

Happy Tails News

October 2008

Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 1611

Idaho Falls ID 83403

www.usrvdte.org



2008 OFFICERS

President

Suzanne Belger

542-6552

desertmtnmalinois@msn.com

Vice-President

Judy Grof

524-2543

grofjb@cablone.net

Secretary

Rosha Adams

524-3839

retgold@cablone.net

Treasurer

Glenda Haller

523-3374

sunkisd@cablone.net

2008 BOARD

LaDawn Moad

1-Year Board Member

552-1174

moadl@d93.k12.id.us

Lori Keele

2-Year Board Member

754-8712

ldatervs@aol.com

Steven Olson

3-Year Board Member

524-2958

solospec@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Loomis

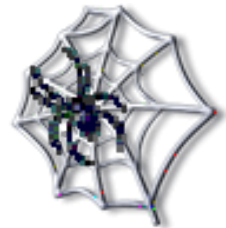
setnsun@cablone.net

Deadline:

24th Of Each Month



USRVDTC Agility Trials are coming soon.
Please, if you can help out contact Theresa
Mathis at 403-3855 or
biogirtjm@yahoo.com



“Braggs”

REMEMBER that brags and other newsletter information is due to the newsletter editor by the 24th of each month. We accept late brags! You can email your info setnsun@cablone.net. It is preferred that you email your brags to the editor.

“Myra” Zaladonis earned her Rally Novice title at our August Rally trial in Tautphaus Park. She also earned the first leg of her Rally Advanced title.

From LaDawn Moad:

“Pyper” Moad earned her CD in Farmington, with a security leg to boot.

From the Guidingers:

Captain Guidinger finished his NAJ in Farmington with two very fast runs, then the following weekend in Helena he finished his RA with an 89 (my fault, I lost 10 points) and a 98.

Kilo Guidinger earned two legs on her RAE in Helena

Chance Guidinger finished his AXP at the recent PKC trials.



Our sympathies go out to David and Kelly P'Pool on the loss of Nuala, their American Water Spaniel



I have been informed that Duane Loomis will be undergoing back surgery October 27. We pray that all goes well.

Get-well thoughts to Glenda Haller, who had surgery in September. We hope she has a speedy recovery.



Unfortunately, it was learned that Glenda will have to undergo a second surgery to repair damage that has occurred during the healing from her first surgery.

Glenda would like to thank everyone for all the visits, calls and cards she has received. They have brightened her days.

2009 Committee Positions

Please turn in to Suzanne Belger or a member of the Board

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Obedience Training Director--- | Agility Training Director--- |
| Tracking Training Director--- | Match Chair--- |
| Practice Director--- | Obedience Trial Chair--- |
| Obedience Trial Secretary--- | Tracking Trial Chair/Secretary--- |
| Chief Steward--- | Trophies--- |
| Publicity--- | Public Education and Demonstrations--- |
| Newsletter Editor--- | Delegate Liaison--- |
| Video Tape/Librarian/Cameras--- | Canine Good Citizen Chair--- |
| Agility Trial Chair--- | Agility Trial Secretary--- |
| Historian--- | Hospitality--- |
| Webmaster--- | Trailer Chair--- |
| Equipment Manager--- | |

NAME _____ Phone Number _____

Remember everyone can help somewhere.

SURVIVING THE HALLOWEEN NIGHTMARE

Surviving Halloween

© Stacy Braslau-Schneck, CPDT

Halloween can indeed be a frightening experience for dogs, especially for puppies who have never experienced this event, and for shy dogs who are easily frightened. Think about it: Strange people in weird shapes keep ringing the doorbell, and they smell so sweet! And are you thinking that Fido would look really great dressed up in a cute costume? You may want need to do some training, first!



"And what are YOU?"

Dogs are often suspicious of new things (this was a survival trait for their ancestors: wolves and wild dogs). Year-round, dogs can become frightened of firefighters (with their hard hats and big coats), football players (huge shoulders), anyone in a uniform (perhaps generalized from the postal worker who "invades" your property every day?), and crosswalk guards (my dog Flipper was sure that the stop-sign the guard was carrying was part of her).

Imagine how they will react to huge capes, princess hats, boxy-costumes, bells,

flashing lights, oversized shoes, and all sorts of extra appendages!



If your dog does become frightened of trick-or-treaters, or even yard

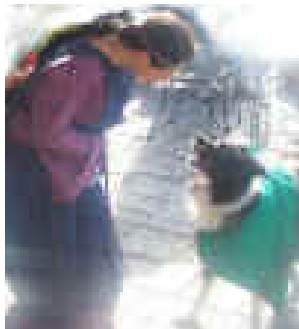
decorations, the best thing *you* can do is be calm and cool. After all, *you* are not afraid of that child dressed like Darth Maul or that stuffed sheet blowing in the breeze!

Do **not** force your dog to confront what frightens her. Just say something like, "Oh, that's nothing, silly dog! Don't worry about it". If you can walk by, do so. If you can't (if it's someone approaching you), see if you can approach in a circle (in other words, not in a straight line, but circle around from the side). Be sure to keep your leash loose. Usually, if you are calm and even "jolly", and allow the dog to investigate on her own, she will discover that it is harmless and will relax.

On Halloween, the Scary Things will be coming straight to your front door and demanding things from you! Probably the least stressful thing you can do, all around, is keep your dog in the backyard or in a back room where she won't have to see all

of these scary people. Ideally, someone the dog knows and trusts will stay with her. You don't have to focus on her, just be there for her.

Are YOU dressing up? Don't be surprised if your dog doesn't recognize you or is frightened when you wear a wig or a large mask, or change your silhouette or how you



sound. If possible, let your dog watch you put on your costume so she sees the transformation. If she's still scared, stand sideways to her, and let her approach you. Don't go towards her and don't insist that she come towards you. Be calm and upbeat, and you can remove your mask or other costume pieces to reassure her that it's still "you"! If she's still not sure, you can give her some treats for sniffing the mask, then for not running away when you put it up against your face, then for obeying a command from you while you're wearing it.

Please understand (and convince your friends) that it is NOT funny to scare a dog who's frightened by a Halloween costume. After all, aggression from a dog is not very funny, and even "nice" dogs may bite when scared.

The doorbell AGAIN!

Does your dog already go ballistic whenever the doorbell rings? Just think about what it will be like when trick-or-treaters ring it every few minutes. Under normal circumstances, this would be the ideal time to do some training, teaching your dog to sit calmly and quietly while you open the

door. But Halloween is NOT normal circumstances - your dog might be frightened by the goblins at the door, or excited by the smells of candy. Again, your best move is to keep the dog away from the door. Let her shelter in her crate, or occupy her with a nice chew toy. Be sure to click or praise and reward her for ignoring the doorbell.

Make sure your dog can't escape out the front door when you open it!

Candy, candy EVERYWHERE!

Candy is NOT good for dogs, but it's going to be a highly noticeable aspect of the evening (remember how good dog noses are!). Again, good management is probably the wisest thing to use. Keep the candy out of reach of the dog. Candy is pretty bad for them, and chocolate can be fatal (bring extra chocolate to your dog trainer instead!). If your dog eats chocolate, immediately call the Animal Poison Control hotline at 1-900-680-0000.

You want me to wear WHAT??

Thinking of dressing your dog up? There are a number of dog costumes available commercially, and a little creativity can go a long way.

Some dogs don't seem to care what you put on them; others act like they are caught in a deadly trap and try to escape the strange sensation of a costume; most reactions are in between (If you have this very frightened kind of dog, perhaps a costume is too much. Consider a bandana instead!).



Getting your dog to wear the costume might be a challenge. Start as soon as possible. First, get out a pile of your dog's favorite tasty treats. Take out any one piece of your dog's costume,

and let her sniff it or nuzzle it. Act cheerful, even jolly. Drape the costume piece on your hand and feed your dog a number of his favorite treats. At this point, your goal is for your dog to learn that the costume piece means goodies! Repeat this sort of session a few times. When your dog reacts to seeing the costume with a wagging tail and a look of expectation, you can then drape it on her body, and be generous with the treats. Don't actually fit it on, just drape it. Shower those goodies and praise. Your dog will think this is the best game ever!

Next, if your dog is eager and excited but not too out-of-control, put the costume on the dog, shower the goodies, and then quickly take it off again. If she got scared or struggled when you put it on, back up to where she is comfortable, then work your way through the steps again until he is comfortable.

Don't make your dog wear the costume for very long.

Also, keep safety in mind - you should still be able to keep your dog on a leash, and if you're going out at night some reflective strips (such as the kind you can get at

sporting good stores for bikes) or flashing lights will help people and drivers see your pet. Make sure that your dog can still see and move comfortably, and that she can't chew off and swallow any pieces of her costume!



Last updated October 21, 2004 by Stacy Braslau-Schneck. All material copyright Stacy Braslau-Schneck.

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OCTOBER 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 "Karma" Chaffin Obedience Class Week 5	2	3 "Ginger" Vance Helena Montana Kennel Club Agility Trials	4 Abbie Zaladonis Helena Montana Kennel Club Agility Trials
5 Helena Montana Kennel Club Agility Trials	6	7	8 Obedience Class Week 6	9 Gem State Shows Boise Conformation, Obedience, and Rally	10 Carl Friedrich "Malama Fitschen" Gem State Shows Boise Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Agility	11 Gem State Shows Boise Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Agility
12 Great Falls Dog Training Club Tracking Test Gem State Shows Boise Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Agility	13 "Nyx" Keele	14 Janice King	15 Obedience Class Week 7	16 Club Meeting	17 Heike Vitacolonna	18 Alan King
19	20	21	22 Canine Good Citizen Test	23 Donna Whitham "Radar" Deurbrouck	24 USRVDTC Agility Trial	25 USRVDTC Agility Trial
26 "Gavin" Brothers USRVDTC Agility Trial	27	28	29	30 Liz Hassing	31 "Coal" Rath 	



Report to the Upper Snake River Valley DTC of the AKC Delegate's Meeting 9/8/08-9/9/08

On Monday morning, 9/8/08, I attended the Delegate Standing Committee on Herding, Earthdog, and Lure Coursing. A very long discussion was held on the conflict between the Delegate Committee and the AKC Board of Directors (BOD) on overall herding issues. This conflict is a long time continuing issue and this being only my second meeting, I am not up to speed on the issues but got the impression they will continue until there is a change in BOD personnel.

A member of the audience brought up issues concerning Drafting and more specifically, the Carting community. Drafting is more or less breed specific (Newfoundlanders, Burnese Mountain Dogs, etc.), whereas Carting has a very much broader breed base. The "Carters" feel they are being left out of competition and recognition by being lumped in with Drafting breeds. Another long discussion of "We vs. AKC Staff" ensued. The AKC Staff's stand is that separate competitions are not economically feasible. The chair of the committee announced that the line the discussion was taken was beyond the scope of his committee, but that comments made would be included in the minutes that are submitted to the Board of Directors.

On Monday afternoon, I attended the Delegate Committee on Obedience, Tracking, and agility (OTA). The first order of business was a vote of the committee on the "On Line Trainers Web Site" on the AKC web site. The OTA committee unanimously voted "Opposed" to having an On-line Trainers Web Site. The committee felt that there is already information available on the AKC web site for each member club. Additionally, they felt the burden on the AKC to screen all the applicants wanting to be listed would be time consuming, and cost prohibitive. There is no provision in the initiative to identify untruthful responses from non-AKC club trainers.

Only five clubs responded to the AKC concerning "Mixed Breed Listing" program. The last AKC Board of Directors meeting has determined not to continue with investigating the program, bringing plan to an end. (More on this subject in the General Delegate Meeting on Tuesday, 9/9/08) [*I would like to know the USRVDTTC's feelings concerning mixed breeds in their own companion events; OB, Tracking, Agility, Rally*]. This issue is not dead. One of the arguments for having mixed breed events is 4-Heers, and other individuals having trained mixed breeds, and assisting AKC Clubs as stewards, setups, etc. in obedience trials, showing them in 4-H fairs, etc., and not receiving the same type of recognition as a purebred dog does. The Delegate Standing Committee on Obedience, Tracking, and Agility is in favor of mixed breed registration. Also, clubs from California fighting legislation brought on by Animal Rights activists, etc., have reported that they are receiving no help of any sort from non-purebred dog owners.

The OTA committee wants to remind member clubs that they can list schedules, trainers, and training programs on the AKC web site.

There is talk about separating Rally from Obedience. Now it is necessary to hold an Obedience Trial in order to have a Rally Trial. Many All-Breed clubs want to be able to have a Rally Trial but not have an Obedience Trial. The \$100.00 application fee (?) is a big selling point. The OTA committee recommends to the Board of Directors that Obedience and Rally be kept together.

The OTA wants to communicate to the AKC to bring back the "Gaines" type of event. The committee members voted approval.

The new Obedience Regulations will be going back to the Board of Directors in October for final approval. If approved, they will take effect on 1/1/2009 except for any changes requiring computer programming.

The Obedience Conference is in the planning stages. The letter describing this conference has been sent to the USRVDTA President, Secretary, and Delegate Liaison. The OTA requests a response from member clubs as soon as possible.

Monday evening, I attended the annual new Delegate Orientation. The AKC President, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Executive Officer spoke to the new delegates on how the AKC operates, and introducing their various staff personnel, and the Chairman of the Delegate Standing Committee for Delegate Advocacy and Advancement talked of various responsibilities of delegates at the quarterly meetings.

Tuesday morning 9/9/08

At 7:30 am, a movie entitled "War Dogs of the Pacific" was given its premier showing. This DVD of about one hour's length was sponsored by the Doberman Pinscher Club of America. It follows a few dogs and their handlers from the voluntary gift of the family pet to the U.S. Marine Corps from ordinary citizens across the United States to be trained as "War Dogs" to their use in battle in the Pacific. There were only a few dry eyes at its conclusion. It is an exceptionally good production. The DVD will be available 10/1/2008 on Amazon.Com. No cost has been associated with this movie yet. I believe it would be a good addition to the club's library as a bit of obedience training in the mid-1940s is shown.

The Delegates Forum that followed the movie was a joint presentation between the Legislative Caucus and AKC's Government Relations Staff. Breeding kennels inspection by the AKC was highlighted.

The Delegates Meeting followed the Delegates Forum. The first order of business was the election of members to the various Delegate Standing Committees. A copy of the election results have been sent to the Delegate Liaison. Delegates seated since the last meeting were introduced to the Delegate body.

Two new clubs were voted into the AKC.

Reports from the Chief Financial Officer, President and Chairman were presented.

Votes were taken on amendments to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows that had been read on the floor at the June, 2008 meeting. All were approved.

Four amendments to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows were read and will be voted on at the December, 2008 meeting.

New Business: A delegate motioned that the Mixed Breed Issue be brought back to the Board of Directors for continued appraisals. The chair responded that the motion could not be voted on as the Board had refused to continue to investigate the proposal. The Delegate then asked if it was proper to ask the Delegate body to indicate non-binding approval or non-approval of bringing the issue back to the board. This was granted by the chairman. The Delegate body was asked to show approval or non-approval of bringing the Mixed Breed issue back to the Board of Directors. It was overwhelmingly approved by the Delegates present. The chair stated that since the minutes of the meeting go to the Board of Directors, the overall approval of the Mixed Breed issue would be again taken up by the Board.

Thank you.

A hard copy of this report is being sent to the Delegate Liaison via U.S. Postal Service along with a few handouts that are too lengthy and it should arrive prior to the next club meeting.