



# DOG TRAINERS WORKSHOP

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## NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 3

July 2011

### UPCOMING SHOWS

July 16-17  
Murfreesboro OTC  
Murfreesboro, Tn.

July 23-24  
Four Paws Agility Club  
Of N. Georgia  
Lawrenceville, Ga.

July 29-31  
Greenville Kennel Club  
Spartanburg Kennel Club  
Hendersonville Kennel Club  
Greenville, SC.

Aug. 25-28  
Griffin Ga. Kennel Club  
Swanee Mtn. Kennel Club  
Lawrenceville Kennel Club  
Conyers Kennel Club  
Atlanta, Ga.

Sept. 2-5  
Alamance Kennel Club  
Durham Kennel Club  
Raleigh Kennel Club  
Cary Kennel Club  
Raleigh, NC.

Oct. 8-9  
Asheville Kennel Club  
Asheville, NC.

Oct. 8-9  
Augusta Kennel Club  
N. Augusta, SC.

Oct. 22  
Atlanta Kennel Club  
Atlanta, Ga.

Oct. 22-23  
Dog Obedience Club of  
Greenville  
Simpsonville, SC.

### What Can You Control?

"The ring is too long."

"The judge is wearing gloves."

"The mats are lumpy."

"The duct tape is coming up."

"The chalk marks on the mats are distracting to my dog."

"The show photographer shouldn't have set up so close to the obedience ring."

"It's too cold in here."

"The arena has a dirt floor, how can I walk smoothly on mats rolled out on a dirt floor?"

These comments were not given as excuses for poor performances, but as observations that competitors were making at a recent obedience trial.

Catch yourself. If you are commenting about something that you cannot control, you are allowing your mind to spend time focusing on the wrong thing. If you are not careful, you will become so consumed with that which you cannot change, that you will allow yourself to be less than your best when you do finally go into the ring.

The reality is that someone is going to win. No matter how unfair, how stupid, how distracting, how difficult, there is going to be a winner. It might as well be you.

### Congratulations 2011 Title Winners!

#### *Utility Dog Excellent*

*Barbara DuCharme & Bamboo  
(Border Collie)*

#### *Utility Dog*

*Pam Ambuhl & Maya  
(Golden Retriever)*

#### *Versatility Title*

*Grace Lichtenwald & BG  
(German Shepherd)*

#### *Companion Dog*

*Dorothy Dillon & Rev (Belgian Tervuren)  
MJ Douglas & Woodja (Cocker Spaniel)  
Kevin & Michelle Miller & Chaugi  
(Mix-Breed)*

#### *Beginner Novice*

*Jenny Durrance & Shadow  
(Bernese Mtn. Dog)*

If you had been faced with any of the comments listed above, your best response would be to plan how you were going to overcome the obstacle, not spend time worrying about it.

If the ring is too long, notice how far the judge is letting handlers move up before sending the dog on the go-out exercise. Remember to take extra time to get your dog to focus before you send him.

If the judge is wearing a glove, ask a friend to put on a glove and pet your dog. Have your dog do a sit stay while your friend pets him. Repeat that with your dog in a stand stay.

Uneven footing, whether it's "lumpy mats" or uneven ground, requires you to concentrate on your feet and your balance. Concentrate on every step. Feel your feet hit the ground. This may be helpful as you will be concentrating on your footwork and your smoothness, not on your dog's errors.

Chalk marks on the ground go unnoticed by most big dogs, but the small dogs can find them very distracting. You certainly should remember to prepare for this situation by putting chalk marks, hair balls, even cotton balls and pieces of tissue on the ground when you are training. However, under the pressure of the competition, consider your position in the ring. Perhaps there is a place for you to stand that will make the chalk mark less obvious.

Be aware of the distractions outside the ring. If you think the show photographer, the food court, or any other display is going to be a distraction, go heel around the distraction outside the ring. Stand near it for whatever period of time it takes for your dog to realize that he cannot respond to every squeak, flash, or odor. What a great training opportunity.

Unless you have a Miniature Pinscher or a Boston Terrier, your dog is not nearly as cold as you are. Keep your coat on until you go into the ring. Have you noticed that the temperature in the ring is always higher than the temperature outside the ring? You will warm up as soon as your performance starts.

There is no reason for you to arrive at a show without knowing what the show conditions will be before you get there. Even if you have never been to a show site before, someone else has and with a few questions, you can find out exactly what you should expect. If you do not think you will like the conditions, you do not need to enter. If you have entered, make the most of it.

You might as well admit, you would not be training your dog at all if you did not like the challenge of teaching your dog to perform, and the thrill of the competition. Constantly remind yourself of that. It is an even greater challenge to get your dog to perform in less than ideal conditions, and the thrill is even better when you have overcome difficult conditions to do well.

The Serenity Prayer is most often attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr, although there is some evidence that it existed before he popularized it in the 1930's.

God, grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.

Certainly adopting that attitude when you are doing what you love, competing with your dog, would make the experience even more enjoyable.

# Upcoming Classes



**New Term starts July 19, 2011**

**Please register by July 15!**

Fees: \$100.00 per 8 week class: \$180.00 per 2 classes

## Heel, Jump, Retrieve

**July 19: Tuesday @ 6:15 pm**

**July 20: Wednesday @ 7:00 pm**

For dogs learning the fundamentals of heeling, jumping and retrieving.

These dogs should have completed the Beginner and Advanced Beginner classes.

## Novice/Open

**July 19@ Tues. @ 7:15 pm**

**July 20: Wed. @ 8:00 pm**

For dogs learning all of the Novice and Open exercises.

Prerequisites include the Directed Jumping exercise and an ability to retrieve with distractions. Dogs that are preparing to show in Novice at the upcoming shows should attend one of these sections.

## Open /Utility

**July 19: Tues. @ 12:30 pm**

**July 19: Tues. @ 1:30 pm**

**July 19: Tues. @ 8:15 pm**

**July 20: Wed. @ 6:00 pm**

For dogs practicing and learning both the open and Utility exercises.

Dogs preparing to compete in either Open or Utility should participate in one of these sections.



**Don't forget— Entries close July 13!**

**Carolina Foothills Cluster  
Obedience, Wild Card, Optional Titling, and  
Rally**

**July 28-July 31, 2011**

**Carolina First Center  
Greenville. SC**

**Greenville Kennel Club-Spartanburg Kennel Club-  
Hendersonville Kennel Club**

**For additional information contact MB-F, Inc at  
[www.infodog.com](http://www.infodog.com)**

**Upcoming Matches**

**Dogwood Training Academy.  
Chamblee, GA**

Aug. 20, 2011

Sept 24, 2011

Oct. 1, 2011

FMI: [train@dogwoodtrainingacademy.com](mailto:train@dogwoodtrainingacademy.com)  
[www.dogwoodtrainingacademy.com/events.html](http://www.dogwoodtrainingacademy.com/events.html)

**Dog Obedience Club of Greenville  
Training Day**

Saturday, July 9

8:00 AM

Dog Trainers Workshop  
Fountain Inn, SC

**Happy 4th of July**

RSVP with MJ Douglas: [TRINCOCKERS@aol.com](mailto:TRINCOCKERS@aol.com)