

December 8, 2020

Dear DOTC Members and Friends,

It is with great regret, and out of an abundance of caution, that I need to inform you that the Board of Directors of The Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland, Inc., with input from the instructors, has decided to stay closed for classes, due the uprise of COVID-19 cases in our region. Until we see a significant decrease in cases, in Maryland, we will not be meeting for classes. The Board will meet, again, in early February, to reassess the situation. We hope that all of you are doing all that you can to keep yourself, and your family, safe and well.

Our next Board meeting will be Sunday, February, 7, 2021, at 7PM. Any member is welcome to join the Board meeting, with the understanding that all may participate in the discussion, but only Board members will vote on any motions that are made. Please contact President, Gail Phillips, to get the ZOOM invitation to that February 7, 2021 meeting.

Our Farm Dog Test, given at Colmont Farm in western Howard County was a marvelous success! Thank you to Debbie Malone, Trial Secretary, and Judges Barbara Awtrey and Robin Graham. Over 20 dog/handler teams came and tried the course. We awarded many FDC "New Title" rosettes! Thank you also to Miranda and Renee Sherman, for the loan of their llama and alpaca! Thank you to Cleo Curry for the wonderful photographs of the day. These can be seen on Cleo's "Smugmug" page. Go to www.cleocurry.smugmug.com to view them. Tim Prendergast, our Webmaster, will be posting the links so that you can see the videos of teams working that course. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped "man" the event. I hope I don't forget anyone! Thank you, DOTC members Renee Kahn, Renee Sherman, Miranda Sherman, Deb Frank, Diane Carpenter, Janet Hughes, and Cleo Curry for your assistance. We also had some potential members assist. Thank you to them, as well. Unfortunately, I did not get all of their names. I apologize for that.

Our December 2 FastCAT event (which was supposed to have been our April, then November, events) went well, despite the cold and wind! Thank you to Mary Ellen Moehler for letting us tie the club tent to her van, so it would not blow away! Yes, it really was that windy! Thank you to members Cleo Curry, Mary Ellen Moehler, and Michael O'Hara for helping with set-up. Thank you to members Cleo Curry, Mary Ellen Moehler, Renee Sherman, Deb Frank, Mickala Berta, and Janet Hughes, for your help the day of the event. Again, we had many non/potential members who also assisted. A big thank you goes to all of you.

We can not run these events without the assistance of our volunteers. As of right now, our March 21, 2021 Obedience/Rally Trials are still a "go". We will need a lot of help the afternoon before, setting up for the event. We will also need a lot of folks to act as Stewards, the day of the event. Please consider offering your assistance. "Many hands make light work".

Speaking of Obedience/Rally trials, we have been asked by the Baltimore County Kennel Club Trial Chair to assist them with some decision making information. They are still discussing how/if to hold the "Cherry Blossom Cluster" in April, 2021. If you are an Obedience or Rally competitor, would you please let Trial Chair, Lucy Campbell (briarpatch.beardies@gmail.com) know if you would be willing to compete, **outdoors**, in April, in Maryland.

In that same vein, would you please let DOTC President, Gail Phillips, know if you would be willing to be part of the DOTC "team" of Ring Stewards for the Obedience/Rally events at that show cluster. We have provided the

Obedience/Rally Stewards for this event for a couple of years. Obviously, we did not, last year, although we were prepared. Thank you to all who volunteered to work those events, the last few years.

Looking even farther forward, we are looking into holding another Farm Dog Certification Test, hopefully, in the spring. There is some discussion about holding Scentwork Trials. Applications have been sent for April and November FastCAT events (2 days each time). We are still waiting for a possible June/July date.

So, even though we are not able to meet together, to train, we are still finding ways to stay active and involved with our dogs. I hope that you are also staying active with your dog(s). As always, feel free to reach out to any of the instructors with questions and concerns. Their contact information is in the November letter that you, hopefully, received.

Please keep watching our Facebook page (DOTC4dogs) and our website (www.dotc.org) for more information about our special events and future classes. Please, keep working with your dogs, stay safe, and stay well.

Happy Holidays and Happy (Healthy) New Year!

Gail

Gail M. Phillips, President, The DOTC of Maryland, Inc.