

August 2, 2021

Hello, all.

The DOTC Board met last evening. Here are a few of the highlights you might want to know about.

First of all, until further notice, we will be requiring masks to be worn whenever you are in any of the class buildings. Sadly, COVID numbers are starting to rise, again, and the Delta variant is so much more contagious. We chose to err on the side of caution. Vaccinated, or not, all of us can still get, and “share” this virus. We choose to be courteous by wearing the masks.

Class registration forms, and the schedule of offered classes for this session, should be online and on the Facebook page, later this week. If you are on this letter’s email list, please be watching your email for these forms. They should arrive in your inbox, by the end of this week. If you do not receive them, please let me know, ASAP!

Please fill the forms out, and mail them, to Cleo Curry (address on the form), ASAP. Be sure to include your dog’s rabies vaccination information. Due to the size of the buildings, class sizes will be limited. **If you do not pre-register**, we can not guarantee that there will be a space for you in the class(es) you desire! We would like to have all registration information, for this session, by September 3, 2021.

When calculating your dues, please remember to subtract \$1 for each hour you volunteered for DOTC during the last “school year”. While this is on an honor system, we do ask that you briefly describe how you arrived at your total hours volunteered. If you were an instructor, we ask that you count 1 hour for each night you were teaching and add in “planning/set-up” time. If you assisted with a class, count only the time at class. Remember, we had the Obedience/Rally trials with set up, stewarding, and other workers. We had 6 days of FastCAT with an extra day of set-up. There are probably other ways that you volunteered for DOTC. Due to COVID, this past year, we did not have any community events. Maybe, this year, or next, we can add back in some community events! Hopefully, you kept notes of your volunteer hours for this past year. If you did not, use your memory, as best you remember. Be sure to keep a record for this upcoming year, so next year, it will be easier for you to remember how many volunteer hours you had! We could not do what we do without our marvelous volunteers! Thank you.

The Board voted to send a donation to the Hemangiosarcoma research being done at Johns Hopkins, right here in Maryland. We will be sending that donation in memory of DOTC members’ dogs who have been lost to this dreadful disease. If you have a dog that you lost to hemangio, please send me (gail.m.phillips@comcast.net) the exact name you would like used in that donation letter. Please send that to me by the end of this week so that we can get that donation on its way.

If you know of any dog related charities that could use a donation, please let me (or any Board member) know. We are blessed to be in a good financial situation, at this time. Because of that, we feel that we should do what we can to support dog related charities and research. Please help us do that by alerting us to worthy causes.

Stay safe. Stay cool! Keep working with your dog(s) at least 10 minutes every day. Hope to see you on September 8!

Sincerely,

**Gail**

Gail M. Phillips  
President, The Dog Owners’ Training Club of Maryland, Inc.