



Muncie Obedience Training Club

Students of Muncie Obedience Training Club's Scent Work classes, led by Hanna Kadinger and Rachael Alspach, spent a September Wednesday evening at the Clubhouse reorganizing Scent Work equipment and supplies. Objects in the annex, the porch, and the hot room, formerly the storage room, were sorted, organized, and sometimes tossed. The goal now is to keep these areas organized and neat. Thanks to everyone who helped in this effort!

The sport of Scent Work requires the use of lots of every day objects to create courses where dogs can search for hidden "hides" (specially scented swab tips). Because so many objects are used it is easy for them to...sprawl. In addition, once an object has been used to conceal a hide it becomes "hot" and needs to be separated from clean items until they can be properly aired out and de-scented. These items are kept in the hot room. It is important that other items not be put in the hot room where they risk acquiring these scents and that the door be kept closed when not in use so that the scents do not drift throughout the building. Rally equipment has been

SUPPORT ORGANIZED SCENT WORK



Audrey Muhlenkamp, Kendra Ervin, Chris Bragg, and Susie Hasecoter give a thumbs up after organizing the Scent Work annex area



Hanna Kadinger and Rachael Alspach give thumbs up after organizing the hot room moved to the annex. Extra gates and Obedience jumps have been moved to the annex or training rings.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BOBBI SICCARDI

Greetings all:

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall weather in Indiana. By the time you read this, we will have completed our last event of the year. It is a daunting task when you think about how many events we actually support as a club and the number of volunteers needed to support these events. At last count, I believe we have 52-54 members with maybe a few more who have applied for membership. The events we support are as follows:

3 obedience weekends consisting of 3 days of Rally and 6 days of obedience

3 scent work trials consisting of 6 days of runs where participants can finish multiple titles in a weekend

2 FastCAT Trials consisting of 6 days of runs for dogs.

If you break that down to the minimum number of volunteers needed (and I am guesstimating here because we can never have enough volunteers), we need:

Rally – 5 volunteers per day to include 1 gate, 2 course builders, 1 timer and 1 table steward. If the volunteers can't work all day, each day, then we need more. This doesn't include the trial secretary, the ribbon person, the chief ring steward, and others who are needed the day before to make sure the building is set up and ready to go per the judges' specifications.

Obedience – 4 volunteers per day to include 1 gate steward to make sure dogs are checked in and ready to go into the ring, 2 stewards to put out articles, set jumps, place gloves, and take leashes, etc. and 1 table steward. This doesn't include the trial secretary, chief ring steward and the ribbon person.

Scent work – 5 judges need a minimum of 2 volunteers per day so that equals a minimum 10 volunteers per day (maybe more if someone cannot volunteer all day) plus all of the other background jobs such as trial secretary, ribbons, judges hospitality, and set up the day before which usually requires 5-6 people. I know at the scent work trial, participants in the trial often step up to help as well.

Fast Cat – 6 volunteers per day to include 1 person managing the blind, 1 person to check in dogs, 2 people to hold and release dogs, 1 person in the trailer for ribbons and 1 person at the catch pen.

Additional volunteers are needed to teach public classes as this is a significant revenue source for the club. Right now, we have 5 members teaching public classes with other members to assist them. Competition classes are also offered on Tuesday nights and Wednesday during the day. There is also conformation practice on Thursday evenings that 2 members conduct and a member also oversees Friday evenings where people can come to train (including non-members). Sundays are often open for Rally and Obedience practice if members want to volunteer to staff these events. Additionally, a number of folks step up to do things to help manage the building and cook for events along with judge's transportation and hospitality for them while they are here at our request.

If there is one crisis facing this club, it is the lack of volunteers to support the activities we do. Typically, the same people offer their time and talents to assist with these endeavors. We need those who have never volunteered for the club to step up and assist. When you signed up as a member, you agreed to do this. We need

you now more than ever. This is the crossroads where we currently stand in my humble opinion. The club is financially sound at this point which is awesome, but we won't be able to sustain this if we don't have more people willing to step up and help, especially for the revenue producing activities.

There will be a Holiday party/member meeting on December the 11th from 2 pm to 4 pm at the clubhouse. This issue will be the only topic on the agenda. All ideas, including decreasing the number of events we do, will be on the table for discussion. There is no bad idea. We will gather everyone's suggestions and if possible, take a vote on what the plan of action will be for next year. This decision is up to the membership. It is not a board decision, nor should it be. The board serves the membership, it should never dictate.

For the party, please bring a covered dish or dessert to share and a dog toy, dollar limit is \$10 or less, if you want to participate in the gift exchange. Please note that you are not required to participate in the gift exchange, but we want you there to eat the great food our membership makes and to have a say in the future of your club. There will be special presentation as well so please plan to attend.

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

Upcoming Dates

National Hiking Day—November 17

Board Meeting November 20 10 am

(Accessible by Zoom or at Clubhouse, see page for Zoom info)

International Day of Veterinary Medicine—December 9

National Mutt day—December 2

Board Meeting—December 11 12 pm

Member Meeting—December 11 2 pm

AKC National Championship December 17 & 18

Board Meeting—January 29 4 pm

Awards Banquet—February

Board Meeting—February 26 4 pm

Board Meeting—March 26 3 pm

Member Meeting—March 26 5 pm

Board Meeting—April 23 4 pm

Board Meeting—May 21 4 pm

Board Meeting—June 11 3 pm

Member Meeting—June 11 4 pm, election

Board meeting on November 20 will be at 10 am. Chris and Angie will be at the clubhouse for those who wish to attend there. For those who wish to Zoom or call in you may use the following information:

<https://bsu.zoom.us/j/5504942459?pwd=dk9JVVdRWExVdHFiSTV5RGQ3c3FkZz09>

Meeting ID: 550 494 2459

Passcode: 9*p@ry

One tap mobile

+13092053325

EDITORIAL

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

BK GRICE

Daylight savings time ended two weekends ago signaling the impending conclusion of 2022. Thanksgiving is next week, Christmas is 4 weeks later, and New Year's Eve the following week. What happened to the other 46 weeks! For many of us these 6 weeks will pass in a blur of get-togethers, gift exchanges, programs, concerts, and shopping trips; ending just in time to complain about the cold weather.

In the few calm moments that you find in that time, may I suggest you look at the canine companions beside you. Thankfully, they come home with us when we flub up at trials and training, they forgive us when we forget to feed them or take them out because of the busyness of the season, and when we are stressed out they ease up to us and suggest a play break or snuggle session. While I am thankful for many things in my life, I am very thankful for my dogs.

They make me go out for fresh air and exercise even when I'd rather not, and I usually am healthier for it. They offer distraction when my tunnel vision raises my blood pressure and I refuse to take a needed break. I eat healthier because I eat fewer French fries when they encourage me to share. They shred papers for me, sometimes not the ones I need to shred but they don't read well. They assist me with classes. They make sure that the toilet doesn't suck me down accidentally. They keep the kitchen floor free of accidentally dropped food scraps. They make sure I rise at an appropriate hour. They keep me advised of the neighbors' coming and going as well as squirrel and rabbit invasions.

I have it on good authority (Lumi and Perry) that they are not the only dogs that take on these important jobs. It is apparently common for all dogs to take on at least some of these duties when they adopt a household, and for that we should be eternally grateful. Happy Thanksgiving!

BEHAVIOUR CHAINS

BRENDA GRICE

Have you ever heard of a behavior chain? A behavior chain is a series of behaviors that occur one after the other like a row of dominos toppling over. We create behavior chains when we teach dogs things for sports or tricks, and because dogs are always learning from us, sometimes they create chains that we don't realize.

In a behavior chain, each behavior is a cue for the following one to occur. For example, in the Obedience retrieve on flat exercise the handler initiates the chain by cueing the dog to retrieve the dumbbell. Running to the dumbbell cues the dog to pick up the dumbbell, picking up the dumbbell cues the dog to carry it to the handler, and carrying it to the handler cues the dog to sit in front position with the dumbbell. Each step also reinforces/strengthens the one before it with the final reinforcer often being praise or food. For example, the handler praises or treats the dog for coming into a front, getting to come into front reinforces carrying the dumbbell to the handler, getting to carry the dumbbell to the handler reinforces picking up the dumbbell, getting to pick up the dumbbell reinforces running out to it. If each step cues the next one and reinforces the previous one the chain remains strong.

(Continued on page 5 Behavior Chains)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KENDRA ERVIN

Hello everyone. My name is Kendra Ervin. I became a MOTC member in June 2022 after completing the Family Dog class with my Labrador Retriever, Tess. I knew I wanted to get Tess involved in an activity to help stimulate her mind and burn off some energy. MOTC offered many options to do exactly that. Once I saw all the other benefits of being a member I submitted my application right away. Tess and I began with Introduction to Scent Work class and we have just completed the Novice/Advanced Scent Work class. I plan to continue with Scent Work and want to try the other sports that are offered at MOTC.

Besides taking classes I have also taken advantage of the volunteer opportunities at MOTC. I volunteered at the September/October Rally and Obedience Trials, and I have also helped out a few times with the most recent Family Puppy class. Volunteering not only is a vital way to support MOTC, but by observing and listening I am learning so much.

Growing up my family always had Golden Retrievers. As a adult, when it was time to get my own dog I wanted a different breed, but somewhat similar to what I was used to. In 2007 I got my first Labrador Retriever, Parker. She was your classic hyper, high driven Lab and so is Tess. The high energy is not for everyone but I love it. Although, I will admit there have been times I wished I could take their batteries out.

When I am not doing activities with Tess I enjoy spending time at Prairie Creek Reservoir, IndyCar, and hanging out with friends. During the summer, my favorite season, I try to spend as much time as I can outside doing something fun or working on my yard.



Behavior Chains (continued from page 4)

To create a strong chain, it is best to start at the end and build backwards (back chaining) rather than from the beginning to the end whenever possible. Building from the front, the first behavior gets practiced a lot more than the ones at the end. The feeling is like driving home from somewhere you've been only a few times, as you see more familiar landmarks you are more confident of your route. Work on each step separately, when possible, then create your behavior chain from the end step by adding a step at a time to the front. For example, in the retrieve on flat, you would start by rewarding the dog a few times just for holding the dumbbell in front position, then you would have the dog carry the dumbbell to you and front a few times. You would next have your dog pick up the dumbbell and carry it to you and front. Finally, you would have the dog go to the dumbbell and do the retrieve chain.

The next time you teach your dog something new see if you can spot the behavior chain. Can you separate out the steps and back chain it? If you are learning a new piece of music or preparing a presentation for a group, can you break it into sections and back chain it? Give it a try.

SOCIALIZATION

SEAN O'SHEA, *The Good Dog Training and Rehabilitation* (reprinted with permission)

Okay, so this is a word that gets an awful lot of play in the training world, and it's definition has come to mean an awful lot of things. Many of which, are incredibly counter-productive, if not downright dangerous.

So let's see if we can't clarify a few things.

Socialization isn't:

- About letting your dog freely interact with dogs at the dog park, day care, or with friends dogs.
- About allowing your dog to meet other dogs on-leash.
- About allowing all manner of people, in all manner of mental/emotional states interact/pet/pressure your dog.
- About exposing your dog to the sights and sounds of cars, buses, motorcycles, bikes, skateboards, joggers...and allowing them to freak out, panic, aggress, hide, bark etc.
- About exposing your dog to the sights and sounds of dogs, cats, and other animals, and allowing them to freak out, aggress, lunge, bark, growl etc.

Socialization is:

- About teaching your dog the proper responses to dogs. What is and isn't appropriate behavior, and correcting the unwanted when it appears.
- About teaching your dog to walk by the barking, lunging dog(s) on walks and ignore them, completely. Correcting if necessary to achieve this result.
- About advocating for your dog and ensuring people aren't allowed to pressure your dog, by touching, crouching down, attempting "kisses" etc. That means being a big boy or girl, and stopping others from engaging in unwanted, uninvited interactions.
- About exposing your dog to all manner of daily life "things" and ensuring a proper response. If aggression/arousal is present, it's corrected, if fear/arousal is present (and causes an overreaction/fleeing etc.) it's corrected. Ask your dog to learn to ignore and not care about these "life" distractions/concerns/temptations. Teach them to listen to the training, not the world around them.
- About teaching your dog to leave other creatures alone. The cat, the bird, the cow, the goat, the other dog, is simply none of their business. If they decide those things are their business, it's your job to correct and clarify what is and isn't their business for them.

Socialization has become a ridiculously simplified, dumbed down, all-encompassing idea. Free interaction and exposure have been presented as a panacea, the magic gateway to a balanced dog. That's a whole lot of B.S.

you've been sold, by a lot of people full of B.S. 😊

Socialization is all about teaching your dog how to behave and exist in the world...properly. People have a belief that only interactions create a well socialized dog. They don't understand that existence is almost always preferable, and more valuable than actual interaction. Yes exposure is critical, but exposure without 100% clear guidance, and corrections for poor choices, isn't socialization, it's chaos, and it's not teaching your dog what's right, what's wrong, and that you'll keep them safe, so they don't have to.

A well socialized dog isn't fazed by the world around them. And that doesn't come from simple exposure and interactions without guidance. Ironically, that's precisely how you create anti-social dogs.

Think on that for a minute.



BRAGS & WAGS

Jo Grieger's Micah, Australian Shepherd, took High Combined in Obedience at the German Shepherd Specialty in Greenfield IN in August.

Hannah Kadinger's husband Jacob Brewer showed Brooks, Brittany, to their Junior Hunter title. This was Jacob and Brooks' first solo dog event.

BK Grice's Lumi, Shetland Sheepdog, completed her Rally Advanced Excellent title at the MOTC Rally trial September 30.

Brenda (BK) Grice completed the Karen Pryor Academy Dog Trainer Comprehensive course in September. The 9 month course teaches how to use clicker training primarily with dogs but also with other animals and to teach people.



Jo Grieger & Micah get their High Combined ribbon



Micah makes the cover of the Aussie Times



Jacob Brewer & Brooks, new Junior Hunter



Lumi sports her RAE medal

AKC LAUNCHES DIGITAL LIBRARY TO COMMEMORATE ANNIVERSARY

JESSICA RICE

In celebration of its 138th anniversary, the American Kennel Club (AKC®), the world's largest purebred dog registry and governing body of dog sports, is excited to announce the launch of its digital library.

"The AKC houses an expansive library with a tremendous amount of history," said AKC Executive Secretary Gina DiNardo. "It's exciting to offer people access to it in a new, innovative way."

The digital library will include the entire run of the AKC Gazette from 1889 to the present day. The AKC Gazette is the longest continuously published dog magazine in America and one of the oldest sporting publications in the country. Users can also search a collection of historic Show Catalogs from 1887 – 1983, including the very first Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show catalog from 1877. New collections will be added to the digital library in 2023.

All content is made available without fees and is fully text-searchable thanks to Optical Character Recognition in PDF files, which makes the library user-friendly. Visitors to the digital library can download issues to save or print and share direct links to the issues or catalogs.

The digital library can be found at library.akc.org.

MOTC AWARDS RECOGNITION

Dear MOTC Members,

This year's Awards Banquet will be held February 2023 at the Clubhouse. Mary Janek and Gayle Fahl will be taking the information to the Botkins Trophies in Selma. In preparation for our 2023 Awards Banquet we need to know all the accomplishments your canine partners have achieved from 2020 - 2022. Please complete the information below using this form or update your form that was submitted last year and is currently attached to your plaque at the Clubhouse. The Awards Recognition form can be left in the envelope in the office at MOTC if not attached to your current plaque. Mary and Gayle will need all your information by December 31, 2022. If this is the first award your pooch has received, they will also need a picture of your dog (you can submit the photo at a later date). If you have more than one dog earning titles from 2020 - 2022, please use a separate form for each dog. This is one of our most fun events of the year and I can't wait to see everyone's accomplishments.

Garnet E Meyer – Board of Directors

MOTC Member's Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Dog's Registered Name (including all titles prior to 2020):

Dog's Call Name: _____

List of titles/certifications earned in 2020-2022 (Please write out the titles...no initials please)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____



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.