



# Obediently Yours

Devoted to the Training of Dogs for  
Better Human Companionship

G R E A T E R   S T .   L O U I S   T R A I N I N G   C L U B

## Teaching Patience and Self-Control

By Cinder Wilkinson-Kenner, CPDT-KA, GSLTC Director of Training.

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We all want our dogs to exhibit some self-control, we just don't always realize that self-control is what we want! Too often, we have dogs who have learned to sit, the jump, then sit again for a treat. Students often complain, "He sits, but only for a second. I want him to stay sitting!" or "She barks and lunges until she gets to the dog/person/toy, no matter how much I shush her and give her treats!" How many people get punched in the nose by their dogs' heads while trying to put on the leash? There are two components to teaching self-control, and they are at opposite ends of the leash!

There are ways to teach your dog to calm him or herself. We start this in puppy class. We work on teaching a "settle" or "parking our dogs." The "Settle" exercise involves sliding the puppy onto his or her side, and gently restraining the pup until s/he relaxes. We then add a release cue, pairing that with the puppy being allowed to get up and leave. The goal of this exercise is not that the human can physically hold the puppy down, but that the puppy can learn to stop, come away from exciting activity, and relax, on a cue from the human. "Parking the dog," which is the technique I learned from Kay Laurence ([www.learningaboutdogs.com](http://www.learningaboutdogs.com)), is an easy exercise: handler puts the lead under his or her feet, giving the dog enough slack to investigate around them, but not enough to leave the area or interact with other people or dogs. Then the handler ignores the dog, no eye contact, no talking, no petting. The dog will settle him or herself down eventually, it may take some time, but if the handler ignores the dog, the dog will settle down. When the dog settles down, the handler continues to ignore the dog, until the handler decides he or she is finished with the exercise. Kay's contention is that the dog doesn't need additional reinforcement (treats, petting, praise) from the handler, because the relaxed state and proximity to the handler is reinforcement enough. An additional benefit of this exercise, is that the dog learns, through classical conditioning, that when the lead is down, on the ground, s/he doesn't need to worry about going anywhere. When the handler moves the lead into a "working position," then the dog is back "on duty."

If the dog is older, we can use several techniques to teach self control. We use a "relaxed down" or "Chill out" on a mat for our dogs in Reactive Dog and Shy Dog classes. There is a wonderful step-by-step "Relaxation Protocol" by Dr. Karen Overall, which teaches calm behavior and self-control. Kay Laurence uses games, "tug" and "Whippits" to teach dogs to move from high arousal to self-control, and to exercise self-control even during high arousal. These are games which require some advanced skills on the part of the handler, and very specific rules, (continued p.3)

## GONE BY NOT FORGOTTEN by Linda Campbell

Today I said goodbye to an old friend that most of you never met. Our 15 year-old cockapoo "Boo." Boo was not an obedience champion, had never attended a training class, didn't like going for walks or riding in cars, and was pretty much a silent part of our family. However, Boo was one of the most kind and gentle creatures I have ever been around. She came to our family in 1996 as a 5 month old puppy living with a hoarder who had over 65 other dogs. She earned her name because she would bolt for cover anytime anyone said "boo". It took many years before she would stop hiding anytime visitors came to our home. The first time she approached and sniffed the hand of my visiting parents was cause for celebration.

However, as fearful as she was of people, she was equally tolerant of other dogs. In fact, in her younger days, Boo played foster parent to hundreds of puppies and kittens we took into our home. She patiently endured their climbing, chewing and jumping on her. She was their protector and mentor. Age has a way of catching up with all of us and over the past few years Boo lost her eyesight and hearing. She developed problems in her back legs and was unable to go up or down the stairs to go outside. The past few weeks she became unable to locate her food bowl and we had to carry her food to her so she could eat. The bigger dogs began to knock her over, and she had trouble getting back up.

Today, it finally hit me how selfish I was being. Boo was not enjoying life anymore - she was just existing. I made the difficult decision to help my gentle old lady leave this earth with some type of dignity.

"Boo, I want to thank you for all of the wonderful things you taught me. I love you and will miss you very much."

### For Sale

I have a set of doggie steps that I bought at PetsMart. They are in good condition as many unsuccessful attempts were made at using them when Reuben was a pup. I bought them for around \$40 and they can hold a dog up to 60 lbs. I am asking \$15 for them.

If interested, please contact Kara at 314-255-6508 or email me at [kmg314@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmg314@sbcglobal.net).

...Kara Grueninger

### (Continued from Page 3) Teaching Patience and Self-Control

canine) need to learn some constructive self-play, and ways to keep themselves busy for a few minutes while adults are otherwise engaged. Adolescents (human and canine) can be demanding, and vocal about it! They also need to learn to self-soothe and be patient with adults who are trying to juggle many tasks. The more skills and tools we give them for appropriate coping early in life, the more pleasant adults they will become. If we don't teach our dogs these waiting skills, which are part of maturing in the dog behavior world, as they are in the human world, they will continue to behave like infantile pups forever, exhibiting no self-control, demanding behavior, and expecting constant interaction from us.

Remember, patience and self-control is something we all want from our dogs. To teach self-control, exercise patience and self-control. Give your dog the skills he or she needs to cope with boredom, waiting, and high levels of distraction and arousal, and you will have a mature, good mannered dog, who is a pleasure to partner with on all sorts of tasks!

(Continued from Page 1) **Teaching Patience and Self-Control**

so ask a trainer or see Kay's DVDs on the subject. She also uses an exercise in which she puts out two markers (cones, chairs, etc.) about 8 feet apart. The handler walks, SLOWLY, as if window shopping, in an oval around the cones. The handler plants the handle of the lead firmly on the stomach or hip, and does not apply any leash pressure, except what the dog applies himself. The handler makes no eye contact, no talk, and gives no clicks or treats. The dog will pull, sniff, meander, etc., but eventually turns his or her attention to the handler, and walks slowly next to the handler, watching the handler closely.

The key to teaching our dogs self-control is to exhibit some ourselves! The temptation to always intervene when our dogs do something we don't want, or don't do something we ask immediately, is enormous. If your dog continues to bark in class, the social pressure to "Do something about it" can be overwhelming. No one wants to be stared at or glared at, by fellow students and instructors, or by people on the street. But, every time handlers intervene, we are both reinforcing that behavior, by giving it our attention, and missing the opportunity to teach our dogs to exercise some self-control. When a handler asks for a "Sit" or gives another cue, and the dog doesn't comply immediately, the handler tendency is to ask again, and again, and again. As handlers, we need to give our dogs time to choose what to respond, if they don't respond with what we want, they have lost the opportunity for reinforcement. Our dogs need to go through their own learning process, we cannot force them to learn through our impatience, and we may just confuse them by giving too many cues without waiting for a response. Students may do better with instruction to "give the cue, count to ten, if the dog hasn't responded, turn away, then turn back and start again" than to be told, "don't say, sit, sit, sit, sit." Because we humans are in a hurry, our dogs learn that they can jump and leap and be obnoxious when we are attempting to put on the leash for a trip outdoors. If we exercise patience, touching the collar, stepping away if the dog jumps, starting again, and stepping away each time the dog exhibits behavior we don't like, the dog will learn quickly to settle himself down and sit, so that the leash can go on. The same protocol works for waiting at the door. Each lunge causes the door to close. Sitting and waiting for a cue to go outside causes the door to open.

Often, as handlers and trainers we get frustrated or embarrassed while waiting out a behavior we find particularly annoying, like demand barking, or frustration barking, or jumping up, so we give in and say, "oh well, next time I'll wait it out". This is the most reinforcing experience for the dog, she has gotten intermittent reinforcement for the behavior, sometimes she hits the jackpot, sometimes not, so she is willing to continue gambling! Dogs, like humans, enjoy gambling, and will continue to try this behavior more often, just to see if it's a "winner" this time! Teach handlers to use this to their advantage, by sometimes offering an extra-high value reward for a behavior they want, (dog settles, dog gets to go play with other dogs, dog "comes" from yard, dog gets to go back into yard, dog looks when handler says name, dog gets hot dog), instead of using it to reinforce behaviors they don't want at all.

As trainers, handlers and pet owners, when we have time to devote to our dogs, we want to make it "quality time". Unfortunately, by us spending all of our time together constantly working to keep our dogs engaged and amused, we are doing them a disservice. Like humans, dogs need to learn to wait, and cope with a little down time. When we go to the license bureau, no one comes out to do a song and dance for our amusement while we wait in line! Infants (human and

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## Helping Others Cross Over to Clicker

By Lucy Bailey, CPDT-KA, KPA-CTP

We've done it! We have changed all of our classes to clicker classes. We have made the transition to clicker training ourselves. Our dogs have learned to learn in a new way. Yet, many of the people who come to our classes, having trained in other ways, still need to learn about the power of the click and how to use it to communicate with their dogs. How can we help?

I think the hardest part for dogs who have been trained using other methods is learning that they are the ones who get to initiate behaviors. Often these dogs have learned that they must not do anything at all unless the owner cues a behavior. Many do not have the confidence to try something new: instead they stare at the owner waiting for some indication of what is expected. I think the hardest part for the owners is to stop trying to initiate behavior in the dog. Often these owners are so used to being the ones who control the dog's behavior that they have difficulty waiting for behavior to occur. It is even harder for them when their dog just sits and looks at them because they want to do something to get the dog to take action.

Here are a few ideas to help both dogs and owners over the hump so that they can enjoy the benefits of clicker training, too. Crossover dogs can be cued for behaviors they already know. "Sit," dog sits, click, treat. "Down," dog lies down, click treat, "Shake," dog offers paw, click treat. This can jump-start the dog's understanding of the give and take of the communication game. Owners can be reminded to watch for the tiniest of behaviors. We can show the owners that their dog is not just sitting there doing nothing. It is glancing sideways, turning its ear, opening or closing its mouth, shifting its weight, and many other small behaviors. All of these are clickable behaviors. If the owner clicks and treats one of these, the dog will quickly learn to repeat that particular behavior. Now the dog is learning to initiate behavior and the owner is practicing observing and marking behavior.

Remind owners that success in communication comes from a high rate of reinforcement. The goal is 15 to 20 clicks and treats per minute. That's a lot! To be successful in this they may need to break behaviors down into smaller segments: a partial glance, a partial ear turn, a tiny shift in weight. Dogs new to clicker training can feel frustrated easily at first. Help owners watch for signs of stress and remind them to take frequent play breaks. Suggest that owners limit training segments



to 40 treats or 2 minutes then transition quickly to a game the dog enjoys. Play for two minutes, then do another segment of training. Remember to include these breaks in classes: it sets a good example for the owners and they may not do it if you do not give them permission!

At first, avoid behaviors that need to be lured. We know that capturing, shaping, and luring are all valid ways to get the behaviors that we want to click. The problem is that both dogs and handlers easily fall back into old habits when that lure comes out. The dogs focus on the lures (rather than on thinking) and wait for the owners to do something. The owners behave as if the using of the lure to get the behavior means the dog has learned something and forget that the communication is in the click. (continued on next page)

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It is far better for all concerned to select behaviors to start with that can be captured or shaped. In our basic curriculum, touch or target the fingers or hand is one of the best for capturing. Go to mat is wonderful for shaping.

For touch, set both dog and owner up for success by reminding the owner to be prepared. Have the treats within easy reach. Anticipate that the dog will sniff the fingers the first time they are presented and be prepared to click. Keep the clicker hand still. Present the fingers. Just as the dog's nose touches the fingers, click. Reach for the treat using the hand the dog touched. Repeat three times in quick succession, then six more times moving the target to different positions within reach of the dog. This should take between 30 and 60 seconds. Take a play break. Start again. After 4 click/treats move the target far enough from the dog that it must take a step or two to reach it. Stop while the dog is still doing well. As soon as the behavior is consistent and purposeful, add a cue. Some dogs do not touch the target when it is first presented. Try positioning to the side so they must turn their head to touch, rather than reaching forward. Try a little above or below their nose, so they just need to tip up or down slightly. If none of these work, take a play break and try again. If they still do not work, it is time to begin shaping. Begin by clicking and treating the slightest move of the nose toward the target.

Owners learn clicker skills well when they succeed in teaching their dog to go to the mat. Remind owners to keep both clicker hand and treat hand still, to click *then* treat, to use treat placement to help clarify concepts, and to keep training segments short. In teaching go to mat, tossing treats can be a great advantage. Have the dog/owner team practice this a few times before starting to make things go more smoothly. They can practice by having the trainer throw treats on the ground for doing a "touch." The owner needs to be able to toss the treat and have it go where they want it to and the dog needs to get used to looking for the treat rather than having it handed out by the owner.

Once the treat tossing skills are mastered, the mat may be introduced. As with touch, the owner should be warned to be prepared. It is unlikely that the dog will lie down on the mat when it is first presented, but it *is* likely that the dog will look at it or sniff it. Present the mat and be ready to click/treat a look or a sniff. To move things along quickly, throw the treat onto the mat after clicking. The dog will approach the mat - perhaps even step on it - which is also a clickable behavior. Click, then treat again, throwing the treat to another corner of the mat. Click again, then throw the treat off the mat far enough that the dog must leave the mat. After the dog eats the treat, click any behavior that is headed toward the mat: a look, a sniff, a step. Click and throw the treat onto the mat.

Take another break if this has gone on for more than two minutes. Repeat the process, watching for the dog to intentionally step onto the mat so that the owner will click and treat. As soon as that happens, throw only off the mat so that the dog earns all of the clicks/treats by going to the mat. As soon as the behavior is consistent and purposeful, add a cue.

Success in just these two key behaviors can be very rewarding for both dog and owner. By helping them through these steps of capturing and shaping, you are leading them through the door to clearer communication, improved training, and a stronger human-canine bond.

The starting dates for the Rally classes have changed from what I originally e-mailed. Rally Advanced/Excellent - 5 weeks starting Sunday, July 11th - Will meet at 4:00 in the lecture hall at the Macklind Headquarters Rally Novice - 5 weeks starting Thursday, July 8th - Will meet at 7:00 in the lecture hall. Class is limited to 10 dogs. If you are interested and have not already signed up, either call the Training Department at the Humane Society or email: [Obedience.Training@hsmo.org](mailto:Obedience.Training@hsmo.org). Fran

## CPDT-KA Test Tips

By Tina Ward, CPDT-KA

It was a beautiful fall morning, September 2009, the kind of morning where I wanted nothing more than to be outside playing with my dogs. But alas, I was inside a tiny, shadowed room with six computer stations and no windows at all, in a rickety building that looked like it might not make it through the next major thunderstorm, complete with a malfunctioning bathroom. I spent this beautiful morning taking the CPDT-KA exam, with 250 multiple choice questions on-line.

When I first began trainer's classes with the GSLTC, I didn't even know what APDT stood for (Association of Professional Dog Trainers), or that a CPDT-KA indicated a person was a Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed. But here I was, a little over three years later, taking my very first on-line exam and certainly the longest test I could remember since my college SATs decades ago. I was impressively neurotic in my months of preparation for the CPDT-KA exam and I offer the following as tips I found personally helpful should you or someone you know apply to become a CPDT.

1. **Get the Handbook** for CPDT-KA Candidates at [www.ccpdt.org](http://www.ccpdt.org). The Handbook lists the requirements for eligibility to take the CPDT-KA test as well as a wealth of information about the test itself and test procedures.
2. **Track your hours** working with dogs. Keep a precise log of the real-time hours you spend in various dog activities. To qualify, you must have a total of 300 hours in the last five years, 225 of which hours must be accomplished as head trainer or instructor. Although this is usually done on the honor system, you may be asked to document your hours and you should maintain this log.
3. **Complete the CPDT-KA application.** The application requires three letters of recommendation that include a veterinarian, a client, and a colleague. As you collect your hours, it's helpful to take note of thoughtful people who might write good letters of recommendation. For instance, perhaps in class you've had an owner who is a veterinarian. As well, during your training period, perhaps you've had meaningful conversations with your own veterinarian about your preparations to become a CPDT-KA.
4. **Submit in the CPDT-KA application in time.** The test is given only two times a year, in the fall and spring. The application deadline has typically been in July for the September test period and in January for the March testing. In 2009 the fee for taking the examination was \$385 or \$335 if you are already an APDT member.
5. **Read the CPDT-KA Handbook.** There are sample test questions that reflect the kind of questions likely to be included on the test. This also provides an indication of the areas of knowledge to be tested. The approximate percentages of questions break down as: Instructional Skills 32%, Animal Husbandry 6%, Ethology 20%, Learning Theory 32%, and Equipment 10%. Also included in the Handbook is a list of references that you might find helpful.
6. **Take the GSLTC Trainer Training Class.** Lucy Bailey and Lorraine Martinez both do a great job of covering the information that you need to know. This is a wonderful class, and I can't recommend it enough as an invaluable introduction and later on as a review for learned skills.
7. **Join the CPDT prep chat group online at yahoo groups.** To subscribe to the CPDT prep group, go online to: [cpdtprep-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cpdtprep-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). There are practice tests and other resources available here as well as the chat group where you can ask questions and share information. Be very aware that the practice tests were made up by people who had not yet taken the exam. These questions may not completely reflect the test and the answers given may not necessarily be correct. Nevertheless, these sample tests and questions will give you a chance to practice and to have a meaningful dialogue with members of the group about terminology, concepts and possible answers.
8. **Read and study the literature in animal behavior and learning.** I recommend two books to study: Terry Ryan's *Coaching People to Train Their Dogs* (published by Legacy Canine Behavior and Training) and Pamela Reid's *Excel-erated Learning* (James & Kenneth Publishers). [These books can be purchased from [www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com) which gives a 10% discount to APDT members.] While I read more books than this, the information I really needed to know was nicely summarized in these two books. Studying the Reid *Excel-erated Learning* made me much more comfortable dealing with the specific language of learning theory such as learning quadrants and specific terminology such as CER (conditioned emotional response), CRF (continuous reinforcement), operant vs. classical conditioning, positive vs. negative reinforcement, etc.
9. **Then really study some more.** Take notes, underline texts, review all of this, and then quiz yourself. In a study skills class I took a decade ago, the teacher stated that we retain learning best in a question-answer format and recom-

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mended that we take notes in question–answer form. I learned to divide the page from top to bottom with a line creating the left margin as 1/3 of the page. When taking notes I would write a question on the left side of the page, such as “what is habituation” and on the right side of the page I wrote the answer “the ability to stop reacting to a meaningless stimuli” (Reid, 1996: 35). When text underlining, I underlined the answer in the book and then wrote the question in the margin. This meant that when reviewing, I could cover either side of the book or notes page and quiz myself either by answering the question or by formulating the question. (The TV quiz show Jeopardy is a good example of formulating the question to go with the answer.)

**10. Do not become obsessed with any one area of knowledge for the CPDT-KA test.** The test questions will cover a wealth of information, spanning learning quadrants to the distinctions among sensitization, habituation, adaptation and learned irrelevance, parasites to choice of collar. Don’t bog down on what might be only a portion of the test.

**11. Seek out additional references for any CPDT area where you may be less knowledgeable.** Personally, I wanted more information for animal husbandry areas of animal parasites, diseases, and inoculations, so I read the animal health brochures on these topics on the American Veterinary Medical Association website, at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org).

**12. Drive by the CPDT test site ahead of time.** I found it helpful to drive to the testing site, to the actual building where I would be taking the test. Doing that took some of the stress of the drive on test day as well as being familiar with how long it would take. Initially, I drove right past the test site, although carefully following my Map quest directions, and had to turn around and go back to find the building. In my mind’s eye, I was expecting a modern, technological facility and instead I saw a prosaic, non-descript building, with a very small sign.

**13. Take the on-line practice test offered by Professional Testing Corporation** until you can navigate the testing software easily. The testing software allows you to flag questions so that you can return to them later to check them and review. You can navigate the test by using either keyboard strokes or the computer mouse, and you should be familiar with both. Half way through my own test, the computer mouse became non-responsive. Since I had spent time with the practice test, I did not panic and was able to easily complete the test, using only keyboard strokes.

**14. Be rested before the CPDT-KA test day.** Your brain works best and you think faster when well rested. You would fare better to get eight hours of sleep rather than to stay up all night studying.

**15. Eat to maximize brain function on the day of the CPDT-KA test.** In my study skills class, they recommended the perfect brain food to be yogurt, walnuts, and oatmeal. This combination of foods provides all the nutrients needed by your brain for maximum performance, without bogging you down with unnecessary fats and sugars. I snacked on walnuts on my drive to the testing facility.

**16. Arrive to the test site early.** Arrive early enough to feel settled and focused for the upcoming test.

**17. Have your ID and official test entry paperwork ready and at hand for the CPDT-KA examiner.** You are allowed to take only your ID into the testing area. Plan on leaving everything else in your car.

**18. Dress in layers on the day of the CPDT-KA test.** By having layers of clothing you can be comfortable whatever the temperature of the room at the test site.

**19. Flag the questions you want to go back and review on the CPDT-KA test.** You are allowed four hours for the test. Most people complete the test in two to three hours so there is plenty of time to go back and review any questions you may have flagged.

**20. Choose the best multiple-choice answer carefully on the CPDT-KA test.** Remember that this is a multiple choice test, and that the test is written by dog professionals that are not actually professional test writers. I found many questions somewhat ambiguous or unclear. However, I could generally eliminate two of the answer choices, which left me with a 50% chance of the correct answer. The test results are scored on a curve, which will eliminate those questions that do not test well. Most importantly, remember to relax and that you have four hours to complete the test. I found that the test really wasn’t that hard. Many answers were quite obvious and many were really just good common sense.

**Await your test results from the CPDT-KA examination.** Notification of the test results is sent by slow snail (USPS) mail one month after the last day of the entire two week testing period. Since I took the test on the very first day of testing, I received my notice and score six weeks after I took the test.

**22. Receive your CPDT-KA certification.** I made it and so will you!

Yes, I did pass and I proudly sign my name with the initials CPDT-KA. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and thanks to Lucy Bailey, Lorraine Martinez, Dixie Tenny, and Cinder Wilkinson-Kenner for instructing, advising and mentoring me throughout this process.

## BRAGS & WAGS & New Kids In Town

S'Posan's Duplikate, RN, OAP, AJP "Emmy" earned the following Agility titles: Open Standard Preferred and Excellent JWW Preferred, in the April trials. Emmy has had one lens implant and earned her titles with only one eye functional. She will have surgery on her other eye May 11th. Can't wait to find out how well she'll do with two functional eyes! Shown in photo doing weaves on the run to earn her Excellent JWW Preferred title....Sandy Roland-Grejtak, S'Posans Cockers.



This is our new kitten. Sienna is a Somali cat. She is 15 weeks old and weighs three pounds. After watching me work with Scarlet and the clicker, she came running out from under the table for her turn at the clicks and treats! She is making excellent progress learning to follow a target stick.....Dixie Tenny & Shane Whelan

### Earl is a Dual!!!!

Thanks to the Keetons for their guidance, CH Tsavo's Mynameis Earl VC is now a Dual. He finished with a second major in stiff competition at the Buckeye GSP trial. There were 23 starters in his stake and most of them were not vizslas. It has been a 30 year dream of mine to breed and own a Dual and Earl achieved it at the tender age of 3 years and 4 months. He lacks just 2 pts. to achieve his AFC. He is my sweet loverboy who just loves to run with the big dogs! Val Smith

On Friday, April 2, Cooper finished his MACH at the Gateway Agility Club trial in Lake St. Louis. He had more than enough points, but needed double Qs. He has been more consistent lately and added on those double Qs with the last one this past Friday. Now, he is:

Herding Champion/Herding Trial Champion/  
Master Agility Champion/Versatility Champion

### PRELUDE'S GRAND SLAM

AKC UD, RAE2, HXAsd, HXBd, MX, MXJ, CGC

AHBA HTADIIIIsd, HRDIIIIs, HTDIIIId, HTDIIIs

ASCA UD, ATDs, AFTDs, OFTDd

Magic was a good girl, too, earning her second leg in Excellent JWW.

Then, we went to the herding trial given by the German Shepherd Dog Club of Western Kentucky at RottiEwe Farm in Wright City, MO. For Advanced Course B ducks, Cooper placed 3<sup>rd</sup> on Saturday and 4<sup>th</sup> on Sunday with two excellent sheds. The trial was well run with good judges and nice people. We had a very good time. ....Janice Miller

This photo was taken the first time that I began introducing our dog, Foster, to the Manners Minder. He became so enamored with the treat delivery, he laid down next to it and finally fell asleep on top of it!...Jeff Jensen



## Bark in the Park 2010

By Linda M Campbell, RVT, CPDT, Director of Behavior and Training, Humane Society of Missouri

True to her fickle personality, *Mother Nature* decided to “rain cats and dogs” on everyone at Bark in the Park on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in Forest Park. She literally “rained on our parade”. However, the inclement weather did little to dissuade many of the dog lovers who attended Bark in the Park as a way to support the Humane Society mission of providing second chances for animals in need. Despite constant rain and a blowing wind, many pets and owners came to the event and participated in the dog walk, the pet contests and the special attractions. Below is a link to photos from the event, including several of the Agility Course.

<http://stltoday.mycapture.com/mycapture/folder.asp?event=1005042&CategoryID=38578>

On behalf of the entire Behavior and Training Department and the Humane Society of Missouri, I want to thank all of the dedicated GSLTC volunteers who braved the soggy, sloshy, wet conditions and helped us out. This was the first year the Trial and Bark were held on separate weekends and we are very appreciative of the wonderful volunteer turnout by GSLTC members. Everyone showed up, dressed for the weather and ready to assist.

There were two agility courses this year; one for little dogs (under 50 lbs) and another one for dogs of all sizes. I think most of us were surprised by the number of people who decided to have a go on the courses. The majority came off the course wetter than when they started, but happy to have had the chance to try out their luck on the equipment.

I would like to personally thank the following volunteers: Chris Bahr, Lucy Bailey, Fran Beezley, Marty Campbell, Kate Dolnick, Susan Fishbein, Victoria Hollowell-Dawson, Chris Hurley, Barb Kohner, Barb Parker, Linda Scroggins, and Linda Schulte. Of course I would be remiss if I didn't also thank the Behavior and Training Department staff: Barb, Lorraine and Amy. (Please forgive me if I left anyone out, my brain is still rather soggy.)

In the end, everyone seemed to have had a good time despite being waterlogged. Once again thank all of you for your willingness to face the elements and help us out. None of this would have been possible without your support. We hope Mother Nature will be kinder to us next year and provide better conditions.

### Trials 2010

Well, it was a lot of work and is now over for another year but it was another great trial. A big thanks to Lucy for chairing the event and another big thanks to everyone who helped either before or during the trial itself. It takes a lot of people to pull this off and we did it again. (Mark your calendars for the weekend of May 21, 2011 and start getting ready for next year!) I saw several club members there competing and we would all like to know how you did. I can report that Janice Caulley and Gus got their Rally Novice title as did Leslie Manis and Kelly. Bob Good and Jake now have 2 Novice Obedience legs and 2 Rally Obedience legs - what a good weekend for them. Angel also got 2 Rally Novice legs (and I have to brag that she came in first both times) and 1 Novice Obedience leg. Don't think that just because I didn't report your results I didn't see you there but frankly Janice, Leslie and Bob were competing in the same classes I was so I paid more attention! I know there were a couple of Vizlas who did well, too, I just don't know how well. So come on folks! Brag a little and let everyone know how you did! Fran

Our Champion Cardigan Ferris (Ch. Winbucks Mosaic Wheel d'Fortune CD got his 2nd Open leg and first place in Open A, 194. Thanks to all who helped put this show together...Charles & Sue Harrison & Jan A. Dickson



## Obediently Yours

Copy Editor: Dixie Lehmann, CPDT  
Editor In Chief: Linda Medlin

GREATER ST. LOUIS  
TRAINING CLUB

Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 434071  
St. Louis, MO 63143

Training Center:  
Humane Society of Missouri Building  
1201 Macklind Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110

Phone: 314-832 DOGS (3647)  
questions@gsltc.org  
www.gsltc.org

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### 2009-2010 GSLTC Board

#### Officers

President: Nancy Roth  
1st Vice President Cinder Wilkinson-Kenner, CPDT  
2nd Vice President Mary Duncan  
Secretary Fran Beezley  
Treasurer Martin Schnitker

Your nominating committee has been hard at work and has come up with the following **slate for the 2010 - 2011 year.**

President - Mary Duncan  
1st Vice President - Cinder Wilkinson-Kenner  
2nd Vice President - Susan Fishbein  
Secretary - Fran Beezley  
Treasurer - Martin Schnitker

#### Board

Board Officer 1st year:

Patti Crites, Soila Sukupolvi-Petty, and Barb Kohner

Board Officer 2nd Year:

Lucy Bailey, CPDT, KPCTP, Martha Weber and Bob Good

In addition to the above officers, there are 6 Board Members. Each Board Member is elected to serve for 2 years. Patti Crities, Barb Kohner and Soila Sukupolvi-Petty will be returning to complete their term. The new nominees will be Bill Giese, Linda Medlin and Nancy Roth.

Official ballots will be mailed out to the membership not later than June 1st. These will be due back by June 23rd or they may be given to me at the annual banquet. Speaking of the **ANNUAL BANQUET and AWARDS DINNER** - This year the Banquet and Awards Dinner will again be held at Guido's Restaurant on the Hill. It will be at 7 pm on June 26th. Details will be sent when the ballots are mailed out but put the date on your calendar now! So keep an eye on your mailbox! ....Fran