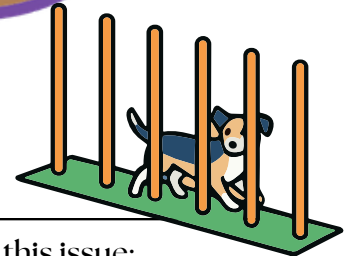


Upcoming Events

Check our website for a complete list of 2026 events and additional information.

- May 15/June 5 - Judy Kolva Agility Seminars
- May 18 to 19 – Agility Novice Open Trial at Bella Vista
- May 25 - Summer Class Registration Open
- May 30 - Joyce Smuda Scentwork Seminar
- June 7 - Obedience Show-n-Go
- June 19 to 20 - Obedience Trial
- June 21 - Rally Trial
- June 28 - Summer Classes Begin
- July 5 - Obedience Show-n-Go
- July 17 - Judy Kolva Agility Seminar
- July 26 - Scent Work Trials



In this issue:

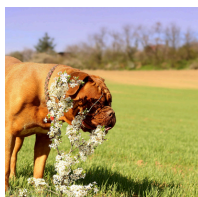
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Sniff the May flowers after all those April showers!

May Issue Deadline



Want to add something to the Barker? Send your submissions for the May issue to theddtcbarker@gmail.com by April 24, 2026.

Join the [AKC FIT DOG Spring Scurry!](#)



Like us on Facebook
Dauphin Dog Training Club, Inc. (Group)



A Second Chance

This is the story of my life-changing experience in adopting a rescue poodle and the hard work and joy that ensued.

Who would have thought that a camo and gun household would end up with a Poodle? But then Callie is white and orange, no black, and is over 17 ½. So, technically she has no Brittany standard disqualifications!

You can blame it all on Eddie –if he hadn't been injured or his rehab had worked as planned, we would still be a 3-dog household. But the stars didn't align, so my husband and I had the **talk**. I wanted an older dog that I could train, and he mentioned once again, how he admired poodles. I was leery of going there because poodles do require a lot of grooming.

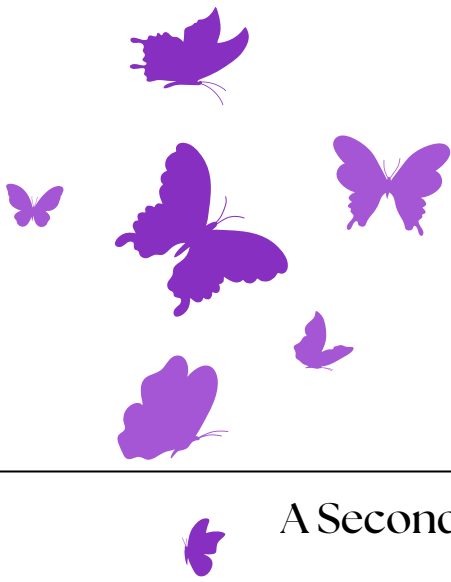
I contacted all of the people that I knew at DDTC about where they obtained their poodles. I inquired at the dog shows about getting a retired show dog. I had leads and we did some visits, but nothing was finalized because I have intact dogs. Fortunately, I contacted the Poodle Club of America, and they were so helpful and educational. It was through them that I was put in touch with the MidAtlantic Poodle Rescue (MAPR).

She was rescued by the MAPR when the dog warden called them and said, "you need to come now and pull dogs out of this place." She was 1 of 7 poodles rescued that day.

On January 2, 2025 I discovered Copper on the MAPR website. This was the dog! I immediately submitted an application. Two weeks later, the rescue coordinator emailed me to tell me the delay was because the MAPR had her for several months and was leaning toward identifying her as unadoptable. Their only requirement was that she go to a household that had dogs so that she could learn to become a dog. And what better dogs than KC and Eddie to teach her! So, January 27 we went for an in-person meeting with Copper. All she did was sit at the coordinator's feet. She was not enticed by food. We were able to pet her but there was absolutely no excitement or energy on her part. BUT she was the size and color of the Brittany's. It was meant to be!

February 20, 2025 was pickup day! We immediately declared this day to be her new birthday! It was a rebirth of a new life. She was 2 ½ years old and had no idea what a dog life should be. To go along with her new life, we renamed her Callie.





A Second Chance, cont.

Callie had so many issues. She was fearful of everything. She was deathly afraid of my husband. She did not interact with the other dogs. She didn't know what grass was. She walked with her head and tail down. Thunder, gunshots from the Sporting Club, noises from Ft. Indiantown Gap, a person coughing or sneezing would send her into panic mode. Rain storms and thunder would have her hiding. Callie's eyes were so sad looking.

Callie wanted to live in her kennel and refused to come out. So, I would crawl in the kennel, put a loop lead on her and drag her out. After a couple days of no improvement, I closed all of the kennel doors and I closed all of the house doors and told her that she was a member of the family and she needed to act like one. This resulted in her finding new hiding spots, in a corner or under a chair. However, this is when we found her 'watching us' from her hiding places. She was observing life.

I made the decision that we would not be rewarding or babying her during any fear stage that she showed. We just ignored her. Let her figure out that we were not afraid, the other dogs were not afraid.

She didn't understand grass. To potty, she would take one step outside and potty (both 1 and 2 at the same time) on the stoop and come back in and hide. I started going outside with her to potty and walk away from the house. She started to use the stones that we have at the gates to potty, but still did not touch the grass. It was almost 6 months before she actually used the grass.

She was not a good eater. Any noise, motion, any distraction, she would stop eating. I treated her like our other dogs, you don't eat, the bowl gets picked up and you can wait until the next meal. The vet wanted me to put weight on her and we have increased her weight 50% in the last year.

Through all the above experiences, I learned how much I didn't know about dogs or dog training. I realized I didn't know how to train without food, happy voice or toys. So, how do you train a dog – that doesn't eat, doesn't take treats (including hot dogs, cheese, hamburger), has no idea what a toy is (in fact, when the other dogs would pull a toy out of the toy box, she ran and hid in the bathroom), doesn't know she has a name and has no idea of what the words "yes" or "good girl" mean?

I started with just being with her all day, saying her name and petting her and not requesting anything. I was trying to build a relationship and trust with her. I worked on her socialization by taking her with me every time I left the house. This is when the DDTC Board met her – she came to the meetings, and yes, she was afraid of all of them and hid under the desk. I requested nothing. This trust building phase continues to today. I have learned to appreciate the $\frac{1}{4}$ " of improvement rather than expect the 1". She still has not heard the word "no". The day I discovered her counter-surfing; I blamed myself for having the toast too close to the edge. But I was so happy because she was exploring. She went from hiding to exploring. What an accomplishment!

A Second Chance, cont.

Next, I started teaching her about rewards. I randomly dropped food on the floor in her area and progressed to her taking food from the palm of my hand. She finally started to take food from my husband's palm after a year – yes, a year! Rewarding her with toy playing is still in process. She will watch a ball roll and go check it out but will not pick it up. She will investigate toys after the other dogs are done playing.

Callie started attending Agility Foundation classes in Summer 2025 and Intro to Scent Work in Fall 2025. I wanted her to build her own confidence. I have nothing but huge praise and thanks to my instructors, Deb Sorosky, Su McKee and Judy Fegan, who worked with me on building her confidence, attention span, and training. Thanks also to all of my fellow classmates who helped with her socialization and were so thoughtful in their mannerisms around her and their competition to see who has the best treats! The progress she has made in these two sports is tremendous. Her confidence level is growing. I'm hoping we will start training in rally and obedience this summer.

Now for our biggest success! Callie broke through her fear and successfully ran at the April DDTC Fast CAT trials!

To prepare for her public debut, I worked for weeks with a plastic bag on a pole while playing loud whirling noises on my iPhone. We did fun runs on Friday and Saturday. Mary Dumaresq volunteered to be her releaser. Her first run was "problematic." She didn't run, her brain said escape and she was trying to escape through the gate, under the netting, through the netting. She was in panic city. But Mary was quiet and just stayed with her and I walked up from the catch pen. Finally, she saw me and came running.

The next run, I walked up to the ½ way point so she could see me. She left Mary and came running to me. Next day, we did two more fun runs with progress each time. Sunday at the trial, Mary released her and in 9.1 seconds she was across the finish line! Allen Dengler said she went into the chute, got in a sprinter position and the grass and mud were flying behind her. Everyone was clapping and yelling for her!

Thank you DDTC for all your support and help with BROOKWOOD'S SECOND CHANCE CALLIE this past year. You are part of her success story.



Conformation Handling Seminar

AKC Pro Greg Strong



Greg Strong has worked in breeding, raising, training, grooming and showing of dogs all his life. Prior to his recent retirement he attended 140-160 dog shows every year! He has exhibited in all seven groups with many Best in Show winners from each.

Greg will meet you where you are, whether a beginner or an experienced handler. He can analyze your skill set and provide specific, constructive feedback so you can stand out in a crowd of competitors!

Greg will focus on:

- Defining the term “Handling”
- Starting your first dog
- The makings of a great show dog
- Techniques for competing with the pros
- Psychology and training philosophy
- Building confidence
- Forming a winning partnership with your dog
- Overall presentation of a show dog

Working participants should bring well socialized dogs who have basic ring experience so the handler can focus on improving their own skills.

**September
26 - 27
at
The DauphinDog
Training Club
719 Manada
Bottom Rd
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Check level of participation:

___ Both Days - \$225 ___ Audit only Both Days \$100 ___ Audit only one day \$60 dollars
Select day : __Saturday __ Sunday

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Breed of Dog: _____

**Mail Checks made payable to
DDTC to:
Cheryl Champion at 33 Royal
Drive, Lititz PA 17543**

You will be required to sign a Waiver to attend the seminar, if you are entered.

Questions? Call Cheryl Champion at (717) 314-8845 or email her at cherchamp17@gmail.com.

DDTC Board Minutes - April 7, 2026

Inquiring Minds want to know

What you should know from the April 7th Board Meeting.

If you would like to see the full minutes of the meeting, send a request to theddtcbarker@gmail.com and we will send them to you.



Class Drop Ins – The Board decided that the ability to drop into a class would be handled by the Instructor for the class based on whether it would interfere with the class lesson plans and spaces available. If yes, the instructor will collect a \$15.00 session fee and place it in a marked envelope in the safe.

Recording Secretary – Amy Ramser stepped down from the position. Nikki Smith was nominated and approved as the interim secretary until the annual election.

Building Insurance – Linda Weindel is in contact with the insurance company and will bring back a recommendation to the Board if a change is necessary.

Class Registration – The schedule for class registration has been updated for Summer classes due to a conflict for the registrar.

FOB Requirements – The Board updated the requirements for approval of a Fob application. The candidate must be a club member in good standing and have taken three (3) class sessions prior to applying. The motion passed.



The Back Page

Publishing Guidelines

Send your brags, items of interest, training articles (with copyright permission), original stories, or your reviews of books or seminars to the editor, Terry Barnaby, at theddtcbarker@gmail.com.

Views expressed within the Barker newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Dauphin Dog Training Club, its members, or editor(s), and should not be taken as an endorsement.

Advertise in the Barker to help the club!

- Classified: \$3/month for 25 words, 10 cents each additional word
- Business Card: \$5/month \$49.40/year
- Quarter Page: \$7.50/month \$74.25/year
- Half Page: \$9/month \$89.10/year
- Full Page: \$15/month \$148.50/year

Yearly rates pay for 11 issues. Payment must be submitted before publishing.



Quiet Support

Dear Prudence – I love to do “shout outs” to the other dogs when I am at DDTC. I also like to let them know I enjoy their work and cheer them. Sometimes it seems to upset some people or dogs and my handler covers my cage so that I can’t see. I just want to be a good teammate. Besides, whatever happened to free speech? Barkin’ Beagle

Dear Barkin’ – It is so nice that you to want to support your friends. Everyone enjoys hearing compliments. The problem is that you’re not alone. Next time you’re tempted, stop and listen – it’s loud and confusing, isn’t it? Perhaps when your friends cheer for you, you’ll notice it’s distracting. That’s why your handler works to keep you quiet.

If you want to give kudos to your friends, make mental notes to share later as you watch from your unobstructed crate. You will get a lot of “good dogs” and treats too! Quietly, Pru