



Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

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:	Lou Norman
Vice-President:	Marilyn Flower
Treasurer:	Ann Gehrlein
Recording Secretary:	Aleta Ross
Corresponding Secretary:	Kathy Croft
Board of Directors:	Amy Barney
	Elaine Smith
	Jim Kwiatkowski
	Betsy Olson
	Sally Shilling
	Janet Norman

Club News

Club dues were payable by October 31, 2009. If you are reading this and haven't paid your dues then you are late. Dues are \$10 individual and \$15 family membership. Please see Ann Gehrlein to square away your dues.

Please bring photos and ideas for the club website to the November meeting so we can update the website.

The Trial Committee will meet on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 1 PM at the home of Ann Gehrlein.

If you have earned a title this year, please complete the awards form and return it to Mary Alice Piotrowski by December 17, 2009. A copy of the form is attached to the newsletter.

The Annual December Awards Brunch will be Sunday, December 27, 2009 11 AM at the Erie Yacht Club. More details to follow. Please RSVP Marilyn Flower if you plan to attend.

Aleta Ross has donated a wheel chair, walker and crutches available for therapy dog training use. These items are at the Girard training facility.

The upcoming obedience classes will be as follows:

Winter session: January 7,14,21,28, February 4,11,18,25, March 4, 2010

Spring session: March 25, April 1,8,15,22,29, May 6,13,20, 2010

The next meeting will be November 9, 2009 at 7 PM at the Shriners Hospital.

Upcoming Events

APOTC will hold Agility Trials on November 6, 7, and 8, 2009 and January 22, 23, and 24, 2010 in Edinboro, PA at Countryside Agility.

Millcreek Mall Holiday Gift Wrap Fundraiser will be the four weekends before Christmas. "Because You Care" is looking for volunteers to participate. Contact Kathy Croft if you would like to join in on the holiday spirit and wrap gifts. This is a great opportunity for everyone to help "Because You Care".

American Red Cross Cat & Dog First Aid Course will be held November 14, 2009 at 9 AM – 1 PM and November 22, 2009 at 1 PM – 5 PM in Erie. Each date is a separate and complete course. The cost is \$30 per person and includes books and supplies. Please contact Peggy at 814-825-7825 or greysave@aol.com to register. Please also bring a stuffed animal to practice on.

Recent Activities

Amy Barney and Betsy Olson spent the afternoon at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie for the blessing of the animals on October 4. The clown in the booth next to APOTC table took a picture for us. Yes, there was a clown and he wasn't too scary. Amy took the picture of the pet blessing.



In the News

NEW YORK POST

Toys & Toxicity By JULIA SZABO

SPOILING a dog or cat with fun toys is one of the joys of pet parenthood. But according to information released by Healthy Stuff, a nonprofit environmental research organization, many pet products are literally spoiling pets to death, shortening animals' lives by exposing them to killer levels of toxic substances.

Using an X-ray fluorescence analyzer, researchers at Michigan's Ecology Center examined more than 400 pet products for hazardous chemicals, including lead, cadmium, mercury, bromine, chlorine (PVC) and arsenic. These have been linked to reproductive and endocrine problems, developmental and learning disabilities, liver toxicity and cancer.

One-quarter of pet products tested — **and all tennis balls made just for pets** — were found to have detectable levels of lead, including 7 percent with levels higher than 300 parts per million, the current Consumer Product Safety Commission standard for lead in children's products. There are currently no government standards for hazardous chemicals in pet products.

For example, Coleman dog beds and cat toys by Kitty Hoots contain brominated flame retardants, which a 2007 EPA study linked to hyperthyroidism in cats.

In a bi-pawtisan effort, Democratic Sen. Frank Lautenberg and Republican Rep. Bobby Rush are expected to introduce a new bill to reform the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act, phasing out most hazardous substances in "worst first" order of priority, and requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for their products' safety. To make your voice heard, go to HealthyStuff.org and click on "Take Action: Support Federal Regulatory Reform."

In the meantime, **protect pets and other family members by carefully checking the HealthyStuff.org pet list, where products are ranked by concern level.** A Classic Kong, for instance, is safely nontoxic, while the Air Kong Squeaker Football contains lead and arsenic. Nylabone Puppy Teething Keys have arsenic, but the Nylabone Double Action Chew is harmless.

Buying from pet product manufacturers that use recycled, organic and fair-trade materials is a safe bet; three good resources are WestPawDesign.com, SimplyFido.com and PurrfectPlay.com.

"The more we test, the more we find that the presence of toxic chemicals is widespread in everyday consumer products," concludes The Ecology Center's Jeff Gearhart. "It should not be the responsibility of public health advocates to test these products. Product manufacturers and legislators must take the lead and replace dangerous substances with safe alternatives."

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IF YOU HAVE EARNED TITLES THIS YEAR, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO MARY ALICE BY 12/17/09. YOU CAN MAIL OR EMAIL Mary Alice Piotrowski 860 East Street, Waterford, Pa. 16441 Or thepioz@verizon.net

APOTC

2009 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.