



## **Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**October 2009**

Regular club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Shriners Hospital, 1645 West 8<sup>th</sup> 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 are payable by October 31, 2009. 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 October meeting so we can update the website.

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:

Fall session: September 17 to November 12, 2009.

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 October 13, 2009 at 7 PM at the Shriners Hospital.

Please send any items for the newsletter to Betsy Olson by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### ***Upcoming Events***

The Erie Kennel Club will hold an Agility Trial on October 3 and 4, 2009 in Edinboro, PA at Countryside Agility.

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.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk will be October 3, 2009 at Erie's Bayfront Convention Center. Last year, APOTC dogs and club members walked to support this very good cause. So come out Saturday and walk to raise money and awareness. Contact Amy Barney and her canine friend Samson, and visit [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCFY10Pennsylvania?pg=entry&fr\\_id=19940](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCFY10Pennsylvania?pg=entry&fr_id=19940) and sign up. The team name is Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club. Amy and Samson thank you.

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](mailto:greysave@aol.com) to register. Please also bring a stuffed animal to practice on.

Blessing of the Animals will be held at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie on October 4, 2009 at 2 PM. There will also be a Fall Festival from noon to 3 PM rain or shine.

### ***In the News***

## **NEW WEB SITE WILL HELP PENNSYLVANIANS LEARN ABOUT, PROTECT AGAINST NOVEL H1N1 FLU**

### ***Online Resource Offers Preventive Tips, News***

**HARRISBURG** – Pennsylvanians now have a new online resource to help them learn about and help control the spread of the novel H1N1 flu virus, also known as swine flu.

The new Web site, [www.H1N1inPA.com](http://www.H1N1inPA.com), was created by the Department of Health to answer questions and provide the latest news on the virus. We expect to see a steady rise in H1N1 flu cases in the coming months, so it is essential that Pennsylvanians have ready access to the latest important developments, said Secretary of Health Everette James.

The Web site features an explanation of the novel H1N1 virus, frequently asked questions, symptoms of the disease, how to care for sick family members, downloadable educational flyers and posters, and links to other resources. The site also outlines simple steps that all Pennsylvanians should take to reduce the risk of becoming ill or spreading the virus to others:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and put the used tissue in the waste basket. If don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve, but never into your hands or onto bare skin.
- Keep your hands away from your face and don't touch your mouth, nose and eyes.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep clean frequently used surfaces such as knobs, countertops and desks.
- Stay home from work or school whenever you are sick, and remain home until you are fully recovered.

Information about a vaccine that is expected to be released in October will be added as it becomes available. After the new vaccine is released, the Web site will feature information about priority groups for immunization; as well as where, when and how the vaccine will be administered, James added.

For more information, visit [www.H1N1inPA.com](http://www.H1N1inPA.com) or call the Department of Health at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

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“A Lesson In Foxhunting” - Linda D. Witouski

I know you are probably finding all of this Legislative hoopla hard to believe, and some of you probably think that the AKC should be fighting this battle for you, but it is impossible for them to be on top of every state. If you think that poor legislation denying you your right to breed, own or show dogs doesn't have a chance in the U.S., think of the Scots and their beloved Foxhunting. How long have the people in Scotland, and neighboring countries been foxhunting? It is now banned in Scotland and barely on life

support in all other areas. Why, you ask - what happened...how could they do that? The animal rightists continually pushed and forced the debate until their thoughts and beliefs were THE issue....and the Foxhound Fanciers were not ready for it. They were not prepared and they thought the A/R's would just give up and go away. They laughed about it ... they thought that somebody else was taking care of the problem ... didn't think it was important....so, they jumped on their horses and went - foxhunting.....!! Why, who would ever even imagine that the foxhound sport that has been around since dirt could be attacked by a bunch of 'fanatics' and win ? But, win they did ! At the end of the days hunt on the day of the ban, when the Foxhunters returned, they were arrested, dogs were confiscated and all of Scotland was quiet.

Anybody want to take bets on how long it will be before the first ban of a dog/cat show takes place and people begin to lose their property rights - their animals and dogs ? No bets? How about betting on how long it takes before the U.S. is overrun with poor animal legislation? Everybody needs to sit up and pay attention ! It's coming and when it does, it will come hard and fast !

The showing fancy have always thought of themselves as better than the average dog, and though they may well be for a variety of reasons - commercial facilities have a right to exist, too. These people have been fighting poor legislation for many years and it's time the showing/owning fancy get with the program before it's too late. People need to set aside their feelings about others and concentrate on saving their rights - our rights - working together. Those that make disrespectful comments about others, joke & laugh about legislative issues, point fingers at their "fellow puppy mills" should take heed of the lesson to be learned in Foxhunting. I would be willing to bet that very few bother to check legislative issues in their town or state. I assure you, this agenda against our rights will move from state to state, for those who would see us dogless will be relentless in their quest. What will you do when it comes to your town? What would you give to be able to regain the freedom of choice you will have lost?

Fast forward to the present. 2008

It's alarming that many still don't find it important enough to assist in legislative issues. We are surrounded. The rightists "wave" is the same now as it was in 2002. If you take note of the legislation being passed around the country, the outlying states, or coastal areas, are being coerced into stricter laws. California, Texas, New Mexico, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Wisconsin. The states currently being besieged with bad legislation creates a net that surrounds the remainder of the U.S., and causes an "inward" push, into the traditional heartland of our country. Once outlying coastal states are acquired, they will continue to push until there is no where to run.

Those that have been working legislation for many years have created a phalanx and have become very good at combating poor legislation, but, just like the Spartans at Thermopylae, the opposition is in the millions and sooner or later our phalanx will fail. It should be the opposite since we are the ones that care about animals and the sport, or so

many claim. People don't realize that the rightists movement has nothing to do with the welfare of the animals - genuine animal welfare is being sacrificed for a political victory over animal owners. As in the Foxhunting lesson - a movement's means create its ends ...

Every club, organization and animal owner needs to now rise up and take their place in the phalanx. We need to be visiting schools and promoting OUR word rather than allowing AR public education programs to infiltrate school systems. We need to encourage young people who have a love for animals to join us by taking them under our wings. We need to offer assistance to those who have been injured by some dog in Small Town, USA. We need public service announcements to advertise clubs & responsible ownership - offer free classes to parents and children. Most importantly, we need to know our politicians by creating voting alliances in every state and let those politicians know that we are watching them. We need to make our presence and what we stand for known by introducing ourselves to local governments, even if it means assisting with some other issue that is non animal related - something that is near and dear to a politician that you helped them with will go far when you need it. (It wouldn't hurt to run for a position, either !) There are probably a million ideas that clubs, officers, members and owners could come up with if they would only take the time to sit down, discuss, and then DO it.

That is, unless, of course, you are all out .... Foxhunting.

#### About the Author:

Linda D. Witouski, is an NPP Legislative Editor, and an AKC Judge with an Assoc. Degree in law. Owner of DogLegislation@yahoogroups.com and MinPinInReview@yahoogroups.com, she is the AKC Legislative Liaison for PA and SC and serves multiple national legislative organizations. She is the Legislation Chair and on the Board of Directors for Myrtle Beach Kennel Club, and as Independent Legislation Liaison at Large, assists groups in any state. A respected dog fancier, Linda is first and foremost, a Fancy Breeder known for her record holding Miniature Pinscher, BISS Am/Can Ch. KeriLynns Drop Dead Fred.



IF YOU HAVE EARNED TITLES THIS YEAR, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO MARY ALICE BY 12/17/09.

**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.**

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**AGILITY**

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**OTHER**

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

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\*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.