PAWSCRIPTS

DOG TRAINING CLUB OF ST. PETERSBURG www.dtcsp.org (727) 527-5568 October 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall may *not* quite be in the air here in St. Pete, but our October calendar has been packed with excitement! We kicked things off with our first-ever **Speedway Games** fun runs on October 3–4, and what a hit they were—huge thanks to **Linda Lutz, Merilee Beihle** and **Theresa Colbert.** Everyone had a blast learning what it's all about, and we'd love to see it return. For our Agility enthusiasts, we were thrilled to welcome **Barb Davis**, National Champion and World Team member, for a special Agility seminar October 16–18. All working spots were sold out, and Barb said she had never had so many auditors at any of her seminars. Our Halloween Party had to be cancelled, but we are planning a Mardi Gras party near the end of January. There's so much happening, so read on for all the details in this month's edition of *Pawscripts*. See ya at the Club! – *Janice Smith*

DTCSP BULLETIN BOARD

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

There is **No October General Meeting**. The next DTCSP General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, Nov. 19th, at 7pm,** 4400-B 34th St. N., St. Petersburg. The meeting is moved up a week earlier due to Thanksgiving. Elections for our DTCSP 2025 Board of Directors & Trustees will be held at the November General meeting. The nominated slate for the 2025 Board of Directors & Trustees was presented at the September meeting. So, please mark your calendars and plan to attend our DTCSP November General Meeting on Nov. 20th. Guests & well-mannered dogs welcome. For more details see page 8.

DTCSP AKC SCENT WORK, NOV. 20-22

Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg is hosting an AKC Scent Work Trial, 4400-B 34th St. N., St. Petersburg. **CLOSES:** Nov. 9th. Volunteers will be needed, so Mark your calendars. Friday is Detective Class & Handler Discrimination Only. Saturday/Sunday: Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master Classes Only., St Petersburg. **TRIAL SECRETARY:** Bill McDonald, 813-416-6035, gsdbonjon1@aol.com www.dtcsp.com See page 2 for details.

DTCSP AKC AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 27-29

Dog Training Club St. Petersburg is hosting an AKC Agility trial, 4400-B 34th St. N., St. Petersburg. **CLOSES**: Dec. 12th. **TRIAL SECRETARY:** Jacqui O'Neill, 570-594-7922, barc4agility@gmail.com www.barc4agility.com & available soon at: www.dtcsp.com See page 2 for more details.

AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK, DEC. 8-13

This event is being held at the Orange County Convention Center, North/South Building, 9899 International Drive, Orlando. Presented by Royal Canin. For Event Information, including Premiums & Closing Dates see page 9

The Pawscripts Staff wishes you, your family, including your pets, a safe and fun Halloween!

QUICK NOTES FOR TRIALS & EVENTS AT DTCSP

CFTFTC AKC AGILITY TRIAL, OCT. 23
Central Florida Toy Fox Terrier Club, St Petersburg. Trial has **CLOSED**. Volunteers earn DTCSP Volunteer credits, snacks & water. **No lunch provided.** www.dtcsp.org www.floridagility.com

TBAC AKC AGILITY TRIAL, OCT. 24-25
Tampa Bay Agility Club, St Petersburg. Trial has **CLOSED**. Volunteers earn DTCSP Volunteer credits, snacks & water. **No lunch provided.** www.dtcsp.org www.floridagility.com

IPOC AKC AGILITY TRIAL, OCT. 30-NOV. 1
Imperial Polk Obedience Club, St. Petersburg. **CLOSED:** Volunteers Do Not earn DTCSP Volunteer credits. **Judge:** Darryl Warren. www.ipoclakeland.org www.dtcsp.org

DTCT AKC AGILITY TRIAL, NOV. 6-8
Dog Training Club Tampa, St. Petersburg. **CLOSES:** Oct. 24th. This Trial Is Accepting Online Entries Using Labtestedonline.com **JUDGE:** Bonnie McDonald. www.dtct.com www.dtcsp.org

DTCSP AKC SCENT WORK, NOV. 20-22
Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg, St Petersburg. **CLOSES:** Nov. 9th. Volunteers will be needed. Volunteers earn free food & water. Volunteers earn DTCSP Volunteer credits. **Friday**: Detective Class and Handler Discrimination **Saturday/Sunday**: Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master Classes Only **JUDGES:** Wendy Hudson, Bonnie McDonald **TRIAL SECRETARY:** Bill McDonald, 813-416-6035, gsdbonjon1@aol.com www.dtcsp.com
PAPER ENTRIES ONLY – Mail to: Bill McDonald, 25592 Hayman Rd, Brooksville, FL 34602
Overnight or certified mail must be sent with the 'No Signature Required' waiver signed. **No entries accepted at DTCSP.**

DTCSP AKC AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 27-29
Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg. **CLOSES:** Dec. 12 Volunteers will be needed, earn free food & water, and earn DTCSP Volunteer credits. Mark Your Calendar! **JUDGE:** Jeffrey Boyer www.dtcsp.com and www.barc4agility.com

BRAGS & WAGS

Send your news to pawscriptsdtcsp@yahoo.com

RIOT with RATCHX Title Ribbon, High in Class, REMX Q, & Placement Ribbons

RIOT with NJ Title Ribbon, 1st Place & Q Ribbons

In the month of September Riot got two new titles!
At DTCT's Barn Hunt trial Riot got his RATCHX (second barn hunt championship) and went 5/6 in Master B with two High In Class and one REMX leg (under 2.5 minutes).

At DTCT's Agility trial Riot got his Novice Jumpers title with two first place runs! He also ran his fastest Novice Jumpers time at 19.28 seconds!

He is now: RATCHX Carrotwood's Mayhem at Mercury ACT2 ACT2J ATD-M BN BR3K-24 CDX CD (ASCA) CGC CZ8G DCAT ETD FITG FTI LD NA NAJ NF NC NI NV RATI RATM RAE RM RNX SWN TKA – *Brandi Shappel*

WHY I LOVE MY DOG SO MUCH…
"She follows me like a shadow and watches my every move, cuddles me whether I'm happy or sad, and is always pleased to see me. I couldn't ask for a better friend" - shakepaws.com

BRAGS & WAGS (*cont.*)

MOLLY with SEM Title Ribbon, 1st& 2nd Place & Q, Scent Work Ribbons

MOLLY with SEM Title Ribbon, 1st& 2nd Place & Q SOTC Scent Work Ribbons

Rebecca Watters and Molly competed at the Sarasota Obedience Training Club's AKC Scent Work Trial on October 3 and earned their Masters Exterior Title with a first place! In addition to this accomplishment they received their first Qualification ribbon in Masters Interior and two more "Qs" towards their goal of achieving a title in Excellent Elite Interior and Exterior. We are so proud of Molly! – *Rebecca Watters*

FLYBALL NEWS

By Joan Weesies

Tampa Bay Barkaneers — Ready, Set, FLY!
September was a "paws" from racing for the Tampa Bay Barkaneers, as many of our fellow flyball clubs headed to Indianapolis for the North American Flyball Classic (CanAm). Unfortunately, a bout of kennel cough made the rounds at CanAm, and several dogs from the Florida region were potentially exposed. Keeping our four-legged athletes safe always comes first, so the Celtic Mayhem Spooktacular Flyball Tournament scheduled for October 10-11 was canceled.

But don't worry — the Barkaneers are ready to get back in the lanes! We've got our sights on **the** Peace, Love & Flyball Tournament, November 14-15**.** Then, following Thanksgiving, the Barkaneers will host our annual Reindeer Run Flyball Tournament, December 5-6**.** Dash on over and join us for Reindeer Run! Come cheer on the dogs and experience the excitement of fast-paced flyball racing. It's fast, it's loud, and the dogs absolutely LOVE it!

New Flyball Dogs Are Taking Off!
Our weekly Intro/Advanced Flyball classes continue to turn enthusiastic beginners into future flyball racers! We recently had three dogs successfully master the flyball pattern and earn invitations to team practices. We're excited to see if these rising stars will soon be racing down the lanes with the Barkaneers!

There's still time to get in on the fun. Our final Intro/Advanced Flyball class of 2026 is now open for registration, beginning **Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 PM.** Could your dog be our next Barkaneer?

ST. PETERSBURG 1ST DOG ATM OPENS

Excerpted from a Tampa Bay Times Business Article by Neha Seenarine, Sept. 30, 2026

TD Bank, located at 3900 Fourth St. in St. Petersburg, has opened its 1st ATM for dogs. The Dog ATM dispenses dog treats, which are made in the U.S. and use simple ingredients. Dogs also have access to a water bowl. There is a pawprint mat with a motion detector that dispenses the treats. For the opening of the Dog ATM, TD Bank teamed up with local businesses, invited dog owners to celebrate the addition at the bank, and had an adopt-a-dog station and giveaways.

Best of the Bay 2026

LAURA MARKLEY and JOAN WEESIES
With the Best of the Bay 2026
Finalist Award

We're Best of the Bay Finalists —Again! 🏆 🐾
For the second year in a row, the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg was named a "Finalist" (aka Runner-Up) for Best Dog Trainer in the Best of the Bay awards!

A huge THANK YOU to all our members and supporters who took the time to vote for us each day. Your continued support means so much!

Joan Weesies and Laura Markley proudly represented DTCSP at the awards celebration and accepted our award.

We're honored to not only be nominated but to be recognized among the best, but we're not stopping here. Next year, we're going for FIRST PLACE! – *Joan Weesies*

"Better than all of the gold in the world, Better than diamonds, Better than pearls, Better than any material thing is the Love of a dog. Find the joy that it brings. - Laura Joworski

FOND FAREWELL

MBISS MBISOH GCG CH MILESTONES COOL SUMMER WIND ACT 1J
"WINDY"
September 9, 2009 – September 23, 2026

Windy left me this past month after 17 years and 2 weeks. She was the best. She took me all over the southern states in Conformation and won almost everywhere we went. In 2017, she was the #2 Sheltie in the US in the Owner Handled series and in 2018 she was the #1 Owner Handled Sheltie.

To top off her titles, I entered her in ACT 1J so that she would have titles at both ends of her name. There are several people who helped us along the way, including April Dunford, Lorrie Reed, Julia Lipsio and Cathy Smith, who was the best groomer when we were at shows.

Everyone has that one dog who is so very important. I have had a couple in Agility and Obedience but Windy took the show world by storm. When she entered the ring, she told the judge that she was the best and most of the time, she was right. I will miss her terribly. - *Diane Miles*

"When we think of those companions who travelled by our side down life's road, let us not say with sadness that they left us behind, but rather say with gentle gratitude that they once were with us." -Unknown

DTCSP Club Images/Videos STILL needed!

The Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg is revamping our website and creating new promotional materials and social media content—and we want to showcase the stars of our club: YOU and your dogs!

We're looking for photos and videos of our members and their dogs in action at the club. Whether you're training in Obedience, Agility, Rally, Flyball, Tricks, Scent or simply enjoying time with your dog at the club, we'd love to see it!

📷 Photos of:

- Dogs working in classes or at training
- Teams practicing and having fun
- Dogs competing or demonstrating their skills
- Members working with their dogs
- Special events, seminars, workshops, and club activities
- Those "proud dog parent" moments!

🎥 Short videos are also welcome! Show us your dog learning a new skill, running an agility course, racing in Flyball, working on obedience, or just having a great time.

By submitting your photos or videos, you give the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg permission to use them in connection with the club's website, social media, advertising, promotional materials, newsletters, and other club-related communications.

Please only submit photos or videos that you have taken yourself or have permission to share. If other people are recognizable in your photo or video, please make sure they are comfortable with the club using the image as well.

Photos can be uploaded to: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KJ1Ol-ymn3Ph9rpfsO-YUv54VWMsCsof?usp=share_link

"I am thankful for my dogs because they give me unconditional love". – *Pinterest.com*

UNDERSTANDING BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN PUPPIES

By Cher Seddon

Did you know that a puppy normally gains 5-10% of its body weight everyday for the first 2 weeks? The canine brain has the same structure as that of other mammals, including humans. It's made of cells called neurons which carry and send information through a combination of electrical and chemical signals. The connectivity of different brain regions is determined by how neurons interact with another. The human brain has approximately 85 billion neurons, whereas the smaller dog brain has somewhere around 2.2 billion neurons. In the first 2 weeks the puppy's brain capacity is minimal, reacting only to its basic needs of warmth, food, sleep and its mother.

During this time the brain is developing at an incredible pace. By the time they're six weeks old, their brain will already be 70% of the size of an adult dog's brain. The consciousness of their environment is growing as they start to explore and discover more and more. The brain is growing fast and absorbs new sights, sounds and social cues. Puppies have 96% adult-like brain function by approximately four months of age.

Every experience a puppy has stimulates neural development which results in brain development usually in days 3-16. Some breeders include the Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS) exercises during this time developed by the US Military. This method was designed to improve the performance of future military working dogs. This was according to the Breeding Better Dogs program developed by DR. Carmen Battaglia, esteemed breeder, judge, seminar presenter, and AKC Board Member. ENS requires handling the puppies one at a time while performing a series of five exercises once a day. The first three weeks of life are critical for neurological development.

- Tactile Stimulation
- Head held erect
- Head pointed down
- Supine position
- Thermal stimulation

Between 3 to 6 weeks of age the anxiety levels in the puppy are the lowest they'll ever be in their entire life. Anything a puppy is exposed to between this timeframe will therefore be associated with low anxiety. It is permanently ingrained in the central nervous system and forever remembered as something that is pleasant or neutral.

From 3 to 12-16 weeks the puppy begins to learn social behavior and a great deal of learning about the environment. The puppy's brain is highly malleable (the young dog's brain is highly open to change, growth, and rewiring based on everyday experiences).

By 16-20 weeks of age, a puppy's brain is around 80% developed. The prefrontal cortex of the brain responsible for impulse control, decision-making and emotional regulation is still maturing. Approximately 9 out of 10 core cognitive skills (such as basic memory, problem-solving and communication cues) have emerged. At 20-24 months the dog's brain is entering late adolescence. During this time as their brain is re-wiring, they may experience a drop in obedience, distraction around new environments and "selective hearing".

At 6-12 months the puppy's brain operates heavily from the amygdala (the emotional and reactive side) rather than the prefrontal cortex. Puppies can react more intensely to sights, sounds, and novel situations. Because the prefrontal cortex is still under construction, puppies may overreact, act out of impulse, or struggle with self-control. By 6 months of age the Olfactory Bulb located at the front of the brain has reached full structural and functional development. This structure receives information about smell directly from the nose and helps discriminate between odors. The canine olfactory bulb is 3 times larger in dogs than in humans. By 12-18 months a small breed puppy's brain has finished development and reached mental maturity. In large breeds it can take from 2-3 years old.

In order for puppies to develop confidence, trust and positive approach to learning, they require certain types of handling and experience during specific times in their early development. Vanessa Woods, a research scientist at Duke University, and Dr. Brian Hare, a professor at Duke University, explored these questions in their book *Puppy Kindergarten*. Their research followed 101 Labrador Retriever puppies to see how puppy minds develop. Woods and Dr. Hare enrolled these puppies in Puppy Kindergarten to help discover why some dogs make great service dogs and others fail to graduate from their rigorous training programs. The goal was to develop a standardized set of tests to assess untrained puppies for which careers they would be best suited for. All the puppies were bred by Canine Companions, one of the world's largest service dog organizations.

All the puppies underwent a series of cognitive tests every two weeks between the ages of 8 and 20 weeks. The tests were really games, such as fetch or find the hidden treat, designed to look at various cognitive abilities and how they develop. Puppy intelligence isn't like a lightbulb that switches on at a certain age; instead, it's a suite of lights that all turn on at different times. Some show up early and burn brightly right away, whereas others come later and are slower to reach maximum brightness.

In the study it wasn't until they reached 10 weeks of age that self-control began to emerge. They were between 12 and 14 weeks when they achieved adult-like abilities with self-control problems and eye contact began. The puppies could understand basic physics problems, such as

(cont. on next page)

UNDERSTANDING BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN PUPPIES *(cont.)*

understanding if two towels are lying on the floor- the flat isn't covering anything and the towel with the bowl shape underneath is the one hiding the bowl.

How does this new information impact how you train and interact with a puppy? Dr. Woods says it helps you modify your expectations of what your puppy can do at a given age with the reality of what they're capable of. Also consider that puppies aren't the strongest at understanding the physical world. Dr. Wood advises when it comes to physics, you must do a lot of your puppy's thinking for them.

Finally, the research showed that each puppy is an individual with their own timetable and set of skills. So, it's important to realize that no matter how many puppies you've raised before, there will always be something surprising and unique about your next puppy.

Premium available at www.AKC.org under Events Search, Performance Events.

Barktoberfest

Date: October 25, 2026 11am - 2pm
Location: John Morroni Dog Park in Rosselli Park, 11650 Capri Circle South, Treasure Island

4 DTCSP VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR BARKTOBERFEST, OCT. 25th!

This Sunday! October 25 | 11 AM–2 PM
Rosselli Park, Treasure Island

DTCSP will be participating in Treasure Island's Barktoberfest, and we still need 4 **volunteers to help represent our club! Volunteers earn DTCSP Volunteer credits towards discounted training fees!**

Only 4 volunteers are still needed to:

- Staff the DTCSP information table
- Help with fun "TRY-IT" course and demos

Please **wear a DTCSP-branded shirt** and bring water, a chair, and anything else you'll need for the day. If bringing your dog, please remember **this is a busy, loud event with lots of people, children, and other dogs, so dogs should be comfortable in that environment.**

To volunteer, go to:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4FADAC2CA64-66400070-barktoberfest

Come help us showcase DTCSP to the community—and enjoy Barktoberfest while you're there! **Thank you for supporting your club! –** *Joan Weesies*

"I am thankful for my pets, because they complete my family". - *Pinterest.com*

Additional T-Shirt Order!

You asked, and we listened! We've had several requests for more club T-shirts, so we're placing another order! If you'd like a shirt—or maybe an extra one (because you can never have too many! 😉)—please use the link below to place your order:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO0NIS8SlqWChBsTzSYFsNAN-FtdpQRoGaXk5ubqURmd7eqA/viewform

You can also email Joan Weesies (jweesies@bellsouth.net) to place your order if you don't want to bother with entering data in the form. Payment will be expected once the shirts arrive.

T-Shirt Pricing:

- Members: $15 each
- Non-Members: $20 each

Don't miss your chance to show off your club pride!
Deadline for ordering is Monday, October 26th.

(in inches)	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
BODY LENGTH	28	29	30	31	32	33
BODY WIDTH	18	20	22	24	26	28
FULL BODY LENGTH	28	29	30	31	32	33
SLEEVE LENGTH	15 ⅝	17	18 ½	20	21 ½	22 ⅞

My Dog is my baby
"I can't find the words to explain how much having a dog in my life means to me, but I do know that without my dog my world would be so lonely and empty"
Anonymous

2027 DTCSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES NOMINATED SLATE

The DTCSP Board of Directors & Trustees nominating committee presented the 2027 Slate of Officers at the September DTCSP General Meeting:

Pres – Lithia Castillo
1st VP – Joan Weesies
2nd VP – Julia Lipsio (2nd yr. of 2 yr. term)
Secretary – Sandy Garcia (2nd yr. of 2 yr. term)
Treasurer – Patricia Burch (Trish)
Trustee – Twinnie Buendia
Trustee – Sandy Atkins

Sheri Scott and Amanda Ronning continue as Trustees
Past President: Janice Smith

Nominating Committee:
Amanda Ronning, Tara Florell, and Merilee Biehle

There were no Additional nominations made after the report of the Nominating Committee at the DTCSP September General Meeting. The DTCSP 2027 Board of Officers & Trustees will be elected at the DTCSP General Meeting, being held on November 19th at 7pm. The November meeting is moved up a week earlier due to Thanksgiving.

"Just hangin' out
With my ghoul friends"

"Happy Howloween Greetings" - Dach Vader

"Halloween is scary. Please keep us indoors, in a safe room, with plenty of toys to play with" - Your Pets

What breed of dog does Dracula have? - A Bloodhound.

ANNUAL NATIONAL AKC ORLANDO DOG SHOW
2025 AKC National Championship

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
December 12 & 13, 2026

All Sporting, Hound, Toy, Non-Sporting Breeds and Junior Showmanship Competition will be Judged on Saturday
All Working, Terrier, Herding Breeds, Miscellaneous and Best in Show will be Judged on Sunday

The 2026 event will showcase the top canine athletes and will also include popular special attractions such as the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor competition, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals and the AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes. The show will once again take place alongside the AKC Agility Invitational, AKC RACH Invitational and AKC Obedience Classic, with junior events in each sport.
How to Watch: Portions of the events will be broadcast on AKC.tv. More later, on other sources for watching the events.

Dec. 8
Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay, AB, JSHW, NOHS. **CLOSES:** Nov. 11th.
NADD Santa Splash, **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 30th

Dec. 9
Brevard Kennel Club, AB, JSHW, NOHS. **CLOSES:** Nov. 11th.
Orlando Dog Training Club, Obedience/Rally Trial. OBED. **CLOSES:** Nov. 11th. **RALLY CLOSES:** Nov. 20th
NADD Santa Splash, **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 30th

Dec. 10
Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc., AB, JSHW, NOHS. **CLOSES:** Nov. 12th.
Orlando Dog Training Club, Obedience/Rally Trial. **OBED. CLOSES:** Nov, 11th RALLY **CLOSES:** Nov. 25th.
AKC RACH (Rally Champion) Invitational
NADD Santa Splash, **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 30th

Dec. 11
AKC National All-Breed Stakes for Puppies and Juniors. **CLOSES:** Nov. 4th.
AKC Junior Agility Competition Preliminary
AKC Agility Trial (by invitation only) **CLOSED**
AKC RACH (Rally Champion) Invitational
NADD Santa Splash, **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE: Nov. 30th**

Dec. 12
American Kennel Club, AB, JSHW, NOHS. **CLOSES:** Nov. 5th.
Junior Showmanship Competition: The preliminary round
AKC Agility Trial (by invitation only) **CLOSED**
AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals
AKC Obedience Classic
NADD Santa Splash, **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE: Nov. 30th**

Dec. 13
American Kennel Club, AB, JSHW, NOHS. **CLOSES:** Nov. 5th.
AKC Agility Trial (by invitation only) **CLOSED**
AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals
AKC Obedience Classic
NADD Santa Splash, **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE: Nov. 30th**

Premiums for Dec. 9-14 www.infodog.com
Dock Diving Online Pre-Entries:
www.northamericadivingdogs.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT. - DEC. UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 23	**AKC Agility Trial - CFTFTC, St. Petersburg**
Oct 23-25	UKI Agility Trial - BP, Punta Gorda
Oct 23-25	CPE Agility Trial - Paws & Ques, Williston
Oct 23-25	AKC Scent Work Trial - DOCLC, N. Ft Myers
Oct 24	HSTB Hyde Park Pet Parade - Tampa
Oct 24-25	**AKC Agility Trial - TBAC, St. Petersburg**
Oct 24-25	UKC Conformation Show - BFKC &TBASSC, Plant City
Oct 24-25	AKC Obed. Trial - DTCT, Tampa
Oct 24-25	UKC Obed./Rally - USOTC, Myakka City
Oct 24-25	CPE Canine Scent Sport - IPOC, Lakeland
Oct 24-25	UAD Dock Diving - CFDC, Eustis
Oct 25	Halloween on Central - St. Petersburg
Oct 27-28	AKC Scent Work Trial - SAC, Brooksville
Oct 30	UKI Agility Trial - DSPDS, Alachua
Oct 30-31	AKC Conformation Show - BKC & CFKC, Ocala
Oct 30-Nov 1	**AKC Agility Trial - IPOC, St. Pete**
Oct 30-Nov 1	AKC Obedience Trial - MADTA, Ocala
Oct 30-Nov 1	AKC Rally Trial - ASCCF, Lakeland
Oct 20-Nov 1	Barn Hunt Trial - DDS, DeLand
Oct 31-Nov 1	UKC Nose Work Trial - USOTC, Sarasota
Nov 1	AKC Conformation Show - SCKCPB, Ocala
Nov 5-8	AKC Conformation Show- TCKCF & JDFA, Ocala
Nov 6	Movies in the Park - Largo Central Park
Nov 6-7	AKC Scent Work Trial - LEKC, Lady Lake
Nov 6-8	**AKC Agility Trial - DTCT, St. Petersburg**
Nov 6-8	AKC Scent Work Trial - SCAC, Punta Gorda
Nov 7-8	NADAC Agility Trial - AC, Thonotosassa
Nov 7-8	UpDog Challenge Event - CFDDC, Dade City
Nov 8	CPE Canine Scent Sport - NorAust, Lady Lake
Nov 12-16	AKC Conformation Show - SDFA & GODC, Ocala
Nov 12-13	UpDog Challenge - CFDDC, Dade City
Nov 13	Movies in the Park - Largo Central Park
Nov 13-15	USDAA Agility Trial - DOIAC, Apopka
Nov 13-15	Barn Hunt Trial - DTCT, Tampa
Nov 13-15	NADD Dock Diving - BP, Punta Gorda
Nov 17-18	AKC Scent Work Trial - TBGSDC, Brooksville
Nov 20	Movies in the Park - Largo Central Park
Nov 20-22	CPE Agility Trial - PMP Orlando
Nov 20-22	**AKC Scent Work - DTCSP, St. Pete**
Nov 20-22	AKC Agility Trial - NorAust, Weirsdale
Nov 20-22	AKC Conformation Show - LEKC, Ocala
Nov 20-Dec 27	Enchant Christmas - Tropicana Field
Nov 21	UpDog Challenge Event - CFDDC, Dade City
Nov 21-22	UKC Nose Work Trial - UMADTA, Ocala

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (*cont.*)

OCT. - DEC. UPCOMING EVENTS (*cont.*)

Nov 26-Dec 3 Holiday Lights – Largo Central Park
Nov 28-29 Shopapalooza Festival – Various, Vinoy Park
Dec 3-5 AKC Agility Trial – SAC, Brooksville
Dec 4-6 AKC Agility Trial, SOTC, Punta Gorda
Dec 4-6 AKC Scent Work Trial – SWCO, Ocala
Dec 4-6 Barn Hunt Trial – DDS, Deland
Dec 5-6 AKC Obed/Rally Trial – DOCLC, N. Ft. Myers
Dec 6 Enchant Christmas Paws & Claws – Tropicana Field
Dec 8-9 CPE Canine Scent Trial – SAC, Brooksville
Dec 8-13 AKC Nat'l Championship – AKC, Orlando
Dec 11-13 AKC Scent Work Trial – SCAC, Punta Gorda
Dec 11-13 AKC Agility Trial – DPCF, Punta Gorda
Dec 15-16 AKC Scent Work Trial – SAC, Brooksville
Dec 18-20 NADD Jingle Bell Splash – SAC, Brooksville
Dec 18-20 USDAA Agility Trial – Paws&Cues, Williston
Dec 19-20 UAD Dock Diving – CFAD, Eustis
Dec 19-20 ~~UKI~~ Agility Trial – BP, Punta Gorda
Dec 26 AKC Scent Work Trial – NorAust, Lady Lake
Dec 27-29 AKC Agility Trial – DTCSP, St. Petersburg

QUICK NOTES

AGILITY

SAC AKC AGILITY TRIAL, OCT. 30-NOV. 1
Sonlight Agility Club, Brooksville. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Sep. 22nd. www.cpe.dog

AC NADAC AGILITY TRIAL, NOV. 7-8
Awesome Critters, Tho. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE**: Nov. 2nd. www.awesomecritters.com

PAW'S & QUE'S CPE AGILITY TRIAL, NOV.13-15
Paw's & Que's, Williston. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 3rd. www.cpe.dog x30AK

DOIAC USDAA AGILITY TRIAL, NOV. 13-15
Dog-On-It Agility Club, Apopka. **CLOSES:** Nov. 2nd. www.usdaa.com

PMP CPE AGILITY TRIAL, NOV. 20-22
Practice Makes Pawfect, Orlando. **CLOSES:** Nov. 10th. www.cpe.dog

NORAUST AKC AGILITY TRIAL, NOV. 20-22
NorAust K9 Agility Club, Weirsdale. **CLOSES:** Nov. 6th. www.noraust.com

PAWS & QUES USDAA AGILITY TRIAL, NOV. 27-29
Paws & Ques, Williston. **CLOSES:** Nov. 16th. www.usdaa.com

AGILITY (*cont.*)

NORAUST CPE AGILITY TRIAL, NOV. 28-29
NorAust K9 Agility Club, Weirsdale. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 18th. www.noraust.com

SAC AKC AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 3-5
Sonlight Agility Club, Brooksville. **CLOSES:** Nov. 19th www.infodog.com

SOTC AKC AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 4-6
Sarasota Obedience Training Club, Punta Gorda **CLOSES:** Nov. 23rd www.sotcdogtraining.org

DPCF AKC AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 11-13
Doberman Pinscher Club of Florida, Punta Gorda **CLOSES:** Dec. 2nd Punta Gorda www.mydogentry.com

NORAUST CPE AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 12-13
NorAust K9 Agility Club, Weirsdale. PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE: Dec. 2nd. www.noraust.com

PAWS & QUES USDAA AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 18-20
Paws & Ques, Williston. **CLOSES:** Dec. 7th. www.usdaa.com

BP UKI AGILITY TRIAL, DEC. 19-20
Bratty Paws, Punta Gorda **CLOSES: Dec. 9th** www.mydogentry.com

CONFORMATION

UNABC UKC CONFORMATION SHOW, NOV. 27-29
United North American Briard Club, North Fort Myers. **CLOSES:** Nov. 18th. www.ukcdogs.com

OBEDIENCE/RALLY

DOCOLC AKC OBEDIENCE TRIAL, DEC 5-6
Dog Obedience Club of Lee County, N. Fort Myers **CLOSES:** Nov. 25th www.doclc.com

SCENT WORK

LEKC AKC SCENT WORK TRIAL, NOV. 6-7
Lake Eustis Kennel Club, Lady Lake. **CLOSES:** Oct. 28th. www.infodog.com

NORAUST CPE CANINE SCENT SPORT, NOV. 8
NorAust, Lady Lake. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Oct. 29th. www.cpe.dog

QUICK NOTES (*cont.*)

SCENT WORK (*cont.*)

TBGSDC AKC SCENT WORK TRIAL, NOV. 17-18
Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club, Brooksville. **CLOSES:** Nov. 10th. www.infodog.com

UMADTA NOSE WORK TRIAL, NOV. 21-22
United Marion-Alachua Dog Training Association, Ocala. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 13th. www.ukcdogs.com

SWCO AKC SCENT WORK TRIAL, DEC. 4-6
Scent Work Club of Ocala, **CLOSES:** Nov. 20th
www.mydogentry.com

SRAC CPE CANINE SCENT TRIAL, DEC. 8-9
Sonlight Ranch Agility Club, Brooksville **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 28th www.cpe.dog

SCAC AKC SCENT WORK TRIAL, DEC. 11-13
Sailfish Capital Agility Club, Punta Gorda **CLOSES:** Nov. 27th
www.mydogentry.com

SRAC AKC SCENT WORK TRIAL, DEC. 15-16
Sonlight Ranch Agility Club, Brooksville **CLOSES:** Dec. 8th
www.infodog.com

NORAUST AKC SCENT WORK TRIAL, DEC. 26
NorAust K9 Agility Club, Lady Lake **CLOSES:** Dec. 12th
www.mydogentry.com

BARNHUNT

DTCT BARN HUNT, NOV. 13-15
Dog Training Club of Tampa, Tampa. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 3rd. www.barnhunt.com

DDS BARN HUNT TRIAL, DEC. 4-6
DeLand Dog Sports, DeLand. **CLOSES:** Nov. 23rd.
www.barnhunt.com

DOCK DIVING

BP NADD DOCK DIVING, NOV. 13-15
Bratty Paws, Punta Gorda. **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 6th. www.northamericadivingdogs.com

SR NADD DOCK DIVING, NOV. 27-29
Sonlight Ranch, Brooksville. **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 20th. www.northamericadivingdogs.com

BP NADD DOCK DIVING, DEC. 4-6
Bratty Paws, Punta Gorda. **ONLINE PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 27th. www.northamericadivingdogs.com

DOCK DIVING (*cont.*)

SRAC NADD DOCK DIVING TRIAL, DEC. 18-20
Sonlight Ranch Agility Club, Brooksville **ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSES:** Dec. 11th
www.northamericadivingdogs.com

UAD DOCK DIVING TRIAL, DEC. 19-20
Ultimate Aird Dogs and Central Florida K9 Air Dogs, Eustis Online Registration Open Soon

LURE COURSING & SIMILAR

DOCLC AKC FAST CAT TEST, OCT. 31-NOV. 1
Dog Obedience Club of Lee County, Punta Gorda. **CLOSES:** Oct. 26th. www.doclc.com

SSRRC AKC LURE COURSING TRIAL, OCT. 31-NOV. 1
Sunshine State Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Weirsdale. **CLOSES:** Oct. 28th. www.infodog.com

GPCAC AKC FAST CAT TEST, NOV. 14-15
Greater Port Charlotte Agility Club, Punta Gorda. **CLOSES:** Nov. 13th. www.doclc.com

DTCT CPE SPEEDWAY, NOV. 28-29
Dog Training Club of Tampa, Tampa. **PRE-ENTRIES CLOSE:** Nov. 18th. www.cpe.dog

UPDOG CHALLENGE EVENTS

CFDDC UPDOG CHALLENGE CLUB EVENT, NOV. 7-8, 9AM-5PM
Central Florida Disc Dog Club, Dade City.

CFDDC UPDOG CHALLENGE CLUB EVENT, NOV. 12-13, 9AM-5PM
Central Florida Disc Dog Club, Dade City.

CFK9 UPDOG CHALLENGE CLUB EVENT, NOV. 21, 9AM-3PM
Central Florida K9, Eustis.

QUICK NOTES *(cont.)*

DOG FRIENDLY EVENTS

MOVIES IN THE PARK, NOV. 6, 13, & 20 6:30PM
Nov. 6 – Movie name; Nov. 13 – Movie name; Nov. 20 – Movie name. Movie starts at 6:45PM. Cost is FREE. Bring your blankets or chairs and enjoy a movie under the stars in Largo Central Park. The event is free and pets on leash are welcome. Food and beverage vendors will be on-site, so come hungry and support local small businesses. **Alcohol and tents are not permitted for this event**.

LARGO CENTRAL PARK HOLIDAY LIGHTS, NOV. 26-JAN. 3
A family-friendly annual tradition, 5-10pm. Festival ia a spectacular holiday light display with more than 2.5 million dazzling LED lights. Admission free. www.playlargo.com

ENCHANT CHRISTMAS PAWS & CLAWS, DEC, 6
Timed entries fo comfort and flow. Dogs will explore dazzling lights, snap photos with Santa and strut through special pet-friendly routes. Dogs must be on a leash. Part of Enchant Christmas Village at Tropicana Field. Enchant Christmas Village runs from Nov. 20th – Dec. 27th. For more information: www.enchantchristmas.com

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR DOGS

By Cher Drury

Halloween is right around the corner. There are many ways for dog owners to take precautions. Many of the food and treats we enjoy are toxic to dogs and can be deadly. **Chocolate** is a top ingestion problem. Chocolate contains Theobromine which can be harmful and sometimes fatal to our dog. Baking chocolate is exceptionally high in this chemical. The darker the chocolate the more harm it poses. **Xylitol, a sugar alcohol** is toxic to pets. It is now sometimes listed as **Birch Sugar**. It can be found in candies, gum, and sugar-free baked goods. **Hard candy** can clump in the stomach and cause a risk of obstruction. **Candy wrappers** may lodge in the pet's throat or intestinal tract.

Glow sticks and glow jewelry are filled with a liquid if ingested can cause mouth pain, irritation, and excessive salivation. If your pet does happen to chew on a glow stick, use fresh water or a small meal to help clean the material from their mouth.

Pumpkin and Corn décor if consumed in large quantities can cause intestinal blockage and painful stomach aches in your pet. Pumpkins and pumpkin seeds are safe for dogs. However, if the pumpkin or seeds were moldy, this is a concern. Some types of mold produce mycotoxins which can cause neurological problems. A chunk of the pumpkin rind could cause an intestinal obstruction. Corn displays can cause gastrointestinal upset.

Lit candles, jack-o-lanterns, electric and battery-operated Halloween decorations are great for Halloween spirit. Unfortunately, pets do not understand the dangers. Those items should be out of reach.

Dressing dogs in costumes has increased over the years. Consider these safety tips before making or purchasing a costume for your dog. Beads, snaps, buttons, ribbons, elastic, and fabric can be intestinal hazards. Costumes can result in overheating, impaired vision and even difficulty breathing if it covers the face or is too restrictive around the pet's neck or chest. Make sure the costume doesn't limit their movement, sight, or ability to breathe or bark. It is best to not leave a costumed pet unsupervised. For some pets, wearing a costume may cause undue stress. A festive bandana may be a good alternative. The ASPCA recommends that you don't put your pet in a costume unless you know they love it.

Know your dog and watch their body language to decide whether to tuck them away in a crate or a quiet room with their favorite toys and chews. You may want to put a safety gate up to keep them from running out the door when you open the door for trick-or-treaters. Walk your dog while it is still light out. Your dog may find candy, wrappers, and broken eggs on lawns and streets. Dogs rely on their sense of smell to identify familiar faces. Halloween costumes make people look different than they normally would, but they also make people look like nothing dogs have ever seen before (including family members). Sometimes it can result in a fear response, or they become aggressive out of self-preservation instinct. Let's enjoy the holiday, but please keep your dogs safe!

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