'Actually, in these classes we train the owners." 3 -- Fred Siebert

## An obedience school that develops the intellect

BY DIANE HUBEL BY DIANE HUBEL Have you given up trying to teach ride to walk behind you instead of nagging you down the street If you are convinced yourself that your dog s too durb to learn, think again. All breeds of dogs are trainable ac-ording to Fred Siebert, president of he German Shepherd Dog Obedience ) raining Club 1

cording to Fred Siebert, president of the German Shepherd Dog Obeclence ) Training Club. | | It may take a little more per-sistence and patignee to train some obgs." Siebert sid. "but eventually you should be able via do it. All breeds are trainable." ALTHOUGH MEMBERSHIP in the Goes offer lessons to all dogs breeds. 'The classes, which last for thirteen who own German Shepherds, the club does offer lessons to all dogs breeds. 'The classes, which last for thirteen weeks, are held in the VFW Hall in Farmington. | In the beginning class dogs can be faught to heek, sit, come, stay and lay down upon command. ""Actually in these classes we train-he owners," Siebert said. "We show when what to do and watch them work with their, dog and then expect them to go home and practice some more with le dog." . He said the classes are also a very good j socializion 'process for the dogs.

Many dogs have never been in a more much more than one other dog be-fore and the first few times they may be nervous. However, he said they soon adjust to the presence of the

other dogs and learn self control. The organization is also a supporter of the Leader Dog program and re-cently donated \$1,000 ito the Leader Dog School at Rochester. cently donated Stroyous exe -Dog School at Rochester. There are three classes offered by the German-Shepherd Club. The first one deals with basics. The second two get into the more difficult speeds of dog obelience and begin to train dogs for performance in dog shows. 'Siebert, who's dog is currently train-ing for the highest rank in' dogs shows, has entered shows all over the United States, in Canada and in Ber-muda. ' to be inversed to enter his Ger-

nuda. In July he intends to enter his Ger-man Shepherd in the World Series of Dogs which will be held in St. Clair Shores.

Dogs which will be field in St. Claif Stores. The dogs, who enter these com-petitive shows are put through their paces in front of judges and given a score from 1200. Points or fractions of points are de-ducted for mistakes the dog may make, such as sniffing the-ground or looking around rather than looking at its master.

SIEBERT SAID that one of the most discouraging tests usually comes at the end of the trial when the dog is left in the ging alone while his trainer leaves the room.

Photos by Fran Evert

The dog must sit for either five min-es or the three minutes without leav-

utes of the three minutes without leav-ing the ring of getting up and looking for his trainer.

"That one can be really dis-couraging" he said. "The dog may have been performing beautifully all day and you lithink it is really going to go well. "Then you walk back in the room after the time is up and find that the dog had goiten lonley and go up to look for you and its all over." Siebert, a former Fgrinnign coun-climan, joined the organization a year ago when be got his German Shep-berd, Greta. Although he has only been training

herd, Greta. Although he has only been training Greta for a year she/has already won several trophies and ribbons. He is currently training her for the utility rank, the highest a dog can attain for

currently training her for the utility rank, the highest a dog can attain for show purpose. Higher and the sense of the sense of the training of the sense of the sense of the rank of the sense of the sense of the sense when the family got their first Dane my while thought we better train it. She bought if we werr going to have a dog that was that Marge we had before from how to manage it. After that I became interested in it and began at tending shows." The Sieberts also have a tiny profile but Siebert said they haven't rained her. "She doem't think she is a dog," he said, she knows that Greta is a dog. It is never necessary to hit dog before this, the she subteres. He said most dog trainers are inter-sed in developing the dogs butlefet to the fullest potential. "It is never necessary to hit dog before they learn anything the dis not true. "A dog, will respond very well to praise. They are eager to please their master and will react immediately to praise to not a scolding."



## Editor Dan McCosh

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