



Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2021

Philadelphia Dog Training Club

A message from the President

PDTC Spring trial

May 15, 2021 was a beautiful day to hold our trial at Kuhn's Day Camp. Due to uncertainty about COVID, we elected to hold this year's trial outdoors. (We anticipate being back inside next year.) There was a total of 96 dogs with 47 entries. The trial honored the memory of Bruce Northrup and Helen O'Mara, both longtime members of the club.

Thanks to Trial Chair Larry Wilson, Chief Steward Barb Doering, Hospitality Chair Liz Alakszay, and Grounds Chair Carol Eisenlohr, and most of all to Trial Secretary Chris Allen. Also, thanks to all volunteers and trophy donors!

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on Monday, April 19, 2021, via Zoom. President Brenda Perkins reported on how well we did starting classes up again during the pandemic. She thanked all the instructors and assistants for their hard work. She announced that Barb Doering has retired and that Chris Allen is now the Competition instructor.

Sue Anderson gave the financial report, which showed that our club is in good financial shape. There was a report about the upcoming trial. We now have an online store with [Lands' End](#) if anyone wants to buy clothing with our logo on it.

The annual election was held with the following people elected:

- President: Brenda Perkins

- Vice President: Open
- Secretary: Lisa Yoon
- Treasurer: Susan Anderson
- AKC Representative: Larry Wilson
- Board Members: Carol Eisenlohr and Anita Ann Murphy

Annual awards

PDTC 2020 titles

- **Liz Alakszay:** *Pansy*, CGC, CGCA, TKN (no date)
- **Chris Allen:** *Frankie*, OM9 (9/6/2020)
- **Sue Anderson:** *Kenzie*, CGCA (2/13/2020); *Tory*, CGC (8/20/2020)
- **Mandy Buhle:** *Brooklyn*, CGC (8/29/2020)
- **Sue Davis:** *Annie*, CGC (12/10/2020); *Sammie*, CGC (12/10/2020)
- **Debbie DeSantis:** *Riley*, P-CDX (2/14/2020)
- **Carol Eisenlohr:** *Fiona*, BN (2/14/2020)
- **Linda Ratsep:** *Spencer*, CGCA (no date)

High Score Award: Chris Allen and Frankie with a 197.67

An early history of the Philadelphia Dog Training Club

Our club had its beginning in 1938, and it is believed to be one of first three obedience clubs in this country. It was first affiliated with The Obedience Test Club of America, to which it paid dues. This New York club was founded by Mrs. Whitehouse Walker, who introduced obedience training in America. Subsequently, our club ceased to be associated with the original club and in 1941 had at least two different names — “Philadelphia Obedience Test Club” and “Obedience Trial Club of Philadelphia.” There were eight founders. Outdoor lessons in the summer were held in Haverford, and in the winter, they used the second floor of Foley’s dog supply store on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. Officers were elected and members paid 50 cents a lesson. The first instructor was Mrs. Farley (no first name, just Mrs. Radcliffe Farley), since she was the only person familiar with training methods, having attended class when living in Baltimore.

Other training sites included the Philadelphia Country Club and Ursula Murray’s dancing school in Ardmore. At some point it was decided to engage Josef Weber, who was a prior member and instructor of the Berlin Police Force. At that time classes were being held on the Widener estate in Elkins Park. Dues were \$1 per lesson or \$3 per month. There were enough members to help teach classes that three classes were held at the same time. The training session was two hours long for everybody, with a brief rest period while the instructors rotated.

During the World War II, classes were held at the home of Misses Julia and Mary Griffith and no rent was paid. In the summer they used the lawn and in the winter the ballroom. Hot tea and toast were served in the winter. During this

time, due to lack of funds, only members were instructors. Lessons were 25 cents!

Shortly after the war, classes moved to Chestnut Hill Academy and then to The Montgomery County Day School. John Simson, another German trainer, was the head instructor for a year, then Hulme Brown took over. Russell Klipple subsequently was made training director, a post he held for many years.

Other interesting facts:

1. The first issue of HEEL was in February 1948.
2. During the World War II, some of the member gave some Coast Guard dogs their basic training.
3. In the early days, tracking was a required exercise to complete a UD.
4. Our club seal is fashioned after *Nora*, the first Kerry Blue Terrier to earn a UD.
5. In Utility, the handler provided only three articles (one each of wood, leather, and metal) and the judges brought their own collections of a dozen articles, which could be anything.
6. Forty-two inches was the standard height for the jumps, except for giant breeds and very small breeds. In Utility, the jumps were placed in a line with the high jump first. The handler would station themselves midway between jumps and the dog had to halt and be in heel position. This was repeated for the bar jump. If you had a small dog, the height was altered but not the distance between jumps, giving the advantage to the small dogs.

This excerpt is taken from a history of our Dog Club written in May 1957. I hope to be able to have the next excerpt in the next edition of HEEL. Hope you enjoyed this!

News from our Members

Liz Alakszay: *Pansy* got her trick dog intermediate certificate.



A picture of the well-behaved *Lily* and *Pansy*

Lily got her 2nd Novice leg at the Berk Trial and eked out a 189. She got her last leg for Novice at the Wilmington Kennel Club show in June and first place!



Lily

Carley Bates: On April 30 at the Wilmington Kennel Club show, *Joe* won Winner's Dog for a 3-point major! On May 2, he again won Winner's Dog for 1 point at the Penn Treaty KC show. To be major pointed at 7 months is not common in most breeds. To finish a conformation championship, you need to win at least 2, 3, 4 or 5 point majors and enough other points totaling 15. We're well on our way!

Jack was in a series of photo or video shoots for a national ad campaign for Sealy. Sealy had more responses with *Jack* than they usually get on their social media ads. *Jack* had 12,000 "likes" on Instagram and 17,000 "likes" on Facebook.

Jack and *Joe* recently returned from the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America National Specialty in Springfield, Missouri. Unfortunately, *Jack* NQ'd in one Open and two Utility classes. But he placed third in the second Open class. *Joe* won fourth place in his 6-to-9-month-old puppy class of 12 entries! His breeders and the owners of some of his littermates there were all ecstatic; he's the first of his litter to be shown. There was a total entry of 429 Cardigans at the Specialty — the highest entry ever.



Jack in a national mattress ad

Anne Blythe: I am very happy to announce that finally *Elly*, my English Cream, earned her Rally Novice title on March 13 at Wilmington Kennel Club! After a year off, it was a long haul. I am also proud to tell everyone that *Bernie*, my Bernese Mountain Dog, earned her CGC and CGCA this Spring. Now, on to Beginner Novice for both.

Natalia Davydova: *Alex (RMH Don't Stop Believin' BN RI CGC)* received a CD on April 24.

Debbie DeSantis: My rescued Aussie Mix *Millie* accomplished her CGC and CGCA (advanced CGC). As a Covid puppy, I wasn't able to socialize her as I normally would. But she's made a lot of progress and knows many commands and tricks and we really love her.

My Lhasa Apso *Ralphie* was invited to the AKC Nationals in Intermediate Rally (we aren't going). He was the top Lhasa in Intermediate Rally and the № 2 Nonsporting Dog in Intermediate Rally at 2 years old (a poodle was first). He did it in four shows in two days.



Ralphie at Rally

Barb Doering: *Siri* was the № 2 AKC Rottweiler in Agility for 2020. After an 18-month break from obedience to get her MACH, *Siri* was back in the obedience ring on February 14, 2021, at the Long Island Golden Retriever Club obedience trial and took 1st place in Versatility. At the Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club Obedience Trail, Saturday, April 10, 2021, *Siri* got her 2nd Versatility leg with a first place. On April 18, 2021, at Dauphin Dog Training Club Agility Trial, *Siri* got a triple Q with 2nd places in both Premier Standard and Master Standard. *Siri* did really well at the Colonial Rottweiler Club agility trial May 7-9 getting *eight(!)* Rottweiler High in Trials as well as multiple all breed placements.

On May 11, 2021, *Siri* finished her Versatility title with a 1st place and officially retired from obedience. She has met and surpassed all my goals so now she gets to do what she wants and she chooses agility!

At the Wilmington Kennel Club agility trial on May 14, 2021, *Siri* won both Premier Standard and Premier Jumpers.

Britt Emanuel: *Sunny* got his BCAT in Fast CAT in April and went for his CGC in May.



Sunny

Laurie Leevy: *Lahdee* had surgery for a torn CCL and is currently doing rehab including water therapy! Laurie is mending as well.

Hannah Loonsk: At the Irish Water Spaniel National, *Georgia* (Poole's Ide On My Mind RN CGC) placed 2nd out of 9 in Novice and got her first leg! She did beautifully and was also Reserve Winner's Bitch for a major. *Georgia* also placed 1st in Rally Intermediate. *Simone* opted out of the high jump, but did beautifully on all of her other exercises and passed her working certificate test!

Hannah also has a brag — she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School in May and will be moving to Virginia to work in a practice that does a lot of reproductive work. Congrats!!



Hannah with Georgia

Reg Speir: My *Wilson*, after a year-and-a-half (Covid) layoff, earned his CDX at Camden County April 26-28 with two 2nds (lost runoffs) and a 1st and scores of 197, 199, and 199.5. He followed up with a win and his first Utility leg at DelVal GSDC Trial on May 10 (194.5).



Wilson

In memoriam

Debbie DeSantis: My shih tzu *Trevor* died on May 5, 2021. *Trevor* was a former puppy mill breeder dog from a Lancaster County puppy mill. He was about four years old when I adopted him 12 years ago. Of course, he was very scared and had physical problems: an eye wound, bad skin, etc. He had been cruelly de-barked by the puppy mill. They may have taken away his voice, but they didn't break his spirit. His bark became a squeal.

My vet got him back to health and I worked with his behavioral issues. He was so scared that, on his freedom ride home with me, he screamed, urinated, defecated, and vomited in his crate. He had been with the rescue for only a few weeks and had never lived in a house before.

He really appreciated having a routine in which he was fed regularly and given positive attention. Amazingly, he adapted very well. He became great with handling and grooming. The road wasn't always easy, but *Trevor* made it worthwhile.

Over the years, he became the dog he was meant to be: confident, sweet, and intelligent. He loved everyone. He became a therapy dog and went to the hospital to comfort people every week for years. People really loved him. He enjoyed being petted and even flipped onto his back for belly rubs sometimes. He loved being petted that way.

Trevor also grew to love obedience, which gave him confidence and expanded his mind. He became a nationally-ranked shih tzu and placed all the time. He got first place in his first show with a 198.5 out of 200 in AKC Beginner Novice. *Trevor* heeled with his head up and sharply.

He placed all the time in AKC Novice, even winning a heeling run-off. He placed in Rally Novice every time and was invited to the AKC Nationals (we didn't go). He also had trick titles and his CGC and advanced CGC. He was even an obedience demo dog in my classes years ago. All of this was just the icing on the cake. I just wanted to rescue a puppy mill breeder dog.

It was amazing that he changed from the terrified little dog who came to me to one I could trust off-leash. He loved life to the fullest: his walks, his therapy work, and his weekly excursions with the other dogs to pet shops.

In the last few years of his life, he started to show his age. But he was the same spunky little guy.

I admire the dog *Trevor* had become. I could take him places, and he'd charm people with his personality and tricks. I'm sure if I had his start in life, I wouldn't have made the progress he did or have the positive outlook on life that he developed. RIP *Trevor*. You're greatly missed and won't be forgotten.



Trevor