

# APOTC

www.apotcerie.org

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Regular club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Erie Kennel Club building located at 9457 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509

President: Lee-Ann Czytuck, Vice-President: Marilyn Flower, Treasurer: Ann Gehrlein, Recording Secretary: Kathy Croft, Corresponding Secretary: Janet Norman

Board of Directors: Melanie Shufran, Mary Alice Piotrowski, Betsy Olson, Jodie Casillo, Sue Eastman, Trish Clark

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## **Club News and Activities**

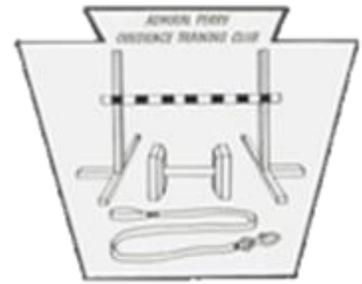
### ***Babies and Dogs***

The Babies and Dogs Program will be held at UPMC Hamot Women's Hospital on Tuesday, April 21, July 21, and October 20, 2015, from 6 – 8pm. The program focuses on ideas and safety issues on how to introduce the baby and plan ahead for all the changes that will occur with the family dog when bringing the baby home. Please contact Sandy Globa if you wish to participate.

### ***AKC Canine Good Citizen Test***

Come test your dog to find out if Fido is a Canine Good Citizen. APOTC will offer the CGC test in June 2015, at Ann Gehrlein's training building. Pre-registration is required. Details and the registration flyer may be downloaded from the APOTC website.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **April 3 -5, 2015**

APOTC Agility Trials at  
Countryside Agility

### **June 2015**

APOTC offers AKC Canine  
Good Citizen Test

### **August 15 -16, 2015**

APOTC Obedience and Rally  
Trials at the Bayfront  
Convention Center

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## **Important Announcements**

General Meetings will be held at the EKC building at 9457 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA. The next General Meeting will be March 10.

## **Club News and Activities** continued

### ***Back to School Time!***

The spring obedience classes will start on March 26, 2015 at the Erie Kennel Club building. Contact Janet Norman for registration and more information.

### **Kibbles and Bits**

### **How to Include Pets in Your Estate**

By Paul Premack, February 24, 2014

The continued care of your beloved dog, cat or other companion animal is a concern raised by a many pet owners. These animals bring you comfort, give love and can be as close to you as your family ever was. You don't want to abandon your animal friends.

Several situations may arise that require immediate care for your pets. Sudden illness may take you away from them. You may gradually lose the ability to care for them due to your own infirmity. Or you may die, leaving them alone.

You can plan to be certain they will not be abandoned. I suggest that any pet owner do the following:

- Arrange for a backup caretaker for your pets. You should always have someone who checks on your well-being regularly. If they find that you are ill, they should know whom to contact to care for your pets.
- Leave written emergency instructions. Do your pets take any medications? Where is their food, and how much do they get? Who is their veterinarian?
- Be certain that you have a Durable Power of Attorney in place. It would allow your agent to access your funds, and provide resources so your pets' caretaker can buy supplies and pay the vet.
- Mention your pet or pets in your Last Will and Testament. Texas law had no formal method to leave funds for your animals' care until 2006. Then the legislature passed an amendment to the Texas Property Code allowing you to establish a trust for the care of your pets – but only pets that were alive during your own lifetime. You could not, for instance, set up a trust for your dog and “any puppies



## **In the Community**

### **Southtowns Dog Training Club**

Obedience and Rally Run Thru's at the Southtowns DTC, Hamburg, NY. For more information go to [southtownsdtc.com](http://southtownsdtc.com)

### **Youngstown All Breed Training Club**

Obedience, Rally and Agility Run Thru's at the Youngstown All Breed TC, North Jackson, OH. For details visit [yabtc.com](http://yabtc.com).

### **APOTC Obedience Classes**

APOTC Spring Obedience classes start March 26, 2015 at the EKC building.

born after" you die. The law says that the trust must end on the death of the pets you had while you were alive.

A Pet Trust can be established in a Living Trust or in a Will. For instance, if you have a Living Trust you can add a provision for the welfare of your pets during any time that you become disabled. Then the trustee of your Living Trust will have resources available specifically to care for your pets. If the Pet Trust is contained inside your Will (a testamentary Pet Trust) then it won't take effect until you die, so you would need some other plan to care for your pets if you become disabled.

The law allows you to identify persons to whom the funds will pass after both you and your pets have died. If you do not make the choice for yourself, then the funds will pass to your heirs at law. Clearly it is best to make the choice yourself.

What if you establish a Pet Trust in your Will and an "interested" person thinks that you were overly generous to the dogs, unnecessarily cutting into the money available to the human heirs? Texas law says that the trust funds may be "applied to a use other than the property's intended use under the trust to the extent the court determines that the value of the trust property exceeds the amount required for the intended use." In other words, leaving a million dollars for the care of your dog can be challenged, and the excess funds that are not realistically needed for the dog can be distributed to the human heirs named in the trust instrument (or to your heirs at law if the instrument is silent).

If you have not already considered the welfare of your pets, consult with your Elder Law attorney about modifying your existing plan, or creating a new plan to care for your pets upon your disability or demise.

Paul Premack is a Certified Elder Law Attorney and a Five Star Wealth Manager (Texas Monthly Magazine 2009-2013) practicing estate planning and probate law in San Antonio.