

GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS



JULY, 2016

Training Schedule: Our next Beginner Class Began July 7, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE:
INTERMEDIATE 2: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
ADVANCED: 11:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

JULY – Come Train – It’s Cooler Inside!

CLUB BUSINESS & MORE

Classes continue while Camille is on vacation. If you have any questions, please text Kathy at (215) 913-2739 or email at kacosta66@gmail.com.

BRAGS

Doris and her Mini Poodle, Nyssa, at the Princeton Dog Training Club trial earned their 2nd CD Leg and placed Third in their class after a Heeling run-off with the other dog that had tied their scores. Nyssa’s performance was best and she earned the 3rd Place spot. Wow! To see someone participate in a run-off is really exciting for the observers and a bit nerve wracking for the participants, so kudos to Nyssa and Doris for keeping their focus and earning their placement!

At the same trial, Andy and her Chessie, Rio, earned their 4th Rally Advanced Excellent Leg with a score of 95 in Excellent and 92 in Advanced. There was stiff competition as there were three perfect scores of 100 and four scores of 95 in the Excellent class. Andy said that days like this are incentive to keep working!

Just an aside that both teams had a very long day at the trial as they waited their turns in the ring. This means that they had to alternate warming up their dogs, exercising them and resting them while awaiting their turn, and still be able to get them to focus and perform once they got in the ring. This in itself is no easy feat, and we salute your accomplishments!

GREAT WORK, ALL!!

KEEP TRAINING, AND DON’T FORGET TO SEND ME YOUR BRAGS!!

MINI-BRAGS?

There is a new ‘white board’ in the school for all Club Members to write their training accomplishments, as these ‘mini brags’ are what you build on to improve all of your Obedience exercises. Take a minute to read the board and include your accomplishments! (*For example, Oskar has learned to stand on a platform in my attempt to curtail his fidgeting on his Stays. Now I have to convince him that he can also sit and lay down on the platform!*) Newest mantra: “Patience and Persistence”!Ed.

“Find Heel Position”

Dog trainer, Connie Cleveland, has some great training articles on her website and blog. Here is an exercise for you to help your dog find the Heel position from different positions, locations and angles:

Put your dog on his bed. Stand four feet away with your back to him. Put the treat in your left hand, on your left hip if it’s a big dog, or lower on your leg if it’s a smaller dog. Look over your left shoulder and call him into heel position. When he comes into heel position to get the treat, use your marker, and reward him. Now send him back to the bed. You choose whether you want to mark the behavior of returning to the bed. You can do this intermittently.

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Stand with your left side facing the bed. Put a treat in your left hand, on your left side, and call your dog into heel position. Now your dog should leave the bed and have to do a partial "swing" in order to get into heel position. Use your skills from "pivoting on the forehand" to require a straight sit before you mark the behavior and reward your dog. Do NOT call your dog into heel position while you are facing the bed. This looks and feels like the return to heel on the moving stand exercise and you don't need to practice that maneuver just yet.

Start alternating between having a treat ready in your left hand, and simply pointing to heel position with your finger and no treat present. When your dog sits straight, mark it and reward him. There will be a delay between your conditioned reinforcer (*Editor's Note: a Conditioned Reinforcer is whatever word you use to let your dog know they have performed an exercise correctly, such as "Yes!"*) and the delivery of the treat. That is OK.

Stop using the bed as a starting position. Instead, leave your dog in a sit, and take a step forward. Point to your left side and tell him to "Heel." Again, you will be alternating between having a treat ready in your left hand, and simply pointing to heel position with your finger and no treat present. Remember, if you mark it, you must reward it.

Call your dog to heel position from a variety of locations; behind you, beside you, slightly in front of you. Have some fun with it. Get him good at it. The majority of the time, your left hand should be pointing to heel position, but you will continue to mark and reward the behavior of finding heel position.

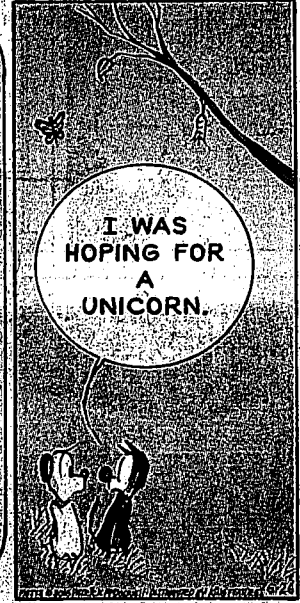
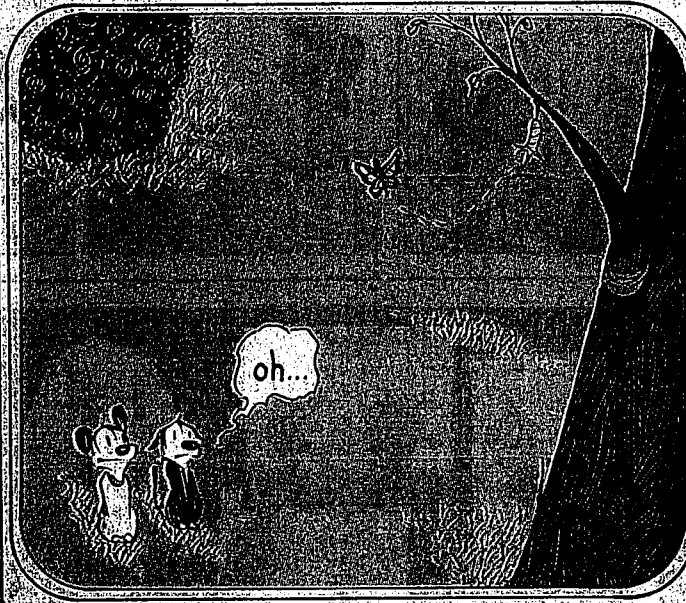
Connie Cleveland's website is:
<http://www.dogtrainersworkshop.com> . Please visit!

**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:
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and home email is: kacosta66@gmail.com

Kathy Acosta, Editor

Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



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First Class