

APOTC

ADMIRAL PERRY OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB

Officers & Board

President: Lee-Ann Czytuck

Vice-President: Marilyn Flower

Recording Secretary: Melanie Shufan

Corresponding Secretary: Janet Norman

Treasurer: Ann Gehrlein

Board: Betsy Olson, Sue Eastman, Kathy Croft, Mary Alice Piotrowski, Aleta Ross, Karen Grettler (training director)

General Meeting

Second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Erie Kennel Club, Inc. building, 9457 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509

No meeting in December, January and July

Club News and Activities

Dogs and Babies Program

The Dogs and Babies Program will be held at UPMC Hamot Woman's Hospital on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, Tuesday, June 20, and September 19, 2017. The program focuses on safety issues with the family dog when bringing home the new baby and addresses how to introduce the baby and plan ahead for all the changes that will occur. Please contact Sandy Globa if you wish to participate.

Obedience Classes

Obedience classes for the Fall session have concluded. The Winter session will start February 2, 2017 and run thru March 23, 2017. The Spring session will start April 13, 2017 and run thru June 1, 2017. Classes are held at the Erie Kennel Club building. Contact Janet Norman for registration.



Upcoming Events

APOTC Agility Trials at Countryside Agility to be held on January 20, 21, and 22, March 3, 4 and 5, and April 7, 8, and 9, 2017.

Club News and Activities

Annual Awards Dinner

It's that time of year again to look back at our accomplishments with our dogs. Please submit your dogs titles earned in 2016 to Mary Alice Piotrowski no later than Tuesday, December 13, 2016 using the form included in the newsletter. The Annual Awards dinner will be held Tuesday, January 10, 2017. More details to follow with location and time.

Kibbles and Bits

Finding the "Bug" In Obedience

by Lois Meistrell, from the American Kennel Gazette, January 1951

Probably the most discussed topic in obedience competition today is the "Directed Jumping" in the Utility Class. It has been the downfall of many otherwise fine performers, well-known for their ability in obedience, and for those who are exhibiting in the Utility class for the first time.

What surprises me about this is that no one seems to have put his finger on the real reason for the difficulty involved in teaching an already obedience-trained dog this exercise.

Many exhibitors feel that the dog needs a "reason" for going away from his master; that he should be sent out to find something, as in the "seek-back" exercise in the Utility Class or the "Retrieve on the Flat" in the Open Class. A dog, especially an obedience-trained dog, does not need any "reason" to perform an exercise. He does his work, any work - to please his master. That's reason enough for him and, if he fails it is because his master has taught him incorrectly.

The real difficulty lies in the fact that for the first time in the obedience ring, the dog is required to leave his master.

Think back over the exercises! In the Novice Class the dog is trained to follow his handler as closely as possible. When his master leaves him he is taught to stay in position until his master either returns to him or calls him.

In the Open Class he still works close to the handler. True, he goes out on the "Retrieve on the Flat" and over the jumps, but he is not ten feet away from his handler on any of these exercises and, once away, he returns immediately, without any further commands.

In the Utility Class, with the exception of the "Directed Jumping," the exercises are merely a variation of the open work.

In the “scent discrimination,” it is a simple process of substituting three different articles for the dumbbell. The dog is already familiar with his master’s scent on the dumbbell and soon makes the transfer to the other objects with his master’s scent upon them.

The “Seek-back” is the “Retrieve on the Flat,” reversed in direction and with another article substituted for the dumbbell. The “Signal Exercise” is a repetition and combination of exercises already learned. Most exhibitors who reach the Utility Class with their dogs have learned from experience to train their dogs to respond to either voice or hand signal so there is no problem to substituting the hand signal for the voice commands. The “Group Examination” is again, a variation of the Novice exercise of “Stand for Examination.”

But, on the “Directed Jumping” the dog is, for the first time, sent away - really away - from his master and required to work independently at a distance of 40 feet.

Naturally the well-trained dog is confused. His puppy tendency to rush to his owner had been nurtured and trained into desire to be constantly at his side. If he leaves, it is only to fetch his master’s possessions and returns to his side to receive the expected praise; but now suddenly his master sends him away. What has he done to deserve such punishment? Tail between his legs, he slinks away a short distance, stops, looks back, puzzled and pleading to be called back. To add to his confusion, the Jumps over which he previously bounded in rapid succession are now far apart. Which one should he try to jump? How can he get from one to the other? Where is his dumbbell that he always carried over the jumps?

I believe that the mistake many exhibitors make is in the trying to teach the whole exercise at once. By dividing the exercise into several uncomplicated parts, and putting them together after the dog has mastered all the separate parts, training will be a lot easier.

First, to get him away! Contrary to a frequently repeated comment that it is a purposeless exercise, I believe that it is a most useful and important one.

Obedience exhibitors who show their dogs in the breed classes will find it useful in getting their dogs away from them in the show ring where a certain amount of independence of the handler is necessary to show the dog’s gait and temperament.

It forms the basis of field trial work and guard work. In the K-9 Corps civilian volunteer trainers were required to train dogs to run out on command. They were not to look for anything. That came later. They just had to go out off leash at the handler’s command and stop on order from the handler.

While I cannot speak for all guide dog institutions, at least two consider that among the first things a dog must learn in his preparation as an aid to his blind master, is to go out the length of the leash and to keep going, pulling the trainer along.

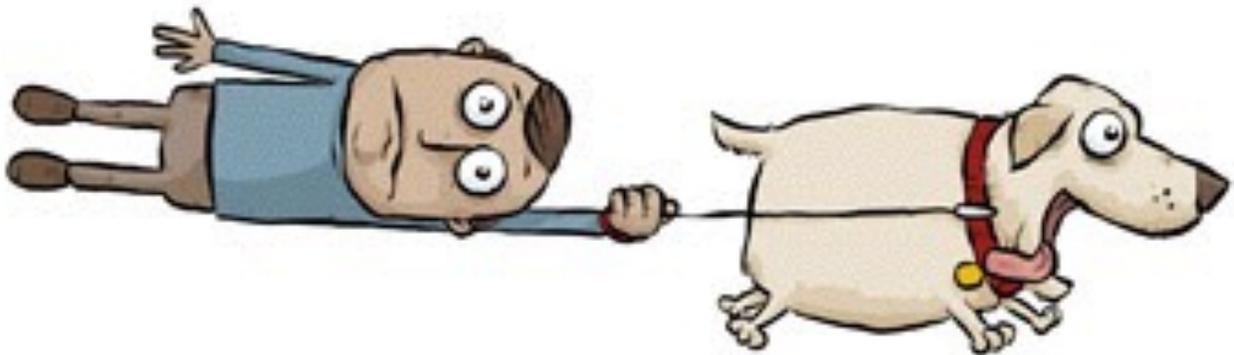
More recently at the Dalmatian road trials, several owners of obedience trained dogs found that the dogs had to be encouraged to range, rather than to stick closely to the horses’ sides.

While every Utility exhibitor knows his dog well enough to work out his own method of getting his dog away, the one I have found most successful, both in mass training of dogs for specific work, and for training my own dogs for obedience trials, is to put a leash on the dog, get behind him, and encourage him to run out ahead of me. By gradually lengthening the distance between

the dog and myself, next removing the leash, and finally standing still and letting the dog run out for 40 feet or more, stopping him and going over to praise him, I found that the dog will invariably run in a straight line and with a great deal of zest.

That's the first part completed. The rest should present no difficulty. The dog already knows the "Sit," "Jump" and "Come" commands and any handler who has already passed his dog in the Open class, needs no advice from me as to how best to practice these exercises with his dog.

In my opinion, the exercise has great value in bridging the wide gap between ring work in obedience and the independence in the tracking tests. Both Mr. Meistrell and I have long felt that there should be some intermediate step, requiring some independent work on the dog's part before he is started on tracking. The "Directed Jumping" may prove to be a step in this direction.



IF YOU HAVE EARNED TITLES THIS YEAR, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO MARY ALICE BY 12/13/16. YOU CAN MAIL OR EMAIL

Mary Alice Piotrowski, 860 East Street, Waterford, PA 16441

or thepioz@verizon.net

APOTC

2016 Titles Earned by Members in Good Standing*

Member's name: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Email Address: _____

OBEDIENCE

NAME registry (AKC,UKC,CKC,etc.) title earned and **date completed.**

If you wish to compete for the **traveling trophy, submit scores** and the **3 trial dates.**

AGILITY

OTHER

List all other performance or conformation titles, with registry and date.

*A member in good standing is defined as a member who has (1) paid their dues; (2) attended a majority of the monthly meetings; and (3) served as an instructor for our public classes or worked the trial.