



Training Times

Training Dogs to be Good Citizens

Dog Obedience Club of Lee County

November, 2015

Save the dates:

- General Meeting Monday, November 16th, 7:30 PM at Perkins (US 41 south of Crystal Dr.) 7:00 if you plan to eat dinner.
- Monday, December 21st, the board meets at Bob Evans on Del Prado Blvd. n Cape Coral.

Our 2016 Trial is Less Than Three Months Away...

January 30 and 31, are the dates to remember. The following committee persons will need help. If you are interested in helping, please contact the following people.

Raffle Items

Needed

New or never used items such as dog toys, non-perishable dog and human treats, gift cards, and nick-knacks.

Bring them to the general meeting or Wednesday training.

Trial Chair – Coleen Haan

Ribbons & Trophies – Terri Bell

Stewards – Terri Bell

Raffle – Connie Burkert & Susan Dunn

C Match – Cathy Niles

Lunch – Debbie Coveyeau

Judges Dinner – Carol Tollini

Judges Hospitality – Carol Tollini and Barb Wood

Class Sponsors – Shelley Lehmann

Set-Up – John Lehmann, Tom Haan, and Cathy Niles

The judges will be Helen Smith, Rick Cox, and Darwin Boles. Set up for the trial will be from 7:00PM until 9:00 PM. We will need everyone who can possibly make it so mark your calendars.



Condolences to Terri Bell on the loss of Megan.



Voting on new members:

Donna Herbst, Barb & Ed Wills, and Colleen Dold



A note from the editor's dogs... We are helping with reporting and stealing the Internet to find brags. If you would like to help us out, please let our mom know if you have any brags to share. We're not as good at surfing the Internet as we are at surfing counters. BOL!

Classes...

Cape Coral: Hi y'all! Sunny Mango here, reporting on the classes in Cape Coral. I have to admit, it was a warm 8 weeks, but we only had one rain day, and all dogs and puppies passed with flying collars – BOL! A big thank you to Deb, Alice, Coleen, Shelly, John, Skip, Carol, and Jeanette for their hard work.

ABC4K9s: Hi, this is Lydia Jake here to remind you about what's happening at ABC4K9s (where I am having a lot of fun, by the way). **What's happening now:** Train on your own will continue on **Wednesday** evenings from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM with no charge for members and \$5.00 for guests. I've heard rumors that a CGC Class is in the works as well – stay tuned (see I can make dog jokes just like my big sister). **Friday** nights, there is open training offered by **ABC4K9s**. The cost is \$8.00 for the first dog and \$2.00 for each additional dog. Lately there has been a lot of Rally practice and if you come between 6:30 and 7:30 you are likely to find a multi-level Rally course. There is also plenty of room for obedience work as well. Please contact Bobbi at ABC4K9s to let her know in advance if you are planning to show up later than 6:30.

Braggs...Pete here. Just for the record, I don't surf counters, but I did help turn up some brags on FB ...**You can email (include pics) those brags to my mom and then I won't have to surf anything!**



Carol Tolini and Joshua took 1st Place for their first attempt in Beginner Novice!



Looking ahead...

Christmas/Awards Dinner ... Friday, December 18, 6:30 PM at Carol T's. There will be a dog gift exchange and admission is a dog food donation.

Brevard County Dog Training Club Coursing Ability Test Jan 23-24, 2016. Premium list:

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/ClubExpressClubFiles/372440/documents/2016-01-23 BCDTC Coursing Ability Premium 2131901613.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIB6I23VLJX7E4J7Q&Expires=1447547077&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D2016-01-23 BCDTC Coursing Ability Premium .pdf&Signature=iof7ganSQfWhlhBn%2BqA%2Fh8mkwQc%3D](https://s3.amazonaws.com/ClubExpressClubFiles/372440/documents/2016-01-23%20BCDTC%20Coursing%20Ability%20Premium%202131901613.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIB6I23VLJX7E4J7Q&Expires=1447547077&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D2016-01-23%20BCDTC%20Coursing%20Ability%20Premium%20.pdf&Signature=iof7ganSQfWhlhBn%2BqA%2Fh8mkwQc%3D) For questions, comments, or a hard copy of the premium, contact Mary Church Rigsby, Trial Secretary at mchurchrigsby@aol.com or (321) 480-8136.

Dog Obedience Club of Lee County, Obedience and Rally Trials, January 30 and 31, 2016.

South Country Regional Recreation Center, 670 Cooper Street, Punta Gorda, FL premium list: <http://www.doclc.com/documents/Premium%20Lists/DOCLC%20TD%20Match%20Premium%202015-10-18.pdf>

Betsy Scapicchio and Linda Brennan of Top Dog will be in Lakeland on February 5, 6, and 7 at IPOC. FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Matt Twitty at S2FTraining@gmail.com or Pat Mann at Patmann2@verizon.net or Barbara Craig at Bcraig498@aol.com

New Sport Opportunities...The dates of April 24, and 25, 2016 have been set for the TD/TDX test.

Save the date...Our summer trial is planned for June 4 and 5, 2016 at ABC4K9's. This will be an Obedience trial only for Novice and Open and everything in between.



Coleen Haan provided the following essay written by a former trainer.

Why Dogs Misbehave

Author Unknown

1. Lack of Understanding: Some communication is so unclear that it is a miracle that dogs are able to meet any of our requests! Sometimes they simply have no clue what we want of them. And generally we keep asking the same thing, only with a louder voice, and more forceful actions, not realizing that the explanation needs to be delivered in a different way.

2. Lack of Motivation: The dog is not motivated to do it. Lack of motivation can come from a variety of reasons. My favorite that I like to pick on clients for is plain and simply "owners are boring". Dogs have too many rules, and are never actually allowed to be dogs. The owners are incredibly dull, always trying to suppress their dogs from actually being dogs! Because of the constant rules, when the dogs finally get

a taste of freedom, you will lose all control, as there is no way that you can compare with a running-rabbit or great dog-game. Please remember that the entire purpose of giving rules is to give freedom.

Other reasons are rewards are predictable and always present. If you ask your dog to come ten times, and each of the ten times he gets a piece of cheese, it won't take him long to realize the food is always there, so skipping an occasion to chase a rabbit won't kill him. But if the food is only sometimes there (variable reinforcement schedule) then he has a reason to find out if maybe this time he will get something. We want to turn our dogs into little gamblers. It is worth coming, just to find out if this time something might be given.

In addition to this, our rewards themselves are dull. Cheese? Every time? Nothing is good every time. How about having boring kibble, some cheese, a few pieces of hot dog, and three meatballs in your pocket? If the first reward is kibble, the second is a meatball, the third nothing, fourth nothing, and the fifth a hot dog – wait and watch the speed of your motivated dog. Keep them guessing! Now, while this sounds like way too much work, it isn't. All it means is on treat cutting days, you have seven zip-lock bags, and you put some of each in each bag. Toss the bags into your freezer, and grab a bag for each training session.

For all of your diligent treat preparers, once in a while pull your zip-lock out of your freezer, have it on you, and don't dispense one single treat. Teach them that while the food might always be there, it doesn't mean that receiving will always happen. Feeding treats should not be an expectation your dog has of you. It is a reward given, only when deserved. Second commands never get fed. Mediocrity does not get fed. Only brilliance does. And brilliance is defined as being ten times better than last training day!

3. Lack of Respect: Quite simply, the dog does not respect you. Would you take advice from someone that you think is an idiot? Well, neither will your dog. Respect is a beautiful thing that will only be given when earned. Your dog must care what you think before he actually chooses to follow your instructions. So many of the dogs that I see are coddled spoiled brats, and the saddest part is they are unhappy.

Your dog deserves to be happy. He deserves to have rules and boundaries so that he can be successful with his responsibilities. Don't become a Pez dispenser for treats in an attempt to fake respect. A Pez dispenser is exactly that – and you will have no relationship with your dog at the end of Pez-dispensing. When your treats run out, so does your dog's interest in you. This really is not the dog's fault, but your own.

4. Relationship Problem: Some dogs have past baggage. And some dogs with a past have handlers who still carry their past, even though they've long since let it go. Or sometimes our puppy Labrador retriever is constantly measured against our thirteen year old Labrador that just died. To have a healthy relationship with a dog means you must be worthy. And for your dog, you need him to be the best that he can be, by building his strengths, lessening his weaknesses, and being his fearless coach, showing him how life should be lived.

Happy Training Everyone.