



Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

May 2012

APOTC website 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:

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| President: | Lee-Ann Czytuck |
| Vice-President: | Melanie Shufran |
| Treasurer: | Ann Gehrlein |
| Recording Secretary: | Betsy Olson |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Kathy Croft |
| Board of Directors: | Trish Clark |
| | Mary Alice Piotrowski |
| | Jim Kwiatkowski |
| | Amy Barney |
| | Sally Shilling |
| | Janet Norman |

Club News

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church.

The Babies and Dogs program will be held at UPMC Hamot on the third Tuesday of July and October, 2012. 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. APOTC trainers and dogs show the importance of having a positive relationship and bond with your dog; keeping in mind the need for good management and a plan for a safe zone for the dog and baby. Also, the need to continue working on obedience is encouraged. Please contact Sandy Globa if you wish to participate.

The APOTC classes will be held at Emmanuel Presbyterian and are scheduled as follows:
Spring class will start March 29, 2012 and Fall class will start September 13, 2012.

Upcoming Events

Bridget Carlsen will conduct an obedience training seminar on June 2, 3 and 4, 2012 in Rochester, NY. The areas to be covered are Training Fundamentals and Motivational Techniques, Heeling with Enthusiasm, and Problem Solving. The Dog Obedience Training Club of Rochester NY is sponsoring the seminar. For more information contact Gail Binder at GEB3679@rit.edu or 585-265-4036.

APOTC will sponsor the CGC test on Saturday, June 2, 2012, at Ann Gehrlein's training building. The fee is \$7 per dog and registration will begin at 10 am. A flyer will be forthcoming.

Looking for an obedience run-thru or fun match? Well, look no further than Sunday, May 20, 2012, when APOTC will hold an Obedience and Rally Run-Thru at Countryside Agility in Edinboro, PA. Registration starts at 8:30 am for Open and Utility, with judging beginning at 9:00 am, and registration for Beginner

Novice, Novice and Rally starts at 10:30 am, with judging to start after Open and Utility are finished. The cost is \$5.00 per dog per run. Club members are encouraged to come and work and show! See you there!

After you are warmed up at the run-thru in May, come to the APOTC 2012 Rally and Obedience Trials on Saturday and Sunday, August 18 and 19, 2012 at the JMC Ice Arena in Erie, PA. Closing date is August 1, 2012. Premium will be available in June on the website.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs will be holding an informational meeting for all responsible dog owners who have been interested in comparing notes on matters of concern to them on Thursday, May 24, 2012, at the New Castle dog show cluster at 6:00 pm on the show grounds. For many years, people living in Western PA have been asking why the PFDC has little direct contact with clubs in their area. The hope is that this informal meeting will bridge that gap in communication.

The Westmoreland County Obedience Training Club will have Obedience and Rally Trials on June 8, 9 and 10, 2012 at the WCOTC Training Center at the Delmont North Industrial Park, Route 66, Delmont, PA. For a premium list visit the clubs website at www.wcotoc-dogs.com, or contact the Trial Secretary, Nina Biehler, 122 Summit Ave, Washington, PA 15301, email at weimtracker@comcast.net.

Points of Interest

May is Lyme disease awareness month. There are some good resources about the disease and prevention at www.cdc.gov/lyme/. Also, a documentary, "Under Our Skin", which aired on PBS last year, is very informative as well as controversial. WQLN intends on re-broadcasting this documentary so watch your local listing on PBS.

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. Many people do not experience the rash or it may go unnoticed. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on the symptoms, physical findings and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks; laboratory testing is helpful if used correctly and performed with validated methods. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. If left untreated, chronic problems such as severe arthritis and neurological problems may persist and worsen.

If you find a tick attached to your skin or your dog, there are several tick removal devices on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers will get the job done.

How to remove a tick:

- 1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.**
- 2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.**
- 3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.**

Prevention is also important. Avoiding wooded and bushy areas with high grass and leaf litter and walking in the center of trails is a good idea, although ticks may be picked up on your nice, manicured lawn as well. Use Flea and Tick preventative on your dog to minimize the risk to them; although a complete full-body tick check is still needed regardless of the product you choose to apply to your dog. Examine your clothing and gear (backpacks, coats) as well as a full tick check of your person after spending time outdoors. Use products that contain permethrin on clothing. Treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants, socks and tents. Use repellents that contain 20% or more DEET on the exposed skin for protection that lasts up to several hours.

Be careful out there!

