Newsletter

October 2026

Philadelphia Dog Training Club



A Word from the President

Happy Fall. These beautiful days make you want to be outside with your dog-and maybe do some training too??!!

Our Rally trial is only 2 weeks away at Dog Training of Chester County. While we have all the volunteers we need at the moment please come out to watch the trial and to support the club with your presence. It's a great way of seeing the sport and inspiring you. As you know we have a rally class on Monday nights so take a look. And thank you to our donors and volunteers, especially Liz Alakszay, show chair, and Eleanor Campbell, secretary.

If you have not yet volunteered, look for a note from Julia Vahlsing to help clean the mats. With a number of people this does not take long and all of us will enjoy the results! So please volunteer-remember this is an obligation of being a member and helps the club.

Happy training!

-Brenda

Welcome New Members



We just wanted to introduce ourselves, even as we have, we suspect, met many of you in the various classes we have taken this year. So, a brief introduction and picture of Elijah!

We are David Harrington Watt and Laura Levitt. Our girl is Elijah, who will celebrate her first birthday on August 28, 2026. We live in Ardmore where Elijah enjoys spending time with David most, especially at Haverford College. David is a professor at Haverford, and Laura is now an emerita professor at Temple University. In the past we have had large dogs: a Newfoundland, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, a Flat coated Retriever, and a Golden Retriever. Elijah is our first small dog, a mini-Labradoodle. We absolutely adore her. She is full of energy and loves taking classes!

We look forward to getting to know more of you!

Welcome New Members

I'm Sarah, and my 1.5-year-old Golden Retriever is Sunny. Sunny and I started in Puppy Kindergarten with Carol, Dawn, and Jill. We've worked our way up to taking Advanced classes with Loretta. We've even recently tried Rally. PDTC has taught us a great deal! We have a long way to go and are looking forward to continuing our training.



Sunny is from Lake Placid, NY and loves kids, snow, and swimming! She joined our family in 2025 when she was 10 weeks old. She gives us unconditional love, and we smile every day with her. Sunny is the sweetest pup who loves to snuggle and get petted. She's a pure Golden Retriever through and through, and has the signature Golden Retriever Velcro-lean down pat!

Hope to meet several of you soon!

Vader had a great October

He earned his **BH with USCA** and **CDX with AKC!**
Now he’s taking a well-earned break through the end of the year while an ear hematoma heals. He currently has a drain in his ear. He was a champ and managed to get those two titles in before some much-needed rest and recovery!
— Brittany & Vader



Morgan Huyler

Linda earned two legs toward her UD Title! Her first leg was at lower Camden County Dog Training Club on September 19th, and her second leg was At Wilmington Kennel Club on September 27th! She got 1st place for Utility A in both trials with scores of 194 & 190.5. On October 10th she achieved her UD title and got her first UDX leg at the AKC region 1 qualifying event in New Hampshire! That's two 1st place wins, with her third leg at the regional tournament!



Darrell E Swank

Zerk earned his RACH2, September 20th at Lower Camden County DTC. He has also been invited to the RACH Invitational in Orlando Florida December 10th & 11th for the second year. We see another road trip coming!



Carley Bates

On October 2nd, Joe, Kae and I went to the Pembroke / Clumber Rumble in Maryland for their annual FastCAT event. This was Kae's first try at FastCAT, she qualified in both of her runs. The first run was difficult. She started chasing the lure then turned around. She started chasing it again, then turned around again. Finally, with her third attempt, remember this was all in her first run, she saw me at the end of the course and finished the run. This run took a full minute! Her second run was better, still not very fast, but she understood what she was supposed to do and ran it in 25 seconds. At the end of the day there was a great picnic and awards were handed out. There were only five Cardigans entered and Kae was given the turtle award for being the slowest Cardigan. She won a cute turtle toy and a beautiful, large rosette to commemorate her first attempt. Now that she knows what it's all about, I'm sure her speed will increase with every run she has. Joe wasn't entered because he already has his BCAT, but he wasn't happy that he couldn't run too.



Carley Bates

Here at Lwynogyn Cardigans we're excited to announce that Joe, CH Winbucks & Silverferns Mojo For Lwynogyn, STR, BN, CDX, TKI, FTI, RA, BCAT, CGCA, FDC, VC, will be the proud father of five puppies from Aliyha, a pretty New York Cardigan girl. The puppies are expected at the beginning of November.

Remember you can share the stories and pictures of the fun things you do with your dog(s) at anytime. It' best to send the news in when it is fresh in your mind. The deadline for the next issue is January 10th 2027.
Send in your news and pictures (jpg format) to ellsworthdogs@gmail.com

Losses to our family

The Loss of My Husband Tom
by Debbie DeSantis

It is with a heavy heart that I'm sharing the very sudden loss of Tom DeSantis, my husband of 40 years, who passed away on September 19th, 2026. He was in great spirits the prior day and seemed to be very healthy even in the hours before he passed. I'm still in shock.

We were together in good times and bad. Tom loved Philadelphia sports: the Eagles, Phillies, and Flyers. Years ago, he enjoyed skiing, playing golf, riding a motorcycle, and other activities. We went bowling, to the movies, out to eat and, of course, to dog shows. We both loved renting a house down the shore and bringing the dogs, some of whom swam in the bay or herded the waves in the ocean. Later, we went to the dog shows in the Poconos as our "vacation."

We were both passionate about saving dogs and had many rescued dogs over the years (goldens, Lhasa apsos, shih tzus, Aussie mix, sheltie). Many came from very abusive backgrounds. Some were former puppy mill breeder dogs and others were abused by former owners. Tom would take me to dog shows to indulge my passion for dog training. He loved playing with and walking the dogs. They were his children and family.

Tom was a mortgage loan officer for many years. He later switched to sales and customer service at two major companies. Before he retired two years ago, he worked remotely during and following the COVID epidemic. He was known for his great sense of humor and his gift of gab. He was very outgoing and enjoyed meeting new people.

The house is now quiet. The dogs know that something is wrong and look for him. Life will not be the same as I'm trying to adjust to my "new normal." He is missed.

Losses to our family



Tom DeSantis

Losses to our family

Roga had a very small mass removed from his leg in March. It was cancerous, lab results confirmed it hadn't spread and he appeared to make a complete recovery. Eleven weeks later he wasn't quite himself. He danced daily and sang to wake me up. He stopped doing both. Tests revealed a huge mass that was bleeding internally and his blood was filled with toxins. Roga was such a funny, happy dog, that I couldn't let him suffer. He died peacefully 5/18/26.

Roga and T'Pring had pet cats they shared. Unfortunately, our cat Lola experienced kidney failure in September and had to be euthanized. She was 18 years old, so it wasn't unexpected, but no less heartbreaking. -Cynthia



Losses to our family



As I write this, T'Pring is recovering from a splenectomy. I'm anxiously awaiting the biopsy. I hope we have a few more years together. I have given T'Pring extra love, attention and treats, but she misses Roga and Lola. She tries to play with the other cats, but it's not working.

My animals enrich my life and are the reason I get up in the morning. Akitas will always be my breed, however at this stage in life, I've decided a medium sized dog is wiser. After much research, I've chosen a Shikoku. He was born October 1, 2026.

My dogs and I had such a positive experience training that I can't wait to do the same with the new puppy. The breeder doesn't know if an obedience title is in his future, as Shikokus are independent thinkers, however they excel in agility and rally. I hope to begin early next year.

-Cynthia Jackson

PDTC members,

As some of you know, I am the editor of two newsletters. In December, when there is nothing to do and nothing to read, I thought there should be a little something. So, I'm going to put out a "Special Edition" joint Philadelphia and Suburban DTCs newsletter. One little twist, no dogs. Many people have other critters around their house. A few examples are horses, bunnies (domesticated or in the garden), fish, rats… Some might even have favorite deer that come and eat their petunias, or a squirrel they feed from their bird feeder. Here is your chance to share some of your other joys (and frustrations) with your friends.

Send your pictures and stories to ellsworthdogs@gmail.com
Please put "Other Pets" as the subject.
As always, pictures should be in jpg format and
Text should be in the body of the email or an attached word file.
Ok, I'm waiting, bring it. Let's see what you've got.
The deadline for submissions to this *special* issue is Dec 1st.

-Darrell


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