

dog post

Twin Cities Obedience
Training Club
www.tcotc.com

June/July 2010
Issue 3.10

INSIDE:

People Food to
Avoid in Pets

Meet Instructor
Rob Carrick

New Reactive
Rovers Class



Meet Our Cover Dog!

Dog's Name: Lilah
Nicknames: Goofus
Owners: George Seifert and Kathy Targos
Breed: Lab / Greyhound (we think)
Age: 4 ½ years
Favorite treat: Rawhide or anything gross she finds on our walk
Favorite activity: Going for a walk - so she can find gross things to eat. Sleeping is a close second.
Talents/tricks/skills: Waving, closing a door, backing up
She's not really the smartest dog I've run across with a big bag of tricks, but she makes up for it in sweetness and the smiles we get when she finds a big stick that she is so proud of (ah, the simple things...).

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Club News from Nanette Malcomson

NANETTE MALCOMSON
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AND PAST PRESIDENT

Welcome to summer in Minnesota!

The heat and humidity are here! What a wonderful time to be outside showing off to your neighbors all the wonderful skills you and your dog have learned over the winter months!



As I am sure you have noticed, our landlord jumped right in and is already at work trying to fix our ice rink problem at the bottom of our driveway. The drain has been dug up and reset and they are waiting for a few non-rainy days to put down new asphalt. We have high hopes that this will solve the ice build-up issues. If not, we will try something else next year.

We have also been working on the inside of our building. In case you haven't noticed, we have two new windows. We had one installed on the inside front door and one larger one on the doors going into the Annex. We hope the new windows will cut down on people and dogs surprising each other as they go in and out of our building. Let us know if it is working for you.

Have you been to one of our Club Days yet? We have one very month. They are a Friday evening or Saturday morning set aside for special lectures on a variety of topics specifically for our members. The May topic was "What is my dog saying" and was a must for anyone who goes to a dog park. The June topic will be Holistic Pet Care with Dr .Levy and July will be Dog Bite Prevention by Dr. Teresa Hershey. All great topics and they are free to members! Come to any that you can. You will learn a lot and get a chance to socialize with other club members. It's a win-win.

Don't forget our Fall Bazaar. Put the date on your calendar now: November 13. We will have lots of vendors selling dog items, several demos, a "Best in Show-offs" competition and Dog Paw painting. And start teaching your dog tricks for the "Best in Show-offs" competition! If you are thinking of renting a booth as a vendor, you need to hurry. We have limited space and we are almost full, so get your application in soon!

I hope all of you are having a safe and fun summer!

Want to See Your Dog on the Cover?

Just send a picture to newsletter@tcotc.com. High-resolution photos work best. We will pick one photo for each issue.

Subscribe to receive club notices via email at www.tcotc.com

Become a fan on Facebook! www.facebook.com/tcotc

TCOTC Event Calendar

(subject to change, please see www.tcotc.com for up-to-date information)

Thu, Jul 1 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Mon, Jul 5

TCOTC Closed for the Holiday!
No Classes today!

Thu, Jul 8 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Thu, Jul 8 • 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Staff Mtg

Obedience Staff Meeting - Details to follow. Contact Jane Jacobson for more information.

Mon, Jul 12 • 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Week one for all classes

Meeting Room used for Orientation.

Tue, Jul 13 • 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Event Day

Event Day - No classes today! For more details contact Jan Heck at 763-561-2008 or janheck@ties2.net

Tue, Jul 13 • 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

TCOTC Board Meeting

Tue, Jul 13 • 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

MKC

Minneapolis Kennel Club sponsors conformation run-throughs at TCOTC each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Thu, Jul 15 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Thu, Jul 15 • 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Week one for all classes

Meeting Room used for Orientation.

Mon, Jul 19 • 5:50 PM - 6:50 PM

OB Run-thrus

Obedience Run-Throughs in Rings 1 and 2 \$5/dog (TCOTC members) or \$6/dog (non-members) with tips from AKC Judge Joanna Yund.

Tue, Jul 20 • 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Week one for all classes

Meeting Room used for Orientation.

Thu, Jul 22 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Fri, Jul 23 • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Club Day

Topic: MVMA Dog Bite Prevention Program
see www.tcotc.com for more information.

Mon, Jul 26 • 5:50 PM - 6:50 PM

OB Run-thrus

Obedience Run-Throughs in Rings 1 and 2 \$5/dog (TCOTC members) or \$6/dog (non-members) with tips from AKC Judge Joanna Yund.

Tue, Jul 27 • 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

MKC

Minneapolis Kennel Club sponsors conformation run-throughs at TCOTC each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Thu, Jul 29 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Mon, Aug 2 • 5:50 PM - 6:50 PM

OB Run-thrus

Obedience Run-Throughs in Rings 1 and 2 \$5/dog (TCOTC members) or \$6/dog (non-members) with tips from AKC Judge Joanna Yund.

Thu, Aug 5 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Mon, Aug 9 • 5:50 PM - 6:50 PM

OB Run-thrus

Obedience Run-Throughs in Rings 1 and 2 \$5/dog (TCOTC members) or \$6/dog (non-members) with tips from AKC Judge Joanna Yund.

Tue, Aug 10 • 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

TCOTC Board Meeting

Monthly Board Meeting

Tue, Aug 10 • 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

MKC

Minneapolis Kennel Club sponsors conformation run-throughs at TCOTC each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Thu, Aug 12 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Fri, Aug 13 • 3:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Club Day

Topic: Pet Dental Care
see www.tcotc.com for more information

Mon, Aug 16 • 5:50 PM - 6:50 PM

OB Run-thrus

Obedience Run-Throughs in Rings 1 and 2 \$5/dog (TCOTC members) or \$6/dog (non-members) with tips from AKC Judge Joanna Yund.

Mon, Aug 16 • 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Staff Meeting

All Staff Meeting - Details to follow.
Contact Jan Heck for more information.

Wed, Aug 18 • 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Event Day

Event Day - No classes today! For more details contact Jan Heck at 763-561-2008 or janheck@ties2.net

Fri, Aug 20 -- Sun, Aug 22 •

Tracy Sklenar seminar

MN Mixed Breed Club hosts Tracy Sklenar for an agility seminar
MMBC and TCOTC members may audit for half price. Event contact Heather Sather Heather.M.Sather@wellsfargo.com.

Mon, Aug 23 • 5:50 PM - 6:50 PM

OB Run-thrus

Obedience Run-Throughs in Rings 1 and 2 \$5/dog (TCOTC members) or \$6/dog (non-members) with tips from AKC Judge Joanna Yund.

Tue, Aug 24 • 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

MKC

Minneapolis Kennel Club sponsors conformation run-throughs at TCOTC each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Wed, Aug 25 • 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Week one for all classes

Meeting Room used for Orientation.

Thu, Aug 26 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open Ring

Open Ring time - Agility and Obedience.
\$5 for 10 minutes per dog.

Mon, Aug 30 • 5:50 PM - 6:50 PM

OB Run-thrus

Obedience Run-Throughs in Rings 1 and 2 \$5/dog (TCOTC members) or \$6/dog (non-members) with tips from AKC Judge Joanna Yund.

Tue, Aug 31 •

TCOTC Closed - We are at the

State Fair!!!

TCOTC Closed - Come join us at the State Fair! No Classes today!

2010 Club Days Update

The new year saw the continuance of TCOTC's Club Days. About once a month, the club brings in an expert to present on dog-related topic. These great opportunities are free to members. So far this year, club members had a number of opportunities to learn about dog sports, nutrition and body language.

In January, John Thompson from Skijor Now discussed the fast and fun sport of cross-country skiing with your dogs.

Our own Dr. Lisa Carpenter presented in February. She delivered a wealth of information on healthy nutrition for our best friends.

The March Club Days was devoted to Tracking; club members had a chance to learn more about that sport.

In April, we welcomed Abby Cline with Pawsitive Vybe and members of the Minnesota Disc Dog Club for an evening of playing Frisbee with our dogs.

Julie Humiston, TCOTC's new Behavior Department Head, led a session in May to help people understand what their dogs are saying through body language. This was especially helpful for people who frequent dog parks.

More exciting Club Days are scheduled for July and beyond:

- The July 23rd Club Day, focusing on dog bite prevention with Dr. Hershey, will be especially valuable for families with children. The time for this session is 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Dr. Kate Knutson, a respected dental surgeon from Pet Crossing, will speak about dental care for our August 13 event.
- Learn how massage can help your dog's health on October 9th, as Michelle Bame will present a session on canine massage.

If you have ideas for topics you'd like to see, please email clubdays@tcotc.com. We welcome people to join the small committee in charge of organizing these events. To volunteer, please email clubdays@tcotc.com.

Tracy Sklenar Training Seminar at TCOTC: August 21-23, 2010

SPONSORED BY MINNESOTA MIXED BREED CLUB (MMBC)
HELD AT TWIN CITIES OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB

- Working spots are \$150 each day.
- Auditing spots are \$70 per day.
- Auditing spots for TCOTC and MMBC members are \$35 per day.

Friday, August 21, approx. 9a – 4p Raise Your Game: Train Like a European to Master Courses in North America!

Would you like to raise your agility handling to a whole new level of excellence? Do you need to improve your handling so you can successfully navigate the challenges you will see on course in 2010 and beyond? This handling clinic will teach you how to balance the dog's drive to you with her drive to obstacles while you learn to execute the handling moves needed to conquer the European-style challenges that we are now seeing here in North America! Tracy's goal is to build the handler's confidence on difficult European-style challenges — and that will make Excellent and Masters courses seem quite do-able by comparison! (Masters/Excellent level)

Saturday, August 22, approx. 9a – 4p Brilliant Foundations for Dog Sports

Just getting started with a young dog? Got an older dog who needs a better foundation? Want to build more drive, focus and passion for the game? Already done some Say Yes! foundation and want to turn up the heat on your training? This is the clinic for you! Come and learn the foundation games used at Susan Garrett's Say Yes! Dog Training. This includes Crate Games, self-control games, Body Awareness, Relationship Building, Contacts foundation, building drive, motivation and focus, problem solving, and much much more. This clinic is great way to build a solid foundation (or improve on what you've already done) for any dog sport: agility, obedience, rally, flyball, etc. Say Yes! is internationally known for positive, motivational methods that are proven to work across a variety of breeds and handlers!

Sunday, August 23, approx. 9a – 4p ABCs of Handling

This fun day includes a series of games on the flat and over jumps (or bumps for young dogs) to teach your dog to respond to your handling cues. This includes important skills such as driving ahead, turning tight, front crosses, post turns, finding lines, motion control (acceleration versus deceleration), rear cross foundations, ignoring distractions, and more! (Novice/Open level)

The registration form is on MMBC's site:
www.mnmixedbreedclub.org/seminars.htm

More information about Tracy can be found on her website:
www.lottp.com/about-us

Agility Program Updates

BY ANNE BENTLEY

1. New Puppy Agility Program at TCOTC

Puppy agility is a new class offered at TCOTC since December 2009. The puppy agility program accepts puppies between 9 weeks and 5 months. We try to bring puppies in as soon as possible so they don't age out before we have room. They then register for regular blocks but can remain in puppy agility until they are a year old. This is by design: we do not want to rush puppies in their training or their readiness to do agility. Both handlers and puppies benefit and learn from having a pressure-free training environment, and not being rushed to move on too quickly. This works in part because puppies are not yet old enough to jump, do full-sized equipment, or concentrate for long periods of time.

We adjust the training environment, handler expectations and equipment to fit what is appropriate for puppies, how they learn, and what is fun for them. Although we do use equipment, performing obstacles is not the most important part of the class, or of agility. More important is developing physical (coordination, dexterity), mental (habits, confidence), and relationship skills, which are built partly – but not entirely – by performing puppy-appropriate obstacles.

Puppy agility sets the stage for puppies to be right, build confidence and have fun. Although we use and teach operant conditioning, puppy agility is really based on classical conditioning so puppies learn to enjoy agility and to work with their handlers. Puppies trained this way have fewer difficulties as adults with equipment fear and stress, coping with distractions, handler/team relationship issues, confidence problems and developing bad agility habits. The most important lessons are learning to learn, developing good habits for the future, and most importantly that agility (and working with mom or dad) is the best deal in town. Handlers learn how to train their puppies and to be patient and positive. We also find it is easier to get most people to be patient and take the time to build teamwork with puppies when they are in the class for several months.

One of our other goals is to prepare puppies with the equivalent of our foundations class when they “graduate” at a year of age. This is still a work in progress, as we work to tailor foundation skills to the puppy agility class.

The puppy agility class is still in a prototype stage. We are still learning what our capacity constraints are, and how to incorporate foundation skills into this class. So far the class has filled by word of mouth. We have not advertised yet since it is a prototype and we are still not up to 100% instructor capacity. However, members can contact us (the website agility application or email are best) for more information.

2. Building Speed, Drive and Motivation: For those who don't want to train every day of their lives - Seminar by Kory Kaye

TCOTC students, members and friends gathered on April 16-18 to learn about speed, drive and motivation from Kory Kaye. Though focused for agility students, the concepts and philosophy of this seminar can be applied to any dog sport.

This seminar was unique in several ways. First, rather than asking people to spend weeks or months working on exercises to build drive, Kory focused the seminar on what everyone can do every day, whether training, trialing or just playing with our dogs. As she aptly says, this seminar is not about “a class or group of exercises, but a way of life.”

Another thing Kory did that was different from some seminars is she separated the lecture (Friday night) from the working part of the seminar (Saturday and Sunday). Half-day working seminars were held each day, so those with working spots could work for half a day and also observe the same session for the other half. Those who paid for working spots were invited to audit the other half day for no extra charge.

Accompanying Kory's many pearls of wisdom were anecdotes that helped make her ideas real for people. And in many cases, Kory amused and entertained as well – keeping everyone awake even on a Friday night! Throughout the weekend Kory continually emphasized the key points she wanted people to get. Here are just a few nuggets:

- Avoid CRAP training: Continuous Reinforcement of Ambiguous Performance (note: CRAP leads to stress)
- Dog de-stress in a manner that is meaningful to them (Kory's theory on stress)
- “It's not about you, it's about your dog”
- Just because you CAN do a maneuver, doesn't mean you SHOULD do that maneuver
- The dog gets more cookies when the handler gets it right!
- Your dog will forgive you for rewarding too often
- Every run, is a TRAINING run
- Don't punish the dog when you are learning something new (lower the jumps)
- Just because a dog can repeat a behavior, doesn't mean the dog KNOWS the behavior
- Re: course path – if it is the next logical obstacle, RUN! If it is NOT the next logical obstacle, HANDLE!

Participants and observers gave the seminar such high marks that we hope to offer it again in the future.

3. AKC Agility Rule Changes

This spring, AKC started allowing mixed breed dogs into competition for agility, obedience, rally and tracking, at the discretion of clubs. TCOTC was the first local club to offer

Agility Updates (continued)

entries to mixed breeds in agility at our May 2010 trial.

The name of the new mixed breed program is “AKC Canine Partners” and it requires registration and spay/neuter. Information is available on AKC’s website: www.akc.org/mixedbreeds/index.cfm?nav_area=mixedbreeds

Long anticipated AKC agility rule changes were finally announced the week of May 18. This summarizes a few of the major changes:

AKC Rule changes that are effective September 2010

- A-frame height: No more A-frame height change for 26”

dogs (will be the same as other heights – 5’6”). Small dogs - 4” and 8” jump heights - will have the A-frame lowered to within 1 inch of 5 feet 0 inches.

- Dog Walk: The up contact will no longer be judged.
- Table: Will be judged when the dog has all 4 paws on the table. Will not require a sit or down any longer.
- Weave Poles: If the dog pops out, they will now have to restart at the beginning. Also, only 3 attempts will be allowed.
- Tire: Will be set one height lower than the dog’s regular jump height

continued on p. 8

Don’t Steal My Joy

BY OBEDIENCE TRAINER CONNIE CLEVELAND

On my tenth anniversary, my husband and I took my adopted grandmother out to dinner with us. At dinner, my husband presented me with a diamond ring. It was gorgeous, but even as I thanked him, I worried about the expense of such a gift.

My husband excused himself from the table. He was barely out of sight when my grandmother grabbed me by the shoulder, “I know what you’re thinking. I know you think he couldn’t afford it and it’s too extravagant. I don’t care if he had to put a second mortgage on the house to buy it, don’t you steal his joy! Accept it as the token of his love that it is and say nothing about how he shouldn’t have bought it for you.”

I took her advice and put my reservations out of my mind. The ring has never come off my finger, but most importantly, I learned a wonderfully important lesson: never to steal another’s joy.

Are you a joy stealer in competition?

- “You know if my dog hadn’t gone down on the sit, I would have won the class.”
- “I sure didn’t think your dog worked that high a score.”
- “I can’t believe you placed. I thought Jane Oneup and her dog would beat you.”
- “Isn’t that judge an idiot? I can’t believe the dogs he put up!”
- “Boy, aren’t you glad Mrs Winallthetime wasn’t here today or you might not have won?”
- “That was the stupidest set of water marks I’ve ever seen. No trial should end that easily.”

Do you discourage or encourage fellow competitors? Do you tell them their goals are too lofty and their dreams too big? Are you trying to be helpful or trying to keep

them from accomplishing something that you haven’t done? It is equally as harmful to steal joy by destroying the dream.

When FC AFC OTCH Law Abiding Ezra had both his field championships and 65 OTCH points including all the necessary first places, someone had the guts to come up to me, his owner, trainer and handler and say, “No dog will ever be a field champion and an obedience champion.” My jaw drops when I think about it. Isn’t it unfortunate that I remember this much more than I remember all the congratulations I received when those last 35 points were earned?

If you are willing to destroy someone’s dream, perhaps you don’t realize that it is the joy of pursuing the dream that keeps the dreamer motivated, not just reaching the accomplishment.

My husband and I travel and compete together. I remember an event when I watched his Doberman fail articles. “Darn it,” I said, as he came out of the ring, “she didn’t even try to find the right one!” “Oh,” he replied, “but, weren’t her heeling and signals wonderful?”

Unknowingly, I had almost stolen his joy. He was celebrating the improvement on the exercise that had been giving him trouble, and I was focused on the failure.

I hope you have a lot of dreams and goals for your dogs. Undoubtedly there will be moments of disappointment as you venture through the landmines of injury, failures and other setbacks. Remember that the joy of the journey is worth the difficulties along the way and don’t let anyone steal that joy. Guard it well and at the end of the road you can own it and revel in it with all the other memories of the trip.

Every Small Step is a Big Step

BY BETH GLOMMEN

On March 31, 2010, the newest addition to our home, Star, completed a big step. She successfully completed all of the tests to get her Canine Good Citizen award. The next day was the third anniversary of when she came to our home, and two years since we adopted her. But let me go back to where her story begins.

Our home was a foster home with Minnesota Sheltie Rescue (MNSR). We had fostered several dogs and were very good with shy dogs or dogs that had not been around humans much. What made our home good was our other dog, Crystal, who is very patient with showing dogs what good behaviors are, how to play and that it is safe to interact with humans.

When my partner and I first met Star, her name was Buttons. She was a puppy mill mom who came in to MNSR pregnant. She had her puppies while in the care of MNSR. People involved with MNSR were invited to the home where Buttons and her puppies were staying so we could help socialize the pups. It was clear that the puppies would need to be taken away from the mother as quickly as possible since she was extremely scared of everything and we did not want that to influence them.

When we arrived at the home, the puppies were in a very large X-pen with an open crate in one corner. We sat on the floor and played with the puppies. They were cute, active, curious and playful. We played with the puppies and chatted with the other people for some time. It wasn't until we were getting ready to go that I asked where the mom of the puppies was. I was told, "Oh, Buttons is in her crate."

I had not realized that there was a dog in that crate in the corner because not a sound had come from that area. I bent over to look in. She was plastered



to the back of the crate, terrified. The only thing I could make out were big black eyes that looked like they were manic with fear. She was so crunched up into the back of the crate that I could not tell how big she was or even what color her coat was. As we left, I commented to my partner that I would never want to try to foster that dog; she was the worst basket case I had ever seen!

The puppies were all adopted and Buttons moved to a different foster home with a woman who had experience with very shy dogs. My partner and I visited her to try to help. We sat on the floor very still and tossed treats across the room and then waited 20 minutes to see if she would venture out. Eventually she did. We visited her a couple times and we all tried to figure out how to help Buttons.

Eventually the foster dog we currently had was adopted and the home Buttons was staying in took on another dog and needed relief. So the dog I thought was the worst basket case I had ever seen was coming to our house. Oh my!

Buttons wanted to stay in her crate all the time, the opposite of a typical stray dog that wants nothing

to do with a crate. We found it was easier to keep a leash on her so that if she did plaster herself to the back of the crate we had some means of trying to encourage her out. If we picked up her leash, stood by the crate and encouragingly talked to her while we walked away, she would eventually come out without us needing to pull on the leash.

Meal times were very difficult. Buttons was scared of every noise and movement. When she first came to our home, we put food in her dish and put Crystal on a drop/stay, and sat and sat, waiting 15 to 20 minutes for Buttons to get up the courage to eat out. We always hoped that nobody would phone us during that time, that no loud cars would go down the street, and heaven forbid that a neighborhood child might yell out to a friend. All of these things would cause Buttons would retreat and the 15 to 20 minutes would start over again.

I remember thinking about typical dog training. Break things down into measurable parts that can be worked on. You need to be able to measure improvement. How do you do that with a dog that does not seem to improve? Well, we considered it an

Every Small Step is a Big Step (continued)

improvement when Buttons came out of her crate on the third or fourth try instead of the fifth or sixth. We considered it an improvement when she ran only ran down the hallway to get away from a small noise instead of running all the way into the bedroom and cowering under the bed. We took what we could get.

We considered it a big step the first day she took a treat from our hand (about six months after she came to our home). We had to sit for at least 20 minutes while she mustered up the courage to come close enough so she could stretch her head over and snatch the treat quickly from our hand and run away. We sat so she did not need to face us directly. Every time she progressed to a new level, we inched the criteria up slightly. We worked very slowly to be able to move our hands while she got a treat. The next step was to expect her to do a behavior before she got a treat. It took many tries for us to slowly move our hand with a treat in it up to her nose and backwards to try to get her into a sit before she realized she had to do something to earn a

treat. It was obvious that she liked her food and food was only the only training tool we had since she doesn't play with toys.

After a year, we adopted Buttons. We changed her name to Star because we wanted her to have a fresh start and set an expectation that she was a new dog. We wanted to bring her to obedience classes, but she was still very scared. So we started by just taking her to TCOTC to hang out when I was there training Crystal. When she did start classes, my focus was on keeping her safe and reassuring her when there were noises. All of the instructors were very understanding when I needed to pay attention to my dog more than to them. Sometimes Star got overwhelmed by noises or movements so we would just stop and I would stroke her body back and forth to try to calm her. I considered it an improvement if there was a noise in another ring and Star recovered from it within five to 10 minutes. Gradually she got more comfortable, her stress signs started to go down, she did not drool as much, she stopped puffing her

cheeks out and her ears would come up instead of being plastered back in fear. It was always helpful to me when club members and instructors would comment that Star was progressing.

We repeated level 1 a couple of times, level 2 twice and we were in level 3 for several sessions. We just keep going, progressing slowly, but progressing. I even brought Crystal to classes with Star because Star was much more relaxed with Crystal around. If Crystal wasn't scared then Star tried not to be scared. Dogs learn so much from other dogs.

When the Canine Good Citizen test came up this time, we thought Star had a chance of passing. Her first foster mom came to watch. We were all amazed and so proud of the strides she has made, thanks to the patience of many TCOTC instructors and members! I never would have thought that this dog would end up in our home, and I never thought that earning any kind of title was a possibility for her. But she has lived up to her name — she is a true Star in our hearts!

Agility updates (continued from p. 6)

- Use of Equipment before/after a trial: Effective with our November trial, we WILL be able to hold classes on Thursday! The cutoff will by 12:00AM the day of the trial, and ends an hour after the trial finishes.
- Standard course time: 8" and 24" dogs will now get more time to run the course.
- Weave Poles: Spacing changed to 24 inches (NOTE: TCOTC has 24" weaves on order)
- Double Bar and Triple Bar Jumps: Solid sides that do not allow viewing of all bars from both sides of the obstacle are not permitted.
- New Class Offered: "Time To Beat" (T2B)

AKC Rule changes that are effective July 2011

- MACH Points: Multipliers will no longer be given for 1st and 2nd placements.
- AKC Rule changes that are effective January 2012
- Chute: The length of the fabric on the chute must be between 6 feet and 6 feet 6 inches,

AKC Rule changes that are effective July 2012

- New Lifetime Achievement Awards: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Century titles for various numbers of Q's in Excellent B classes (Std, JWW, FAST, Preferred, T2B).
-
- AKC Rule changes that are effective January 2013

- New Preferred Championship Offered (PACH): 750 points and 20 QQs for a Preferred Agility Championship

4. Agility World Team Tryouts

Congratulations to the two TCOTC members who were among a select few who qualified to try out for the Agility World Team (representing the U.S. in international competition next fall). These members are: Kory Kaye with Sheltie, Daggy, and Tom Jones with Poodle, Cosmo. Both Kory and Tom participated in this event, held at Leatherdale arena on the U of MN St. Paul campus in early May 2010.

Meet Instructor Rob Carrick

Rob is one of TCOTC's instructors, teaching mostly Level One Obedience. He also assisted for some time with therapy dog classes and has participated in agility, flyball and rally. He currently has one dog, Jake, a seven-year old Golden Retriever who was a career-change service dog. Rob ended up with Jake, because his full-time job is Puppy Program Coordinator for Can Do Canines (formerly Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota).

Rob got into working with dogs about six years ago. He worked for many years in the auto parts industry, but economic conditions left him as a dislocated worker. Career and skills testing indicated he should be an educator and work with dogs! So he started a petsitting/dogwalking business with boarding and began doing private training. In addition, he worked as a trainer at Petco and got involved with TCOTC. In 2007, he started working for Can Do Canines.

Can Do Canines provides assistance dogs for hearing impaired and physically disabled people. They also train medical assistance dogs for people with seizures and diabetes, as well as autism dogs for kids. Puppies are raised by volunteer puppy raisers who begin socialization and basic training, and then they go on to specific job training with trainers who work directly with the prospective client. They are usually ready to work by the time they are two years old.

Almost any breed or mix is a candidate, from Cairn Terriers to Golden/Poodles crosses to Labs to Aussies. They come from shelters, rescues, individuals and breeders. Can Do Canines just bred their first two litters of Labs from their own dogs. The dogs must be in good health and have no behavior problems to make it through the program. Dogs coming in as adults need OFAs on hips and elbows and eye certs and other breed-specific tests. Puppies have their parents' info checked.

Rob works very hard to prevent behavior problems from developing. Still, things can go wrong physically or genetically. The industry standard is for only about one in four dogs to make it all the way through a program to be placed with a client. Can Do Canines has been doing a little better than the average and keeps working on improvements.

Some of the things the dogs are trained to do include: retrieve a fallen walker, act as a physical support for their human to lean on, pick up and retrieve objects, cover or

uncover their human with blankets, open doors and drawers. The diabetic alert dogs are trained to detect the scent of low blood sugar on people's breath. They might then open the refrigerator and fetch a juice box for the person who may have become disoriented and not realize they need sugar.

The total cost to train one of these dogs, including administrative costs and the cost of rejected dogs, is about \$28,000. There is no charge to the clients who receive the dogs. Can Do Canines receives the bulk of its funding from private donors and the Lion's Clubs, plus some from grants and fundraisers. They have ten paid staff and about 400 volunteers.

Rob's job as Puppy Program Coordinator covers many tasks. He says the most fun part is training the fosters (temporary caregivers) and the puppy raisers. He teaches classes that are a combination of obedience, with proofing for lots of distractions, and therapy dog. He also does individual problem solving for the volunteers. Currently he is in charge of over 100 dogs, about 90 puppy raisers and about 65 foster homes. Then (this is probably the less fun part!) he has to track all that information: who has what dog, what they're doing, if the dogs are up on their vaccinations, who needs what training, etc.

Rob also manages their prison program at two Minnesota locations, where he trains prison inmates to train the dogs. These dogs live full time with the prisoners in their cells. They currently have 10 puppies and five older dogs being in the program. Rob says many of these prisoners are excellent trainers.

As if that weren't enough, Rob also has to interview and approve new volunteers, including home visits, he runs two Yahoo Groups for the volunteers, and finally, he covers miscellaneous emergencies at the office. Ah, the life of a non-profit employee!

So I felt silly asking Rob what he does in his spare time. Well, of course he spends it with his dog, Jake. He says Jake hates going to class, so they mostly just play, hike in the woods, swim and go camping.

There are about 15 TCOTC members who are currently puppy raisers and when Rob identified a few of them, I realized they were some of the best students in our obedience classes. Last year TCOTC donated 10 class spots to Can Do Canines dogs.



People Food to Avoid in Pets!

BY AHNA BRUTLAG, DVM
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES
PET POISON HELPLINE

While most pet owners have heard that chocolate and onions are poisonous for pets, many do not know that common foods such as grapes, raisins, bread dough and chewing gum may be toxic for pets, too. Every day, Pet Poison Helpline receives many calls about pets getting into people food, some of which can be remarkably harmful. Keep these away from pets.

Grapes, raisins and currants

What they're in: Uncooked grapes, raisins, and currants are likely more toxic than the cooked fruit. Remember to think about raisins in cereals and snack boxes!

Threat to pets: These fruits cause acute kidney failure in dogs and may cause kidney failure in cats and ferrets as well.

While not all dogs or cats will develop kidney failure after eating grapes or raisins, it's impossible to know which pets will be sensitive to this fruit. Therefore, all pets (especially dogs) that ingest grapes, raisins or currants should be monitored closely and treated appropriately.

If a small dog eats just a small number of grapes or raisins, this is considered an emergency.

Signs: Vomiting within in hours of ingestion. Within 1-4 days of ingestion: increased urination, increased thirst, lethargy and a reduced appetite.

Treatment: Induce vomiting and activated charcoal to decontaminate. Aggressive IV fluids (to protect the kidneys), frequent monitoring of



kidney laboratory values, anti-vomiting medication and in-hospital care.

Prognosis: Excellent if animals are treated before signs begin. Once they have begun to go into kidney failure, the prognosis becomes much worse.

Xylitol

What it's in: Xylitol is a common sugar-substitute used in sugar-free chewing gum, breath mints, candies and baked goods. It is also found in some smoking-cessation products like nicotine gum. Bulk xylitol can be purchased for cooking at home. Finally, it has dental plaque fighting properties and also found (in non-toxic amounts) in pet mouth wash and oral rinses.

Pet-safe people food

With all the potentially toxic people foods out there, it's helpful to know which foods are safe for cats and dogs. Pet Poison Helpline recommends feeding the following foods which are both safe for pets and are low-calorie options.

- Apples
- Peas
- Green beans
- Popcorn
(Hold the butter and salt!)
- Carrots
- Sweet potatoes
- Zucchini and summer squash
- Winter squash
- Ice chips (Freeze cubes of diluted beef or chicken broth for a real frozen treat!)
- Lettuces
- Blueberries

Threat to pets: Xylitol may cause a life-threatening drop in blood sugar as well as causing liver damage to dogs. Cats and people do not experience this problem.

Typically, the dose needed to cause poisoning is at least 0.05 grams per pound of body weight (0.1 grams per kilogram of body weight).

Chewing gums and breath mints typically contain 0.22-1.0 gram of xylitol per piece of gum or per mint. Thus, to achieve a potentially toxic dose, a 10-pound dog would only have to eat one piece of gum!

The amount of xylitol typically found in most pet oral-care products is very small and, when used properly, is not expected to cause poisoning unless the dog ingests a very large amount.

Signs: Within 10-15 minutes of ingestion dogs may develop hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and start vomiting, become uncoordinated or start staggering. Collapse and seizures may quickly follow. Rarely,

People Food to Avoid in Pets (continued)

these signs may not begin until many hours after ingestion.

Treatment: Rapid decontamination (induce vomiting or perform gastric lavage), intravenous dextrose (sugar) and fluids, frequent monitoring of blood sugar levels and liver values, liver protectants and in-hospital care.

Prognosis: Excellent when the ingestion is caught early and blood sugars are monitored frequently. Guarded if the dog has already begun to develop liver failure.

Yeast-bread dough

What it's in: Homemade and store-bought unbaked dough that contains yeast (used for bread, dinner rolls, etc).

Threat to pets: Unbaked yeast containing dough can result in multiple problems if a pet ingests it.

The dark, warm environment of the stomach acts as an oven and encourages the dough to continue rising. This can result in a bowel obstruction or a bloated/distended stomach. The stomach may then twist

leading to a GDV or gastric dilatation and volvulus. This is a life-threatening situation that requires emergency abdominal surgery before the walls of the stomach die due to poor blood supply.

As the yeast ferments in the stomach, it releases alcohol which may lead to alcohol poisoning.

Signs: Bloat or GDV: distended abdomen, unproductive vomiting and retching, lethargy, weakness, tachycardia (elevated heart rate), collapse and shock.

Alcohol poisoning: Alcohol smell on the breath, neurological depression, hypothermia (low body temperature), hypotension (low blood pressure), seizures and respiratory failure.

Treatment: Induce vomiting if the dough was recently ingested. To stop the rising of the dough, a cold-water gastric lavage may be performed. Aggressive intravenous fluids and dextrose (sugar), abdominal surgery, warming measures and in-hospital monitoring.

Prognosis: Excellent if decontaminated

soon after ingestion and the appropriate care is received. Poorer in cases of severe alcohol poisoning and bloat/GDV.

Fatty foods and meat scraps

Threat to pets: Fatty foods such as butter, oils, meat drippings/grease, chocolate and meat scraps may cause pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) when ingested, especially by dogs. Certain breeds, Miniature Schnauzers in particular, are more likely to develop pancreatitis than other breeds.

Signs: Delayed onset vomiting (1-4 days after fatty meal ingestion), abdominal pain, diarrhea (+/- blood), reduced appetite and lethargy.

Treatment: Anti-nausea and anti-vomiting medications, withholding food or giving only easily digestible diets, IV fluids, monitoring of blood chemistry panels and in-hospital care. In certain cases other drugs such as antibiotics may be necessary.

Prognosis: Good when treated early and appropriately.

Star Puppies Start Their Careers Early

Portuguese Water Dog, Flash (OreoBay Happy New Year of Hope), earned his AKC Star Puppy certificate and medal this spring at just 4 months. His human, Janna Hora, is a dog trainer and very active in Canine Freestyle, so "Flash" is actually short for "Flashdance" (check out his white legwarmers!).

Flash is a busy puppy. He will enter his first conformation show in Duluth in July and they hope to get his Junior Water Dog title at the end of summer. He loves to run and jump so Janna wants to try agility with him. He also loves tennis balls -- flyball, anyone?

Flash has a five-year old sister, Gracie (a Doberman/Rhodesian Ridgeback mix) who does therapy dog work through Delta Society Pet Partners at Methodist Hospital. Who knows? Maybe Flash could be a therapy dog, too.

Flash obviously has a bright future ahead of him and the Star Puppy designation is a great start. It's good for any dog whose human wants to be sure they are on the right track with beginning to train and socialize their puppy.

TCOTC's Star Puppy class is just two weeks on Thursdays at 8:15 p.m. and costs \$30. Prerequisite: TCOTC's Puppy or Tweener class. Puppies can attend up until one year of age.



New Reactive Rovers Class

BY JULIE HUMISTON, CPDT

TCOTC's first Reactive Rovers class began in April, with a second beginning in May. Reactive Rovers is a class for dogs who overreact (bark and lunge) to specific triggers in their environment. In class we focus on other dogs as the trigger, but the same techniques would apply to reactivity to cars, bikes, joggers, skaters, etc.

This brand new class is a work in progress and necessarily flexible to accommodate the range of dogs we get in class, but the latest incarnation includes a questionnaire to be filled out for each dog, a 1-1/2 hour lecture class for the humans, followed by six small group classes with other reactive dogs and their handlers.

The class begins by using scientific principles of desensitization and counterconditioning to actually change the dog's emotional response to those things that frighten, upset or overexcite him. By carefully exposing him to those triggers at a low level of intensity and also pairing those things with something he loves (usually yummy treats), we start to get a different and more acceptable response. In effect, we convince the student dogs that other dogs aren't so bad after all, because they predict something good happening to him. In that vein, there are never any corrections or other negative results for the dogs in the presence of their triggers.

As the class goes on and the dogs become more relaxed, we can begin to ask them to use their thinking brains. We add in some operant conditioning exercises, in which the dog learns to perform a certain behavior. Sounds like obedience training, right? Except we focus on behaviors that specifically promote the cause of good dog-dog relations: we might practice turning away from another dog rather than staring at them, sniffing the floor when another dog appears, or sitting and looking at their handler. You might notice that each of these behaviors includes a calming signal (see sidebar), which is very polite behavior to perform around other dogs.

One of the keys to successfully working with reactive dogs is keeping them under threshold; that is, giving them enough distance from their triggers that they do not practice their reactive behavior. We are lucky that TCOTC has such a large building because this creates the possibility of having enough distance between dogs that they can see each other, but not be so close that they get upset. On the other hand, it means the Reactive Rover classes must be held at times when the building is relatively empty, which doesn't happen often.

As of press time, Reactive Rovers class is on Friday mornings when absolutely nothing else is happening at the club, but we are also working on a class which will happen at a time convenient to people who work weekdays. Cost is \$140. Another class is scheduled to begin on July 9.

To register for Reactive Rovers, see the club website or the front desk, or contact Behavior Dept. head Julie Humiston at jehumiston@gmail.com for more information.

Calming Signals

The term was coined by Norwegian dog trainer Turid Rugaas to describe what biologists previously called cut-off, displacement or appeasement signals. They are body language communication used by canines that serve to signal stress and help placate and calm both the giver and the receiver. A few calming signals are:

- looking or turning away
- lip licking
- yawning (out of context)
- sniffing the ground (out of context)
- suddenly sitting or lying down
- shaking off (as if wet)
- moving very slowly
- walking in an arc

It is important for dog handlers to recognize calming signals for what they are, because often stressed dogs will show calming signals to their humans, too. To the uninitiated, some of these might look like the dog is being disobedient or blowing off the handler, leading to major misunderstandings.

For more information, see Turid's book or video *On Talking Terms With Dogs*, available in the TCOTC library, or search for calming signals online.

TWIN CITIES OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB

BAZAAR

& OPEN HOUSE

Thank you for your interest in our second Fall Bazaar!
Here are the ground rules for our event...



- #1 All items for sale must be pet related
- #2 All applications must be submitted with a photo of your items.
- #3 Applicants must choose from our space size options described on the next page – A, B or C. The Bazaar Committee will determine the location of all participants stalls. Two chairs will be provided per space. You will need to bring with you any other items you will need.

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NOV. 13, 2010 9am-2pm

TCOTC FALL BAZAAR 2010 VENDOR REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City Zip _____

Phone numbers _____

Email _____

Items you wish to sell – please explain fully and you must provide a photo with this application.

Size of space you require:

A-12 x 9 ft – \$20

B-12x12 ft – \$30

C-12x15 ft – \$40

Will you need electricity?

Yes

No

Please be aware that access to electricity will be very limited so only a few of those who need it will be allowed to obtain a space. All others will have to be turned away.

By signing this form, you are agreeing ...

#1 – To have your space set up with your items ready to be sold by 9 am on November 13

#2 – To crate any pets you bring with you. No ex-pens allowed.

Signature _____

Return form to:

TCOTC, P.O. Box 18417, Minneapolis, MN 55418 Attn: Fall Bazaar

For Office Use
Date Received
Amount Paid

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TCOTC Volunteer Opportunities

TCOTC is a club that needs many people to help it operate efficiently. In 2009, we had to cancel some events because of lack of volunteers. But then people said, "I would have helped if I had known they needed me." So this year I am asking ahead of time. Please look over this list, fill it out and return it to me. The sooner you can commit the better the odds are the event will take place. Volunteering is the best way to meet other club members and learn more about TCOTC. As they say, many hands make less work and as I say, it really is fun!

May 8 – Saturday – Agility run & done

I will help with course building stewarding set-up take-down

May 15 & 16 – Sat & Sun – TCOTC Agility Trial

I will help with set-up Friday afternoon

I will help with take-down Sunday night

June 19 - Saturday – Canine Good Citizen Test

I will help with stewarding set-up take-down

June 28 -Monday– Event Night – No topic yet – you can pick it!

Arrange an AG run & done, Obed run & done, movie night and watch some of the great videos from our library? You decide! (You will need to have it approved by Jan Heck, Director of Training.)

I will take responsibility for the entire event.

I will help wherever needed

July 13 - Tuesday– Event Day or Night – No topic yet – you can pick it!

Arrange an AG run & done, Obed run & done, movie night and watch some of the great videos from our library? You decide! (You will need to have it approved by Jan Heck, Director of Training.)

I will take responsibility for the entire event.

I will help wherever needed

August 18 - Wednesday– Event Night – No topic yet – you can pick it!

Arrange an AG run & done, Obed run & done, movie night and watch some of the great videos from our library? You decide! (You will need to have it approved by Jan Heck, Director of Training.)

I will take responsibility for the entire event.

I will help wherever needed

August 31 – Tuesday TCOTC at the State Fair

I will take responsibility for the entire event.

I will help wherever needed

September 28 – Tuesday – Day time Canine Good Citizen Test

I will help with stewarding set-up take-down

October 15, 16 & 17 – Fri, Sat & Sun – TCOTC Flyball Tournament

I will help with set-up Friday

I will help with take-down Sunday

I call help wherever needed during the event

October 22 – Friday - Obedience Run-thru Ring Time

I will take responsibility for the entire event – Find judges, stewards, Arrange set-up and take-down

I will help with registration time keeping set-up

October 23 & 24 – Sat & Sun - TCOTC Obedience Trial

- I will help with set-up Friday night
- I will help with take-down Sunday night
- I will steward Sat____ Sun____
- I will bring in baked goods for the weekend
- I can help in the kitchen Sat____ Sun____

Would you be willing to read a book or watch a DVD from the TCOTC library and write a review for the newsletter?_____

Would you be willing to write articles for the TCOTC newsletter?_____

Suggestions – Staff interviews – meet the staff, training topics, attend a Club night and write up a review on what took place.

Would you be willing to take charge of the kitchen for our October Obedience Trial? Arrange what is being sold and find volunteers?_____

Are you available to help the once a month Thursday daytime cleaning crew?_____

Are you available to get to the building before classes start and hand shovel the sidewalk on stairs on one day/night of the week?

Mon____ Tues____ Wed____ Thur____

Would you like to join the Club Days committee?_____

Do you have any suggestions on topics for Club Days? Past topics – dancing with your dog, disc dog

Would you be willing to take charge and/or help with community demos? (state fair, U of M, local schools, etc.)

Do you have any suggestions on short session class ideas? Past/current classes – Really Reliable Recalls, Loose Leash Walking, Tricks and Grooming/nail trimming tips

Thank you for taking the time to read this form. Please fill in your name and return this entire form to me. I will get back to you and let you know the next step.

Your name_____

Your e-mail address _____

Your phone numbers_____

Return to Nanette Malcomson –Volunteer Coordinator - P.O.Box 57 or mutley@msn.com

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Dog Post is published six times per year as a newsletter for TCOTC members. Permission is granted to reprint articles as long as credit is given to TCOTC *Dog Post* and to any individual author. Any reprint must show date of original publication. Editor: Holly Manning. Designer: Janna Netland Lover Send comments to newsletter@tcotc.com.
Next deadline: July 15.

To receive the newsletter (and club events, new classes, and emergency closing announcements) via email, **add your email address to the list on our home page at tcotc.com.**

Director of Training	Jan Heck
Obedience Dept Head	Jane Jacobson
Flyball Dept Head	Jane Jacobson
Agility Dept Head	Anne Bentley
Behavior Dept Head	Julie Humiston
Tracking Dept Head	Jim Labine

Achievements/Awards	Katie Brittan
Agility Trial	Kristin Omdahl
Agility Classes	Kathy Murphy- see tcotc.com for registration info

Building Management	Nanette Malcomson
Building Supplies	Nanette Malcomson
Cleaning Building	Nanette Malcomson
Desk Problems	Nanette Malcomson
Flyball Classes	Jane Jacobson
Flyball Demos	Lornell Brand
Library	Julie Humiston
Obed. Demos	Jan Heck
Obed. Fun Matches	Patty Fulton
Obed. Trial	Jane Jacobson
Rental Requests	Alexis Erickson
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Tracking Classes	Mary Beth Percy