**2018 QCDOC List of Public Education Activities**

1. **Training, etc.**

* Obedience Classes: Puppy, S.T.A.R. Puppy, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Bully Breed, Small Dog, Conformation, Rally, Ring Prep (Approximately 200 hours of classes offered each year)
* Volunteers train local 4H children for showing dogs at local fairs
* Nose work classes, several levels
* Host of Barn Hunts
* Game nights with dogs
* Trick dog classes
* Trick dog testing
* CGC classes and CGC testing (Posted on website)
* Host a 2-day AKC sanctioned Obedience and Rally Trial over Labor Day Weekend
* Maintain a website: answer questions from public, refer public to AKC
* Maintain a phone: answer questions from public, refer public to AKC
* Classes to learn how to train for all club volunteers who lead obedience classes
* Provide AKC materials (rule books, etc.) to all members
* Promote obedience by honoring those who have titled their dogs, both vocally at meetings, and visually by posting their pictures on the walls of the club
* QCDOC hosts speakers to educate our own membership and others. In recent years they had a search and rescue team speak to the club
* Trainers attend seminars for better training techniques with Dr. Ian Dunbar, Adele Yunk, JoAnn Bretschnieder and George Alston

1. **Public Education**

* Mutt Strut – a fundraiser for a local animal shelter
  + QCDOC has a booth, handing out AKC Responsible Dog Owner materials, talking about dog training and promoting animal care and safety
  + QCDOC provides signs reminding to keep their dog 3 feet away from other dogs.
  + Members, wearing club shirts, walk in the fundraising walk
  + Members, wearing club shirts, demonstrate obedience skills by either doing a “dog square dance” demo, or a rally demo
  + Members donate materials for baskets to be raffled off
  + Members, wearing club shirts, walk among the crowd with their dogs and answer questions from the public
* Radish Fair – a community “healthy living” fair sponsored by a local newspaper
  + QCDOC has a booth, handing out AKC Responsible Dog Owner materials, talking about dog training, and promoting animal care and safety
  + Members have won the “Pet of the Year” contest many years in a row
  + Members, wearing club shirts, walk among the crowd with their dogs and answer questions from the public
* QCPAWS animal shelter, fundraising pet calendar (Many members’ dogs are featured)
* QC St. Patrick’s Day Parade – members march in this two-state parade with their dogs, passing out dog biscuits and promoting animal welfare issues
* Advertising local events at meetings (They promote local animal shelters’ fundraisers, such as Trivia Nights, donation drives, etc.)
* They refund part of the training fees for people who have adopted dogs from a shelter
* They annually donate a large amount of supplies to the animal shelter next door, as a Christmas gift
* ORION DOG DAYS – members go to a local elementary school yearly, with dogs, to talk about dog breeds, dog training, and responsible dog ownership with teachers and children
* American Temperament Test – they have hosted this test and plan to do so again
* Promote dog socialization at stores who allow dogs (Gordman’s, Lowe’s, Petco, Petsmart, Blaine’s Farm and Fleet, etc.)

1. **Ambassadors to the community**

* Twelve members and their dogs are therapy teams with ATD ( the club does over 400 therapy hours a year) going to hospitals, nursing homes, churches, libraries, day care centers, schools, etc.
* Two members and their dogs have THDD titles, with over 400 therapy visits, and counting!
* Club offers free seminars about how to become certified therapy teams with ATD (Alliance of Therapy Dogs)
* Club sends out letters offering the services of our therapy teams to local schools, businesses, etc.
* Members are vocal advocates, spearheading discussion and policy forming for animal rights and dog welfare at political government meetings
* Club is active in the community, such as community garage sales, donating baskets to raffle off at other local fundraisers, etc. In doing so, they promote our mission to educate the public and they engage the public in conversations about dog welfare and animal rights. (Milan Garage Sale, Orion Fido Fest, Festival of Trees, etc.)
* Some of our members are also active members in other local dog clubs
* Some of our members have made dog welfare both their avocation and their vocation. One member works with a dog hydro-therapy business.

1. **Social Events**

* As a club, they host several social events to continue the good relationships formed with other dog lovers, and to continue to promote positive dog – human relationships. They host yearly Halloween parties with our dogs, Christmas parties and BINGO nights.
* QCDOC has recently celebrated our 50th anniversary with a party. At that party, the pictures of past trainers and dogs were displayed and celebrated.

**AKC Public Education Award Essay for QCDOC (Dec. 2018)**

Tucked away in Milan Illinois, past the railroad tracks and past the animal shelter, lies a small building that looks like nothing much from the road. Quad Cities Dog Obedience Club only has 60 members, but it influences huge numbers of people and dogs.

The average dog owner gets acquainted with QCDOC when they adopt a new puppy who is more than they can handle. They find out about the Puppy Obedience Classes through word of mouth, website, or phone number, and they register for a class. The classes are reasonably priced; those who rescue a shelter dog receive rebates on their fees. Once this dog owner has learned a few things about dog training and is happy with the progress his puppy has made, he decides to continue, and joins the club. At his first meeting, this dog owner’s eyes are opened to the all the club is involved in. The activities are staggering!

Dog training is huge for the club. They offer about 200 hours of dog obedience training classes each year. They hold conformation classes, host barn hunts and nose work, dog trick training and dog game nights for mental stimulation and just plain fun! Volunteers help local 4H clubs train their dogs for competing in the fair. The dog trainers are all volunteers, but they themselves are taught by visiting experts. The club provides AKC materials to all members and hosts an AKC sanctioned two-day obedience and rally trial every Labor Day weekend. In addition, they administer CGC and trick tests periodically, as well as the American Temperament Test. Ring prep classes are offered, and members and their dogs who title are honored at every meeting.

The new member also learns that public education is a driving goal of the club. The QCDOC hosts booths at two local yearly events which promote responsible dog ownership, dog training and animal welfare. They actively support several local animal shelters’ fundraisers, and march in local parades with their dogs to spread the word about positive relationships between people and their dogs. Members and their dogs also go to a school’s “Dog Days” to engage children about dog breeds, dog care, training and the dog’s role in the family.

Over and above all of this, is the individual members’ commitment to be ambassadors to the community. QCDOC currently has twelve members who go to hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, schools and daycare centers as therapy teams (over 600 hours a year) with their dogs. They hold free seminars to educate others about how to become therapy teams with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD), and we send out letters to offer our therapy teams’ services, Members of QCDOC are active and vocal in local political forums having to do with dog welfare and animal rights. They educate the public also through the speakers they have had at the club, such as a search and rescue team. They collaborate with other local dog clubs and support their efforts in any way they can. A few of our members belong to multiple dog clubs, and one member works with hydrotherapy for dogs.

Yes, QCDOC is a small club, but through its commitment to hours of training and public service, it’s a remarkable presence advocating for dogs in the area.

**AKC Public Education Award Poetic Entry for QCDOC (Dec. 2018)**

*Poem with apologies to Clement C. Moore*

It’s a dark night in winter, and all through the place,

Every canine is stirring, the puppies do race.

Obedience training is going full force,

And the trainer just set up a great rally course.

The people are laughing, the dogs they do pant,

The lessons are learned, the corrections are scant.

It’s a typical night at the Quad Cities’ club,

And later they’ll all go out for some grub.

The pictures are all hung of those dogs who’ve won titles

Complete with their names, dates, owners and vitals.

There’re plans for the next party with dogs,

And sign-up sheets filled with names to do jobs.

They’ve shown dog dancing last summer at Mutt Strut,

And at the “Best Pet” competition, ours made the cut.

They’ve hosted again their Labor Day trial,

And those therapy teams always bring smiles.

The nose work and Barn hunt were such a success,

And the trick night test was sure to impress.

They’ve reached those kids in 4H with practical skills,

And they’ve helped the shelter to pay some of their bills.

The club has spoken at the political rally,

In them, the other local clubs have an ally.

They’ve given brochures, and gently reminded

Pet responsibilities (to which some people are blinded.)

They’ve visited schools, the children did delight

And when watching dog rally, some got insight.

They’ve learned from the masters new training techniques,

And they passed on the lessons in classes of six weeks.

The club wore green in the St. Patrick’s parade,

The dogs loved trick night, and the games that they played.

So have many who passed the CGC test,

And of course, those blue ribbons show who is the best.

But it’s the ordinary person, with a dog who is naughty

Who comes in to learn to obey and go potty,

Who realizes with wonder the world of dog training,

Is a place where pure fun, joy and amazing

Times with a dog is so fulfilling,

That they continue drilling, instilling, quite willing!

Because when it comes to dogs and their human bond

Words can’t describe the tie that goes beyond.