

# GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS



AUGUST, 2016

**Training Schedule:  
SEE BELOW!**

**INTERMEDIATE:**

**INTERMEDIATE 2: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**ADVANCED: 11:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.**

## AUGUST – So Much to Learn, So Many Choices!

### CLUB BUSINESS & MORE

There will be a CGC/Therapy Dog class starting on Monday, September 12th at 8:00 pm. This is a 4 week class with testing done on week 5, Oct. 10th. The cost is \$80.

Please note that new classes starts soon!! Space is limited, so please get your registration forms in ASAP to confirm your place!

Saturday – 8/20

Tuesday – 8/30

Wednesday AM – 9/7

Wednesday PM – 8/31

Thursday PM -8/18

I know that Linda and her GSD, Mia, also competed at the same Rally trial, but I am waiting for news on their runs.

GREAT WORK!

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!.....Ed.

### BRAGS

At the trial at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on Sunday, Andy and her Chessie, Rio, earned their 6<sup>th</sup> Rally Advanced Excellent Leg with a score of 100+ AND First Place in Excellent, and 100 in Advanced, AND Second Place! In addition, Rio also was awarded High Combined for having the highest combined scores in Excellent and Advanced in that trial. Andy gives credit to the Rally Instructor and Camille for helping to figure out some of Rio's jumping issues. This is a tremendous accomplishment!! Andy said she doesn't expect these scores every time, but it shows what kind of effort her dog is capable of giving.

Our editorial this month comes from Andy – please read it!

### CALMING YOU AND YOUR DOG

*(This is an editorial from Andy based on her experience last weekend at the Trial and a great insight into what worked for her to calm herself and her dog, and help them both to focus. Thanks, Andy!)*

Rio and I arrived at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on Sunday with time to spare before our rally trial. I vaguely remembered the building as large and noisy, nothing had changed. I took Rio to look for a potty spot. Not realizing that there was grass by the front entrance I found an x-pen with cedar chips on the floor. Never having used one of these Rio immediately set to pooping and peeing. She acted as if this was no big deal.

When we entered the building I could see Rio was a overwhelmed and anxious. I remained calm and talked to her. The class before us was running a little late, so we started our tour of concession stands. We walked for about 20 minutes.

I could see Rio was still anxious so I took out her grooming glove. You don't use a brush or comb on Chessies, it ruins their coat. Her glove is a rectangle, canvas mitt with a section of loofa, and I began to brush her. I used brushing her at her novice obedience trial as a way of calming her. I found it also helped calm me down. No food needed, just a gentle touch. She always liked to get brushed and it did seem to calm her.

After about 15 minutes of gentle brushing Rio appeared ready to focus.

This must have worked because she took First in her Excellent class with a 100+. The plus is because there was another 100, but our time was faster. Although she wanted to forge, I kept telling her how good she was and she responded by staying with me. I did some more brushing between classes. She almost had a repeat in Advanced but her 100 was only good enough for Second – another team had the same score with a faster time. However, Rio's scores gave us a High Combined for Rally and gift certificates for use at the concessions. It was an extraordinary day.

This is a routine that seems to work for Rio, every dog handles the stress of showing differently. My first Chessie needed an hour to settle down. My first Portuguese Water Dog could just about go from the car to the ring. I'm not suggesting that anyone follow my routine, but develop one that works for you and your dog. When I am at a show I try to be polite to people, but my focus is always on my dog. I don't have a problem telling someone that I'm getting ready to go in the ring and could I talk with them later.

When you get to a trial or match and your dog seems anxious, overwhelmed, or fearful, is there something that you can do to help them calm down and focus? I discovered Rio loves to be brushed. Can you massage your dog or stroke them with long, gentle strokes? I know some people will help their dog do some stretching just like an athlete. Is

walking around enough for both of you to settle down? This is one time where food is no help calming your dog. They may be too stressed to eat any way or may throw up if they do. Find what helps your dog to relax when they are stressed and practice it before a trial. Do it at home so you can determine if your dog likes it. Practice it at your next match and then when you get to a trial it may help you both.

**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)**

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](mailto:kacosta66@gmail.com)

*Kathy Acosta, Editor*