

# GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS



FEBRUARY, 2016

Training Schedule:  
 Saturday Classes @  
 GNDOC Training Center  
 in Willow Grove  
 Begin March 12, 2016

March 5, 2016 is a make up for the snow day

**BEGINNER:** 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
**INTERMEDIATE:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
**INTERMEDIATE 2:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**ADVANCED:** 12:00 p.m.– 1:00 p.m.

## FULL WILLOW GROVE CLASS SCHEDULE IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

### FEBRUARY – GOOD BYE, TRIANGLE GYM!

#### CLUB BUSINESS & MORE

##### LAST DAY AT THE GYM

As you are aware, our last day at the Triangle Gym is Saturday, 2/27/16, and after the end of the Advanced class at 12:00 p.m., we could use some help moving our equipment from the gym to be delivered up to Willow Grove. Please contact Camille to volunteer. Thanks!

##### CLASS LIMITS

##### 12 PM SATURDAY ADVANCED CLASS:

This class beginning 3/12/16 is FULL.

(There are still openings in Intermediate II at 11 am on Saturdays. Get your Class Registration forms in now!)

##### BRAGS

Nothing to report this month??

KEEP TRAINING, AND SEND ME YOUR BRAGS!!

#### \* WILLOW GROVE CLASS SCHEDULE \*

	9 am	10 am	11 am	12 pm
<b>Mon.</b>				
<b>Tues</b>		Building rented	Rally	Run Thurs
<b>Wed</b>		Beginner	Intermed. I	CGC/ Therapy
<b>Thur</b>		Utility	Open	Run Thrus
<b>Fri</b>				
<b>Sat</b>	Beginner	Intermed. I	Intermed. II	Advanced

	7 pm	8 pm	9 pm
<b>Mon.</b>	Puppy	CGC/ Therapy	
<b>Tues</b>	Beginner	Intermed. I	Rally
<b>Wed</b>	Open	Utility	Run Thrus
<b>Thur</b>	Beginner	Novice	
<b>Fri</b>			

### CLASS FEES

- Beginner classes (7 wks) - \$125 / Member Price \$80
- KPT,CGC/Therapy Dog (4 wks) - \$80 / Member Price \$40
- Intermediate I and II, Advanced, & all other classes (8 wks) - \$125 / Member Price \$80
- Classes will start the first week of every other month (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., and Nov.)

**MAKE SURE TO CHECK our  
Club Website for Class  
Schedules, Club News, Closing  
for weather, etc., etc.  
Our website is: [www.gndog.com](http://www.gndog.com)**



POST OFFICE BOX 42  
ABINGTON, PA 19001

**First Class**

# *Puppy Love:*

## **Life & Relationship Lessons from Dogs**

- ❖ Be excited to see those you care about. Imagine greeting a loved one with the enthusiasm a dog shows when its owner gets home. Imagine how loved that person would feel.
- ❖ Stop and sniff around. Take a dog for a walk, and he takes time to check out everything along the way. He explores the world around him. Imagine if you paid more attention to your surroundings. You might notice beauty you never knew existed and better appreciate the little things.
- ❖ Express yourself. When a dog wants outside, he whines and may paw at the door to let a human know. Imagine how much better life might be if when you needed something, you simply asked for it and didn't expect others to read your mind.
- ❖ Don't take yourself too seriously. A dog doesn't care how silly he looks with his head hanging out of the car window or while romping around in the park. Imagine if you didn't care what others thought of you as you tried a new fitness class at the gym.

*Sisters of St. Francis of Gosisi*  
**(THANKS TO HELEN!!) ... Ed.**



## How To Be A Creative, Successful, Dog Owner/trainer

This column covers an owner's responsibility in the training process. The Summer, 2005 Borderline obedience article was titled, "How To Determine Who Is A Talented, Knowledgeable, Obedience Trainer". That article provided the information you need to find a good trainer. Now, I address what YOUR responsibilities are in the training process. When you get the puppy, during their first year, in the ring, and in everyday living with your dog, what should you be doing? Here are my ideas to make you responsible in this endeavor.

(1) You must work your dog every day. I know, I know, everyone is busy. The bottom line is you had your chance to get a cat or a goldfish before the puppy was chosen. Now comes your work, which is a lot like having a new human baby, a twenty five hour-a-day job. A friend of mine called her children "the need machines," and so it is with puppies. Every interaction during the day can be a training session, perhaps a mini one, but one nevertheless. Examples of this include: teaching waiting at the door going in or out, a come (on line!!!) after they relieve themselves, a sit in front with a treat before going back into the crate, doing random

downs in between throwing balls or other toys.

(2) If things aren't working well, call the trainer for a "what am I doing wrong" private session. Just because you train three times a day, doesn't mean there aren't glitches. Your timing could be off, or you could be using your food incorrectly (poor positioning or offered at the wrong time). Perhaps you are not giving corrections for inattention or are letting your dog body slam you or jump up on you (both of which show disrespect and lack of focus). I used to think it was a 50% human and 50% dog in training, but after many years, I believe it is 90% the owner and 10% the dog. A good owner/trainer can get result with any breed and any problem. Right now I am working with a one year old golden retriever. She is obese, SPOILED, spits the food out on the ground, and shows me her teeth when I go to take her out of her crate. It is hard to believe humans can mess up a nice breed from a good kennel so quickly. Is she changing her attitude with me? You betcha, but the moment she goes home, her owners will go back to their placating, overly permissive behavior with her. How sad for the dog. She will spend the rest of her life on a line or flexi as she plays them like a violin. Dogs know when you are weak. **THEY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!**

(3) Some breeds need many repetitions to work through a problem. You may have a good method to teach a certain behavior, but your breed might need a lot of repetitions to get results. One of my border terriers would trot rapidly out to retrieve the dumbbell but would trot slowly on the return. I knew it would eventually be a flat walk in to me on the return with the dumbbell. I was at a July seminar. It was 80 degrees, and the very excellent clinician showed me what to do and said it would work. I had to repeat the correction 23 times before she "got it." For the rest of her

life, she always rushed back to me and the problem never reappeared. The "Come" also needs many repetitions on a line or a flexi in at least ten different places to make the dog be flat-out-serious to the command.

In a survey I did for twenty years in group classes, the number one problem was always, "THE COME". I really think "come" problems have a lot to do with your basic relationship with your dog. You can read my article, "The Come, A Relationship Problem?" in the Winter, 2000 Borderline. The number two problem was always jumping on people, and the number three was barking. Actually in my training, two and three are simple to stop. The problem continues with two and three because the **OWNERS ARE NOT CONSISTENT!**

(4) Dogs will need "tuning up" the rest of their lives. We get sloppy about things, and we forget. So do our dogs. When this happens, spend a week reworking on line and rewarding basic commands.

(5) Competition training. If you are planning to compete in the future, you must be consistent from the first day. The puppy must sit fast (better bait, noisier toys, fuzzy toys with yummy bait inside) straight front sits, and fast downs. I want my puppy to immediately spin 180 degrees back to me on the come. I will take my puppy to noisy, busy places and work them there while playing with them with great bait and toys. All of the commands will become good habits **ALL THE TIME**. You can't demand a fast moving down in the ring and let the dog down slowly at home. There is a saying, train like you show and show like you train. It is very true. When you talk to your dog, demand his attention. My article on attention was in the Winter, 2001 Borderline and it is titled, "Earth to Fido, How To Get Your Dogs' Attention". When I say the dogs name, he must spin his head

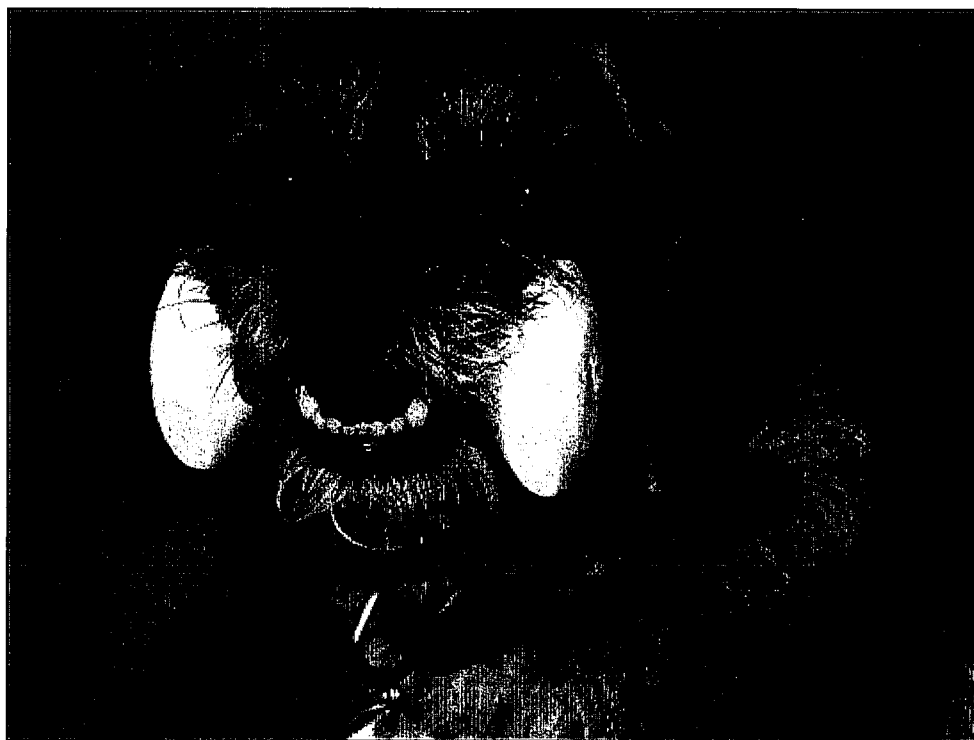
around to look at me. Remember to save his favorite toy for training. Don't let him become desensitized to the toy by letting him play with it in his free time. Another learning tool for you is to watch a cool video by Patty Russo. It is called, "Variable and Unpredictable." I reviewed it in my Autumn/Winter 1999 Borderline. That article contained LOTS of new ideas so you can make yourself worth the dog paying attention to.

To end this column, I have to address one of my pet peeves with pet owners (I consider a **PET OWNER** a person who coddles, placates, or doesn't brush the dog as Fluffy "doesn't like it." They also let their dog fly around loose in their car, and make excuses for bad behavior. A **DOG PERSON**, on the other hand, is a knowledgeable, informed, responsible owner who grooms,

crates, trains, and demands obedience in public and in the home). My pet peeve is dogs that have totally obnoxious behavior in the vet's office! This again is your responsibility. You heel your dog in (if a puppy, carry it), register and then find a seat away from the untrained, out of control, barking idiots. Then put your dog in a down by your feet or next to you on the bench. Your dog is not to whine, pull, attack other dogs, visit with other dogs (the other dogs may be there because they have had diarrhea for two days, they may have fleas, mange, or be aggressive with your dog). This is no time for social intercourse. You also must protect your dog from being frightened or hurt by other dogs. When called for your appointment, heel your dog into the exam room. Your dog should stand for the rectal thermometer and

totally accept handling from your vet (which you have practiced with the puppy at home with you and other people handling him on your grooming table). While you pay your bill, your dog sits quietly at your side and then heels out to your car and is put into his crate to be safe on the way home. I tell my students "don't ever say you train with me if you allow your dog to behave badly in public!" The out-of-control behavior is 100% you, the owner-trainer-handler. No excuses will be accepted.

And so it ends; Happy Heeling to you all!!!



*Wild West Football Scout CD RE  
Photo by owner: Dana Dacier*