



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB



IN SESSION

AKC'S CONGRESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

The American Kennel Club's Newsletter for Members of Congress and their Staff

FROM THE AKC

Welcome to AKC's Congressional Newsletter. As the nation's oldest, largest, and only not-for-profit dog registry and the governing body for the sport of purebred dogs, the American Kennel Club proudly presents this new bulletin featuring news and information from the world of dogs and dog lovers. As top newshound we will bring you information about the AKC and our nearly 5,000 affiliated clubs as well as our public education programs, charitable donations, and other grass roots initiatives that benefit all dogs and their owners and communities.

One of the AKC's top legislative priorities is to protect the rights of responsible dog owners and breeders. With this goal in mind, our Government Relations department will contribute regular commentaries and analyses on current dog-related policy and legislative issues.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue and pass it along to your fellow dog lovers on both sides of the aisle!

Best,

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Look Who's Number One: Marcus Topps and Marcy Mantell celebrate gold medals at the World Agility Championships.

CARRIE DEYOUNG @AKC

Gold Rush!

AKC Agility Teams Victorious in Helsinki Fight to the Finnish

Most people pick the puppy that tugs at their heartstrings.

Marcus Topps's dog of a lifetime was no exception—she just started feet first.

"I went to visit the litter at 5 weeks, and the puppies were running around. I was watching and I felt something. I look down, and this pup is tugging on my shoestrings. I said 'This is the one.'"

Topps could not have been more correct. The Border Collie puppy that grabbed Topps's sneaker has grown up to be one of the world's most successful agility dogs.

The 8-year-old Juice's latest feat is winning a gold medal in the large-dog division at the 2008 FCI World Agility Championships, September 26–28, in Helsinki, Finland.

Marcy Mantell, of California, and

her Shetland Sheepdog, Wave, won gold in the small-dog division, meaning the AKC/USA Agility Team reigned victorious in two of three individual divisions.

The AKC fields a team of the country's best agility competitors for the annual FCI Agility World Championships. I Love Dogs, Inc., is the team's official sponsor.

This year's championships drew 367 dogs from 34 countries. "This is truly like the Olympics for agility," says Andy Hartman, AKC director of Agility. "The judges designed some of the toughest courses I have ever seen—tighter and more technical than what we typically see in the States," he says.

The courses did not intimidate Topps and Juice. "Juice excels at technically challenging courses, so the courses were well-suited for her," Topps says. "It's great for us when the course calls for tight turns."

International competition is not new for the Texas team. Topps and

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**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

AKC MISSION STATEMENT

The AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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DEE ANNA GAMIEL

The 2008 AKC/USA Agility Team.

Juice have represented the United States at Crufts and the 2006 World Championships in Switzerland. “I knew from that experience I had a dog with the skills to make it out on the podium,” Topps says.

Juice came into the final round in fourth place in the large-dog competition and beautifully produced her fourth clean round of the championships. The final run, combined with the Jumpers run from the day before, moved them into first.

From Eight to Great

Mantell and Wave came into the finals with even greater hurdles to clear. They were in eighth place, and Mantell knew that only a fast, perfect round would deliver a medal.

“While I was running the course, I knew it was going very well and it was a good run. Wave was very focused and fast. She just

seemed to know where we were going the whole course,” says Mantell, a member of the 2007 team.

“Neither of us had a step out of place, so when we actually crossed the finish line I knew it was not just a good run but a great run.

“There were still seven fast dogs to run after us, and I was hoping our time was enough to hold and keep us in first place. With only two dogs left, we knew we would be on the podium with nothing less than a bronze medal. And, as it turned out, the last two dogs faulted and we had the gold.”

A first-time team member Geri Hernandez and her Border Collie, Focus, also had a successful showing, placing fourth in the large-dog division and only .05 of a second from the bronze medal.

Coach Nancy Gyes spent hours online to provide the team with course challenges they were likely to encounter.

“I try to work with the new team members both online and at our practices to understand all that is required of them before and at the competition,” Gyes says. “Being able to successfully run many of the courses during training gives the handlers confidence

knowing that they can negotiate any kind of challenge the judges present. That confidence is what separates them from others.”

Each individual gold-medal winner is invited to the 2009 FCI Agility World Championships, so Mantell and Topps will have the chance to defend their titles at next year’s event in Dornbirn, Austria.

In the meantime, Topps has set his sights on the AKC National Agility Championship and keeping Juice in condition with swimming, biking, and running. He plans to start looking for his next agility partner in a year or so, but it won’t be easy.

“This puppy will have some very big paw prints to fill,” he says.



CARRIE DEYOUNG ©AKC

Topps and Juice aced what Agility Director Andy Hartman calls “some of the toughest courses I’ve ever seen.”



AKC Government Relations:

We're more than champion dogs. We're the dog's champion

The American Kennel Club has been advocating for purebred dog owners since our founding in 1884. With nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners, and promotes responsible dog ownership.

The AKC sanctions more than 21,000 events each year, drawing over 3 million entries annually. Our events take place in every state and dogs compete in activities ranging from conformation dog shows, obedience, agility, and rally, to field and hunt trials.

The AKC is the only purebred dog registry in the U.S. that conducts kennel inspections. We conduct more than 5,000 kennel inspections each year to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of dogs.

AKC public education programs have

over 4,000 volunteers nationwide who visit schools, libraries and community events to teach about safety around dogs, proper care of dogs, responsible ownership, and the importance of spaying/neutering dogs who are not part of a show or breeding program.

The AKC Government Relations department is involved in a variety of issues including regulation of breeders, nuisance laws, the availability of homeowners' insurance, and airline transportation for dogs. We lead the effort in seeking enforcement of cruelty laws, while endorsing the rights of responsible owners and breeders to own the breed of their choice.

We are committed to being a part of any discussions that would amend the Animal Welfare Act or impact the rights of Americans to own, breed and compete with their canine companions. We support strong enforcement of the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act and would wel-

come increasing the number of USDA enforcement personnel dealing with wholesale dog operations.

The AKC PAC supports candidates for federal and state-level offices who also seek to advance these important public goals.

We have been serving dogs and responsible dogs owners for nearly 125 years, and we're here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact us on issues of canine legislation. Our professional staff advocates for the rights of responsible dog owners at the local and state levels, and in Washington, we are represented by Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

We look forward to working with you.

Sheila Goffe

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American Kennel Club Honors Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club with a Community Achievement Award

The American Kennel Club® announced recently that the Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club (SMKC) has been named a recipient of the AKC® Community Achievement Award for its longtime dedication to educating the public about the responsibilities of dog ownership. The SMKC received one of three awards for the third quarter of 2008– Linda D. Witouski of Myrtle Beach Kennel Club and Lyons Township Dog Training Club also received recognition.

The AKC Community Achievement Awards support and recognize outstanding public education and legislation efforts of AKC-affiliated clubs, AKC-recognized federations and their members. The AKC selects award recipients who promote purebred dogs and responsible dog ownership within their communities or who have successfully introduced, monitored and responded to legislative issues affecting dog ownership.

As an AKC member club since 1953, the Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club has long

been involved in activities that promote the maintenance of a dog-friendly community by not only protecting and advancing the interests of purebred dogs, but also promoting better care and control of all dogs. To this end, the club's AKC Delegate, Barbara Furbush, is a valued member of the city of Salisbury's dog park committee and Wicomico County's dog ordinance committee.

The club's two all-breed shows and obedience, agility and rally trials have been lauded by the county's Department of Tourism manager as a major economic boom to the community, saying, "Our restaurants and hotels are full, and they [exhibitors] shop and visit the businesses of Wicomico County during their stay." The county official says that dog-show visitors have more positive financial impact on the county than any other type of business travelers or tourists. Much of this success is due to the club's positive relationship with local businesses, ensuring that exhibitors and their dogs will be graciously received.

The SMKC offers AKC Canine Good

Citizen testing and a full slate of training classes to approximately 800 dogs a year, and the club's Canine Ambassadors have educated thousands of dog lovers of all ages in the county.

"The Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club has done an excellent job of highlighting the economic benefits of AKC dog shows to its community," said Noreen Baxter, AKC's VP of Communications. "The relationship the club has with area businesses and dog lovers is an important one. AKC is honored to present its members with this award."

Nominations for the AKC Community Achievement Awards are accepted year-round. Up to three honorees are named each quarter. They receive a certificate of appreciation and a \$1,000 check payable to the club or federation's public education and canine legislation efforts. To nominate a club, visit

http://www.akc.org/public_education/community_achievement.cfm



AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day, New York City, September 2008.

An AKC RDO Day in the Life; 1 of over 600 Events

AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day was celebrated in September, with more than 600 events nationwide throughout the month. With each passing year, RDO Day is becoming a much-anticipated highlight of the canine calendar in towns and cities across the country.

AKC Board Member Dr. William Newman filed the following report of the RDO Day held in his community.

“The Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club co-hosted an AKC RDO Day event with the Bedford County Humane Society in Bedford, Pennsylvania, on September 27.

“It was a great community event for people to learn, have fun with their dogs, and share the experience with other people who love their dogs. The event raised over \$2,000 for the Bedford County Humane Society, and countless volunteers came forth to donate time and much needed supplies to the shelter.

“Over 300 community members attended the event, many with their dogs and we received coverage from local TV and newspapers. Information about training and AKC Canine Good Citizen® testing was provided, and AKC events like obedience and agility were demonstrated.”

Todd Gates, president of the Bedford County

Humane Society, was impressed by the results of partnering with his local AKC-member club. “I have heard nothing but wonderful comments from the public about how fun and educational the event was and how amazing the UPVKC dogs were,” he says.

For more information on the 600 events visit: <http://www.akc.org/clubs/rdod/2008/recaps.cfm>

AKC Flagship Events in New York and North Carolina

Manhattan's Madison Square Park swelled with thousands of dogs and their delighted owners at the sixth annual AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day on Saturday, September 20. Over 20,000 dog lovers were treated to an incomparable educational experience and information generously provided by our national sponsor Invisible Fence Brand and our local event sponsor Stuyvesant Town. Dog lovers could hear about the event throughout the day from Maria Milito of 104.3 WAXQ who broadcasted her radio show live from Madison Square Park.

More than 150 dogs took the AKC Canine Good Citizen® test or were microchipped with the help of Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. Participants were able to meet 45 AKC breeds and talk to experienced breeders

and owners about how to find the right dog for their lifestyle. Thousands of attendees signed the AKC Pet Promise, signifying their pledge to be responsible dog owners. The demonstration ring ran continuously throughout the day with obedience, agility and rally demonstrations by Port Chester Obedience Training Club. The ring also featured a parade of breeds, doggie musical chairs and a safety around dogs for kids presentation by Invisible Fence Brand.

Staffers from AKC's Raleigh, NC Operations Center hosted their own RDO Day event at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh on Saturday, September 27th. The free event welcomed over 3,000 dog lovers for an afternoon of demonstrations, giveaways, games, face painting, and much more! Nearly 150 dogs signed up for AKC Canine Good Citizen® testing or took advantage of discounted microchipping from AKC Companion Animal Recovery (www.akccar.org). A raffle for the AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund raised nearly \$900! Dog lovers were treated to an incomparable educational experience and information generously provided by our sponsors Invisible Fence Brand and Best Friends Pet Care.

AKC Canine Health Foundation Funds \$22 Million in Research

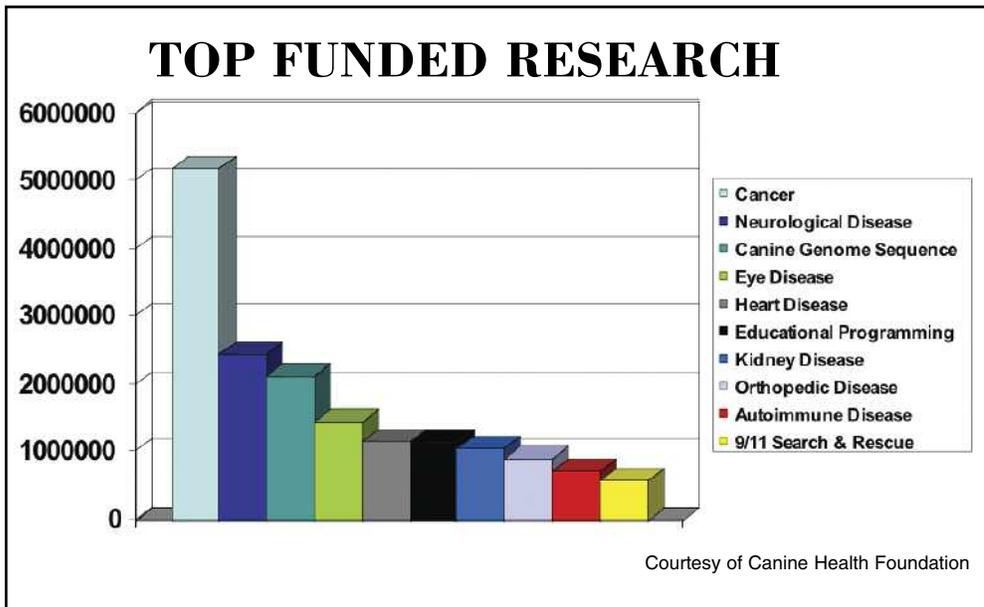
The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF), established in 1995 by the American Kennel Club, raises the funds and awareness necessary to support non-invasive, innovative research benefiting primarily canines, but often humans as well. The largest nonprofit worldwide to fund health research exclusively for canines, our goal is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Through the gener-

ous financial support of the American Kennel Club and the Nestlé Purina PetCare Co., AKC CHF has allocated more than \$22 million to canine health research at universities and research institutions worldwide in areas such as the genetics of disease, clinical applications and educational programs. We're confident that the research and studies we support will be of benefit to the veterinary community.

Since its inception, the AKC CHF has been instrumental in ground-breaking and pioneering efforts in issues affecting our dogs. Just over \$2 million in funding to support the sequencing of the canine genome leveraged a \$50 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to complete the project – the result: a revolutionary tool that's now available to all investigators that leads to faster, more economical results, definitive tests, and applicability to breeders.

Research efforts in kidney and eye disease, as well as several neurological disorders, have proven effective in the prevention of disease. Once genetic markers are identified and genetic tests are developed, breeders can use these tools to “breed around” certain diseases and ailments – thus eliminating the problem while maintaining genetic diversity within a breed.

Because the canine and human genome is so closely related (we share over 80% of our genetic makeup and many diseases with our dogs) and we share the same environment, work in canine health research crosses over to human research as well. For more information visit: www.akcCHF.org



Introducing The AKC Humane Fund, Inc.

Dogs bring us love, loyalty and companionship, and they ask for nothing in return. A new charity, the AKC Humane Fund, seeks to pay back an age-old debt by raising money in support of man's best friend.

A 501(c)(3) charity, the AKC Humane Fund is a not-for-profit organization that unites a broad spectrum of animal lovers in promoting the joy and value of responsible pet ownership through education, outreach and grant-making. Programs supported by the Fund will include shelter outreach, breed rescue, and national recognition for pets that change our lives for the better. The AKC Humane Fund will also support organizations that:

- Educate adults and children about responsible pet ownership
- Provide for the health and well-being of all dogs
- Preserve and celebrate the human-animal bond and the evolutionary relationship between dogs and mankind.

Anyone can join the AKC Humane Fund with a tax deductible donation. The American Kennel Club has lent its support to the organization by donating space for a Wall of Honor at AKC Headquarters to recognize the Founding Members of the Fund who have contributed \$1000 or more. Several individuals, dog clubs and corporations have come forward to stake their claim on the Wall of Honor with personal-

ized plaques memorializing friends and loved ones, both canine and human.



For more information about the AKC Humane Fund, Inc. visit www.akchumanefund.org.

A Busy Season for AKC Companion Animal Recovery Disaster Relief

From floods to wildfires to hurricanes AKC and AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR) has coordinated and sent more than \$100,000 in relief supplies and financial aid to help displaced companion animals and those caring professionals and volunteers that care for them from coast to coast.

Since the beginning of hurricane season on June 1st assistance for a multitude of natural disasters has kept AKC and AKC CAR busy living up to one of its missions to provide, “resources, support and other assistance to not-for-profit animal shelters and similar not-for-profit organizations providing care for domestic animals orphaned or displaced as a result of natural or civil disasters.”



Presenting checks on behalf of AKC CAR to Misha Goodman, left, of Iowa City Animal Control and Sgt. Kent Choate, right, of Cedar Rapids Animal Control is Cedar Rapids Kennel Association President Scot Northern. Pictured with Scot is Buddy, a stray dog that was rescued during the flooding and has now been adopted.

Iowa Floods

It started in early June with a phone call from Scot Northern, President of the Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, that assistance was needed as the flood waters were rising all around Iowa. For more than a month AKC and AKC CAR worked with state emergency response coordinators and animal control in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City making sure they had what they needed. Both animal control agencies were tragically affected by the floods and had to not only evacuate their permanent facilities but also set up temporary shelters for more than 1,000 displaced companion animals for a month.

Beyond sending supplies immediately to the area, AKC CAR also donated \$10,000 to the

Kirkwood Foundation for the Friends of the Animal Shelter Fund, the non-profit group associated with Cedar Rapids Animal Control and \$10,000 to the Friends of the Animal Center, the non-profit group associated with Iowa City Animal Control for their tremendous efforts to care for the displaced animals during the flooding.

Read more about the AKC CAR effort in Iowa at: http://www.akc.org/news/index.cfm?article_id=3554

California Wildfires

Once wildfires broke out in Northern California in July AKC and AKC CAR con-

tacted club officers offering assistance. Working with the California Emergency Preparedness and Support Unit AKC CAR was able to send hundreds of crates and 60 AKC-branded Jewett-Cameron portable outdoor kennels to the North Valley Animal Disaster Group in Butte County to assist them in their efforts to house displaced animals during multiple wildfire evacuations.

Wildfires are a constant threat in California and as this

story was being written, AKC CAR was again reaching out, this time to southern California, as more wildfires ignited.

Hurricane Gustav

In August, hurricanes began battering the Gulf region. First Gustav slammed into Louisiana. AKC CAR immediately sent more than \$12,000 in supplies to aid those affected or displaced. Shipments of crates and other needed supplies were provided with the generous assistance of www.dog.com. In addition, scanners and 1,000 microchips were committed to a shelter in Missouri that housed displaced animals from the Gulf region from AKC CAR.

The Longview Kennel Club and its members facilitated a request for crates for the local

evacuations. Also during Gustav, by communicating with the Texas State Animal Resource Team Executive Director Elizabeth Serca, AKC CAR provided on-the-spot assistance on the local level in Center, Texas. With help from Shelby County law enforcement crates and supplies were secured from local retail establishments to fill an immediate need.

The Mississippi State University AKC CAR Mobile Veterinary Clinic -- purchased by the university following Hurricane Katrina with a \$100,000 AKC CAR grant -- also responded to Hurricane Gustav. The unit traveled to Jackson, Mississippi to assist evacuees and their pets from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and New Orleans areas. After setting up near the shelters at the Mississippi Coliseum and the Mississippi Fairgrounds, the unit's four veterinarians, several veterinary students and one veterinary technician were present all day to handle any medical needs that arose.

Hurricane Ike

Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Ike devastated Texas in early September. Hundreds of crates, collars, bowls, leashes, ex-pens and other supplies totaling more than \$21,000 were shipped to the Gulf Region to care for displaced and evacuated animals, many of them just returning home after Gustav just to turn around and leave because of Ike.

Just as they did for Gustav, the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, and AKC Delegate Diane Albers, coordinated relief supplies to be sent to organizations such as the Humane Society of Louisiana in Tylertown, MS, and others located in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. An additional 1,000 AKC CAR microchips and several scanners were also sent.

Through the assistance of Carol Williamson, Delegate from the Houston Kennel Club, supplies were provided to the Harris County Animal Control Department to care for additional animals by paying for cleaning supplies through a local retail outlet. The Caddo Kennel Club of Texas and its members were instrumental in securing more than 50 crates from AKC CAR for the Marshall Animal Control department, which housed numerous displaced companion animals during Ike.

For updates on current disaster relief and resources for disaster preparedness visit AKC's Disaster Preparedness page at: http://www.akc.org/news/disaster_preparedness/

American Kennel Club Offers to Help Obama Make Good On His Campaign Promise to His Daughters

--Results of AKC's www.presidenti alpup.com Poll Point to the Poodle--

As President-Elect Barack Obama prepares to move into the White House he will now have to make good on all his campaign promises, including his most important vow to his family - to get his daughters a dog. Obama reiterated his promise in last night's acceptance speech, telling his daughters "you have earned the new puppy that's coming with us to the White House."

In August, more than 42,000 Americans cast their vote in the AKC®'s poll to determine the right breed of dog for the Obamas at www.presidenti alpup.com. The Poodle was chosen from a list of five hypoallergenic breeds, each with distinct characteristics that made them uniquely suited for Obama's daughter who suffers from allergies. [Learn more about Poodles.](#)

"We hope the Obamas consider the survey results," said AKC Spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "This poodle is a breed that doesn't always get the respect it deserves, but it is truly an ideal family pet. They are currently the eighth most popular breed in the U.S., according to 2007 AKC registration statistics, and the breed spent more than two decades in the top spot - a true testament to its suitability as a family pet. And while Poodles require frequent grooming, their consistent and predictable coat is crucial for Obama's daughter and all who suffer from allergies."

And, it seems the whole ticket is going to the dogs. It has been widely reported that Vice President elect Joe Biden also made a deal with his wife, "If you get the vice presidency and get elected, you can get a dog,"

Biden said his wife told him.

No matter what breed the Obamas or Bidens choose, the AKC hopes they can assist both families.

"I would be happy to personally assist Obama and Biden in identifying a responsible breeder if they are looking for a puppy," said AKC President & CEO Dennis Sprung.

The best way to start a search for a puppy is through the AKC parent club for your chosen breed or local all-breed kennel clubs in your neighborhood. AKC clubs can be located using this directory:

<http://www.akc.org/clubs/search/index.cfm>

AKC recommends that prospective buyers educate themselves on the hallmarks of a reputable breeder. Visiting the breeder's home or kennel and seeing at least one of the puppy's parents is ideal and will let you know what the future holds for your pup in terms of temperament and appearance.

Also, every AKC registered breed, from Affenpinscher to Yorkshire Terrier, has a rescue organization devoted to their particular breed. These breed experts carefully screen prospective homes and are adept at making the best match for both the dog and the prospective family. Before being re-homed, the dogs typically receive extensive veterinary exams, shots and preventive care.

[The Poodle Club of America \(PCA\)](#) consists of responsible breeders and individuals devoted to Poodle Rescue. They are the ideal resource for the Obamas as they conduct their search.



A Pair of Poodles for Pennsylvania Avenue?
A pair of six-week-old Toy Poodle puppies rescued by Flora's Pet Project/Poodle Rescue Connecticut visited the American Kennel Club offices in Manhattan today to be photographed in hopes of catching the attention of the Obama family. The pups will be available for new homes in early January. They can be adopted by contacting Marianne Smith, President, Flora's Pet Project at flora@floraspetproject.org



Rescue dog "Ollie"(above) is a 2 year old Toy Poodle. He is housetrained, neutered, vetted, vaccinated and is on flea, tick and heartworm preventative. Ollie can be adopted by contacting Poodle Club of America Rescue Chair Sally Poindexter at PoodleClubOfAmerica@yahoo.com



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