



Newsletter

April 2026

Philadelphia Dog Training Club

A Word from the President

We had our Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at Alfredo's Italian Kitchen in Newtown Square. A big thank you to Susan Murphy for the arrangements. We are sorry to have missed those who were not able to attend.

Philadelphia DTC had another good year. I would like to start by thanking my Board, our instructors and our assistants. Without them we would not have a club! Of course, we also need to thank Larry Wilson, our AKC rep and Darrell E Swank, our editor of HEEL. A reminder to submit your stories and pictures to him when asked. The more content, the better the publication.



Both the spring and fall trials were a great success. Thanks to show chair for both, Liz Alakszay, and show secretaries Sue Anderson (obedience) and Eleanor Campbell (rally). These are very large jobs, and we should be thankful we have them. Remember our spring trial is on May 9th and there is still time to volunteer. Remember you are required to volunteer for something each

A word from the President

year.

We are lucky that Laura Rhubart has been instrumental in setting up both an Instagram and Facebook page for our club. Please visit them and add to the content to make them more interesting and to promote our club. Another recent highlight is the addition of a class for reactive dogs. It has just begun but looks like it could fill a unique niche in our training classes.

I want to take a minute to thank Carol Eisenlohr who stepped down from her role as an assistant to the instructor after many years. We are lucky to have such devoted members of our club. The new Board members coming on are the same as the old ones-how easy is that!

In closing I want to thank all the membership for their participation in our club. I am proud to say that the club is stable financially and continues to serve a dual purpose to the

public and to our membership. Be sure to take advantage of the classes we offer and if anyone has any suggestions for other classes, please let a Board Member know.

-Brenda

Awards titles and mentions at the banquet

New Plaques:

VADER VON BERGERHAUS BRITTANY STIVALE
B.N. 11-18-2023
C.D. 06-01-2024

CH EAUCHIEN'S FEDELINI LESLIE MCKRACKEN
C.D. 04-21-2019
C.D.X. 03-09-2024
U.D.06-01-2025
C.W.D. 09-13-2025

JACK JULIA VAHLSING
B.N. 12-10-2023
C.D 12-06-2025

Old Plaques:

MADDIE ANNE BLYTHE
G.N. 12-05-2025

TIP ELEANOR CAMPBELL
C.D.X. 05-10-2025
G.N. 5-31-2025

LILY LIZ ALAKSZAY
R.E. 09-2025

PANSY LIZ ALAKSZAY
R.A.03-2025

JOE CARLEY BATES
F.D.C. 06-01-2024
C.D.X. 05-25-2025
V.C. 06-29-2025

Awards titles and mentions at the banquet

NOVICE: Given to the handler earning a CD for the first time, with the highest average for the 3 qualifying legs.

Vader and Brittany Stivale

HIGH POINT AWARD: For dog and handler earning the 3 highest scores (this is any three scores from multiple levels) at any level or levels of competition in regular (Novice, Open or Utility) AKC classes during 2025. The scores can be from different classes-i.e. not all from Open B for instance.

Tip and Eleanor Campbell with average score of 192.

Other New Titles

Anne Blythe - Brody R.N.

Darrell E Swank - Zerk RACH

Jackie Connolly - Kevin - CGC and CGCA

Nicole Dressel - Finnegan - CGC and CGCA

Monique Saner - Charlie - CGC and CGCA

Ed Selekman - Tina Turner - CGC

Teresa Kleinhans - Fergus - CGC

Jackie Connolly - Winnie - CGC

PDTC Hits the beach



Who is this beautiful girl?
I'll give you a hint, it's a Throwback Thursday picture from my
favorite decade, the '80s

PDTC Getting Social

Proud of your progress?

Let others know!

Whether you're building strong foundations in puppy class, celebrating that first reliable recall, or fine-tuning skills for the competition ring, you've likely seen firsthand how much progress can happen through consistent training. If you've had a positive experience with our club, we'd love for you to share it with a quick review on Google! (How? Search the club name on the Google browser and you'll see all the club info including "reviews") A few fresh words from our members go a long way in helping others find us and get a feel for what makes this community so special. And don't forget to keep the connection going—follow and engage with us on Facebook and Instagram for updates, training tips, and plenty of proud pup moments.

-Laura



K-9 Conflict Solution Class



UPDATE

The first Reactive Dog Class wrapped up on Thursday, April 16th. We had seven dogs enrolled, and both Dawn and I felt the class was a great success. Throughout the course, we focused on teaching handlers how to effectively redirect their dogs during walks using positive reinforcement and behavior modification techniques. Each team reported noticeable improvements, sharing that their dogs are now more attentive and looking to them for guidance. It was wonderful to see such positive progress in all of the teams, and we're very proud of their hard work and dedication.

-Loretta

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

Julia Vahlsing

Jack has been a busy boy! He earned his CD in December and also was certified as a therapy dog with Therapy Dogs United in March.



Jack has also gotten a new family member... who still has no name.

News from our Members

Vader is almost ready to compete in Open, with his broad jump nearly there and the rest of his exercises coming together nicely. He's also making solid progress on scent articles and go-outs, with early Utility work underway. Outside the ring, Vader has been enjoying longer training days and building more consistency in new environments. He's also been keeping himself busy at home—whether that's supervising everything going on or finding creative ways to stay entertained between sessions.
Brittany Stivale Fatholahi



News from our Members

My sheltie puppy Kevin just turned 11 months old. In the last month, he achieved his Canine Good Citizen and Novice Trick Dog titles. He's very smart and loves learning.

We have a long way to go until I'll show him, but he's learning: name attention and look, to heel with his head up, signals, sit/stay, down/stay, stand/stay, prayers trick, paws up, taking and holding a dumbbell and glove (and other things), drop it, shake hands, dance, going to a platform or mat, mark, speak/quiet, targeting (hand and stanchion), left and right finishes, leave it, settle, and more.

He's really a special puppy, and I love him. He's spunky but can also settle down when needed. He's not a natural retriever, but, since he learned "take it" and "hold it," he's now enjoying playing with a soft frisbee in the yard. He really helped me deal with the loss of my other bi-black sheltie, Murphy. They have different personalities, but focusing on him helps.

The other dogs get along with him, and he plays with the "girls." Shih tzu Gina and him zoom around—and she holds her own seeing that she's under 10 pounds. Sheltie Gracie and Aussie mix Millie also love to run around with Kevin.

-Debbie DeSantis



Carley Bates

Kae is sitting pretty, I call it a "squirrel", trying to be a big dog. Of course, being a Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Joe's just looking for the treat! The fence behind them surrounds my living room garden, protecting it from a certain puppy!



Eleanor Campbell

Tip visiting my dad in Massachusetts around his 99th birthday.



Possum (Zerk's mom) earned her Elite-Select title on March 21st at Shamrock Pot of Gold's NACSW nosework trial.

News from our Members

Liz Alakszay

Lily and Pansy were at a Cynosport Rally trail at DTCCC. Pansy came in 1st with a score of 210/210 and Lily came in 2nd with a score of 209/210 in Level 2.



Lily

Pansy



News from our Members

Darrell E Swank

Zerk earned his Utility Dog title March 20th
his Rally Master 4 title March 1st
and his Rally Advanced Excellent 3 title February 28th

In his personal life he moved into his new digs with his mother, Possum; uncle, Carlos; and his little brother of another mother, Tip. The new place is full of windows. This is just one of his new favorite views.



Throwback Thursday

Frank Nelson and MaryAnn Schafer started with PDTC in the '80s. Stormy was her pup back in the day. She moved to Florida years ago and sent these pictures to Frank to share of those days. Stormy was born 44 years ago.



If your dog is striking a pose at home, share it with us. Tell us all about the circumstances. The deadline for the next issue is July 10th 2026. Send in your news and pictures (jpg format) to ellsworthdogs@gmail.com

