



Muncie Obedience Training Club

MOTC CELEBRATES RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP MONTH AT GRATEFUL FEST

Members of the Muncie Obedience Training Club participated in Grateful Rescue and Sanctuary’s Grateful Fest September 7th at Morrow’s Meadow in Yorktown IN as our AKC Responsible Dog Ownership activity this year. Member volunteers manned our booth, talked to pet owners, passed out flyers, and gave training demonstrations. Special thanks to Kendra Ervin and Racheal Green who supervised, set up, tore down, and transported equipment. Also thanks to our members who volunteered: Diana Trader, Rick Dalessandro, Jo & Ken Greiger, Brenda Grice, Jeann Crowcroft, Kara Priddy, Kaydin Priddy, and Chris Ashmore-Good.



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EDITORIAL

NEWSLETTER MEMORIES

BK GRICE

I came across some old issues of the MOTC newsletter while cleaning in my home office. It was like discovering a time capsule. The oldest issue was from January 2009, 15 years ago. It was printed on 14"x11" paper and mailed to members and recent students. It lists upcoming dates for classes: Puppy Manners, Family Dog, Rally, Competition Obedience, Canine Good Citizen/Therapy Dog, Conformation. The graduates of each class that had finished since the previous newsletter were listed. The newsletter came out every other month on the odd months. The usual request for people to volunteer for classes and the upcoming trial was in it. The board members were listed. There was an announcement about the Award Dinner and request for donations to the Trophy Fund. (This was how we paid for ribbons and plaques for the annual trial.) There was also an announcement about the upcoming Premium List Party. Volunteers gathered to assemble and prepare premium lists for bulk mailing with much chatting, laughing, and snacking. We had Agility classes back then and in this issue were the upcoming Agility classes and a registration form or they could sign in at the sign-up desk at the club. It also includes minutes from the bi-monthly Members' meeting which were held on the even months. Another of the newsletters is from July 2010 which was the last print newsletter. Members without email could have a paper newsletter mailed to them if they asked. In this issue are announcement of a Agility seminar with Jen Pindar, a Responsible Dog Ownership event at Minnetrista Cultural Center, and a Family Pet Instructor meeting.

I think I'll see if I can reincorporate some of these things in the newsletter in the future. If I can get class graduates from instructors or directors of training, I'll be glad to include them. I'll gladly include the minutes from the previous Members' meeting if I get them; newsletters come out the month before the Members' meeting. For those who didn't know, I send out a Student Newsletter to students who are listed in the barkmail student contact list. It's based on the MOTC newsletter, but I do a different editorial, add a responsible dog ownership article, an everyday training article, and invitations to join MOTC. I pull out any club sensitive articles. If you'd like me to send you the latest Student Newsletter, I'll be glad to send it to you.

CALENDAR

- Nov. 22 Friday Night Training
- Dec. 6 Friday Night Training
- Dec. 8 Sunday 1 pm MOTC Member meeting/ Holiday party
- Dec. 9 Work on floor begins
- Jan. 10 Friday Night Training
- Jan. 13 Monday 6 pm S.T.A.R. Puppy begins
- Jan. 13 Monday 7:30 pm Basic Obedience begins
- Jan. 17 Friday Night Training
- Jan. 31 Friday Night Training
- March 17 Monday 6 pm S.T.A.R. Puppy begins
- March 17 Monday 7:30 pm Basic Obedience begins



JESSÉ

JEANN CROWCROFT

My Jessé recently crossed that Rainbow Bridge. She was 13 years and 5 months old. Jessé was rescued from an animal hoarding situation and she was pregnant. Animal Rescue Fund asked my friend Jana to foster her and be a midwife which she rapidly agreed to do. She delivered four pups and three of them survived and were placed in loving homes. Jessé needed a new home. Jana and I talked about Hank and wondered if the two dogs would get along. They were introduced in my back yard which then moved into the house. It was a good match. I adopted Jessé and introduced her to Muncie Obedience Training Club. Jessé earned her Beginner Novice and Companion Dog titles in Obedience. She then went on to Rally where she earned her RAE (Rally Advanced Excellent title). She ran and titled in Fast Cat. She then went on to Scent Work. She had her Novice Exterior (SEN) and two legs toward interiors, containers, and buried. She was such a presence in my house. I miss her terribly and have her ashes displayed with Frankie, Hank and now Jessé.

Jessé took the role of mother and instructor when Little T joined our family.

FINAL FRIDAY NIGHT TRAINING SESSIONS FOR 2024

Our last Friday Night Training sessions for 2024 are Nov. 22 and Dec. 6. You can see what slots are available and instructions for booking a 30 min. slot at muncieobediencetrainingclub.blogspot.com. MOTC members train for free, non-members are \$10 per slot.

BRAGS & WAGS

Chris Ashmore-Good's Obi, German Shepherd, was busy this October. He earned his Trick Dog Advanced title on the 10th and then got 2 Open Obedience legs at the Dayton OH trial a week later. He was invited to the AKC Classic in December for getting his Companion Dog title. Chris's Lexi, Great Dane, completed her Rally Advanced title in October at the Dayton trial under Katie Maess and finished her Rally Excellent title at the Great Dane Nationals in Wisconsin under Catherine Caballero on October 29th. Lexi was the #7 Rally Novice Great Dane in the country going into Nationals.

Jo Greiger's Elijah, Belgian Malinois, finished his Beginner Novice title in style at the German Shepherd Dog Club of America in Central Indiana show with some nice scores: 199,197, 199, and a perfect 200! At the MOTC September trials after just 8 months of training, he finished his Companion Dog title with 2 1st place and 2 2nd places; 195,195.5, 196,198. He also got High in Trial! Quite a feat for a Novice dog. Jo says, "So proud of this boy with a heart as big as he is. Always willing to try and trust me."

BK Grice's Lumi, Shetland Sheepdog, finished her Scent Work Exterior Novice title with a 4th place at the MOTC trials in August, thus also completing her Scent Work Novice title.



Obi with his TKA ribbon

Obi with his Open ribbons



Chris & Lexi finishing her RA



Chris & Lexi finishing RE at Nationals



Jo & Elijah getting HIT



Jo & Elijah finishing BN with a 200



Lumi finishing her SEN and overall SN titles

KEEPING CUES/COMMANDS CLEAR

BK GRICE

Whether you call them commands or cues the purpose is to tell your dog what behavior you want it to perform. To do that effectively your cues should be easily perceived by your dog and the two of you should have a shared understanding of what they mean.

- Be sure that your cues/commands are distinct. Does your verbal stay cue sound different from your verbal stand cue? Does your come signal look different from your down signal? Record your voice saying your verbal cues and have someone else tell you what they hear you saying. Do your signals in front of a mirror and see if you can easily see the difference or have someone else watch you and see if they can easily identify the signals.
- Can your dog hear your verbal cues or see your signals if they are not close or in front of you? If my dog is at a distance, I may need to increase my volume and speak more distinctly than when it is close. My dogs stand about 17” at the shoulder. In front of me, even at a distance, they understand that my holding my right hand in the air means to lie down. If they are in heel position, they can’t easily see that cue because my body is in the way. My cue for a down at heel position is to hold my left hand horizontal and push downward at my left side which is easier for them to see at heel position.
- Practice saying your verbal cues so that they are consistent every time you say them. Practice your signals in front of a mirror so that you give them the same way consistently.
- A behavior may have more than one cue; you may have a verbal cue (sit) and a signal (scooping upward) that both mean for your dog to sit. A cue/command can only have one behavior; when you say “sit” your dog should sit and not lie down. Be sure that you don’t confuse your dog by using the same cue for two different behaviors such as “down” to me both to lie down and to get off the couch.

Cues/commands are how we communicate with our dogs. They don’t speak English, French, Spanish or any of the languages we train them with. They read human body language well, but they aren’t born knowing the signals we train them with. The clearer we can make our verbal cues and signals, the easier it is for them to understand and properly respond to. Happy Training!

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



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.

