



Obichaff

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



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Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend.
Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

— Groucho Marx



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There is a joy in small motions well made. The kind of movements that come when you and your dog are in perfect sync. That small movement your dog makes as he lines up into heel position or as he comes, just so, to sit in front. It is these small motions that we, who work in obedience, train so hard to achieve. When they happen, it is these small motions that unite us and make us one with our dog.

I finished teaching a six week Advanced Basic class last month. My students wanted to get their Canine Good Citizen titles. So along with heeling and the other skills they needed to know to complete Advanced Basic we trained for the CGC test. My students worked hard and started to get an understanding of the small motions that make the difference between success and failure in an obedience exercise. I hope they will continue on their journey of learning and understanding the amazing creature that is a dog. Pictured above from left to right are Larkin Plato, with Juno, Canine Good Citizen, Lee Feldstein, with Yonah, Canine Good Citizen, Sue Faber, evaluator, Soroor Mohammad with Maxy, Canine Good Citizen. Congratulations to all and special thanks to Sue Faber who came out to evaluate handlers and dogs.

DOGUE

AUG

FOX POO:
THIS SEASON'S
MUST-HAVE
SCENT

HOW TO FETCH
WITHOUT
BRINGING
THE BALL
BACK

Ciccina
"LITTLE
FATTY"

President's Message:

Dear Friends,

If there is one thing I have learned during the pandemic, it is appreciation of creative, mentally nimble people. So many character traits that remain hidden under "normal" circumstances come to the fore and get a chance to operate and even shine. I have said on several previous occasions that I am in awe of certain people with whom I have the pleasure to work. I don't need to tell you who I'm talking about. I just feel such gratitude that I need to say it again.

The other thing that needs to be mentioned is that we are ALL stressed right

now. That stress presents in different ways and to different degrees in people. Some of us get agitated and testy. Some of us get quiet and want more solitude. Some of us, myself included, experience lower energy levels. And the worst part is that we have been in this since March and there is no end in sight. That is stressful.

I find myself restless, yet unable to form any plan of action, or take interest in anything long enough to actually do anything. I wander around my house wasting a lot of time. I could be doing any number of projects, yet I don't. I don't practice with my dog. I don't practice music. The closest I can come to doing something interesting is to try baking something new. If I do that at least I am learning something. It's a short-term 'project' but takes up an afternoon. But then I have the longer-term problem of what to do with the product of the project, or else the even longer-term problem of having eaten the results! The one bright spot is the garden. Since we have had a little break in the heat, I have been able to work in the garden. Arrow helps me by carrying sticks around, and by biting my hands when I walk to and fro. Good dog!

I am just here to encourage you to continue taking care of yourselves. Take care of your loved ones. Continue to do whatever you can to be peaceful and productive.

The Nepal Festival of Kukur Tihar The Day of the Dogs

You've probably heard of a dog day afternoon. But for dogs in Nepal and parts of India, they get more than an afternoon – they get a whole day.

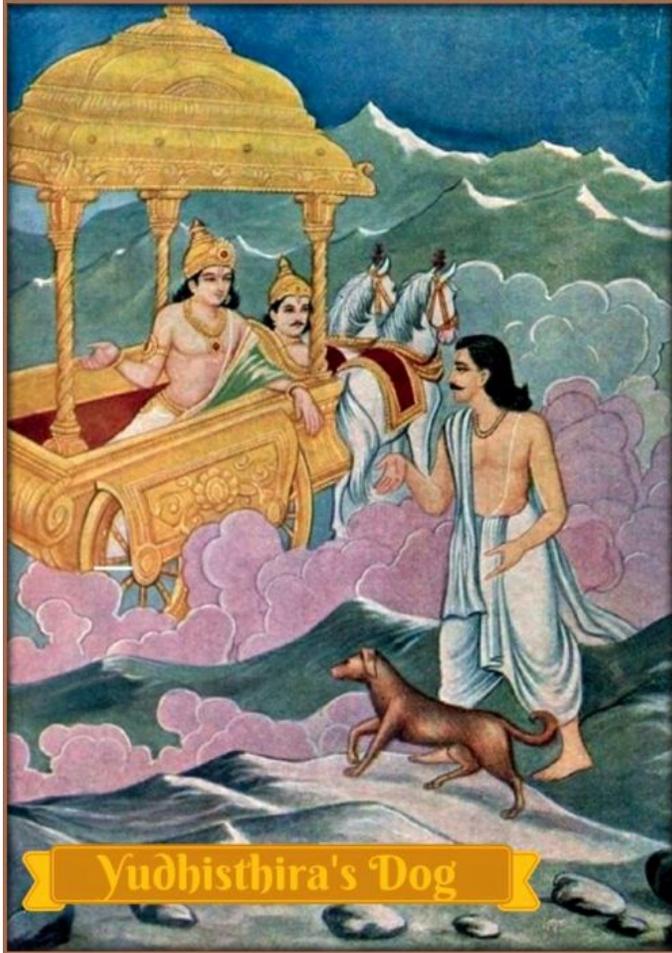
In Nepal and in parts of India, they celebrate the festival of Tihar, with the second day of the festival, Kukur Tihar, (day of the dogs), celebrated for the



special relationship between humans and dogs. On that day, dogs are adorned with garlands and treated to the best of everything. During the festivities, dogs received a tilaka, a red mark on the forehead, as a highly special honor. Even stray dogs are given tribute during the day.

Dogs receive special treatment because canines are considered the messengers of Yama, the Hindu god of death and dedicating the day to dogs is seen as appeasing the god. Dogs are also mentioned in the Hindu text Mahabharata, in which Yudhishtira, the king of righteousness, refused to enter heaven without his dog.

The story goes that Indra descended in his chariot. He praised the extraordinary



qualities of Yudhishthira and invited him into the chariot to ascend to heaven.

"The dog must come with me," said Yudhishthira

"That is not possible," said Indra. "All cannot attain heaven. The dog is old and thin and has no value."

"In that case, I do not seek heaven," replied Yudhishthira.

"The dog was my faithful companion and I cannot abandon it. It sought my help and gave me unconditional love. The pleasures of heaven will mean nothing to me in comparison to its grief. It has done nothing to deserve abandonment. If it does not deserve to go to heaven, then neither do I."

And so he turned back.

"Stop!" cried Indra. "None

have the qualities that you possess, O Yudhishthira! The dog is Dharma, from whom you have descended!"

And indeed, the dog had transformed into the God of Dharma and blessed Yudhishthira for his complete lack of selfishness and dedication to righteousness in all circumstances.

And thus rose Yudhishthira to heaven in the chariot of Indra.

It's not just Nepali and Indian people who celebrated their canine friends during the Day of the Dogs. People around the world decided to take part by paying tribute to their furry companions and posting adorable photos on social media too.



How to Increase Diversity in the Dog World

In an article in Whole Dog Journal, trainer Laurie Williams shares her thoughts on how we can increase diversity among dog trainers and get more African Americans involved in dog training and dog sports. You can read her article [here](#).

Annual Awards and Instructor Appreciation Picnic

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Who: All CDTC Members, Family, Friends, and Guests

What: Annual Awards and Instructor Appreciation Picnic

When: Sunday, October 4, 2020 (1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Where: Seneca Creek State Park
"Buck" Picnic Pavilion
11950 Clopper Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Directions and a park map will be sent prior to this event!

How: RSVP to Amy Scheiner via [email](#) (preferred) or phone at (301) 466-7493.

This event is potluck, so please let me know what you will be bringing (food or beverage) to share when you RSVP.

Note: There is a \$3.00 park entry fee for each Maryland resident and a \$5.00 per person fee for non-residents. Persons 62 years of age and older can apply for a Golden Age pass for \$10 which allows lifetime free entry to Maryland state parks. This pass may take several weeks to receive and must be presented at the park entry gate.

You can get a Golden Age pass [here](#).

Braggs

Nan Marks and Mella are unable to do their regular therapy visits, so Mella does window waves for the bed bound.



Megan Hemmer write: On August 11, Kai earned his ETD, expert trick dog!



Pam Coblyn's Fenway (CH Tartan Bay Green Monster, UD AX MXJ MXP MXJP XF RE TK-P CGCA FD) passed all odors in his ORT test on August 9 at Masterpeace Dog Training Club in Franklin, MA. This

is Fen's fifth performance sport.

I am especially proud of Fennie because we started learning about Nosework with online classes about a year ago. There are no classes or dog clubs to train with on Martha's Vineyard but I HAD to figure out a way. At first, I was dubious but it turned out to be a wonderful experience. We even had homework—submitted via youtube videos—and instructors gave us great lessons and lots of attention and critiques.

Fennie is now a senior and will turn 13 very soon. Nosework keeps him engaged, happy and is a much safer sport for my older gentleman. Fen loves his Nosework "findings" as much as agility and that's saying a lot. I love it, too, and find it fascinating to train and watch a dog do what comes naturally. I highly recommend this sport—it's pure fun!



Dianne Harab writes that Willy (GCH Liz Ann's Golden Ticket BN RE CGC TKN) earned his CD at the Oriole Show on August 22, 2020 with a score of 191.5, 3rd place. Great job Dianne and Willy!



Dogs of the Rich and Famous

Big Bang Theory's Kaley Cuoco lives a busy lifestyle but always makes time for her brood of dogs. Cuoco has always been an animal lover and is an accomplished equestrian. But it wasn't until about 10 years ago that Cuoco took her first steps toward animal rescue work. It started with pit bulls, after she learned about the dangerous stereotypes that damage their reputation and contribute to their widespread mistreatment.



Book Review: Inside of a Dog What Dogs See, Smell, and Know By Alexandra Horowitz

What is inside a dog? The answers will surprise and delight you as Alexandra Horowitz, a cognitive scientist, explains how dogs perceive their daily worlds, each other, and that other quirky animal, the human. Horowitz introduces the reader to dogs' perceptual and cognitive abilities and then draws a picture of what it might be like to be a dog. What's it like to be able to smell not just every bit of open food in the house but also to smell sadness in humans? What is it like to hear the bodily vibrations of insects or

the hum of a fluorescent light? What's it like to use your mouth as a hand? In short, what is it like for a dog to experience life from two feet off the ground, amidst the smells of the sidewalk, gazing at our ankles or knees?

Alexandra Horowitz describes dogs as "anthropologists among us", and in this engaging book she studies them with the same intensity and affection that they devote to us.

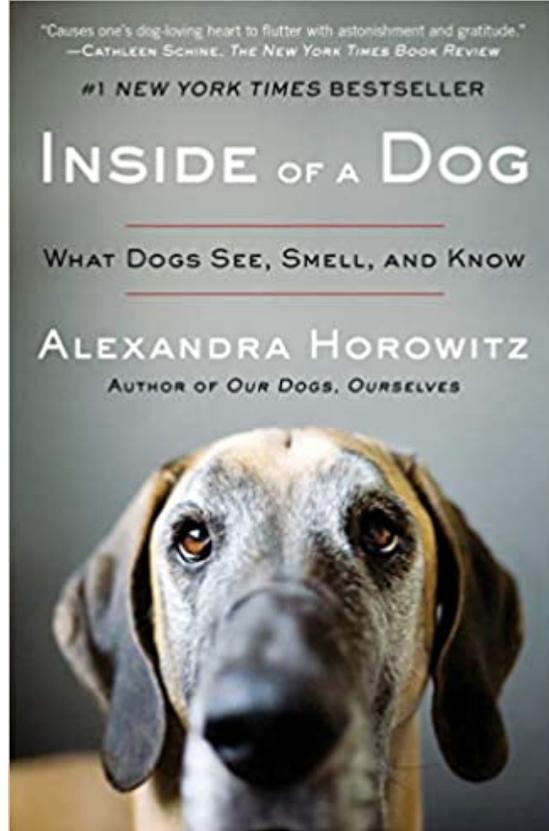
The heart of Horowitz's work is an empathetic quest to experience the world from a dog's perspective. First, she asks us to imagine relying on smell rather than sight as our primary sense. Dogs have exceptionally sensitive nostrils: they can detect fear, anxiety or sadness, and know "if you've had sex, smoked a cigarette (done both these things in succession), just had a snack or just run a mile." Then she works through the other senses, pausing to explain how a dog's retina works differently from ours – and thus why dogs don't watch TV.

Horowitz reminds us of one obvious but easily forgotten difference between our perspective and a dog's: they are much closer to the ground. When we yell at dogs for jumping up at us, we're failing to understand that they're –simply trying to reach our level and make eye contact.

Although this book certainly isn't a training manual, Horowitz offers all kinds of useful advice for dog owners. Let your dog dawdle and sniff, she suggests, rather than yanking him on a speedy jog around the park. Don't bathe him too often; he'd much rather smell of himself than shampoo. She neatly dismisses several of the simplistic theories that are often trotted out by trainers. Dogs aren't wolves, she reminds us, and there is no need for us to dominate them or persuade them that we are their leaders. A dog in a family has almost nothing in common with a wolf in a pack, and behaving like the "pack leader" won't make a dog respect us. More likely, it'll just feel confused and bullied.

Dogs, unlike wolves, are skilled observers and –interpreters of human behavior. They take their cues from their owners, following our wishes and learning how to use us to get what they want. They use us as their tools: "We solve the puzzles of closed doors and empty water dishes."

Most interestingly, Horowitz describes how dogs also learn to confirm our prejudices about other people. Dog owners often claim that their pet is a good judge of character; in fact, when their dog greets a stranger with a wagging tail or raised hackles, he will be mimicking his owner's own unconscious signals, which he has gleaned through body language and smells. There's nothing wrong, says Horowitz, in allowing your dog to accept or veto your romantic partners; he will simply be confirming the choice that you have already made.





Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes

CLASS - BEGINS

Skills Maintenance Class - September 10

Rally Intermediate/Excellent - September 12

Beginning Conformation - September 26

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience - October 14

Novice Tricks - October 20

S.T.A.R. Puppy - November 3

CGC Prep - November 7

Basic Obedience - November 7

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.

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

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

Agility Fall Session begins 10/4, watch for a registration email.

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

Two new classes coming soon!

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](#).

St. John's Dog the Ancestor of the Newfoundland and the Labrador Retriever

The Newfoundland dog and the Labrador retriever are two of the world's most beloved breeds, and both owe



their existence to a common ancestor that developed as a fisher's companion: the St. John's water dog.

The St. John's water dog probably evolved out of English, Irish and Portuguese working breeds that were brought to Canada. These transplanted dogs were bred by locals to create a distinct dog type that was

as much at home in the water as on land. It was their aptitude for aquatics, though, that most distinguished the St. John's dogs. Their oily coats repelled water, while their webbed feet and thick, oar-like tails made them nimble swimmers.

Because St. John's dogs were bred for function instead of form, their appearance could vary. Generally speaking, they were stocky, medium-sized canines whose fur could be long or short, smooth or feathered, and almost any color.

Over time, black with white patches emerged as the most common coloring, and many St. John's dogs could be recognized by their "tuxedo": a large white mark on a black chest, resembling a shirt under a tuxedo jacket.

A number of common tasks were too strenuous for a medium-sized dog. As a result, some St. John's dogs were bred to a larger size so they could help with hauling wood and pulling sleighs. These heftier dogs were the forebears of our modern Newfoundland dogs. Eventually, they were crossed with European mastiffs, bestowing on them the broad heads and beefy builds that are the hallmarks of the breed today.



The smaller St. John's dogs that remained followed a different evolutionary path. Their loyalty, work ethic, and natural retrieving instincts caught the eye of the British aristocracy, who recognized their value as hunting companions. As early as 1809, the second Earl of Malmesbury had a St. John's dog that joined him on shooting expeditions, and he and his descendants became avid breeders of the dogs. Meanwhile, the Dukes of Buccleuch in Scotland had started their own St. John's dog breeding program, and, after a chance meeting between the two families in the 1880s, the Malmesburys gave two male dogs to the Buccleuchs to mate with their females. The puppies that resulted became

the ancestors of the Labrador retrievers we know today.

In his 1872 book on dogs, the Rev. Thomas Pearce explained why: "The Newfoundland, the Labrador, and the St. John's dogs have this peculiarity – they not only possess sagacity, but they disseminate it through any number of crosses, or at least through a great number of them. On this account their breed has been used almost universally in improving Retrievers, and with great success."

Despite their popularity elsewhere, in Newfoundland and Labrador itself the St. John's dog gradually went into decline. It's believed that the last two St. John's water dogs, both male, died of old age the early 1980s. Their legacy, though, lives on in the Newfoundland dog's gentle temperament, the Labrador's love of water, and the tireless spirit of retrievers the world over.

Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

The latest news is the Delegates will have a Zoom meeting in September and December. The September meeting is a Delegates Committee voting meeting and I am interested to see how that will be held. If any member knows of someone running for a committee seat and would like for me to support them, please email me their name and information.

Although the December Delegates meeting will be a virtual meeting on December 2, the AKC still plans to hold the championship shows in Orlando along with the other kennel club shows at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. The dates are December 8-13.

The AKC Board of Directors, at its July 2020 meeting, elected the Nominating Committee that is to select candidates for vacancies on the Board. The vacancies are to be filled at the March 2021 Delegates Meeting. There are four vacancies. Nancy Fisk from Hockamock Kennel Club is chair. Other members of the committee are Viola Burgos, Eduardo Fugiwara, Harold Miller and Doug Johnson.

I have received the medallion for the CDTC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. It will be presented at our annual award event scheduled for October.

The AKC announced the AKC Canine and Me program. This is a new virtual program created by the AKC Education Department in an effort to create ways to further involve young people in activities with their dogs. It is available for teen 13 and older and young adults. The goal is to get teens outside and active with their canine companions while also teaching them in the fundamental skills needed to get started in various AKC Sports.

Reminder- Watch AKC.TV and see the events that have started to be held again. AKC Virtual Shows have also become very successful. All entry fees go to charities. Last month's event raised \$7000 and was donated to Take the Lead. This month's donation will be matched by AKC Reunite and given to AKC's Reunite Adopt A K-9 Cop Program which works with AKC clubs to donate K-9

dogs to police departments around the United States.

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