



Yips & Quips

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2023

Muncie Obedience Training Club

MUNCIE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB THE PAST 76 YEARS

In September 2022 the Muncie Obedience Training Club celebrated a milestone: the club has now been part of the Muncie Indiana community for over 3/4 of a century. Many citizens of Muncie and Delaware county have taken their dogs through our training classes and some have joined the club and competed at our trials. When MOTC was founded in 1946 the American Kennel Club licensed primarily dog shows (conformation) and had only been licensing Obedience trials for 13 years. Obedience did not require dogs to meet breed standards, just perform exercises with their handlers that demonstrated the benefits of owning a well-trained purebred dog. It laid the groundwork for what was to follow.

In 1989 AKC started the Canine Good Citizen program, open to purebred and mixed breed dogs, to encourage dog training by all dog owners. A few years after, MOTC began offering a 10 week CGC class as its beginner class. Owners of mixed breeds who took the class had a chance to add an AKC title, CGC, to their dog's name. By the end of the 1990s AKC added Agility as a sport for purebred dogs outside of the dog show ring. MOTC was fortunate to have members interested in Agility and willing to offer equipment and facilities for training it. As the 2000s dawned Rally Obedience (Rally-O!) was created to attract Agility exhibitors to Obedience. AKC picked it up as a sport and MOTC was among the first clubs to offer an AKC Rally trial.

In 2010 AKC set up the Canine Partners registry for mixed breed dogs allowing them to compete in AKC Obedience, Agility, and Rally trials when permitted by the offering club. MOTC was one of the first clubs to open its trials to mixed breeds in 2010. AKC added FastCAT in 2016 to its sports open to all dogs and mixed breeds, a straight lure coursing sport of 100 yards. After locating a special facility to hold FastCAT trials MOTC began offering them too. AKC added Scent Work in 2017 and MOTC was able to offer Scent Work classes and trials;

Scent work was added to the Canine Partners list of sports where mixed breeds could compete.

The past 76 years in dog training and canine companion sports and MOTC and its members have been willing to embrace them all. It will be interesting to see what the next 24 years hold.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BOBBI SICCARDI

Greetings all:

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2023 that is filled with many qualifying scores and title completions.

Just a few announcements:

Awards banquet is coming up. Please save the date of February 19th from 2 pm to 4 pm. If you have not yet emailed pictures of your training companions (both past and present) please do so. We will have a special presentation and would like all dogs included. Pictures can be emailed to M.Janek@aol.com or bjsrdrunr50@aol.com

The next member meeting will be held on March 26th at 4 pm. There will be a board meeting before this meeting at 3 pm. Both meetings will be at the clubhouse. Floor nominations will be taken at the member meeting for anyone who wants to run for the board. You must be present to accept the nomination or, if you cannot be present, a letter must be presented to the board from you accepting the nomination.

Our spring Scent Work Trial and Obedience/Rally Trials are quickly approaching. Please plan on volunteering at these events to support the club. You can always show your dog while you are volunteering. More information will be forthcoming.

Finally, the first day of spring is 3/20/2023. Let's hope the warmer weather comes with the date.

Wishing you all a safe and warm rest of your winter

Sincerely,

Bobbi Siccardi

MOTC Board President

#in a world where you can be anything, always be kind to others

EDITORIAL

NOMINATION TIME AGAIN

BK GRICE

March approaches and it's time again to take nominations for the Board of Directors. Each year a nominating committee is appointed by the Board. The nominating committee approaches members they think would be suitable to serve on the Board for the upcoming club year to come up with a slate or nominees. The slate of nominees is presented to the Board and club members at the March meetings. At the March members' meeting once the slate of nominees has been announced further nominations may be made at the meeting. Nominees must be club members in good standing with the AKC and MOTC and willing to serve on the board if elected. If you have not been contacted by the nominating committee and wish to serve on the board please consider nominating yourself or having someone else nominate you at the March members' meeting.

Nominees at the meeting (other than the slate) must be present to assent to their nomination or present a letter stating that they will accept if nominated to the board prior to the March members' meeting. If you have ever thought that the club should take a different direction, then I urge you to step up and nominate yourself as a candidate for the board. Board members meet about 10 times throughout the year to plan club business aligned with the club mission and values. Board members are elected each June and serve from July through June.

CALENDAR

Awards Banquet—February 19 2 pm	Board Meeting—April 23 4 pm
Board Meeting—February 26 4 pm	Hamilton DTC—Agility trial, DDTC 9/22-24
Queen City DTC—Obedience/Rally C matches, 2/27	Board Meeting—May 21 4 pm
MOTC Scent Work Trial—Muncie Career Center, 3/18-19	Queen DTC—Obedience/Rally C matches, 5/21
Board Meeting—March 26 3 pm	Hamilton DTC—FastCAT, Brookville OH 6/16-18
Member Meeting—March 26 5 pm	Board Meeting—June 11 3 pm
Hamilton DTC—FastCAT, Brookville OH 4/2123	Member Meeting—June 11 4 pm, election

THE SCIENCE OF OPERANT CONDITIONING

BK GRICE

Operant conditioning occurs when an animal or person interacts with their environment. By interacting with the environment an animal or person learns what works for it and what doesn't. Understanding how it works can help you change your own habits and more effectively train your dog.

In the early 20th century Edward Thorndike developed what became known as the Law of Effect which says that an animal's behavior is affected by the results it gets. If the animal's behavior gets desirable results it will tend to repeat that behavior in the same situation, while if the behavior gets undesirable results it will tend not to repeat that behavior in the same situation. B. F. Skinner built on Thorndike's Law of Effect and developed the theory of Operant Conditioning where an animal makes a conscious choice whether to repeat a behavior or not rather than responding reflexively. He introduced some new terms to identify what he saw happening. Reinforcement occurs when a behavior tends to be repeated or strengthened. Punishment occurs when a behavior tends to cease or weakens. This could be observed as a conscious decision of the animal to repeat or avoid the behavior. Skinner also introduced terms to identify if something was added or removed from the situation and changed the behavior. Positive means something is added to a situation and affects the behavior. Negative means something is removed from the situation and affects the behavior. (The terms positive and negative are sometimes misconstrued as emotional terms similar to a positive or negative attitude but they are actually used in mathematical terms such as positive and negative numbers.) It is only after the behavior occurs that it can really be determined if it was reinforced or punished as a response to something being added or removed from the situation. Spraying a dog with water may be intended to punish a behavior, but some dogs like being sprayed with water making it a reinforcer.

- Positive Reinforcement occurs when something is added to a situation and a given behavior tends to be repeated. For example, a child sits still during church and is given candy after service; in response the child sits quietly in the church next time. The candy was added to the situation and sitting still increased.
- Negative Reinforcement occurs when something is removed from a situation and a given behavior tends to be repeated. For example, you get in the car and an obnoxious alarm goes off and stops when you buckle your seat belt; in response you buckle your seat belt each time you get into the car. The alarm was removed from the situation and fastening your seat belt increased.
- Positive Punishment occurs when something is added to a situation and a behavior stops repeating or repeats less often. For example, a child takes a figurine from a shelf and is spanked; in response the child leaves the figurine alone. Spanking was added to the situation and touching the figurine stopped.
- Negative Punishment occurs when something is removed from a situation and a behavior stops repeating or repeats less often. For example, your daughter stays out past curfew and you take away her cell-phone; in response, your daughter comes home before curfew. Her phone was removed from the situation and staying out past curfew stopped.

What does that look like in respect to dog training?

- Positive Reinforcement: the dog sits and is given a treat, the dog now sits frequently; treat is added, sits increase.
- Negative Reinforcement: you pinch your dog's ear and the dog takes its dumbbell, the dog now takes the dumbbell readily; pinch was removed, taking dumbbell increases. (Cont'd on page 5)

- Positive Punishment: dog barks and you put your hand around its muzzle, the dog stops barking as frequently; hand was added, barking decreased.
- Negative Punishment: dog jumps up on child and child is removed from dog area, next time the child is in the dog area the dog does not jump on the child; child's company was removed, jumping up on the child decreased.

Understanding how animals and people are affected by their environment can help when you are training your dog, teaching people, or trying to change your habits. By careful observation you can determine how operant conditioning is functioning and use it to your advantage.

BRAGS & WAGS

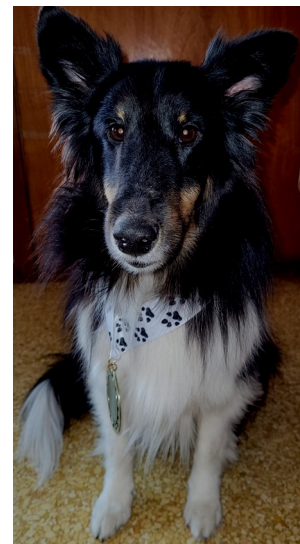
Jo Grieger's Micha took High Combined in Obedience at our November Obedience trial. Micah is one of the 6 Australian Shepherds that are 1st round Invitees to the AKC NOC in Ohio

BK Grice's Lumi completed her Rally Master title at our November Rally trial.

Sabrina Prim's Kane completed his Companion Dog Excellent title and is now working on his Utility Dog title. Kane is CH Pebble Creek Lakesyde Blu Us Away at Four Seasons CDX RI BN is co owned by Sabrina, Courtney Corral, Doug & Sue Hippler.



Jo Grieger's Micha with his High Combined ribbon and other awards



BK Grice's Lumi with her medal for finishing her Rally Master title





Muncie Obedience Training Club has been part of the Muncie, Indiana community since 1946.

Our mission is to teach people to be responsible dog owners and canine companion sports participants and to hold events that demonstrate the benefits of dog training.

Our mission is accomplished through the actions of our volunteers who support our mission, support dog ownership, and love dogs.