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 the United Kennel Club (UKC).

The club promotes obedience training and competition by holding an AKC licensed obedience trial in September, two UKC obedience trials in November, and an obedience "show n go" practice in the summer.

Our instructors and assistant instructors are experienced volunteers who have all trained dogs for obedience competition. 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, agility trials and demonstrations. DOTC also offers AKC Herding Tests and Trials in Gladys, VA.

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 AKC or UKC 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 are offered in the summer.

All dogs are welcome in DOTC obedience training classes, but only purebred dogs can compete for AKC obedience titles. Mixed breed dogs and purebred dogs may compete in UKC obedience 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 Level 1 (additional fee $35). Members who work at 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.

2007 Events - DOTC
Sept 8-9       AKC Herding Trials
Sept 15-16      AKC Obedience Trials
Nov 3-4        UKC Agility Trials
Nov 17-18     UKC Obedience Trials

2008 Events
March 11   CGC TDI Test
April 26-27    AKC Agility Trials
June 27-29    AKC Agility Trials
July 19-20      Celeste Mead obed Seminar
Sept 6-7       AKC Herding Trials
Sept 13-14    AKC Obedience Trials
Nov 1-2   UKC Agility Trials
Nov 15-16    UKC Obedience Trials

Open Meetings
Second Wednesday of the Month
February, April, June, October
August Picnic is held on a Saturday
December Christmas Party is held on Saturday

2007-08 TRAINING SESSIONS
Obedience classes begin on September 11, 2007. In 2008 classes will begin on Jan 8, March 18 and Sept 9. Agility classes are held June through August, outdoors. Please pre-register for all classes through our web site or by calling one of our phone contacts.

For more information contact Patty Ferington, 434-385-6457 or Candy Lawhorne 525-1882.
Obedience info: training@DOTCLynchburg.org
Agility info: agility@DOTCLynchburg.org

WWW.DOTCLynchburg.org
Get up to date information about DOTC’s activities through our web site.