

The **DOG OWNERS TRAINING CLUB OF LYNCHBURG, INC. (DOTC)** is a non-profit organization with the primary objective of furthering the advancement of obedience training of all breeds of dogs. In addition to offering basic obedience training for all dogs, DOTC also offers training classes for those who wish to earn obedience titles awarded by the American Kennel Club (AKC) or other organizations.

The club promotes **obedience** training and competition by holding two AKC licensed obedience trials in September.

Our instructors and assistant instructors are experienced volunteers who have trained dogs themselves. Through their own personal interest and club sponsorship they keep abreast of the latest training techniques by reading, and attending seminars, clinics and workshops. They are aware of alternate training methods that can be used to handle unique breed or behavioral problems that can arise.

In addition to obedience training, our club members enjoy the sport of **agility** - obstacle course work for dogs. We offer outdoor agility training and agility competitions. DOTC also offers AKC **herding** tests and trials in Gladys, VA each October.

DOTC members have organized a flyball group which offers flyball classes (not currently active, but we do have the equipment if interest resumes!)

Members of DOTC have also formed a registered chapter of Therapy Dogs International.

They accompany their dogs to nursing homes, hospitals, and schools to provide pet therapy to the residents through personal interactions.

The Dog Owners Training Club has adopted the Volhard Motivational Method which is based on the conviction that positive reinforcement is the most effective teaching tool. By rewarding the correct response, the dog is **motivated** to learn, and the training is made pleasant for both the handler and the dog. It is an approach for people who like their dogs and who have them first and foremost as pets and companions. The method is orderly, logical, and fun!

Recognizing that clear communication between dog and handler is necessary for successful training, the "motivational method" places great emphasis on **training the handler**. Class time is primarily used to teach the handler the proper training techniques to be used to train his dog at home between classes.

Starting with the companion dog whose owner just wants basic control, training levels progress through to Novice, Open, and Utility training for competition.

LEVEL 1

Level 1 is for the owners of untrained dogs and puppies. Exercises taught in this class are to give handlers control of their dogs. In Level 1 the basis of communication between handler and dog is formed. Handlers are taught to train their dogs to walk at their side on a loose leash, to maintain a sit, stand, and down stay, and to come when called, off leash. This class provides the

basic training for a well behaved family pet as well as a sound foundation for those interested in continuing training towards obedience competition.

LEVEL 2

Level 2 is for individuals who have graduated from Level 1 and who are interested in more control and perhaps obedience titles. This level introduces distraction training, and focuses on dog attention and building confidence to achieve the desired response.

LEVEL 3

This level of training is designed to prepare the handler and his dog for the first level of obedience competition. The emphasis is on obtaining a more precise and reliable performance. Distraction training and off leash heeling are refined. Handling skills are stressed so that each dog and handler is able to enter the trial ring as a confident team, ready to give a smooth, well coordinated performance.

ADVANCED CLASSES

Classes are also offered to prepare the dog and handler for the advanced levels of obedience competition (Open and Utility). These classes also use the Volhard motivational method with a well organized, step-by-step method employed to teach each and every exercise. The training goal of these classes is essentially to bring each dog and handler to the highest level of performance they can achieve as a team.

Our classes are held on Tuesday nights beginning at 7 PM. Obedience classes are held **INDOORS** at the **BOONSBORO RURITAN CLUB** buildings. We offer three 8 week training sessions per year; the sessions begin in January, March and September. Outdoor agility training is offered in the summer.

All breeds of dogs are welcome in DOTC obedience training classes, and beginning in April 2010, mixed breed dogs may join the pure bred dogs in competing for AKC obedience and agility titles. Mixed breed and purebred dogs may also compete in UKC agility competition.

Training Fees:

Level 1: \$75 for 8 weeks (\$60 for dogs adopted from Humane Societies or Rescue Groups)

(collar, leash & homework booklet provided)

All Other Levels: \$50 for 8 weeks

Annual membership dues are \$15 per individual or \$20 per family. New applicants for membership must attend one Open Meeting and must be sponsored by two DOTC members who personally know the applicant. It is expected that an applicant for membership should attend one 8-week training session before applying for membership. People who become members of the Dog Owners Training Club may pay a training fee of \$100 per year to train at any level except that Level 1 has an additional fee of \$35. Members who work at DOTC events pay reduced training fees ranging from \$95 to a minimum of \$30, based on hours worked. Members are invited to participate in the many club activities. Members qualify for reduced rates in agility classes after they have been

members for 1 year.

2012 events

BRC= Boonsboro Ruritan Club

1499 Coffee Rd, Lynchburg VA 24503

Jan 13-15	AKC agility Lexington VA
April 27-29	AKC agility trials at BRC
May 15	CGC/TDI test at BRC
6/29-30,7/1	AKC agility trials at BRC
Sept 15-16	AKC obedience/rally trial @BRC
Oct 20-21	AKC Herding Trials (pending)
Oct 30	CGC/TDI Test at BRC
Nov 3-4	UKC agility trials at BRC

Open Meetings

Second Wednesday in the Months of
February, April, June, October

August Pot Luck Dinner on Aug 8
December Holiday Party on Dec 8

Coming TRAINING SESSIONS

Obedience classes in 2012

Jan 10 – Feb 28

March 20 – May 8

Sept 4 – Oct 23

Agility classes are held May through June, outdoors. Please register for all classes through our web site.

WWW.DOTCLynchburg.org

For more information about obedience training contact Patty Ferington 434-385-6457 or Candy Lawhorne 434-525-1882.

Obedience info: pferington@gmail.com

Agility info: agility@DOTCLynchburg.org

***Join a club for you
and your dog...***



**Dog Obedience
Training Classes
*are offered by***

**Dog Owners
Training Club
of
Lynchburg, Inc.**

***Serving Central Virginia
since 1970***