



RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB

PAWPRINTS

"May we be as good, as noble and as deserving as our dogs think we are."

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SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

Time to shake off the winter blues, get those tails wagging and ready for the season!



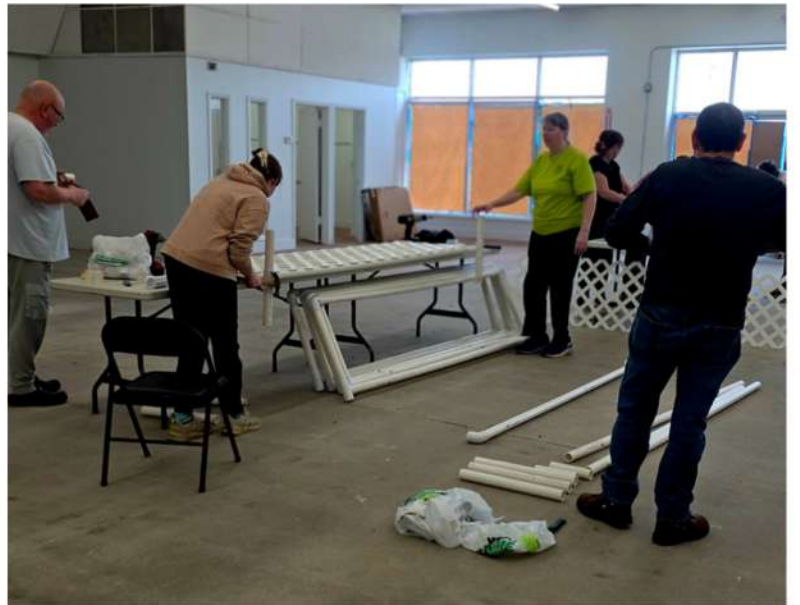
NEXT MEMBERS MEETING TBA / 7:30PM

BUILDING UPDATE: RING GATE PROJECT

Our ring gate project went smoothly and efficiently with the help of our club members. A big thank you to Todd, Gloria & Bill, Martha & Dave, Paul & Erin, Lois MY, Wilson & Birgit, Kathy, Audrey and Sue. We still have one more big project coming up and that will be to lay the padded flooring. We hope you can join us and lend a hand.

Please watch for the announcement with the time and date.





MARCH'S MEMBER MEETING MINUTES



DRAFT - TO BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Des Plaines Leisure Center

DATE: 03/10/2026

Meeting Called to Order: 7:33 PM – Motion: accept the minutes of December 16, 2025, made by Gina Varilek, seconded by Sue Bowman, motion carried.

Members Present: Ann Mednick, Bradley McGinnis, Bill Urquhart, Gloria Urquhart, Gina Varilek, Danielle Sofia, Brandon Middleton, Erin Straka, Audrey Drechsler, Marie Doerpinghaus, Maria Divane, Margaret Henning

Board Members Present: Kathy Baureis, Sue Bowman, Todd Doerpinghaus, Birgit Mantilla, Lois Mayer Yep, Martha Nelson, Paul Straka

Board members not present: Lisa Merlin, Jill Spooner

PRESIDENT: Birgit Mantilla -

We have a lot going on in the next 2 months, and we need members and trainers to volunteer to help with a few important projects:

- We will have a project date to build our new ring gates, Saturday, March 21st @10am.
- RPDTTC Obedience & Rally trials April 25th & 26th, 2026. Please sign up where you can. Martha is the Rally Obedience chair, and Margaret is the Obedience Trial chair.

This trial is an important fundraiser for the Club. By changing the venue to Forest City, we were able to hold a three-day event, and our judges do not limit entries. Entries open until the first week of April.

Continued...

VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Baureis - No Report

SECRETARY: Martha Nelson - No Report

TREASURER & INSURANCE: Todd Doerpinghaus - Todd gave an oral financial report.

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Paul Straka - Paul hand-delivered the rent check to the office.

DIRECTOR: Lois Mayer-Yep - No Report

DIRECTOR: Lisa Merlin - Absent

DIRECTOR: Jill Spooner - Absent, No Report

COMMITTEES 2025

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING: Sue Bowman -

Classes are going well, she thanked the instructors for their hard work.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRAINING Kathy Baureis - No Report

AUDIT AND FINANCE: Martha Nelson, Deborah Egan Bolton, Jill Spooner – No Report

BANQUET: Annice Coughlin, Wendy Mejia - No Report

BYLAWS AND POLICIES: Kathy Baureis, Wilson Mantilla - No Report

DEMONSTRATIONS: Barb Pische –

March 14th @ 9:30 AM at Ascension Living Nazarethville Place, 300 N River Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60016

EQUIPMENT: Al Baureis - No Report

FACEBOOK: Birgit Mantilla, María Divane - No Report

FIT DOG CLUB: (need a chairperson)

Once we get in the building, we'll need a chairperson

IMPROVEMENT: Wilson Mantilla, Paul Straka

The building is moving along. We are building our own ring gates.

There are over 600 feet of PVC to be cut and assembled.

The work party will be on Saturday, March 21st, from 10 am to 3 pm. We'll have snacks & drinks. If you would like to bring a small appetizer to share, it would be greatly appreciated. See Birgit to sign up or text the Rand Park phone, 847-208-3584.

Because we are a nonprofit, please recommend us to students seeking service hours for school or honor societies.

We are seeking equipment donations for the new building. Birgit handed out a list of items we will soon need, including folding chairs and an electric leaf blower.

We seek a webmaster. Our website needs more recent photos, graphics, and updated text. If you have that talent, please let us know.

Continued...

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Birgit Mantilla, no report

LIAISON TO PARK DISTRICT: Kathy Baureis, no report

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: on hold until we move

NEW MEMBER PACKETS: Martha Nelson, no report

OBEDIENCE TRIAL: Erin Straka & Birgit Mantilla

Save the dates:

*Rally trials (2 trials) Friday, April 24th, 2026 / Judges: Loretta Lazarra & Mary Simpson

*Obedience trials (1 trial each day) Sat/Sun April 25th & 26th, 2026 / Judges: Loretta Lazarra & Wayne Koutsky

Please volunteer to be a steward! We have 1 trial a year and need everyone's help. Margaret Henning is here to sign up stewards for Obedience, and Martha is signing up stewards for Rally. They would like 3 to 4 people for each ring. Please use the sign-up to help us stay in contact for the events.

Birgit explained the different roles that we need to fill - stewards, go-fers, etc. Some jobs require standing, while others are totally seated. There are two rings, two judges.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Tom Merlin - absent

PAW PRINTS: Danielle Sofia - Please submit stories to Pawprints email for publication.

REGISTRATION: Birgit Mantilla - The Beginner's class has 6 students, and it looks to be a good class of dogs. New trainers started CGC.

TRAINING COMMITTEE: Sue Bowman, Birgit Mantilla, Kathy Baureis - No Report

TRIAL, SPECIAL AND ANNUAL AWARDS: Lisa Merlin and Erin Straka. Julie helped out and took inventory of our ribbons when we organized the storage area and then we were able to order the ones we needed.

Todd will bring in premiums (entry forms) to the next meeting.

WEBSITE: Todd Doerpinghaus, Lois Mayer-Yep -

Birgit asked Todd to update the information for the next class.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No report

NEW BUSINESS: No report

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:01.

Bill Urquhart made the motion to adjourn, and Gina Varilek seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CURRENT CLASS SCHEDULE

SESSION #3 - APRIL 21ST - JUNE 2ND, 2026

April 21st WEEK 1

APRIL 24TH-26TH RAND PARK'S ANNUAL
RALLY & OBEDIENCE TRIALS @ FOREST CITY DOG TRAINING CLUB

April 28th..... WEEK 2

May 5th WEEK 3

May 12th WEEK 4

May 19th WEEK 5

May 26th WEEK 6

June 2nd WEEK 7

June 9th CHICAGO DOG DAYS - NO CLASS

Bring your pup to a baseball outing! Chicago Dogs are hosting a game and our furry friends are invited too!
Please RSVP if you are coming to 847.208.3584

SESSION 4 START DATE TBA, 2026

Class Schedule on Membership Meeting Night:

- 5:15 - 5:50PM
- 6:00 - 6:40PM
- 6:45 - 7:25PM
- 7:30 - 8:10PM - Members Meeting
- 8:15 - 8:50PM



RAND PARK ANNUAL TRIAL



RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB'S ANNUAL SPRING OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS 2026

FRI - April 24th, 2026 - 2 Rally Trials

JUDGES: Loretta Lazarra & Mary Simpson

SAT - April 25th - Obedience Trial

SUN - April 26th - Obedience Trial

JUDGES: Loretta Lazarra & Wayne Koutsky

LOCATION



Forest City Dog Training Club, Rockford



**WE NEED
YOU!**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



To run a smooth & successful event we are asking for your help. Please see a Rand Park event member with your availability to sign up for positions needing to be filled. Include staging tables, food, setup & breakdown, etc.

ONLINE & LOCAL EVENTS

AKC SPRING SCURRY 5K

Announcing The 3rd Annual



AKC FIT DOG Spring Scurry



Preorder Your Medal to Register

Sign up with a \$20 registration fee, which is completed through the preorder of your [official AKC Spring Scurry medal](#).



Start Moving

Walk or run **5K (3.1 miles)** with your dog anytime before **June 30th** — do it all at once or break it up into multiple sessions. The AKC Spring Scurry is done on an honor system.



Choose Your Own Route

Complete your 5K anywhere you and your dog love to get active — your neighborhood, a local park, scenic trails, or alongside your **AKC FIT DOG® Club**.



Celebrate Your Accomplishment

Show off your medal with pride and share your achievement on social media using [#AKCSpring Scurry!](#)



Get Scurrying

Complete your \$20 registration by preordering an **AKC Spring Scurry medal**. Plus, fetch our exclusive matching merch!

<http://shop.akc.org/products/proshop-fit-dog-spring-scurry-medallion>

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!



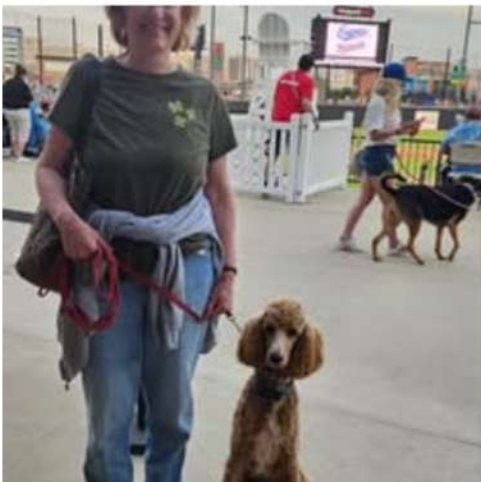
We are planning another club trip to a Chicago Dogs game. Our dogs are invited also!!!! We hope you can join us. We are planning on getting a group rate. Please send a text to 847-208-3584 if you would like to join us and how many tickets you would like. Also, we found out if you have a big dog, it's best to buy them a seat also. It leaves you a lot more leg room. Tickets were around \$20-\$25 the last time we went.

More info to come when we make the group reservation.

When: Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Where: Impact Field

9850 Balmoral Ave, Rosemont



DOG DAYS AT MORTON ARBORETUM



Service dogs are welcome at no cost daily, and should be identified when entering at the gatehouse.

Dogs are welcome on the Arboretum's trails during Dog Admission Days, held on select Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to sunset and select Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to sunset, and from 9:00 a.m. to sunset on [Tails on the Trails pet expo dates](#).

Arboretum members may bring dogs during exclusive early access hours from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. on Tails on the Trails dates and on Dog Admission Days that fall on Sundays.

Dogs not designated as service dogs are only allowed on the grounds of the Arboretum on designated Dog Admission Days and for Tails on the Trails events.

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset
Dog Admission Day

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset
Dog Admission Day

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 3:00 p.m. to sunset
Dog Admission Day (afternoon only)

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset
Tails on the Trails (expo from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset


[Purchase Arboretum admission](#)

 **Next Dog Admission Day**
Sunday, April 12, 2026

 **Select Sundays**
9:00 a.m. to sunset
Select Tuesday afternoons
3:00 p.m. to sunset

 [Maps and Guides](#)

 [Parking and Directions](#)

 **Need help?**
[Contact the ticket line](#)

 \$7 per dog admission; \$6 per member dog

 [Print this page](#)

<http://mortonarb.org/explore/activities/events/dog-admission-days/#schedule>

CANTIGNY PAWS-IN-THE-PARK DAYS



PAWS IN THE PARK DAYS ARE BACK!

Bring your leashed sidekick to explore the gardens at Cantigny, roam through the Military Tank Park, and spend a little quality time outdoors together. Paws in the Park Days are only on Mondays, from March through October (excluding holidays).

A few friendly ground rules:

- *Dogs should be well-behaved around people and other pups*
- *Please bring proof of up-to-date vaccinations*
- *Leashes are required at all times (Retractable leashes are not permitted)*
- *Use the sanitation stations and clean up after your pal*

While furry friends can't go inside the buildings, there's plenty of room to roam outside. The park is open until 6 pm, and parking is \$6.

Purchase your parking here: <https://bit.ly/4cML6ZX>

<http://cantigny.org/event/paws-in-the-park-day-24-2-2-2/2026-03-09>

SENIOR VISITATION

TO PARTICIPATE:

- 2nd Saturday of the month**MAY 9TH • 10AM**
- Dogs must be comfortable around other dogs in tight spaces
- Dogs must be comfortable being petted by several people
- The residents must not feed dogs at any time
- You must be a member or a current student and your dog must be well behaved and non-reactive to participate in demonstrations

LOCATION:

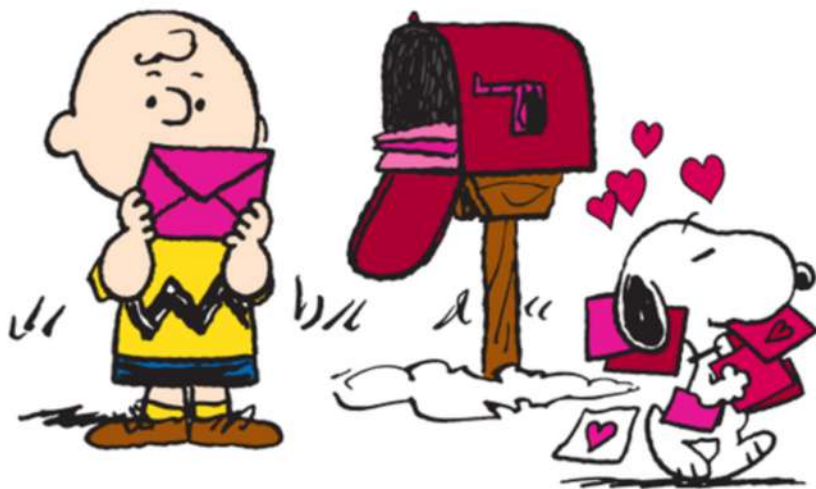
Ascension Living
Nazarethville Place
300 N River Rd
Des Plaines IL 60016

Interested in participating? Before attendance, please contact Barb Pische at at 872-276-3331 or remi2332@sbcglobal.net

Our gratitude to the Rand Park members and students who are giving up their Saturday morning to visit with the seniors at the nursing home. Thank you to our program leader Barb and everyone who came to participate with their dogs! Photos from the most recent visit below.







PAW-SOME PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT!

ROYAL REIGN RHETT'S RAGING ROMANCE

Call Name: SCARLET

JULY 26, 2012 - FEBRUARY 12, 2026

It is with GREAT sadness that we announce that our Beloved SCARLET has crossed the Rainbow Bridge at the age of 13 1/2. She was a wonderful & talented girl & will be missed immensely By Bill, Gloria & the entire Urquhart Family.



IN OUR HEARTS

We thought of you with LOVE today
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence
We often speak your name.
Now all we have is memories
and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our Keepsake
with which we will never part.
God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our HEARTS!

~ Author Unknown

To share your story about you & your four legged family, send an email with subject line "Spotlight" with photos you'd like included to: rpdtc.pawprints@gmail.com to be featured in a future issue of pawprints.

Peggy & Callie show off their new home made training bag. She (Peggy) made a custom messenger bag to hold her training supplies. She used fleece in coordinating colors. it holds her place pad and other bulky gear.



Can you guess the breed of our newest student?



The Lagotto Romagnolo is an Italian breed known as the "truffle dog," originally used for water retrieving before its keen sense of smell made it an excellent truffle hunter. They are intelligent, affectionate, and energetic dogs with a distinctive curly, low-shedding, waterproof coat that requires regular grooming. This breed needs significant physical and mental stimulation, excelling in activities like agility and obedience, and is loyal to its family but can be reserved with strangers. 🐾

FUN IN CLASS

The trainers had way too much fun with this exercise!
All the dogs did great holding their stays. Well done!





AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

As previously communicated, the AKC Board of Directors approved the recognition of Canadian Kennel Club titles earned in Conformation, Obedience and Rally to the [AKC's Title Recognition Program](#). All dogs that are AKC registered and have earned these titles in the past are eligible to have the title recognized by AKC.

Eligible Titles

Conformation

Champion
Grand Champion
Grand Champion Bronze
Grand Champion Silver
Grand Champion Gold

Obedience

Pre-Companion Dog
Companion Dog
Companion Dog Intermediate
Companion Dog Excellent
Utility Dog
Obedience Trial Champion

Rally

Rally Novice
Rally Intermediate
Rally Advanced
Rally Excellent
Rally Advanced Excellent
Rally Master
Rally Champion

Please email titlerecognition@akc.org with any questions.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/u-s-congress-amendment-to-farm-bill-could-threaten-akc-events-hunt-training/>

March 31, 2026

Please share this important information with your club members, family and friends.

An amendment to the House Farm Bill (HR 7567) proposed by animal rights groups threatens the future of AKC performance events and recognized hunt training techniques.

Please join AKC and leading sportsmen's organizations in defending responsible dog enthusiasts, sportsmen and trainers. **Please contact your member of the U.S. Congress and respectfully ask Congress to remove language derived from the "Greyhound Protection Act of 2025" (HR 5017) from the Farm Bill before final passage.**

Scroll down for easy ways to make a difference.

Why This Matters

While the stated intent of the Greyhound Protection Act is to address concerns related to commercial greyhound racing, the provision attached to the Farm Bill is overly broad and risks eliminating or banning standard training and event practices for certain field trials, performance events, lawful hunting with dogs, and other widely accepted training methods used by responsible dog owners and handlers.

In fact, the amendment goes well beyond "commercial" greyhound racing – which currently only exists in one state; it also bans live lure training, use of live lures, and open field coursing events involving live animals. Because these terms lack clear statutory definitions, they could be interpreted in ways that affect lawful hunting activities and traditional dog training methods. For example, controlled exposure to live birds, or other game animals, is a widely accepted and essential component of preserving unique breed characteristics and training bird dogs, retrievers, hounds, and other working dogs. Dog trainers and hunters commonly use farm-raised birds such as pigeons, ducks, or pheasants to teach scent recognition, steadiness, retrieval skills, and humane handling of game. These practices help ensure that hunting dogs perform their work effectively and minimize harm to wildlife during hunts.

Without clear exemptions, prohibiting the use of live animals in canine events that showcase breed characteristics, responsible hunting, or dog training could effectively eliminate long-standing, responsible training methods.

These restrictions could easily be interpreted or amended to severely impact or eliminate:

- Field trials,
- Hunt tests,
- Earthdog competition,
- Barn Hunt,
- Nite Hunts, and
- Other organized dog sports/events that are conducted under carefully controlled conditions.

It could also easily be interpreted or amended to impact other popular and responsible running / racing events that do not use live lures, including:

- Lure Coursing,
- Coursing Ability Tests (CAT); or
- Fast CAT events.

Two Ways You Can Make a Meaningful Impact

- [Click here to send a message directly to your member of Congress](#)

Better yet ...

- [Click here](#) to find out who your member of Congress is.

Tell them:

- a. You are a voting constituent (including city/town you live in) and a responsible dog enthusiast.
- b. Respectfully ask them to oppose overly broad language from the Greyhound Protection Act (HR 5017) that has been added to the Farm Bill.
- c. Explain that it does nothing to improve the wellbeing of dogs, and as written could ban or lead to bans on responsible dog training practices that are essential to developing well trained working and performance dogs, as well as popular responsible dog events in the community. Share your positive experiences with these events, if appropriate.
- d. Note that the Farm Bill is one of the most important and broadly supported pieces of legislation considered by Congress. It should not become the vehicle for language that disrupts lawful hunting traditions, events that showcase breed characteristics, responsible dog ownership, and established canine training practices nationwide.

Learn more about AKC Events that could be affected:

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/u-s-congress-amendment-to-farm-bill-could-threaten-akc-events-hunt-training/>

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN GRADUATES

Congratulations to our dog & handler teams who passed the AKC testing for Canine Good Citizen and the Canine Good Citizen Advanced Test. Your dogs are becoming model citizens!



BARK & BRAG GALLERY



They earned a 1st place with a 196 for their 2nd Open Q.



Miss Hattie is over the moon! She earned a 1st place in rally excellent at the Forest City Dog Training club. Way to go Hattie!



Kudos to Debbie & Dallas! They earned 1st place in open. By earning this Q, Dallas finished her CDX under Judge Sue Mayborne at the Forest City Dog Training Club



Julie and Hazel did a thing today! They earned their Novice title with a 1st place at the Forest City DTC. It's hard to believe that Julie had to be convinced to show her talented Airdale. Now Team Hazel will be moving on to open. Way to go!!

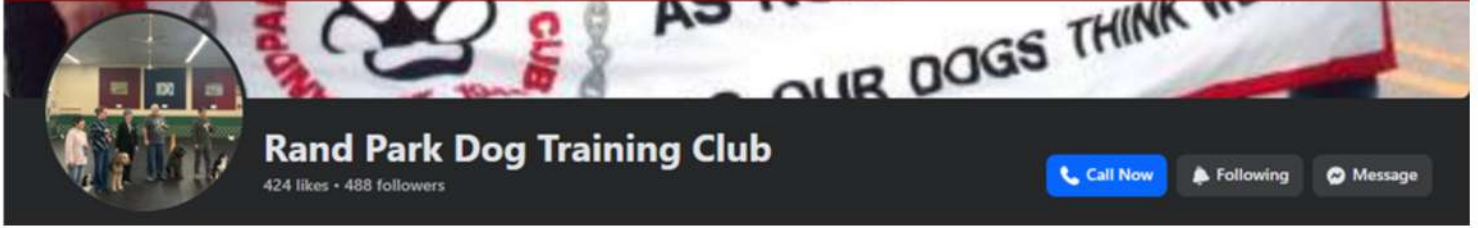


Team Mochi had a banner day at Forest City DTC today. Mochi earned his 2nd Q for his Novice title with a 1st place. Audrey's smile says it all!! Congratulations Audrey & Mochi!!

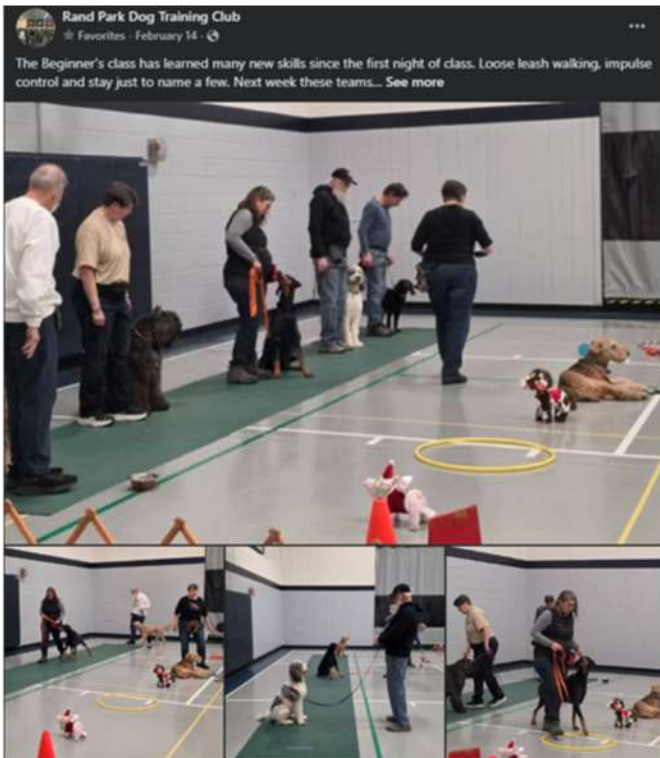


For the 1st time in their obedience journey, Danielle and Jaxon stepped into the ring. A few nerves but once they got started, it certainly didn't show. When all was said and done, they earned their 1st Q in Beginner Novice with a 2nd place and a 195.5. Bravo Team Jaxon!

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

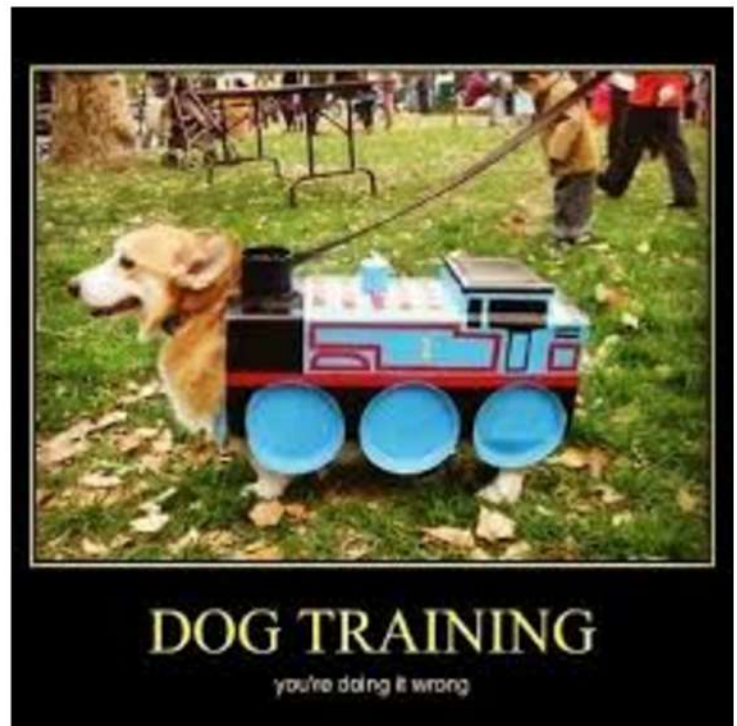


Be sure you're following along the club's Facebook page for more updates! Check out some of our more recent posts!



OFF-LEASH HUMOR

**Why do dogs tend to run in circles?
Because it's really hard to run in squares.**



THANK YOU TO OUR PAWPRINTS CONTRIBUTORS

PAWSOME PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT - Gloria Urquhart
NURSING HOME VISITS - Lead by Barb Pische
K9 KITCHEN & HUMOR - Danielle Sofia & Martha Nelson
FROM THE PRESIDENT - Birgit Mantilla (President)
FROM THE SECRETARY - Martha Nelson (Secretary)

**NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE
IS MAY 5TH FOR THE MAY 15TH ISSUE.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Birgit Mantilla rpdtc.president@gmail.com
 - Vice President - Kathy Baureis rpdtc.VP@gmail.com
 - Secretary - Martha Nelson rpdtc.Secretary@gmail.com
 - Treasurer - Todd Doerpinghaus rpdtc.Treasurer@gmail.com
 - Asst. Treasurer - Paul Straka rpdtc.Asst.Treasurer@gmail.com
-
- Dir. of Training - Sue Bowman suembowman@gmail.com
 - Director - Jill Spooner jaspoon@att.net
 - Director - Lois Mayer-Yep lpmayer@juno.com
 - Director - Lisa Merlin lmmsail64@gmail.com
-
- PawPrints - Danielle Sofia rpdtc.Pawprints@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!

Notice of training cancellation will also be posted on:
The club's website www.randparkdtc.org
our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/RandParkDTC