

FIVE FLAGS DOG TRAINING CLUB

WELCOME!

We invite you to apply for membership in our club at this general membership meeting. You may complete and sign the Membership application (2-sided) now and return it to the Membership representative who will conduct your "First Reading" (your application information is presented to members). Your membership will be voted upon at the second general membership meeting you attend.

You must attend a second meeting within three months of your "First Reading". At the second meeting your application will be presented again to the members ("Second Reading") who will then vote on your membership. If approved, you are expected to pay dues at that time.

Annual dues are \$35.00 for an adult (over 18 years old); \$50.00 for a family; \$20.00 for a junior membership (individual under 18 years old). The club's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. Dues paid when you join the club are pro-rated (% of annual amount) based upon the quarter year at that time: 100% Jul-Sep; 75% Oct-Dec; 50% Jan-Mar; 25% Apr-Jun. You will be advised of the amount to be paid.

Please read at your convenience the club information attached, which tells you about our members, activities, functions, dog training opportunities, and AKC events. If you have any questions about the club, you are welcome to call me at 932-0279 (evenings and weekends).

Toni Rohlke
Membership Chairperson

FIVE FLAGS DOG TRAINING CLUB

Five Flags Dog Training Club of Pensacola, Florida, Inc. (FFDTC) was established in the 1970's and incorporated in 1982 as a not for profit organization. The Club is dedicated to protect and further the advancement and interest of all breeds of pure-bred dogs: to promote interest in the sports of dog obedience and agility; and to promote the welfare of all dogs through its various programs and activities. The Club serves as an educational resource from which our community learns about responsible pet ownership and companionship, by providing members and the public with training classes and educational programs.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Membership meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the A. V. Clubbs Alternative Middle School on Cervantes Street. All members and potential members are encouraged to attend. The June meeting is a pot luck dinner usually held at a member's home. At that time we elect new club officers and board members. In December, we do not hold a membership meeting but instead have a pot luck Christmas dinner held at a designation to be announced. At that time, we announce Member of the Year and recognize members and their dogs that have earned titles during the year.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to persons in good standing with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and who subscribe to the interests of the club. Members are overall dog fanciers: Trainers, exhibitors, breeders, and owners and lovers of both purebred and mix breed canine companions. Many members train and show their dogs in competitive events such as obedience, agility, conformation, and field trails; are involved in other dog related sports, activities and programs; and are affiliated with other local and national clubs.

The Board of Directors is comprised of four club Officers (president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary) and six Board Members, including the recent past president and the training director.

Members instruct obedience and agility training classes for the public and club members; perform demonstrations with their dogs, including canine square dancing, at community events such as the Scottish Festival in Pace, the Pet Fest in Gulf Breeze, and the Pensacola Interstate Fair; participate in our Thera-Paws dog therapy program; and volunteer their time and energy to support club events and activities throughout the year. The club has various committees assigned to perform specific functions on an on-going or annual basis. Annually we recognize the Member of the Year (voted by the majority of the membership), acknowledging the person who has contributed significant time and effort to the club.

Preparing to work or show your dog requires dedication, commitment and patience, which in turn strengthens the bond between you and your dog. Our training classes in obedience and agility offered to members and the general public training sessions provide the opportunity to

enhance our skills in teaching and handling our dogs, whether or not we chose to participate in formal competition.

New members are encouraged to attend one of our Public Dog Obedience training classes. The class is offered free of charge to members, provided space is available (classes are normally limited to 15 paid dogs/handlers). We ask that you in turn volunteer to assist the instructor with a subsequent class.

The club is a nonprofit organization. Our primary source of income is the fees paid for our public dog training classes and our membership dues. The combined income from our AKC obedience and agility trials offset by the combined expenses incurred to sponsor these events usually provide additional revenue.

OBEDIENCE

Club members train their dogs one night a week at a designated site. The Obedience Committee schedules structured training classes that focus on specific exercises in the three levels of obedience competition, and “run-throughs”, during which you practice the sequence of exercises for obedience competition with the help of a club member performing the role of the judge. Potential members who have had a First Reading may attend for a nominal fee.

In various levels in obedience competition, the dog and owner/handler are judged as a team. Canine competitors demonstrate their training by responding to commands to heel on and off lead, stand for examination, come when called, sit and lie down, jump, and retrieve, as well as by reacting to the handler’s hand signals and recognizing the handler’s scent on different articles. The handler is also judged on the performance of their part of the various exercises. Qualifying scores in formal competition (trials) are counted toward AKC Obedience titles.

OBEDIENCE FUN MATCHES

Twice a year, normally in August and January, our club and the Mobile Bay Dog Training Club sponsor a Fun Match weekend at the Hillsdale Recreation Center in Mobile, AL. Our match is on Saturday; theirs is on Sunday. An obedience fun match is a great opportunity for you and your dog to gain experience in an unfamiliar ring setting. Although the match is conducted similar to formal competition, it is not sanctioned by the AKC. You are permitted to use food and toys to motivate and reward your dog, and to mildly discipline your dog for unacceptable performance in the ring. Participating in matches is the best practice for competing in an obedience trial.

AGILITY

The club holds 8-week agility classes for members and the public. The fee is \$20 for members; \$80 for non-members. Dogs must be socialized and have solid, basic obedience skills in order to participate. Classes are conducted outdoors from fall through late spring. Practice evenings are also scheduled for members at a cost of \$1 per dog to help defray cost of equipment and grounds maintenance.

In agility competition, dogs run off lead, follow their owners/handlers commands and signals, go over, under and through obstacles in the quickest time possible. The agility course is comprised

of a variety of challenging obstacles such as bar and tire jumps, tunnels, seesaws, A-frames, and weaves. Not only is timing a factor, but also the sequence and accuracy by which the dog completes the obstacles and the level of difficulty at the various competitive levels. Qualifying scores in formal competition (trials) are counted toward AKC Agility titles.

RALLY OBEDIENCE

Look for our newest training classes in Rally Obedience. Rally Obedience is not traditional Obedience; it is not traditional Agility; it is something in between the two, but stands on its own merit. Look for Rally classes to be held during the year. In Rally classes, the team of dog and owner/handler move continuously and perform the exercises indicated by a sign at each location. After the judge's "Forward" command, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence correctly. Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog between signs is to be encouraged and not penalized.

Currently this event is a non-regular class scored as non-timed or timed. Look for Rally Obedience to become a regular class in.

AKC OBEDIENCE AND AGILITY COMPETITION EVENTS

The club sponsors annual AKC Obedience and AKC Agility Trials. The Obedience Trials are currently held indoors at the Hadji Shrine Temple in Pensacola on one weekend in mid-February. The Agility Trials are presently held at the Baker Arena (covered) in Baker, FL, the first weekend in December. These locations may change when the new equestrian center opens in Winter 2002. Participation in these events is limited to purebred dogs registered with the AKC and their owners or handlers. Spectators are welcome at no cost.

The Obedience and Agility Committees coordinate all the tasks required to host the respective trials. A Trial Secretary and a Trial Chairman are appointed for each trial. The Committees recruit volunteers from the membership to complete premium lists, judges schedules and trial catalogs; serve as ring steward and timekeepers; help with equipment transport/set-up/removal and site maintenance; provide hospitality; solicit catalog ads; and perform many other functions specific to each trial. The support of all members is needed to make our trials a success.

PUBLIC DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Basic Obedience classes and Puppy classes are conducted several times a year as a community service to provide area dog owners a means to learn how to teach their dogs basic obedience skills. Instructors are club members who have completed and earned at least the Novice obedience title with their dog. We teach a consistent and positive approach to dog training. Students who train their dogs under our instruction should have a commitment to practice with their dogs in order to realize the expected result of making their dog a well-adjusted and happy member of the household. Proof of immunization for a student's dog must be presented at orientation.

AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZENSHIP (CGC) PROGRAM

This AKC sponsored program promotes canine good citizenship by testing the dog's training and manners. Ten exercises demonstrate the dog is properly socialized and well-mannered, has learned basic obedience skills, and that the handler is in control of the dog's behavior in a variety

of situations. It is not a competition and does not require precision performance. If students have properly trained their dogs by practicing the exercises taught in Basic Obedience classes, their dogs should be able to successfully complete each exercise. Upon successful completion of all exercises, an AKC certificate that states the dog is a “Canine Good Citizen” is awarded. The club periodically administers the CGC test, available to both pure bred and mixed-breed dogs.

“THERA-PAWS” DOG THERAPY PROGRAM

The dog therapy program “Thera-Paws” was established to provide members and their dogs an opportunity to spend time at healthcare facilities in order to enrich the lives of adults and children in residence or receiving treatment. Through guidelines, standards, and education for both handlers and dogs, and an organized volunteer effort, our goal is to share the love and happiness that comes from the human/canine bond, thereby improving the health and well-being of those we visit. Interested handler and dog teams must first satisfy certain eligibility requirements, followed by successful completion of the Certification Class, in order to receive certification from this program. The class is designed to develop the handler’s skills as well as the dog’s skills needed to effectively perform therapy work.

CANINE SQUARE DANCERS

Square dancing members and their dogs have developed square dance routines, performed with a caller and authentic square dancing music. The routines involve a variety of simple obedience exercises such as walking on a leash, sits and stays. We perform at community events throughout the year.

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter Forward is published monthly by the end of the 2nd week in the month and sent to members by email or “regular” (postal) mail. Articles must be submitted to the editor no later than the tenth of the month to appear in that month’s issue. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter for a nominal fee. Potential members who have had a “First Reading” will receive the newsletter for three months, pending their “Second Reading”.

WEB SITE

Visit our web site - www.fiveflagsdogs.org - for on-line information about the club’s membership, programs, activities, and events.