



# Yips & Quips

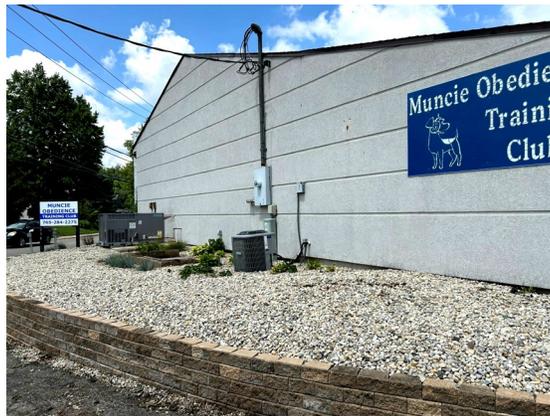
VOLUME 32 ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2025

## Muncie Obedience Training Club

### SUMMER CLEAN-UP!

A lot of rain and summer heat resulted in the greenery at the front of the MOTC Clubhouse to run amuck! Fortunately MOTC has some members who are not only good dog trainers but vegetation tamers. Thank you Rick Dalessandro, Nancy Knox, Bob & Kim Janek, and Jo Grieger for volunteering your time and vegetation taming skills. Special thanks to Bob for putting up a new outdoor flag and converting the high jumps in advance of our fall trials.



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## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

### JEANN CROWCROFT

First things first, to those members who cleaned up the club's parking lot thank you so much. A big thank you to Bob for the new flag pole.

A couple items of interest (1) The gym next door is no longer renting any parking spots from us. There may be some people driving through out lot to let people out. Just be alert when in the parking lot. Last year some high school teams worked out at that gym and ran some laps in our lot. (2) The I&M utility pole has been reported. Some one did a temporary fix but the pole has not been replaced.(3) Nancy J is our supply clerk. you can help her out if you see we are running low on supplies please leave a note on the white board in the office. Please see the notation running low. Please don't wait until we are out of something (4)Please if you see some trash in the parking lot pick it up and place it in the toters.(5) Last one I promise. Our trash pick up is Wednesday morning ; this means Tuesday evening toters need to be moved to the street and Wednesday they need to be moved back to the building.

We have some new board members. If you have questions or concerns please contact one of us. I promise we will listen and present your items to the rest of the board. This board has some new ideas! I could share these new thoughts and ideas with you but it would be better if you attend board meetings and member meetings. Don't forget there are times when the building is open for training .These are excellent times to visit with dog people and of course dogs.

Thanks for the gift of your time

Jeann



### NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

At the June 8 Member Meeting, the following were elected to serve on the Board of Directors until the June Member Meeting in 2026. After being elected, the new board met briefly to assign roles.

#### MOTC Board of Directors 2025-2026

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ◆ Jeann Crowcroft, president           | <a href="mailto:gjcrowcroft@aol.com">gjcrowcroft@aol.com</a>               |
| ◆ Jo Grieger, vice president           | <a href="mailto:kagandjag@gmail.com">kagandjag@gmail.com</a>               |
| ◆ Brenda Grice, recording secretary    | <a href="mailto:tincricket@gmail.com">tincricket@gmail.com</a>             |
| ◆ Mike Wiggin, corresponding secretary | <a href="mailto:charliescoasters@gmail.com">charliescoasters@gmail.com</a> |
| ◆ Rick Dalessandro, treasurer          | <a href="mailto:ardalessandro@aol.com">ardalessandro@aol.com</a>           |

## EDITORIAL

### SOMETHING DIFFERENT

#### BK GRICE

Something different in this newsletter. Sometimes members send me posts from Facebook that they were particularly struck with and think would be good in the newsletter. I read them through and if I agree, which I often do, then I contact the original poster and ask their permission to include them in our newsletter. So far they have all given permission with the proviso that nothing be changed and often ask for a copy of that issue. I usually send one anyway if I have their email. I think asking is a point of courtesy and a sign of respect and it acknowledges that someone thought their thoughts and words mattered enough to want to share them with others. I have on occasion been asked if I could be quoted for a publication or sharing a post and I always appreciate the consideration and courtesy of being asked. I admit it is also flattering and humbling.

In this newsletter you will find three pieces suggested by MOTC members for the newsletter with permission granted by the authors. Two pertain to dog training, the third concerns being part of a dog club. The authors are not Hoosiers, they are not even Americans, but their pieces strike a chord here in Muncie Indiana as well as in Scotland, Finland, and around the world.

Friday Night Training slots are available most Friday nights 6:30-9 pm by reservation. Slots are 30 min. and free for MOTC members. Request a slot by emailing [tincricket@gmail.com](mailto:tincricket@gmail.com) by Thursday midnight.

To see openings, visit [muncieobediencetrainingclub.blogspot.com](http://muncieobediencetrainingclub.blogspot.com)

## Mastering the Mundane: Why the Basics in Dog Training Matter More Than You Think

### K9 Manhunt & Scent Work Scotland

In a world obsessed with quick fixes and flashy results, it's easy to overlook the simple stuff, the seemingly boring basics that form the bedrock of effective dog training. But here's a little truth bomb for you: the real magic doesn't lie in teaching your dog to skateboard, sort laundry, or retrieve your slippers with a bow. It lies in the repetition and reliability of five fundamental behaviours—sit, down, heel, come, and place.

These aren't just commands. They're the alphabet of your dog's language, the structure that shapes every interaction, decision, and boundary. Think of them as your dog's behavioural compass. Without them? You're navigating without a map.

### The Foundation of All Success

Training a dog without first solidifying the basics is like building a house on sand. Sure, it might look impressive for a while, but give it a strong gust of distraction, like a squirrel or a pigeon and the cracks start to show.

A well-practised "sit" isn't just about the dog plonking its bottom on the ground. It's about impulse control, patience, and engagement. "Heel" isn't just a walk by your side, it's a moving meditation on focus and partnership. Each of these foundational behaviours creates clarity, consistency, and a shared understanding between dog and handler.

### Sweat the Small Stuff, Because It's Not That Small

Dog training is often about the micro, not the macro. It's not about shouting louder or adding more commands. It's about refining the small things, timing, tone, placement, and posture, until they become second nature for both of you.

So when we say "sweat the small stuff," we mean obsess (healthily, of course) over the basics. Drill them until they're crisp. Polish them until they shine. Because when things go wrong out in the real world, when you've got a lead in one hand, a coffee in the other, and a child asking a hundred questions, that is when those basics pay off.

### Training Isn't Just What You Teach, It's What You Reinforce

Training doesn't end when the dog "gets it once." Dogs don't generalise well. Just because they can do a perfect down-stay in your lounge doesn't mean they'll offer the same response in the park, at the vet, or outside the local café. Reinforcement in a variety of contexts is where the real work happens.

That means proofing those basics everywhere. Sit in the garden. Sit at the gate. Sit when another dog walks past. Sit when your phone rings. Make it so familiar, so embedded, that it becomes automatic.

### Turning the Ordinary into the Extraordinary

Here's the best bit: when the basics are rock solid, everything else becomes easier. Whether you're looking to trial your dog, compete in scent work, or just enjoy peaceful walks, it all starts with that firm foundation. With consistency, you turn simple commands into something extraordinary. Like muscle memory, these behaviours become part of your dog's identity.

So don't rush ahead. Don't skip the "boring" bits. If anything, embrace them. Mastering the basics is not a sign of a novice, it's the signature of a professional.

And let's be honest, when you see a dog walk beautifully to heel past another barking dog, give a perfect down-stay as a jogger zooms by, or recall at full pelt without a second thought, it's not just impressive. It's downright glorious.

[www.k9manhuntscotland.co.uk](http://www.k9manhuntscotland.co.uk)

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## The Ones Who Carry, and the Ones Who Break

Sakari Joenväärä

There are always two kinds of people in the dog world. You learn this early, or you learn it the hard way. There are those who do — the ones who carry the load, who step up when it counts, who stay up late finalizing trial paperwork and rise early to set up jumps, lay tracks, sort cattle, or prep the hospitality table. And then there are those who break. Not just once, but over and over. Sometimes loudly. Sometimes by simply... not showing up.

This world — our world — doesn't always separate them fairly. Sometimes the strongest shoulders end up carrying not just their own dogs, titles, or training schedules, but the weight of everything else:

The trials. The premiums. The ribbons. The judge education programs. The newsletters. The national specialties. The herding instinct tests. The agility seminars. The rulebook rewrites. The breed preservation efforts. The newcomers. The juniors.

All of it.

They become the ones people rely on. The same names in the minutes. The same faces at the gate. The ones who quietly reschedule their own lives to make sure the club doesn't fold, the test doesn't get canceled, the tradition doesn't die.

And still, they keep doing. Not because they crave applause — that's the story people tell to soothe their own inaction — but because they genuinely don't see another option. Letting it all fall apart just isn't in their nature. So they keep carrying.

Meanwhile, others break at the first sign of real work. They show up when the weather's nice and the trophies are shiny. But ask them to proofread a premium? Staff a ring? Help with judge mentoring? Suddenly they're busy.

They claim to care. They wear club badges and list titles in their email footers. But when it comes time to sustain the world they enjoy — they vanish.

You see it in how fast they leave when tear-down starts.

You hear it in how often they say, "Someone else will do it."

But here's what no one likes to say out loud: we all break. Even the ones who carry. Especially them. The difference is in when, and how.

The ones who carry? They don't make a scene. They break in silence. In private. After one more meeting that could've been an email. After being the only one who showed up to help. After watching an entire club pre-

tend the workload was someone else's problem.

They break in their cars on the way home from yet another weekend spent holding everything together while others played.

So when the night finally comes, and there's no one left to smile for, no one left to pretend for — the mirror tells the truth.

And here's the real question:

When you look at yourself in that mirror — in that quiet, honest moment before sleep — what do you feel inside?

Is it peace? That steady sense that says, I showed up today. I gave what I could.

Or is it discomfort? That restless feeling that says, I could have helped — and maybe next time, I will.

Because the mirror isn't about your titles or trophies.

It's about what's behind your eyes.

It's about whether you're someone who contributes, who supports, who lifts the weight — even in small ways — or someone still waiting for others to do it all.

And sometimes — just sometimes — the mirror shows someone in between.

Someone not there yet.

But ready to begin.

That's the thing we forget:

You don't have to be everything.

You just have to choose something.

Everyone has something to give.

A few hours. A kind word. A spot on a committee.

A willingness to say, How can I help?

The dog world is built by people who chose to give instead of watch.

And the truth is — you can always choose.

You can choose to carry, even just a little.

And if enough of us do?

No one has to break.

Sakari Joenväärä  
Taikatalven Belgians  
#UnmaskingTaikatalven

## The Four Cornerstones of Effective Dog Training: A Balanced Approach to Building Behaviour and Bond

### K9 Manhunt & Scent Work Scotland

Dog training is far more than issuing commands and expecting blind obedience. It is a dynamic interplay of understanding, guidance, and communication. When done well, it becomes both an art, requiring intuition and feel and a science, requiring method and structure. At its core, effective training is about shaping behaviour while nurturing a relationship built on trust, clarity, and respect.

But what separates successful training from mere attempts? It all hinges on four essential pillars: consistency, communication and clarity, engagement, and patience. These four cornerstones form the foundation of every meaningful interaction between dog and handler. When all are present, training becomes effective, efficient, and enjoyable, for both parties. Omit one, and you risk undermining the entire process.

#### 1. Consistency: The Bedrock of Learning

If there's one principle that underpins all dog training, it's consistency. Dogs learn through patterns, repetition, and reinforcement. When the same cues, expectations, and consequences are repeated consistently, dogs are far more likely to make the correct associations and form reliable habits.

Consistency doesn't only mean using the same command word for a behaviour, it means being consistent in every aspect: tone of voice, timing of rewards or corrections, the structure of the session, and even your body language.

Take, for instance, teaching a simple behaviour like "sit." If you reward the dog for sitting calmly one day, but ignore it or even scold the same action the next, perhaps because you're distracted or frustrated, the dog becomes confused. The result? Inconsistent performance, delayed learning, or the behaviour breaking down entirely.

Dogs thrive on predictability. When your rules are clear and consistently applied, your dog gains confidence in what's expected of them. This, in turn, leads to a more relaxed, secure, and responsive dog.

#### 2. Communication and Clarity: Speaking Their Language

Communication is the bridge between what we want and what the dog understands. Unfortunately, many training issues stem not from disobedience, but from miscommunication. Dogs are experts at reading body language and tone, but unless we're deliberate in what we signal, we can easily send mixed messages.

Clarity in training means:

- Using distinct, unambiguous cues for each behaviour.
- Avoiding the habit of "nagging" with repeated commands.
- Ensuring your verbal, physical, and emotional signals align.

For example, saying "Down" while pointing upwards, or asking for a behaviour in a frustrated tone, sends conflicting information. Dogs are left guessing, and guesswork is no foundation for success.

Feedback, both positive and corrective, should also be clear and immediate. If your dog offers the correct re-

sponse, mark and reward on time. If they offer an unwanted behaviour, address it quickly and appropriately. Timing is everything. Too late, and the message is lost.

Clear communication empowers dogs. It allows them to make choices with confidence, and that confidence translates into reliability and responsiveness.

### 3. Engagement: Building Focus and Willingness

If consistency builds understanding, and clarity prevents confusion, engagement is what fuels motivation. Simply put: if the dog isn't interested, they're not going to learn much.

Engagement is the active participation of both dog and handler in the training process. It transforms sessions from mundane drills into meaningful interactions. This can be achieved through:

- High-value rewards (food, toys, praise, play).
- Varied and stimulating exercises.
- Short, dynamic sessions tailored to the dog's ability and temperament.

A common mistake is overtraining, dragging sessions on beyond the dog's attention span. Short bursts of focused work, especially when mixed with fun and play, are far more effective. End on a high, and the dog is more likely to come back eager for more.

Equally, the handler must remain fully present. It's no good expecting the dog to be focused if the human is distracted, inconsistent, or emotionally distant. Dogs mirror our energy and emotional state. If you're switched off, so are they.

Engagement is the lifeblood of effective training. It strengthens the bond, improves communication, and sets the stage for success.

### 4. Patience: The Unsung Virtue of Every Good Trainer

Training doesn't happen overnight. Some dogs grasp concepts quickly; others require repetition, encouragement, and time. That's where patience comes in.

Patience means accepting the dog in front of you, working with their strengths and weaknesses, and resisting the urge to rush. It's about understanding that setbacks are not failures, they're part of the process.

Losing your temper, raising your voice, or showing frustration does nothing to help a dog learn. In fact, it often sets the process back. Instead, approach every session with calm, composure, and an open mind. If something isn't working, take a step back. Reassess. Change the environment, the reward structure, or the pace.

A patient trainer is an effective trainer. Dogs sense that patience and respond in kind, often with greater trust, improved focus, and a willingness to try again.

#### Why All Four Matter, Together

These four cornerstones are not independent; they are interlinked and interdependent. Remove one, and the structure starts to weaken.

- Without consistency, the dog doesn't know the rules.

- Without clarity, the dog can't understand the message.
- Without engagement, the dog lacks the motivation to learn.
- Without patience, the training journey becomes frustrating, for both handler and dog.

It is the combination of these elements that transforms a reactive, distracted, or uncertain dog into a confident, responsive, and reliable companion.

Ultimately, successful training isn't just about control, it's about connection. By embracing these four principles, you not only shape behaviour but also build a relationship based on mutual respect and understanding.

And in the world of dogs, that's the true mark of a leader.

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**AMERICAN CLUB TRICK DOG NATIONAL TRIK DOG  
CONTEST ENTRY OPEN!**

The American Kennel Club Trick Dog National contest is fairly new and AKC is taking entries until October 1st. There are categories for Puppy, Senior Dog, More than 1 Handler, and more! Information can be found at [akc.org/sports/trick-dog](http://akc.org/sports/trick-dog).

## BRAGS & WAGS

Rick Dalessandro's Cider, Labrador Retriever, earned her Scent Work Novice Container title at 6 months, and Callie, Labrador Retriever, completed her Scent Work Excellent title at MOTC's June trial.



Callie shows off her ribbons



Cider shows off her ribbons

## CALENDAR

- Aug. 17 Sunday Board meeting 10:30 am
- Aug. 22 Friday Night Training 6:30--9 pm
- Sept. 3 Wednesday Obedience Sessions start Nov. 9 am, Open 10 am, Utility 11 am
- Sept. 5 Friday Night Training 6:30-9 pm
- Sept. 12 Friday Night Training 6:30-9 pm
- Sept. 19 Friday Night Training 6:30-9 pm
- Sept. 26 Friday Night Training 6::30-9 pm
- Oct 3 Friday Night Training 6:309 pm
- Oct. 4 Saturday S.T.A.R. Puppy 9 am
- Oct. 4 Saturday Basic Obedience 10:30 am
- Oct. 6 Monday S.T.A.R. Puppy 6 pm
- Oct 6 Monday Basic Obedience 7:30 pm
- Oct. 10-12 MOTC Obed & Rally trials
- Oct. 17 Friday Night Training 6:30-9 pm
- Oct. 24 Friday Night Training 6:30-9 pm
- Nov. 7-\* MOTC Obed & Rally trials



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 responsible dog ownership, encourage participation in amateur canine companion sports, and combat cruelty to animals.

We do this by holding classes, seminars, and amateur dog sports trials in Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, and FastCAT through the volunteer efforts of our members.

