



Bucks Barker

Newsletter of The Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Inc.

February 2026

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(215) 493-1201

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<http://lbdtc.org/>

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Next Meeting

We will have a virtual membership meeting on Monday, February 9th at 7:30PM. You will receive a reminder and the link to the virtual meeting as the date approaches.

Congratulations!

Roger Matzke tells us - Kronk and I tried our first full UKI Agility Trial in a few years. What was I thinking signing for 5 runs? I usually only do 2-4 runs at an AKC agility trial, where the courses are shorter. I thought I might have to quit after the first run. Then after the second run I was fine and we had a great day.

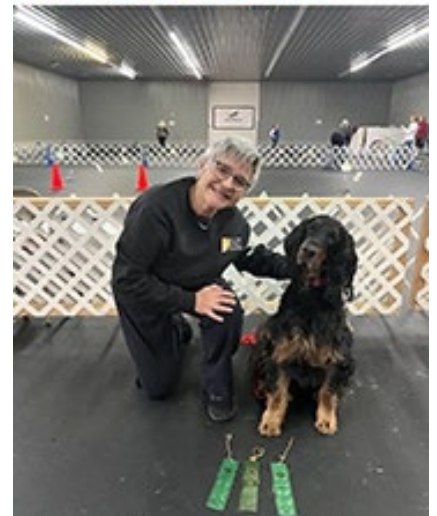
Kronk qualified in 4/5 runs, both Master Series runs, Champion Jumpers and in Speedstakes. Two 1st and two 2nd place finishes. We were the overall winner at 22 select for the master series. Kronk earned his Winner Champion Speedstakes title (WCSS). This requires 10

first place finishes. Love having Kronk as my partner in this.



Up Front Dog Center

Today's Burlington County Kennel Club Rally trials hosted at Up Front Dog Center are ringing in more good news for the New Year! Congratulations to Jean Gould and her boy Charlie for another Rally triple Q (qualifying scores in Master, Excellent, and Advanced in the same trial) on the books. #upfrontdogcenter #UpFrontDogsports #akcrallyobedience



LBDC Awards Luncheon

The LBDC Awards Luncheon will be held in March. Details coming soon..

Tri-State Crisis Dog

In order to become a Tri-State K9 Crisis Dog each team must fulfill a myriad of requirements. The dog must be a therapy dog, have its CGC, and have 20 observed hours working as a therapy dog. Most dogs become members of the TriState Canine Companion Dogs to complete their hours before taking the test. The test is usually given only once a year.

Gypsy was on track to take the test, doing many her visits at Covid vaccine centers. We found she had an affinity for children while working at vaccine clinics for kids. Give her a crying kid and she was in her glory, seniors not so much.

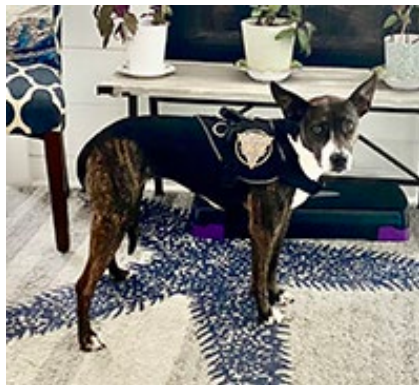
Gypsy was a valued member of the team, but due to travel obligations and Lois' health difficulties, taking the test was delayed. Finally, on January 10, John stepped up and handled Gypsy for the test. He had previously been certified as a therapy dog handler with both Kerri and Gypsy. They excelled at the test, passing with flying colors. I was in another room during the test and could hear the horns, whistles, sirens, crashing chairs and actors crying and screaming. John said Gypsy walked through the test on a loose lead.

With this new certification Gypsy is now able to offer comfort and healing to even more people. This

achievement also serves as encouragement for Lois, providing her with an added incentive to focus on her recovery.

Well done, little girl.

Lois DiMarzio



AKC Legislation Alert

We have just received an email from our WSS national club AKC delegate concerning a bill being brought before the Philadelphia City Council.

Although our club is not located in Philadelphia this issue can have a far-reaching impact on the future of responsible breeders. We feel this is an important enough issue to share with the membership.

We would appreciate members taking the time to read the AKC alert and send a well-reasoned and written letter to the City Council Rules Committee members to fight this bill.

Thanks, Peggy and Doug Lehnen



Puppies. Puppies, Puppies!!!

On Tuesday morning January 13 at 7 am Claire began her delivery of six puppies. We have 4 girls and 2 boys who have been gaining weight each

day, mama is doing a great job with them. She began laboring on Monday afternoon and worked through the night. We are very proud of her and suspect that Serry is a bit jealous while Jamie seems to be afraid of the pups and stays away from the pen and won't even go downstairs near the pen.

Peggy Lehnen



**LBDTC
Obedience Trials
April 17 & 18, 2026
Rally Trial
April 19, 2026**

**LBDTC Obedience Trials
Friday, April 17, 2026
Saturday, April 18, 2026**

**LBDTC Rally Trial
Sunday, April 19, 2026**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Opening Date: February 11,
2026 at 8:00am
Closing Date: April 1, 2026 at
6:00pm

Rally Trial Pending

**LBDTC Rally Trial
May 10, 2026**

**LBDTC Rally Trial
Sunday, May 10, 2026**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Pending

**LBDTC Agility Trials
May 17, 2026**

**LBDTC Agility Trials
Sunday, May 17, 2026**

United Dog
1957 Pioneer Road, Unit B-6
Huntingdon Valley, PA, 19006

Pending

**LBDTC Agility Trials
June 5, 6, & 7, 2026**

**LBDTC Agility Trials
Friday, June 5, 2026
Saturday, June 6, 2026
Sunday, June 7, 2026**

United Dog
1957 Pioneer Road, Unit B-6
Huntingdon Valley, PA,
19006

Pending

**LBDTC Obedience
Trial
June 19, 2026**

**LBDTC Obedience Trial
Friday, June 19, 2026**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Pending

**LBDTC
Obedience and
Rally Trials
July 4 & 5, 2026**

**LBDTC Obedience Trial
Saturday, July 4, 2026**

**LBDTC Rally Trial
Sunday, July 5, 2026**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Pending

**LBDTC Agility Trials
August 22 & 23 2026**

**Lower Bucks Dog Training
Club, Inc. Agility Trials**

Saturday & Sunday
August 22 and 23, 2025

Y2K9s Dog Sports Club
601 Davisville Rd, Suite 150
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Pending



**LBDTC Obedience
Trial
October 3, 2026**

**LBDTC Obedience Trial
Saturday, October 3, 2026**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Pending

Happy Birthday

The Lower Bucks Dog
Training Club, Inc, would like
to wish the following

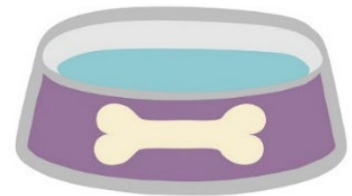
members a Happy Birthday!

January

Linda Lederer
Helen Shaup

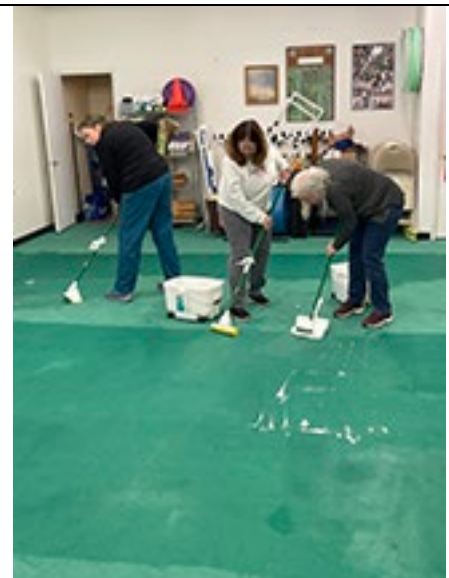
February

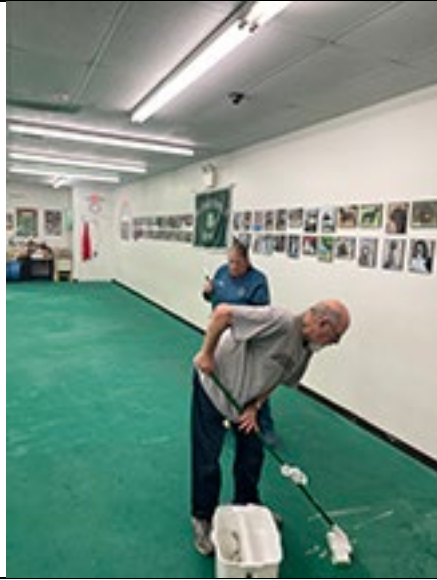
Sharon Edwards
Jean Gould
Tracie Hopkins
Peggy Lehnen
Carol Mckinney
Lauren Morell
Sherry Savar



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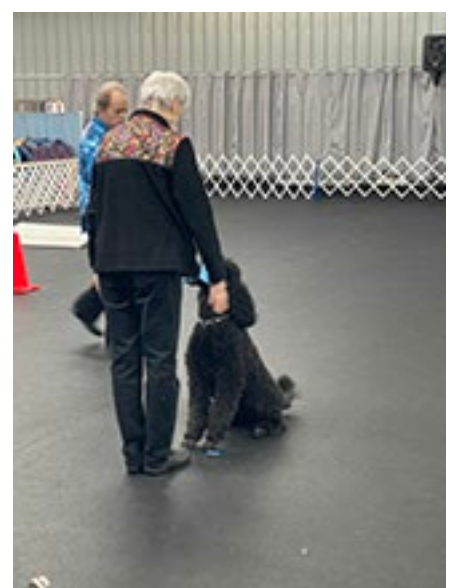
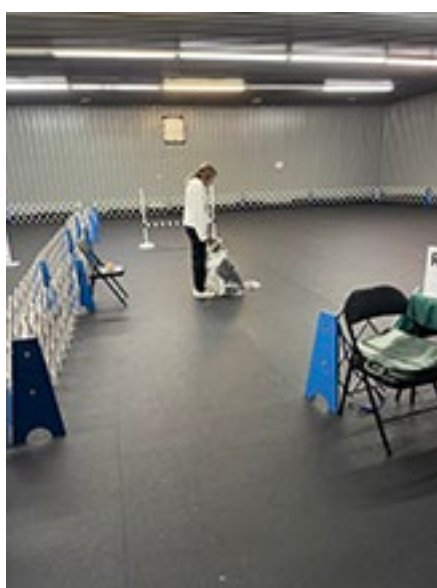
**LBDTC
Cleaning Crew**

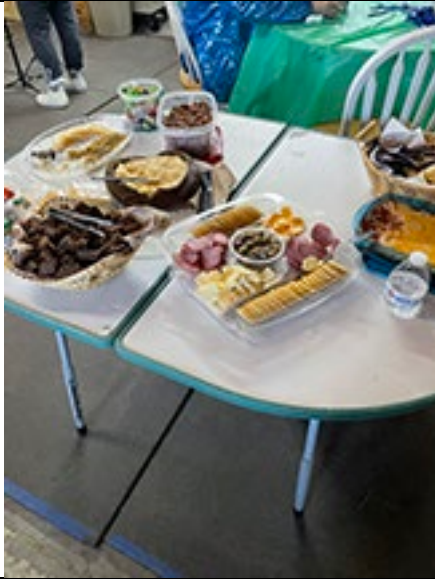
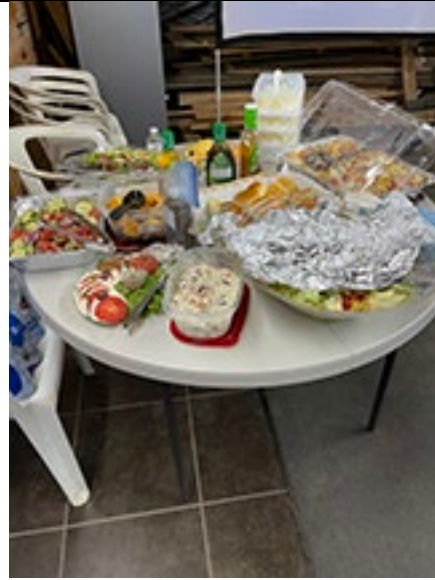
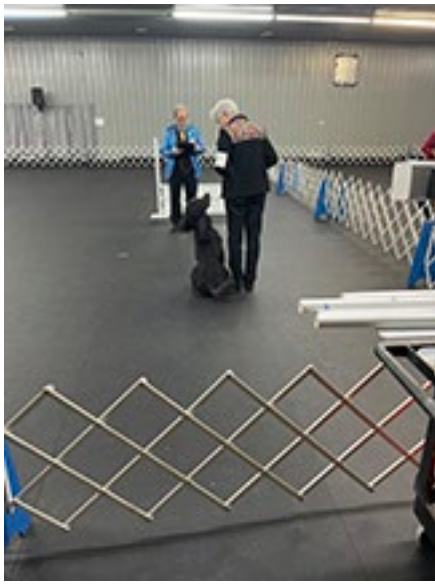




LBDTC January 2026 Obedience Trial Festivities

Happy New Year!





**Photographs by
Ken McKinney**

LBDTC



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/pa-alert-philadelphia-to-consider-proposal-seeking-to-ban-breeding-contact-committee-now/>

January 23, 2026

The Philadelphia City Council Committee on Rules has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, February 3, on Bill 250989, a proposal that would impose a three-year moratorium on the breeding and sale of puppies in Philadelphia

You are strongly encouraged to act now and mobilize others to protect responsible breeding and dog ownership in Philadelphia by contacting members of the Committee on Rules, including the Committee Chair, who is also the bill sponsor. Those who live in the city should also contact your member of city council, and all members at large. **Scroll down for hearing information, testimony instructions, sample letters and contact information.**

Summary:

Bill No. 250989 would impose a 36-month moratorium on the breeding and sale or transfer of any dog under seven months of age within the City of Philadelphia. While the bill includes limited exemptions, it would significantly restrict responsible, small-scale, American Kennel Club–affiliated breeders while failing to address the real sources of shelter crowding.

Talking Points and Sample Letters:

Respectfully ask the committee and your city council member to oppose Bill 250989.

As written, the bill would ban responsible hobby breeders who health test, screen buyers, and provide lifetime support for their dogs. It would not stop irresponsible or underground breeders, who are unlikely to comply with a ban. Instead, it would push puppy buyers toward unregulated internet sellers and scams, placing animal welfare at greater risk. The proposal would also limit access to purpose-bred dogs, including service, therapy, working, and search-and-rescue dogs, and would do little to reduce shelter intake while removing ethical local breeding programs.

Ask them to instead focus enforcement efforts on cruelty and neglect violations instead of responsible hobbyists. AKC also recommends that the city expand low-cost spay and neuter programs citywide, improve data collection to identify the true sources of shelter intake, and encourage pet-friendly housing through reasonable incentives.

When reaching out to the council members, be sure to tell your story of how this bill would impact you and your dogs. If you are a breeder, educate them on all you do to humanely breed and raise your dogs, and respectfully ask the city to oppose the bill, or to at least not pass something that would negatively impact responsible, humane breeders in Philadelphia.

You may wish to use one of the following sample letters: [Sample Letter for Clubs](#)

[Sample Letter for Individuals](#)

Hearing Details:

What: Committee on Rules Public Hearing on Bill 250989

When: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 – 10:00 AM Where: Room 400, City Hall, Philadelphia **How to Provide Testimony:**

To testify in person, contact the Committee on Rules Chair's Office at 215-686-3424 by 3:00 PM on Monday, February 2 (the business day before the hearing) and provide your name, phone number, and the bill number (Bill 250989).

To submit written testimony: Email your statement in PDF format to whitney.brown@phila.gov.

Be sure to include your name, contact information, and the bill number (Bill 250989), ideally by 3 p.m. on Monday, February 2 (the day before the hearing).

AKC also recommends that you **contact each member of the Rules Committee:**

Chair – Cindy Bass (Sponsor of Bill 250989)

(215) 686-3424 | cindy.bass@phila.gov

Vice Chair – Mark Squilla

(215) 686-3458 | mark.squilla@phila.gov

Katherine Gilmore Richardson

(215) 686-0454 | katherine.gilmore.richardson@phila.gov

Curtis Jones, Jr.

(215) 686-3416 | curtis.jones@phila.gov

Brian J. O'Neill

(215) 686-3422 | brian.oneill@phila.gov

Isaiah Thomas

(215) 686-3446 | isaiah.thomas@phila.gov

Jamie Gauthier

(215) 686-0459 | jamie.gauthier@phila.gov

To send a letter to your personal city councilmember, click [here](#) and place your cursor over the member's photo to access contact information.

For more information, contact AKC's Government Relations Department at email doglaw@akc.org.

AKC GR along with the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, will continue to monitor this and other legislation that impact the rights of dog owners and the dogs they love.