



# Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

April 2013

APOTC website [www.apotcerie.org](http://www.apotcerie.org).

Regular club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 3520 Perry Street, Erie, PA

### Club Officers:

President:	Lee-Ann Czytuck
Vice-President:	Melanie Shufran
Treasurer:	Ann Gehrlein
Recording Secretary:	Betsy Olson
Corresponding Secretary:	Janet Norman
Board of Directors:	Trish Clark
	Mary Alice Piotrowski
	Jim Kwiatkowski
	Jodie Casillo
	Marilyn Flower
	Sandy Globa

### ***Club News***

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 7 PM at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. The meetings for May and June will be held May 14 and June 11, 2013.

The Babies and Dogs program will be held at UPMC Hamot on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. The Babies & Dogs program has a PowerPoint presentation which focuses on ideas and safety issues on how to introduce the baby and plan ahead for all the changes that will occur when bringing the baby home. It is done with our dogs in attendance as well. Please contact Sandy Globa if you wish to participate. The next program will be held July 30, 2013.

The APOTC obedience classes are held at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. The Spring session started on March 28, 2013. Fall classes will start in September.

### ***Upcoming Events***

Is Snoopy ready to show? Is Snoopy a canine good citizen? Well, come to the APOTC Fun Match and CGC Test on Saturday, May 18, 2013 in Edinboro, PA at Countryside Agility and find out! Open and Utility registration is from 8:30am to 9:30am and judging begins at 9:00am. Novice, Beginner Novice and Rally registration is from 10:00am to 11:00am with judging to follow Open and Utility. The CGC test pre-registration forms may be found on the website and may be mailed to Ann Gehrlein. CGC testing will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Visit the All Breed Training Club of Akron's website [www.abtca.org](http://www.abtca.org) for the 2013 Run-thru schedule for obedience, rally, beginner novice, agility and conformation.

## ***Tidbits***

The following is from the American Red Cross.

April is Pet First Aid Awareness Month and a great opportunity for pet owners to brush up on tips from the American Red Cross to keep their animals safe and healthy as we head into spring and summer.

### **HEAT STROKE**

Heat stroke is one of the most common problems pets face in the warmer weather when they are not yet used to the warm temperatures. Pet owners should remember that the inside of a car can quickly reach 120 degrees in warm weather and should not leave their animals in the car, even during short trips. This can quickly lead to heat stroke. The signs of heat stroke include:

- Heavy panting and being unable to calm down, even when lying down.
- The pet's gums may be brick red, they may have a fast pulse rate, or they may not be able to get up.

If someone suspects their pet has heat stroke, they should take the pet's temperature rectally. If the temperature is above 105 degrees Fahrenheit, they should cool the animal down. The easiest way to do this is by using the water hose. Stop cooling the animal when the temperature reaches 103 degrees. Bring the pet to the veterinarian immediately as heat stroke can lead to severe organ dysfunction and damage.

### **OTHER HAZARDS**

Open doors and windows can be hazardous to a pet. The animal may try to get outside, increasing the risk of falling from windows or being hit by a vehicle. Some plants and flowers can be hazardous. For instance, many lilies are very poisonous to cats. Visit the [ASPCA Poison Control web site](#) to find out which plants and flowers are poisonous to animals. If someone thinks their animal is ill or may have ingested a poisonous substance, they should contact their veterinarian.

### **PET FIRST AID**

Courses are available at many Red Cross chapters on how to care for your pet. The Red Cross has also developed Dog First Aid and Cat First Aid Guides with DVDs that teach basic responsibilities like spaying/neutering and giving medications, to performing CPR and preparing for disasters. Visit [Redcross.org/training](http://Redcross.org/training) or call 1-800 RED CROSS to see when classes are available. The Guides are available through the Red Cross Store.

### **HOW TO KEEP YOUR PET HEALTHY**

Pet owners can follow these important steps to help keep their pet healthy:

- Give pets plenty of exercise.
- Make sure they have plenty of fresh, cool water.
- Make sure they get regular yearly checkups with their veterinarian, and are up to date on vaccines, especially rabies.
- Get pets spayed or neutered.
- Keep dogs on leashes outside – another animal may be too much temptation
- Know how to perform CPR and provide basic first aid until veterinary care is available

## **EMERGENCIES AND YOUR PET**

Don't forget to include pets in planning for emergencies in your home or neighborhood:

- Make plans to take your pets with you if you have to evacuate.
- Most Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety concerns and other considerations. Know which friends, relatives, hotels, boarding facilities will accept pets in an emergency.
- Assemble an easy-to-carry kit with emergency supplies for pets: Leashes, harnesses and/or carriers
- Food, drinking water, bowls, manual can opener
- Medications and copies of medical records
- Current photos of the pets

Pet First Aid Awareness Month is a great time for people to learn how to protect their pet and keep them healthy. More information on how to keep pets in good health are located on the [Red Cross Pets and Disaster Safety Checklist](#).

## **American Kennel Club Offers Tips On How To Prevent Your Dog From Digging Up Your Garden**

Have you planted your spring plants only to find that your dog has made a minefield out of your yard? The American Kennel Club (AKC®) notes that while certain breeds, terriers in particular, tend to dig more because it's in their genes, dogs dig as an outlet for frustration when they are left alone outside in the backyard. Digging provides something to do when an active, intelligent dog is bored out of his mind. "Dogs dig for a number of reasons," said American Kennel Club® (AKC) Canine Good Citizen® Director and Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, Mary Burch, Ph.D. "It is a common issue that dog owners face, but it can be fixed with a little time and planning."

Dr. Burch offers the following tips on why your dog is digging and how to help him stop.

What You Can Do:

- Providing mental stimulation through daily play and training sessions is the best thing you can do for a bored dog. The AKC Canine Good Citizen program is a great place to start by teaching your dog how to sit and stay down on command.
- Try making a digging pit in your yard that is basically an acceptable place for your dog to dig. Burying bones or favorite toys will help your dog learn that this place is an approved area.

When it is hot outside, dogs will dig to try and expose cool earth for them to lie on and lower their body temperature. You can avoid this by bringing your dog inside so that he doesn't have to handle the heat on his own when it is very warm out. If you don't want to give your dog access to your whole house while you're gone, designate a climate controlled area with water and toys for your pooch to stay.

## **American Kennel Club Offers Tips On Dog-Friendly Gardening**

March 20 marked the first day of spring, and many people will soon begin planting and tending to their gardens. While humans love their gardens, they can actually be dangerous to our four-legged friends. To help keep your garden dog-friendly this spring, the American Kennel Club (AKC®) offers the following tips:

- Avoid using dangerous plants: It's important to do research on the plants that you will be using in your garden. There are common flowers and plants that can be unsafe or even fatal for dogs. Some plants to avoid are Calla Lilies, Sago Palm, Azalea, and Rhododendron, among others. Be mindful of flowers and plants, such as roses, that have thorns.

- Be careful of pesticides: Pesticides used to control insects and weeds in your garden can be hazardous for your pup. Do not use pesticides with snail bait with metaldehyde, and fly bait with methomyl. Be sure to follow directions and be sure that pesticides are stored in a place where your dog cannot get to them.
- Designate a play area: Give your pup a designated area to play that is away from your garden. It's a space where your dog can run around, burn some energy or even do some digging. Having this designated play area will help prevent your pup from causing damage to your garden.

Establishing boundaries in your garden: To help keep Fido out of the garden bed, you can use a fence or border. A low picket fence or a border using rocks or stones can help protect your garden. It's best to use vocal commands and treats to help your dog distinguish between where he/she can and cannot go. Raised garden beds or paving a path in your garden using brick or gravel can also help your dog distinguish boundaries.

