

Calendar of Events

Mar 21 - Apr 25	Agility Instructors Workshops 6:00PM - 10:00PM	Apr 14	PCOTC Club Meeting 6:30PM - 8:00PM
Mar 22 - Mar 24	Kamal Fernandez Seminars 9:00AM - 5:00PM	Apr 21	Sarah Westcott Agility Seminars 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Apr 6 - Apr 11	Kris Seiter Agility Workshops 5:00PM - 10:00PM	Apr 28	Petra Ford Obedience Seminar 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Apr 7	WPW Obedience Run-Thru 8:00AM - 2:30PM	May 10 - May 12	AKC Agility Trial (at Skyline Agility) 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Apr 8	AKC FETCH Introduction 5:00PM - 7:00PM	May 19	WPW Obedience Run-Thru 8:00AM - 2:30PM
Apr 14	AKC Scent Work Trial 8:00AM - 5:00PM	May 26	Julie Bacon Mindset Seminar 9:00AM - 5:00PM



**PCOTC Wows the Crowd at
the 2024 AKC Meet the
Breeds!**

(continued on page 3)

Port Chester Obedience Training Club

AN AKC MEMBER CLUB

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Sit 'n Stay

Is a quarterly publication of PCOTC. Articles of interest to the membership are welcomed and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit all material in the interest of space constraints and appropriateness.

Sit 'n Stay is produced for online delivery.



2024 New Year's Day Agility Run-Thrus

PCOTC members jumped into 2024 with friends, fur friends, and fun at the New Year's Day Agility Run-Thrus.

To share in the New Year's cheer, participants were encouraged to bring in-kind donations to support the Humane Society of Westchester at New Rochelle.

*Photos courtesy of Andrea B. Swenson Photography
(continued on page 4)*

Club Doings

PCOTC at AKC Meet the Breeds January 27 - 28, 2024

by Sharon Ripps

After a four-year absence, PCOTC returned to the AKC's Meet the Breeds to encourage event attendees to come to PCOTC for their dog training needs and to wow the audience with our teams' agility skills. We have to say humbly that PCOTC's agility demonstrations drew the largest crowds and many oohs and ahhs as our canine teammates, large and small, flew through the weaves, in

and out of tunnels and over the jumps. Our volunteers were gracious and enthusiastic about all that PCOTC has to offer, capturing people's interest and their email addresses so that we can stay in touch with them. It was two full days of camaraderie, fun, hard work and PCOTC pride. We're already planning our return next year!

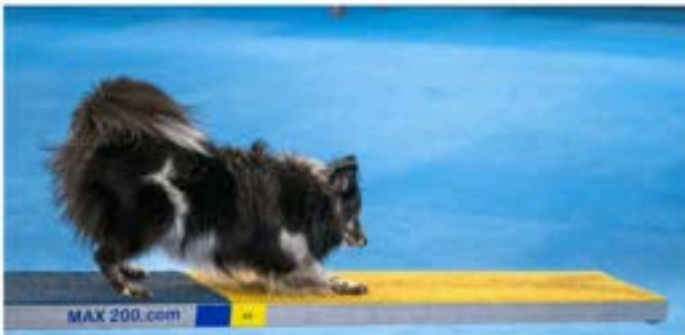
Top: Audience watches in anticipation as Marcy directs Annika to the weave poles; Left and bottom: Volunteers: Marcy Rauch, Heather Witt, Joan Kaufman, Renee Ehle, Judi Landon, Nancy Adler, Bettina Rosser, Beverly Pietrucha, Elizabeth Lynch, Elin Manell, MJ Koren, Julie Farr, Misa Martin and (not pictured) Alice Carter; Right: Joan Kaufman and Story negotiating a jump; Bottom: Misa Martin and Ipso Facto about to enter the tunnel; Canine volunteers were Hex, Annika, Rowan and Revel, Doris, Tipsy, and Ipso Facto



Agility

2024 New Year's Day Agility Run-Thrus

photos by Andrea B. Swenson Photography



Agility

AKC Agility League: PCOTC's AKC Agility League teams had a blast in the Fall 2023 season!

by Marcy Rauch

The Fall 2023 season of the PCOTC Agility League wrapped up in December, and the season award recipients have been announced!

As in the past, PCOTC had a great time participating in the “Limited” category (given the size of our space and the ever-present columns). The fall season brought us a great group of competitors, both newcomers and seasoned league-players alike. We had four teams with three captains. Marcy Rauch was captain of the PCOTC Powerhouse Senior team, Alisa Greenwald was captain of the PCOTC Jump Junkies Sophomore team, and Elpida Frantzeskarou captained both freshmen teams, PCOTC Party Animals and PCOTC Young Mavericks. A few of us also shared the judging duties for the season. Marcy judged the freshmen, Mitch Bernstein judged the sophomores, and Elpida judged the seniors.

We all learned so much, improved our handling and teamwork, and had a great time with each other. The camaraderie was stellar!

Individual Placements

Senior - PCOTC Powerhouse:

24-Inch Veteran

2 – Nova – Belgian Tervuren – Mitch Bernstein

16-inch Veteran

1 – Hex – Border Collie – Marcy Rauch

Sophomore - PCOTC Jump Junkies:

12-Inch Regular

2 – Skye – Shetland Sheepdog – Renee Ehle

16-Inch Regular

4 – Leo – American Eskimo Dog – Sharon Rippes

20-Inch Regular

1 – Annika – Border Collie – Marcy Rauch

Freshmen - PCOTC Young Mavericks:

8-Inch Regular

2 – Jaxton – Pomeranian – Krystina Murawski

16-Inch Regular

3 – Champ – All American – Jackie Soccodato

Clean Sweep Awards (All 6 rounds clean)

Senior - PCOTC Powerhouse:

Alisa Greenwald & Zoe

Evelyn Ehrich & Livy

Marcy Rauch & Hex

Stephen McKay & Grip

Sophomore - PCOTC Jump Junkies:

Ro Kinzler & Zoe

Marcy Rauch & Annika

Renee Ehle & Skye

Freshmen - PCOTC Young Mavericks:

Susan Bresler & Callie

Jackie Soccodato & Champ

Top Breed Rankings per level:

Senior - PCOTC Powerhouse:

Mitch Bernstein & Nova - 1st place Belgian Tervuren

Sophomore - PCOTC Jump Junkies:

Sharon Rippes & Leo - 1st place American Eskimo

Marcy Rauch & Annika - 1st place Border Collie

Gale Nardi & Jett - 1st place Miniature American Shepherd

Renee Ehle & Skye - 1st place Shetland Sheepdog

Freshmen - PCOTC Party Animals:

Heather Domi & Bobby - 1st place Poodle

Rachel Field & Scout - 1st place Standard Schnauzer

Freshmen - PCOTC Young Mavericks:

Krystina Murawski & Jaxton - 1st place Pomeranian

Agility

AKC Agility League: Fall 2023 Season

Grip says posing for photos is not as much fun as PCOTC's Agility League. Thanks to team captains Marcy Rauch and Elpida Frantzeskarou for their hard work and support of the league as well as everyone who volunteered. The league was a wonderful way to get some practice in as well as introducing new handlers to a trial like environment. – **Jamie and Stephen McKay**



Rachel Field and Scout. They earned Season 5 Best of Breed Standard Schnauzer. Quite the honor and well deserved!



Marcy Rauch's Annika (L) and Hex (R) with some of their Season 5 loot.

Nose Work / Scent Work

NACSW Odor Recognition Test - March 3, 2024

by Kathy Gregory, CNWI

On March 3, PCOTC held the latest in a very long line of successful ORT tests at the club. Twenty six dogs did fifty five runs in an attempt to identify Birch, Clove and Anise, odors necessary to enter a formal Nose Work competition.

Overall, 29 dogs correctly identified the odors while 29 handlers vowed to come back and try again. One of the

most voiced reasons why a team missed was that the dogs were overly concerned with a new environment and seeing so many new people. This comment points out the oft repeated advice to all competitors in all dog sports to practice in many locations and in all weather conditions to get the teams used to many environments.

We look forward to having an additional ORT in November and will welcome everyone back at that time!

Nose Work / Scent Work

Science versus Art

by Kathy Gregory, CNWI

Every week I get three or four emails touting “new” and “exciting” ways to think about working with your dog successfully on odor. These articles, some of which are packed with bold lettering, scientific quotes, and enumerated footnotes, purport to reveal the latest formulas for calculating how many hides per practice time to have, how many blind vs. known hides to place, how many times to reward a dog for going back to the same hide—or not—or how many cookies to give as a reward for a successful indication as if it is possible to provide some magic number that will guarantee success.

I read questions daily on the Internet from concerned competitors asking for equipment to buy that will guarantee a successful search, videos to watch, books to buy, seminars in which to fight for a prized working spot. How far should I be willing to go for a trial? Should I trial with my dog in the heat of August? Should I buy one of those silver coverings for my car? Should I video my searches in practice and, if so, what is the best camera to buy? The questions are endless.

It would certainly be nice to know the correct answer to these questions for everyone but, in my opinion, these questions try to make scientific what is, in reality, an art. When I look at my dog in odor I see a laser focused, odor seeking self-guided missile. All I have to do is point him in the right direction and get out of his way. I do not have to remind him what his job is when we approach a search area, he knows. He digs down into his Doberman ancestral survival tool kit and uses all his natural born abilities to locate the hide and get his reward with as little interference from me as possible. As a mere human, I can never fully know or appreciate the depth or strength of these abilities. Whatever information I can glean from the countless recommended books, seminars and scientific studies pales in comparison to knowledge gained spending a few hours simply watching my dog search on his own.

A wise dog trainer once said to me that he could take a dog from “Introduction to Scent Work” to the highest level of competition using odor and only three boxes. That was nine years ago and I silently scoffed at this notion at the time. What?? No tool kits, no varied leash lengths, no seminars, cameras, hide counters or stop watches? How is that possible?!? Well, after nine years of teaching I can honestly say that now I believe him.

He also introduced a concept to me that I think is worth mentioning. He called it Honoring the Dog. By this he meant that we should honor our dogs by trusting the messages they give us through their canine body language. If we do not interpret their messages correctly, well that’s on us. It means that these wonderful creatures who grace our lives have their own abilities and do not need us to direct every single aspect of their lives. We should also be able, through practice and positive reinforcement, to joyfully guide them to the ultimate goals of Scent Work: directing the handler to odor source using their body language no matter where it may occur.

Assuming that a dog cannot distinguish between an Obedience trial and a Scent Work trial, having to cue a dog to “find it” at the entrance to a search area or, my personal peeve, feeling it necessary to tell the dog to “find another” after every found hide are all unnecessary handler interferences and should be avoided.

In short, this is a simple sport whether you decide to compete or not. The dog has the natural ability to find odor source and all we have to do as handlers is reward him for doing a good job. Along the way, we should be having GREAT FUN and enjoying the canine miracles we have on the ends of our leashes.

This article first appeared in Perspectives, the AKC’s Delegate Newsletter, March 2024 Reprinted with permission.

Family Manners

WELCOME HOME! ADOPTING A RESCUE DOG

by Ritsa Galitsis, CPDT-KA

Congratulations on your new addition! You've just arrived home with your wonderful new rescue dog. Now what?! Bringing home a new dog is a joy and can also be a challenge. Here are some tips and guidelines to help make this a pleasant transition for you and your furry new family member.

Adding a rescue dog to your household is an exciting and rewarding experience. It's important though to understand that your new furry friend may need some time to adjust to their new surroundings. Initially, your dog may feel overwhelmed, nervous, or confused. Allow them some quiet time to decompress and adapt to their new environment. Be patient and understanding, while also keeping to a schedule for feeding, walks, etc. Setting up a clear structure is vital to your dog's smooth and successful transition. During the first week, refrain from hosting large gatherings, and avoid trips to crowded places or grooming visits, as these experiences can be stressful for your pet. If you plan to change your dog's diet, do so gradually to prevent stomach upset. When it's time to pick a vet, if you're a first time dog owner, be sure to ask friends and family for referrals. Some vet offices will offer a complimentary first visit for your rescue. Also, especially if you've adopted a young dog, you may want to look into pet insurance.

If possible, bring your new dog home when you can spend a few days at home with them before returning to a busy work schedule. Whether you're bringing home a puppy or an adult dog, be sure to create a safe and secure environment. Remove potential hazards and keep valuable or dangerous items out of reach, such as remote controls and shoes. Remember your dog doesn't know the difference between Prada and Payless!

Designate a safe space for your dog during those times when they are not being supervised or just need some alone time, such as a crate or an x-pen. Other essential supplies to get before your dog arrives are an ID tag, sturdy collar, harness and regular leash. Ensure the collar fits comfortably and securely and the ID tag is attached on day one.

Offer a variety of toys to keep your dog entertained and mentally stimulated. Interactive food toys, chew items, and soft toys are all great options. Your dog should be closely supervised when given any item for the first time to prevent choking hazards. Take your dog outside frequently, or provide a designated area indoors if using wee-wee pads, to prevent accidents.

What about training? Start early but start with small steps. Balance, patience, and a sense of humor are keys to success. Don't put pressure on your dog by trying to teach them several new behaviors, or throwing words at them. Remember, your dog doesn't speak English. Set boundaries early on and be consistent. If your dog is not going to be allowed on the couch, don't allow them on the couch in their first few days at home and then change the rules. As far as which behaviors to teach, focus on what's most important – name recognition and coming when called. Feel free to change your dog's name, they are likely not used to the name they've been given, but if you are going to change it, do so early on. Use positive reinforcement techniques to teach COME and to turn it into their favorite behavior. Always use a happy voice when calling your dog, always reward your dog for coming to you and use a super awesome treat (ex: chicken, cheese, hot dog, etc.). Teach your dog that coming to you when you call is the best decision they can ever make.

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People often say they don't see their dog's true personality until several weeks or months after adoption. There is actually a general guideline called the rule of three. This guideline covers the three crucial stages during your adopted dog's adjustment period - the first three days, the first three weeks, and the first three months. Don't be surprised as your dog's personality continues to change and blossom in the days, weeks and months ahead. By following these tips and providing a supportive, nurturing, enriching and safe environment,

you can help your new rescue dog transition smoothly and happily into their new life with you. Establishing good habits in those first weeks will lay the groundwork for a lifetime of happiness for you and your dog.

Patience, consistency and lots of love will go a long way in building a strong bond and wonderful life with the newest member of your family.

Club Event

Sarah Stoodley Disc Dog Workshops

by Sara Gagnon

On February 17 and 18, Port Chester Obedience Training Club welcomed Sarah Stoodley to share her knowledge on all things disc dog related. Coming from a background of working with Frenchies and Whippets, she had a wealth of knowledge on how to build a relationship of play through discs with any kind of dog.

Saturday kicked off with an introduction to the game of disc. Handlers were given tips to help their disc fly straight and far. Sarah did a fantastic job adjusting to each dog and coming up with methods to either get them chasing a disc or catching one. The afternoon session had dogs already interested in playing disc and Sarah

helped those students build up their dogs' drive and work on handing off a disc, ending with some great advice on how to take their game to the next level.

On Sunday, Sarah led a Freestyle geared seminar and helped people fix their overs and rebounds. Using the triangle game, she helped each attendee walk out of the seminar with the framework for a mini freestyle sequence. Sarah's bright and cheerful teaching style was inspiring and entertaining. She made it her goal to have each team walk away feeling successful and with tips to use to keep building on that success.

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Club Event

Sarah Stoodley Disc Dog Workshops

February 17-18, 2024

Photos by Sara Gagnon



Of Interest . . .

CANINE SCIENCE: **Does training make your dog smarter?**

by Kathleen Engelmann, PhD

A synopsis of [Nerys Mellor, Sarah Dalesman, et al., \(2024\) Impact of Training Discipline and Experience on Inhibitory Control and Cognitive Performance in Pet Dogs, *Animals*, 14\(3\), 428](#)

A well-trained working or sporting dog can outperform an untrained dog on solving problems, but what happens when you begin training a pet dog in scent work, obedience, or agility? Does that improve their cognitive skills? That's what Sarah Dalesman and Nerys Mellor of Aberystwyth University, Wales, set out to answer.

They recruited owners via social media from local dog training clubs and asked about their dogs' training experience in agility, scent work, and obedience, the three most common training activities. Dogs were evaluated by local trainers and judges and assigned a training level between one and seven, seven being highly experienced. Scores were added for dogs with multiple training activities, making 21 the maximum score possible. They collected data on sex, neuter status, breed group, and age of the dogs.

Forty dogs participated in the trials. 17 were primarily trained in obedience, 11 in scent work, and 8 in agility. 10 dogs trained in a single discipline, 19 in two disciplines, and 7 in all three.

The dogs and handlers were asked to perform two tasks. The A-not-B task required dogs to watch the experimenter place and later move a treat reward hidden under one of three containers. The Detour task required dogs to navigate around a transparent barrier; deviations from the shortest path were considered errors. Dogs were familiarized with the tasks and training space and assessed for stress behaviors before testing. The A-not-B

task included a training phase before testing; dogs were given the verbal cue 'Look' before the experimenter placed the treats.

In the A-not-B task, dogs with more disciplines and training levels were more likely to be successful, but the training discipline was not significant. Interestingly, they found duration of eye contact between dog and handler also predicted success rates; dogs that had, on average, less than five seconds of eye contact were less likely to be successful compared to dogs with 15 seconds or more average eye contact. Neither age, stress, breed group, sex, nor neuter status were significant.

In the Detour task, only age was significant; younger dogs performed better than older dogs. They found dogs showing more stress behaviors made fewer errors (took the shortest path) but did not perform better otherwise. Success rates in the A-not-B task and the Detour task were correlated.

Combining data from both tasks revealed a pattern. Dogs who were faster and more accurate in one task tended to be faster and more accurate in both. This was considered evidence of inhibitory control, the ability to focus on the task. Dogs trained primarily in scent work had greater inhibitory control than dogs trained primarily in agility. By analyzing the types of errors made, they also found that dogs trained in scent work were more consistent in their approaches to a task and less likely to explore alternative solutions.

The authors conclude that studies grouping dogs into 'highly trained' and 'untrained' categories without considering the type of training may be missing important differences in canine cognitive skill development.

Of Interest . . .

CANINE SCIENCE: **Myth Busting: Breed may not predict personality!**

by Kathleen Engelmann, PhD

A synopsis of [Kathleen Morrill and Elinor Karlsonn, et al., \(2022\) Ancestry-inclusive dog genomics challenges popular breed stereotypes, Science 376, Issue 6592](#)

Kathleen Morrill and Dr. Elinor Karlsonn at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School are challenging assumptions about how breed ancestry influences dogs' temperaments with a huge database of dog genomics and behavioral data to back it up.

In 2018, Dr. Karlsonn founded Darwin's Ark, an open data resource for collecting owner-reported phenotypes and genetic data. Her team of more than a dozen scientists have been collaborating with pet owners, collecting behavioral data and samples for genetic analyses. For this study, they used survey data from 18,385 dogs (49% purebred) and sequenced the DNA of 2155 dogs. Importantly, by including mixed breed dogs, they were able to disentangle owner expectations about dogs' behaviors based on presumed ancestry.

They found 11 regions of the dog genome that are significantly associated with behavior and 136 suggestive regions. While they did find that most behavioral traits are heritable, breed offers little predictive value for individuals, explaining just 9% of variation in behavior. Breed-specific differences in behavior are subtle at best.

Biddability, responsiveness to direction and commands, was not only shown to be more heritable than other personality traits, but also more breed specific. Border Collies, Belgian Malinois, and Vizsla are among the most biddable breeds. The most independent, least biddable breeds are the Basset Hound, Alaskan Malamute, Shiba Inu, Miniature Pinscher, and the Great Pyrenees. Nevertheless, the authors point out that there is a high level of variability in this trait within breeds and across individual dogs.

By contrast, breed is almost uninformative for Agonistic Threshold, how easily a dog is provoked by frightening or uncomfortable stimuli. Arousal Level, Toy-directed Motor Patterns, Dog Sociability, Environmental Engagement, and Proximity Seeking (affectionate versus aloof) also all have lower heritabilities and very little breed-specificity.

Human Sociability was found to be highly heritable, but not breed-specific. For example, friendliness towards people may be more common in dogs with Labrador Retriever ancestry, but highly friendly dogs can be found in any breed or mix and are common in most of them.

Interestingly, Howling Frequency, Retrieving, and Pointing are all highly heritable and more breed-specific than the personality traits. Physical traits like ear shape, size, and tail curl are all highly heritable and breed-specific suggesting that these aesthetic traits and not temperaments have been the primary targets of selection.

They also found that age can be predictive of Arousal Level and Toy-directed Motor Patterns, sex has little effect except for "Lifts leg to urinate", and size has virtually no effect.

Their conclusion: dog breed is generally a poor predictor of individual behavior and should not be used to inform decisions relating to selection of a pet dog, at least as far as temperament is concerned. Physical characteristics can tell you more about a dog's ancestry, but even that is not a reliable way of discerning the ancestry of a mixed breed dog.

Explore these data at the interactive site [Darwin's Ark project](#). To learn more about the Darwin's Ark project, please see <https://darwinsark.org/about-us/>

AKC Delegate's Report

Fourth Quarter AKC Delegate Report 2023

by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC's AKC Delegate

The December meeting of the AKC Delegates was held in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the 2023 AKC Invitational. Highlights of interest to our club members were: The [New York City Meet the Breeds](#) will be at the Javits Convention Center January 27 -28, 2024.

Status by Sports – Number of Entries – as of November 29, 2023: January – October: 2023 vs 2022

- Agility up 0.9%
- Rally up 12.0%
- Scent Work up 18.3%
- Herding - 6.8%
- Earthdog up 13.6%
- Obedience up 3.0%
- Fast CAT® up 25.1%
- Conformation up 1.0%
- Lure Coursing up 12.1%
- All AKC Events up 3.8%

Director of Agility reported on the following:

- 2023 Agility Invitational: 701 Entries with 75 Jr. Runs, 170 Different Breeds from 41 States and Canada, 167 Breed Champions. Finals to be shown on ESPN.
- 2024 Agility Nationals, March 14-17, 2024 to be held in Perry, Georgia. The Premium List is posted and entries opened on December 5, 2023. The final will be filmed and will be shown on ESPN.
- New – FCI Class over age 55 years if age.

Director of Obedience reported on the following:

- This is the 10th year for AKC to host the Obedience Classic. The Obedience Classes had an entry of 217 teams from 35 states showing 55 breeds.
- National Obedience Championship (ROC) will be held July 20 & 21, 2024 in Wilmington, OH.
- Rally National Championship (RNC) will be held July 18 & 19, 2024 in Wilmington, OH.
- Obedience Judges Education – The Obedience Judges Seminar, Novice – (Course 4) is now online at Canine College by AKC. Open (Course) 5 and Utility (Course 6) to follow shortly. Judges will receive notification when each course is added.
- [Obedience Stewarding Video](#) was published in June.
- [Obedience Rankings system](#) has been created.

- The proposal of being able to gently talk to your dog in Obedience BN and Novice class was not approved.
- AKC Recording/Service Fee – The Board reviewed and recommended a consistent recording/service fee of \$3.50 per entry across all sports. Effective January 2024.

Displaceable High Jump – Obedience and Rally The Board VOTED to modify the Obedience Regulations Chapter 1, Section 34 and the Rally Regulations Chapter 1, Section 36 to change the design and construction of the high jump to allow displaceable panels. In order to not cause an undue burden on event giving clubs, this transition must be completed by July 1 2025.

Agility Updates January 2024 The Board reviewed several recommended changes to the Agility Regulations that are meant to expand opportunities for exhibitors, make an event run more efficiently, and update technical equipment requirements for safety and to reflect current course designs.

The recommendations cover the following topics:

- Allow For Exhibition Only (FEO) in all classes.
- Reduce wheeling of Open courses to one time.
- Increase the course yardage allowed for 8- & 12-inch heights (and corresponding Preferred heights) for the Excellent and Master levels.
- No longer require the Pause Table in the Excellent and Master Standard classes.
- No longer require a “Bar” jump in any courses.
- Only allow one time use of the tire obstacle in a course.
- Allow the use of a Wall Jump in Excellent and Master classes to add obstacle variety.
- Increase course yardage allowed in Jumpers with Weaves at the Excellent and Master levels for all heights (and corresponding Preferred heights).
- These last are proposed changes and will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Club Member News

Omar Retires from Dog Sports

by Darrell Dwyer dbdwyer@msn.com

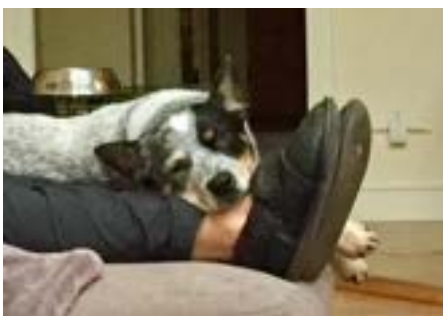
At the age of fifteen and after almost thirteen years of active participation in PCOTC classes and events my Australian Cattle Dog, Omar (aka "Omie") has officially retired. As anyone who truly loves his work, he was reluctant to do so. After arthritis made it hard for him to continue in Dog Agility, he tried Obedience and for the last year and a half has been enjoying Nose Work.

As a puppy Omar had no interest in dog-like activities; fetch, Frisbee or even a tug of war held no allure for him. He did, however, have an abundance of energy. Without several hours of vigorous off leash hikes in the woods he'd bark at us all night long seemingly in frustration. In desperation, I enrolled him in Dog Agility classes at PCOTC and it changed both his and my life. Omar could not get enough of the sport and would train forever, never seeming to tire of the routines. He also generalized the activities so that when on a walk in the woods a rock would become a pause table and a downed tree would be a substitute for the dog walk. Many times, I'd be walking and look back to find Omie lying down on a flattish rock. When I called; "Omar come!" He'd remain frozen in place until I realized I had to use his release cue of "OK" or he wasn't going to budge. His

lessons were well ingrained in his new persona as a "performance dog"!

Omar was also a tireless ambassador representing our club at public events designed to promote our training facility. It was not unusual for him to spend seven hours or more, with barely a break, greeting people and performing a repertoire of tricks while I extolled the virtues of having professional guidance in dog training. I'd like to think that we were a good team, but in truth Omar was the leader and it was he who carried me through these marathons! After one particularly successful "Meet the Breeds" show in NYC, as we were heading toward the exit, a group of people pointed at us and exclaimed; "Look there's Omar!" I was so proud. It was like being with Brad Pitt and some of the glamor wears off on you!

Omar continues to take longish walks in the woods. He still enjoys doing a few tricks, (though changing position in his bed is a chore much less doing a full roll over!) and he has our sassy Cairn Terrier, Phoebe, to chase around but for the most part he enjoys lying in the sun, sleeping and of course getting some special treats.



Omar enjoying retirement.



Glad Tales



JAVA

Here is Java at one of his shows where he got Best of Winners. He has earned 1 Major and 5 points toward his championship. Hope he will finish in this upcoming season!

— **Andrea Swenson**

Matcha

Matcha and I have embarked on our hike of the entire 2,190 mile long Appalachian Trail. We are about 300 miles in and plan to complete it by next fall. Matcha is showing off all her polite leash skills and agility commands on the trail. We are loving it!

— **Hanna Vanderloop**



Sad Tales

Rocket J

(aka: Rocky)

12/12/05 - 1/24/24

Rocky was born in my hands. I knew he was mine as soon as he was born. He was my most special handsome boy.

He ran and loved agility until one day he looked at me and said he was no longer enjoying competing; he was doing it for me. Though he was still running well, and often placing ,, I respected his wishes and that was our final weekend competing. After agility, he took freestyle classes at PCOTC and just loved them. He also loved herding, frisbee, hiking, and running at the beach. But more than anything, he loved his border collie girls!



Rocky was the consummate showman and loved to please crowds at our demos around Westchester and the big Meet the Breeds events in NYC, he also had a soft side and sought out those who needed a friendly cuddle.

The last many months of his life he had some neurological issues, so I got him wheels and we spent a lot of time at the park and at the beach. He loved being a dog again and choosing where he could walk and run.

I let him go in January at 18+ years. What a glorious long life, but still not long enough. Rest well, my friend ... till we meet again.

— Marcy Rauch, Hex, and Annika

OUR STARS

*New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members as of March 29, 2024
compiled by Michelle Trummer*

CONFORMATION TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Best of Winners

10/15/23 Andrea Swenson, Avalon's Journey, "Java,"
Boxer

OBEDIENCE TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

2/29/24 Nancy Oestreicher, "Rusty," Italian Spinone

Beginner Novice (BN)

3/17/24 Michelle Trummer, Rockwoods It Only Takes
A Spark, RN ACT1J BN, "Sparky," Shetland
Sheepdog

Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

3/3/24 Susan Sperling, Wigglebutt Out of the Park,
"Parker," Miniature American Shepherd

THERAPY DOG TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Therapy Dog Novice (THDN)

11/14/23 Betsy Schwartz, Bizzeeboots Moondust
THDN Eleanor, "Ellie," Old English Sheepdog

AGILITY TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Master Agility Champion (MACH)

2/4/24 Janet Metzger, MACH Safranne's Rascal of
Redding, "Rascal," Miniature Poodle

Canine Performance Events (CPE)

Speedway Elite (C-SWE)

12/8/23 Sarah Johnson, "Zephyr," Sports Mix

UKI

Speedstakes Novice (SSN)

3/9/24 Stephen McKay, Bare Cove Hair Force One,
"Tease," Shetland Sheepdog

NOSEWORK TITLES

National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW)

Nose Work 1 (NW1)

11/19/23 Kathy Gregory, Gr Ch Kalora's Maximus B
Kissable, "Max," Doberman Pinscher

Level 1 Interior Element (L1I)

9/10/23 Kathy Gregory, Gr Ch Kalora's Maximus B
Kissable, "Max," Doberman Pinscher

BARN HUNT

Barn Hunt Association (BHA)

Rat Champion 12 (RATCH X 12)

9/23/23 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du Dantero,
"Axe," Belgian Malinois

Master Elite Champion 7 (REMX7)

11/11/23 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du
Dantero, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

FARM DOG CERTIFICATION (FDC)

American Kennel Club (AKC)

10/1/23 Betsy Schwartz, Bizzeeboots Dream On HI
FDC, "Aero," Old English Sheepdog

HERDING INSTINCT TEST (HI)

American Kennel Club (AKC)

10/1/23 Betsy Schwartz, Bizzeeboots Dream On HI
FDC, "Aero," Old English Sheepdog