



Yips & Quips

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Muncie Obedience Training Club

MOTC CLUBHOUSE GETS NEW ADDITION

The MOTC Clubhouse is getting a new addition to help with Scent Work. The new addition is where the old porch area was. The old porch was used to store large outdoor items used for Exterior searches at Scent Work classes and trials. It was open and unsecured and during last year several large items were stolen. When the new addition is complete those large items for Exterior searches can be secured.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

The nominating committee is seeking MOTC members in good standing with AKC, who have met MOTC volunteer requirements, committed to the mission of MOTC, and willing to work to improve MOTC to run for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors by March 1, 2024. To submit your name to the committee please contact Kim Horn Janek kimhornjanek@aol.com, Nancy Knox nknox2005@yahoo.com, or Mary-Kay Schroeder bayswaterpwd@comcast.net

Inside this issue:

FRIDAY NIGHT TRAINING CONTINUES!

MOTC makes 30 min. training slots available by reservation on most Friday nights. MOTC members may reserve slots for free. Non-members pay \$10/slot and must sign a facility waiver and show proof that their dogs are current on shots; these are kept on file for one year. To view slot availability and get directions for reserving a slot visit muncieobediencetrainingclub.blogspot.com.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MARY-KAY SCHROEDER

Well we are in the middle of winter here in Indiana, and I 'm sure we are all hoping that we are now past those frigid days we had in January. This weather does make it difficult for us to keep our dogs entertained, so remember that you have many opportunities to come to the building to train and have fun with your dog.

Also if classes need to be cancelled due to weather or personal problems please be aware that you will be contacted by your instructor about this.

If you haven't been to the building recently, the new addition has been framed and work is being done around the weather. This will give us storage room and more crating space. So please bear with us while construction is going on.

We have 3 events this spring, so please try to step up and help with them. Our Scent trial is March 16 & 17, our Obedience trials April 26-28 and our FCAT May 10-12. We really need lots of different types of help so please reach out and get involved.

I hope to see everyone at some of these upcoming events. They are fun to watch and you will learn lots if you come help too.

Mary-Kay
President MOTC

EDITORIAL

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE?

BK GRICE

Time for my annual call for every MOTC member to consider running for our Board of Directors. Why do you belong to the Muncie Obedience Club? If you pay your dues and volunteer your time, why do you do so? How do you contribute to the club's mission? The Board of Directors steer the club as it fulfils it's mission. If you don't like the path it seems to be going to get there, volunteer to run. At the March 10th members' meeting the nominating committee will present a slate of 5 candidates for the 2024-2025 Board. To volunteer for the slate see the newsletter's front page. If you don't make the slate or decide after March 1st that you'd like to run you can be nominated from the floor at the March 10th meeting. You must be a member, in good standing with AKC, met your volunteer requirements, and be willing to serve if elected. If you are unable to attend this meeting, someone else may nominate you if you submit a letter to one of the club secretaries, Terry Lattanzio or Eric Frazee before the meeting saying that you are willing to run and serve if elected. All nominees will run for election at the June annual meeting with the top 5 serving on the Board.

I urge every member to consider running and serving on the Board of Directors. Complaining is easy. Stand up and make a difference by agreeing to run and serve or supporting another member to do so.

SHAPING: A TRAINING TOOL TO CONSIDER

Shaping is a useful tool for a trainer. You shape by rewarding gradual steps toward a behavior. Shaping keeps a dog engaged in training, making it more likely to remember what it learns. Shaping is a useful technique for working with shy, cautious, or “soft” dogs.

Shaping is a dynamic training technique where the trainer adjusts to behavior the dog gives them. The trainer has an idea of the path the dog will take, sometimes the dog requires smaller steps or leaps over steps. The dog is not just a passive subject but an active participant in training and therefore is more likely to remember what it learns. Shaping uses a trainer’s observation skills, creativity, flexibility, and the ability to break tasks into smaller pieces.

A good way to start shaping is to decide what the behavior you want looks like and the steps the dog needs to take to get there. These steps are a guideline, like a travel route, and may need to be adjusted due to detours and unexpected challenges along the way. You may need to insert mini steps that you did not expect to, or your dog may skip a few steps and move ahead faster than you expected. Keep training sessions short, 1-3 minutes work well, and take breaks between sessions to allow you and your dog to regroup. Plan how to use your rewards (often treats) to your best advantage. Treating a dog in place encourages the dog to stay there. Treating a dog in front by holding a treat or tossing it encourages a dog to move forward.

Here are a couple of tasks to play shaping with. You may not be an expert shaper when you finish, and your dog may not have learned the complete behavior; but they give you a chance to experiment with shaping and see how it may fit into your training plan. Each takes about 10 minutes total and has 3 sets. Each set is 1 minute of planning, 1 minute of training, and 1 minute of reviewing what happened when you trained.

#1 Going to Stand on a Mat

Equipment needed: 1- minute timer, pencil, paper, treats, a mat or towel or platform for your dog to stand on.

Goal: Your dog goes to a mat about 6 ft. away and stands on it.

Write out the steps your dog will need to do to go stand on the mat. My suggested steps: dog looks at mat, dog takes step toward mat, dog moves closer to mat, dog puts a paw on mat, dog puts 2 paws on mat, dog puts 3 paws on mat, dog puts 4 paws on mat, dog stands on mat.

Take 1 minute to plan how you will use your training minute, where you’ll stand or how you’ll move, and how and where you’ll deliver your treats.

Take 1 minute to train, remember you can adjust to what your dog gives you.

Take 1 minute to go over what happened in your training minute and changes you may want to make.

(You may want to put your dog in a crate or a down.)

Take 1 minute to plan what you’ll do in this next training minute based on what you thought needed to change.

Take 1 minute to train, remember to work with what your dog gives you.

Take 1 minute to go over what happened this time and what changes you might want to make.

Take 1 minute to plan what you’ll do in this final session.

Train for 1 minute.

Go over how your training went.

#2 Going Around a Cone

Equipment needed: 1-minute timer, pencil, paper, treats, an 8 in. cone or similar sized object for your dog to go around.

Goal: Your dog goes around a cone about 6 ft. away.

Write out steps you think your dog will need to do to go out and around the cone. (I suggest training by standing with cone between your feet and dog standing in front of you, treat at your side and I like to alternate size, increase distance by taking a step back as you treat) My suggested steps: dog stands in front of me as I stand with cone between my feet, dog goes to stand in front of cone with me just behind cone, dog goes 6" to go around cone, dog goes 12" to go around cone, dog goes 18" to go around cone, dog goes 2' to go around cone, dog goes 3' to go around cone, dog goes 4' to go around cone, dog goes 5' to go around cone, dog goes 6' to go around cone.

Take 1 minute to plan your training session. What are you going to do? Where will you stand or move? Where and how will you deliver treats?

Take 1 minute to train.

Take 1 minute to review what happened in training and what changes you want to make.

Take 1 minute to plan your next training session.

Train for 1 minute.

Take 1 minute to review your training session and what you want to change.

Take 1 minute to plan for the final training session.

Train for 1 minute.

Take 1 minute to review how the session went.

After trying these practice tasks, you may be thinking about how much further you could go. How could you use shaping in your training program for sports or everyday behavior? If not this dog, maybe you can think of another dog that might benefit from shaping. Shaping builds a dog's confidence. It can help strengthen the dog/trainer relationship as both learn to listen to each other. Try it and see what you think.

SEMINAR REVIEW: CLICKEREXPOLIVE! BY BK GRICE

I had the pleasure of attending ClickerExpoLive! 2024 at the end of January. ClickerExpoLive! Is the virtual version of in person 3-day weekend events to meet with, share with, and learn about training with operant conditioning. Most attendees train dogs but some also train cats, birds, horses, Guinea pigs, and exotic animals in zoos and aquariums. I particularly like the virtual option as it is less expensive and dress can be more casual.

Presentations are held in Zoom rooms with usually 4 different presentations to choose from at a time. During presentations you can ask questions via a question box or often in the chat. Some presentations have demonstrations where attendees who have volunteered to be in the spotlight get individual guidance from the presenter as the other attendees watch.

I was able to attend presentations on training, teaching training classes, coaching students virtually, improving my Obedience training, working with aging dogs and puppies, running a successful training business, and reaching people through social media. I also got to meet trainers and training instructors from around the world and share experiences. Registration for ClickerExpoLive! 2025 opens in August and if you get a chance I recommend you sign up. I think you'll find it an enjoyable and educational experience.

BRAGS & WAGS'

BK Grice's Perry, Shetland Sheepdog, debuted at MOTC's November Rally and Obedience trials. He got his first 2 legs in Rally Novice and Obedience Beginner Novice. He even placed. He also completed his Trick Dog Novice title



UPCOMING EVENTS

- MOTC Member Meeting 3:30 pm 3/10
- Obedience Wednesday 9am-12 pm 3/13-5/1
- Obedience Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm 3/12-4/30
- MOTC Scent Work Trials 3/16-17
- MOTC Rally/Obedience Trials 4/26-28
- Puppy class Monday 6 pm 4/29-6/3
- Basic Monday 7:30 pm 4/29-6/10
- Puppy class Saturday 9 am 5/4-6/8
- Basic Saturday 10:30 am 5/4-6/15
- Obedience Wednesday 9 am-12 pm 5/8-6/26
- Obedience Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm 5/7-6/25
- MOTC FastCAT Trials 5/10-122





Muncie Obedience Training Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has been part of the Muncie, Indiana community since 1946.

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

We do this by holding classes, seminars, Canine Good Citizen tests, and amateur dog trials in sports like Obedience, Rally, and Scent Work.