



Newsletter

January 2026

Philadelphia Dog Training Club



A Word from the President

Greetings and Happy New Year. I hope all you two-footed and four-footed individuals are

ready to get back to training-I know my dog was excited to go to class last week.

Since I wrote last, we completed two very successful

A word from the President

back-to-back rally trials. Kudos to Chair - Liz Alakszay, Secretary - Eleanor Campbell and Chief Ring Steward - Liz Rogan, with many other volunteers and donors. We had many entrants and the trial landed in the black. Our next trial will be our Obedience Trial on May 9, 2026. Please volunteer to help and make a tax-deductible donation when asked. If you have never seen a competition, please come and watch. It is amazing what our dogs can do.

The Board is always busy, being fiduciary stewards of our club and attending to regular business. If you see them at class please thank them for their service: Liz Alakszay, Sue Anderson, Lisa Yoon, Sue Murphy,

Darrell Swank, Julia Vahlsing, Krysia Wright, Brittany Stivale and Liz Rogan. They are truly wonderful to work with. We have a very cohesive group.

Last, I ask you to look at what Laura Rhubart has to say about our new social media platform. We always need to get the word out to the public about our wonderful program. We have made new business cards for distribution and are going to offer a new "Reactive Dog" class later in the winter. If you know anyone who would benefit from this class, please direct them to our website.

My picture is of my two human boys and the dogs. We have taken this picture for 28 years with a variety of dogs but the same kids.

-Brenda

A note from the Editor

Happy New Year. If you are thinking about what exciting new things you might want to do with your dogs this year, here is a partial list. In the world of the AKC the first dog sports were:

Conformation, Obedience, Tracking and Field Trials.

In addition, there came to be many other sports we enjoy. Hunt Tests, of which there are several types. Pointing, Retrieving and Spaniels or Flushing.

Agility

Rally, which was first a part of Obedience, then became its own sport.

Scent Work

Fast CAT

CAT or Coursing Ability Test

Trick Dog

CGC

Lure Coursing

Earth Dog

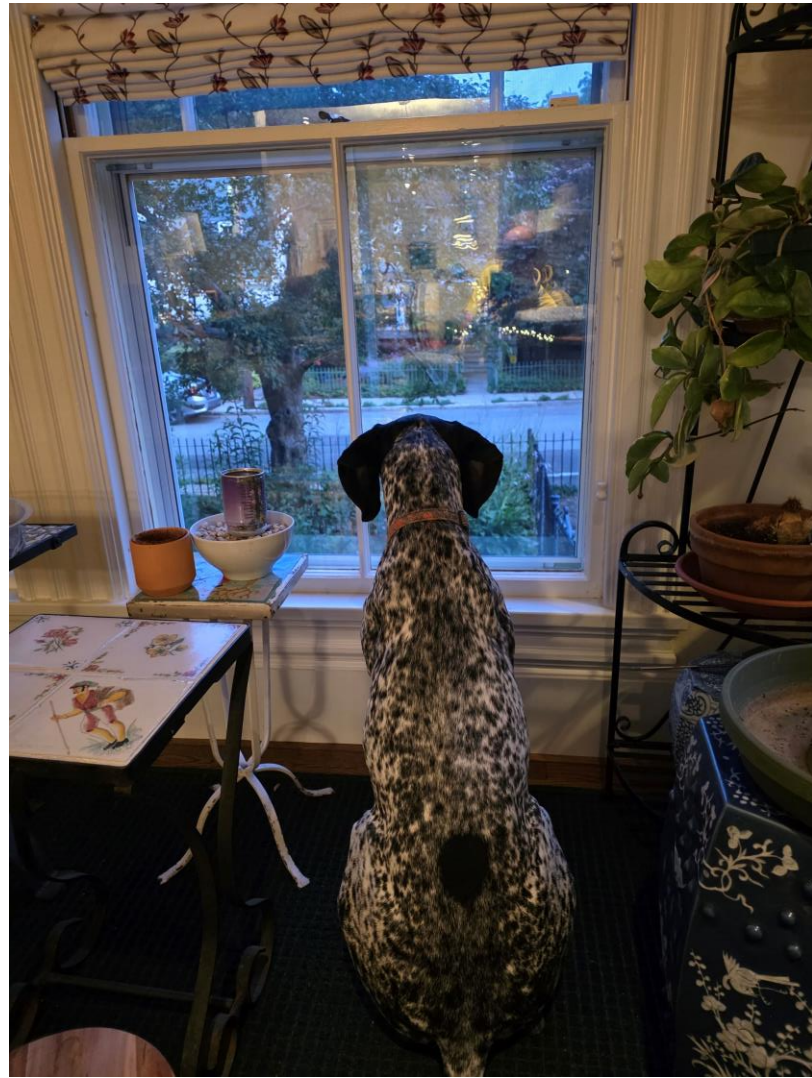
Night Hunts

Pack Hunting – Beagles and

Hounds

Herding

Tracking



Zerk getting ready to explore the streets of Cambridge MA

Parent Club sports include:

Carting

Water Tests, several types

Working Certificates

Other sports:

Parkour

Flyball

Search and Rescue

A note from the Editor

Ring sports – many types for working breeds, a combination of obedience and protection.

Canicross

Bikejoring

Sledding

Barn Hunt

Fox Hunting – on horseback

Therapy dog

Speedway – an agility sport where the dog runs under things.

Dock Diving

There are many jobs for dogs today also. Some of these are:

Guide dogs

Bomb detection, also drugs, money, produce, bed bugs and many more.

Modeling and advertising

The list of things you can do with your dog is just about as big as the imagination. The AKC is just one registry of dogs and dog sports. Other registries include CPE, NADD, NAFTA, CKC, CDSP, NACSW, UKC and plenty more. Have fun exploring the world with your dogs.

-Darrell

PDTC Getting Social!!

A big thank you goes out to the handful of people who have volunteered to take pictures and share them. To facilitate this, and to make it easy for any club member to share pictures, I've created a Google Album where you can easily upload pictures from your phone or other device. The link is below.

Our ask is that anyone snap some shots of your training journey, or anything that you're doing fun with your pooch even if you're not training. Upload them into our Album. We will use this as an inventory of pics to choose from to post on the website and our social sites! Please include your pooches name and any comments.

-Laura

[PDTC Google Photo Album](#)

And remember to engage with us on our Instagram and Facebook pages! Follow and join!!

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/philadelphiadogtraining1938?igsh=MXRwZDR5ZXA5eGF6Mw==>

Facebook Community

Phila Dog Training Club Community Group

Facebook.com



Wick, Rebecca Harmon and family

Wick joined our family last spring and will be one year old in February. He is a very sweet-tempered Weimaraner who loves off-leash hikes and cuddling on the couch. Apparently, there's no such thing as too much social time; he wants to meet all the people and all the dogs and assumes everyone will love him. My husband, Matt, grew up with Shelties but Wick is my (and our) first dog. He has brought much joy into our home, and we love observing how he interacts with each pack member differently. He is a great sport with our son Ransom's (15yrs) antics and then shifts gears for more intentional tug-of-war and toy play with our daughter Anastasia (18, now away for her first year of college). We are hoping that the fifth sock he swallowed and then "returned" will be the last!

P.S. His name was inspired by the actor Chadwick Boseman. No relation at all to a very violent John Wick.



Welcome FINN

Mandy Buhle

We lost our beloved Brooklyn, CGC, in March. We have since welcomed this tornado of joy we named Finn. He came into ACCT Philly, where I volunteer, as part of an eviction case with 10 dogs. None were fixed and this poor boy, who was terrified at the shelter, had all kinds of scratches on his face. It looks like the other dogs attacked him often. Nevertheless, he loves playing with other dogs! He was timestamped for lack of space for incoming dogs and length of stay. Even though it was soon after Brooklyn's passing, I kept looking at him. He didn't have any other interest from adopters or rescue

organizations. There were so many timestamped dogs on the list, and he had those infamous 3 strikes against him: being a black dog, being a pittie, and having all those scratches. They all probably thought he would be too difficult to adopt out. I knew we had a space open at our home, and I also knew that if we didn't take him, no one would, and that would haunt me forever. So, with two days to spare before his timestamped date, we adopted him and brought him home.



Welcome FINN

Where did that scared dog go? Every morning, he rolls onto his back and kicks his legs into the air, demanding belly rubs. We have to be careful not to get kicked in the face. He doesn't mean any harm. He is a giant goofball. Having him demand cuddles every morning is by far the best way to wake up! He loves playing fetch and also loves every kind of food and treat we have given him. He isn't picky! He loves playing with other dogs. He has that big, staffy grin and he makes everyone happy just looking at him. He does love to jump in our laps to the point where I think he is part kangaroo. I always preferred couch potato type pitties and do not always know what to do with this high energy boy, but he certainly is joyful and fun. Every day is the very best day ever to him and everything we do is his new favorite thing. I am so glad he is here because the world needs more joy like Finn displays!

-Mandy



Welcome Kae

This is Kae, a tri color Cardigan Welsh Corgi girl who arrived in October to live with Joe and me. She flew in from California, coming from the breeder who also owns Joe's father. Her registered name is Coedwig's She's A Keeper At Lwynogyn, and she's living up to her name showing much potential for the conformation ring. She's been easy to train, loves to work and follows me around the house. She's very sweet and nothing seems to bother her. As laid back as Joe is, she's the opposite! He's been so patient with her antics and won't correct her if she gets too wild. We had started PDTC's Star Puppy Class but haven't been back because I contracted pneumonia. I've been feeling much better but haven't been able to work very much with Kae. We'll be going back in the next couple of weeks.

-Carley



November 1st Rally Trial



Eleanor Campbell and Brittany Stivale working at our 2025 Rally Trial

K-9 Conflict Solution Class

Does your dog lunge, growl or bark when seeing other dogs? Do they chase cars, skateboards or trucks? These behaviors are often rooted in fear, excitement, or your dog's own response to stress and with the right guidance, they can improve. Or do you know other dogs that behave this way?

We are introducing a new class, K-9 Conflict Solution Class. This is a group class for Reactive Dogs. It will begin on Tuesday night March 3rd from 7:45 to 8:30 and will run continuously. This six-week program is designed specifically for reactive dogs. You'll learn how to understand your dog's triggers, manage their environment, and build calm, confident behaviors through proven training techniques.

All breeds and ages are welcome, from Beginners to Advanced. The instructors are Loretta Rocco and Dawn Collette.

The Training Application and the payment options can be found on the website under [Class Registration](#).

Sue Anderson
Class Registrar

Please tell your friends that might be interested but not a member of Philadelphia Dog Training Club. This class can be good for all dogs, in and out of our PDTC family.

News from our Members

Debbie DeSantis

2025 was oftentimes a hard year for me. My beloved Sheltie, Murphy died a month after one of my best friends did. There were also many happy moments, such as getting sheltie puppy Kevin.

This is just an update on my current dogs (the “Brady Bunch” of dogs) when starting the new year. My Golden rescue, Riley just turned 12—which is quite old for the breed. He was in four other placements before I adopted him. He turned out to be a great dog, and I showed him in obedience and rally before the pandemic. He’s retired of course now. He knows the utility exercises and does some of them for fun still. Before his retirement he had the following titles (and always placed) and was invited to the AKC Invitational in Novice (we didn’t go): P-CDX, CD, BN, TKN, TKI, TKA, CGC, CGCA. He had many health issues the first few years and wasn’t physically able without injury to jump to height, so I showed him the Preferred Class. I hope that we have a lot more time together.



Debbie DeSantis

My Sheltie, Gracie just turned 10. Where do the years go? She hasn't been shown since before the pandemic but I hope to bring her back to Novice or Open class for fun. She has RN, RI, TKN, TKI, CGC, and CGCA titles. She placed in Rally. She's a very sweet dog and is the "puppy whisperer" when a new puppy comes in. She loves puppies and knows how to play with and correct them.

My Lhasa Apso, Ralphie is eight and, like the others, hasn't been shown since the pandemic. He's a serious dog who can be playful. His nickname is "Mr. Man." In the photo below, he

actually sits on the sofa that way sometimes on his own. He has RN, RI, TKN, TKI, CGC, and CGCA titles. He always placed. He was invited to the AKC Invitational in rally. He placed second in the Nonsporting Group in Rally Intermediate the year before the pandemic. He really heels well with his head up—and does a ton of tricks (even pushing a small shopping cart.



News from our Members



Debbie DeSantis

My Aussie mix rescue Millie is five and is a sweet—but very high-energy—breed as expected. She's learning the Open exercises and I hope to show her in Novice this year. She has her BN, RN, TKN, TKI CGC, and CGCA titles and placed when shown. Millie lives to play ball. We do some training exercises with her ball as a reward.

My shih tzu rescue Gina is tiny—under 10 pounds. She's the smallest shih tzu I've ever had--and I've had four. But don't let her small size fool you. She has a BIG personality and loves playing with sheltie puppy Kevin, Gracie, and Riley. Wherever she goes, she's the friendly greeting committee. She has her puppy CGC. I hope to show her in the future.



My sheltie puppy Kevin just turned eight months old. He's doing well and LOVES learning. He has a very stable, sweet temperament. Unlike many shelties, he loves greeting new people. Playing with him is fun. He especially loves his flirt pole.

Titles for Two

In early December, my Golden Retriever Maddie, Brody, my mini Bernedoodle and I went to trial at Oaks Winter Blast. We started on Thursday with Maddie in Rally Masters. Unfortunately, she received an NQ because she left the ring to find a man collecting trash behind the mysterious curtain. I have to admit - I did not see that coming! You just never know what will happen when you go to trial. However, the next day Maddie and I returned to earn her Grad Novice title. We have worked on this for a few years and numerous NQs. I'm very proud of her. Brody did super too, earning his first title, RN. He was the last Rally dog of the day and scored a 100. Go Brody. Thanks so much to instructors Barb Doering, Jen, and Jill for all your help. **-Ann Blythe**



News from our Members



Vader says hi to the Club! He is working on matches for Open till he finally masters the broad jump; luckily the skill is coming along and his mom promises to buy a set for the backyard to help. Besides training, Vader is enjoying the cooler weather, holiday leftovers, and hanging out with his pup friends.

-Vader & Brittany



Carley Bates

Joe and Kae visited Santa Claus at Pickering Feed & Farm store before Christmas. Joe, of course, has been good all year. Kae has only been in Pennsylvania since mid-October and is between Good & Naughty.



News from our Members

Liz Alakszay

On Jan 10th and 11th I dragged myself to the Obedience TC of Harrisburg to continue my exploration from earlier this past fall and check out what a CDSP trial is all about. I entered both Lily and Pansy in Novice B. We did pretty much ZERO practicing since I was preoccupied with the Holidays and end of year overload chaos at work. The club was having a potluck lunch, so having no expectations about the actual performance, I decided the least I could do was bring some of my triple chocolate zucchini bars. We got there just as they were starting to open the doors. Lily made friends with EVERYONE from competitors to the judges to the other dogs.



News from our Members

Liz Alakszay

Pansy was a bit more selective, but decided she loved the judges. Plus the ring steward and was eyeing the potluck offerings. The simmering meatballs were especially intriguing! Nothing like seeing a setter in a trance while air scenting. However, they also focused on the exercises and got their titles! A 191/200 for Lily and a 189.5/200 for Pansy. Now

if we had actually worked on practicing their stuff! Lily was applauded for being the most senior dog in the trial to get a CD and Pansy was called a 'sweet princess' by the judge. It was a great weekend. Everyone shared good information and fun stories. Plus, not a molecule of the triple chocolate zucchini bars was left!



Saturday May 9th

AKC Obedience Trial at Y2K9s

Saturday October 31st

AKC Rally Trial at DTC of Chester County

We hold these trials as our obligation as an AKC club, a fund raiser for the club and to promote our love of dog sports. Think about volunteering at these trials. No experience is necessary. We will show you what to do. Our trials have always gotten lots of kudos from people attending them. This is thanks to you, our members.

Congratulations, that was exciting. Please share it with the rest of us. Include a picture or two also. Everyone wants to see that silly pose Fido struck on the sofa or in the back yard. I know this club has more members than the handful of people who regularly send in news.

The deadline for the next issue is April 10th 2026. Send in your news and pictures (jpg format) to ellsworthdogs@gmail.com

