



# Newsletter

April 2023

## Philadelphia Dog Training Club

### Word from the President

First and most importantly, thank you, to all our instructors, assistants, board members and volunteers helping our club to run successfully. We continue to offer classes to both the public and our membership four days a week.

We were able to find a new mat roller when our old one went off to college. The new person has been extremely competent and responsive.

In December training members were asked to volunteer at least once per year or make a minimum additional payment of at least \$50, which will contribute to the club's solid financial position. As a reminder our volunteer opportunities include working at our show in May,

helping with shed maintenance, and many others.

Our spring trial is on May 13<sup>th</sup> there are still some volunteer opportunities available. After the show we will send out an email reminder to those who have not yet fulfilled the requisite.

The Board is currently working on an updated incident policy as well as tending to other club business. If anyone is ever interested in serving on the Board, please let any Board member know.

Again, a big thank you to the many people who help keep the club running. There are several people who donate a lot of their time, if you ever see them, please say thank you. - Brenda

## Did you know?

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Mary Beth Mills is our Sunshine Chair. If you know of a member who could use a note of support, please email Mary Beth at: [millsmarybeth1@gmail.com](mailto:millsmarybeth1@gmail.com) and a card will be sent on behalf of our PDTC Community. I'll bet she wants to spread the news about good and exciting items too, like the birth of a child or a wedding.

## Community

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This is your club and your newsletter. I am just your humble Editor. What do you want to see in upcoming issues? Do you have a special talent you would like to contribute? Send your ideas to: [ellsworthdogs@gmail.com](mailto:ellsworthdogs@gmail.com) I would love to hear your input. Remember I also accept your news and pictures any time. The best time is right after the excitement happens. That way it is still fresh in your mind. It also makes it easier for me, to be gradually be working on the next issue, instead of getting a big influx of information and trying to sift through it all at once.

The deadline for the next issue is July 10th

## PDTC Spring Trial May 13<sup>th</sup>

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Everyone is excited about our Spring Trial Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> held at Y2K9s in Willow Grove, Pa. We have three rings with a variety of classes. If you haven't already volunteered to help, please contact Colleen Marsini at [cmarsini@verizon.net](mailto:cmarsini@verizon.net). If you have never been to a dog show this is a great one to watch. AND if you haven't already entered there is still space available in all of the classes.

Look forward to seeing you there. This is our club's big event of the year!



## News from our Members

### **Liz Alakszay:**

Despite “Dog Mom” not having ANY focus on the day of the Wilmington KC Trial on March 12<sup>th</sup>...



Pansy finished her Rally Novice title with a second-place finish and a score of 99.



Lily got her first leg of her Rally Intermediate with a score of 90, in spite of the fact that her handler walked through a sign... Lily decided her handler needs more lessons before the next outing.



## **Irv Herling:**

Chewbacca, a graduate of PDTC, is now a Comfort Caring Canine Therapy dog bringing joy and comfort to many people. Here is Chewy at a breast cancer fundraiser at Penn.







## **Frank Spatacco:**

Nico Joined PDTC in June 2022. He has completed Puppy K with Carol, Beginner with Carol (AKC STAR Puppy), Intermediate and Advanced with Loretta - passing the Canine Good Citizen Exam- and now we are in Ring Readiness with Jennifer. Honestly when we made a decision to join as a family when we got Nico, we wanted him to have some basic manners and not jump on people when they came into our home. I had no idea I would join the club and make time in our schedule weekly

for it. What PDTC has taught me over the past year and the bond that I have developed with Nico as his main trainer in the family is nothing short of an awakening and one that I am exceedingly grateful for. What I learn in the classroom I bring home to my wife Kendra and our daughter Rita (4) who both eagerly adopt the new tricks, tips, routines and trials that advance not only Nico, but all of us. Nico has been able to bloom into the wonderful, obedient, smart dog he is, only because of the dedication and reliability of the teachers at PDTC, and their efforts to teach me how to train.

When people meet Nico in a park or in public they always comment on how well behaved he is for 11 months old and are curious as to "who trained him?". I take great pride in answering, "We trained him as a family at Philadelphia Dog Training Club".

## **Frank Nelson:**

My Penny's AKC registered name is Asgard's Peach Keen. I am very proud of her ranking nationally and she did it with just 3 trials and no matches and it was my first time back in the obedience ring in years due to health / mobility issues. Thank you, Penny, for such an awesome come back.

Ranked #7 in Rottweilers for 2022 according to Front and Finish.

## **Darrell E Swank:**

Zerk finished his Championship Sunday April 2nd after winning three, 4 Point Majors in Syracuse. Before this weekend he won a point here and there and was Reserve at many of his shows. He had a great weekend in NY, and we are so proud of him. He is one of the first black GSPs to become a Champion. He joins a line of AKC Champions, including his Mother, Grandfather and Great Grandmother. I always say he is one smart handsome dog.





## **Laurie Leevy:**

Lahdee is a Therapy Dog at Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia. She has been part of their program for about five years. Recently she has been part of CHOP's recruitment program for their Therapy Dog Program and has been seen on Their Instagram and Facebook accounts.

All of Lahdee's years of classes surely are the

foundation for her solid behavior in the face of unexpected happenings. She works mainly on the neurology pod which demands a nonreactive, confident dog. It is a never-ending privilege to be a part of patients' lives with Lahdee as the catalyst for conversation, interactions and lots of hugs.





## **Carley Bates:**

Joe and I had a busy Fall prior to my third back surgery in December. At the Morris Hills DTC on September 3<sup>rd</sup> Joe earned his 2<sup>nd</sup> Beginner Novice leg with a score of 198.5 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. On September 10<sup>th</sup> he earned his BCAT title at the Vizsla Club of Greater New York. At the Lower Camden County DTC on September 23<sup>rd</sup> Joe finished his Beginner Novice title in grand style with a 1<sup>st</sup> place and score of 199.5! Last but not least, this amazing Cardigan Welsh Corgi earned both his Trick Dog Novice AND Trick Dog Intermediate titles at Suburban DTC on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Since my surgery, Joe has been my constant



companion, acting like a service dog, rarely leaving my side. Joe is only almost 2 ½ years old and I couldn't be more proud of him!

## **Eleanor Campbell:**

On April 1 and 2 at the Salt City Syracuse (NY) cluster, Tip earned his first two legs towards his Rally Novice title, with scores of 100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 99, 4<sup>th</sup> place.



Send your news and pictures to  
[ellsworthdogs@gmail.com](mailto:ellsworthdogs@gmail.com)



# Annual Meeting

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The annual meeting and awards of the Philadelphia Dog Training Club was held Monday April 17 at 7:30. Attendance was sparse, it was noted that in year past when in person there were more people present. Hopefully, next year more people will be able to be there.

The upcoming trial and volunteering was discussed. In addition, we heard reports from various people including our President, Treasurer, our AKC rep, Larry Wilson and the editor of HEEL, our newsletter, Darrell Swank.

The nominating committee presented its slate of officers, directors and our AKC representative for the upcoming year. There were no contested positions. All were voted in.

Welcome:

President-Brenda Perkins  
Vice President-Liz Alakszay  
Secretary-Lisa Yoon  
Treasurer-Susan Anderson

Directors-Darrell Swank and  
Julia Vahlsing

AKC Delegate- Larry Wilson

After the business of the club was concluded, awards were announced. People worked and trained hard in 2022. This is evident by the new titles and awards.

Congratulations to everyone.

After the awards, the meeting was closed, and everyone returned to their homes to be welcomed and cuddled by their furry family.

Look forward to seeing everyone training and at next years meeting.

# Awards

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A big congratulations to everyone with their new titles and awards this past year.

## CGC

Jen Peirson-Winterle - Jolene

Susan Murphy - Luna

Peter Burns - Paco

Carley Bates - Joe

Petra Werner - Loki

Liz Rogan - Xena

Frank Spatacco – Nico

CD

Frank Nelson-Penny

CDX

Brenda Perkins-Derrick

## CGCA

Yochi Paltin - Carmi

Sue Anderson - Tory

Iliana Kohler – Hippo

RA

Anne Blythe-Maddie

## BN

Liz Alakszay-Pansy

Carley Bates-Joe

Beth Hacker-Rufus

Anne Blythe-Elly

VER

Chris Allen-Frankie

UDX and OM2

Reg Speir-Wilson

## RN

Anne Blythe-Bernie

High Point award to Reg and Wilson with a combined score of 198.67!!