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# SPDTC

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## President's Corner

Greetings everyone, well we are at the beginning of what is shaping up to be another nice summer in Minnesota, I think most of us feel that by enduring winter that we have earned it. My judging takes me too many places around the country and there is no place I would rather be in the summer time than here.

We are coming off of our spring show season and I am happy to report that both the April agility and obedience shows were a success. I have to give thanks to the both show committees for their effort to make that happen. They have to work a lot harder than in years past to get results that we used to take for granted. We have added more classes to both trials, prepared our own worker food and found other ways to cut some of our other expenses. We are getting savvy with regard to hiring our judges, trying to minimize travel costs while still getting judges that can draw in exhibitors. It takes many volunteers to make our shows a success, I would like to say **Thank You** to everyone that helped out and encourage anyone sitting on the sidelines to jump in and give a hand, and you may find you efforts are very rewarding.



Enjoy the summer.

Karl Blakely



## Director of Training Report

By Greg Kirmeier

Summer is upon us. I am always grateful for a cool, dry place to train this time of year and SPDTC (a.k.a. the “Bat Cave”) fills the bill.

Both the Obedience and Agility programs are in full swing for the summer. Enrollments are good, and there have been no class adjustments. Agility is planning several focused specialty classes. Watch for email announcements with dates and descriptions of these offerings.

Recent unfortunate events in the Dog Sport community cause me to reflect on what a privilege it is to compete in these events. All training and competition includes a certain level of failure, and failure generates frustration. It is our job as trainers and handlers to “suck it up” and move forward. It is never helpful to get angry and take it out on the dog. Individuals who do so are failing to see that a good relationship with your dog is not an entitlement – it is something you earn and it is something you should cherish. In fact, participation in Dog Sport is not an entitlement. When we enter shows and trials we agree to a very specific code of conduct defined by AKC. This is not abstract – we sign a form indicating that we understand the rules, and agree to abide by them. Failure to do so, if observed and reported, can result in appropriate action by AKC.



As an affiliate club of AKC, we at St. Paul Dog Training Club are bound by the rules of AKC at our events and beyond. Should a member be sanctioned by AKC, he or she will be asked to resign the club and will not be allowed to train at SPDTC for the duration of the sanction. We do this not only because we are required to do so, but because it is the right thing to do. We will not tolerate abusive behavior at our events, and we will not tolerate it before, after or classes.

We all experience frustration in life. If you find yourself at wits end with your dog, take a deep breath, and by all means talk to your instructor – we are not psychologists, but we are here to help. Don't let your frustration turn to anger and absolutely do not take it out on your dog.

## Every Puppy Needs a Puppy Class

by Ginny Hayes

Taking part in society takes socialization skills. New puppies have to contend with losing their mother and siblings while dealing with strange people, dogs, animals, noises, places and a brand-new language. Anyone can see how these changes could be formidable for any 8-week-old baby. Fortunately, puppies are like sponges. If presented with something new in a positive light, they are more than willing to accept the challenge.

A puppy class will give your puppy the self-confidence and tools she (or he) needs to deal with the unknown and become all the dog she can be.

### **What age should a puppy begin a puppy class?**

*The sooner the better.* Studies show that puppies are the most accepting of new experiences from 3 to 12 weeks. A good breeder exposes your puppy to new people and new experiences, but it's up to you to continue the socialization process. Every week your puppy's capacity to accept new experiences and ideas shrinks a bit. Of course, you can socialize a year-old rescue dog, but that will never be as easy as working with an 8-week-old puppy.

**What sort of puppy class should I choose for my puppy?** *Do not confuse a puppy "play date" with a puppy class.* If you find your class is nothing but puppies romping about together, your puppy is only learning that puppies are fun and you, you poor human, not so much.

A puppy class should include puppies around the same age with between three and eight students in an easy-to-clean, quiet environment. The class should be force free with positive reinforcement.

**What should I expect to take away from my puppy class?** *Whether you attend an obedience or agility puppy class, you should be learning the same basics.* Your puppy is learning something every day from you. The one thing you do not want him (or her) to learn is how to train you. You must learn to be the leader of your pack by being very consistent with your rules. Puppies do best when rules are presented in a black-and-white scenario. Gray areas simply confuse them.

Your instructor should help you learn how to teach your puppy in a positive manner so that you will be able to teach the rules and activities that will be important to you and your puppy in the future. Your new puppy should start showing a willingness to try new things, meet new dogs and people, and experience new environments because you have been showing her (or him) in class that "new" is good and fun. Your puppy should learn that getting it wrong is just another way to learn what is right.

Your puppy should come away confident in his (or her) abilities because you have praised him for every small victory.

You should have learned how to play with him in ways that keep him engaged, making him think that for a big human, you sure can tug like a puppy. He should have learned to focus on you, not because you insist, but because you are his best friend and all good things come from you.

~Ginny Hayes



## The Puppy class

By Angie Martizna

People often wonder when to start their puppy in puppy class the answer is immediately. Puppy obedience class will not only guide you how to properly train your puppy for good behavior it will guide you in crate training ,leash walking, socialization, and any other behaviors you may have questions about. Puppies are like a sponge and learn very quickly, good and bad habits. A few commands your puppy will learn in puppy class are; sit, come, down, circle, turn, front, stay, leave it, no bite, and heel. What you will learn are ways to make training fun, how to properly reward and correct behaviors, loose leash walking, and basic ways to communicate with your puppy.

There are several reasons to start a puppy in class by eight weeks. One reason is to build a trusting relationship with your puppy, teach your puppy how to properly socialize with other dogs, to learn basic obedience commands, and give your dog a well needed job to do. Puppies are natural leader from birth it doesn't start at 6 months they need guidance and training along the way. Puppy obedience is a great way to start your puppy out on the right paw.



## Concept of cold therapy

The application of cold can significantly help reduce swelling and inflammation (a.k.a. irritation) in your dog. It relieves pain by reducing damage to muscles immediately after an injury, surgery or heavy exercise. In addition, cold therapy will decrease muscle spasms and lead to faster healing. Faster healing and less pain means a happier dog, not to mention a happier dog guardian!

Location of cold therapy

Cold therapy is most often applied to joints:

-Shoulder, elbow or wrist in the front leg

-Hip, knee and ankle in the back leg.

It can be used on any body part where swelling or muscle damage occurs.

Technique of cold therapy

[Editor's Note: Check with your veterinarian to see if cold therapy is right for your dog.]

Several devices can be used to provide cold therapy:

Homemade ice packs— a simple homemade ice pack can be made by placing crushed ice in a plastic bag, removing excess air, and sealing the bag.

Commercial gel— Commercial gel packs and wraps would fit much better around a joint. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on the pack.

Ice packs and wraps- the simplest device is an ice pack. However its stiffness makes it difficult to wrap around a joint like the ankle.

Bags of frozen vegetables such as peas or corn— A bag of frozen vegetables, such as peas or corn, is an easy way to have an instant and cheap cooling device. Make sure you label it "ice pack only" with a permanent marker so nobody eats it after multiple thawing cycles!

One of my favorite techniques is to mix 1/4 cup rubbing alcohol and 3/4 cup water in a Ziploc® bag and place it in the freezer. To be safe, put another bag around the first one in case of leakage. For a larger body part, simply multiply the amounts. The result is a slushy solution that conforms or molds very nicely to any part of the body and will apply the cold more evenly.



## How to Submit your Titles on your Dogs?

The St. Paul Dog Training Club celebrates the accomplishments of its members in a number of ways including listing the titles earned in the newsletter, listing the titles in the club, and recognizing the titles earned at the annual banquet.

### ***Submitting titles***

Submit your new title using the online form on the SPDTC website. You can access the link from the home page or just type this link into your browser: <http://bit.ly/1ApdRo2>.

Please note the following:

- Submit one title per form.
- Submit titles earned from January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.
- Titles submitted by **June 9<sup>th</sup>** will be listed in the next newsletter.
- Titles submitted after that date will listed in the next newsletter.

### ***Submitting “Brag” and Photos***

Have you and your dog had some other great accomplishment this year? Perhaps you participated at a national event or specialty trial? Or maybe you earned your first title or even your first leg! Let other club members know of your “brags” by submitting your news.

Simply send an email with your brag to Heidi Fisk ([hfisk@focuszone.com](mailto:hfisk@focuszone.com)). Include your name, your dog’s name, your accomplishment, and if you wish a photo.

Braggs will be listed both in the newsletter and on the Awards bulletin board at the club.



## Recent Titles Earned by Club Members

Congratulations to the following club members and their dogs on their new titles!

If you and your dog have earned a new title in 2015, use the online form on the club website to enter your title information. You do NOT have to wait until the end of the year to submit your new titles. Also note that the old poster boards have been replaced with print out lists that are posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

New titles will also be listed in the newsletter and on the website. Titles are eligible for awards at the annual banquet. Information on how to submit new titles, the requirements for earning end-of-year awards, and volunteer opportunities are posted on the website.

(Titles reported from March 1 – June 17, 2015.)

Owner's First Name	Owner's Last Name	Co-owner's First Name	Co-owner's Last Name	Dog's Call Name	Dog's Breed	Date this title was earned:	Performance Event	Venue	Title
Joanne	Dalby	Jane	Docter	Tara	Golden Retriever	1/18/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Bronze Jumper (MJB)
Kristi	Portugue			Hydro	Portuguese Water Dog	3/1/2015	Agility	AKC	Open Agility Standard (OA)
Kristi	Portugue			Hydro	Portuguese Water Dog	3/1/2015	Agility	AKC	Open Agility Standard (OA)
Mary	Langula	Gary	Langula	Vixen	Basenji	3/6/2015	Therapy Dog	AKC	Therapy Dog 200 visits or more
Gary	Langula	Mary	Langula	Zorro	Basenji	3/6/2015	Therapy Dog	AKC	Therapy Dog 0 or more visits
Heidi	Fisk			Libby	Shetland Sheepdog	4/3/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Preferred Jumpers with Weaves 18 (MJP18)
Heidi	Fisk			Libby	Shetland Sheepdog	4/3/2015	Agility	AKC	Triple Q Preferred Master (TQXP)
Kristi	Portugue			Hydro	Portuguese Water Dog	4/10/2015	Agility	AKC	Open Jumpers with Weaves (OAJ)

Owner's First Name	Owner's Last Name	Co-owner's First Name	Co-owner's Last Name	Dog's Call Name	Dog's Breed	Date this title was earned:	Performance Event	Venue	Title
Kristi	Portugue			Hydro	Portuguese Water Dog	4/10/2015	Agility	AKC	Open Jumpers with Weaves (OAJ)
Mary	Bente			Arrow	Australian Shepherd	4/11/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Agility Excellent (MX)
Kristi	Portugue			Sprite	Portuguese Water Dog	4/11/2015	Agility	AKC	Novice Standard (NA)
Kristi	Portugue			Sprite	Portuguese Water Dog	4/11/2015	Agility	AKC	Novice Jumpers with Weaves (NAJ)
Kristi	Portugue			Sprite	Portuguese Water Dog	4/11/2015	Agility	AKC	Novice Standard (NA)
Kristi	Portugue			Sprite	Portuguese Water Dog	4/11/2015	Agility	AKC	Novice Jumpers with Weaves (NAJ)
Dick	Sheehan	Mindy	Elledge	Charlotte	Golden Retriever	4/11/2015	Agility	AKC	Novice Agility Jumper (NAJ)
David	Stright	Helen	Fisk	Chelsea	Canaan Dog	4/11/2015	Agility	AKC	Open Standard Agility (OA)
Joanne	Dalby	Jane	Docter	Tara	Golden Retriever	4/17/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Bronze Agility (MXB)
Danielle	Hansen	Catherine	Fleury	Chief	Rottweiler	4/20/2015	Obedience	AKC	Beginner Novice (BN)
Danielle	Hansen	Catherine	Fleury	Chief	Rottweiler	4/20/2015	Obedience	AKC	Rally Novice (RA)
Nancy	Katzmarek			Boss	Doberman Pinscher	4/25/2015	Obedience	AKC	Companion Dog (CD)
Heidi	Fisk			Libby	Shetland Sheepdog	5/2/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Preferred FAST 2 (MXP2)
Kristi	Portugue			Moby	Portuguese Water Dog	5/2/2015	Nose Work	NACSW	Level 1 Interiors (L1I)
Heidi	Fisk			Libby	Shetland Sheepdog	5/9/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Preferred Jumpers with Weaves 19 (MJP19)
Heidi	Fisk			Libby	Shetland Sheepdog	5/23/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Preferred Standard 16 (MXP16)



Owner's First Name	Owner's Last Name	Co-owner's First Name	Co-owner's Last Name	Dog's Call Name	Dog's Breed	Date this title was earned:	Performance Event	Venue	Title
Leslie	VanderVeer			Jala	Basenji	5/31/2015	Obedience	AKC	Rally Novice B (RN)
Jean	Lundholm			Spirit	Giant Schnauzer	5/31/2015	Obedience	AKC	Utility Dog (UD)
Kelly	McDuff			Titan	Dachshund	5/31/2015	Nose Work	AKC	Senior Earthdog (SE)
Nancy	Katzmarek			Boss	Doberman Pinscher	6/7/2015	Agility	AKC	Novice Preferred Jumpers with Weaves (NJP)
Jon	Pidde			Milo	English Springer Spaniel	6/13/2015	Obedience	AKC	Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)
Danielle	Hansen	Catherine	Fleury	Chief	Rottweiler	6/13/2015	Obedience	AKC	Begleithund (BH)
Heidi	Fisk			Libby	Shetland Sheepdog	6/14/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Preferred Jumpers with Weaves 20 (MJP20)
Heidi	Fisk			Libby	Shetland Sheepdog	6/14/2015	Agility	AKC	Master Preferred Jumpers with Weaves Century 2 (MJPC2)

