

GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS



APRIL, 2016

Training Schedule:

**Saturday Classes @
GNDOC Training Center
in Willow Grove
Begins May 7, 2016**

**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.**

APRIL – New Tools, New Games – What Do You Want To Teach Your Dog To Do? (see inside!)

CLUB BUSINESS & MORE

HOUSE RULES

There are some basic rules for the GNDOC Training Center. Take a minute to read them when you are there for your next class.

CLASS LIMITS

It is time to sign up for the next session of Saturday classes beginning on May 7th. Due to the limited number of spots available applications are on a first come basis.

In addition to the Saturday classes, there are classes available during the week, day and evening. These classes are also starting the first week in May. Check out the website to see what other classes are scheduled!

CGC TEST

There are no classes scheduled on April 26 and 27. We will hold a CGC test on April 27th starting at 7pm. Brush up on the requirements on April 26th at 7pm. There is a \$10 charge for the test and \$10 charge for the CGC review. You do not have to take the review in order to take the test on Wednesday. You must preregister for the test. Registration for the review is not necessary, but please let me know that you will be coming, that way I can plan accordingly.

Here is the AKC website for the CGC pamphlet.

Pamphlets are also available at the building.
http://images.akc.org/pdf/cgc/GK9GC9.pdf?_ga=1.20656560.903341293.1387906101

NEED SOME JUMPS?

Are you looking for a set of regulation sized jumps for your yard? The club has a gently-used set of wooden jumps for sale. Give us your best offer and its yours. The jumps are at the building and ready to go. They can be in your yard this weekend.

BRAGS

Andy and her Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Rio, earned their first RAE leg on 4/3/16!! This is what Andy had to say about it: *“Rio and I just got home from Cape May. She got her first RAE leg. That's Rally Advanced and Excellent combined - kind of like a UDX leg (but in Rally). I don't remember her ever working like this happy and with me. She got a 95 in Excellent and we lost 3 points for a do over of one sign. Then I messed up a simple sign in Advanced and we got a 90. We took 2nd in Excellent and 3rd in Advanced. I was so proud of Rio!”* GREAT WORK, YOU TWO!! The Rally ring is proving to be a great intro into Obedience and a new venue for you to have fun with your dog! Ask Andy and Rio! Keep up the great work, guys!

There are lots of matches and several trials coming up, and plenty of classes for extra training opportunities, in addition to Run Thrus that can be scheduled Tuesdays or Thursdays @ 12 noon, or Wednesdays @ 9 p.m. (*call Camille to sign up*).

KEEP TRAINING, AND
SEND ME YOUR BRAGS!!

WELL, I WOULDN'T CALL IT A 'BRAG'....

So many times we get to see and read about the wonderful accomplishments of our Club Members and their dog partners...but what about the times that are not so stellar? The times that you wish you were almost anywhere but in a ring? I'd like to share a recent experience I had with my dog, Oskar. Now, Oskar loves learning and often responds well to our training in class. So, I decided to enter an outdoor Rally Trial to get his 3rd Rally Novice leg for his title.

I got there early so he could get acclimated. We 'pack walked' a little. We trained a little; we played; I rested him. He seemed calm and pleasant. When I did the walk thru of the Rally course, I questioned the judge about one of the signs and after his explanation of the exercise, he said "Or, I'd allow you to do it backwards, the total opposite way". Suddenly, this was too much information for me as I have trouble walking and chewing gum at the same time. I politely listened (because you really can't do anything else at that point), but ended up being very confused.

Oskar and I were the first team in the ring. The calm demeanor of my dog totally evaporated as we walked into the ring. He turned into a pulling, lunging, whirling, barking beast. It was all I could do to try to get his attention back on me so we could do the course. I imagine if Oskar could speak, he would have said. "*What's going on?? What are we doing? There's signs everywhere!! There's one! There's another one! Who put that table there? I see dogs!! Who are those women looking at me? That guy is wearing a bright yellow blazer!!! AHHHHH!!!*" I think you get the idea. He freaked at everything and everyone. I still insisted on getting him to complete the course (maybe I should not have done this). When we walked out of the ring, even though it was an outdoor trial with people and dogs all over the place, the silence was

deafening...Needless to say, his 'performance' was not what I expected. Luckily, Camille was there to witness his doggie meltdown and was able to later pinpoint his actions as a reaction to my confusion and tenseness as we entered the ring, where he thought he needed to step up to 'protect' me from whatever he perceived was making me 'unstable' in his eyes. With Camille's suggestions, I am working on convincing Oskar that I am in charge and capable of leading both of us. I am trying to convey that I own my surroundings and he is a lucky dog to be able to accompany me in whatever I do and wherever I go. As Andy has always said "A bad day at a trial is better than a good day at work", (*and I agree wholeheartedly*). I am training with a new outlook, looking forward to convincing my obedience partner that we are a team! ...Ed.

2016 TRAINING GOALS

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FORM. Fill it out and bring it to class. (If you do not have a printer, ask Camille for a form)

CHASING FOOD:

Luring → Rewarding → Enjoyment → Habit!

Last month, I reprinted an article written by Connie Cleveland about the use of food in training. Here is another article along the same line. In addition, Connie is offering a webinar on this aspect of training – check out the end of the article for details!

Hi there!

I sent you an email about "Chasing Food" a couple of weeks ago. Specifically, I explained the difference between using food as a lure and as a reward. I asked you to focus on how you were using food in training by making a list of each instance you rewarded your dog with food and noting the behavior you were rewarding. The purpose of making the list was to help you identify instances that you lured your dog when you should have been saving the food for a job well done.

The normal progression of training begins by (1) luring your dog with food (or a toy) to teach a behavior, and (2) rewarding your dog after he performs the behavior. Your dog comes to expect, or, at least, hope that a food or toy reward will be forthcoming.

Why does your dog perform correctly? Does

the expectation that you might be delivering a treat or breaking out a toy motivate your dog to perform?

I believe there are four reasons that dogs do what we ask of them:

Positive Reinforcement: Dogs perform correctly in order to earn a reward. Rewards are generally delivered in the form of food, toys, and praise.

Negative Reinforcement: Dogs perform correctly in order to avoid something unpleasant. Negative reinforcement is something that a dog finds offensive. Used correctly, a dog knows how to stop and how to prevent the offensive action from occurring.*

Enjoyment of the activity: Some dogs love to heel, others love jumping or retrieving.

Habit: Dogs get in the habit of performing correctly with enough practice.

I want you to seriously consider the following two statements:

The most successful competition dogs enjoy the activity.

How did they come to enjoy it? It is true that some dogs are bred to enjoy certain activities such as jumping or retrieving. However, enjoyment also comes from being rewarded for performing. Soon, the activity itself becomes fun.

The most successful competition dogs are in the habit of performing correctly.

How did they develop the habit? Habit is the result of repetition, practice in a variety of locations and common sense proofing.

Using food when you train is powerful and effective because positive reinforcement is a powerful motivator. I am not suggesting that you should not use food. There is a time and place for luring and there is a time and place for rewarding. However, you must be mindful of what you are trying to accomplish with each and every treat you deliver.

Ultimately, positive reinforcement used effectively, leads to a dog that enjoys the activities you are asking him to perform. Performing correctly becomes a dog's habit because the activity itself is fun.

Do you see the progression? *Luring* → *Rewarding* → *Enjoyment* → *Habit!*

I will be delving into these topics in greater detail during a Webinar on April 20th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. I hope you will join me.

You will find more information about the webinar at:

<https://onlineobediencetraining.com/webinar.php>

Registration information will appear in the footer of the receipt that will be emailed to you at the time of purchase.

Sincerely, Connie

Easy

I don't know where she is. Where she goes. I only know I'm left alone, alone, alone...again.

Sometimes she'll say goodbye to me. Other times, she wakes up, dresses and then just.walks.out.the.door.

It closes behind her. And I'm left alone, alone, alone...again.

She never asks me to go with her. Sometimes we'll take walks together, but even then she's always on her phone talking to anyone but me.

Somewhere in the fuzzy spot of my mind where voices snap and hiss like static, and vision folds fragments of sight onto itself, leaving only a piece of a picture reflected on my eye, we are sitting, looking at each other's face, communicating as only we could, content in one another's company. She needed me then. She'd laugh and joke with me. She enjoyed my company. She was glad she wasn't alone. She didn't mind taking care of me.

What changed? When? Maybe I've gotten more dependent as I've gotten older. I try to blend with her in her life - when she lets me. I don't understand her friends. A few of them talk *at* me, not *to* me. Some simply ignore me; they act as if I am invisible. Sometimes I wish I was...like when she walks in the door, when she finally comes home, and stops dead. Then she just begins screaming. Screaming. I've made a mess of things again, and she hates me. I can't understand everything she's saying, but her voice is so angry, it sounds like she hates me. She hates me. I turn my face away because I don't want her to see how bad I am feeling. If only the floor could open and swallow me up. But I have no escape. I've done something wrong, but she won't give me the chance to make it right.

There is someone else who fills her thoughts during the day and fills her arms at night, and she doesn't want me now. Did she ever love me? I can't feel it anymore... I can't remember the last time I could. I loved her. I love her still.

I'm afraid she's trying to get rid of me. I don't know where I'll go. I don't know who would want me. I'm old and not good looking, and having only one eye makes people feel squeamish when they look at me. No one will want me. No one will love me. I wish I could have been the one she loves, instead of just being in the way. My head hurts. My eye hurts. Who's going to take care of me?

.....Yeah, I got to get rid of him. I work all day, then I go to the gym 5 nights a week - I gotta get my workouts in, you know? Yeah, I'm out 'till 8 or 9, and when I get home, he's messed all over the house. It's just a pain to keep cleaning up after him, you know? Weekends, I got my man friend now, and it's embarrassing, my house smelling...know anyone who wants him? He's a really great dog...



POST OFFICE BOX 42
ABINGTON, PA 19001

First Class

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

Please feel free to send me any newsworthy tales, stories, jokes, articles (recipes?) or anything else you think may be of interest to our Members for inclusion in future newsletters! Emails are:
kacosta@fsalaw.com
and home email is: kacosta66@gmail.com
Kathy Acosta, Editor

2016 DOG TRAINING GOALS

Indicate which exercises your dog can do. Please fill out this form for each dog you are currently training. This will be used to plan future classes. The list is not in any specific order.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sit at heel with attention | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Stand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heel in a straight line with attention | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold dumbbell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heel with attention while doing left, right and about turns | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold dumbbell while heeling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heel with attention while doing changes of pace | <input type="checkbox"/> Take dumbbell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog sits at heel automatically when you halt | <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieve dumbbell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Figure 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieve metal article |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heel off lead | <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieve leather article |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recall | <input type="checkbox"/> Scent discrimination – articles tied down |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drop on Recall | <input type="checkbox"/> Scent discrimination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finish to the left | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark glove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finish to the right | <input type="checkbox"/> Retrieve single glove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Right Turn in place | <input type="checkbox"/> Directed glove exercise without pivot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Left Turn in place | <input type="checkbox"/> Directed glove exercise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> About Turn in place | <input type="checkbox"/> Stand signal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Stay – 1 minute | <input type="checkbox"/> Down signal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Stay – 3 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit signal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Stay – 5 minutes – out of sight | <input type="checkbox"/> Recall signal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down Stay – 3 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> Finish signal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down Stay – 5 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> High jump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down Stay – 5 minutes – out of sight | <input type="checkbox"/> Broad jump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stand for Exam | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar jump |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Directed jumping |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Go out |

2016 Goals for your dog, _____

(i.e., titles, such as CGC, CD, CDX, UD, OTCH, Other – *OR better attention, more precise response to commands, etc., etc....*)

What exercises do you want to see more of at class? _____

Your Name _____

Dog's Name _____