

THE SCOOPER



MOC AGILITY MILESTONE

*“Diane stated MOC will host AKC agility events.”
- January 3, 1996 MOC General Meeting Minutes*

The minutes of the January 1996 MOC General Meeting record that Diane Weisbrodt made a simple statement at that meeting. MOC will host agility events. According to the minutes, no motion was made, no discussion took place and no vote was taken. But a process was set in motion nevertheless. During much of 1996, the Club worked on building and buying the necessary agility equipment. On September 28, 1996, MOC hosted an AKC Agility Match at Tropical Park. There were 16 entries and things were not exactly smooth, but it was enough to get AKC approval to host agility trials. The process culminated on January 18 and 19, 1997 when MOC held its first AKC Agility Trial. At the time, MOC's Members had no idea what the future would hold. They were simply having fun with their dogs and fun with their friends.

We have now entered our 20th year of AKC agility trials. Our latest agility trial, held on January 28 -31, was another wonderful and successful event. Next January, we will celebrate our 20th anniversary of hosting AKC agility trials. This is a truly remarkable achievement and it has been made possible by the dedication of MOC as an organization and the dedication, hard work and effort of numerous MOC Members through the years. We have made, and continue to make, a positive contribution to our community, to the AKC and to the sport of agility, and we should all take a great deal of pride in that effort.

JANUARY 2016 AGILITY TRIAL IS NOW HISTORY

MOC's latest agility trial, held on January 28 - 31, can be summarized in three words: SMOOTH, FUN, WELCOMING. Despite weather that ranged from muggy to monsoon to windy to brisk to perfect, the collective experience of MOC in hosting agility events shined through the whole time.



Jan Shad and Ginny Guin unloading tunnels during Wednesday set up.



Patti Lieb finishes her run with Amanda while Judge David Hirsch watches.



Tracy Hanna running with Flex while Judge Karen Couch looks on.



January 2016 Agility Trial Event Committee (l to r)
Patti Lieb, Peter Liu, Wien Yu, Cecilia Armesto, Ginny Guin, Shari Griffith,
Sally Richardson, Cindy Smith, Mike Smith, Trina Chicvara

MOC COMMITTEES FOR 2016

Now that our elections for Officers and Directors for the new fiscal year are behind us, our Committees are being formed. The initial list of Committee members is set forth below, but it is not too late. If you are interested in joining any of these Committees, please contact the Committee Chair.

Obedience Training Committee

Jane Davidson - Chair
All Active Training Instructors

Obedience Match Committee

Cecilia Armesto - Chair
Mylene Arza
Patti Lieb

Membership Committee

Wien Yu - Chair
Mylene Arza
Patti Lieb

Agility Judges Committee

Wien Yu - Chair
Tracy Hanna
Patti Lieb
Peter Liu
Mike Smith

Obedience Trial Committee and Obedience Show Committee

Claire Sidran - Chair
Trina Chicvara
Ginny Guin
Janet Perales
Beverly Skilling
Debra Willey
Laurie Zisman

Agility Trial Committee

Patti Lieb - Chair
Cecilia Armesto
Mylene Arza
Tracy Hanna
Peter Liu

Constitution Committee

Mike Smith - Chair
Trina Chicvara
Sally Richardson

Finance Committee

Mike Smith - Chair	Mylene Arza
Ginny Guin	Mike Lieb
Peter Liu	

Patti Lieb is also an ex-officio member of all Committees.

AKC AGILITY COURSE TEST EVENT

As The Scooper first reported in the November 2015 edition, the AKC is launching a new beginner level agility event that it calls an Agility Course Test (ACT). A copy of the official AKC announcement concerning ACT is set forth below.



The AKC Agility Department is excited to announce the launch of a new, beginning level agility program called ACT (Agility Course Test). The ACT program officially launches on March 1, 2016.

This program is designed to introduce beginning dogs and handlers to the sport of agility. There are two classes – ACT 1 and ACT2. Clubs and trainers can adopt the ACT classes as the graduation exercise for their training classes to be held at their facility thus providing their students a familiar and comfortable setting. The ring size requirements are small enough that ACT classes can be held in many training facilities across the country. In addition to preparing for these introductory classes, exhibitors will learn to do things such as to enter an AKC event, check-in at the ring, prepare for their run, and handle their dog while under judgment. We hope that clubs and trainers will use these classes as learning experiences.

There are several elements of the ACT program that are different from AKC Agility Trials.

Eligibility to enter: This program is for dogs that do not have an AKC Agility title at the Novice level or higher. Dogs may enter ACT2 without having an ACT1 title. Dogs that are not registered/listed with the AKC may participate and their performance will be recorded under a temporary recording number. Owners will receive a letter from the AKC explaining how they can register their dogs. Application to be listed as a Canine Partner may be accepted at the test and submitted with the results.

Judges/Evaluators: All AKC agility judges may judge the ACT classes. In addition we will be setting up a system for trainers and experienced participants to become ACT evaluators. Evaluators may judge ACT classes. There will be an application, online test and nominal fee to become an evaluator. More information about becoming an ACT evaluator will be available within the next couple of weeks.

Holding ACT events: Any AKC agility judge/ACT evaluator may hold a stand-alone ACT event. The event does not have to be held by an AKC licensed club. AKC agility clubs may hold ACT events in conjunction with their trials if they desire.

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AKC AGILITY COURSE TEST EVENT

(continued from page 5)

Jump Heights: No jump height card is required to enter an ACT class. Handlers are encouraged to have their dogs jump at the appropriate height that will help them prepare for AKC Agility trials.

Event Applications: Clubs or judges/evaluators do not need to file an application for ACT events; there will be no application fee. A \$5.00 per entry recording fee for all dogs entered will be submitted with the results. **Courses:** Evaluators and judges will need to submit their courses for review; however, courses may be reused, which we encourage for ease of administration.

Titles: Dogs must receive two passing scores to earn each of the ACT titles. Dogs are required to be fully registered/listed in order to be awarded a title.

There will be an ACT page on the AKC website where forms and information can be accessed. We have also set up a mailbox for the ACT program act@akc.org. ACT related questions can be sent to this mailbox. Please see the regulations and other information as it becomes available on the ACT web page that can be accessed through the [Agility Home Page](#).

We are looking forward to working with clubs, trainers and evaluators to introduce new exhibitors to the sport of agility.

The AKC Agility Department

NEW AKC AGILITY TITLE

In December, the AKC created a new Agility title, the Agility Grand Champion title (AGCH). To earn an AGCH, a dog needs to earn 100 Q's in Masters Standard and Masters JWW, 75 Q's in Masters FAST and Time 2 Beat, and 50 Q's in Premier Standard and Premier JWW. Q's may be earned in either Regular or Preferred Classes, or a combination of both and any Q earned since July 1, 1999 counts towards an AGCH. AGCH titles will start to be awarded in July 2016.

Last year, AKC officials had indicated that the AKC was developing a new Agility title that was designed to support participation in FAST and Time 2 Beat and that would also tie in Premier. It appears that the AGCH title is the result of that effort.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

VARELA VOLUNTEERS



The young men and women volunteers
of Felix Varela High School

At our January Agility Trial, MOC was once again fortunate to have the assistance of volunteers from Felix Varela High School during the weekend. The Scooper asked the students if they would write a Behind the Scenes article explaining the organization and operation of their volunteer team. Two students went to work and their article appears on the next page. These young men and women are our future. They get up very early and give up a precious weekend to come to our trials and help out. They are a treasure. When you see them at future trials, please take a moment to thank them.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

VARELA VOLUNTEERS

“Felix Varela High School has been volunteering at dog shows for a significant amount of years, helping the Miami Obedience, Greater Miami, and Hollywood Kennel clubs with their obedience and agility competitions. The volunteers are from the vet program at Felix Varela. The advisor for the program has connections within these organizations and is able to provide the students with experiences working with not only dogs but the trainers as well. The way this works is that the volunteers are asked to help with the dog shows through the advisor. With a time span of a month to organize our group, we distribute sign up sheets. The week before the show, the students are then contacted by the group leader. After confirming who will be attending, we prepare for the dog show. We give out information such as what type of show it will be, what time it will start, and where it will be held. Upon arrival at the location of the show the students are put straight to work. They build and set up the rings and courses. After the set up of the courses the group leader separates the group into smaller groups that will then be put to work in the rings. Each team is rotated every so often to give everyone an equal break time. The group leaders, which can be between 1 - 3 people, are behind the scenes keeping the groups in order. The leaders walk back and forth between all the rings and the table of volunteers to make sure everyone is doing what needs to be done. Volunteers don't only work in the rings. They assist the trainers and handlers personally as well. They can help by doing anything from lifting a few boxes to packing up the equipment. Varela volunteers are very much appreciated by the organizations because they are able to do a lot of things in a fast and organized manner. And in turn, the volunteers are very grateful for being included in this because of the experiences we gain. Most of the volunteers love dogs and some want to be trainers. We appreciate our opportunity for working with these organizations and are always looking forward to helping.” Gabriel Ramirez and Angelina M. Rivera



SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT . . .

THE MOC CONSTITUTION

The current version of the MOC Constitution dates back to 1982, so we can be forgiven for thinking that it reflects the way that the Club has always been run. The truth of the matter, however, is that the 1982 Constitution made some significant changes to the way MOC had operated for the first 18 years of its existence.

Prior to 1982, the Club year was January 1 through December 31 rather than the current Club year of November 1 through October 31. General

Meetings were held on the third Thursday of each month. Membership dues were \$5 a year. Prospective new members were not required to attend meetings prior to joining the Club.

Under the original MOC Constitution, the duties of the Corresponding Secretary and the Recording Secretary were performed by the same person, who held the title of Secretary. There were seven Board members (the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three others). The Club had a Nominating Committee appointed by the Board that had the responsibility of making nominations for the officer and director positions.

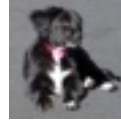
The Club also had a standing Publicity Committee, a standing Advertising Committee, and a standing Auditing Committee. The Auditing Committee was responsible for examining the records of the Treasurer during the last month of each fiscal year and reporting its findings to the Club at the Annual General Meeting. There was no Membership Committee.

Undoubtedly those who were MOC Members in 1982 had good reasons at the time to make the changes to the Constitution that they did. It all serves as a reminder that the needs and the circumstances of the Club do indeed change from time to time.



The Cover of the Original MOC Constitution with Hand Drawn Logo

CRUMBS IN MY POCKET



by Mike Smith

Here we are in 2016 and for most of the year the news will be dominated by the US Presidential elections. There certainly are plenty of candidates and candidate debates, and for those who are interested there is a lot of available information about the candidates' views on foreign policy and immigration, abortion and gun control, health care and taxes. But what I really want to know is how do the candidates relate to dogs. Because to be honest, I am more interested in how the candidates treat dogs, whether it be their own dog or someone else's, than in their policy positions. People generally make decisions based on the information that is available to them and by the time the next President assumes office, they may well change their opinions on matters of policy. But I believe that people show their true colors when they are given a chance to interact with a dog.

So what do the dogs have to tell us about the candidates?

Bernie Sanders and Chris Christie do not have dogs, although Christie cites his children's allergies as the reason for going dogless. Donald Trump's relationship with dogs is shrouded in mystery. His campaign does not respond to questions concerning his status as a pet owner.

Ben Carson has stated that he has had numerous dogs in the past, including his favorite dog, a black German Shepard named Echo who is now deceased. Carson said that he does not have a pet at the moment because he is not home enough to be a responsible pet owner.

Hillary Clinton wrote a book about her pets Socks the cat and Buddy the chocolate Labrador Retriever while she was First Lady. After Buddy died, the Clintons got another chocolate Lab and later added a Toy Poodle named Tally and another small dog named Maisie. The Clintons have spoken of their love of spending time with their dogs.

Martin O'Malley has a Cocker Spaniel named Rex. His former Golder Retriever Lady was something of a local celebrity while he was the Governor of Maryland and the media published moving accounts of when he had to put Lady down.

Jeb Bush used to have a black Labrador Retriever named Marvin. Marvin played a part in Bush's campaign for Governor of Florida.

Ted Cruz adopted a rescue puppy for his young daughters in 2014 and named the puppy Snowflake. Marco Rubio brought home a Shih Tzu puppy in 2013 and named it Manna. Manna has appeared in family Christmas cards. Carly Fiorina has two Yorkshire Terriers, Snickers and Max, and sings songs about them.

So who gets my vote? Let me see each of the candidates interact with their dog, or my dog for that matter, for 15 minutes and I'll let you know.

FROM THE OBEDIENCE DESK

The next CGC test will be offered by Laurie Zisman on February 8, at 7:30, Tropical Park Equestrian Center. Pre-registration is recommended. Cost: \$10

<http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/training-testing/>

DACOF AND DOCOF

DACOF - June 25 - 26

DOCOF - Labor Day Weekend

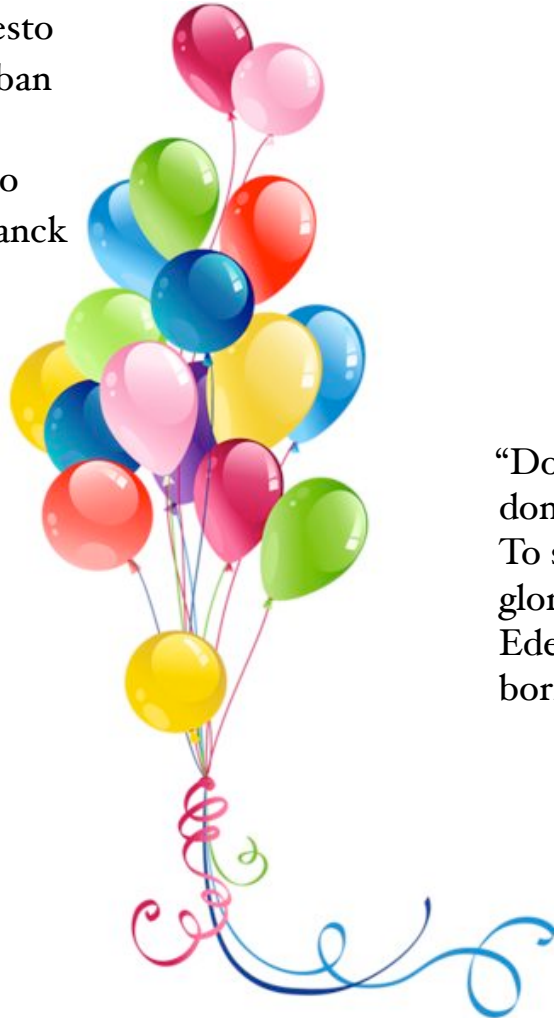
If you have an interest in joining the MOC TEAM please contact Sally Richardson @ emathlar23@aol.com

LOOKING AHEAD - AWARDS CEREMONY and BANQUET will be held on May 4, 2016. Location will be posted on MOC's web site in April.

If you wish to apply for an MOC AKC Title Plaque, the application form and instructions can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Deadline is April 6 at the monthly meeting at Denny's.

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY
WISHES TO MOC
MEMBERS BORN IN
FEBRUARY*

Cecilia Armesto
Sandra Kurzban
Mike Lieb
Cristina Trillo
Teresa Verplanck



Next MOC
Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 3, 2016
7:30PM

DENNY'S
8503 SW 40th ST. (Bird Rd)
Miami

“Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring -- it was peace.” - Milan Kundera

The Scooper can be reached by e-mail at
mocscoper@aol.com

Thank you for reading The Scooper.

Miami Obedience Club, Inc.
Application for MOC's AKC Title Plaque

To be presented at the 2016 Annual Awards Banquet

MAY 4, 2016

(Note: one form per dog. If you wish to apply on behalf of more than one dog, please copy this application and send materials in separate envelopes.)

Deadline is Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the MOC Monthly Membership Meeting

Owner's Name: _____

Owner's Address:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Owner's Phone Number: _____

Dog's Call Name: _____

Dog's Registered Name: _____

Title(s) earned during calendar year 2015 with date each title was officially recorded. (Do not include CGC title)

Title: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Is this a new plaque? Yes No

(If No, please remember to return current plaque to Trina before the deadline for engraving)

Owner's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return application PLUS copies of AKC title certificates and existing plaque (if applicable) either person or mail to:

Trina Chicvara

MOC Annual Awards Banquet Chairperson

15290 SW 104 St. #418

MIAMI, FL 33196

Deadline is APRIL 6, 2016. Verification and engraving take time. No extensions can be allowed. Plaques are for AKC titles ONLY. Plaque recipients **MUST be members in good standing and MUST have attended a minimum of FOUR membership meetings during the year.**