



Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

December 2010

APOTC website www.apotcerie.org.

Regular club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Shriners Hospital, 1645 West 8th Street, Erie, PA

Club Officers:

President:	Lee-Ann Czytuck
Vice-President:	Marilyn Flower
Treasurer:	Ann Gehrlein
Recording Secretary:	Amy Barney
Corresponding Secretary:	Kathy Croft
Board of Directors:	Trish Clark
	Melanie Shufan
	Jim Kwiatkowski
	Betsy Olson
	Sally Shilling
	Janet Norman

Club News

The next meeting will be February 8, 2011 at the Shriners Hospital. There is no regular monthly meeting in December and January. There will be a Board Meeting on January 11, 2011 at the Shriners Hospital at 7 PM.

The Trial Committee will meet on December 4, 2010, at Marilyn Flower's house at 10 AM.

The annual Awards Brunch will be at the Erie Yacht Club and is scheduled for December 26, 2010. Please RSVP Marilyn Flower by December 21, 2010 if you plan on attending.

Club membership dues (individual \$10 and family \$15) were payable by October 31, 2010. Please check in with Ann Gehrlein, Treasurer, to square away your dues if you are late.

An updated membership list has been completed and copies are available from Secretary, Amy Barney at the monthly meetings.

As the year ends, please remember to fill out a form for titles you and your dog/dogs have earned this year. A copy of the form may also be found at the end of the newsletter. Please complete and return it to Mary Alice Piotrowski by December 22, 2010. If you wish to compete for the traveling trophy you must submit your scores.

The upcoming obedience classes will be as follows:

Winter session: January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 2011

Spring session: March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2011

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for the APOTC Agility Trials which are scheduled for January 21, 22, and 23, 2011 at Countryside Agility in Edinboro, PA.

Kibbles and Bits

If you're looking for yet more information on dog food visit <http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/> for some interesting reviews.

'Tis the Season

Facts and Stats from the AKC

Tips for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season with Your Dog

- Daily routines change during the winter holidays, but try to maintain a feeding and walking schedule as close to your dog's normal routine as possible.
- Avoid feeding your dog table-scrap and sweets. Chocolate contains harmful, and sometimes fatal, chemicals to dogs. Poultry bones can splinter and cause intestinal blockages.
- Pets are attracted to the taste of anti-freeze, which can be lethal. Check driveways and wipe up leaks immediately.
- Ice-melting chemicals and salt on sidewalks can irritate a dog's footpads. Wash off your dog's feet as soon as you return home.
- Avoid decorating with popcorn or cranberry strands, tinsel, and glass ornaments. Dispose of all wrapping paper, bows and ribbons after presents are opened. Keep small decorations out of your dog's reach. Tinsel is dangerous for dogs. It may obstruct circulation and, if swallowed, block the intestines.
- When decorating with holiday lights, remember that exposed indoor or outdoor wiring could electrocute a curious canine animal that chews on it. Tape wires to the wall or sides of the house.
- Consider an artificial tree. Real Christmas trees may be toxic to dogs. Dogs find tree water tempting, so be sure to use pet-friendly preservatives in the water. Dogs also swallow pine needles which can be harmful. Plants such as poinsettias, holly and mistletoe can be poisonous to pets and should be kept out of reach.
- Resist the urge to give your favorite dog lover a cute, cuddly puppy during gift-giving season. Puppies are a lifetime responsibility requiring exercise, training, veterinary care and – most importantly – love and attention. Instead, consider gift wrapping dog toys or supplies such as a leash, or food bowl to symbolize the gift of a dog to come.

Winter Care for Canines General Concerns

Winter's cold air brings many concerns for responsible dog owners. Keep the following precautions in mind:

- Don't leave your dog outside in the cold for long periods of time. Wind chill makes days colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature, and limit its time outdoors.
- Adequate shelter is a necessity. Keep your dog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.
- Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog near frozen lakes, rivers or ponds. Your dog could slip or jump in and get seriously injured.

- Groom your dog regularly. Your dog needs a well-groomed coat to keep properly insulated. Short- or coarse-haired dogs may get extra cold, so consider a sweater or coat. Long-haired dogs should have excess hair around the toes and foot pads trimmed to ease snow removal and cleaning. If you do the trimming, take care not to cut the pads or other delicate area of the foot.
- Feed your dog additional calories if it spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary.
- Provide plenty of fresh water. Your dog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer. Snow is not a satisfactory substitute for water.
- Towel or blow-dry your dog if it gets wet from rain or snow. It is important to dry and clean its paws, too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.
- Don't leave your dog alone in a car. If the car engine is left on, the carbon monoxide will endanger your dog's life. If the engine is off, the temperature in the car will get too cold.



IF YOU HAVE EARNED TITLES THIS YEAR, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO MARY ALICE PIOTROWSKI VIA MAIL OR EMAIL BY 12/22/10.

APOTC

2010 Titles Earned by Members in Good Standing*

Member's name: _____

Dog's name: _____

Email Address: _____

OBEDIENCE

NAME registry (AKC, UKC, CKC, etc.) title earned and **date completed**.
If you wish to compete for the **traveling trophy**, **submit scores** and the **3 trial dates**.

AGILITY

OTHER

List all other performance or conformation titles, with registry and date.

*A member in good standing is defined as a member who has (1) paid their dues; (2) attended a majority of the monthly meetings; and (3) served as an instructor for our public classes or worked the trial.