

Family Dog Center of Illinois

Family Dog Center Society Overview

The Family Dog Center Society is simply about community. It is a members-driven social organization.

It is about people, who have come together through our common enjoyment and love of dogs.

The role of the FDC Society is simply to be the vehicle which enables many different people, with a variety of common interests, to come together. The society is created to serve the interests of the members.

The society is comprised of three main communities:

- Compassion
- Social
- Sport

Each community includes a number of special groups which represent the interests of our members.

While participation in every community and every group is open to all members of the Society, each group may have their own special requirements. Each member of the FDC Society decides when, where and how they wish to participate and the level of involvement is strictly voluntary – we make no demands of your time or energies.

Compassion Community is comprised of members who want to reach out to people who are in need or suffering in some manner, with the hope and desire to assist in alleviating the suffering of other human beings.

- **Therapy Dog:** A therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, mental institutions, schools, and stressful situations such as disaster areas.
- **CCI – Canine Companions for Independence** Imagine having a dog that could turn on lights, pick up dropped keys or open a door. CCI Service Dogs are partnered with individuals with physical disabilities to assist with daily tasks and increase independence by reducing reliance on other people. A Service Dog can pull their partner in a manual wheelchair, push buttons for elevators or automatic doors, and even assist with business transactions by transferring money, receipts, and packages. A CCI Service Dog not only assists with physical tasks, but also provides emotional and social support.
- **Seeing Eye** Until a Seeing Eye dog is ready for training, it spends its time with a “foster family,” a family that gives the dog love, gentle guidance, and consistent care. You and your family (children AND adults) can nurture a puppy to accomplish its special destiny.
- **Community** It might be holding a Spaghetti Dinner as a Fund Raiser for a sick child, or helping a wounded veteran and his family. The members of this community will make those decisions and will receive the full support of Family Dog Center.

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Social Community are members who come together to share time with other people who share a common interest of the love for their dogs. Different segments include:

- **Hiking Dog** Keep yourself and your dog physically fit by working for your 25-50 or 100 mile hiking badge. It may be just you and your dog, or it may be five other teams joining a local walk-a-thon or just enjoying the weather.
- **Young Handlers** For the youth of our community, from 8 to 18 years, Young Handlers is an opportunity to participate in an activity which builds self-confidence, pride and experiences the love and closeness of a dog.
- **Monday Morning Coffee** The gang is meeting at Family Dog Center on Monday morning. Take advantage of the indoor facility to give your dog a healthy indoor walk and some exercise. Then settle back with some friends for some conversation and a good cup of coffee.
- **Community** Family Dog Center always encourages support for the people of our community and we will support this group in whatever manner, possible.

Sport Community are members who want to actively engage their dogs in the physically active world of sports for fun and/or formal competition.

- **Agility – Elite Team** Agility is a demanding sport for both the dog and the owner that is based on a solid foundation of Obedience. This invitation-only team is for dog and handler teams who have demonstrated a higher level of commitment and skill development and may be interested in competition.
- **Agility – Enthusiast Team** This team is for the enthusiast who enjoys the sport of agility but is still perfecting their techniques and skills.
- **Obedience – Elite Team** This invitation-only team is for dog and handler teams who have demonstrated a commitment to the rigors of a higher level of Obedience skill development. The basic objective of obedience competition is to produce dogs that have been trained and conditioned always to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs.
- **Obedience – Enthusiast Team** This team is for the enthusiast who enjoys the challenges of obedience but is still perfecting their techniques and skills.
- **Rally** Open to all members, the dog and handler team move continuously through a rally course of 10-20 signs with the dog at the handler's left side. At each numbered sign they perform the indicated exercise then move to the next sign. Unlimited communication is encouraged - the handler can talk to the dog and give multiple commands and signals. Scoring is less rigorous than traditional obedience.

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Membership Requirements

- \$100 annual fee
- Membership is a family membership which includes all family members and all family dogs
- Membership in all Community groups is free
- Member receives six - \$20.00 coupons for use with dog training at FDC
- Monthly newsletter
- Special workshops, seminars and guest speakers on various topics
- Group events
- Free use of the FDC facilities for special group events and activities
- All dogs must be current on all Family Dog Center required vaccinations in order to participate in any on-premise events.