



GREATER COLUMBIA
OBEDIENCE CLUB

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January 16-17, 2010

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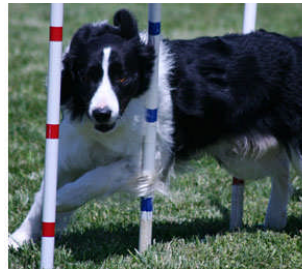
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GCOC Agility Trial—Sept. 25-27, 2009

Fast, highly-trained dogs competing at the Greater Columbia Obedience Club's (GCOC) Fall Agility Trials September 25-27, 2009. When it comes to Midlands-area residents, GCOC is stressing just one: Come.

More than 100 dogs from the tri-state area, including several local entrants, will vie for top honor at the trials. The public is invited to attend the event this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 25-27 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the South Congaree Horse Arena at 301 Oak Street, West Columbia 29172.



Parking and admission are free.

"The purpose of agility trials is to demonstrate a dog's ability to follow specified routines," said Peggy Langdon, President of GCOC. "All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in essentially the same way, so the relative quality

of the various performances may be compared and scored."

American Kennel Club (AKC) Agility Trials demonstrate the usefulness of purebred dogs as human companions, showcasing dogs that are trained to behave well in the home, public places and the presence of other dogs. Exhibitors and their dogs compete as a team to earn AKC titles. For information about training with the Greater Columbia Obedience Club and future competitions, please visit:

www.gcoc.net

Upcoming Obedience & Rally Trials in our Region

Greenville Dog Obedience Club— Rally & Obedience, October 16, 17, 2009 Simpsonville, SC.

Atlanta Obedience Club— Rally & Obedience, November 2009. Norcross, GA

Augusta Kennel Club— October 3, 2009. Augusta, GA.

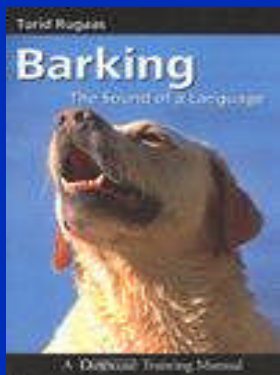
Carolina Obedience & Agility Trainers (COAT)

Fall UKC Obedience Trials, October 10, 11, 2009, Fountain Inn, SC (outside of Greenville).

Obedience Club of Asheville—Obedience, November 7, 8, 2009 in Asheville, NC.



Certificate of Appreciation to Barb Tsue-sink for her many years of service as the GCOC agility trial secretary.



GCOC Newsletter—Recommendations

Currently we have a book suggestion called: "**Getting Connected With Your Dog**", by Brenda Aloff.

We also have an agility DVD recommendation for : **Susan Garrett on training your dog for Weavepoles**

In the future, we are interested in doing a Member Spotlight article, a profile on a rescue organization, book reviews and DVD recommendations, as well as brags and stories of interest about our club mem-

bers and their dogs. Please contact Beth Crocker at crockerae@hotmail.com , about submitting article and subject suggestions for future issue of the newsletter.

On Talking Terms With Dogs: Calming Signals

By Turid Rugaas (Book Review by Phyllis Beasley)

This small, paperback book is an invaluable, inexpensive tool for the experienced dog trainer OR the pet dog owner. It describes the "signals" or body language shown by dogs when they are trying to communicate their state of mind.

In classes we talk about how dogs are so tuned into their handlers' body language and this book will help you understand why. Dogs communicate with body clues that can be subtle and completely overlooked by humans. In her book, Ms. Rugaas describes the various signals that dogs use to communicate, especially to communicate fear or stress, and how they use body language to convey to other dogs and people that they mean no harm, or, perhaps, want to play.

By understanding what our dog is trying to tell us, we can determine how we should train our dogs. You think your dog is "blowing you off" in the obedience ring by sniffing or yawning? Nope, he's telling you that he is stressed. This is his way of trying to tell you that the show environment is stressing him, or your behavior is "different" and he is stressed and trying to appease you. This should be our clue to train more, in different environments, and to make training more fun for our dogs!

In this short book, Ms. Rugaas explains why dogs use calming signals (their "life insurance policy") and how the signals are used. She devotes an entire chapter to the stressed dog and reviews a few case histories.

She also recently wrote a book called Barking: The Sound of a Language. This book was interesting, and, as the owner of a pack of Shelties (who love to narrate for me), I had to purchase it! However, it does not compare to her first book, On Talking Terms With Dogs: Calming Signals. There is a DVD version of the Calming Signals book, that is helpful for illustrating the calming signals Ms. Rugaas describes in her book.

Ms. Rugaas will be conducting a seminar on calming signals in late February at the Piedmont Kennel Club in Charlotte, NC. This book is a "must" for any trainer's library. Available on www.dogwise.com



Greater Columbia Obedience Club

847 South Stadium Road, #5
Columbia, SC 29201

E-mail: gcocdogs@yahoo.com
www.gcoc.net

Serving Columbia since 1968

The **Greater Columbia Obedience Club (GCOC)** started in 1968. It is an **American Kennel Club (AKC)** sanctioned organization made up of local dog enthusiasts. **GCOC** is charged with providing valuable community education and seminars to educate the public about dog sports, dog obedience and many other canine health and well-being subjects. **GCOC** also regularly hosts **AKC sanctioned Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials**.

As part of its mission, **GCOC** has been offering obedience training classes for pet owners and their pets in the **Columbia** area for many years. **All instructors are volunteers who have earned one more titles on their dogs.**



Save the Dates: January 16-17, 2010.

We have changed the dates for our upcoming Obedience and Rally Trial to Saturday and Sunday, January 16-17, 2010.

Also, please note that the trial entry deadline will be earlier than normal, on December 23, 2009, in order to give the Trial Secretary time to complete all arrangements over the holidays. The trial will continue to be held at the same location on the

South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia.

Please plan to support the Club by volunteering for one of the many jobs that will need to be done to make this Trial a success. There are jobs for our most experience members, as well as beginners! More information about the jobs and persons to contact will be sent out closer to the Trial date.

Premiums will be mailed by the week of November 18, 2009.



Dogs doing a long sit stay at a