that would be appropriate for all dogs. All puppy owners and their veterinarians need to consider multiple factors when deciding if and when to spay/neuter. Spaying/neutering confers a mixture of benefits and adverse events that depend upon age at neutering, sex, breed, temperament, and the dog's intended job or activity.

There is now compelling evidence that in addition to mammary cancer in bitches, many other disease processes—including other cancers, orthopedic disease, and behavioral problems—can be affected by gonadectomy and, in particular, the age at which the procedure is performed. Some of the more recent and significant findings involving the physical, medical and behavioral effects of spaying and neutering dogs are summarized below. This article is designed to address the interests and concerns of individual dog owners. A discussion of the use of spaying and neutering to help reduce the population of stray and unwanted dogs is beyond the scope of this article; moreover, responsible hobby/heritage breeders who hope to maintain the breeding potential of valuable stock will have many other factors to consider in addition to those mentioned here. I will also not elaborate on the surgical options (laparotomy vs. laparoscopy, ovary sparing spay vs. complete ovariectomy) available for spaying and neutering in this article.

### **Neoplasia**

The effect of spaying bitch puppies on mammary neoplasia has been discussed above.

Spaying/neutering appears to increase the risk of transitional cell carcinomas in dogs (an uncommon but highly malignant bladder tumor in dogs with a strong genetic/breed association), but the reason for this is not clearly understood.

Although castration greatly reduces the risk of benign canine prostatic diseases such as benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), neutering is not protective against prostatic cancer. Cancer of the prostate in male dogs is an uncommon but aggressive disease which is quite locally invasive with a high metastatic potential. Recent studies have shown a 2-4 times increased incidence of prostatic cancer in castrated dogs compared to intact male dogs.

Hemangiosarcoma (HSA) of the spleen is a common disease in dogs (again with a strong genetic/breed association). The prognosis for this type of cancer





is extremely poor. Recent data suggest a link between spaying and an increased incidence of the development of hemangiosarcoma in female dogs. In one study involving vizslas, spayed female vizslas were found to have 9 times the risk of their intact counterparts for developing splenic hemangiosarcoma. Neuter status did not affect the odds of male vizslas being diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma. Interestingly, in this study, those female vizslas spayed at greater than 12 months of age had a HIGHER risk of developing splenic HSA than those spayed at less than 12 months of age. In one study in golden retrievers, those spayed at over 1 year of age developed splenic HSA more than 4 times as frequently as did sexually intact females and females spayed before 6 months of age. In contradistinction to these results, another study involving both golden retrievers and Labrador retrievers showed neuter status had no significant effect on the development of splenic HSA. Research so far has also shown no link between the development of HSA in German shepherd dogs and gonadectomy. Clearly, the connection between HSA and neuter status and age at neutering is complex (and breed dependent) and much more work needs to be done.

Osteosarcoma (OSA) is the most common malignant bone tumor of dogs. It primarily affects large-breed dogs, and it is associated with poor long-term survival rates despite aggressive treatment. It appears that spayed/neutered dogs of all breeds are twice as likely to develop OSA as their intact counterparts. One study involving both male and female Rottweilers showed that those gonadectomized prior to 12 months of age had a significantly increased risk of developing OSA than intact individuals. On the other hand, a study done in German shepherd dogs showed that neuter status or age at gonadectomy does not affect development of OSA in this breed.

Mast cell tumors (MCT) represent approximately 20-25% of all skin tumors in dogs; the prognosis varies depending on tumor grade, location, patient's breed, and stage of disease at the time of diagnosis. Collectively, the data suggest that neuter status may affect the development of MCT in certain (but not all) breeds. For example, vizslas that have been gonadectomized (males and females) have been found to have a 3.5 times increased risk of MCT than their intact cohorts. In contrast, gonadectomy did not affect the rate of MCT diagnosis in golden retrievers and Labrador retrievers.

Lymphosarcoma (LSA) is the most common type of blood/bone marrow cancer in dogs. Without treatment, high-grade LSA may be fatal within weeks. With combination chemotherapy, the median survival time is approximately 1 year. Male golden retrievers castrated before 12 months of age were 3 times more likely to develop LSA than intact male goldens. In both sexes of vizslas, gonadectomized individuals were 4.3 times more likely to be diagnosed with LSA than intact vizslas in one study. No difference in rates of LSA has been found in intact versus gonadectomized Labrador retrievers.

Testicular tumors are common in intact male dogs. Treatment (curative) and prevention involves castration. Because cryptorchidism (retention of a testicle or testicles in the abdominal cavity) is hereditary and is strongly associated with the development of testicular neoplasia, cryptorchid dogs should be castrated.

Perianal adenomas, a fairly common benign tumor of perianal tissue, develop and grow under the influence of testosterone and can be controlled/prevented



by castration in males.

### **Orthopedic Diseases**

Gonadectomy is a known risk factor for the development of both hip dysplasia and cranial cruciate ligament rupture in both male and female dogs of multiple breeds. Also, the incidence of elbow joint dysplasia is known to be significantly higher in male Labrador retrievers castrated prior to 6 months of age than for intact males.

### **Immune-Mediated Diseases**

One study showed an increased incidence of immune-mediated diseases in both spayed females and castrated males—including allergic skin disease, immune-mediated hemolytic anemia, hypothyroidism, immune-mediated thrombocytopenia, Addison's disease, and inflammatory bowel disease—compared with their intact counterparts.

### **Urogenital Diseases**

Urinary incontinence is a common disorder seen in up to 20% of spayed bitches. It most commonly develops in large dogs, typically 3-5 years after gonadectomy. It appears that bitches spayed prior to 3 months of age have the highest risk of developing this condition. Those spayed at 4-6 months of age do not appear to have increased risk of incontinence compared with those spayed after the first estrus. Age at gonadectomy may also influence time to onset of urinary incontinence: those dogs spayed later in life appear to have a shorter interval to the development of incontinence compared to those spayed at a younger age. It should be noted that urinary incontinence in bitches has a good prognosis with treatment and is typically quite responsive to oral medication.

Pyometra is a condition of intact female dogs that can be prevented by spaying. It has an incidence of about 25% by the age of 10 years. While pyometra can also be treated by spaying, affected dogs are often quite ill and poor surgical risks (mortality rate can be as high as 10% when dogs with pyometra are spayed).

Benign prostatic hyperplasia affects most older intact male dogs. Although signs can be mild or nonexistent, some intact males can develop serious bacterial prostatitis, difficulty urinating and defecating, and perineal hernias (these, when severe, can lead to life-threatening entrapment of the urinary bladder and other organs, require surgical correction, and can be quite complicated). These conditions can easily be prevented by castration.

### **Behavior**

The effect of spaying/neutering on behavior can be significant and is important to consider, particularly when one appreciates that behavioral issues often result in the relinquishment of pets to shelters. Most of us are familiar with the traditional arguments that favor the castration of male dogs for behavioral reasons: neutered males are less likely to roam, mount, urine mark, and be aggressive towards other male dogs. Interestingly, the age at castration and the duration of the unwanted behavior does not change the likelihood that surgery will alter these undesirable behaviors.

Although the most serious bite injuries to humans in the United States involve sexually intact male dogs, gonadectomy has not been found to be a useful



measure to prevent aggressive behavior in male or female dogs. Gonadectomy consistently only reduces dog-to-dog intermale aggression and may actually contribute to increased aggression in female dogs. One study involving German shepherd dogs revealed GSD bitches that were spayed between 5-10 months of age were more reactive to unfamiliar people and unknown dogs than intact bitches. Another study involving multiple breeds revealed a significant increase in dominance aggression toward human family members by spayed bitches compared with the response of intact bitches of similar age and breed.

Fear behavior during veterinary visits has not been associated with reproductive status.

Viszlas gonadectomized before 6 months of age are reported to have an increase in undesirable behaviors related to fear and separation anxiety.

In another study involving multiple breeds, puppies gonadectomized before 5.5 months of age were more likely to display noise phobias and sexual behaviors than those neutered after 5.5 months of age. However, separation anxiety, urination due to fear, and likelihood of escape were less likely in the group that was neutered prior to 5.5 months. Male puppies castrated prior to 5.5 months had increased aggression toward family members and were also more likely to bark at both visitors and household members.

Interpretation of the literature regarding the correlations between gonadectomy and behavioral changes remains challenging, and more work with large sample sizes needs to be done. This work is further complicated by various definitions of aggression as well as the complexities involved in interpreting similar-appearing but potentially unrelated behaviors (such as aggression, reactivity, and excitability).

### **Body Condition**

Retrospective studies have consistently found an increase in body condition in dogs after gonadectomy. This appears to be both the result of an increase in appetite and changes in metabolism. It is unclear whether age at gonadectomy influences the chances that a dog will become overweight. Obesity remains a multifactorial problem, and responsible management of diet and exercise can maintain appropriate body condition in spayed/neutered pets.

### **Lifespan**

Overall, spaying/neutering is associated with a longer lifespan in dogs. Studies report that spayed females live 23-26% longer than their intact counterparts, and neutered males live 14-18% longer than intact males. Although spaying/neutering increases the risk of death attributable to cancer (except for mammary gland cancer, which has a significantly lower prevalence in spayed bitches) and immune-mediated disease, it decreases the risk of death due to trauma, infectious disease, and other causes. Intact dogs are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car or bitten by another animal.

### **Other Considerations**

More research is necessary to establish further links between disease and gonadectomy status (and the age at which the procedure is performed). It has been suggested that there may be a relationship between adrenal disease, hypothyroidism, cognitive dysfunction in geriatric dogs, and patellar luxation and spay/neuter status. Currently, there is insufficient data in these areas to

draw conclusions.

Lastly, I would like to bring everyone's attention to one of the best articles I have read on this subject in a long time. It is titled "Assisting Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs: Associated Joint Disorders, Cancers, and Urinary Incontinence." It was published in July 2020 in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* and provides some excellent breed-specific recommendations for optimal gonadectomy age. The link to the article is: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2020.00388>

Some additional excellent resources:

<https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.231.11.1665>

<https://todaysveterinarypractice.com/neutering-controversyunderstanding-data-hormones-behavior-neoplasia/>

Houlihan, Kendell E. A Literature Review of the Welfare Implications of Gonadectomy of Dogs. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2017; 250: 1155-1166.

Reichler, IM. Gonadectomy in Cats and Dogs: A Review of the Risks and Benefits. *Reproduction in Domestic Animals* 2009; 44: 29-35.

## In Memory of

Rosie (Ches-Shores Wild Irish Rose CDX) passed away at her new home in Charlottesville in August. Rosie missed her friends at Capital, but enjoyed her retirement, swimming in the Rivanna and scamming treats shamelessly. Rosie was an amazing ambassador for her breed and a joy to train. A bladder cancer diagnosis ended her obedience career before she got to tackle Utility, but in true Chessie form, she refused to quit and remained happy and active until just shy of her 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> birthday.



## Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

### Upcoming Classes

CLASS - BEGINS

[Fundamentals of Competition Obedience](#) - October 21

[Novice Tricks](#) - October 20

[Advanced Basic Obedience](#) - November 15

CGC TEST - October 8 & December 5

Tricks TEST - October 7 & November 17

Click [here](#) for more information on the CDTC website. January classes will be announced in the November and December newsletters.

Click [here](#) to go straight to registration.

[FLYBALL](#) has space for new participants, tell your friends!

Agility Fall Session begins this week. Email [AGILITY](#) to get on the wait list for Winter.

Members use your discount codes to register. Email [Karen](#) for questions.

### New classes:

**Daytime Open/Utility Class w/ Sue Faber** - The purpose of this class is to work on focus, foundation, and for those showing, distractions. The students entering this class should have a working knowledge of Novice. We will be learning Open and Utility exercises. We have some young dogs in the class, so learning above their level never hurts their progress. We will make the class interesting, challenging, and interactive. Register [here](#).

**Fundamentals of Competition Obedience** - This 12-week class slowly and systematically teaches heeling with sustained attention. Dogs will also be taught to stand, sit and down quickly and without moving out of position. Fast, straight fronts and sits will be taught. Ring entry and sustained connection between dog and handler will also be emphasized. In addition, foundation skills for retrieving will be addressed. Students enrolling in this class should have a strong commitment to excelling and will be expected to practice between classes. Contact [Tom](#) if you are interested.

**Skills Maintenance Class** - Maintenance class is a very loosely structured 12-week class for teams that have completed at least Advanced Basic or equivalent and who would like to maintain basic obedience skills and have fun with their dogs. Competition teams are encouraged to attend, but we'll be doing a range of "formal" behaviors made fun! The content of sessions varies, and may include a mix of learning or practicing stays, heeling, loose leash walking, recalls, tricks, jumping and rally signs. Register [here](#).

### Training Groups:

**Rally Training Group** meets most 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Sue](#).

**Obedience Video Training Group** meets most 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Jennie](#).

**Conformation Training Group** will start meeting Friday evenings. Contact [Janice](#).

### Thinking of joining CDTC as a Member?

Active membership in the Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC) is available to an individual over eighteen (18) years of age 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. Contact [Karen](#).

## Beer for Dogs! Now You Can Toss One Back with Your Best Buddy.

After years of being by your side as you sip a beer, dogs can finally drink a brew of their own! But let’s be clear – Busch Dog Brew isn’t a dog beer. Rather, it’s a bone broth for dogs. The nonalcoholic beverage is made with vegetables, herbs, spices, water, and pork broth to provide your best buddy with a nutritious and tasty snack that helps to promote a healthy digestive system. Bone broth is also a great way for dogs who struggle to eat solid food to get all



of their extra nutrients. Your best friend is going to love it.

Can humans drink Dog Brew? Suuure, if that's what you're into! But this bone broth is made for a dog's refined palate. You may find it pretty bland. Pick up a pack of Busch Dog Brew today and paw'em a cold one (or warm one). This round's on you.

## Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

The Companion Events Committee had a Zoom meeting with all Delegates on September 10, 2020.

The meeting started with Patti Sample reporting on her subcommittee on increasing Junior participation in the sport. There is a big initiative to get more young people in the sport. Clubs can go to AKC website and see Best practices some clubs have used. For example, an AKC Board member mentioned how his club involves high school students. Patti mentioned some clubs may want to modify their bylaws about Juniors and their inclusion in the club. Some clubs have reduced or have no fee classes for Juniors which also encourages those that have aged out.

Doug, the AKC VP, mentioned the dog sports are coming back with a different roll. Agility has embraced the idea of scheduling groups. You go up and then out (leave the facility). He suggests Obedience and Rally embrace the concept at events.

Doug asked if the committee would give input on making the following rules permanent. These rules were developed to ease the COVID-19 effect.

- Closing Dates- Allowing closing date of up to 7 days prior to the event at the club's option. This was made to provide exhibitors flexibility to decide if they want to enter a trial.
- Judges teaching training sessions- Staff recommending amending Regulations in obedience, rally and tracking where no exhibitor may show a dog under a judge if they have participated in a training session taught by that judge a minimum of seven days prior to the date of an event to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest. Any day following the end of a trial/test or set of trials/tests is allowed. This a change from the 30 days prior to the date of the event.
- Regular trainers/instructors of judges/dogs- Staff recommends amending
  - the current regulation from 30 days to 7 days prior to the date of the event, where no dog may be entered/shown under a judge at an obedience/rally trial if the dog is owned/handled by any person who has regularly served as a trainer/instructor of that judge; or if the dog has been regularly trained or instructed by the judge.
- Obedience Figure 8 Exercise- The use of posts or tall cones in the Figure 8 Exercise was made to assist clubs achieve social distancing. Some guidelines for what to use will be forthcoming including height requirements. No chairs are to be used.
- Emergency Judge Changes- If #3 and #4 are approved by the AKC Board, staff recommends amending the Regulations of obedience and rally to also

remove the restrictions from judges. Currently, a judge may accept an assignment within 30 days and 100 straight line miles of another assignment only on an emergency basis. An emergency defined as an advertised judge notifying a club within 72 hours of an approved trial that they cannot fulfill their assignment. This allows a judge to accept the emergency assignment without impacting future assignments.

The CEC voted to support staff on making these changes permanent. The AKC Board will be presented with these at their next meeting.

The committee did not vote at this time to permanently accept the Two-judge requirement to title. This was accepted temporarily to assist clubs during a time when judges were reluctant to travel. Further discussion will occur at our next meeting.

A discussion began on how to do virtual in obedience in the lower levels like Beginner Novice. It was mentioned that it would have to be a Virtual title. The popularity of the Virtual ACT and Rally brought on this discussion.

It was mentioned there is an AKC FIT Dog Course in the Canine College. Some felt it was informational and fun to take. It was also mentioned that FIT Dog activities given by a club can increase membership.

Finally, a reminder was given by Doug that next year all event calendar dates fall back one week from their regular week.

In the Delegates General Meeting which was zoomed on September 15, 2020, a forum was given the first hour on a "Review of the Current State of Genetic Testing- A Living Resource". The presentation was made by Dr. Anita Oberbauer of UCal, Davis.

After the presentation, the results of the elected committee members were given. For the Companion Events Committee, Ruth Crumb, Larry Wilson, Betty Winthers and Stephen Hersey were reelected. Following the announcement, Dennis Sprung, AKC President, gave his report. He states there have been 2400 all breed shows and obedience trials cancelled. He stated litter registrations are higher now than they have been the last seven years. Tom Davis gave his chair report mentioning the RDOD on Sept. 17 and the WOOOF from Home program which gives owners ideas to try at home each day with their dogs. You can find this program on the website. Tom also stated there have been 85% more searches for puppies on the AKC Marketplace this period than last year this time.

It was also mentioned that after several conversations with The Kennel Club in England, due to the pandemic, Parent Club National Specialty winners will be allowed to attend Crufts through the year 2022.

I separately emailed to each member of our club an AKC Action Paper which list all actions taken during this emergency period. If you do not belong to our list or did not receive this five-page document and would like a copy, please email me to request a copy.

Stay safe and healthy.

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## CDTC Swag

Do you love CDTC? If so, you can purchase CDTC logo items at [Cafepress](#). Order now and get your stuff for the holidays. Capital gets a portion of the proceeds. There's a great selection from sweatshirts, to mugs to magnets.

## CDTC Groups.io

CDTC members, if you have not done so already, please join <mailto:cdtc@groups.io>. It is a great way to keep up with the day-to-day activities of our club. To sign up, go to <https://groups.io/g/cdte> and click "Apply for Membership."



Visit our website