



Obedience Views

August 2026



Clubhouse & Outdoor Training

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- Term Ends '29

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-Term Ends '28

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-Term Ends-'28

President's Report

Did you know? Milwaukee Dog Training Club was one of two finalists for the Journal-Sentinel's Milwaukee Top Choice Community's Choice Awards! Businesses and organizations are nominated by the public, then move to a voting round to determine the winner. Although we didn't win this year, I think our inclusion as a finalist is notable considering we weren't aware we were finalists, so we didn't do anything to encourage members to vote. It really speaks to our positive influence in the community and the wonderful volunteers and members who make up the club.

While the weather wasn't very cooperative in July, there were still plenty of fun club activities! Our Director of Agility, Tracy McCarty, and several club members participated in Bark After Dark at Konkel Park. They did agility demos and helped attendees and their dogs do "Try It" sessions on the agility equipment. We also had a booth there that was coordinated by our Vice President, Mari Pavleje. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!

We did three grilling fundraisers at Sendik's and raised over \$1,000 for the club! Thank you to Linda Roman for coordinating these events; to Linda, Mari Pavleje, and Sue Steinbach for working the stand; and to everyone who lured in hungry shoppers with their cute and well-behaved dogs.

August will bring even more fun! We're the featured group of the day at the K-9 Sports Arena on both Fridays of the State Fair (August 7 and 14). We'll have a booth and perform two obedience demonstrations each day. We'll also do an agility demonstration in the Coliseum on August 14. Stop by, say hello, and see what some of our club dogs can do!

Our annual club picnic is Sunday, August 23. Training is canceled that day. Bring your friends and family (but not your dogs) with you! Sign-ups will be available at the outdoor clubhouse and in the Member Login section of the website.

Finally, I wanted to give a quick reminder that our website has a "Suggestion Box" for members to submit suggestions about the club. You can find it in the Membership menu under Member Resources. Please feel free to drop any ideas or feedback in it—we're interested in what you have to say!

Erin Ruppel

Instructor Staff
Director of Training
Kim Rinzel
Obedience
Assistant Directors of Training

Mari Pavleje
Lory Valley

Basic Instructors

Mari Pavleje
Erin Ruppel
Kayden Rinzel

Beginner Instructors

Darlene Wilson
Megan Cooper

Beginning Novice Instructors

Tim Carter
Tori Baldwin
John Sadler
Elizabeth Casey

Advanced Novice Instructors

Laura Sadler
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Chris Stephens
Deb Matthies

Open/Utility Instructors

Kathleen McNerney
Lory Valley
Willie Mabone
BJ Parrott

Agility

Director of Agility & Basic-Foundation Instructor

Tracy McCarty

Agility Instructors

Kira Haslam
Martha Ryan
Jennifer Smith
Daryl Ann Stuppan
Nancy Wandersee
Erin Ruppel
Lindsey Moore
Amelia Harsh
Kristina Stuppan

Flyball

Director Dawn Butler Instructors

Kathy Gibowski
Jammie Schrab

Puppy Class Instructors

Dawn Butler

Scent Hurdles

BJ Parrott

TRAINING WITH TREATS



Does your dog only listen when you have treats in your hand? Many dog owners struggle to phase food out of training. This can lead to your dog only following cues in the kitchen or living room, but not in the real world. Without a reward, your dog might ignore you on walks if you don't have your treat bag. Treats are convenient and motivating rewards when you're teaching a new behavior. But it's also important to move beyond food for the reliable relationship with your dog.

Dogs repeat behaviors that are rewarding, which is why positive reinforcement training works so well. If you give your dog a piece of chicken or a cookie when they sit, they'll be more likely to sit the next time you ask. However, food can quickly become a cue in itself. Its presence tells your dog when it's time to train, and its absence can mean it's time to do their own thing.

If you're showing your dog the food before you ask for a behavior, you're bribing your dog, not rewarding them. Bribes will quickly make your dog a selective listener, only working when the food is in sight. It's best to keep treats hidden, such as in a pocket or behind your back, until after your dog has done what you want.

Of course, with lure-and-reward training you use a treat to lure your dog into position. An example of this is moving food to the ground so your dog will follow and lie down. This is an easy and effective way to train new behaviors, but your dog sees the food before they do the action. To prevent the treat lure from becoming a bribe, you need to wait to fade the lure as soon as your dog understands what you want. You can do this by rewarding your dog with a different treat than the one you used as a lure. Hide the treat in your hand so your dog follows the scent, rather than seeing it. Lure with an empty hand. The sooner you're luring with hand signals rather than food, the less likely your dog will only listen when you have treats in sight.

Don't discount the power of praise. Dogs love an enthusiastic and high-pitched "good dog!" to show them they're on the right track. And if you pair your praise with treats in the early days of training, your dog will come to associate the two. This helps supercharge your words.

Then, even when you don't have food, your dog will work for praise alone. Some dogs even find interacting with their humans and earning their praise more rewarding than food. Maybe your dog loves to play fetch or tug-of-war. Offer one of these activities after your dog does as you ask, instead of offering food.

If you want your dog to generalize cues to the world at large, then you need to teach your dog that those cues mean the same thing everywhere. It helps to train your dog in as many places as you can. And remember, to them, each new location is like starting from scratch. You can use treats in the beginning, then switch to other rewards when your dog understands the new parameters.

You don't have to stop using treats entirely. Even when your dog is performing like a champion, it's a great idea to continue to provide tasty paychecks at random for a job well done.

OUR NEW LOGO WEAR STORE

We're excited to announce the launch of the Milwaukee Dog Training Club's new online logo wear store!

Browse our **new logo designs** and choose from a variety of apparel styles and colors. The store is open year-round, and all items are shipped directly to you.

We're planning to add even more designs in the future and would love your feedback! Let us know what types of apparel, colors, or logo designs you'd like to see in the store.

Shop today at:

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/milwaukee-dog-training-club/>



DEMONSTRATION AT HALES CORNERS LIBRARY

We did our first demonstration of 2026 at Hales Corners Library on Wednesday, July 22nd. We've done a lot of demos there over the years for their summer reading program for kids. The crowd this year wasn't huge, but they enjoyed seeing what our dogs can do and, of course, getting the opportunity to pet them. They especially enjoyed petting Dawn Butler's new puppy, Odie!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the demo: Dawn Butler & Topaz & Odie, Evan & Sam Emmons & Ember & Terra, Renee Kielich & Roxie, Jim Maloney & Gracie, Susie Welsh & Babs.

Mari Pavleje
Exhibition Coordinator

WHERE WILL OUR CLUB MEMBERS BE?

Join our club members around town this August.

Group of the day at WI State Fair on August 7th.

Group of the day and agility demo in the Coliseum on August 14th.

Club Picnic on August 23rd.



Share Your Success Stories!

Milwaukee Dog Training Club members can now submit their show wins and trial achievements online! Visit <https://www.milwaukeeedog.com/submit-an-achievement> to have your accomplishments featured in our monthly newsletter. Whether it's a new title, ribbon, or personal milestone with your dog, we want to celebrate your hard work and dedication. Submit your achievements today and let the club community cheer on your success!



SHOW WINS AND BRAGS



Nikki Otten and “Gustave” and “Izzy”. AKC Agility at WAG facility on July 11th.

Gustave qualified and won first place in Open Standard, Open Jumpers with Weaves (2nd leg), and Open FAST (2nd leg). He received his Open Standard title!

Izzy qualified in Novice Jumpers with Weaves and Novice FAST, and she received her Novice Jumpers and Novice FAST titles.

Nikki Otten and “Gustave” and “Izzy”. CPE Agility trial at WAG on July 4th.

Gustave qualified and received first place in Full House (Level 3, leg 1), Standard (Level 3, leg 2), Snooker (Level 2, leg 1), and Jumpers (Level 3, leg 2).

Izzy qualified and received first place in Standard (Level 1 enthusiast), Wildcard (Level 2 enthusiast, leg 1), Snooker (Level 1 enthusiast), and Jumpers (Level 1 enthusiast). She received her Level 1 Standard title.



CLUB PICNIC

Join us on August 23rd for our annual club picnic at our Outdoor club.

Enjoy the weather with a no-dog summer bash! Get to know your fellow club members better. There will be a pot luck style lunch and some fun games.

Please RSVP by signing up at the Outdoor club. Family and friends are welcome to join in on the fun.



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 OUTDOOR AGILITY
2 Outdoor Training 9am Scent Hurdles 11:15	3	4 Flyball Training 6:30	5 Outdoor Training 7PM	6	7 Agility 1-5:30 Agility2 -7 pm State Fair	8 OUTDOOR AGILITY
9 Outdoor Training 9am Rally 11:15 Heel Down	10 Scentwork 6:30	11 Flyball Training 6:30	12 Outdoor Training 7pm Heel Down	13	14 Agility 1 5:30- 7pm Agility2 7- 8:30pm State Fair	15 OUTDOOR AGILITY
16 Outdoor Training 9am Scent Hurdles 11:15	17 Scentwork 6:30	18 Flyball Training 6:30	19 Outdoor Training 7pm	20	21 Agility 1 5:30- 7pm Agility2 7- 8:30pm	22 OUTDOOR AGILITY
23 MDTC Picnic No Classes	27 Scentwork 6:30	25 Flyball Training 6:30	26 Outdoor Training 7pm Meeting After Class	27	28 Agility 1 5:30- 7pm Agility2 7- 8:30pm	29 OUTDOOR AGILITY
30 Outdoor Training 9am Scent Hurdles 11:15	31 Scentwork 6:30					

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 OUTDOOR AGILITY
6 OUTDOOR TRAINING 9AM Rally 11:15	7 Scentwork 6:30	8 Flyball Training 6:30	9 Outdoor Training 7PM	10	11 Agility 1 - 5:30 pm Agility2 -7 pm	12 OUTDOOR AGILITY

Members please note, if you are not going to renew your membership, when you receive your notice please email your intentions to info@milwaukeedog.com
Thanks!



Not receiving your newsletter via email? Please contact the club's front desk. If you have an article, report or upcoming event you would like to see in future newsletters email Ellen at emkk@sbcglobal.net. Please attach any photos as JPG files (.jpg). The deadline for submissions is the LAST WEDNESDAY of every month. If you send an article after the last Wednesday of the month, it will go in the following month's newsletter, which means it will probably be outdated!
No exceptions!

Our Facebook page is
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/milwaukeedogtrainingclub/>



Milwaukee Dog Training Club

Obedience  Agility  Flyball  Puppy Class

414-961-6163

www.milwaukeedog.com

Connecting dogs, their people, and the community.

Searching for a specific American Kennel Club event? *

Obedience

Hunting

Herding

Rally

Scent Work

Tracking

Agility

Fast CAT



The AKC has updated the online AKC Event Search & Results making it easier to find the right events for you and your dog. *

The search now works across all your devices whether you're on a desktop computer, tablet or smartphone. It also gives you more flexible ways to refine your search.

Here's how to find it. Go to American Kennel Club website at www.akc.org. Click on the Events tab at the top of the page.

At the bottom of the events page you will find a link to the Events Calendar. This will take you to the AKC Event Search & Results. *

“Grilling Out!”



Non-Discrimination Statement

Milwaukee Dog Training Club does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), breed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients.