

LEAD



LINKS

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County

October 2020

OFFICERS

President.....Betty Gansky
Vice President.....Steve Campbell
Treasurer Fran Smith
Recording Secretary.....Celeste Platte

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Nancy Honchar, Tracey Guiejka, Scott Adams Sr

COORDINATORS

Puppy Coordinator Lindsey Smith
Basic/Intermediate Coordinator..... Tracy Guiejka
Rally Coordinator.....Steve Campbell
Competition Coordinator..... Nancy Honchar
CGC Coordinator..... Susan Minix
Tracking Coordinator Lori Patterson
Agility Coordinator..... Barbara Bounds
Nose Work Coordinator.....Judy McPartland

CONTACT INFO

Leadlines

Lori Patterson—Otcpcbleadlines@gmail.com

Volunteer Hours

Judy McPartland
otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com

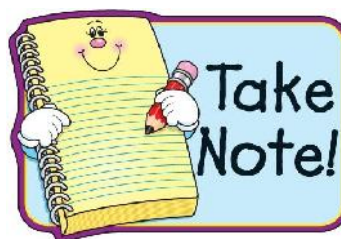
Titles Earned

Otcpcb.djf@outlook.com

Facebook Admin

Kelly McDonough
Kellmcd222@gmail.com

The Agility Pavilion Is Finished!



Need information? Have an idea on how to improve things? Did you see something that needs attention?

PLEASE CONTACT Celeste Platte, Secretary for OTCBPC.
She will pass on the information to the correct person
OR bring the thought before the Board of Directors
for their consideration.

Your request will be acknowledged and you will be advised
of the action taken.

cplattePSL@gmail.com



IT'S TIME TO
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!

**Application
inside!**

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County (OTCPBC)

General Membership Meeting – Via Zoom Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2020

Board Members Present: Betty Gansky, Steve Campbell, Celeste Platte, Fran Smith, Tracey Guziejka, Scott Adams ABSENT: Nancy Honchar

- President Report –Betty Gansky: Due to the virus, this has been one of the most stressful years since I took office. The Board meets regularly and discusses what is in the best interest of the club as to when it was safe to open back up and when to offer classes. The Board is continually working, even though the club was closed for a while.
- SHOW AND GO: Ron & Luci Seeley judged the show and go on Sunday, September 6. Thanks to them for giving us their time.
- Vice President – Steve Campbell: Access cards. Steve is sending out renewal notices 15 days before expiration of cards with pricing information and his address. Checks due by the end of the month or the card will be deactivated.
- Secretary Report as well as Obedience trials September: Celeste Platte. There are 16 dogs and 25 total entries per trial on Saturday and 14 entries and 15 dogs per trial on Sunday.
- Treasurer Report – Fran Smith – Profit & Loss: Fran gave a report on the Profit and Loss of the club. As said at the last meeting, we had a loss. Starting to close the gap on loss. Taxes are due in November. Money will be moved from the savings to checking. The club will probably end the year in a negative for the year.
- Nose-work Coordinator –Judy McPartland: Scent Work Trial November 28 and 29. Opened Monday, September 21. Diana Johnson-Ford is the trial secretary. Classes about to be posted for October and November. Check the website for classes.
- Web-master – Judy McPartland: Rally premium will go up on Tuesday. Scent Work premium is up.
- Obedience Coordinator - Nancy Honchar: Judy McPartland reported for Nancy - Classes as scheduled for the next session and they are filling quickly.
- Rally Coordinator – Steve Campbell: We have a class just finishing up. We will have another class starting Thursday October 8 @ 6:45 pm. We are allowing eight people. Steve gave a report on the revenue from the Rally trail of September 12 & 13.
- Puppy class: The number in the class is eight right now. It is difficult to teach class for an hour with that few students. Due to the virus, classes should be kept to eight right now to reduce exposure. It was suggested that the puppy class be advertised for 50 minutes since the class payment is less than the other classes.
- Contact Person for Questions: Please email Celeste Platte, Secretary (cplatteps@gmail.com) with any suggestions, questions, concerns you have about the class. Items you want brought to the Board of Director's (Board) attention. Celeste will forward your concerns to the appropriate person, make an announcement to the membership, or to the Board for discussion and decisions. DO NOT EMAIL BETTY. This should be coming through the Board Secretary.

New Business

- Tracking – Lori Patterson: The premium for the November Tracking trial is available. Just finished Tracking Intro class 1 last week and Tracking Intro Class 2 will finish this week.
- LEAD LINES deadline is October 15. Send to OTCPBCLEADLINES@GMAIL.COM not her personal email.
- The Agility Wall jump was sold to a Bratty Paws for \$475.00. The club used it very seldom.
- Lori posted it on her Facebook page for sale. Diana Johnson Ford delivered it on Saturday.
- Appointment a Board member to head nominating committee
- Steve Campbell will be Chair. Susan Minix and Cindy Ponga volunteered to assist.
- The Slate of Officers for 2021 will be read at the November meeting.
- Future Show & Go's - Nancy/Steve
- Steve - SHOW AND GO: Obedience will be October 11. Rally will be October 25.
- RebeLL Noses – Holding NACSW ORT event will be held at our building on Sunday October 18, 2020
- OTC Obedience Trials November 7 & 8, 2020 Judge: Ken Kincaid
- OTC Rally Trials November 14 & 15, 2020. Dr. Noonan & Brenda Critelli to judge.
- There will be two trials per day.
- OTC Scent Trials November 28th & 29th Lauren Walsh, Fran Smith Judges
- The hotel rooms have been reserved for all the judges for upcoming trials.
- A/C condenser & motor were replaced in unit behind ring table in September – entire A/C system also had a maintenance check at that time.
- Nozzle Nolan completed a Termite inspection of our clubhouse in mid-September. This will be done twice a year. This company does all our other spraying needs.
- Tommie Luke – Lawn maintenance will begin spraying disinfectant in potty area once a month. There will be a spraying on

Friday morning, September 25. He will place a yellow tape across field after applying. Dogs should not be allowed in potty area until after 12 PM that day. IF you are training at the building after 12 PM PLEASE remove the tape & throw in the trash can. This would be very much appreciated!

- RETURNED CHECKS: Any exhibitor that has had two returned checks for any club event must now pay all fees with a money order or cashier check. Motion made by Celeste Platte. Scott Adams seconded. Motion was passed unanimously at the Board meeting held on September 12, 2020.
- Membership Applications:
Kathy May
256 Sussex Circle, Jupiter, FL 33458 • 5 61-632-9145 • katmay@bellsouth.net • Australian Shepherd • Rally, Obedience, Agility • Sponsors: Sandy Crechiolo & Charlotte Czernann
WELCOME Kathy!

Old Business

- Field Pavilion Status - Tracey Guziejka: The slab is ready. Tracey will be notified when the pavilion arrives. That could be anytime from tomorrow to the first week in October. A one-week notice will be given for arrival to the field. Setup should be done the same day.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Platte, Recording Secretary

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County (OTCPBC) Board of Directors' Meeting – Zoom Meeting Saturday, September 12, 2020

Board Members Present: Betty Gansky, Steve Campbell, Celeste Platte, Nancy Honchar, Scott Adams, Tracey Guziejka. Absent: Fran Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

- Puppy Class Requests: Nancy Honchar – Nancy stated that she is constantly getting requests for puppy classes. Kelly Contreras, a former OTCPBC member has expressed an interest in teaching one or more puppy classes. After discussion, the Board agreed and it was agreed that the time of the puppy class was not to start before 6:00 PM
- MOTION: Celeste Platte made a motion to allow Kelly Contreras to teach classes for OTCPBC if she provides a W-9 form to the club treasurer so a 1099 can be issued, if required. Steve Campbell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- November Rally Trials: Steve Campbell – Since the club only offered one Rally trial per day for the September trial, Steve requested approval from the Board to go back to two trials per day for the November 2020 trials with limited entries.
- MOTION: Steve Campbell made a motion to have two trials for the November 14 & 15, 2020 event date. Scott Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Masks will continue to be required unless there is a significant change of circumstances.
- MOTION: Any exhibitor that has had two returned checks for trials or any club event, must now pay all fees with a money order or cashier check. Scott Adams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Field Pavilion: Tracey Guziejka advised that the field pavilion should be installed by the end of October.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Platte, Recording Secretary



SEPTEMBER RALLY TRIAL

I want to thank the members of OTCPCB, who participated in our first trials since, I think, the beginning of this year. It has been many months, and I am pleased to report that the trial went as smoothly as could be expected. We did our best to have all suggested regulations and guidelines in place, in order to have as safe and sound a trial, as was possible.

Thank you to Diana Johnson Ford, our trial secretary, and to Mary Wright, who spend the two days with Diana, learning the responsibilities involved as trial secretary. Being trial secretary is an extremely important task.

Scott Adams, our chief ring steward, who is always here or there when we need him and never says no.

Charlotte Czermann and Marge Butcher, who once again handled our trophies and prizes with grace.

Rose Siebeneck, who helped in many areas, but was great at posting the scores via text messaging.

Judy Wetzell and Cindy Ponga, who checked folks in, took temps, helped with posting scores, and also placed wrist bands on all attendees.

Sandy and Joe Crechiolo, who guarded our exit door and assisted with ring stewarding.

Peggy Deminico, our timer for both trials and did not miss a mini second.

Carol Ann Klein, our table steward, who also helped Bob and Scott setting up the courses.

And finally to Bob Millar who was our judge for both days. Thanks again for a job well done.

The dogs that placed all want to thank Betty Gansky for treats that are so good, that they can also be consumed by hungry humans.

Thanks again to all,

Steve Campbell

May I please echo Steve's comments. The trials went exceptionally well, they were well organized with supreme assistance from the club members. I could not ask for anything better. Thank you for inviting me to judge in my "home" club.

Bob Millar

I would like to take a moment to thank you and everyone from the club who helped make this event happen. I have not trialed in close to 5 years and everyone made me feel comfortable and safe. Not once did I feel that anyone swayed from the Covid protocols in place. This was a very well run show, my first at this facility. The judge was exceptional. He was fair and offered advise to us in a very kind and caring manner. Every club member I encountered always had a smile on their face and could not do enough to help. If I lived closer I would become a member. I have belonged to clubs in the past and they did not come close to your level of teamwork. I feel like I made many friends between this trial and the Rally class I took with Sandy Crechiolo, who by the way, is an awesome instructor and all around great person.

Thank you for your assistance with my move up from Novice to Intermediate.

Hopefully I will be back for your next trial.

Sincerely,

Terri Cannici

SEPTEMBER OBEDIENCE TRIAL

To Everyone,

I was so thrilled that we were able to hold our first obedience trial since the beginning of the year. It went smooth with no problems. A big thank you to Ores Chever Jr. for judging our trial. All your hard work was appreciated.

For set up on Friday the helpers were Joe and Mary Ann Hamzy Scott Adams Karen Jones Mary Macchia and Pat Caruso and me.

Thank you, Celeste, for all the hours you spent on the trial Secretary job you did it effortlessly. And June Feigenblatt came on Sunday to learn the trial secretary job thanks June for deciding to take on this big task. My chief ring steward Scott Adams as always did a great job getting all the stewards together and working to keep the trial running smoothly. The table stewards were Carol Ann Klein and Angel Andrews thank you ladies for a job well done. We had some stewards helping in multiple areas; everyone pitched in to help where needed; our stewards were Rose Siebeneck Judy Wetzel Debra Bundschuh Cindy Ponga Patty Armfield and Scott Adams. I hope I haven't left anyone out if so please let me know. The Hospitality person was Pat Caruso. She got lunch for our judge on Saturday but also spent most of the time helping our trophy chair Mary Macchia. The two of you did a fabulous job decorating our trophy area and having all the trophies and ribbons ready for the exhibitors. Thank you ladies the table looked wonderful.

Thank you to Betty Gansky for baking her famous dog cookies. They are a big hit with the dogs and the total excitement is waiting for us to get the ribbon off the bag so they can dig in. Thank you to all those that donated to our trophy fund so we can continue to offer such nice trophies. Thank you to all the exhibitors that entered in this scary time with the virus, but we had plenty of room to distance ourselves and all was good there. And congratulations to those that got legs and titles. To all those that helped with the cleanup, thank you. It was done quickly and efficiently.

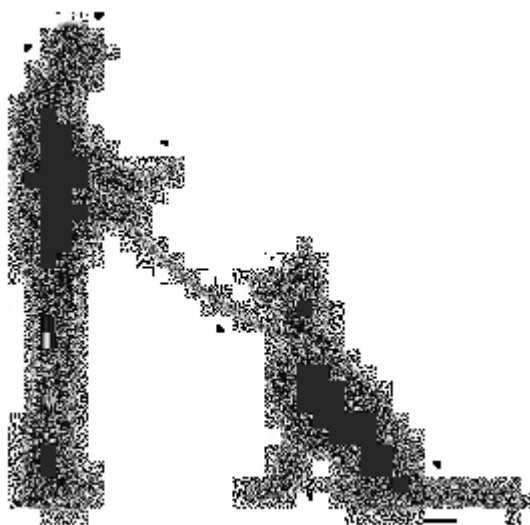
Hoping sometime soon we will be back to normal and will be holding all of our trials throughout the year as usual.

Thank you to all !!
Your Trial Chair (for the June Trial)
Peggy DeMinico

Please forward my thanks to Judge Ores Chever Jr., the super ring stewards and the OTCBPC itself. You all ran a great Obedience trial.

It is a pleasure to show at OTCBPC, the facilities are so clean, well maintained and the people so nice, organized and welcoming.

Sincerely,
Baird Lobree



BRAGS



Arlo got 199 in Open B at the OTCBPC obedience trial. He also got highest score of a non- OTCH dog in both trials. Good Boy Arlo
June Feigenblatt

a house
is not a
HOME
without a 
a DOG

MY LITTLE RALEIGH

NW3 X2

ON AUGUST 22ND RALEIGH AND I
HAD OUR SECOND PERFECT DAY IN
ASHEBORO, NC

RALEIGH SEARCHED LIKE A BOSS!
3RD PLACE VEHICLES
4 PRONOUNCED SEARCHES
NW3 INTERIOR ELEMENT TITLE
4TH PLACE OVERALL

LAUREN WALSH



Steve wants to brag that Stripey, his Champion mini dachshund, got her rally advanced title at our shows last month after being out of the ring for two years. Also Tim, a Champion mini dachshund male, got his first two legs in rally novice.



Clementine earned her AKC TRICKS ELITE PERFORMER title.

Angel Andrews

**Sergei earned his Farm Dog
at the cluster on
Sunday 11 October 2020.**

Scott Adams



My brag is for Dallas. In addition to his PACH 3 he now has over 160 Qs in both master preferred standard and master preferred jumpers. Plus he now has over 125 double Qs

John Gorbas



Thank you OTC and Judge Robert Millar
for awarding the old girl (the dog lol)
High Combined in Trial!

Judy Weitzel

**Bleyde obtained his final two legs in Novice
Obedience with 2 First Placements at
Otcpcb on 9-27-20.**

**Bleyde also obtained his final leg in Novice
Barnhunt with a second placement at the
Pirate Cluster with TLC on 10-9-20.**

Cindy Ponga



We attended our first Agility Trial since Covid. Kevin won one of his jumper classes. Bobby won 3 blues and one 2nd. He titled in Open jumpers, moved up to Excellent jumpers and won that class too.

Cody was the new kid on the scene. It was his first time competing in agility and won both of his Novice Standard classes!

All three boys successfully compete and win ribbons in Obedience, Rally AND Agility. Corgis really can do it all! A special thanks to our biggest fan, biggest cheerleader and best team-mate ever, Joe.

Sandy Crechiolo,
TEAM CORGI!



Orlando Sunday, October 11, 2020
submitted by Diana Johnson-Ford

What a terrific feeling to be partners with a fantastically resilient dog who found the glove through several hardships. I am thankful for the judges Ron and Luci Seeley who showed much patience while we searched for that pavement leg and for Yuko who laid a super stinky track. Many thanks to my trainers Jane and Fran who teach me so much.

Introducing August's King Leo
TD TDU RI SWA SCM SIE SHDN TKI NW3
-2 L1V L1E.

Jeff and Cyndi Porter's Welsh Springer Spaniel Rhett passed his VST test this past weekend and is now a Champion Tracker.

A few weeks earlier he achieved his CD.



LOVE
is a four legged word.



Here he is:
I Like Ike - "Ike."

Ike comes to me
from Minnesota and is
Harry's nephew.

How exciting it is to
have a new puppy!

DAVID J MCKENNAN

A dog is the
only thing on
earth that
loves you more
than he loves
himself



Jax earned his Docking Div-
ing Senior Advanced title

And

Kitt earned her
Open Standard Agility
title

Lori Patterson





DOCOF is Proud to Present: Victory Hulett

Date: March 27 & 28, 2021

Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Location: Imperial Polk Obedience Club
3611 Century Boulevard, Lakeland, Florida 33811

Cost: 2 Day Working Spot: \$225.00
2 Day Audit Spot: \$75.00
1 Day Audit spot: \$50.00
Twenty (20) Working Spots and 20 Audit Spots are available.
No refunds after Feb. 15, 2021. There will be a waiting list available in case of cancellations.

Lunch: Due to the uncertain status of COVID19, lunch will not be provided.

Join us for a fun and informative weekend with Victory. Learn some valuable training techniques to help you and your dog be successful in the ring.

Please fill out the form below and Mail to Ron Seeley, 167 NE Jardain Rd. Port St. Lucie, FL 34983-1726.

Any questions call: Ron Seeley at (772) 971-4151

(Please cut along dotted line)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Dog's Call Name: _____

Level dog is working: Novice Open Utility
(Please circle)

___ 2 Day Working: \$ 225 ___ 2 Day Audit: \$ 75 ___ 1 Day Audit: \$ 50

Please make checks payable to DOCOF.

Volunteer Hours

Includes Hours Earned between 1/1/2019 and 10/15/2020

Any questions about these hours contact - otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com

Last Name	First Name	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Andrews	Angel	1/27/2019	10/12/2020	71.5
Armfield	Patricia	7/27/2019	9/27/2020	46
Asaro	Jean	1/6/2019	3/8/2020	42.75
Auer	Nancy	2/21/2019	3/9/2020	38
Becker	Robert	2/3/2019	2/2/2020	97
Bounds	Hailey	4/20/2019	9/8/2019	11.95
Boychuck	Tricia	11/17/2019	12/1/2019	16.75
Brady	Lynne	9/8/2019	1/18/2020	38
Brav	Janet	2/2/2020	2/2/2020	5.5
Brown	Sandra	1/25/2019	1/18/2020	18.75
Bundschuh	Debra	1/18/2020	9/27/2020	19.25
Butcher	Marjorie	3/31/2019	9/13/2020	76.25
Carey	Kim	2/3/2019	2/19/2020	46.5
Carlee	Lane	1/6/2019	8/31/2020	57.25
Carr	Lucy	1/13/2019	1/12/2020	42.25
Carson	Mary	9/8/2019	9/8/2019	2
Caruso	Patricia & Anthony	1/6/2020	9/27/2020	22
Cash	Beverly	9/29/2019	9/29/2019	6
Clouser	Patsy	2/3/2019	1/18/2020	26.5
Corey	Kim	12/1/2019	1/12/2020	20.5
Craig	Jane	1/27/2019	1/5/2020	54.5
Crechiolo	Joe	2/3/2019	9/13/2020	18
Crechiolo	Sandy	1/13/2019	9/13/2020	53.75
Czermann	Charlotte	1/27/2019	9/13/2020	75
Davis	Diane	5/26/2019	7/14/2019	23
Davis	Marge	12/1/2019	12/1/2019	6
DeMinico	Peggy	1/6/2019	9/27/2020	169
Diamante	Arlene	12/1/2019	1/23/2020	12.25
Didjurgis	Barbara	9/8/2019	1/18/2020	2.75
Feigenblatt	June	1/6/2019	9/27/2020	65.75
Forgach	Marie	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	57.75
Gates	Sandra	1/13/2019	2/2/2020	143.5
Gomez	Janet	3/3/2019	7/14/2019	47.25
Gorbas	John	1/13/2019	6/16/2019	44.75
Gosnell	Mike	6/3/2019	6/3/2019	4
Grosso	Brian	1/27/2019	12/1/2019	36.5
Grosso	Kathleen	1/27/2019	12/1/2019	38.5
Halpern	Lynn	1/18/2020	2/19/2020	8.5
Hamzy	Joe	1/13/2019	9/27/2020	34.25
Hamzy	MaryAnn	9/8/2019	9/27/2020	17
Harper	Allyn	12/1/2019	3/1/2020	12.25
Hohmann	Marti	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	37
Johnson-Ford	Diana	2/4/2019	9/13/2020	183.5
Jones	Karen	1/13/2019	9/27/2020	79

Last Name	First Name	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Kennedy	Bridget	2/3/2019	12/16/2019	22
Klein	Carol Ann	5/26/2019	9/27/2020	50.75
Kornmeyer	Donna	1/13/2019	1/31/2020	52.75
Kryla	Kathie	6/9/2019	1/12/2020	17.5
Lehnertz	Margi	12/1/2019	12/1/2019	20
Macchia	Mary	2/13/2019	9/27/2020	25.5
May	Kathy	9/24/2020	9/24/2020	3
McDonough	Kelly	1/13/2019	10/31/2019	33.75
McKenna	David	1/6/2019	3/8/2020	38.5
McPartland	Judith	1/27/2019	10/15/2020	198.5
Millar	Robert	1/13/2019	9/13/2020	44.75
Minix	Susan	2/13/2019	10/1/2020	49.5
Moore	Janet	1/27/2019	3/8/2020	39.25
Moran	Laura	2/2/2020	2/2/2020	6
Nettles	Bobbie	4/20/2019	4/28/2020	49.25
Norton	Judy	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	42.75
Parker	Dianne	1/31/2019	6/30/2020	70
Patterson	Lori	1/6/2019	3/31/2020	121
Pichette	Helen	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	15
Ponga	Cindylou	1/7/2019	9/27/2020	69.75
Porter	Cynthia	10/31/2019	12/1/2019	10
Richards	Lou	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	28.75
Rubin	Laura	6/3/2019	3/1/2020	5
Sedberry	Diane	1/6/2019	1/18/2020	43.75
Siebeneck	Rosemarie	1/26/2019	9/27/2020	178
Smith	Lindsey	1/25/2019	2/19/2020	25.75
Strumwasser	Steve	1/19/2019	3/8/2020	17
Taylor	Matthew	1/6/2019	11/17/2019	24
Thors	Edda	4/20/2019	8/18/2019	10
Trummer	Michelle	2/3/2019	2/2/2020	28
Vasiliou	Libby	6/9/2019	6/9/2019	5
Vence	Robert	1/6/2019	3/8/2020	137.5
Walsh	Lauren	1/6/2019	12/1/2019	8.5
Walter	Noel	6/9/2019	6/9/2019	5
Weber	Lodge	1/13/2019	9/29/2019	78
Wetzel	Judy	8/5/2019	10/1/2020	78
Wheeler	Kay	1/27/2019	2/2/2020	32
White	James	4/20/2019	11/10/2019	11
Wingfield	Wendy	1/27/2019	9/30/2020	62.25
Wolak	Diane	1/27/2019	8/10/2020	48.5
Wolak	Joe	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	43.5
Wood	Linda	1/6/2019	2/2/2020	208.25
Wright	Mary	1/13/2019	9/13/2020	146.3



OTCPBC Membership Application: Renewal 2021
Renewal memberships are due on or before December 31, 2020.

Name: _____

Address: _____ New? Y or N

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Breed(s): _____

Memberships:

Regular \$40 Household \$60 Associate \$30 Junior \$25 Honorary & Silver Medalist \$0

Dues Enclosed _____

Trophy Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please circle all that apply: Agility, Breed, Barn Hunt, Herding, Hunting/Retrieving, Scent Work, Obedience, Pet Therapy, Rally, Schutzhund, Tracking,

Please volunteer for all that apply: Instructors: Puppy, Basic, CGC/CGC-A, Beginner Novice, Novice, Open, Utility, Agility, Rally, Tracking, Scent Work, Therapy

Committees: Obedience Trials, Agility Trials, Tracking, Building Maintenance, Barn Hunt, Equipment, Training/Teaching Seminars.

SEND TO: **Celeste Platte, 1755 SW Ruiz Terrace, Port St Lucie, FL 34953** OR put your check and the form in an envelope and drop it into the designated basket on the desk in the lobby.



DIY Cognitive Dog Toys for When You Are Stuck at Home

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

Dogs are incredibly smart, and they need mental exercise just as much as physical. This is particularly true in times of the year when dogs find themselves stuck indoors. Boredom in dogs leads to frustration and destructive behavior. But giving your dog a cognitive workout burns off excess energy, provides entertainment, and prevents problem behavior. There are lots of fun cognitive training games you can play, but toys can challenge your dog's brain as well.

There are tons of fun puzzle toys on the market; however, some can be quite expensive and others are simply too small or too large for a given breed. Do-it-yourself cognitive dog toys not only save you money but allow you to tailor the toy to your dog's size and preference. Here are some easy DIY toys that will help fire up (and tire up) your dog's brain on days when you're stuck inside!



Toilet Tube Treat Dispensers

Cardboard containers make great destructible treat dispensers. Empty toilet paper tubes or paper towel rolls can be stuffed with soft treats. For example, spread peanut butter or cream cheese along the inside of the cardboard tube. Your dog will have to lick the treat out while preventing the tube from rolling away or being squished flat. To increase the challenge, fold down the ends of the tube so your dog must rip into the cardboard to get at the goodies inside. And for a longer-lasting treat, freeze the tube and its contents before giving it to your dog.

If a paper towel roll is too small for your dog or you want to use hard dog treats or bits of kibble, try using an empty box. Poke holes in the box slightly larger than the size of the treats, place the treats in the box, and seal the top. Your dog will have to toss the box around in order to get the treats to fall out of the holes. To alter the challenge, simply change the size of the container. Your dog will need to manipulate an empty tissue box differently than a round potato chip tube or a pizza box.

Because these cardboard dispensers are destructible, ensure your dog doesn't eat the bits of cardboard that fall off. As with any puzzle toy, these are meant to be used under supervision. And because these toys were destined for your recycling box anyway, there's always a fresh box or tube waiting to be filled.

Muffin Tin Shell Game

This version of the shell game requires a muffin tin and a ball for each cup in the tin. Tennis balls are a great size for a standard muffin tin, but any appropriately sized ball will do. And if your dog is a toy breed, simply use a mini muffin pan and miniature tennis balls. But don't ever use balls too small for your dog's size as they can pose a choking hazard.

To help your dog get the hang of the game, leave the cups uncovered at first. Fill each muffin cup with treats or kibble and let your dog lick or paw the goodies out. Now that your dog knows good things can be found in the cups, it's time to cover them with the balls. Your dog will have to remove each ball to get at the treat underneath.

To increase the difficulty, only bait some of the cups with food but continue to cover all the cups with balls. Now your dog will need to use scent to locate where the treats are located. This will help prepare your dog for other scent related games like hide-and-seek.

Shoebox Hide-and-Seek

You don't have to participate in an AKC Scent Work trial to have fun with your dog's nose. Try doing some scent work in the house. All you need is a set of empty containers like shoeboxes or yogurt tubs. Place the containers in a group on the floor and bait one or a few with smelly treats. Then allow your dog to sniff all the containers in a search for the hidden treasure.

In the beginning, you can make your dog's job easier by poking holes in the tops of the containers. Once your dog has the idea, start increasing the challenge by only baiting one of the containers and spreading them out around the room. In addition, the more containers your dog must search through, the greater the effort required.



Doggy Ball Pit

If your dog enjoys playing hide-and-seek, this toy will really up the difficulty level. All you need is a plastic kiddie pool and tons of balls. Fill the kiddie pool with the balls then sprinkle kibble or treats on top. As your dog walks through the balls to retrieve the food, the balls, and therefore the treats, will keep shifting positions keeping your dog occupied for a long time.

This can be a great way to feed dogs who tend to gulp their food. It slows them down and provides lots of mental stimulation. And for dogs who are easily frustrated or nervous about new situations, start with only a few balls in the pool and slowly increase the number as the dog gets comfortable.

Tea Towel Snuffle Mat

Snuffle mats are pieces of fabric with lots of loops, flaps, or pockets that can be used to hide treats. The point is for your dog to sniff for treats hidden in the fabric. If you're handy with a sewing machine, you can make your own snuffle mat out of sturdy fabric. Simply stitch pockets and flaps all over the material to allow you to hide bits of food.

A simpler, sewing-free alternative is to buy a plastic mat. Look for one with a grid of holes already in it, like a rubber sink mat, or poke holes in the mat yourself. Then tear fleece into strips that are six to eight inches long. Tie a fleece strip through each hole in the mat until the top of the mat looks like a fleece forest. Once you've filled all the holes, toss a handful of treats on the top of the mat then watch your dog snuffle through the fleece to retrieve them.

An even easier version of the snuffle mat can be made from a tea towel. Lay a towel flat on the floor and place some treats in the center. Then fold the towel longways across the treats. Next, tie the towel in a loose knot so the treats are in the middle. Your dog will have to figure out how to untie the tea towel to get at the treats inside. Easy for you to make, but not easy for your dog to undo! To add to the challenge, tie several tea towels together in a row with treats in each one.