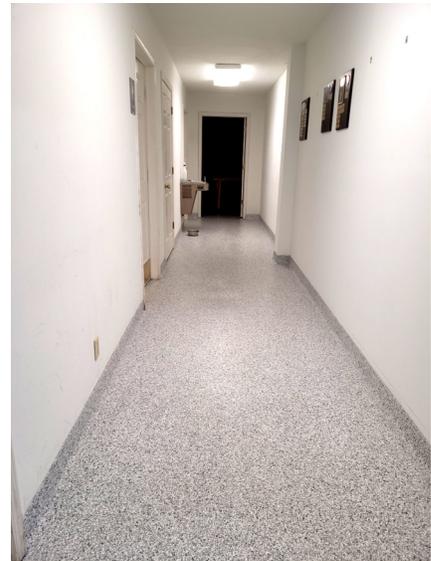
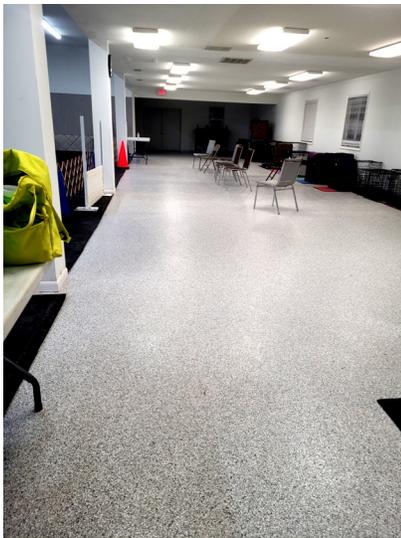




Muncie Obedience Training Club

MUNCIE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB CLUBHOUSE GETS NEW FLOOR

Muncie Obedience Training Club members got new flooring at the MOTC Clubhouse just before Christmas. The black, gray, and white speckled epoxy surface is easy to clean and brightens up the area outside the training rings. Installation began December 9 and closed the building for about a 10 days. The new flooring extends from underneath the storage shelves in the north end all the way into the kitchen that south end excluding the office, furnace room, and rest rooms. The new floor surface is slightly pebbled to help with footing.



MEMBERS' MEETING
 SUNDAY MARCH 2ND 1 PM
 MOTC CLUBHOUSE

Slate of Candidates for Board of Directors will be presented and nominations of additional candidates taken from the floor.

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NORTHWEST STORAGE ROOM CLEANED UP AND REORGANIZED

The Northwest storage room is once more easier to find and get to things. A big thank you to MOTC members Kim Janek, Susy Hasecoster, Chris Bragg, and Rick Dalessandro who took some time after the new year to put it back into shape. At the end of year as we finish up classes and our final trials (plus this year clearing the area for the new flooring) things get stuffed into the storage room without much ado making it difficult to locate and get to what you need. If you get a chance, make yourself familiar with where things are in the storage room so that when the time comes things can be put where they need to be for easier and more efficient use.



Scent Work Area



Fundamentals & Pet Class Area

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MARY-KAY SHROEDER

We are well into the New Year and making plans for our annual events We have 3 Obedience Trial weekends, April, Sept, and November. We also have 3 Scent trials, March, June, and Aug. There is our 1 weekend of FACT in May and the Awards Banquet in February, I have probably missed a few things but wanted you to know the club is having many activities and you need to watch the website for dates etc.

We are still struggling to get people to step up to do some of the important jobs that need to be done to keep this club going. We really need your help. Please consider working with someone to learn a new job. They are not hard but we need more people to do them.

On a happier note, the new floor looks wonderful and has made the building look fantastic. If you haven't been inside recently stop in to train and see the place.

Anytime there is a class going there is usually an open ring that you can train in. Make use of that too. It's helpful to have the distractions o the class and people going on.

Hope to see everyone soon. Happy training

Mary-Kay

President MOTC

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee for 2025-2026 (Mary-Kay Shroeder, Diane Gibbs, Kim Janek) has submitted the following slate of candidates for the MOTC Board of Directors to be presented at the March 2nd Members' meeting:

- Mary-Kay Shroeder,
- Rick Dalsessandro
- Jeann Crowcroft
- Barbara Meier
- Jo Grieger

Nominations for additional candidates for the Board of Directors may be made at the March 2nd meeting from the floor. Any club member in good standing may be a candidate. You may nominate yourself or if you will not be present at the March meeting, you may have someone nominate you from the floor if you also provide them with a letter saying that you accept the nomination which your nominator will then give to the Secretary.

MOTC Board of Directors

Mary-Kay, Schroeder president
Jeann Crowcroft, vice president
Rick Dalessandro, treasurer
Terry Lattanzio, recording secretary
Jayne Waechter, corresponding secretary

Directors of Training

Kendra Ervin, family pet training
Anne Wiggins, competition training

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 by Thursday midnight.

EDITORIAL

RUN FOR THE 2025-2026 BOARD

BK GRICE

On March 2nd at 1 pm at the MOTC Clubhouse at the Members' meeting a slate of candidates for next year's Board of Directors will be presented to the membership. The slate consists of five MOTC members in good standing who have agreed to stand for election to the Board and serve if elected. There are five officers on the MOTC Board of Directors which is why the nominating committee only solicits five members, but additional members may stand as candidates as well. Any MOTC member in good standing may run as a candidate for the Board. You may nominate yourself, or if you are shy, have someone nominate you and then accept the nomination. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, give someone who will be there a letter saying you will accept nomination and have them nominate you and give your acceptance letter to the secretary at the meeting. Members will vote for the candidates of their choice at the June meeting with the top five candidates elected to serve. If you think you can do a better job or would like to see the club move in a different direction, here's your chance to make a difference. The Board meets at least quarterly.

PRODUCT REVIEW: KLIMB TRAINING PLATFORM

BK GRICE

The Klimb dog training platform is a light weight moderately sized platform that you may want to consider. The Klimb is 24"x24"x4" with the legs inserted making it a nice size for working with small puppies as an enrichment activity or beginning training. The legs are stored in the recessed bottom of the platform and when screwed in raise the height to 12". It is rated to hold 500 lb., can be used indoors or out, and weighs just 14 lb. Two adjacent sides of the platform have protrusions that act as carrying handles and can be used to secure two Klimbs to each other for a larger surface. The Klimb comes in black, blue, tan, purple, and for a limited time red at \$159.95 plus shipping and handling. A textured mat for the top, plugs for the leg holes, and shorter legs can be purchased separately but so far, I have not found them necessary. My dogs eagerly jump onto our Klimb when it is available to them. I have found it helpful when teaching paw raises, tuck sits, and taking and holding objects.

I have also used it to help teach heel position with my shelties. It could also be used for grooming. Although I have not used it as slant board by using just two legs on one side, I think it would be useful for teaching an Agility 2 on 2 off and as a rear foot target for teaching backing up. It's also nice for elevating dogs for photo shoots. The Klimb can be ordered from various dog supplies or directly from blue-9.com.



BRAGS & WAGS

Rick Dalessandro would like to announce the arrival of a new family and MOTC member, Dutch Hollow's Apple of My Eye (Cider), Labrador Retriever. Rick has high hopes for this little girl.



Cider & Rick



Cider & Aunt Callie

CALENDAR

- Feb. 7 Friday Night Training
- Feb. 14 Friday Night Training
- Feb. 21 Friday Night Training
- Feb. 23 1 pm Award Dinner
- Feb. 28 Friday Night Training
- March 1 9 am S.T.A.R. Puppy class
- March 1 10:30 am Basic Obedience class
- March 7 Friday Night Training
- March 11 Wednesday Obedience classes begins
- March 15-16 MOTC Scent Work trials
- March 17 Monday 6 pm S.T.A.R. Puppy begins
- March 17 Monday 7:30 pm Basic Obedience begins
- March 21 Friday Night Training
- March 28 Friday Night Training
- April 4 Friday Night Training
- April 11 Friday Night Training
- April 18 Friday Night Training
- April 25-27 MOTC Obedience/Rally trials
- April 30 May newsletter deadline

USING CAPTURING

BK GRICE

Capturing is a training technique that takes advantage of things a dog does on its own, often without prompting, by rewarding the dog when it does the behavior. It's an easy way to train, some things it is the only way to train, but it does take time unless you prompt the behavior you want to train. It is simple enough that beginning trainers including children can use it.

Capturing works best with things your dog does on their own fairly frequently: sit, down, come to you, look at you, bringing you something, picking something up. When you see your dog do something you like, be sure that it gets something it likes such as food, ear rubs, play, access to something, or anything else it likes. Once they begin doing the behavior in expectation of a reward, you can start giving the cue or command just before the reward to connect the cue to the behavior.

Some behaviors to capture:

Being calm in a strange or noisy environment—If there is a lot of activity going on and your dog is lying, sitting, or standing near you just watching the sights, our response is often to ignore it, it's not causing any trouble or being obnoxious. But if your dog is barking, pulling on its leash, THEN we pay attention to THAT behavior, and it gets rewarded. Make it pay for your dog to be calm, cool, and collected.

Ears up—If you have a dog with tulip, or button ears, you probably like them to be up when you take pictures. You can't force a dog to put their ears up, and often we rely on a squeaky toy, silly voice, tossed treats, or a kind stranger trying to entice your dog to perk up their ears. You can set up situations where you know your dog will prick up their ears such and reward ears being up. Maybe always use the same squeaker, squeak it twice, dog pricks ears, reward; two squeaks of the squeaker mean put your ears up.

Four feet on the floor—If your dog or puppy is jumping up and you don't like it, stand firm and ignore them until all four feet are on the floor, for that they get a cookie or attention.

Standing on a mat or target—Teaching going to a mat or a floor target is easy to start when your dog or puppy is already standing on it or has a foot on it. Lay it on the floor and stand in front of it with some cookies. They probably will come up and stand in front of you on the mat or floor target, mark it by saying "good" and toss a treat behind them or off to the side. When they come back, they will probably stand on it again, mark it, and toss a treat.

Jumping into the car—Your dog may jump into the car once you open the door because they like to ride. You may have already added a cue to it: get in, come on, alley oop, etc. If you haven't captured this already, why haven't you?

Looking at you/attention—I like to teach this on the first night of beginner classes because it is so useful and easy. Have 10 small treats ready to go, give your dog or puppy a treat, then another one, then another one, then another one, then wait. Most dogs' natural response is to look at your face to see why you stopped handing out treats. Take advantage of them looking at your face and capture it by giving them a treat, then treat each time they look at you. You can add a verbal cue easily by saying the cue when they look at you but before you give the treat.

Capturing is an easy way to train a dog that is often overlooked because it is easy but time-consuming if the behavior only occurs rarely. It works best with behaviors that your dog does frequently. It can be a fun family activity as the whole family watches to reward the dog for doing desirable things. What does your dog do that you'd like to capture? Happy Training!



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 dogs.

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.

