

Dayton Dog Training Club

Clublicity

September/October 2025

Happy Halloween from Our Howling Friends Trick or Treat, Smell my Feet! (I bet they smell like Fritos...)



Top Row, Left to Right: Coral the Lion, Remi and John from "Men in Black," Toffee the Cowgirl Second Row, Left to Right: Kenna the Lady Bug, Bailey the Pooh Bear and Eeyore Holly, Ace of (Rhonda's) Heart More photos next page

(Happy Halloween continued)



Top Row, Left to Right: Remi and John the Skeletons

Jack-o-Lantern Rhonda and Butterfly Elvira with Jokers Carl and Rain

Tucker as "Frank" from "Men in Black"

Second Row, Left to Right: Superman Tell

Wonder Woman Meena

Jake (and Matt) from State Farm (khakis included...)

Fall in Love with DDTC Holly Jergens



The feedback Kate and I received on our new issue of Clublicity just completely blew me away. Both Kate and I poured our hearts (and lots of time!) into this revival, so to hear that you loved it so much made it all worth it.

This may only be our second issue, but my experience with Clublicity so far has truly shown me what this community is all about. I have members emailing me, bragging about and requesting articles about their friends' accomplishments... not about themselves. They want to see their friends' wins celebrated and that, to me, is what this newsletter should be about.

While I love including the fun articles and exploring local places to review and report back on, I truly enjoy sharing stories about the amazing humans and animals that make up DDTC. As a club, we are full of members that give so much of their hearts to their pets, so much of their time to the community, and so much of their support to their fellow handlers.

I have loved DDTC since I stepped foot into the building as a student 6 years ago. What dog lover doesn't love a building full

of dogs?? But the love I have for DDTC as a community has grown tenfold over the past few years as instructors have poured their time and effort into me and my dog, as fellow class members have cheered us on at trials and as you've let me highlight you and your stories in Clublicity the last few months.

I hope that as you continue to learn about all the great things your fellow members have done and will continue to achieve, that you find a new appreciation for DDTC and fall in love with it even more, just as I have.

Have an article to share? Send it my way! Have an idea for an article but you aren't a writer? I'll gladly write it up for you! Have a friend you want to celebrate but know they're too humble to do their own bragging? Let me know and I'll reach out to them. You can send any and all to DDTCClublicity@gmail.com.

Happy Fall (and Happy Reading)!



Leaf - Arlington, MA - 08.jpg Wikimedia Commons Public Domain

AKC Public Education Webinars

AKC's Public Education team is bringing back their Public Education Programs & Resources webinars starting this fall. The first webinar is October 7 at 5:30 p.m. EST, and the second is November 11 at 5:30 p.m. EST.

The Public Education team within AKC has designed these webinars with clubs, educators, and families in mind as they aim to teach children and community members about dogs in a fun and meaningful way. From a club perspective, the 60-minute webinars will explain the educational programs, resources and initiatives available, as well as discuss how clubs can increase community participation and attract new members.

Attendees will be introduced to the AKC Public Education team and given an overview of the major programs and resources available. Each segment will have a Q&A portion to allow for specific questions. All final questions will be addressed in an open Q&A before the end of the webinar.

The webinars are free but registration is required. To register for the webinars, visit the AKC website.

https://www.akc.org/public-education/akc-education-webinar-series/



Member Spotlight—Kim Lacey



Years of Membership: 2

Club Involvement: Instructor for Puppy Agility 1 and 2, Assistant Instructor for Novice Agility, Assistant Instructor for Masters Distance Agility.

Daytime Occupation: Retired Industrial Engineer, now full-time Nana to an 8 year old.

Hobbies: Dog scent work, dog agility, dog training, dog behavior, dog rescue, oh did I mention dogs? Occasional bingo and pottery.

Favorite Human Treat: Anything chocolate!

One Question You'd Like to Ask your Dog(s): Who do you love more, me or Michael (my husband)?

Favorite Trick/Command You've Taught your Dog: "Go pee" on command.

Fun Fact About Yourself: I am a better shot with a handgun than my retired law enforcement husband.

Favorite Thing About Owning a Dog(s): Hands down, their unconditional love for me.

Dogs' Names, Ages and Breeds:

- · "Nico" Who's Your Daddy Nico Suave NAJ SWN - All American (English Shepherd mix), 9 years old.
- · "Katica" Cruzyn Katicabogar MX MXB MXJ MJB MXF BCAT – Hungarian Mudi, 8 years old.
- · "Kelso" Thanagar Mistborn TKI - Hungarian Mudi, 2 years old.

Dogs' Nicknames: Nico: Nicky, New, Ninny. Katica: Kittykat, Kit Kat and Keetahh. Kelso: Kellbell.

Dogs'Activities: Agility, scent work, tricks, FastCAT, dock diving and loving an 8-year-old human.

Dogs' Favorite Toy: Braided tugs and nerf breathe right balls.

Dogs' Favorite Treat: Nico loves lettuce and fruit. Kelso loves dehydrated duck feet, and Katica loves bully sticks.

Dogs' Funny Quirk/Habit: Nico howls when he is happy and when you sing Happy Birthday. Katica jumps up and spins on our bed at bed time. Kelso, in the evening as soon as Michael takes his shower, will run down the stairs to the man cave and waits with great focus looking at the top of the stairs in anticipation of getting play time with daddy!

Member Spotlight—Barbara Mann



Dog's Name, Age, and Breed: "Zada" Texas Cola Rizada –
Airedale Terrier, 7.5 years old.

Dog's Nicknames: Goofball, Fuzzface, Woof.

Dog's Activities: Sleeping, hiding toys so she can bark at me to find them, digging holes, chasing squirrels.

Dog's Favorite Toy: Any ball whatsoever.

Dog's Favorite Treat: Dried apple slices (we share them).

Dog's Funny Quirk/Habit: Sleeping on her back with her feet in the air.

Years of Membership: 33

Club Involvement: July Obedience Trial Table Steward, previous President, trial secretary, instructor and AKC Delegate.

Daytime Occupation: Retiree - used to be a Professor of Statistics at Wright State.

Hobbies: Volunteering at Yellow Springs Senior Center, Birding, Yoga, playing Recorder.

Favorite Human Treat: Butter Pecan Ice Cream.

One Question You'd Like to Ask your Dog: Why won't you keep the deer from eating my plants?

Favorite Trick/Command You've Taught your Dog: To balance a biscuit on her nose, toss it in the air and catch it.

Fun Fact About Yourself: At 84 years old, I still love The Beatles.

Favorite Thing About Owning a Dog: Companionship. She's my best buddy and kept me from going totally stir crazy during covid.

Leah's Library List Leah Blake

Hello DDTC! It's your librarian, Leah Blake, back again to highlight some recent donations. This time, I've pulled out a couple of conformation-specific books that are oldies but goodies, published between 1992 and 1994. (Just a heads-up—some rules or procedures may have changed since these were published.) For the curious newcomers, I'm featuring Dog Showing for Beginners by Lynn Hall, and for the regular owner-handler, The Winning Edge: Show Ring Secrets by George G. Alston with Connie Vanacore.

The library accepts donations in a box next to the front door lobby. I catalog and label the official DDTC library books before I shelve them. Non-dogrelated book donations should be immediately shelved on the bookcases next to the bathroom in the front lobby. Those are free to take!

Thank you again to the members who donate these resources to the club!

★★ Featured Donations ★★

Dog Showing for Beginners by Lynn Hall

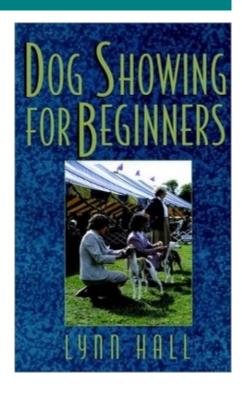
This book reads like a candid, approachable conversation with a seasoned dog show mentor. The author begins with a brief chapter on managing expectations, then dives into the process of selecting a breed and breeder. The book

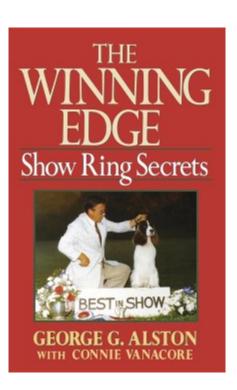
covers the details of class progression and the point system, offering some insider notes on each class. After explaining the show structure, Hall outlines how to plan for your first show and what to bring. The last chapters focus on evaluating your dog and learning from losses. Hall openly acknowledges the challenges of dog showing and offers practical solutions based on years of experience.

The Winning Edge Show Ring Secrets by George G. Alston with Connie Vanacore

This one's for the ambitious amateur looking to compete seriously against the pros. Alston highlights the advantages amateurs have and focuses on the mental, emotional, and physical conditioning needed for both the dog and the handler. In Alston's words, "The sport of dogs is 80% mental and 20% physical," and he explains how handlers can leverage psychology to overcome obstacles. He also provides advice on starting show puppies and fixing common issues. For those who need a quick summary, the last chapter offers a list of Alston's essential tips.

George Alston is a well-known name among exhibitors, but if you're unfamiliar with him, check out his feature article in *Canine Chronicles* (February 2020): Living a Dream to Be the Best. [https://caninechronicle.com/current-articles/living-a-dream-to-be-the-best]





How Does Scent Work... Work?

Are you super happy for all our newly titled Scent Work pups but just as confused as I am by all the Scent Work brags and wish you knew what they all meant? Are you interested in getting into Scent Work now that you've heard how fun it is, but don't know where to start? Well, I am here to break it down for you in a simple way!

There are 2 Divisions: Odor Search and Handler Discrimination

Each Division has 4 Levels of Difficulty: Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master

Each Level of Difficulty has 4 Elements (Search Environments): Container, Interior, Exterior, and Buried

In Odor Search, the dog is searching for the odor of one or more specific essential oils - birch, anise, clove and cypress. In Handler Discrimination, the dog is searching for the scent of their handler. A dog starts at Novice and then progresses through the levels up

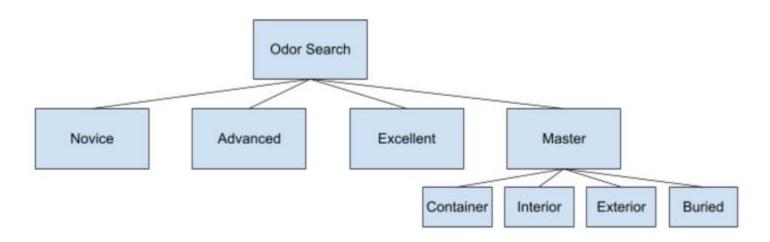
to Master. If you want to go above and beyond, the Detective Class is the highest level of AKC Scent Work. This can be done at varying speeds via the Elements meaning a dog can be a Master Container but a Novice Buried.

The Elements are simply different search environments. For Container, the target odor is concealed within a container, and the dog must indicate the correct container. For Interior, the target odor is concealed on or in an object in an indoor search area. For Exterior, the same goes but now the dog has to locate the correct scent amongst wind, weather, and natural distractions. Finally, Buried means the target odor is concealed within a small container and then buried in sand or water.

As the level of difficulty goes from Novice to Master, elements such as the number of hides, whether the number of hides is known or unknown by the handler, the search area size, number of distractions, time allotment and the height of the hides all change.

In order to qualify at a trial, the dogs must search for and alert their handlers when they have detected the correct odor. All hides must be found within the time allotted for that level without any non-qualifying faults. Faults can include both handler and dog errors.

There is so much more that goes into Scent Work, more than can be summed up in a simple article. For example, having a certain number of qualifying runs (10) within a specific Level and Element can earn your pup an Elite title. You can actually enter up to 2 difficulty levels in each element in one trial! The training and communication-building with your dog can create a great bond, and the sport is one that older dogs can physically do without taxing their bodies. I hope this at least helps you better understand the accomplishments of your fellow club members such as Blitz achieving all 4 Novice titles (Container, Interior, Exterior and Buried) or Drake earning his Novice Elite title!



S.T.A.R.T.-ing Off on the Right Paw with DDTC *Holly Jergens*

On Wednesday afternoons, the club experiences a rare, quiet existence - when morning classes are finished and the chaos of evening classes has yet to descend upon its rings. What most don't realize is that it's in these quiet Wednesday afternoon moments that real magic is happening.

Real lives are being completely turned around and futures are being built, week by week.



Linda Bingman with HSGD Volunteer Allison and adoptable dog Ramona

On Wednesday afternoons at 4:30, anywhere from four to six dogs arrive with volunteers in tow from the Humane Society of Greater Dayton (HSGD) to participate in the S.T.A.R.T program.



Michael Hughes with volunteer Julie and adoptable dog Rufus



Dyanne Johnson with volunteer Julia and adoptable dog Billy

It's in this program in which Linda Bingman and her well-oiled machine of a team take these shelter dogs and start to build their foundations for their new lives.

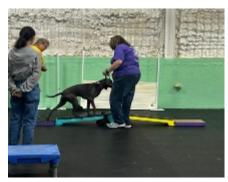
Until I spent an afternoon shadowing the program, I had no clue what the S.T.A.R.T program entailed. I honestly thought it was like any other lower level Obedience class offered at DDTC. I was very, very wrong.

The S.T.A.R.T program, which stands for Save, Train, Adopt, Remain Together, was formed between the HSGD and DDTC to help train dogs on a higher level than what could be provided by the in-shelter volunteers.

Originally brought to life by Darlene Rak and Mary Kemphus, it has grown through the years into what it is today. The shelter can be a rough atmosphere for any animal, regardless of how well behaved they are, and this program not only provides them meaningful time away from the chaos of the kennel, but gives them an opportunity to work one on one in an unique environment.

Linda's team consists of herself plus three other highly dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer instructors including Rosa Delk, Michael Hughes and Dyanne Johnson. The team splits Rings 2,3,6 and 7 accordingly based on how many dogs are coming each week. Oftentimes they must adjust on the fly as adoptions can change their roster at a moment's notice, but they take it in stride.

Each ring contains activities that are carefully thought out and planned in a structured program that this team has been working on and developing for years. They introduce the dogs to a variety of obstacles and surfaces, getting a feel for their level of confidence and any fears they may exhibit.



Rosa Delk and assistant Arina with volunteer Julie and adoptable dog Rufus

Each instructor watches the dog and its volunteer as they work their way through the ring, noting things such as leash behavior, motivation and general skill level. With each ring serving a different purpose, the dogs are rotated from ring to ring during the hour-long class so each instructor gets a chance to see something new.

One of the most beneficial parts of this program is that at the end

of each session, the instructors combine their feedback and provide it to the shelter. This is invaluable information for the shelter as they work to improve the behavior of their residents and aid in their adoptions. They learn if the dogs are motivated by toys or treats, if they have issues with stairs or other obstacles, how they react to men versus women, how quickly they learn new commands, how well they walk on a leash, and what commands they already have down pat.



Volunteer Kim with adoptable puppy Lovie

They take note of the dog's health as well, mentioning if they spot anything unusual that the shelter may need to address upon their return.



Learning that Billy doesn't like treats, but he loves toys!

While some dogs only come once before finding their forever home, others can be frequent flyers. "My favorite thing about the program is when the dogs come to the point where we put enough manners on them that they get adopted," says Linda. Each week they hope to see a new batch of dogs, but sometimes they have a few that require a little extra love and return a few weeks in a row. These are the dogs that make all the hard work truly worth it. "When we finally see a dog that we really struggle with and we finally make a difference.... When you work with a dog and see that breakthrough," Rosa says as she goes into a story about some of her longer-attending "students."

So much thought, time, and love has been put into this program and it's one of the lesser-known contributions that DDTC brings to the greater Dayton community. Any family that adopts a S.T.A.R.T dog is invited to come back weekly to finish out the session with that dog for free. Adopters are also given vouchers, sometimes donated by the instructors themselves, to ensure they continue their training.

It is clear how deeply invested the team is in not only the success of the program but more importantly in the success of the dogs. If you have the time, I highly suggest stopping by and seeing what it's all about!



Lovie loves belly rubs and loves to please!

If you're interested in helping with the S.T.A.R.T program, the team would love for people to come assist during class time, Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and learn how they set up and move the dogs through the class. They currently only have one substitute that knows the program, and they could always use more!

Basenjis, Bostons, and Papillons, Oh My! *Holly Jergens*

We are lucky to have a diverse membership at DDTC, one that celebrates dogs from all walks of life and dogs who participate in a variety of activities. Whether it's supporting rescues through the S.T.A.R.T. program or offering Conformation drop-ins to the next generation of Best in Show hopefuls, DDTC values all dogs and their humans.

There is often a divide seen in the dog community, one that separates rescue puppies from breeder puppies, All-Americans from Pure Breds, etc. Personally, I think there is beauty to be found in both endeavors and both should be celebrated for what they are achieving. You can agree to disagree, as we will always at least agree on one thing: our love of dogs as a whole. There are DDTC members who dedicate so much of their time to rescue organizations and showing the community that no matter where a dog comes from, their potential is limitless. There are also DDTC members who invest just as much time researching and preserving a specific breed of dog - ensuring that healthy traits are passed on from generation to generation.

Out of a mutual respect for both (I volunteered at HSGD for 12+ years and now own a retired Grand Champion), I wanted to spotlight two of our members who have found a love for Conformation and recognize the importance of a well-established and ethical breeding program. Just as we celebrate our fellow Obedience and Agility Champions (etc.), I want to celebrate some of our Conformation Champions as well!

Our first Conformation Owner/ Handler/Breeder is **Jennifer Scott** who owns and breeds Papillons under the kennel name Jet Set. A DDTC club member for 11 years, Jennifer is mostly new to breeding but has been showing dogs in Conformation for 20 years including both Boston Terriers and Papillons. Her first Boston, Piper (Staley's Flying Piper RN AXP AJP), came to her as a puppy in 2000 and after their first obedience class, Jennifer was hooked.



Han Solo - Jennifer's Boston - getting his Championship

She started exploring both Agility and Conformation only to realize that Piper was not destined to be a show dog. Jennifer added Boston

Terrier, Chase, to her family in 2005 with the intention of showing him in Conformation and Agility, and he went on to become her first Conformation Champion (CH) and Agility Champion (MACH), earning the name CH MACH3 PACH Katbird's Leading The Chase RN MXB2 MJS2 MXP5 MXPS MJP3 MJPB PAX THD. It was during her initial Conformation days that Jennifer found

admiration for the competitors in the the Bred by Exhibitor class, as they had beautiful representations of their breed. This sparked her interest in the world of breeding.

With the help of two mentors, one for each of her preferred breeds, Jennifer spent time learning everything she could about her breeds, understanding their standards and any health concerns. She learned the importance of specific health testing and how breed parent club websites can be a

wealth of information.

Jennifer shares some of her most loved facets of Conformation shows - the beautiful, well-bred dogs, the wide variety of breeds, the dog show community and friendships, the competition and training and of course, shopping for dog show items. If there's one thing we all love besides our dogs, it's shopping for our dogs.

Most recently, Jennifer and her Papillon, Dani, have been finding great success in the show ring including recently finishing her



Dani and Jennifer

championship on August 14! Dani, now CH Jet Set's Get Your Motor Runnin' RN OA OAJ NF CGC TKI, is Jennifer's second Bred By Champion, with her Papillon, Cruise, being her other Bred By Champion.

Our second Conformation Owner/ Breeder is **Tracy Leonard**, **BS**, **DVM** who owns and breeds Basenjis under the kennel name Select Basenjis.



Benny getting his CH

Tracy has been a DDTC member for 38 years, just two years shy of the 40 years she has spent breeding and showing dogs. Tracy first learned about Basenjis as a little girl, having grown up down the street from one and thinking it was the coolest dog! Her first Basenji, Scout, was a gift from her husband Jeff and went on to become CH Reliant Diamond Jubilee LCM SC CDX TT.

Scout's breeders, John and JoAnn Harper, became Tracy's first ever mentors, encouraging her and Jeff to show Scout. Lynn Cates introduced them to Conformation and Obedience clubs, which led to Tracy joining the Dayton Kennel Club and DDTC. She also attributes her love of lure coursing to KC Artley and has since joined the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana Gazehound Organization. As

you'll notice in the Brags, Tracy's Basenjis have been excelling in both Conformation and Fast-CAT!

Tracy's first litter, whelped in 1988, produced their Best in Show, Best in Field and High in Trial Can Ch/DCh Select Information CD SC FCh TT SDHR "Data." Data and his sister Ziggy (DCh Select Spontaneous Combustion SC TT

LCM BBHR) became the first AKC Dual Champion Basenjis in 1994. Since then, they have continued to breed for type and performance, maintaining an individual that is close to the AKC breed standard AND loves to chase white kitchen garbage bags attached to a string!

Basenjis are considered a primitive breed and possibly one of the oldest canine breeds in existence.

Preserving the size, temperament and coat so that "form follows function" is important to Tracy in her breeding program; however, she does note "Breeding dogs is a labor of love. Don't plan on making money because you will be disappointed". Love for the breed and its preservation and love for money seem to be what separates reputable breeding programs from the coined "backyard breeders."



Benny getting his BCAT



Benny getting his Grand CH

While one of Tracy's fondest memories is Data winning Best in Show and the Canadian Basenji National, one of her more recent wins includes Benny finishing his AKC Grand Championship with a Best of Breed five-point major, followed by earning his BCAT to become GCH Select Epic Into da Swing BCAT.

If you have ever chosen to watch the National Dog Show instead of football (or maybe flipped back and forth between the two) on Thanksgiving day, then you understand and can appreciate the love that breeders, owners, and handlers pour into their Conformation pups. Or maybe you flip between the Super Bowl and the Puppy Bowl, which features adoptable puppies from rescues. Either way, it's our love of dogs and celebrating what they add to our lives, families and homes that brings us together.

Whether they're a champion of the ring or a champion of the couch, we love them all just the same.

BRAGS!



Smoulder

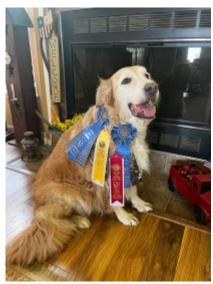
Beauceron "Smoulder" won Best of Opposite Sex and Owner Handled Best of Breed at the Beauceron Regional Specialty in Greeley, CO, in September. He also received his Exterior Novice Title at the Hamilton Scent Work trial, earning his overall Scent Work Novice Title (SWN) making him GCHB Smoulder du Joie de Vie CD RE FDC DCAT SWN CGC TKN FITS. Smoulder is owned and handled by Cindy Akers.



Addie

Linda Bingman and "**Addie**" competed August 16-17 at the DDTC Scent Work Trial in Excellent Buried. She had two qualifying scores with a 2nd place.

Linda Bingman and Golden Retriever "**Drake**" competed in DDTC's Scent Work Trial August 16-17. He had two qualifying runs with a 2nd and 3rd place. He finished his Scent Work Novice Interior Elite title and his overall Scent Work Novice Elite title.



Drake

Whippet Pinnacle Top Gun Maverick's Need for Speed FITB DS "Maverick" earned his first Dock Diving title, Dock Senior (DS), in August at the Battle of the Breeds at K9 Splash Zone. He received a gold medal because the Whippets came in first place. He also received a 2nd place silver medal as he jumped 23'9," the second farthest Whippet jump of the competition. Owner Tammy Brewer is very proud of him as he is just 15 months old and only just learned to dock dive in late July.



Maverick



Rook

Rat Terrier "Rook" attended his first ever NADD Dock Diving competition in August and decided to bypass the Novice, Junior, and Senior divisions and go right for the Master division. He earned his Dock Master (DM) title his first weekend out! He even got a qualifying jump at the Elite level with an 18'3" jump, his personal best. Rook is owned by **Kim Buchhalter**.

Smooth Coat Border Collie Cf Blitz OA OAJ AJP NFP SWN TKA "Blitz" and owner Brittany Hickman had a stellar weekend at their first Scent Work trial, finishing all 4 of their Novice Scent Work Titles. They qualified in 14 out of 16 searches and brought home a High in Trial ribbon. Brittany is proud to be a part of a dog club with such a wonderful program and top notch instructors that volunteer their time to teach us 'this game'.



Blitz

Basenji "Benny" had an excellent summer. This summer at the Grand River Kennel Club show on July 13, Benny took Best of Breed for a five-point major to finish his AKC Grand Championship! Later in the month, he finished his BCAT title at the Ft. Steuben Kennel Club FastCAT. Benny is now GCH Select Epic Into da Swing BCAT and is bred, owned, and loved by Jeff and Tracy Leonard of Select Basenjis.

[Editor's Note: See pages 10-11 for photos of Benny in the article, "Basenjis, Bostons, and Papillons, Oh My!"]



Link (above)
Mercy (below)



Australian Cattle Dog "Link" went Select Dog and BOB-OH with a Group 1 finish. Link is owned and shown by Julie and Ron Mullins.

Australian Cattle Dog GCHB Cobbers for Lack of Better Judgement FDC AX AXJ BCAT "Mercy" went Select for two points at the Lexington Kennel Club to earn her Bronze Grand Championship title. She is owned and shown by Julie and Ron Mullins.

Cardigan Welsh Corgi "Crackerjack" or "CJ" for short, earned an impressive MACH 4 at the Queen City agility trial the first weekend of August. CJ is owned by **Kathy Roberts**.



Papillon 4 Paws Kisses of an Angel CD RA BCAT ACT2 SWE TKI "Mila" completed her Scent Work Excellent Title at the DDTC trial with three 1st place awards! Mila is owned and loved by Joan Stoppelman.



Míla

Aussie AGCH MACH6 ATCH3 Landslide Be Careful What You Ask For MXS3 MJS3 MFS2 PDG PJC TQX T2B10 "**Bailey**" got her MACH 6 at the July DDTC Agility Trial.

Golden Retriever MACH1 Rradac Mia Just Let Me Run MXB MJS PAD PJD MFS T2B3 "**Mia**" got her MACH 1 the next day!

Both pups are loved and owned by **Ron Seiter**.



Bailey and Mia



A League of Their Own

As with most dog sports, agility is an individual team effort between the handler and dog in which they must make their way through obstacle after obstacle to gain Qs, points, and titles. In 2022, AKC decided to pilot a program that would take this individualized team experience and add a communal aspect, creating teams of 3 to 8 dogs with their handlers to compete on a regional and national level. And thus, AKC Agility League began!

Going on its third year as a program, Agility League found its way onto the DDTC turf as handlers came together to form teams and compete. League features 3 seasons a year, each containing 12-week sessions during which teams build and run 6 courses. The teams not only have to build the courses, but wheel/ measure each course and judge each other's runs for faults. Final times are turned into scores that are submitted to AKC and each dog's score is averaged together for a final team score. The faster and cleaner the runs, the higher the scores. Teams not only compete nationally and regionally for rankings, but dogs are also nationally ranked by breed. Awards are sent out for topranked dogs and teams at the end of each season.

To make things as fair as possible, there are different divisions that teams can enter. Elementary and Freshman teams are dogs that have yet to earn any agility titles and are just learning the ropes. Sophomore teams are generally dogs who are running at the Novice or Open level, and Senior teams are Excellent level and above competitors.

An International option also exists for those interested in ISC-style courses. Dogs are also separated by height classes.

DDTC is currently home to two Senior-level League teams - Bow We Wow and RUN DDTC - run by captains Terri Wyman and Daniela Sowers. The fall season kicks off September 15 as the teams ready themselves to kick off another year of competition. The teams change members every so often with some members having been around since DDTC started participating and others being fairly new. Sara Deem is entering her second season, having joined to garner more full course experience and improve her execution and handling confidence. Sara and her Shetland Sheepdog, Melody, find it to be a relaxing and encouraging environment and they aren't the only ones. Pam Murn runs with her Golden Retriever, Scout, and finds the biggest benefit of running in League to be a more relaxed feeling while tackling a course.

While League is a competition, it's also a fantastic training environment full of encouragement and advice from a variety of handlers all with different levels of knowledge. While trying to accommodate the schedules of every handler and balance this schedule with the club's calendar proves a challenge at some points, the accomplishments are well worth it in the end. Many of our League's members place not only in the top 10 of their breed nationally, but take 1st place. Previous seasons have also seen overall teams place nationally in the top 20 which is quite impressive.

While it's nice to have an extra arena in which to compete, AKC Agility League has also given these pups and their handlers extra time to hone their skills and support each other in their agility journeys - something they also could not do without the support of DDTC and the Agility Director, Rita Drewry.

Lucy Hayes currently runs both of her bulldogs, Stella and Lola, on team RUN DDTC and seems to sum up everyone's experience nicely. "It's such a supportive environment for us and our teammates to push each other to strive for better skills or to try things we didn't

know we/our dogs could do!"



Explore Fall Farms with Your Furry Friends *Holly Jergens*

One of the best parts about living in the midwest is that come Fall time, the farms in the area come alive with seasonal activities aplenty. From corn mazes and apple picking to hay rides and pumpkin patches, Ohio is not in short supply of fun Fall activities. And lucky for us, plenty of farms in the area are dog-friendly so you can enjoy all the season has to offer with every member of your family!

Below is a list of vetted dogfriendly farms that offer fall activities for all ages (and species!). If you catch the author's notes, you'll see I've had some fun personal experiences with a lot of these places. Stop by one or two and pick up some pumpkins, try a new fall treat, or explore a corn maze. Maybe you'll even make lasting memories like I have.

Young's Dairy Farm Yellow Springs, OH

You can't go to Young's Dairy in the fall without trying their pumpkin or cinnamon ice cream. Take



Young's Dairy



Schappacher Farms

it with you as you and your pup explore the corn maze or the pumpkin patches. Grab a loaf of sweet potato or pumpkin bread from the Dairy Store or try their famous cheese curds with a dessert of cinnamon sugar pumpkin donut holes. There's lots of land to explore with your dog and activities galore from minigolf to the brand new carousel. [Fun fact: My husband and I had our engagement pictures taken in the fall at Young's!]

Schappacher Farms Mason, OH

Looking for a large variety of specialty pumpkins, gourds, or squash? Bring your pup to Schappacher farms to explore their six patches and free corn maze and hayride. There are train rides for your littles, jumbo-sized yard games, and tasty fall snacks from the barn. Slingshot some pumpkins or chow down on a caramel apple while you enjoy the fall festivities with your dog. [Another fun fact: we helped plan and execute my brother-in-law's engagement here!]

Kleather's Pumpkin Patch Springboro, OH

Kleather's is a great option if you're looking for something small and not overwhelming. Located on the front lawn of an old home in Sprinboro, Kleather's is optimal for a quick stop when you don't want to spend all day to get your fall fix. They provide great picture opportunities for you and your pups while also offering great fall shopping and treats. Stop by to pick up a pumpkin or some mums, try their apple cider slushie, and take some cute fallthemed pics with your pups! This was Bailey's first ever pumpkin patch!

Irons Fruit Farm Lebanon, OH

Check out the themed, crazy corn maze that Irons Fruit Farm comes up with every year, or select your favorite pumpkin from their patch. Known for their fruit and apples, snag a fruit pie, fritter, fried pie, tart, or turnover. Dogs are welcome to join in the festivities as long as you keep them leashed and clean up after them.



Lucas Bros. Fall Fest



Kleather's Pumpkin Patch

Sizemore Farm Miamisburg, OH

Just outside of Miamisburg, take a hay ride on Sizemore Farms while enjoying a fresh batch of kettle corn, washed down with some fresh apple cider. Pumpkins are plentiful, and the apples are ripe for picking. Explore the farm and snag a pic of your pup in one of the cute Sizemore Farms wagons.

Lucas Bros. Fall Fest at Candlebrook Farms Bellbrook, OH

The Fall Fest at Candlebrook Farms covers a wide range of activities that are great for families with little kids. This includes a hayride that your dog can enjoy, a larger corn maze for adults and a mini kid-friendly maze, peddle bikes, farm animals, and pumpkin picking. There are children's play areas as well as a shop with a full-service grill (think hamburgers, hotdogs) for meals. [Final fun fact: I helped plan and execute my friend's daughter's engagement here!]

Lynd Fruit Farm Pataskala, OH

Depending on how adventurous you want to be, Lynd Fruit Farm offers two corn mazes - either 8 acres or 1 acre - that you can explore with your pup. There are

pumpkin patches for picking as well as a market for buying other items. Shoot at targets with the apple cannon or visit the farm animals at the petting zoo. Looking for a cozy campfire experience? Rent one of their campfires with a s'mores package for roasting!



Kleather's Pumpkin Patch

Fall in Love with Hocking Hills *Holly Jergens*



Kayaking

As a lover of Fall, changing leaves, hiking, and spending time with my husband and dogs outdoors, we have frequented Hocking Hills many times over the years. Nestled slightly northeast of South Bloomington, OH, Hocking Hills State Park is a quick 1.75-2.5 hour drive from the Dayton area (depending upon your starting location). Whether you plan an out-and-back day trip or a long weekend, it's an excellent escape to enjoy some outdoor time with your pup as the temperatures begin to cool off. Not interested in hiking? There's plenty of other activities (some dog friendly, some not) including the more adventurous kayaking/canoeing and zip-lining to the more relaxing spa days and antique perusing.

First and foremost, Hocking Hills is known for its hiking, but don't count it out as a nice fall day or weekend trip if hiking isn't your jam. Start your day at the Hocking Hills Flea Market, open from sunup to 5:00 p.m., Friday through Sunday, just up the road in Rockbridge. Stop by Oasis Coffee Shop to grab a unique caffeine fix before you explore all the tables

and stalls set up for the market. The year-round permanent stores offer everything from antiques to amish furniture to fresh meats and cheeses. Grab lunch at Chelle's 33 Diner before a game of mini-golf. Dogs may not be welcome in all the stores but can roam the various outdoor market stalls with you if kept on leash. Chelle's Diner also has outdoor seating. You can learn more about the market at www.hockinghillsmarket.com.

If you're interested in hiking but fear you or your dog can't go too far, head towards Ash Cave, stopping by the Hocking Hills State Park Visitor Center on your way. Ash Cave is one of two wheelchair-friendly "hikes" in the area and has a paved path leading to the main attraction - Ash Cave. If the water is high enough due to recent rain you'll be lucky enough to see the waterfall cascading down into the center. If needed, you can turn back on the paved path to return to the parking lot. All other hikers must continue forward and face the slightly strenuous stair climb ahead. Looking for a little more? Head up the road to Conkle's Hollow where a portion of the Gorge Trail is paved and wheelchair accessible. Just be sure to leave your pup in the car as Conkles Hollow trails are not pet-friendly.

If you're just around for the day, grab a late afternoon drink and snack at the Hocking Hills Winery before making your way back to Dayton. The winery offers a dog-friendly patio and a light menu of curated charcuterie boards, sharable salads, and pizza. Choose a glass of one of their house wines, sample a variety with a wine flight, or indulge in a wine slushy. Designated drivers



Hiking with the pups

also have their choice of nonalcoholic beverages, and kids under 21 are welcome.

Maybe you're headed to Hocking Hills and looking to rack up some miles on your hiking shoes and your pup's paws. If that's the case, then you have 7 main hikes to choose from and one not-so-well-known hike I prefer that allows my dogs some time in the water. Most of the trails are connected in some way and can be combined for a much longer experience.

- Ash Cave Gorge ¼ mile, Easy, Handicap Accessible
- 2. Ash Cave Rim ½ mile, Moderate, (The stairs!!)
- 3. Cantwell Cliffs 2 miles, Difficult
- 4. Cedar Falls 1 mile, Moderate
- 5. Old Man's Cave 1 mile, Moderate
- 6. Rock House 1 mile, Moderate
- 7. Whispering Cave Trail 4.5 miles, Difficult (includes a swinging hemlock bridge that our dogs were not entirely fond of but braved)

The Buckeye Trail and Gorge Overlook Trail also connect within the State Park and provide much longer hiking opportunities to those interested. One of my favorites is the Rose Lake Trail whose trailhead can be found alongside a random parking area on Route 374. The access trail leads down to the lake and the trail follows the perimeter of Rose Lake. There are many areas where you can stop close to the water and allow your dogs to take a dip. The Rose Lake Trail connects to the Gorge Overlook Trail along the southern edge if you'd like to continue exploring. You can check out one of my favorite Hocking Hills maps at this link: https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/ image/upload/ohiodnr.gov/ documents/parks/parkmaps/ hockinghillstrailmap.pdf

If you and your pup want a different kind of activity, the well-known kayak and canoe rental companies in the area allow dogs on the river. Be sure to follow their rules and bring a life vest for your dog - safety first! Enjoy a day relaxing on the river with your friends - human or furry!

If you plan on staying the weekend, there are plenty of petfiriendly cabins available to rent through apps or websites such as VRBO, AirBNB or even just the Hocking Hills main website. Many cabins offer amenities such as hot tubs and fire pits. It's easy to stock up on weekend essentials at the Walmart in downtown Logan.

If the pups are tired and need a break, leave them at the cabin and

explore some of the unique stores and events around the area - check out the amazing art at the Jack Pine Glass Studio, throw some axes at the Hungry Buffalo, relax and refresh at the Hocking Hills Serenity Salt Cave or the Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls, attend the Hocking Hills Craft Show Fall Fest in October, zipline through the trees for a different kind of view, or maybe take in the trails by horseback.

If you're interested in exploring Hocking Hills for the first time this fall and looking for recommendations, don't hesitate to reach out (email: DDTCClublicity@gmail.com)! There's plenty to see and do with or without your pups and it's a great place to add to your Ohio bucket list!







Pooped pupper in a pet-friendly cabin

OTCH Scout Earns His "PhD" in Obedience

When we choose to add a furry friend to our family, whether it be a puppy through a reputable breeder or a rescue from a shelter,

we tend to have only a limited idea of what awaits us. Disturbed sleep, bathroom accidents, and chewed up shoes and furniture tend to top the list. What we don't know yet, but have the amazing opportunity to experience, is

who our



dog will grow up to be. What will their personality be, what will they enjoy doing and what fun can we have together? Sometimes we miss out on a puppy or dog we thought we needed only to end up with the one for which we were truly destined. And sometimes, the puppy we didn't get to "choose" turns out to be something beyond our wildest dreams. For Pam Murn, this puppy was a Golden Retriever named Scout.

Pam Murn has been a member of DDTC longer than she can remember, but she's guessing 15 to 20 years at this point. Starting out with an Alaskan Malamute, followed by some All-Americans and a Doberman, Pam ended up

with a smart but challenging German Shepherd that brought her back to training classes. Although she loved her shepherd,

> Pam's counselor suggested a Golden Retriever might be a better fit for her personality and eventually helped Pam rehome her shepherd. Next thing she knew. Pam had her first active Golden Retriever and was forever hooked. Her favorite thing about Goldens is

their zest for life and how they love everything about it, always putting a smile on her face.

Scout came into Pam's life as a puppy. After a deal fell through with a litter that Pam waited an entire year for, she found herself late-night perusing Facebook on the Performance Golden Retriever page. Low and behold there was a post about two leftover puppies. After researching the pedigree and deciding it was a great line, Pam reached out. Turns out one of the two puppies was already taken so the last one, Scout, was hers.

Now, at almost 6.5 years young, Scout is a highly versatile and titled dog. In fact, his brag in the last issue of Clublicity was the reason I added the list of titles and what they stand for because I had to look up 99% of the letters in his AKC name. The most recent addition to Scout's name is a prefix of OTCH or Obedience Trial Championship - the highest obedience honor a dog can achieve.

The AKC OTCH title is sometimes referred to as the "PhD" of dog obedience and is a prestigious, challenging title that requires great skill and consistency from the dog/human team. It is a significant achievement - one that requires earning not only previous titles, but 100 OTCH points by placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th in Open B and Utility B competitions, three first place wins with at least one each in Open B and Utility B and all this must occur under at least three different judges.

As if this wasn't enough of an honor for Scout, he has THREE other prefixes to his name including MACH2 (two Masters Agility Champion titles), CHTD (Trick Dog Champion) and UUD (UKC United Utility Dog). I'll let you count the suffixes below but they include other titles in Obedience, Versatility, Utility, Trick Dog, Agility, Hunting/Tracking, Rally, Canine Good Citizen, Working (GRCA), Conformation (GRCA), FastCAT, Dock Diving, and Companion Dog.

OTCH MACH2 CHTD UUD Prr's Lookin for the Wild Life VCD2 UDX3 OM4 BN VER RE JH MXS MXG MXF T2B2 BCAT CGC TKE DJ VM WCX CCA

Just let all that sink in for a minute...

When asked how she got involved in so many different sports, Pam admitted she's probably a little A.D.D. To me, it sounds like she just has an appetite for something new and fun and won't say no when it comes her way. Her first Golden got her into Tracking; friends talked her into trying Freestyle; Agility looked like fun; Carl Holzhauer, a close friend, hosted a field training class; and on top of that, she wanted to add some versatility titles. Because why not?

While Pam is experienced in Trick Dog, Freestyle, Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and Hunting from previous dogs, Scout has introduced her to the world of FastCAT and has brought her the first MACH, OTCH, UDX, and OM titles of her impressive dog training career. It is hard for her to choose a favorite, however, and she just genuinely enjoys whatever she's doing with Scout at that moment. Scout, on the other hand, leans towards Trick Dog because what dog wouldn't love high value treats and lots of them?? Scout is great at learning tricks, often offering tricks on his own if the props aren't put away and expecting a treat for his ingeniousness. He loves to interact with Fit Dog equipment and is drawn to them like a kid in a candy store.

Scout may have one of the most prestigious names, but just like any other dog he has his silly quirks. A lover of all treats and big, soft stuffies, Scout is a big tease. Pam says he's got eyes that double dare you to engage in his game. Good luck if you do - he's a talented pup!

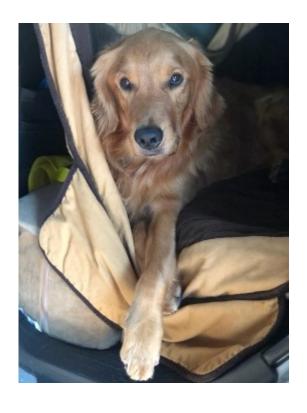
If you're looking to explore a wide variety of dog sports, Pam says "Do it. Try it. The more your dog learns the more he will be able to do. Knowledge transfers."

Don't think that Obedience pups can't succeed at Agility or vice versa. "One sport does not ruin another sport." Challenges arise in every sport and patience, time, and training can get you anywhere.

On top of that, we also get by with a little help from our friends. Pam would like to thank the people who have helped her achieve her lofty goals with Scout. Yvonne Mancino helped with her agility handling skills as well as many other DDTC and Gem City instructors. Jolene Crawford's knowledge of proofing for Open and Utility was invaluable to Pam when she got stuck around the 50 point mark for her OTCH. Her Thursday training partners have provided great advice and examples of what it takes to train an OTCH dog. Carl Holzhauer was instrumental in achieving their Tracking title, and Pam attributes his generous contribution of his time, instruction, and use of his property to their Hunting and Working titles.

Many others have helped Team Scout along the way, and Pam considers him the Most Valuable Player on their dog/human team. He has a sound structure coupled with confidence in his abilities that leads him to be comfortable in his environment. His stellar temperament and willingness to play the games has allowed them to achieve so much, on top of Pam's interest and research in learning theory, behaviorism, and training.

So what's next for this pup of all trades? Maybe a little Freestyle, definitely more Tracking and Rally, and spending more time on the Agility turf. Whatever this team chooses to do, their goal is to have fun doing it.





Warm Up This Fall with Chili

The days are slowly getting shorter, bringing a chill to the evenings that generally has us seeking warmth and comfort. What better way to bask in the glory of fall than to dig into a big bowl of warm chili? I'm a huge chili fan but cannot handle spice. The two recipes below deliver big flavor without burning the taste buds. They are commonly served at Queen City agility trials - if you know, you know. If you prefer a little more spice, just add more!

Chilly-Night Chili (red chili)

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp chili powder
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 lb hamburger meat
- 1 can tomato soup, undiluted
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 large onion, chopped

Instructions

- Brown the meat and onion in a little butter in a large pot - approx 10 minutes
- Add everything else and let it simmer covered for half an hour

Enjoy!

Recipe provided by QCDTC member but can be found at https://www.bigoven.com/recipe/chilly-night-chili/66141

Southwest Chicken Chili (white chili)

Ingredients

- 2 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts (thawed)
- 1 can super sweet corn, drained
- 2 tbsp ranch seasoning mix
- 1 can tomatoes
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tbsp cumin

- 1 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tbsp onion powder
- 8 oz cream cheese
- Optional: sub a chopped onion for onion powder
- Optional: add a can or two of green chilies

Instructions

- Place thawed chicken in a crockpot
- Top with corn, tomatoes and black beans (if using chopped onion instead of powder, add onion here)
- Add ranch seasoning mix, cumin, chili powder, and onion powder. Stir
- Add softened cream cheese and cook on low for 6-8 hours, stirring occasionally to blend cream cheese
- Using two forks, shred the chicken into smaller pieces
- Top with shredded cheese or crispy tortilla strips and enjoy!



Pumpkin and Your Pups

It is officially pumpkin season! While you're enjoying your pumpkin spice lattes and pumpkin pie, don't forget to share a healthy pumpkin based treat with your pup.

While dogs cannot have pumpkin spice, they can benefit greatly from pumpkin based treats or pumpkin food toppers. Pumpkin in its pure, natural form is high in vitamins, minerals and fiber which makes it a great ingredient to help with doggie digestion. Be sure that when adding pumpkin to your dog's diet in any form, that you check for harmful ingredients including added sugar, sodium or spices. If you aren't using pumpkin products made specifically for dogs, be careful to check the ingredients and never confuse pumpkin with pumpkin pie filling.

A bit of pumpkin with your dog's food can help with tummy issues such as constipation or diarrhea. It can add vitamins A, C and E as well as iron and potassium to their diet in a healthy, tasty way. You can even clean and roast fresh pumpkin seeds (sans salt) to grind up as a food topper or as a crunchy treat for larger dogs where choking is not a hazard.

Below are some simple pumpkin-based dog treats you can make at home to share with your furry riends!

Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree (check the ingredients list!)
- ½ cup dog-safe peanut butter (check the ingredients list - no xylitol!)

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375F
- Mix pumpkin, peanut butter and flour in a large bowl to form a dough
- Roll the dough onto a floured surface

- Use a cookie cutter to cut out treat shapes
- Bake for 12 minutes

Banana Pumpkin Dog Treats

Ingredients:

- 3 cups whole wheat flour (extra for dusting your surface)
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree (check the ingredients list!)
- 1 banana, mashed

Directions

- Preheat over to 350F
- Mix eggs, banana, pumpkin and flour until all flour is incorporated
- Roll the dough onto a floured surface to 1/8" thickness
- Use a cookie cutter to cut out treat shapes
- Bake for 20 minutes

Chili con came and cheddar cheese - Arlington, MA.jpg and Pumpkin Sitting on Sauvie Island.jpg: Wikimedia Commons Public Domain

Pet Sympathy / Sunshine Report (August 2025) Mary Savage

PET SYMPATHY

Caroline (Border Collie) Deb Monahan

SUNSHINE

Sue and Russ Peterson

DEATHS

Shirley Hicks, mother of Tracy Leonard

David Vrabel, husband of Maryanne Vrabel

If you have a Pet Sympathy/Sunshine concern you'd like to share with the club please give me a call at 937-836-5280, or you can email me at clifford414@hotmail.com

Thanks, Mary Savage



Creator: Parée, pareeerica.

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DDTC EVENTS

Agility Trials

Oct. 11-12 – GOASC Oct. 24-26 – DDTC Nov. 21-23 – CCKC

Dec. 13-14 – Greenville CPE

Obedience/Rally Trials

Oct. 17-19 - DDTC

FIT Dog Walks

Oct. 7 – Great Miami River Trail Nov. 8 – Big-Little Trail Medlar Conservation Area

Holiday Party

Dec. 6

Club Meetings

Oct. 20 – Board Meeting Nov. 7 – General Membership Meeting

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Agility Trials

Oct. 18-19 – CPE at Gem City Nov. 1-2 – AKC at Queen City Nov. 7-9 – AKC at Queen City Nov. 7-9 – AKC at Incredipaws Nov. 14-16 – AKC at Incredipaws Nov. 15-16 – CPE at Gem City Dec. 6-7 – AKC at Queen City Dec. 13-14 – AKC at Gem City

Dec. 27-28 – AKC at Queen City

Barn Hunt

Oct. 18-19 - Gem City

Conformation

Nov. 15-16 – CCC UKC at Gem City

Obedience/Rally

Nov. 15-16 – CCC UKC at Gem City (Rally) Nov. 29-30 – Queen City Dec. 6-7 – WCRL at Gem City (Rally)

DOG-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Oct. 11 – PetFest 2025 at Delco Park (Kettering, OH)

Oct. 15-18 – Circleville Pumpkin Show (Circleville, OH)

Oct. 18 – Pets, Pastries, and Pumpkins at SICSA Pet Adoption Center (Dayton, OH)

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Oct. } 18-\text{Howl-O-Ween} \\ \text{at Columbus Commons (Columbus, OH)} \end{array}$

Oct. 25 – Red Dog's Bark or Treat at MadTree Brewing (Cincinnati, OH)

Oct. 30 – Howl-O-Ween Yappy Hour at Rosedale OTR (Cincinnati, OH)

Nov. 15 – Pet Afflaire Gala with Humane Society of Greater Dayton (Dayton, OH)

Nov. 22 – Howliday Bazaar at Franklin County Dog Shelter (Columbus, OH)

Dec. 7 – Photos with Santa at Heather's Gourmet Caramel Apples (Springboro, OH)



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