



FLYBALL DOG IN TRAINING

it and say "Touch" (paw, etc). If your dog touches your hand, praise him lavishly. Try this several more times, some times with food in your hand, sometimes without. If at any time he or she fails to touch your hand, do not repeat the command. Just wait for the paw and praise lavishly. If your dog does not touch your hand upon request, continue with Step Two, periodically testing for a "cold" TOUCH.

Remember that every dog learns at a different rate. Some dogs are highly food motivated and will pick up on this command easily with food, while others will not be as comfortable with the idea and you might need to try a small toy or favorite small object to get the dog interested in the game. Keep training sessions short and fun, from 5-10 minutes at a time up to three times a day. If you are not comfortable using your hand, try using a margarine or yogurt lid. Place the lid just a few inches from your dog with a treat on it and praise him for standing on the lid to eat the treat. When your dog understands to TOUCH the target, move the target around sometimes using food sometimes not. Many dogs learn both easily and both are easily applied to the flyball field.

Pictures of this technique will be available on the Comet website shortly!



This is the first of a three part series about box training focused on what you can do at home to get your dog off to a positive start on the flyball box. This first article will discuss the touch or shake command and it's role in flyball. The second will discuss teaching your dog to accept the flyball box as a part of playing ball. The third will focus on a one person approach to teaching the jump to box and back to jump sequence.

One of the hardest things to teach your dog in flyball is how to trigger the flyball box. Regardless of box type, tempting tennis balls, or all the cajoling in the world, most dogs are not comfortable with the idea that a tennis ball can eject from a box and be just as fun as fetch. Often, a dog will nose the ball around and tentatively touch the box with one paw, but when asked to walk up to the box and touch it refuses. Teaching your dog to "touch" your hand can be a great asset to learning not only box work, but can even

be utilized in other canine activities such as agility and obedience.

STEP ONE: Cut your dog's favorite soft treat into small pieces. Ask him to sit. Show him a tidbit in your palm of your hand than close your fingers around it. He will most likely sniff and lick a great deal. Do not say a word until the dog paws at your hand. Treat him and praise him lavishly. If you clicker train, click and treat. Repeat this until your dog is consistently touching your hand for the food.

STEP TWO: Slowly phase in the command "Touch," "Paw," "Shake," "Target" or any other word works best for you. Do this by following the same procedure in step one, saying touch just as your dog raises his paw but before the paw touches you, anticipating the move. Remember to praise lavishly.

STEP THREE: Practice the anticipating TOUCH several times. Then, place your hand out with no food in

Training Classes Begin

The Capitol City Comets are pleased to announce the start of a new beginners class on Saturday January 5th 2002 at Fuji Park. Class will begin at noon but remember, dogs and handlers in the beginning class are also welcome to attend our regular practice, beginning at 10 am. The beginning class is a six-week course required for all new club dogs. The price for new members is \$50.00 and includes your first 6 months of membership to the club. The fee for current members is \$25.00. The goal of our class is to have your dog running the course, triggering the box, and returning without fault. Each dog responds differently to different training methods. Because of this, during class you and your dog will receive the one on one instruction

that is vital to your success and the success of the Capitol City Comets. Current team dogs will not be allowed to practice during the beginning class to ensure the integrity of this special training time. This class provides us an opportunity to answer all of your questions that we may not get to during team practice, so please ask. Any suggestions you have about training methods with your dog are more than welcome. Remember that no dog runs perfectly every run and there is no reason to believe that your dog cannot do flyball. As always, the emphasis of the Comets is to have fun and we expect this class to be great fun indeed. Remember to tell a friend and we look forward to seeing you and your dogs on January 5th!

\$

Treasurer's Report

*Prepared by Bill Carter
Capitol City Comets Treasurer*

DECEMBER 2001

Beginning Balance		\$
November 4	0.00	\$
Membership Dues	90.00	\$
Fundraiser		\$
Yard/Bake Sale	78.63	\$
Ending Balance		\$
December 1	168.63	\$

\$