



Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

May 2010

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

The upcoming obedience classes will be as follows:

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

Fall session: September 16, 23,30, October 7,14,21,28, November 4,11, 2010

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

The next meeting will be May11, 2010 at 7 PM at the Shriners Hospital.

At the April Board meeting, the board approved the motion that applicants for membership must attend three meetings within a six month period prior to being voted in. Failure to do so will require the applicant to reapply for membership.

APOTC will participate in the Humane Society Calendar fundraiser again this year. A date and time will be set soon for the APOTC group photo for the 2011 calendar. Stay tuned.

The nominating committee, Amy Barney, Jim Kwiatkowski and Sally Shilling, are looking for members who are interested in holding a board position or running for an office. Let them know you wish to get involved.

Need a new APOTC sweat shirt, jacket, fleece or T? Lee-Ann Czytuck will be taking orders at the next meeting just in time for the August obedience/rally trials.

Our August 20 and 21, 2010 obedience and rally trials will be held at the JMC Memorial Ice Arena. Renovation work at the facility may put a damper on the trial so an alternate show location is needed. If you have any information on potential alternate locations please contact Lou Norman.

Upcoming Events

The Canine Good Citizen Test will be offered on June 5, 2010 at Ann Gehrlein's place. Sign in is at 10:00 AM and testing begins at 10:30 AM. The fee is \$6.00 per dog. Deadline for pre-registration is Saturday, May 29, 2010. Both purebred and mixed-breed dogs of any age are welcome. The registration form can be found on the APOTC website, www.apotcerie.org.

Mark your calendar for the American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk which will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2010 in Erie. Come out and walk with your dog on the APOTC team.

2010 Run-thru Schedule from January to July held by the All Breed Training Club of Akron is available on line at www.abtca.org. Obedience, rally, agility and conformation are offered. Questions call 330-630-0418 or email info@abtca.org. ABTCA's building is located on the Summit County Fairgrounds property in Tallmadge, OH.

Laura Romanik "Bridging the Gap" Seminar will be held in Medina, OH, on July 30 to August 1, 2010. Get an answer to the question, "How do I get in the ring what I get in training?" The seminar is limited to 15 working teams and cost is \$200 (includes lunch and breakfast). It will be held at the Medina Kennel Club, 6162 Wooster Pike Road, Medina, OH. For more info contact Bonnie Burman at burmantervs@aol.com or 330-668-2590.

Bits and Pieces

April showers bring May flowers...with the arrival of spring...finally...many lawns are being treated and gardening is in full swing with weeding and mulch spreading. Be sure that the products you use, as well as the plants sprouting up or being planted, are safe for our canine friends. Also, be aware of the places you take your dog to like parks and neighborhood walks. Enjoy the spring weather!

The following is courtesy of Barb Cole, and appeared in the Cleveland Shetland Sheepdog Club newsletter: Excerpts from "Welcome to My World" A dog blog by Judy Chapman, published in the National Dog magazine from Australia. This magazine can be viewed on-line at no charge (<http://www.nationaldog.com.au/magazine.htm>).

Dogs to the Rescue

Is there anything to which the clever canine cannot successfully turn its paw?

The latest role is that of Allergy Alert Dogs, which are being trained to assist individuals (particularly children) suffering from potentially life-threatening food allergies – such as peanuts and tree nuts. These dogs are trained to detect elements of such allergens in any form (whether raw, cooked, in oil, butter, or whatever), and protect their owners against contact or ingestion of them.

To date, Portuguese Water Dogs and Labradoodles have predominantly been used, with German Shorthaired Pointers, Poodles, Labradors and Golden Retrievers also currently being trained for this specialist task. At the forefront of this innovative concept is the Angel Service Dogs programme, based in Monument, Southern Colorado. For more information, go to www.angelservicedogs.com

As it's just been revealed that Australia's childhood allergy rates have not become "a public health problem of epidemic proportions" (Dr. Ray Mullins, president of the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy), it would be wonderful if an Allergy Alert Dog training program could be initiated here in Oz.

Reverse Snobbery

An interesting reversal of fortunes has crept up on us, almost without our noticing. Purebred dogs are gradually becoming the "poor cousins" of the canine world. Their former "top dog" image is being eroded, making them the new underdog to mutts, crossbreeds and so-called "designer dogs." This fall from grace has been exacerbated by hyped-up allegations of compromised health in pedigreed dogs (completely overlooking the many health problems encountered in non-purebreds!) – aided and abetted by an outburst of reverse "snob-ocracy" and "political correctness" gone mad. It's even resulted in "Feeling Guilty About

Your Purebred Dog?" themed articles in the press (including such august publications as the New York Times).

It is no surprise that radical activists People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have been at the forefront of this push to discredit purebred dogs, with their ongoing "Never Buy Animals From A Breeder" and "Fight Breedism" campaigns. (For anyone wishing to get some background info about PETA, the www.activistcash.com website makes for very interesting reading. As does PETA's "The AKC and Dog Breeders: Partners in Crime" media release at www.peta.org/mc/factsheet_display.asp?ID=145).

Accompanying media blurbs make all sorts of far-fetched claims, including that "one in four pedigree dogs is afflicted with serious congenital defects." Sadly, there are those who will miss out on the many benefits provided by owning a purebred dog, because of being frightened off by such hysterical and poorly-researched propaganda.