

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOTC and SCCTC Dog Agility Trials – January 12-15

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation is excited to welcome a different kind of four-legged friend. The Dog Owners Training Club of Lynchburg and the Star City Canine Training Club of Roanoke will enliven the Center with three days of dog agility trials in the Anderson Coliseum Friday, January 12 to Sunday, January 15. The trials will run from 7am-7pm each day and are free and open to the public.

Agility trials are a dog sport in which a handler directs a dog through an obstacle course in a race for both time and accuracy. Dogs run off-leash with no food or toys as incentives, and the handler can touch neither dog nor obstacles. Consequently the handler's controls are limited to voice, movement, and various body signals, requiring exceptional training of the animal and coordination of the handler. Courses are complicated enough that a dog could not complete them correctly without human direction. The handler must assess the course, decide on handling strategies, and direct the dog through the course, with precision and speed being equally important. Many strategies exist to compensate for the inherent difference in human and dog speeds and the strengths and weaknesses of the various dogs and handlers. Obstacles include A-frame ramps, teeter-totter see-saws, tunnels, and jumps.

The DOG OWNERS TRAINING CLUB OF LYNCHBURG, INC. (DOTC) is a non-profit organization with the primary objective of furthering the advancement of obedience training of all breeds of dogs. In addition to offering basic obedience training for all dogs, DOTC also offers training classes for those who wish to earn obedience titles awarded by the American Kennel Club (AKC) or other organizations. The STAR CITY CANINE TRAINING CLUB (SCCTC) is a Roanoke Valley based organization of dog enthusiasts formed to create quality training opportunities in dog sports and activities compatible with responsible dog ownership. The group was formed with the intent to cooperate to advance the welfare of dogs and dog lovers in our community through education in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

More information about the event can be found by visiting the Foundation's website at www.horsecenter.org or by calling 540-464-2950. Please note no non-competing dogs will be permitted to attend due to health regulations.

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which owns and operates the Virginia Horse Center. The Foundation is proud to support a 600-acre facility that serves 400,000 people; functioning as a classroom, land reserve, market place, and recreation venue. The VHCF manages 110 events annually, most free and open to the public, and hosts the Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Center.