



Obichaff

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



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

September 2025

Volume 82 - Issue 8

"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me, they are the role model for being alive." - Gilda Radner

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From the Editor



We've officially entered into the "-ber" months, September, October, November,

Obichaff Editor

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**New Membership
Information**

[Shirley Blakely](#)

**Historian (not a
board member)**

[Joan Adler](#)

December - my favorites! Colorado is definitely cooling off and we are loving it. We're soaking up the beautiful weather by spending lots of time outside, particularly with our current foster puppy, Monty. This little guy is a chihuahua mix who came to us at just 1.56 pounds. He's gaining weight and lots of confidence here, though Hadley remains terrified of him. I think she's not quite sure what he is...kitten? Rabbit? Either way, she is not sold. Luckily, Monty has a stack of applications for his adoption so he'll be moving on to his forever home soon! Even better, we've finally found a great Obedience class so Hadley is back in training!

Marsha Smith Seminar “POLISHING SKILLS FOR NOVICE TEAMS”

CAPITAL DOG TRAINING CLUB PRESENTS

Marsha Smith Seminar

"POLISHING SKILLS FOR NOVICE TEAMS"

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Participants and their Novice A/B dogs and Open A dogs will learn how to work on:

- Getting and maintaining attention for Heel Work
- Transitioning to Off-Lead Heel Work
- Ratio of On-Lead v. Off-Lead work
- Rewarding appropriately

Additional topics may include:

- Warm-up strategies at trials
- Handling ring nerves
- Ring choreography
- Set-ups and transitions.



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

TIME: 10:00am – 4:00pm
Lunch break 12:00 – 1:00pm

FEE: \$100 for working spots
\$50 for non-working/audit spots

SNACKS AND LUNCH PROVIDED!

SIGN UP: [HERE!](#)

QUESTIONS?: Email – CDTCclasses@gmail.com



Capital Dog Training Club is thrilled to announce that registration for the upcoming seminar by Marsha Smith, "Polishing Skills for Novice Teams", is now open.

Click on the poster above or [here to register](#) for a working spot, and [here to register for an auditing spot](#).

Register and secure your spot today!

Kudos from Marsha Iyomasa

I was deeply touched by the outpouring of compassion and generosity of self, shown to me recently by an experienced team of Capital members. These members, kindly served as guest instructors for the Thursday, Competition Novice class, while I recovered from a broken hip. As one of the 'newer' Capital members voted into the club circa 2005, it never occurred to me that it would be life changing. I served as an assistant through a number of classes over the years, and began teaching Novice in 2018. Many members took me under their wing and my canine education continued to grow. One might imagine then, the shock of falling as I was packing up at the end of a 3-day show, something I have been doing for years. 'Anela, my bullmastiff, was with me and my injury didn't seem critical enough for me to leave her with people I didn't know, just to get checked out at the closest emergency room which the EMT's estimated at a wait of 3-5 hours. I quickly assessed that I could get home in 3 hours and 'Anela would be safe, so that's what I decided to do. There are gory details, but will skip ahead to my shock of learning when I went to the ER locally that I had broken my hip and surgery was required to put me back together again, followed by acute rehab. The surgeon described it as a brutal break.

As I pondered all of this, suddenly, the Capital family came pouring out to help. I want to thank all of the people who called, sent messages, and cards. Special shout outs to all the members who guest taught the Thursday night Novice class. At the top of the instructor list are Shirley Harry and Donna Cleverdon, who have followed my progress from beginning to end. Shirley in particular took it upon herself to coordinate all the instructors for three months, and also took time out of her busy schedule to visit with goodies, and more importantly, provided guidance thru the myriad of drugs and procedures before me. Always the advisor, she even told me that I wasn't allowed to go to any away shows alone! Donna also kindly came to visit with treats at rehab and ran errands. Other instructors who taught were Barbara Glass, Tom Tatham, and Martin Goldstein. If I have omitted someone, please forgive my lack of cognitive skills.

The kindness of Capital members that I experienced cannot be emphasized enough. Yes, friends and colleagues stepped up at home, however, my mind was on class; I did not want teams languishing as a few were getting ready to trial. I thank the Thursday Novice class for their extraordinary patience. Thank you is not enough albeit there are no words to express how a "newer" member like myself, could have received so much help over these last few months. I am deeply humbled by all the support received knowing that kindness never asks for anything in return.

Weight Management: Why It Matters



We are in and out of physical therapy every week; Hadley goes for maintenance after her iliopsoas strain and partial CCL tear, and our cat, Sadie, goes (yes, really) for her arthritic shoulder. One thing that has become glaringly obvious while watching other animals come in and out is the importance of a healthy weight for overall health. Many dogs struggle needlessly due to their weight, which makes recovery harder and re-injury more likely. As our pets age, their joints begin to wear. A few extra pounds can make a massive difference in the amount of stress their joints are under.

A study by the Association for Pet Obesity found that 59% of dogs in the US are overweight or obese. This can lead to reduced life expectancy and overall quality of life, increased risk for cardiovascular disease, respiratory dysfunction, and more.

To evaluate your dog's weight at home, try these simple steps:

1. Rib Check -you should be able to easily feel your dog ribs while gently touching their side. You should be able to feel, but not see your dog's spine, and you should feel a thin layer of fat covering the ribs. If

you cannot feel your dog's ribs, they may be overweight.

2. Waist Check - when looking at your dog from above, they should have a visible waist behind the ribs that tapers slightly towards the hips. If you cannot see an indent behind their ribs, or if your dog's stomach extends wider than their ribs, they may be overweight.

3. Tummy Test - when looking at your dog from the side, you should see a slight tuck or upward slope in the tummy area. While some breeds have more of a "tuck" than others, there should still be a slope from ribs up to stomach.

If you suspect your dog may be overweight, have a conversation with your vet about their diet and exercise routine. It's always a good idea to discuss joint support supplements that can help our pets as they age, especially with our active, working dogs.

Brag

Molly Saweikis shares:

Fig got his CD at Blue Ridge on August 1st with a score of 191.



Greg Cooke writes:

Bodhi won Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the Cumberland Maryland shows in August.





Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

Check in next month!

Available Classes

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](#).

For information about **Freestyle Training Group**
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

Thinking of joining CDTC as a Member?

Active membership in the Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC) is available to an individual who:

- has completed no less than three (3) months as a training member paying the prescribed fees/dues, and
- whose dog has passed a Proficiency Test as prescribed by the Club with a dog that she or he has trained **or** has obtained a qualifying score toward an AKC title in any “dog companion sport” trial (Obedience, Agility, or Rally).

Active membership includes the right to attend meetings, vote, access to the Members Only section of CDTC’s website, access to seminars, events, announcements of the Club, the right to hold an elective office in the Club, and all other privileges and benefits of the Club (including 2 free classes per quarter). Visit

cdtc.org/membership.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Next Membership Meeting: August 12th 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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