

# LEAD



# LINES

Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County

December 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](mailto:Otcpcbleadlines@gmail.com)

### Volunteer Hours

Judy McPartland  
[otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com](mailto:otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com)

### Titles Earned

[Otcpcb.djf@outlook.com](mailto:Otcpcb.djf@outlook.com)

### Facebook Admin

Kelly McDonough  
[Kellmcd222@gmail.com](mailto:Kellmcd222@gmail.com)



*Best wishes for the Holidays, and for health  
and happiness throughout the coming year.*



**Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom Meeting**  
**Monday, November 16, 2020**

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

Vice President Steve Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

**President Report** –None

**Vice President** – Steve Campbell: Betty Gransky's mother in law was put under Hospice Care and the outlook is hour to hour.

**Suspension of Agenda Order:** Roberts Rules of Order allows the suspension of the agenda to handle special business then return to the normal order. Steve Campbell confirmed this information with a parliamentarian. At the insistence of a member, the membership was polled to determine if it was acceptable to them to suspend the agenda to address the Constitutional amendment recommended by the Board of Directors. There were only three objections, so the Steve Campbell continued with the presentation.

**Vice President** – Steve Campbell: When the Corresponding Secretary resigned earlier this year (2020) the duties of that position were dispersed to other members of the Board. It was the Board's intention to bring a recommendation to the membership that the position of Corresponding Secretary be eliminated as the original need for the position no longer exists. Due to COVID-19 issues and the building strictions, the notice and proposed revision to the By Laws were delayed and sent to the membership on October 21, 2020, as required. This is the reason that the Corresponding Secretary was not included in the position to be filled.

**MOTION:** To approve the Board of Director's recommendation to eliminate the position of Corresponding Secretary. First: Celeste Platte. Second: Steve Campbell.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Motion was discussed at length. Issues and objections to the elimination of the position are as follows:

Assign new duties to the position of Corresponding Secretary since the original duties have been reassigned. Due to the many tasks of the Board which could create stress, keep the position and assign new duties and projects to the Corresponding Secretary to allow the current Board members have some breathing room for the tasks they currently do. Historically, the corresponding secretary position has been eliminated then brought back. The current members on the Board are not permanent officers and new people coming into those board positions may choose to bring back the position again, which is their right of course. However, this back and forth has created some confusion. If the Corresponding Secretary position is kept, list what tasks that position is assigned to do. That way when someone new comes in, they know what is expected of that position. Fran smith would like to recommend incorporating into the By Laws the ability to assign some of the functions of any position to an assistant, such as assistant secretary.

**Secretary** – Celeste Platte: Restated the motion "The Board of Directors are recommending the elimination of the position of Corresponding Secretary." If you agree with the Board recommendation, your response would be yes. According to Robert's Rules, an affirmative vote is called for first. Please hit the yes key. If you do not see a yes key, you can click the "chat" key and send a message directly to me.

There were 33 members present. The motion passed 25 yes. 8 no.

Steve Campbell asked if anyone present had a problem with how the voting was conducted? There was no objection to the voting procedure.

Steve Campbell: The motion passes so now the meeting will return to Roberts Rules of Order.

**Return to Order of Business**

**Secretary** – Celeste Platte: There are no new member applications. The three members that have had their first reading are still working on their required volunteer hours prior to the second reading. Membership renewals: 48 to date. You can now renew on the website through Pay Pal. A fillable PDF will be sent out on Tuesday if you prefer not the pay through Pay Pal, you can fill out the form and send it to Celeste.

**Treasurer Report** – Fran Smith: Money has been moved from savings to checking. From the Profit & Loss statement shown, the

income from the Rally and Scent trials are shown, but there are still outstanding expenses to be paid. The club will show a loss at the end of the year, but the club is still solvent.

**Tracking/Lead Lines** – Fran Smith: Had some really great efforts at the last test. Almost underwater. A lot of people worked extremely hard. Unfortunately, no one passed. Lori Patterson has expressed a desire to resign from Tracking Director and Diana Johnson Ford has agreed to be the tracking director, pending official appointment by the President and Board for 2021.

**Nose Work Coordinator** – Judy McPartland: Scent Work trial the weekend after Thanksgiving. The trial is offering all four containers. Scent work classes on Tuesday night for three weeks in December.

**Web Master** - Judy McPartland: Two three-week obedience classes for December. The January 2021 classes are being worked on. The weekend events are already on the website.

**Obedience Coordinator** – Nancy Honchar: Classes are ready to be posted for January 2021.

**Rally Coordinator** – Steve Campbell: Four rally trials held this last weekend. The workers were fantastic. Great compliments from so many. Thank you all that exhibited and worked. Two rally classes scheduled for January 2021. A master's class and intermediate advance class. A third class is being worked out to be held on Saturday.

### Old/New Business

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Steve Campbell, Chair: Members Cindy Ponga, and Susan Minix. Thank you both.

The purpose of a Nominating Committee is to recommend members for the various Board positions. The Nominating Committee emailed all members to ask them if they would be interested in any Board position. If they are, they are asked to submit a brief bio as to their qualifications. At this meeting tonight, any member is welcome to be nominated or nominate themselves for any position on the Board. There had been one bio sent to the nominating committee for consideration and it was the corresponding secretary position.

The slate of officers presented are as follows:

President – Betty Gansky; Vice President – Steve Campbell; Treasurer – Fran Smith; Secretary – Celeste Platte. Board of Directors at Large: Scott T. Adams Sr, Tracey Guziejka, Nancy Honchar.

Nominations from the floor for any of the above positions were requested. There being none, the nominations were closed, and the slate as presented above will be presented at the January 4, 2021 meeting and the Secretary will cast one vote for the election of the slate.

**TRAINING SCHEDULE:** Effective December 1, the Board of Directors has agreed to allow four people to train together. Those four people will be limited to a two-hour time block. At least two of the four people training must be access card holders. Only members are allowed to train at this time.

Any additional business that anyone would like to discuss.

Secretary will send out a link to the members for the Toys for Tots website. OTCPC will not be collecting toys this year due to the virus. The club will be making a monetary donation to the program.

There being no further business, Motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Next meeting January 4, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Platte



**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 10, 2020—7:00 PM**

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

Specific Items for Discussion.

**Corresponding Secretary Position**

- The Board of Directors is recommending to the membership that the position of the Corresponding Secretary be eliminated. If the membership does not vote to eliminate the position, a job description will be sent to the membership.
- Nominating Chair Steve Campbell will advise the membership that if they wish to have their name on the 2021 ballot for the position of Corresponding Secretary, they should send a resume of their qualifications to him by December 1. These resumes will be included in the December Lead Lines which is sent to all members.
- Any nominations and resumes received by the deadline for the Corresponding Secretary position will be put on the January 2021 ballot for voting by the membership.

**The Slate of Officers**

- Will be presented to the membership at the November 16, 2020 meeting. Nominations from the floor for any office, excluding Corresponding Secretary, must be made at this meeting and that name or names will be put on the ballot for the January 2021 election.

**Diana Johnson Ford's letter to the Board of Directors.** Received and filed by the Board.

- The letter addressed four items.
    - The Corresponding Secretary position remain open and new duties be assigned.
    - Roberts Rules: Requested an effort be made to abide by Roberts Rules, even though the meetings are taking place over Zoom.
      - **The Board agreed that** an effort would be made to closely follow the rules.
    - Access Card Holder Training: Requested that now that Palm Beach County has entered phase three, that four people be allowed to train at the same time.
- Assess Card Holder Training** – The Board agreed to modify individual training as follows:
- Allow up to four people to train at the same time for a maximum time of 2 hours.
  - At least two of the members must be access card holders
  - Members only can train at this time

The Board agreed to add the following to the Covid-19 statement signed by students taking classes.

Change underlined . . . or any household member, or any close family member of frequent contact, have not been in contact with or exposed to any known carrier of COVID-19.” Change underlined.

**Class Assistants**

- At what number of students should an assistant be required?
  - Motion made by Steve Campbell, Seconded by Scott T Adams Sr. For Non-competitive classes, when more than eight students are enrolled, an assistant will be needed.
  - Nancy Honchar and Celeste Plate – No. Fran Smith – Abstain. Steve Campbell, Scott Adams, Tracey Guziejka voted Yes. President broke the tie by voting yes to the above motion

**Number of Students Per Class**

On May 29th, the Board, through email, agreed that the class size would be limited to eight students per class. The Board agreed to revisit the class size as the Covid-19 situation changes.

**Lead time when a class is to be posted**

Training Coordinator Nancy Honchar said that she tries to get the classes posted a month ahead of time when possible. The Rally Coordinator would also like to have the classes posed at least four weeks in advance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Platte, Recording Secretary

**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 22, 2020, 2020—7:00 PM**

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

Special Meeting: To address the maximum number of puppy students and the requirement of an assistant for that class.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

- Non-Agenda Item: Pavilion lights and fans.
  - Tracey said she estimated that to purchase the pavilion lights and fans would be approximately \$2,000. Should this be done now or wait?
    - The Board agreed that these items could be postponed till after the new year and give the Club the opportunity to recover some money.
- Guest Angel Andrews spoke to the number of puppies that can be in the class and the use of an instructor.
  - Angel has been teaching puppy class for the last five years and the number of puppies in the class has always been around 10.
    - No assistant was every used.
  - Puppy class is a socialization and manners class, not an obedience class and non a one on one. It is a nice bridge to the beginner level.
    - All the students are instructed together as this is how they learn.
    - If a student has a problem, the whole class is asked to listen as they may be having the same issues as well.
    - Puppy class is not a one on one. It is always a group instruction.
- Nancy Honchar said she look back over the past years and puppy class historically has always had a least 10 in any given class with no assistant.
- Tracey Guziejka stated that when she voted to limit class size to eight, she was thinking of her teaching experience with the basic classes. She always had students that needed additional assistance. Looking back, she no longer feels that puppy class should be included in the requirement that an assistant is needed.
  - Basic, interment classes certainly should have an instructor because additional help will probably be needed. Tracey no longer feels that puppy class should be included in the requirement for an instructor.
- Steve Campbell's experience when he took a class five years ago, was that he was glad there was an assistant as he needed additional help with various exercises.
- An Intermediate puppy class is also offered. There is a pre-requisite before taking that class. Nancy Honchar will make sure it is listed on the website with the class.
  - It is most of the Board's opinion that the recommendation made in May 2020 limiting the number of dogs in a class to eight is no longer applicable. This determination was made based on the best-known information at the time about the COVID-19 virus. The limiting of students was not a motion, but a suggestion when the club started allowing classes again. Also, Palm Beach County was still at Level 2 in the gathering of people.
- As stated in the Club's Policy and Procedures, an instructor may have a paid assistant if there are at least six students in the class.

**PREVIOUS MOTION REINCEDED**

- On November 10, 2020, the following motion was approved by the board:
  - For Non-competitive classes, when there are more than eight students enrolled, an assistant will be needed.
- **Motion** to rescind the motion of November 10, 2020. This motion is based on the history that puppy classes have allowed up to 10 students with no assistant. Motion made by Celeste Platte, Second by Fran Smith. Motion carried. VP Steve Campbell presiding over the meeting did not vote.
  - Prior to the motion of November 10, the Board was not given the historical information of the number of students routinely allowed in classes, particularly the puppy classes.
- **Class Survey**
  - Nancy Honchar will complete development of a class survey to be sent to students finishing a class. The survey can be anonymous if the responder wishes and will be sent by the coordinator, not the class instructor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM

*Respectfully submitted, Celeste Platte, Secretary*

## Scent Work Trial

Thanks to the generous and enthusiastic support of volunteers, OTCBPC hosted our sixth successful AKC Scent Work Trial the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Volunteers were warm and welcoming to our competitors. As part of COVID procedures, Brian Grosso played “traffic cop” stopping folks for health check and Dr Kathleen Minnick (Katie Grosso) efficiently performed a health check as competitors arrived. Outdoors volunteers helped competitors know when their turn was coming up and were encouraging as teams got ready to do their searches. Timers, box setters, gate stewards provided a calm atmosphere allowing competitors to focus on being a team doing a search. Cindy Ponga did a stellar job organizing ribbons so that they were ready for a “COVID” distribution to competitors.

A very special thanks goes to those who helped set up and to those who got everything back in order after the trial. Furniture was moved out to the shed and then back into the building. Lattice panels for use in creating clearly defined paths, plus sandbags to hold them in place, involved considerable effort that was much appreciated by competitors.

No trial is successful without the trial secretary, Diana before the trial date and results are provided to Wingfield who was Trial Secretary for Diane Wolak, Trial Chair whatever needed to be

A big thank you to our two Smith and our inside vol-

Halpern, Scott Adams, Debra Bundschuh, Lindsey Smith, Keith Musbach and Mike Edmondson. Lauren oriented new volunteers to the inside judge's crew roles and commented on how well they did. In addition to her role as Judge, Fran Smith provided immense pre-trial support, transported containers and supplies and provided direction for set-up and tear down.

I so appreciate the contribution of each volunteer. I appreciate everyone's positive attitude and willingness to see what needed to be done and to jump in and do it.

Thank you for your effort in making this event an efficient and fun event and for contributing in ways beyond your “assigned tasks.”

Scott Adams, Lynne Brady, Debra Bundschuh, Patsy Clouser, Jane Craig, Michael Edmondson, Marie Forgach, Brian Grosso, Kathleen Grosso, Lynn Halpern, Diana Johnson-Ford, Robert Millar, Keith Musbach, Jennifer Patti, Cindy Ponga, Lindsey Smith, Judy Wetzels, Wendy Wingfield, Diane Wolak (Trial Chair), Joe Wolak.

Thank you also to Betty and the Board for their support of AKC Scent Work Trials. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

Judy McPartland



out the quiet careful work of Johnson-Ford. This starts well continues after the trial itself as AKC. We also welcome Wendy Secretary-In-Training and who our January Trial. Thanks too to who was ready to help with done.

Judges, Lauren Walsh and Fran unteers, Lynne Brady, Lynn

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*Jeff & I would like to thank the Membership for all of their thoughts, prayers, sympathy cards, e-mails & donations on the loss of Jeff's mom Selma on 11/16.*

*Thanks for thinking of us during this difficult time.*

*It was very much appreciated.*

*Betty*

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## **2021 General Meeting Dates**



January 4  
April 5  
June 7  
August 2  
September 20  
November 1

# BRAGS



I would like to introduce a new member of our family. Luzi is a 7 or 8 year old intact Chihuahua who probably had puppies in the past. She was left in a crate in a parking lot in Miami in June. No water, no note, nothing. I happened to meet her because my next door neighbor was taking her up to Canada to be adopted. I fell in love!! But she left the next day. Long story short, the adoption didn't work out, but because of covid she got stuck in Canada with my neighbor for 4 months. Finally she arrived and we are all in love with her. Not a performance dog, but smart and sweet. In Canada they called her Lucy, but because she's Mexican, I had to give her a Spanish name. Luzi = little light. She can't spell, so she doesn't know the difference

Judith Streisand

Cassie our puppy 7 ½ months old got her CGC from evaluator Barbara Bounds at otcpcb. She also has her novice tricks title.

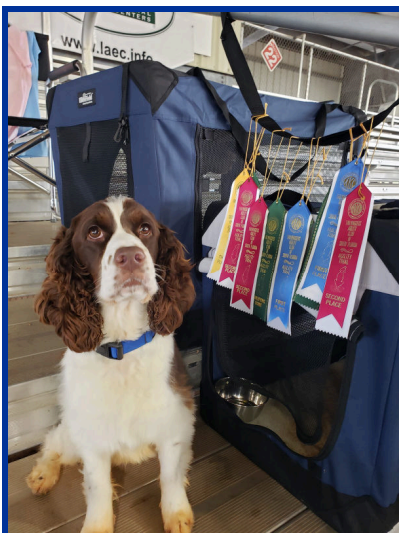
Sandra Brown

Billie (WPD Battle of the Sexes) and Charlie (Deauxquest May Hole in One) earned Dock Junior titles at the Treasure Coast cluster in October.

Marti Hohmann

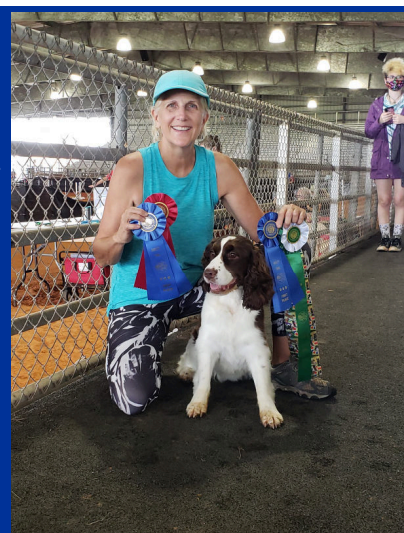


OTCPBC Rally Show - 11-14-2020  
Bleyde vom Degahaus - Cindy Ponga  
Rally Novice B, Title & First Place



Abaco's Island Girl (Abby) and Bobbi Nettles started back to our first trial since February. We ran in the Treasure Coast Agility Club trial in early October at St Lucie Fairgrounds. She got her Open JWW title and is now running in Excellent Standard and JWW. She placed 1st and 2nd in Excellent FAST and Excellent Standard. We ran in the DOCOH club trial Halloween weekend and ran the Premiere Standard, FAST and Excellent JWW and Standard and very excited to see her improvement since February. Our last trial was Tailwaggers Nov 19-21 and had qualifying runs both days in Excellent JWW and Standard with 2 – 1st place ribbons, 2 – 2nd place ribbons and a third. She's doing great as a 2 year old and looking forward to growing as a team

Bobbi Nettles



We had a very special weekend at the DOCOH Agility Trial on Halloween weekend. We earned 5 new titles, 7 blues and 1 second place.

- \* Bobby moved up to Masters in Standard and JWW.
- \*Kevin moved up to Open Standard and JWW.
- \*Cody moved up to Open Standard.
- \*Kevin also earned his 8th leg towards his Rally Masters Title at our recent Nov. Rally Trial at OTCPB.

Joe and I are so blessed to have three awesome Corgis!

Joe and Sandy Crechiolo



Clementine earned her Rally Novice title with 3 scores of 99!

Please add to Clementine's brags that she was the #1 Cairn Terrier in the 2020 AKC Trick Dog National Competition!

Jolene earned her Tricks Novice title at 4 1/2 months old!

Angel Andrews

# Volunteer Hours

Includes Hours Earned between 1/1/2019 and 12/2/2020

Last Name	First Name	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours	Last Name	First Name	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Andrews	Angel	1/27/2019	11/8/2020	76	Millar	Robert	1/13/2019	11/29/2020	51.75
Armfield	Patricia	7/27/2019	11/8/2020	63	Minix	Susan	2/13/2019	12/2/2020	51.5
Asaro	Jean	1/6/2019	3/8/2020	42.75	Moore	Janet	1/27/2019	3/8/2020	39.25
Auer	Nancy	2/21/2019	3/9/2020	38	Moran	Laura	2/2/2020	2/2/2020	6
Becker	Robert	2/3/2019	2/2/2020	97	Nettles	Bobbie	4/20/2019	4/28/2020	49.25
Bounds	Hailey	4/20/2019	11/25/2020	28.45	Norton	Judy	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	42.75
Boychuck	Tricia	11/17/2019	12/1/2019	16.75	Parker	Dianne	1/31/2019	11/30/2020	79.5
Brady	Lynne	9/8/2019	11/29/2020	46.75	Patterson	Lori	1/6/2019	3/31/2020	121
Brav	Janet	2/2/2020	2/2/2020	5.5	Pichette	Helen	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	15
Brown	Sandra	1/25/2019	1/18/2020	18.75	Ponga	Cindylou	1/7/2019	11/29/2020	80.75
Bundschuh	Debra	1/18/2020	11/29/2020	48	Porter	Cynthia	10/31/2019	12/1/2019	10
Butcher	Marjorie	3/31/2019	11/15/2020	106	Richards	Lou	1/27/2019	1/18/2020	28.75
Carey	Kim	2/3/2019	2/19/2020	46.5	Rubin	Laura	6/3/2019	3/1/2020	5
Carlee	Lane	1/6/2019	10/31/2020	86.5	Sedberry	Diane	1/6/2019	1/18/2020	43.75
Carr	Lucy	1/13/2019	1/12/2020	42.25	Siebeneck	Rosemarie	1/26/2019	11/15/2020	209.25
Carson	Mary	9/8/2019	9/8/2019	2	Smith	Lindsey	1/25/2019	11/29/2020	34.75
Caruso	Patricia/Anthony	1/6/2020	9/27/2020	22	Strumwasser	Steve	1/19/2019	11/15/2020	21
Cash	Beverly	9/29/2019	9/29/2019	6	Taylor	Matthew	1/6/2019	11/17/2019	24
Clouser	Patsy	2/3/2019	11/29/2020	28	Thors	Edda	4/20/2019	8/18/2019	10
Corey	Kim	12/1/2019	1/12/2020	20.5	Trummer	Michelle	2/3/2019	2/2/2020	28
Craig	Jane	1/27/2019	11/29/2020	63.5	Vasilou	Libby	6/9/2019	6/9/2019	5
Crechiolo	Joe	2/3/2019	9/13/2020	18	Vence	Robert	1/6/2019	3/8/2020	137.5
Crechiolo	Sandy	1/13/2019	10/14/2020	56.25	Walsh	Lauren	1/6/2019	11/29/2020	13.5
Czermann	Charlotte	1/27/2019	11/15/2020	102.75	Walter	Noel	6/9/2019	6/9/2019	5
Davis	Diane	5/26/2019	7/14/2019	23	Weber	Lodge	1/13/2019	9/29/2019	78
Davis	Marge	12/1/2019	12/1/2019	6	Wetzel	Judy	8/5/2019	11/29/2020	111
DeMinico	Peggy	1/6/2019	11/15/2020	190.5	Wheeler	Kay	1/27/2019	2/2/2020	32
Diamante	Arlene	12/1/2019	1/23/2020	12.25	White	James	4/20/2019	11/10/2019	11
Didjurgis	Barbara	9/8/2019	1/18/2020	2.75	Wingfield	Wendy	1/27/2019	11/29/2020	72.5
Feigenblatt	June	1/6/2019	11/7/2020	85.75	Wolak	Diane	1/27/2019	11/29/2020	60
Forgach	Marie	1/27/2019	11/29/2020	66.75	Wolak	Joe	1/27/2019	11/29/2020	49
Gates	Sandra	1/13/2019	10/25/2020	148.5	Wood	Linda	1/6/2019	2/2/2020	208.25
Gomez	Janet	3/3/2019	7/14/2019	47.25	Wright	Mary	1/13/2019	11/1/2020	153.3
Gorbas	John	1/13/2019	6/16/2019	44.75					
Gosnell	Mike	6/3/2019	6/3/2019	4					
Grosso	Brian	1/27/2019	11/29/2020	43.5					
Grosso	Kathleen	1/27/2019	11/29/2020	45.5					
Halpern	Lynn	1/18/2020	11/29/2020	18					
Hamzy	Joe	1/13/2019	11/8/2020	35.25					
Hamzy	MaryAnn	9/8/2019	11/8/2020	18					
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	11/30/2020	203.5					
Jones	Karen	1/13/2019	12/2/2020	82					
Kennedy	Bridget	2/3/2019	12/16/2019	22					
Klein	Carol Ann	5/26/2019	11/15/2020	69.75					
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	11/1/2020	28					
May	Kathy	9/24/2020	11/12/2020	13					
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					





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.

# YOU CAN ALSO RENEW ONLINE

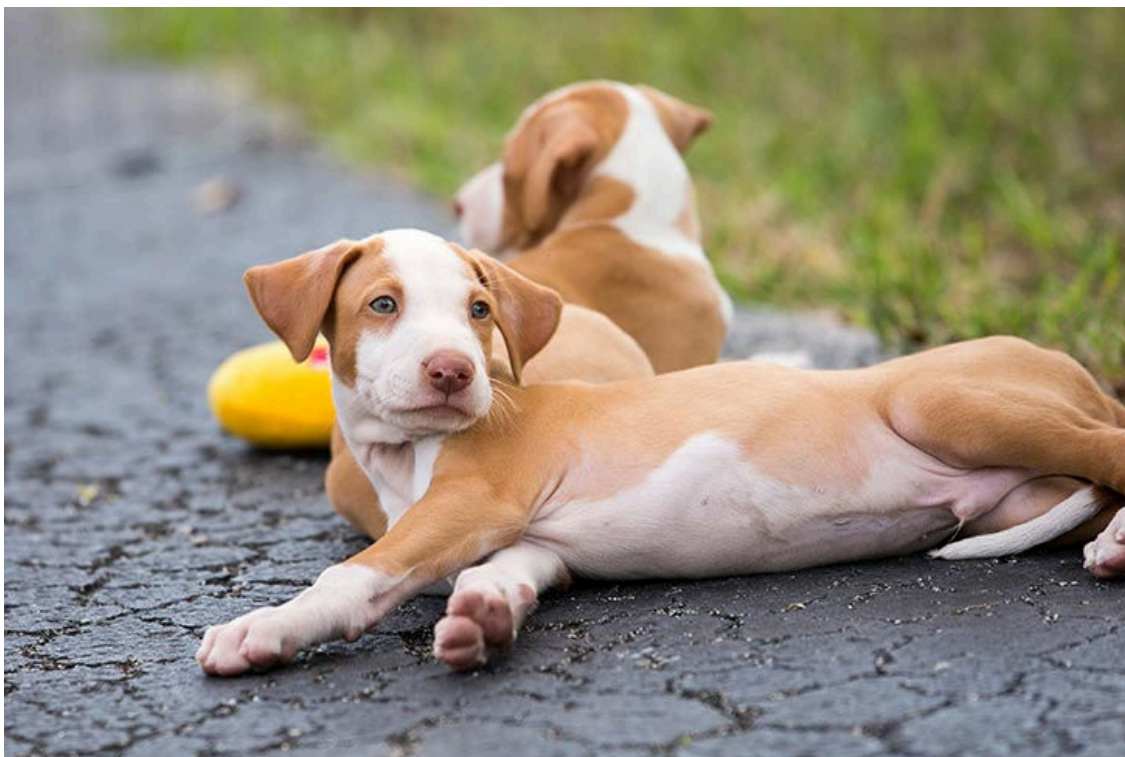
**<https://otcpbc.org/renew-membership-2021/>**

# How to Socialize Your Puppy During Times of Social Distancing

By Yasmine Ali, M.D.

Apr 01, 2020

Puppies have a short time window for optimal socialization, and that requires exposure to multiple different surfaces, people of all backgrounds, and various new situations. But what about the puppies who happen to be within that window now, during this time of necessary social distancing due to COVID-19? How can they be socialized so they can grow to be confident and happy dogs for the rest of their lives?



## The Goals of Socialization

First, it's important to keep in mind the goals of puppy socialization. Paul Owens, professional dog trainer and bestselling author of *The Dog Whisperer* books, points out that "socialization does not mean putting a dog in a new situation and seeing what happens. Socialization means introducing new situations and making them safe, positive, confidence-building experiences."

Certified dog trainer and CGC evaluator Jacqui Foster, CPDT-KA, agrees: "As one of my mentors says,

'Absence of one bad experience far outweighs 100 good experiences!'" She adds that each puppy learns differently, so "work with the dog in front of you ... I tend to lean more towards developing self-confidence in the puppy, rather than flooding the dog with loads of people, noises, and experiences."

## The Most Important Exposures for Your Puppy

There are certain new situations to which all puppies should be exposed if possible, preferably during the first 16 weeks of life, and the good news is that most of these can be accomplished in and around your own home. Each positive experience builds your puppy's self-confidence. These exposures include:

- Different surfaces: grass, leaves, concrete, gravel, linoleum, carpet, wood, sand, etc.
- Different sounds: think of all the everyday sounds around your home, including hairdryers, phone ringtones, radios, vacuum cleaners, and more. There are even recordings of sounds like thunder and other dogs barking that you can download for your puppy to hear. Be sure to make each noise exposure a positive experience by acting happy around the sound and associating the sound with yummy treats, and watch your puppy for any signs of stress.
- Other dogs: this can be done if you have other dogs in the neighborhood you know and trust to be safe and well-mannered with your puppy. It will be important for you to know the other dogs' owners as well; the best-case scenario would be to have a trusted, healthy friend who is also a dog owner, as you could then arrange safe play dates with the other dog while maintaining a safe distance from the other owner (more on this below).
- Other people: this may be the most difficult of all at this time, but there are still ways to achieve this exposure for your puppy. Certainly have your puppy socialize with all the members of your household who are healthy. You can also let your puppy look out the window of your home as other people go by, and let your puppy see you act happy about those people. Also, consider all that your puppy can see and hear from the safety of your own car.

## Safe Puppy Play Dates and Walks

Your first worry may be that your puppy can pick up or spread COVID-19 to you or other humans. However, statements from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) have all emphasized that, based on the available evidence, dogs cannot transmit COVID-19 to humans.

Kelly L. Moore, MD, MPH, is a medical epidemiologist and public health physician with expertise in pandemic planning and response; she trained at the CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer. She notes the importance of paying close attention while out on a walk so as to maintain your own six feet of space from the nearest human being—that's the length of a six-foot leash—and, above all, the vital importance of washing your hands for at least 20 seconds after every encounter. Dr. Moore adds, "It's helpful to identify trusted friends that you know will tell you if they develop any symptoms of illness and that you can trust when they say they're feeling well, who can spend time with your puppy."

She also notes that "being outside is a great thing for people to do. The outside is an open environment with air that's well-circulated; you're able to stay more than six feet apart, so that's a good environment for puppies to socialize in. I would have no issue with someone petting my puppy if they're also healthy and have no symptoms [as long as] when you come back in from your walking and socializing, you wash your hands thoroughly."

## Crate Training Is Still Important

Even though you may currently be at home all day, your puppy still needs a structured schedule to reduce stress on everyone and to let the puppy know what is expected. Trainer and dog sports enthusiast Alexa Hagood, LVMT, states that this is a good opportunity to institute periods of "alone time," like crate and nap breaks, so the puppy doesn't develop separation anxiety when you do return to your place of work. Crate training can be an invaluable tool for your puppy at this time, just as with any other time.

As Hagood puts it, "Just because someone is home with the puppy, doesn't mean they need to be with the puppy 24/7. Crate breaks, even when brief, can help the puppy become acclimated to going in the crate



and having some alone time, even when people are home." She recommends starting with feeding times inside the crate (for five to ten minutes), and when the owner needs to do daily chores.

## Is This a Good Time to Get a Puppy?

While Dr. Moore acknowledges that puppies can be a wonderful source of joy and distraction during stressful times, Paul Owens suggests thinking hard and being extra prepared if this will be your first puppy. He notes that "all the things related to having a new puppy, like vet visits, grooming, and socialization, can be more of a challenge" at this time. He adds, "But the first thing I would suggest, if a dog does come into a home, is to contact a professional trainer."

Enlisting the help of a professional trainer can still be done during social distancing—you can do so over the phone or via online sessions, which many trainers are now offering. For example, AKC GoodDog! Helpline is live telephone service that connects you with a professional trainer. The trainer will offer virtual, individualized advice on everything from house-training to behavioral issues.

*Yasmine S. Ali, MD is a cardiologist and writer in Tennessee, where she lives with three Canine Good Citizens.*

*Stuck at home with a new puppy? Training your dog during COVID-19 can be difficult without access to normal training classes.*